

September Monthly Current Affairs 2023

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Eurozone inflation hits 2-year low as US price pressures ease

- Inflation in the Eurozone has dropped to its lowest level in almost two years, providing potential relief for the European Central Bank (ECB) and raising questions about the continuation of its rate-hiking cycle.
- Official data from Eurostat reveals that consumer prices in the 20-nation Eurozone rose at an annual rate of 4.3 percent in September, down from 5.2 percent in August. This marks the lowest level of inflation since October 2021.
- Analysts had anticipated a slower decline in inflation, with a consensus forecast of 4.5 percent for September, according to data firm FactSet. However, it's important to note that inflation remains well above the ECB's target of two percent.

ADB's capital adequacy reforms to increase annual commitment by 40%

- In a significant move, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has recently endorsed capital management reforms, unleashing a substantial \$100 billion fund over the next ten years. These reforms, integrated into ADB's updated Capital Adequacy Framework (CAF), mark a vital step in addressing the multifaceted crises and climate challenges faced by Asia and the Pacific region.
- The updated CAF paves the way for ADB to extend its annual new commitments capacity to over \$36 billion, indicating a notable 40% increase, approximately \$10 billion more than previous capacities. These reforms are designed to tackle the region's simultaneous crises, providing much-needed financial impetus.
- ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa emphasized the significance of these reforms, stating that they substantially enhance ADB's ability to support critical development initiatives across Asia and the Pacific.

India, UN launch capacity building initiative to boost growth in Global South

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

Taiwan unveils first domestically built submarine as China threat grows

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

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

Russia to hike defence spending by almost 70% in 2024: Ministry

- In a move that underscores Russia's unwavering commitment to its military endeavors, the country is poised to substantially increase its defense spending by nearly 70% in 2024. This financial shift, as revealed in a document published by the Russian Finance Ministry, comes as Moscow continues to allocate significant resources to support its extensive offensive operations in Ukraine.
- In an environment characterized by persistently high inflation and a depreciating ruble, Russia has intensified its arms production and funneled substantial investments into its military infrastructure.
- The document in question outlines a staggering surge in defense spending, projecting an increase of over 68% compared to the previous year. This uptick will result in defense expenditure reaching nearly 10.8 trillion rubles, which translates to approximately \$111.15 billion.

Global South gains from India-UN Capacity Building Initiative

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

Afghan currency best performing in this quarter; global aid, Taliban-imposed curbs behind surge

- The Afghani, the currency of conflict-ridden Afghanistan, has taken the financial world by surprise by emerging as the best-performing currency of the September quarter in 2023. As of September 26th, the Afghani was trading at approximately 78.25 against the US dollar.
- One of the primary factors contributing to the Afghani's resurgence is the substantial humanitarian aid pouring into the country. The United Nations, for instance, has provided a staggering \$5.8 billion in aid and development since the change in government, with \$4 billion of that sum transferred in 2022 alone. This influx of foreign currency has played a pivotal role in stabilizing the Afghan economy.

India will continue to raise its voice in support of Afghan people

- Ahead of the upcoming Moscow format meeting in Kazan, Russia, the Taliban has called upon India for economic support and recognition. This development is significant in light of China's increased engagement with the Taliban and the recent appointment of a new Chinese Ambassador to Kabul.
- India has previously refused to recognize the Taliban's "Islamic Emirate" and has emphasized the importance of respecting human rights and protecting minority communities.
- It is the first such meeting after China increased engagement with the Taliban and appointed a new Ambassador to Kabul.

Nepal, China sign 12 agreements during PM Prachanda's visit to Beijing

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

India Achieves Major Sanitation Milestone As 75% Villages Are Now ODF Plus under Swachh Bharat Mission - Grameen

- India's Jal Shakti minister, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, recently announced a significant achievement in the country's sanitation efforts. He reported that 75% of Indian villages, totaling about 4.4 lakh, have attained the coveted 'Open Defecation Free Plus' (ODF Plus) status. This milestone signifies a crucial step toward fulfilling the goals of the second phase of the Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin by 2024-25.
- An 'ODF Plus' village is one that has not only maintained its Open Defecation Free (ODF) status but has also successfully implemented either solid or liquid waste management systems.

Exercise Yudh Abhyas 2023 set to begin in USA's Alaska

- The 19th edition of YUDH ABHYAS is set to commence in Alaska, USA. This annual exercise is a collaborative effort between the Indian Army and the US Army, aimed at strengthening military cooperation and readiness.
- The Indian Army contingent, consisting of 350 personnel, will actively take part in this edition of the exercise.

- The lead battalion representing India hails from the esteemed MARATHA Light Infantry Regiment.
- During YUDH ABHYAS, both sides will engage in a series of tactical drills geared towards enhancing interoperability, particularly in the context of UN peacekeeping operations.
- The exercise will facilitate the exchange of views and best practices related to a broad spectrum of combat skills.

China and Syria announce 'strategic partnership' after its leaders met in Beijing

- In a significant diplomatic development, China and Syria have formally announced the establishment of a strategic partnership. This announcement came during a meeting between Chinese leader Xi Jinping and Syrian President Bashar Assad in Hangzhou, China, as the city prepared to host the Asian Games.
- Amid the backdrop of an unstable international environment, Xi Jinping emphasized China's commitment to supporting Syria and vice versa. The leaders pledged to strengthen their cooperation, not only to bolster their own interests but also to uphold international fairness and justice. This move aligns with China's strategy to position itself as a counterbalance to the U.S.-led international order.

ISRAEL UNVEILS CUTTING-EDGE BATTLE TANK, SHOWCASING TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS IN ARMORED WARFARE

- Israel unveiled its cutting-edge main battle tank, the Merkava Mark 5, known as "Barak," signifying a significant leap in technological advancement and military capability. The development of the Barak tank involved collaboration between the Israeli Defense Ministry's Armored Vehicles Directorate, the IDF's Ground Forces, Armored Corps, and multiple Israeli defense companies, including Elbit Systems, Rafael, and the Israel Aerospace Industries' subsidiary, Elta.
- The Barak tank represents a remarkable achievement in the field of armored warfare, showcasing Israel's commitment to advancing its defense capabilities. This 5th-generation tank builds upon the legacy of earlier Merkava models, incorporating cutting-edge technologies and innovations.
- The Barak tank is equipped with a network of sensors designed for target detection. This sensor data can be seamlessly shared with other military units, facilitating improved enemy detection and coordination on the battlefield.

Asian Games News: Hectic day for team India as teams prepare to participate in hockey, tennis, shooting, boxing

- The I2U2 group comprising India, Israel, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and the United States has unveiled an ambitious joint space venture. This collaborative initiative aims to create a groundbreaking space-based tool with wide-ranging applications for policymakers, institutions, and entrepreneurs.
- The announcement follows India's recent successful lunar mission, marking a significant milestone for the quartet's space exploration efforts. Against the backdrop of India's triumphant lunar soft-landing, the I2U2 group, consisting of four nations deeply engaged in space exploration, has come together to pioneer a unique space-based tool.

Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso establish Sahel security alliance

- Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger have come together to address the pressing issue of jihadism in the Liptako-Gourma region by signing a mutual defense pact known as the Alliance of Sahel States (AES). This landmark agreement aims to establish a framework for collective defense and mutual assistance among these nations to protect their populations from the growing threat of terrorism. Here, we delve into the key aspects of this development.
- The heart of this historic pact is the Liptako-Gourma Charter, which was officially signed by the military leaders of the three Sahel countries. The charter, posted on social media by Mali's junta leader Assimi Goita, outlines the core objectives of the Alliance of Sahel States.
- The primary goal of the AES is to create a system of collective defense and mutual assistance among Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger. This collaboration is essential to tackle the escalating threat of terrorism that has plagued the Liptako-Gourma region for years.

Singapore is now the world's freest economy, displacing Hong Kong after 53 years

- 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.
- The index assesses economic freedom based on various factors, including the ease of international trade. Singapore's strong position in global trade contributed to its rise.

Incurable dog disease Brucella canis infects humans in UK

- Since the summer of 2020, the United Kingdom has witnessed a concerning surge in cases of Brucella canis infection among dogs, originating primarily from Eastern Europe. This incurable disease, which has been spreading among canines, has now made the alarming leap to infect humans, with three British citizens falling victim to its debilitating effects. This article explores the nature of Brucella canis, its transmission, symptoms, and preventive measures.
- Brucella canis, a bacterium causing canine brucellosis, is the culprit behind this growing health concern. This highly contagious pathogen primarily targets dogs but can transmit to humans through direct contact with infected dogs.

UK PM Rishi Sunak delays petrol, diesel car ban in net zero reset

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

- Despite this delay, Sunak emphasized that the UK remains steadfast in its commitment to reduce carbon emissions and achieve its Net Zero target by 2050. The core objective is unchanged, but the approach is evolving to be more practical, proportionate, and realistic, particularly in light of the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.
- Net Zero, in the context of climate action, refers to the global imperative that the reduction of harmful greenhouse gas emissions must be balanced by carbon dioxide removals within a specified timeframe.

Azerbaijan launched operation against Armenian forces in Nagorno-Karabakh

- Azerbaijan's military operation in Nagorno-Karabakh has ignited concerns of a renewed conflict in the region. This long-standing dispute revolves around an ethnic Armenian region within Azerbaijani territory. The recent attacks have escalated tensions and raised international alarm.
- Azerbaijan has initiated a military operation backed by artillery strikes in Nagorno-Karabakh.
- They have declared their intent to continue until Armenian forces surrender.
- The operation was triggered by landmine incidents, attributed to Armenian saboteurs, resulting in casualties.
- Nagorno-Karabakh, an ethnically Armenian region, is internationally recognized as Azerbaijani territory.
- Separatist Armenian authorities control part of the region, considering it their ancestral homeland.
- The conflict has been a persistent flashpoint since the Soviet Union's dissolution.

ASEAN Kicks Off Its First-Ever Joint Military Drills in Indonesia

- Units from the countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) recently embarked on their inaugural joint military exercises in Indonesia's South Natuna Sea. These drills come at a time of escalating geopolitical tensions between major global powers and rising concerns over China's activities in the South China Sea.
- The five-day military operation, taking place in the South Natuna Sea, primarily focuses on enhancing military skills. These skills encompass areas such as maritime security, patrols, and the distribution of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. According to the Indonesian military, this exercise aims to promote regional stability and cooperation among ASEAN members.

African Union plans to launch its own credit ratings agency

- The African Union is set to launch its own credit ratings agency in the coming year as a direct response to concerns regarding what it perceives as biased credit assessments given to African nations. This move aims to provide a more balanced evaluation of lending risks associated with African countries and bolster investment in the continent.

- The African credit rating agency will primarily function within the African continent and will be financially self-sustaining. Its core objective is to offer a supplementary perspective for investors when making decisions regarding African bonds or extending private loans to African nations, according to the African Union.
- The African Union, along with its member nations' leaders, has long criticized the "big three" credit ratings agencies—Moody's, Fitch, and S&P Global Ratings—for what they perceive as unfair assessments of lending risks related to African countries. They argue that these agencies are often too quick to downgrade African nations, particularly during crises such as the global health pandemic.

G77+China Conference Concludes with Stress on Empowering Global South

- The two-day Summit of the G77+China recently concluded, marking a significant moment for the Global South's aspirations in the international governance system. This summit brought together delegations from over 100 nations, including more than 30 heads of state and government.
- The Group of 77 (G77), established in 1964, consists of over 130 member nations, with its leadership rotating among member nations in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Notably, G77 member countries collectively represent over 80 percent of the world's population and comprise more than two-thirds of UN member nations. China, while not a member of the G77, has been actively cooperating and supporting the group's objectives within the framework of "G77+China."
- At the summit's opening, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres affirmed the enduring importance of the Group of 77+China within the United Nations system. This acknowledgment underscores the group's influential role in global affairs.

Gandhi Walk in Johannesburg revived after COVID-19 hiatus

- The 35th edition of the annual Gandhi Walk, a cherished event in the predominantly Indian suburb of Lenasia in Johannesburg, finally returned after being postponed for three long years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of over two thousand people who embraced the new format—a delightful six-kilometre walk, accompanied by an array of entertainment. This year's walk was a departure from the traditional format, emphasizing enjoyment over competition.
- In 2020, barely a month before the scheduled event, as the pandemic began its relentless global spread, the Gandhi Walk Committee made a tough but wise decision to postpone the event indefinitely. This choice was made despite the Committee having already incurred significant costs in planning for an expected 4,000 registered walkers. The traditional format had catered to various fitness levels and interests, offering two distances—15km for serious athletes and 5km for families, senior citizens, and parents pushing prams.

India becomes largest export partner of Bangladesh: Officials

- In a significant revelation, the Government of India has declared that it has surpassed Japan and China to become Bangladesh's largest export partner. The growth in bilateral trade has been particularly noteworthy, with Bangladesh's exports to India surging from \$450 million to a remarkable \$2 billion. This announcement was made during discussions centered on exploring new trade routes, specifically the Agartala-Akhaura rail link project, which promises to bolster connectivity and trade ties between the two nations.
- One of the standout points made by Ms. Smita Pant, Joint Secretary (Bangladesh and Myanmar) in the Ministry of External Affairs, is the exponential growth in bilateral trade between India and Bangladesh. The trade figures have soared, demonstrating the robust economic partnership between the two countries.

India, UK announce Infrastructure Financing Bridge

- India and the United Kingdom have jointly announced the launch of the Infrastructure Financing Bridge during the 12th Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD). This collaborative initiative signifies the continued commitment of both nations to work closely together to unlock substantial infrastructure investment opportunities in India.
- A joint statement issued by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and UK's Chancellor of the Exchequer Jeremy Hunt outlines the primary objectives of this partnership:
 1. **Leveraging UK Expertise:** The statement highlights that the UK has significant expertise in financial and project management, making it a valuable partner for India in infrastructure development.
 2. **India's Investment Potential:** Recognizing India's status as an investment powerhouse in technology, fintech, and green transition, the collaboration aims to tap into India's pivotal role in driving global economic growth.

UK PM Rishi sunak announces \$2 bn aid for green climate fund

- UK commits \$2 billion to Green Climate Fund, its largest single funding commitment to tackle climate change. As the G20 Summit moves towards conclusion, the United Kingdom will contribute a record \$2 billion to the Green Climate Fund to tackle climate change, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak announced on Sunday.
- Notably, this is the biggest single funding commitment made by the UK to help the world tackle climate change. G20 Summit in India is inching closer to its conclusion.
- The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is the biggest single funding commitment the UK has made to help the world tackle climate change. It was established by 194 countries following the Copenhagen Accord at COP15.

Successful summit. PM Modi hands over G20 ceremonial gavel to Brazilian president

- In a symbolic ceremony, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi handed over the G20 Presidency gavel to Brazil's President, marking the transition of leadership within the elite group. The transfer of power took place with warm diplomatic exchanges, emphasizing the importance of cooperation and shared priorities.
- Prime Minister Modi congratulated Brazil's President, Lula da Silva, and referred to him as a friend. This gesture signified the strong relations between the two nations. Brazil was set to assume the G20 Presidency officially on December 1.
- During the handover ceremony, President Lula da Silva outlined the priorities that Brazil would focus on during its G20 Presidency. These included:
- Social Inclusion and Fight Against Hunger: Highlighting the importance of addressing social inequalities and hunger on a global scale.
- Energy Transition and Sustainable Development: Emphasizing the need for a sustainable approach to energy and overall development.
- Reform of Global Governance Institutions: Advocating for greater representation of emerging countries in organizations like the UN Security Council, World Bank, and IMF.

UK rejoins EU science research scheme Horizon

- After a two-year post-Brexit standoff regarding science funding, the United Kingdom has decided to rejoin the European Union's Horizon science research programme. This move is seen as a significant development in bilateral relations between the UK and the EU, following the resolution of a trade dispute seven months prior.
- The UK's decision to rejoin the Horizon science research programme marks a positive step forward in its relationship with the EU. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's office announced that they have successfully negotiated "improved financial terms of association" with the Horizon project, which is a flagship EU initiative for funding scientific research.
- In addition to rejoining Horizon, the UK has also chosen to associate with the European earth observation programme, Copernicus. However, the UK will not participate in the EU's Euratom nuclear research scheme. Instead, the UK has decided to pursue a domestic fusion energy strategy.

UNGA President Formulates Priorities for 78th Session

- The 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly commenced with Dennis Francis taking on the role of General Assembly President. In his opening remarks, he emphasized the importance of addressing the numerous global challenges currently confronting the world.
- The 78th session of the General Assembly, themed 'Rebuilding trust and reigniting global solidarity: Accelerating action on the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals towards peace, prosperity, progress, and sustainability for all,' focuses on several critical areas.
- Challenges to Peace: The session acknowledges the challenges posed by climate change, conflict, and poverty to achieving global peace.

- **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.
- **Prosperity and Development:** Ensuring prosperity, particularly in regions with development deficits, is a priority. This involves enhanced financing, technology, debt sustainability, and capacity building.
- **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.

Tabreed to set up Asia's largest district cooling project in Hyderabad

- In a significant development for sustainable infrastructure and environmental responsibility, Tabreed, an Abu Dhabi-based cooling-as-a-service provider, has unveiled plans for a massive \$200 million investment. This investment is directed towards the development of a cutting-edge cooling infrastructure with a capacity of 125,000 refrigeration tons (RT) for Hyderabad Pharma City, a burgeoning hub for the pharmaceutical industry in India.
- Tabreed's leadership, represented by its India head Sudheer Perla, engaged in discussions with a state government delegation led by Telangana IT and Industries Minister K T Rama Rao and Jayesh Ranjan, Secretary of IT and Industries for the Government of Telangana, to solidify their commitment to this transformative initiative. This endeavor marks a milestone in public-private cooperation, particularly in the domain of cooling services, with the goal of offering a groundbreaking model to multiple customers within a single campus.

Vanuatu parliament elects Sato Kilman as prime minister amid China -US rivalry in Pacific Islands

- Vanuatu's parliament elected Sato Kilman as the nation's new prime minister after a court upheld a vote of no-confidence in his predecessor, who had sought closer ties with US allies amid China-US rivalry in the Pacific Islands. Kilman, a former prime minister and leader of the People's Progressive Party, was elected prime minister 27/23 in a secret ballot by lawmakers. Kilman received a total of 27 votes, while Kalsakau got 23 votes. Kilman, 65, was the deputy PM in Kalsakau's government before being removed in May. At the time Kalsakau had stated that Kilman's dismissal was for "stability of the coalition government".
- Vanuatu is an archipelago of 83 islands, of which 16 are inhabited. The largest islands are Espiritu Santo, Malakula, Efate, Erromango, Ambrym, Tanna, Pentecost, Epi, Ambae or Aoba, Gaua, Vanua Lava, Maewo, Malo and Aneityum or Anatom.
- The capital of Vanuatu is Port Vila, which is located on the island of Efate. Other major towns include Luganville on Espiritu Santo and Isangel on Tanna.

Bangladesh witness highest dengue death rate in the world

- In Bangladesh, A total of 37 dengue patients died in the last two days, taking the death toll to 634 this year. On September 2, Bangladesh recorded 21 dengue - related deaths, the highest number in a single day this year.
- Now, Bangladesh ranks second globally in dengue-related cases as Brazil is in first position but when it comes to the death rate, the South American nation lags behind Bangladesh.
- A press release of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) said that a total of 8,845 dengue patients are undergoing treatment at different hospitals.
- The DGHS statement says that with the new cases, the total number of patients rose to 1,30,302. Among the total dengue positive cases, 49,495 are female and 80,807 are male and of the total deaths, 369 are female and 265 male.

Germany to provide 191 million euros for sustainable development of Bangladesh

- Germany will provide 191 million euros to Bangladesh for sustainable development projects and women empowerment, Dhaka Tribune reported. In this regard, Germany and Bangladesh signed two bilateral agreements on Sunday with the projects focused on Green and Just Energy Transition, Sustainable Urban Development, Sustainable Supply Chains, Biodiversity and Women Empowerment as well as the support for Host and Displaced Communities in Cox's Bazar.
- The German embassy stated that the total volume of the agreements is Euros 191 million of which Euros 55 million will be available for Technical Cooperation (TC) and Euros 136 million for Financial Cooperation (FC).

US State Georgia officially 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 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.
- 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.

Sultan AlNeyadi sets historic milestone as he completes longest space mission in Arab history

- Emirati astronaut Sultan AlNeyadi succeeded in achieving qualitative and historical achievements, which consolidated the UAE's regional and global position as the first Arab country to complete the longest space mission in the history of the Arabs, which lasted for six months on the International Space Station (ISS), and included conducting pioneering scientific experiments that contribute to serving humanity and the scientific community.
- AlNeyadi became the first Arab astronaut to complete a spacewalk mission outside the ISS, as part of the 69th mission last April, which lasted about 7 hours, to carry out several basic tasks such as maintenance, in addition to completing the preparatory series for installing a number of solar panels on the station.
- This success consolidated the UAE's global leadership in the space sector, as the country ranked 10th globally in spacewalking missions outside the ISS, which reflects the efforts of the Mohammed bin Rashid Space Center (MBRSC) to continue space exploration. This historic achievement is also added to the record of the Arab world's contributions to outer space exploration.
- After AlNeyadi completed about 4,000 hours of work in space, the Emirati astronaut contributed to the development of scientific and technological advancement in the UAE, by conducting about 200 scientific experiments in various fields that took about 585 hours.

Gabon officers declare military coup, President Ali Bongo detained

- Gabon, an oil-producing country in Central Africa, has experienced a coup led by military officers. President Ali Bongo was placed under house arrest after being declared the winner of a disputed election. This marks the eighth coup in West and Central Africa since 2020, reflecting a trend of democratic setbacks in the region. Other countries like Mali, Guinea, Burkina Faso, and Chad have also witnessed military takeovers, raising concerns for regional stability and foreign interests.
- Military officers announced the seizure of power, canceling election results and dissolving state institutions.
- The officers declared President Bongo's victory invalid and placed him under house arrest.
- General Brice Oligui Nguema was appointed as the new leader through a unanimous vote by generals.

Russia Launches Islamic Banking Pilot Program in Bid for Economic Diversification

- Russia is set to embark on a historic journey by launching its first Islamic banking pilot program on September 1. With a considerable Muslim population of approximately 25 million, the move aims to tap into the potential of Islamic finance, which has already had a presence through institutions but lacked official recognition. President Vladimir Putin's recent endorsement of the initiative signifies a significant step towards embracing Islamic banking principles in the country.

Features of Islamic Banking-

1. **Shariah Compliance and Ethical Framework:** Islamic banking operates on the principles of Shariah, the Islamic legal system that prohibits usurious transactions and interest charges due to their perceived injustice. This fundamental difference sets it apart from conventional banking practices.
2. **Asset-based Model and Partnership Structure:** Conventional finance relies on debt-based transactions, where clients bear the entire risk and liability. In contrast, Islamic banking is grounded in an asset-based approach, emphasizing shared profits and risks between financial institutions and clients through partnership arrangements.
3. **Socially Responsible Investments:** One of the significant distinctions is Islamic banking's avoidance of sectors deemed harmful to society, such as alcohol, tobacco, and gambling. This ethical stance aligns with the principles of Shariah, promoting responsible financial practices.
4. **Prohibition of Speculation and Risky Transactions:** Unlike conventional finance, Islamic banking disallows financing speculation, financial derivatives, and deals lacking tangible assets. This prohibition aims to mitigate risks and prevent financial crises akin to the global economic downturn.

NATIONAL NEWS

Delhi winter pollution Updates: CM Arvind Kejriwal announces 15-point action plan

- Delhi Chief Minister, Arvind Kejriwal, has unveiled a comprehensive 15-point winter action plan aimed at addressing air pollution in the national capital, just in time for the festive season.
- Kejriwal highlighted the decrease in PM 2.5 levels from 149 in 2014 to 103 presently, showcasing a significant improvement.
- PM 10 levels have also reduced from 324 in 2014 to 223, signifying a 30% reduction in pollution levels.
- The Delhi government plans to introduce 800 electric buses to bolster the existing fleet of 7,000 government-operated buses.

Bihar to get its second tiger reserve in Kaimur soon

- In a significant development for wildlife conservation in Bihar, the state is preparing to establish its second tiger reserve within the Kaimur district.
- The upcoming tiger reserve in Kaimur district will complement the existing Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR) located in the West Champaran district of Bihar. This expansion reflects the state's commitment to safeguarding its rich wildlife heritage.
- As per recent reports, Bihar currently boasts a total tiger population of 54. This figure represents a remarkable growth in the tiger population within the state.

Tourism Minister Satpal Maharaj inaugurates country's 1st Cartography Museum in Mussoorie

- The Minister of Tourism and Culture of Uttarakhand, Satpal Maharaj, inaugurated the George Everest Cartography Museum in the picturesque town of Mussoorie, Uttarakhand, on the occasion of World Tourism Day.

- Cartography is about exploring and making maps. It uses science, art, and technical skills to show real or imagined places in a way that helps us understand where things are located.
- This estate can be found in the Hathipaon region of the hill town. Sir Everest lived in this house from 1832 to 1843, and it was one of the first houses built in Mussoorie. With the assistance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the tourism department has recently refurbished it, with a budget of Rs 23.5 crore.

Power demand reaches five-year high in September amid reduced rains: Report

- In a recent report by CRISIL MI&A (Market Intelligence and Advisory), India's power demand for September 2023 reached an impressive five-year high. India's power demand in September witnessed remarkable year-on-year growth, reaching 140-142 billion units (BUs), marking a five-year high.
- Despite this, the demand in September was about seven percent lower than the previous month, primarily due to exceptionally dry conditions in August, one of the driest months in 122 years.
- India experienced two consecutive months of all -time high peak power demand, with 238 GW in August followed by an even higher 240 GW in September.

'Jhaadu Daan' initiative: Principal of UPSRTC driving institute earns place in India Book of Records

- SP Singh, the principal of the UPSRTC Model Driving Training and Research Institute, has earned a remarkable distinction by securing a place in the prestigious India Book of Records. This recognition is a testament to his exceptional contributions, particularly through his innovative 'Jhaadu Daan' (broom donation) initiative, which aligns with the nationwide Swachh Bharat Campaign.
- SP Singh initiated the 'Jhaadu Daan' initiative in 2014, coinciding with the launch of the Swachh Bharat campaign by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The primary objective of this initiative is to provide essential tools for maintaining cleanliness in various surroundings.

Arogya Manthan 2023 to mark 5 years of Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY and 2 years of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission

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

1. Discussion of Challenges:
2. Trends Analysis:
3. Best Practices Sharing:

Centre extends AFSPA in parts of Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh for another six months

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

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Indian Oil unveils India's 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.
- 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.

Most trusted digital ID in the world: India refutes Moody's concerns about Aadhaar

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

Three new air routes to become operationalise in Arunachal Pradesh in October: Scindia

- Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia recently announced the imminent launch of three additional air routes in Arunachal Pradesh, set to be operational by October of this year. These new routes will connect Itanagar, the capital of Arunachal Pradesh, to Rupsi, Jorhat, and Delhi as part of the UDAN-5 scheme. UDAN, or Ude Desh ka Aam Nagarik, is a regional connectivity initiative designed to enhance accessibility to aviation services for the common citizens. The development comes after the inauguration of enhanced infrastructure at the Tezu airport in Lohit district.
- Arunachal Pradesh is set to benefit significantly from the expansion of air routes, making travel more convenient for its residents.
- The Tezu airport, now equipped with upgraded facilities, will play a pivotal role in facilitating these new air connections.

Goan unemployed persons to build and operate shacks across

- Goa, often referred to as the "Pearl of the Orient," is a coastal paradise in India known for its stunning beaches, vibrant culture, and rich history. Recently, the government of Goa has approved a groundbreaking policy named "Goa State Shack Policy 2023-2026" to enhance the beach experience for tourists while promoting sustainable tourism and economic opportunities for the local community. This policy is set to redefine the beach scene in Goa.
- One of the most exciting aspects of the "Goa State Shack Policy 2023-2026" is the provision for the creation of seasonal structures along the beaches. These structures, including deck beds, umbrellas, and beach shacks, are designed to elevate the beach experience for visitors during the upcoming tourist seasons. This innovative approach aims to strike a balance between enhancing tourism and preserving Goa's natural beauty.

India rolls out policy to ensure dignity in death for Border Roads workers

- India, on a mission to enhance its infrastructure along the country's remote frontiers, has recently unveiled a groundbreaking policy aimed at dignifying the lives of casual workers

employed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO). Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved this policy, which not only addresses the preservation and transportation of mortal remains but also raises funeral expenses. This move emphasizes the perilous nature of the work undertaken by these individuals in challenging terrains.

- Until now, the facility for preserving and transporting mortal remains at government expense was exclusively available to BRO's General Reserve Engineer Force (GREF) personnel. However, recognizing the invaluable contribution of casual laborers, this policy extends this privilege to them as well.
- BRO employs approximately one lakh casual workers who labor tirelessly to construct critical border infrastructure spanning regions from Ladakh, Arunachal Pradesh, and Sikkim to Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. These projects encompass roads, bridges, tunnels, airfields, and helipads. Unfortunately, the tough working conditions and adverse climates sometimes result in casualties.

Govt launched AI chatbot for PM-Kisan scheme

- The Union Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India, took a significant step towards enhancing the efficiency and reach of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme with the launch of an AI Chatbot.
- The AI Chatbot introduced with the PM-KISAN scheme serves as a comprehensive guide for beneficiaries, offering timely and accurate responses to their inquiries related to the scheme. Developed and enhanced with the support of EKstep Foundation and Bhashini, the Chatbot aims to empower farmers with a user-friendly and accessible platform.

'Judiciary Has Been Protector Of India's Justice System': PM Modi At 'International Lawyers' Conference

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 'International Lawyers' Conference 2023' at New Delhi's Vigyan Bhawan today. This conference, organized by the Bar Council of India, has brought together legal experts from across the globe to deliberate on the theme 'Emerging Challenges in Justice Delivery System.'
- The event, scheduled for September 23 and 24, marks the first of its kind in India and aims to facilitate discussions on pressing legal issues of both national and international significance. The primary objective of the International Lawyers' Conference 2023 is to serve as a platform for meaningful dialogue and discussion on various legal topics.
- The conference is designed to foster the exchange of ideas and experiences among legal professionals and strengthen international cooperation while enhancing the understanding of legal issues. Throughout the two-day event, experts and participants will delve into a wide range of topics that are shaping the legal landscape.

PM Modi flags off 9 new Vande Bharat trains

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is all set to flag off nine Vande Bharat Express trains on Sunday, September 24th, according to ministry officials.
- Among these nine trains, the Indian Railways is launching two trains for West Bengal's Howrah and Tamil Nadu's Chennai, with one each for Kerala, Odisha, Telangana, Gujarat,

and the poll-bound state of Rajasthan. These semi-high-speed trains are configured with eight coaches and are expected to offer a significant boost to the country's rail connectivity. The nine new routes that will be inaugurated on Sunday are as follows:

SNo	Origin	Destination
1	Ranchi	Howrah
2	Patna	Howrah
3	Vijayawada	Chennai
4	Tirunelveli	Chennai
5	Rourkela	Puri
6	Udaipur	Jaipur
7	Kasaragod	Thiruvananthapuram
8	Jamnagar	Ahmedabad
	Hyderabad	Bengaluru

Biswanath Ghat in Assam selected as Best Tourism Village of India 2023

- The Ministry of Tourism has declared Biswanath Ghat in Assam as the Best Tourism Village of India for the year 2023. This recognition comes after an extensive selection process that involved reviewing 791 applications from 31 different states and union territories across the country. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma expressed his delight at this achievement, highlighting the immense efforts made by the government to promote rural tourism in the state.
- Biswanath Ghat, situated to the south of Biswanath Chariali Town, is famously referred to as 'Gupta Kashi.' This name is derived from the ancient Biswanath temple in the town and draws a parallel with Kashi during the illustrious Gupta Empire era. This picturesque ghat is adorned with a collection of temples dedicated to various deities. Notably, a Shiva temple graces the confluence of the Bridhaganga (Burigonga) River with the Brahmaputra.

Assam government to launch scheme to give Rs 2 lakh each to two lakh youth

- The Assam government is set to usher in a new era of empowerment and self-reliance for its youth with the launch of the "Mukhyamantrir Atmanirbharshil Asom Abhiyan." This ambitious scheme aims to provide financial assistance of Rs 2 lakh each to two lakh deserving young individuals, paving the way for a brighter and more self-sufficient future for the state's youth.
- The "Mukhyamantrir Atmanirbharshil Asom Abhiyan" stands as a testament to the Assam government's commitment to empowering its youth. By offering financial support to two lakh young individuals, the scheme intends to enable them to pursue their dreams and aspirations, thereby reducing unemployment and boosting self-reliance among the state's youth.
- Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, known for his forward-thinking approach, spearheads this transformative initiative. In a bid to ensure the success of the scheme, he recently conducted a video conference with the Chief Secretary and senior officials from the conference hall of Assam House to discuss various

crucial facets of the scheme, such as eligibility criteria, application procedures, and the disbursement of financial assistance.

Government approves Rs 480 crore three-year education scheme for medical devices sector

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

After ICMR nod, Kerala to conduct tests to detect Nipah virus

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

Women's Reservation Bill Approved In PM Modi-Led Union Cabinet Meeting Amid Special Session

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

- This provision aims to promote gender equality and increase women's representation in India's legislative bodies.
- The Bill also proposes sub-reservation within the 33 percent quota for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and Anglo-Indians.
- This sub-reservation recognizes the importance of addressing intersectional inequalities and promoting diversity in political representation.

New Delhi: Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia inaugurates 'Udaan Bhawan' an integrated office complex at Safdarjung Airport

- Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia inaugurated 'Udaan Bhawan,' a state-of-the-art integrated office complex nestled within the confines of Delhi's Safdarjung Airport. Udaan Bhawan promises to play a pivotal role in facilitating enhanced coordination and efficiency among various regulatory authorities operating under the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA).
- The newly inaugurated Udaan Bhawan is poised to become the nerve center of aviation oversight in India. This modern facility will house several key regulatory bodies, including the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA), and the Airports Authority of India (AAI). By co-locating these vital entities, Udaan Bhawan aims to foster seamless collaboration and streamline administrative processes within the civil aviation sector.

INDIAN COAST GUARD SUCCESSFULLY CONDUCTS 'OPERATION SAJAG' A COASTAL SECURITY DRILL

- 'Operation Sajag,' a comprehensive drill was conducted by the Indian Coast Guard along the west coast on September 18, 2023. It is a significant event in the realm of coastal security. This operation involves all stakeholders in the coastal security construct and plays a pivotal role in revalidating the coastal security mechanism while enhancing awareness among fishermen operating at sea.
- During 'Operation Sajag,' an extensive checking and verification process was initiated, targeting the documents and crew passes of all fishing boats, barges, and crafts at sea. The sheer scale of this operation is evident from the participation of 118 ships, including vessels from Customs, Marine Police, Ports, and the Indian Navy. This unified effort demonstrates the commitment of various agencies to ensure the safety and security of India's coastal regions.

Assam Governor launches 'Sarpanch Samvad' app

- In a significant step towards empowering grassroots leaders, Assam Governor Gulab Chand Kataria unveiled the 'Sarpanch Samvad' app in a grand launch ceremony held at the Raj Bhavan. This groundbreaking initiative is set to revolutionize the way Sarpanchs, who are village headmen, communicate, collaborate, and access vital resources. The event witnessed the participation of

more than 30 Sarpanchs from various corners of the country, signifying the app's importance in fostering community development.

- The 'Sarpanch Samvad' app has been meticulously developed by the Quality Council of India (QCI). QCI, as the apex organization responsible for establishing and operating the third-party national accreditation system, plays a vital role in improving quality across various sectors and advising the government and stakeholders on quality-related matters.
- At present, the application offers support for seven languages, including English, Hindi, Punjabi, Gujarati, Marathi, Kannada, and Telugu.

Dharmendra Pradhan , Om Birla launch skills on wheels

- To promote digital literacy and digital skills in which India is developing global competency this scheme with the help of NSDC has been launched. 'Skills on Wheels is a unique experiment. Today, PM Vishwakarma's Yojana was launched, which shows that the Indian govt is committed to providing skills to traditional craftsmen, along with providing 21st-century digitisation skills," Dharmendra Pradhan said while speaking to reporters.
- This bus and experimental laboratory will go to the villages of Rajasthan. Later it will go to other parts of the country. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla is present here. He will send this bus to Rajasthan. Later it will go to other parts of the country," he added.

Santiniketan finds a place on UNESCO's World Heritage list

- Santiniketan, the cultural and educational hub founded by Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore, has earned a coveted spot on UNESCO's World Heritage List. This recognition marks a significant milestone for India and celebrates the enduring legacy of this unique institution located in Bengal's Birbhum district.
- India has long been striving to secure a UNESCO designation for Santiniketan, acknowledging its cultural and historical significance. The decision to include Santiniketan in the prestigious list was made during the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee, held in Saudi Arabia, reaffirming its importance on the global stage.
- Santiniketan's inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List is a testament to its cultural and educational significance. This recognition reaffirms the importance of preserving and promoting the legacy of Rabindranath Tagore and the institution he built.

Professor Ramesh Chand launches Unified Portal www.upag.gov.in for Agricultural Statistics

- In a significant development for India's agricultural sector, the government has unveiled the UPag (Unified Portal for Agricultural Statistics). This groundbreaking initiative is aimed at tackling the complex governance challenges that currently beset the country's farming industry.

- The Ministry of Agriculture hails UPag as an innovative platform meticulously crafted to streamline and enhance data management within the agricultural domain. It represents a crucial stride towards establishing a more efficient and responsive agricultural policy framework.
- Ramesh Chand, a member of NITI Aayog, expressed his enthusiasm after inaugurating the portal. He emphasized that such an initiative was long overdue and envisioned that it could grow into a substantial resource for the agricultural sector. Chand urged the Agriculture Ministry, which will oversee the portal, to prioritize data credibility, as objective data minimizes the need for subjective judgment in policymaking. This, in turn, fosters stability, transparency, and informed decision-making.

MP CM to unveil 108 feet tall statue of Adi Shankaracharya in Omkareshwar on Sep 18

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan is set to unveil a majestic 108-feet-tall statue of the revered philosopher Adi Shankaracharya in Omkareshwar on September 18. This monumental project, named “Eaktmta Ki Pratima” (Statue of Oneness), has garnered significant attention due to its grandeur and spiritual significance. The Madhya Pradesh cabinet has allocated a substantial budget of over Rs 2,141 crore for the construction of the Statue of Oneness project, symbolizing the state’s commitment to preserving its rich cultural and religious heritage.
- The towering structure is a tribute to Adi Shankaracharya, an influential and revered figure in Hinduism, known for his profound philosophical contributions. Omkareshwar, located approximately 80 kilometers from Indore on the banks of the Narmada river, has long been recognized as a global center for the Advaita Vedanta philosophy, championed by Adi Shankaracharya. This sacred town holds immense significance in the hearts of devotees and seekers of spiritual wisdom.

Gujarat assembly passes bill that raises OBC quota in local governing bodies to 27%

- Government of Gujarat has passed a bill in the assembly that raises reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBC) community in local self government bodies like panchayats, municipalities and civic corporations to 27 per cent from the current 10 per cent.
- The Gujarat Local Authorities Laws (Amendment) Bill 2023 was passed on Friday through a majority voice vote after all the 17 Congress MLAs, including Congress Legislative Party leader Amit Chavda and senior MLA Arjun Modhwadia, staged a walkout in protest demanding higher ratio of reservation and tabling of a report of the commission headed by former Supreme Court Justice K S Zaveri.
- The state government on August 29 announced 27 per cent reservation for OBCs in the local governing bodies on the basis of a report submitted by the Zaveri commission.

Ministry of railway launches Swachhata Pakhwada 2023

- Ministry of Railways is observing Swachhata Pakhwada from 16th September 2023 to 30th September 2023. Ministry of Railways has extended it suo-moto up to 02nd October and has decided to culminate it with Mahatma Gandhi’s Jayanti.

- This year, joint campaign of Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and Ministry of Jal Shakti namely 'Swachhata hi Sewa' (SHS) Campaign (from 15.09.23 to 02.10.23) is also being celebrated. Activities of SHS have been integrated with Indian Railways' Swachhata Pakhwada programme.
- For Swachhata Pakhwada – 2023, dedicated days have been assigned for activities during pakhwada like Swachh Railgadi, Swachh Station, Swachh Aahar, Swachh Tracks etc. Extensive awareness campaign are also planned to be carried out through digital media/public announcement via PA systems to educate people about the use of bio-toilets, avoiding single use plastic and observing cleanliness habits.
- In order to ensure greater participation & more effective outcome of the fortnight, Swachhata Pakhwada Awards have been provided to each ministry by Ministry of Jal Shakti (nodal Ministry) for awarding to field functionaries/ attached offices/ subordinate organizations for exemplary performance during pakhwada period. Previous year Swachhata Pakhwada – 2022 awards have been given to following zonal railways:
1st Position: South Western Railway;
2nd Position: Western Railway;
3rd Position: North Eastern Railway.

India becomes the 13th nation to issue OIML certificates

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

IAF takes delivery of first C295 transport aircraft

- India reached a significant milestone with the arrival of the first C295 aircraft, marking a momentous achievement in the country's aviation history. This development is the result of a collaboration between European aviation giant Airbus and the Indian conglomerate Tata Group, marking the first instance of an Indian private company manufacturing an aircraft.
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) Chief, Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari, received the first C295 aircraft at Airbus's production facility in Seville, Spain. After this symbolic handover, the aircraft will be flown back to India, where a formal induction ceremony is scheduled to take place at the Hindon air base in Ghaziabad on the 25th of September.

- The C295 aircraft is set to replace the IAF's ageing Avro fleet. With the capability to carry up to nine tonnes of payload or transport as many as 71 troops, it boasts a maximum cruise speed of approximately 480 kilometers per hour. One of its notable features is a rear ramp for loading and unloading, making it ideal for transporting larger equipment, a capability the Avro lacked.

Odisha Cm launches Mukhyamantri sampoorna pushti youjana

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday launched the Mukhyamantri Sampoorna Pushti Yojana for proper nutrition of mothers, adolescent girls and children in the State. The Chief Minister also launched the Pada Pushti Yojana.
- Mukhyamantri Sampoorna Pushti Yojana aims to provide nutritional support to all adolescent girls between the ages of 15 and 19 across the state along with provision of extra dry food for pregnant women and post-natal mothers, whole food for severely malnourished children, vitamin-rich chatua and eggs for moderately malnourished children and severely underweight children.
- Under the 'Pada Pushti' scheme, children in remote and tribal areas will be provided with well-cooked food in their villages.

Punjab Launches 'Mission IndraDhanush' 5.0, A Healthcare Drive

- In a significant healthcare initiative, the State Health Minister of Punjab, Balbir Singh, inaugurated "Mission Intensified IndraDhanush" 5.0. The launch took place at Dr. BR Ambedkar Medical College in Mohali, Punjab. This mission, initially scheduled for August but delayed due to flooding in the state, aims to provide vaccination against 12 Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (VPD).
- The mission intends to cover pregnant women who have received partial vaccination or remain unvaccinated.
- Additionally, it seeks to reach out to children aged 0-5 years who may have missed their vaccinations.

Punjab CM Bhagwant Singh Mann lays foundation stone of Saragarhi memorial

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

an allocation of Rs 1 crore in 2019, no progress was made due to the lack of an additional Rs 25 lakh in funds.

‘Ayushman Bhava’ will help achieve universal health coverage

- President Droupadi Murmu, in a historic virtual ceremony, launched the Ayushman Bhav campaign and the Ayushman Bhava portal from the Raj Bhavan in Gandhinagar, marking a significant stride towards achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in India. This campaign aims to enhance the accessibility and affordability of healthcare services, especially for underserved communities.
- President Murmu praised the Ayushman Bhav campaign for its multi-ministerial approach, highlighting its potential to bring healthcare services to the remotest corners of India. This approach is instrumental in realizing the ambitious goal of providing healthcare to all.

Raksha Mantri dedicates to the nation 90 BRO infrastructure

- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has dedicated to the nation 90 infrastructure projects of Border Roads Organisation (BRO), worth over Rs 2,900 crore, spread across 11 States/Union Territories. The projects were inaugurated by the Raksha Mantri at an event in Jammu on September 12, 2023. These include Nechiphu Tunnel in Arunachal Pradesh; two airfields in West Bengal; two helipads; 22 roads and 63 bridges. Of these 90 projects, 36 are in Arunachal Pradesh; 26 in Ladakh; 11 in Jammu & Kashmir; five in Mizoram; three in Himachal Pradesh; two each in Sikkim, Uttarakhand & West Bengal and one each in Nagaland, Rajasthan and Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has achieved an extraordinary feat by completing the construction of these strategically-important projects in record time, with most of them being executed within a single working season using state-of-the-art technology. In his address, the Raksha Mantri described the BRO as the ‘brother’ of the Armed Forces, emphasizing that through its infrastructure projects, the BRO is not only securing India’s borders but also playing a key role in the socio-economic development of remote areas.
- The event took place at Devak Bridge on Bishnah-Kaulpur-Phulpur Road, which was inaugurated by the Raksha Mantri. The state-of-the-art 422.9-meter-long Class 70 RCC Devak bridge is strategically significant as it will enhance the operational preparedness of the Armed Forces and boost the socio-economic development of the region.

‘Bharat: Mother Of Democracy’ – A Special Initiative By Tagbin To Greet World Leaders At G20 Summit

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

- The portal provides an in-depth exploration of the history of democracy in India.
- Covers 7,000 years of democratic evolution, beginning with the Sindhu-Saraswati civilization.
- Available in 16 languages, ensuring a global audience can access its content.
- Supported languages include German, French, Spanish, Arabic, Portuguese, Italian, Turkish, Russian, English, and Hindi.

Tamil Nadu government all set to launch scheme granting monthly aid to over 1 crore women, ATM cards to be issued

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

India-Middle East-mega economic corridor announced

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday announced the launch of the India-Middle East-Europe mega economic corridor. The project includes India, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, the European Union, France, Italy, Germany and the US.
- "Today we all have reached an important and historic partnership. In the coming times, it will be a major medium of economic integration between India, West Asia and Europe," he said. The corridor will give a new direction to connectivity and sustainable development of entire world, said PM Modi
- The rail and shipping corridor is part of the Partnership for Global Infrastructure Investment (PGII) — a collaborative effort by G7 nations to fund infrastructure projects in developing nations. PGII is considered to be the bloc's counter to China's Belt and Road Initiative.
- The project will aim to enable greater trade among the involved countries, including energy products. "It could also be one of the more ambitious counters to China's massive infrastructure program, through which it has sought to connect more of the world to that country's economy," AP said.

PM Modi launches Global Biofuels Alliance

- India on September 9 announced the launch of the Global Biofuel Alliance and urged G-20 nations to join the initiative with a plea to take ethanol blending with petrol globally to 20%.

- The Alliance was launched by Mr. Modi along with a host of global leaders including U.S. President Joe Biden, Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit.
- Besides India, the initiating members include Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Italy, Mauritius, South Africa, the UAE and the U.S., while Canada and Singapore are observer countries.
- “The launch of the Global Biofuels Alliance marks a watershed moment in our quest towards sustainability and clean energy. I thank the member nations who have joined this Alliance,” the Prime Minister said.

Indian Coast Guard participates in Asian maritime security meet in Istanbul

- Indian Coast Guard participated in the 19th Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM) from 05-08 Sep 2023 at Istanbul, Turkey. A four-member ICG delegation led by DG Rakesh Pal, Director General Indian Coast Guard took part in the annual event of the independent forum with 23 members of Coast Guard Agencies and 02 associate members in the form of ReCAAP (Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia and UNODC (The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime).
- The 19th Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM) convened to address pressing issues related to maritime law enforcement, safety and security of life at sea, marine environment protection, and the illicit trafficking of drugs, weapons, and humans at sea. The event witnessed the participation of the heads of Coast Guards from all member nations, setting the stage for meaningful discussions and cooperation.

MP cabinet approves Mob lynching Victim compensation scheme 2023

- The Madhya Pradesh government on September 9 approved a scheme to provide compensation to victims of mob lynching.
- The Cabinet, which was chaired by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, also approved change of name of a housing scheme.
- In accordance with Supreme Court directives to the states, the Madhya Pradesh Cabinet approved MP Mob Lynching Victim Compensation Scheme 2023, said Minister for Medical Education Vishwas Sarang after the Cabinet meeting.
- Under this scheme, mob lynching has been specified as killing of any person or persons by a group of five or more persons on grounds of religion, caste, sex, place of birth, language, food habits, sexual orientation, political affiliation, ethnicity or other such ground or grounds, an official said.

Indore tops clean air survey among cities with mn-plus people

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s ambitious plan to improve air quality in over 100 Indian cities through a holistic approach has taken significant strides towards fruition. The recently released Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan 2023 (Clean Air Survey) report, conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board, reveals that

Indore, Amravati, and Parwanoo boast the cleanest air in India. These cities have diligently worked towards improving their air quality and have emerged as leaders in the battle against air pollution.

- In cities with a population exceeding one million, Indore secured the top spot, followed by Agra and Thane. Bhopal, a notable performer, stood fifth, while the national capital, Delhi, claimed the ninth spot. This ranking underscores the effectiveness of localized efforts in combatting air pollution in densely populated urban areas.
- Madurai, Jammu, and Kohima face significant challenges in terms of air quality. According to the report, these cities rank the lowest, highlighting the urgent need for targeted interventions to address their air pollution issues. The findings emphasize the importance of tailored action plans for cities struggling with deteriorating air quality.

J&K L-G inaugurates Bangus Valley Festival

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

BRO to construct world's highest fighter airfield in Ladakh's Nyoma

- The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is set to achieve a remarkable feat as it embarks on the construction of the world's highest fighter airfield at Nyoma in Ladakh. The foundation stone of this ambitious project is scheduled to be placed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on September 12, 2023, at the Devak Bridge in Jammu. This endeavor signifies the BRO's dedication to strengthening India's defense capabilities in a region of strategic importance.
- Nyoma stands as a prominent village situated in the southern region of Ladakh, India. It hosts an Indian Air Force Base within the Leh district. Nyoma is notably home to an Advanced Landing Ground (ALG) established in 1962. Nyoma's elevation reaches an impressive 4,180 meters (13,710 feet) above sea level, making it one of the highest-altitude locations in the region.

First-of-its-kind underground transformer inaugurated in Bengaluru's Malleswaram

- In a groundbreaking moment for the city of Bengaluru, Energy Minister KJ George inaugurated the country's inaugural underground transformer center, a significant step towards modernizing the city's power distribution infrastructure. This monumental achievement reflects Bengaluru's commitment to safety, reliability, and aesthetic enhancement of its urban landscape.
- Located at 15th Avenue, Malleswaram, the underground transformer center is a collaborative effort between the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM) and the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). With a budget of Rs 1.98 crore, this pioneering project boasts a 500 KVA capacity transformer. Historically, underground power transformer stations have primarily been found in Western countries, where governments prioritize public convenience and safety.
- To ensure the safety and convenience of Bengaluru's residents, the underground center features a specially constructed chamber beneath the earth's surface. This chamber is reinforced with a 30 mm cement block, providing a stable foundation for the electrical transformers. At a depth of 10 feet below the road's surface, this innovative center sets new standards in power distribution. While BESCOM handles the electrical aspects, BBMP is responsible for the civil works. The station includes a 500 KVA capacity oil-free transformer, an 8-way solid-state ring main unit, a 5-way LT distribution box, UPS, a water pump, and an air control system. BBMP contributed Rs 64 lakh to fund the civil works, and the entire project was completed in just 365 days.

GI Tag Status Awarded To Salem Sago

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

West Bengal Assembly passes resolution declaring Rabindranath Tagore composition as state anthem

- The West Bengal assembly made a significant decision by passing a resolution to officially observe Bengali New Year's Day, known as Poila Baisakh, as the state's foundation day on April 15th.
- This decision comes amid controversy and disagreements over the date chosen for this celebration. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has been a strong advocate

for this change, emphasizing that the day will be observed irrespective of the approval of the state's governor.

- The resolution, put forth under Rule 169, proposes the observance of Poila Baisakh as 'Bangla Diwas' and seeks to declare Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore's masterpiece, 'Banglar Mati, Banglar Jol' (Bengal's soil, Bengal's water), as the official state song. This historic decision was passed with a majority vote of 167 members in favor out of a total of 294 members in the House. However, not everyone in the assembly was in agreement.

India's Kerala To Host Inaugural Zayed Charity Marathon in 2024

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

Govt OK's Rs 3,760 crore for 4,000 mwh battery energy storage system

- The Union Cabinet has given its nod to a groundbreaking scheme aimed at bolstering India's renewable energy sector by supporting the development of a 4 gigawatt battery energy storage system by 2030-31. This scheme will provide viability gap funding to make battery storage more economically viable, with a focus on enhancing the integration of solar and wind energy into the grid.
- The V.G.F. scheme for B.E.S.S. projects boasts an initial outlay of Rs 9,400 crore. It includes a budgetary grant of Rs 3,700 crore, showcasing a substantial government commitment to advancing energy storage technology.
- The V.G.F. will be disbursed in five tranches, strategically linked to the various stages of B.E.S.S. project implementation.

Jal Jeevan Mission Achieves Milestone: 13 Crore Rural Households now have Tap Connections

- In a significant achievement, the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) has provided tap water connections to an impressive 13 crore rural households, marking a remarkable journey since its launch on India's 73rd Independence Day, August 15, 2019. This mission, guided by the principles of speed and scale, has rapidly expanded access to clean water in rural areas, progressing from 3.23 crore households in August 2019 to the current milestone in just four years.

- Several states and union territories, including Goa, Telangana, Haryana, Gujarat, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Puducherry, Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, have achieved 100% tap water coverage.
- Bihar and Mizoram are making substantial progress, nearing full coverage at 96.39% and 92.12%, respectively, with all households and public institutions receiving consistent and safe water supply.
- Across the nation, 145 districts and 1,86,818 villages report 100% coverage, underscoring the mission's wide-reaching impact.

Indian Scientists Unveil the World's First Rapid-Response Disaster Hospital: Aarogya Maitri

- India has unveiled the world's first portable disaster hospital, a groundbreaking facility that can be airlifted and consists of 72 cubes. This extraordinary endeavor is a component of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious "Project BHISHM" (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri), unveiled in February 2022. The project was officially inaugurated during the MedTech Expo in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- The heart of this innovative disaster hospital lies in its 72 cubes, each containing an array of essential equipment and supplies. Among these are an operation theatre, a mini-ICU, ventilators, blood test equipment, an X-ray machine, a cooking station, food, water, shelter, a power generator, and more. These cubes are ingeniously designed to provide critical medical care and humanitarian aid in the wake of natural disasters and humanitarian crises.
- One of the most remarkable features of the Aarogya 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.

Himachal Pradesh plans policy to develop electric charging stations

- Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has announced the Himachal Pradesh Government's intention to implement a robust policy aimed at fostering the growth of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure across the state. This policy is designed to enhance accessibility, convenience, and employment prospects in the emerging e-mobility sector.
- During a meeting in Shimla, Chief Minister Sukhu underscored that the policy would provide substantial incentives, including a 50% subsidy, to private operators interested in establishing EV charging stations.
- He said, "The state administration is ready to introduce a comprehensive policy aimed at advancing the establishment of EV charging stations within the state. This policy will encompass various aspects, such as accessibility, convenience, and the creation of job opportunities. Private operators will be encouraged through a 50% subsidy for the establishment of EV charging stations."

Himachal Pradesh CM launches SAMBAL Yojana to empower divyang children

- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Monday launched the Mukhya Mantri Sporting Abilities, Rebuilding Aspirations and Livelihood Scheme (SABAL) from his home assembly segment Nadaun in this district.
- The chief minister also announced to set up a 'Rajya Chayan Aayog' in place of the now-dissolved Himachal Pradesh Staff Selection Commission in Hamirpur within the next two months to ensure fairness in the selection criteria of candidates.
- The SABAL scheme intends to take care of specially-abled children in around 400 schools across Hamirpur, Solan and Shimla districts.
- Sukhu said the Sabal Yojana is aimed at improving the lives of specially -abled children in the state. The initiative focuses on providing essential facilities and opportunities for them, a statement issued here said.

NCERT gets Deemed-to-be-University status, says Education Minister

- In a significant development in the realm of education, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan announced on September 1 that The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has been conferred with the status of a deemed university. This momentous announcement was made during an event commemorating the 63rd foundation day of NCERT in the national capital.
- The decision to grant NCERT the esteemed status of a deemed university marks a watershed moment in the evolution of educational institutions in India.
- This move recognizes the exceptional contributions of NCERT to the field of education and underscores its commitment to excellence.
- In addition to the prestigious status conferred upon NCERT, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan called for the integration of Bal Bhavans and Bal Vatika with NCERT.
- This visionary step aims to provide a holistic and comprehensive educational experience to children, fostering their overall development.

Gujarat Declaration focuses on global commitments towards indigenous knowledges & traditional medicine

- World Health Organization (WHO) has released the outcome document of first WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit 2023 in form of "Gujarat Declaration".
- It is worth noting that first global summit on Traditional Medicine was organised by the WHO and co-hosted by the Ministry of Ayush, from August 17 -18, 2023, at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- The action points are based on the evidence, discussions and outcomes presented at the Summit. Deliberation were done on varied topics like Health and well-being of people and the planet, research and evidence, universal health coverage, primary health care and health systems, Data & routine information systems, digital health frontiers, biodiversity and sustainability, human rights, equity and ethics.

Telangana to get India's first Gorilla Glass manufacturing facility

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

Tele-Law 2.0 unveiled by Law Minister

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

12-Foot Mahatma Gandhi Statue Unveiled By President Murmu At 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.
- 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.

Uttarakhand: CM Pushkar Singh Dhami releases logo, website of Global Investors summit in Dehradun

- Pushkar Singh Dhami, the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, inaugurated the logo and website for the Investor Global Summit set to take place in Dehradun on December 8-9, 2023. This summit is poised to explore investment opportunities across a wide range of sectors and holds the potential to usher in a significant transformation in the state's economic landscape.
- Accompanying the logo unveiling was the launch of a dedicated website for the Investor Global Summit. This website serves as an information hub, offering insights into the state government's policies and detailing the various sectors ripe for investment. The website will play a pivotal role in attracting investors by providing them with comprehensive data and guidance on opportunities in Uttarakhand. It serves as a virtual gateway to the state's promising prospects, enticing potential investors to explore its untapped potential.

Piyush Goyal unveils statue of First Finance Minister of Independent India RK Shanmugam Chetty in Coimbatore

- In an event organized by the South Indian Panchayat Association in Coimbatore, Piyush Goyal, the Union Minister of Textiles, inaugurated the statue of RK Shanmugam Chetty, who served as the first Finance Minister of independent India.
- Commencing the event, a statue paying homage to RK Shanmugam Chetty, a pivotal figure in India's historical narrative and a significant administrator within the South Indian Panchayat Association, was unveiled.
- This statue now resides within the esteemed confines of the South Indian Panchayat Sangha complex, situated in the Racecourse area of Coimbatore. This act not only served as a tribute to Chetty's remarkable contributions but also as a lasting homage to his enduring legacy, which remains a source of inspiration and guidance to this day.
- Ramasamy Chetty Kandasamy Shanmukham Chetty, known as R.K. Shanmukham Chetty, was a prominent Indian lawyer, economist, and politician who played a pivotal role in the early years of independent India. He held significant positions in both government and academia during his distinguished career.

Cabinet okays Rs 5k cr PRIP scheme to boost research and innovation

- The Union Health Ministry has announced an ambitious plan to boost research and innovation in the pharmaceutical and medtech sectors. To achieve this goal, they have introduced the Promotion of Research & Innovation in Pharma-MedTech sector (PRIP) scheme, which has been approved by the Union Cabinet. The scheme was rolled out earlier this month by the government with the belief that the Indian pharmaceutical industry has

the potential to increase its current 3.4 per cent share of the global market to 5 per cent by the year 2030.

- The Union Health Ministry has announced a plan to invest ₹700 crore in creating seven Centres of Excellence at various National Institutes of Pharmaceutical, Education & Research (NIPER) to boost research and innovation in the pharma and medtech sector.
- The scheme, called Promotion of Research & Innovation in Pharma-MedTech sector (PRIP), will be launched in September and will have a duration of five years, from 2023-24 to 2027-28.
- The Centre will also provide ₹4,250 crore to support research in the private sector through milestone-based funding. The Centre may also acquire equity stakes of 5-10% in these private entities in exchange for the funding.
- The scheme aims to enhance the capacity of PSUs and encourage private sector participation in research.

Government To Celebrate Sixth Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2023 throughout 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).
- 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.

Bhaderwah rajmash, Ramban Sulai honey get GI tag

- In a significant development for the region, Bhaderwah Rajmash and Sulai honey, both hailing from the picturesque districts of Doda and Ramban in Jammu and Kashmir, have been granted coveted Geographical Indication (GI) tags. These tags serve as a testament to the unique qualities and characteristics of these local specialties and open up doors for their promotion and recognition on an international scale.
- Bhaderwah Rajmash, often referred to as red beans holds a special place in the hearts and palates of those in the Chenab Valley. With its distinct flavor and texture, this legume is not only a staple food item but also a cultural symbol of the region.

India's largest home-built Kakrapar Nuclear Plant in Gujarat starts operations at full capacity, says PM Modi

- 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.
- 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.

SPORTS

T20I World Records broken by Nepal against Mongolia in Asian Games Men T20I

- Nepal cricket team rewrote the record books in the Asian Games 2023, achieving remarkable milestones in T20 International cricket. Nepal's extraordinary performance in the tournament led them to become the first team ever to cross the 300-run mark in T20Is.
- At just 19 years old, Kushal Malla, a talented left-handed batter, etched his name in cricket history by smashing the fastest-ever T20I century. Malla achieved this remarkable feat in a mere 34 balls, surpassing the joint previous record held by David Miller and Rohit Sharma, which stood at 35 balls.
- In this breathtaking match, Nepal amassed an astonishing total of 314/3 in their allotted 20 overs. This remarkable scoreline not only secured their victory but also set a new record for the highest-ever total in T20I cricket. This feat overshadowed Afghanistan's previous record of 278/3 against Ireland in 2019.
- Nepal's innings was punctuated by a sensational display of power-hitting, as they smashed a total of 26 sixes. This staggering number of maximums in a single inning marked a new world record, showcasing the team's aggressive and fearless approach to T20 cricket.
- Nepal's No. 5 batter, Dipendra Singh Airee, also made headlines with his explosive batting. Airee blazed his way to a nine-ball fifty, a feat that surpassed the 16-year-old record set by Yuvraj Singh, who had taken 12 balls to reach his half-century in a World T20 match against England in 2007.

India clinch their first-ever Gold medal in cricket at the Asian Games

- In a remarkable debut appearance in the Asian Games cricket competition, India emerged victorious against the formidable Sri Lankan team, securing the gold medal with a 19-run victory. This triumph marks a significant milestone for India, who had chosen not to participate in the two previous editions of the continental Games that included cricket as a sport.

- India's path to gold began with their impressive batting performance. After winning the toss, they chose to bat first and managed to reach a total of 116-7 in their allotted 20 overs. The key partnership of Smriti Mandhana, who contributed with 46 runs, and Jemimah Rodrigues, who added 42, played a pivotal role in setting up a competitive target for Sri Lanka.

India Become First Team To Hit 3000 Sixes In ODI Cricket

- In the second ODI between Team India and Australia in Indore, India achieved a significant milestone by surpassing 3000 ODI sixes. They posted a formidable total of 399/6, striking an impressive 18 sixes during their innings. This remarkable feat made India the first team to reach the milestone of 3000 ODI sixes. The West Indies closely trail as the second team on the list with 2953 sixes, while Pakistan holds the third position with 2566 sixes. Surprisingly, cricketing powerhouses like Australia and England, known for their aggressive style of play, do not feature in the top three in this particular statistic.
- Furthermore, India set a new record against Australia in ODI cricket by scoring 399/6, marking their highest-ever total in matches between the two teams. As a result, Australia faces the daunting task of chasing down a colossal target of 400 runs to level the series.

Marco Bezzecchi makes history with victory at inaugural IndianOil Grand Prix of India

- In a thrilling race at the Buddh International Circuit, Italian rider Marco Bezzecchi, representing the Mooney VR46 Racing Team, emerged victorious in the inaugural Indian Grand Prix for the 2023 MotoGP season. This marked Bezzecchi's third triumph of the season, solidifying his status as a top contender in the championship.
- The race commenced with Jorge Martin of Prima Pramac taking the lead at Turn 1, closely followed by Francesco Bagnaia and Marco Bezzecchi, who initially held the third position.
- Marco Bezzecchi showcased his exceptional skills by making a remarkable comeback. First, he overtook Bagnaia to claim the second position, and then he seized the lead when Jorge Martin made an error at Turn 4, running wide. From that point onward, Bezzecchi left his competitors far behind, dominating the race and securing his well-deserved victory with a comfortable lead.

Sports Minister cancels trip after China bars 3 Indian athletes from Asian Games

- Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur has called off his trip to the Asian Games in protest of China's refusal to grant entry to Indian Wushu players from Arunachal Pradesh. This decision has come amidst an official protest by the Indian government against China's discriminatory treatment of these athletes.
- Three players, Nyeman Wangsu, Onilu Tega, and Mepung Lamgu, were denied entry into China despite possessing valid e-accreditations from the event organizers. Ms. Wangsu couldn't board her flight, while the other two were allowed to travel only up to Hong Kong. This casts doubt on their participation in the event scheduled for Sunday.

Harmanpreet, Iqbal Singh to be flag bearer at Asian Games 2023

- The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has decided to have not one, but two flag-bearers to lead the Indian contingent at the opening ceremony of the upcoming

Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou, China. This decision comes as a significant departure from tradition and has generated considerable excitement among sports enthusiasts across the nation.

- The distinguished honor of flag-bearer at the opening ceremony of the Asian Games 2023 has been bestowed upon two exceptional athletes: Harmanpreet Singh and Lovlina Borgohain. Harmanpreet Singh, the captain of the Indian Hockey team, and Lovlina Borgohain, an Olympic medallist boxer, have been selected to jointly lead the Indian contingent at this grand sporting event, scheduled to commence on September 23 in Hangzhou.
- The Asian Games 2023 will see a record-breaking Indian contingent with a total of 655 athletes representing the nation. This marks the largest Indian contingent ever to participate in the Asian Games, reflecting the country's growing prominence in the field of sports.

Antim panghal wins world bronze and quota for Paris Olympics

- Antim Panghal has become the first Indian wrestler to bag a quota place for the Paris Olympics. On her senior World Championships debut, Indian wrestler Antim Panghal clinched a bronze medal and confirmed a 2024 Paris Olympic quota, registering a dominant win over European champion Jonna Malmgren of Sweden in 53 kg category bout, on Thursday.
- The two-time U20 world champion was at her absolute best as she secured a 16-6 win via technical superiority (TSU) to pocket her maiden senior World Championships medal.
- Enroute to her bronze medal victory, Panghal beat reigning world champion Olivia Dominique Parrish of US in her opening match, followed by her TSU win over Roksana Marta Zasina of Poland.
- The 19-year-old girl from Haryana, who is competing as a neutral athlete after WFI got suspended by the World body, then defeated Natalia Malysheva of Russia in the quarterfinal before suffering a heartbreaking loss to Tokyo Olympic bronze medallist Vanesa Kaladzinskaya of Belarus in semifinal on Wednesday.

Deepak Chahar launches his sports brand 'Dnine'

- 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.
- 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.

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Maharashtra: Shinde govt issues notification on name change of Aurangabad, Osmanabad districts

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

Diamond League 2023 Final: Neeraj Chopra finishes second in javelin throw, Jakub Vadlejch takes the title

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

javelin at an impressive distance of 83.80 meters. This throw put him back in contention and served as a testament to his resilience and skill.

Ferrari's Carlos Sainz won a thrilling Singapore Grand Prix

- Ferrari's Carlos Sainz won the Singapore Grand Prix to end Formula 1 leader Max Verstappen's record run of 10 wins in a row and shatter Red Bull's dream of going through the season unbeaten. McLaren's Lando Norris finished a close second and Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton took third place as Red Bull ended up off the podium for the first time since last November's Brazilian Grand Prix.
- The 2023 Formula 1 Singapore Grand Prix drew a more-than-expected 264,108 spectators over the race weekend. Last year, the event attracted a record 302,000 spectators, surpassing the 268,000 figure for the 2019 edition. The Singapore Grand Prix was cancelled in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

India won Asia Cup 2023 Title, beat Sri Lanka in Final

- On September 17, 2023, at Colombo's R. Premadasa Stadium, India secured their eighth Asia Cup title by defeating Sri Lanka by 10 wickets in the final match. This victory marked India's first Asia Cup win since 2018. Sri Lanka won the toss and chose to bat first, but they were dismissed for a meager 50 runs, marking the lowest total ever in an Asia Cup final. Mohammed Siraj was the standout performer among the Indian bowlers, claiming 6 wickets for just 21 runs. In response, India effortlessly reached the target in a mere 6.1 overs without losing a wicket. Ishan Kishan contributed 23 runs off 18 balls, while Shubhman Gill scored 27 runs off 19 balls.

Asia Cup 2023 Award Winners

Winner: India (8th title)

Runner-up: Sri Lanka

Man of the Tournament: Kuldeep Yadav

Most runs in Asia Cup 2023: S Gill (302 runs)

Man of the Match in the Final: Mohammed Siraj

Most wickets in Asia Cup 2023: M Pathirana (SL) with 11 wickets

Germany beat Serbia to win first ever FIBA basketball world cup

- A Dennis Schroder-inspired Germany beat Serbia 83-77 to lift basketball's 2023 FIBA World Cup on Sunday, 10 September.
- Despite going down 26-23 in the first quarter, the Germans, playing in their first-ever final, refused to be overawed by the occasion.
- Inspired by the intensity of Isaac Bonga on both sides of the ball and Toronto Raptor Schroder's three-point magic, they responded by taking an early four-point lead in the second.
- After weathering a rally from Serbia, the teams went into half-time locked at 47-47. The lead had changed hands 15 times by this point, a testament to a high quality, but even contest.

- With a capacity crowd at fever pitch, Germany stepped on the gas in the third quarter to open up an 11-point lead when Serbia called a time-out.

Maharashtra beat Karnataka with the final score 31-10 in the finals to win Championship

- Maharashtra clinched the title of champions in the 5th National Wheelchair Rugby Championship 2023 by securing a convincing victory over Karnataka, concluding with a final score of 31-10. This championship, which took place at Balewadi in Pune from September 10 to September 11, 2023, was marked by intense competition and served as a testament to the impressive development of wheelchair rugby in India.
- The 5th National Wheelchair Rugby Championship 2023 was organized by The Indian Rugby Football Union (Rugby India), the governing body for rugby in India. It was conducted in association with the Wheelchair Rugby Federation of India and Mitsubishi Corporation. This collaborative effort aimed to promote and expand the sport of wheelchair rugby across the nation.
- The championship saw an overwhelming participation of over 120 athletes from different parts of India, making it a truly national event. This massive turnout reflected the growing interest and enthusiasm for wheelchair rugby in the country.

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Tennis: Former No. 1 Simona Halep gets 4-year ban in doping case

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

Coco Gauff becomes first american teen to win US open title since 1999

- Dreams are meant to come true. With sheer will power and immense determination, focus and hard work, anything is possible. It stands true in the case of Coco Gauff who became the first American teenager to win the country's major tennis tournament since Serena Williams in 1999.
- Gauff burst onto the scene at 15 by becoming the youngest qualifier in Wimbledon history and making it to the fourth round in her Grand Slam debut in

2019. She reached her initial major final at last year's French Open, finishing as the runner-up to Iga Swiatek.

- As a pro athlete from a young age, as someone of whom greatness has been expected by some and doubted by others, Gauff has always taken it all in and kept moving forward. Trying to learn from each setback.

Prathmesh Jawkar wins in men's Archery world cup

- It was so near yet so far for Prathamesh Jawkar who missed a gold medal by the narrowest of margins to end up with a silver in the Final in Hermosillo, Mexico, on Saturday.
- A bronze medal also eluded India in the compound event when Abhishek Verma lost to World No. 1 Mike Schloesser of the Netherlands 150-149.
- Jawkar began his maiden appearance in the World Cup Final with an easy 149-141 win against World No-5, Miguel Becerra of Italy in the quarterfinals. The Maharashtra boy then shot a perfect 150 against Schloesser, whom he defeated to grab the gold medal in the men's individual event in the Shanghai leg of the World Cup, to beat the second-seeded archer by a point (150-149) and book a summit clash with Mathias Fullerton of Denmark.

India's Praggnanandhaa Finishes Third, Grischuk Takes Open Blitz Title

- At the 2023 Tata Steel Chess India tournament held in Kolkata, R Praggnanandhaa from India achieved an impressive third-place finish, establishing himself as the leading Indian contender. In the Open Blitz category, world champion Alexander Grischuk exhibited his dominance by securing the top position, while Arjun Erigaisi secured the second-best position among Indian participants, securing fourth place in the Chess tournament.
- R Praggnanandhaa made a strong start to the tournament, remaining unbeaten in his initial four games. He displayed his exceptional skills in a fine attacking game against Teimour Radjabov, which set the tone for his performance. However, his journey was not without hurdles, as he encountered defeats in crucial matches against Nodirbek Abdusattorov, Alexander Grischuk, and Vidit Gujrathi.
- Arjun Erigaisi demonstrated remarkable consistency throughout the tournament, securing fourth place overall with 10 and a half points. He stunned the chess world by defeating Grischuk in the 13th round, marking the only loss for the two-time world blitz champion in the event. Erigaisi's ability to compete at such a high level solidified his status as one of India's promising chess talents.

Kishore Jena wins Indian grand Prix with throw of 82.53m

- Kishore Jena and Amoj Jacob, who excelled at the Budapest World Championships last month, continued their good form to win gold medals at the Indian Grand Prix 5 2023 athletics in Chandigarh on Sunday.

- Kishore Jena's best attempt in the javelin throw of 82.53m came on his first try. His subsequent throws read 80.74m, 81.56m and 78.39m. The 28 -year-old athlete fouled on the fifth attempt and concluded with 78.98m.
- All of Kishore Jena's legal throws were better than the second-placed Vikas Yadav, who achieved the distance of 72.88m. Rajasthan's Harish Kumar came third with a throw of 71.78m.
- Kishore Jena missed out on a medal at the world championships last month and finished fifth with his personal best throw of 84.77m. Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra holds the national record of 89.94m.

India's Kiran George clinches Indonesia badminton masters title

- Indian badminton player Kiran George clinched the men's singles title at the Indonesia Masters 2023 in Medan, North Sumatra on Sunday.
- Playing at the GOR PBSI Pancing court, Kiran George, 50th in the badminton rankings, beat world No. 82 Koo Takahashi of Japan 21-19, 22-20 in 56 minutes to claim his second BWF World Tour Super 100 badminton title. Kiran George won the Odisha Open last year, beating compatriot Priyanshu Rawat in the final.
- In the Indonesia Masters final, Kiran George and Koo Takahashi matched each other's intensity in the first game. However, after the scores were tied at 15-all, Kiran George won six of the next 10 points to take a 1-0 lead.

Indian armwrestlers win 11 medals at World Armwrestling Championship 2023

- In a remarkable display, the Indian contingent which went to compete in the 44th World Armwrestling Championship 2023 and 25th PARA Armwrestling Championship, which was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, won a total of 11 Medals (3 Gold, 6 Silver and 2 Bronze Medals). The Championship was held from August 24 till September 3. Indian Arm wrestlers dominate at World Armwrestling Championship 2023.
- The 43-member strong (39 athletes and 4 officials) Indian squad was competing under the banner of People's Armwrestling Federation of India led by President Ms. Preeti Jhangiani, General Secretary and Head coach Laxman Singh Bhandari and Team Manager Junestar Kharbuli.

Thailand's Nattaya Boochatham becomes first bowler from associate nation to pick up 100 Wickets in WT20Is

- Thailand women's cricket team's star spinner Nattaya Boochatham created history with her three wickets against Kuwait in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup Asia Region Qualifier, September 4. Nattaya completed 100 wickets in T20Is to become the first-ever cricketer, male or female, to reach the 100-wicket mark in international cricket.
- The 36-year-old spin all-rounder now has taken 101 wickets in 73 ODI matches at an average of 9.96 and becomes the first-ever cricketer to take 100 wickets at a bowling average below 10. She becomes the only 11th cricketer in the world with 100 T20I wickets in women's cricket but possesses the best bowling average

in the list. She will join the current world no.1 bowler Sophie Ecclestone's 102 wickets tally if she picks one wicket in Thailand's next game against Hong Kong on September 6.

- The veteran off-spinner pulled off a sensational spell with three wickets while conceding just three runs in three overs against Kuwait. However, the game was abandoned after nine-play rain interrupted the crucial qualifier fixture at Selangor Turf Club in Kuala Lumpur. Thailand still stand a chance to progress into the semi-final round.

2023 F1 Italian GP results: Max Verstappen wins, sets record

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

Durand Cup finals: Mohun Bagan SG defeats East Bengal 1-0

- Mohun Bagan Super Giant beat East Bengal (1-0) to win the Durand Cup 2023 trophy at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata, West Bengal. With this victory, Mohun Bagan SG became the first team in Durand Cup history to win 17 titles.
- With 16 titles, East Bengal are the second-most successful team in the Durand Cup. With this victory, Mohun Bagan SG became the first team in Durand Cup history to win 17 titles. With 16 titles, East Bengal are the second-most successful team in the Durand Cup.

Indian Men's Hockey team beat Pakistan in thrilling final to win inaugural Men's Hockey 5s Asia Cup

- In Hockey, India beat Pakistan in penalty shootout in the final to win the inaugural Men's Hockey 5s Asia Cup 2023 in Salalah, Oman. The win also served as Asia's qualifying tournament for the FIH Men's Hockey5s World Cup Oman 2024. Subsequently, India qualified for the FIH Men's Hockey5s World Cup Oman 2024.
- This is the first time in three meetings that India have beaten Pakistan in the Hockey 5s format. From 2-4 down in the second half, India took the game to the shootout after two goals from Mohammed Raheel. In the shootout, Pakistan missed all their chances while Maninder Singh hit the hammer in the coffin to score India's second goal in the shootout. Earlier in the evening, India thrashed Malaysia 10-4 in the semifinals.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

International scientists make refined map of world's '8th continent' Zealandia submerged in Pacific Ocean

- A dedicated team of international geologists and seismologists has embarked on a mission to chart the depths of Zealandia, a relatively unknown landmass submerged beneath the Pacific Ocean. Their efforts have resulted in the creation of an updated and highly detailed map that sheds light on the continent's intriguing geological features.
- Zealandia, often referred to as the eighth continent, remains shrouded in oceanic mystery, with a staggering 94% of its expanse concealed beneath the sea's surface. The remaining 6% peeks above the waves, encompassing islands such as New Zealand and its neighboring isles.

Mars' Own Tesla! NASA's Perseverance Rover Sets Record For The Longest Autopilot Drive On Red Planet

- NASA's Perseverance Mars rover has accomplished an impressive feat by traversing a massive boulder field at a record speed, taking only a third of the time it would have taken its predecessor, Curiosity. The rover's journey through the challenging terrain of Snowdrift Peak in the Jezero Crater is a testament to its advanced autonomous navigation capabilities and highlights its commitment to maximizing scientific exploration time.
- Perseverance entered the Jezero Crater on June 26, 2023, and embarked on its challenging mission to explore Snowdrift Peak, a rocky region within the crater. The terrain proved to be more rugged and densely populated with large rocks than any the rover had previously encountered.

IAF enhances fleet with new Dornier Do-228 aircraft from HAL

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) has recently celebrated the arrival of the first of six state-of-the-art Dornier Do-228 aircraft, exclusively manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- The foundation for this crucial development was laid in March when the Ministry of Defence inked a deal with HAL for the procurement of six Dornier-228 aircraft, allocating a budget of Rs 667 crore. This deal represents a significant step forward in the ongoing efforts to modernize and upgrade the Indian Air Force's fleet.
- The Dornier-228 aircraft has a rich history within the IAF, having been employed for Route Transport Role and communication tasks.

NASA capsule set to land in Utah desert, carrying largest asteroid samples ever

- The climactic end of a seven-year voyage comes to an end when a NASA capsule landed in the Utah desert, carrying to Earth the largest asteroid samples ever collected. Scientists have high hopes for the sample, saying it will provide a better understanding of the formation of our solar system and how Earth became habitable.

- Four years after its 2016 launch, the Osiris-Rex probe landed on the asteroid Bennu and collected roughly nine ounces (250 grams) of dust from its rocky surface. Even that small amount, NASA says, should “help us better understand the types of asteroids that could threaten Earth” and cast light “on the earliest history of our solar system.” NASA Administrator Bill Nelson said, this is going to be the biggest sample we’ve brought back since the Apollo moon rocks” were returned to Earth.

Rajnath Singh inaugurates Bharat Drone Shakti exhibition 2023, inducts C-295 MW aircraft

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is set to inaugurate the Bharat Drone Shakti-2023 exhibition at Hindan Air Base in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. In addition to the exhibition, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will formally induct the C-295 transport aircraft into the Indian Air Force. Key military officials, including IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari, will be in attendance for this significant event.
- The Indian Air Force recently received its first C-295 aircraft, marking a significant milestone.
- This acquisition follows a Rs 21,935-crore deal between New Delhi and Airbus Defence and Space, which was signed two years ago.
- Airbus is responsible for delivering the initial 16 aircraft in a ‘fly-away’ condition from its final assembly line in Seville, with completion expected by 2025.
- An industrial partnership between Airbus and Tata Advanced Systems (TASL) in India will oversee the manufacturing and assembly of the subsequent 40 aircraft.

World Pharmacists Day 2023: 25th September

- World Pharmacists Day is a globally recognized event observed every year on September 25th. It serves as a dedicated occasion to honor and appreciate the vital contributions of pharmacists to the improvement of global health. This special day underscores the pivotal role that pharmacists play in enhancing human well-being and seeks to raise awareness about their invaluable work.
- The theme for World Pharmacists Day in 2023 is “Pharmacy Strengthening Health Systems.” This theme focuses on recognizing and celebrating the indispensable contributions of pharmacists in the field of medical supplements and healthcare professionals. It emphasizes the role of pharmacists in fortifying healthcare systems worldwide.
- The roots of World Pharmacists Day trace back to its establishment at the 2009 International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) Congress held in Istanbul, Turkey. This annual observance was created to highlight the significant importance of pharmacists and pharmacy professionals in the healthcare sector. Over the years, it has evolved into a global celebration of pharmacists’ contributions.

Daughters Day 2023: 24th September

- Daughters are indeed a beautiful treasure in any household. They bring love, laughter and happiness and their connection with their families persists even as they embark on new chapters in their lives. Unfortunately, in many parts of the world, including India, gender inequality remains a significant challenge. Daughters often shoulder multiple responsibilities at the expense of their physical and mental health.

- Daughters Day is celebrated every year on fourth Saturday of the September month. This year, 24th September 2023 marks a special occasion dedicated to celebrating the joy of having a daughter. Daughter's Day is a beautiful reminder of the importance of daughters in our lives and an opportunity to express our love and appreciation for them. As our daughters are the guiding lights of our future, it is crucial to make this day memorable and meaningful.

India's Defence Acquisition Council gave the green light to several capital acquisition proposals

- India's Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has given the green light to several capital acquisition proposals, including the indigenous Dhruvastra short-range air-to-surface missile.
- This precision-guided weapon is designed for deployment on the indigenously built DHRUV MK-IV helicopters and is poised to elevate India's combat capabilities against enemy tanks and armored vehicles significantly.
- The Dhruvastra missile is a third-generation, fire-and-forget anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) system, renowned for its versatility in engaging and neutralizing enemy tanks and armored vehicles. With a range spanning from 500 meters to an impressive 7 kilometers, Dhruvastra can engage targets across a wide spectrum. This extensive reach ensures that enemy tanks and armored vehicles are within its striking distance.

BAE Systems, L&T Join Hands To Bring All-Terrain Vehicle To India

- A groundbreaking collaboration between global defense and security company BAE Systems and India's Larsen & Toubro (L&T) is set to revolutionize the Indian defense landscape. The partnership aims to introduce the world-leading Articulated All-Terrain Vehicle (AATV), known as the 'BvS10,' to the Indian armed forces. This venture, operating under the 'Make in India' program, holds the promise of enhanced capabilities and bolstered defense preparedness for the nation.
- Under this partnership, Larsen & Toubro will take the lead as the prime bidder for the Indian market, with the invaluable support of BAE Systems Hagglunds, the renowned Swedish manufacturer of the highly successful BvS10 family of vehicles. This synergy between a global defense giant and a formidable Indian industrial conglomerate promises to redefine defense manufacturing in the country.
- In a move to meet the specific requirements of the Indian armed forces, BAE Systems and L&T have undertaken the task of upgrading the BvS10. The result of this joint effort is a new variant named the 'BvS10-Sindhu.' This innovative vehicle is designed to excel in the demanding terrains and climatic conditions frequently encountered in India.

Apple includes ISRO-made GPS for iPhone 15 series

- Apple's iPhone 15 Pro and iPhone 15 Pro Max are the company's latest flagship smartphones, and they come with a number of notable upgrades, including a new brushed titanium frame, a powerful A16 Bionic chip, and a more advanced

camera system. However, one of the most significant changes under the hood is the integration of precision dual-frequency G.P.S., including support for NavIC, the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System.

- NavIC is a regional navigation satellite system developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation. It consists of seven satellites in geostationary and inclined geosynchronous orbits, providing coverage over India and a region extending 1,500 kilometers beyond its borders. NavIC offers two services:
 1. Standard Position Service for civilian users
 2. Restricted Service for strategic users

Amazon's AWS ties up with ISRO to advance its AI capabilities with cloud technologies

- Amazon Web Services (AWS), a major player in the cloud computing industry, has entered into a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe). This collaboration aims to support space-tech innovations through cloud computing, opening up exciting possibilities in the space sector.
- Shalini Kapoor, Director and Chief Technologist, Public Sector, AWS India and South Asia, emphasized that cloud computing-led innovations can significantly enhance the space industry by enabling quicker decision-making and pushing the boundaries of what's possible. AWS is committed to assisting startups in identifying use cases, accelerating solution development, and nurturing a talent pool in India specialized in cloud and space technologies.

INS Sumedha participates in 'Exercise Bright Star-23' in Egypt

- Indian Navy's INS Sumedha arrived at Port Alexandria, Egypt to participate in 'Exercise BRIGHT STAR- 23'. This edition of the multinational Tri-Services military exercise will see participation from 34 countries. It is the largest ever joint military exercise in the Middle East and North Africa region. This joint military exercise, hosted in Egypt, marks a historic milestone for the Indian Navy and strengthens India's diplomatic and strategic ties with partner nations.
- The Harbour Phase involves wide-ranging activities such as cross-deck visits, professional exchanges, sports fixtures and interactions for planning and conduct of the Sea Phase. This Phase of the Exercise BRIGHT STAR-23 is a crucial starting point where participating nations engage in a variety of activities to foster cooperation and understanding. Cross-deck visits and professional exchanges allow naval personnel to learn from one another, sharing expertise and best practices. Additionally, sports fixtures and interactions promote camaraderie among the servicemen and women.
- The Sea Phase will include complex and high-intensity exercises encompassing cross-deck flying, anti-surface and anti-air exercises, including live weapon firing drills. The Sea Phase is the heart of the exercise, where naval forces from multiple countries engage in complex and challenging exercises. Cross-deck flying exercises test the ability to operate aircraft from different carriers, enhancing interoperability among nations. Anti-surface and anti-air

exercises ensure that participating navies are well-prepared for diverse maritime threats. Live weapon firing drills demonstrate the proficiency of naval forces in combat scenarios.

IAF & Drone Federation of India to co-host Bharat Drone Shakti - 2023 at IAF airbase in Hindan Ghaziabad

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) is collaborating with the Drone Federation of India to co-host 'Bharat Drone Shakti 2023.' This upcoming event, scheduled for the 25th and 26th of September 2023, will take place at the IAF's airbase in Hindan (Ghaziabad). It is anticipated to be a pioneering exhibition highlighting the prowess of the Indian drone industry, with more than 50 live aerial demonstrations.
- 'Bharat Drone Shakti 2023' is set to impress attendees with a diverse array of live aerial demonstrations. The event will encompass a wide range of drone applications, including survey drones, agriculture drones, fire suppression drones, tactical surveillance drones, heavy-lift logistics drones, loitering munition systems, drone swarms, and counter-drone solutions. This comprehensive exhibition will underscore the versatility and innovation present within the Indian drone sector.
- Anticipated to attract approximately 5,000 attendees, 'Bharat Drone Shakti 2023' will bring together a diverse audience. This includes representatives from central government bodies, state departments, public and private industries, armed forces, paramilitary forces, as well as delegates from friendly nations. The event will also be a platform for academicians, students, and drone enthusiasts to engage with cutting-edge developments in the field.

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

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

Aditya-L1: Significance behind name, objectives of India's first solar mission

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is set to embark on a groundbreaking space mission, Aditya L-1, designed to unravel the mysteries of our closest star, the Sun. Scheduled for launch from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on Saturday, September 2nd, at 11:50 am, this mission promises to shed light on the enigmatic solar processes that impact our planet and the wider cosmos.
- The "L1" in Aditya L-1 stands for Lagrange point 1, a celestial location nestled precisely between the Sun and Earth. Lagrange points are regions where the gravitational forces of

two massive objects, in this case, the Sun and Earth, balance each other, allowing a spacecraft to essentially “hover” in place.

OBITUARY

Ashwin Dani, non-executive director of Asian Paints, passes away at the age of 79

- The world of business recently bid farewell to a visionary leader, Ashwin Dani, the Co-founder & non-executive director of Asian Paints, who passed away on 28 September 2023 at the age of 79.
- Ashwin Dani’s association with Asian Paints was nothing short of legendary. This iconic company, which began its journey in 1942, was founded by his father and three others. Ashwin Dani joined Asian Paints in 1968, and under his leadership, the company witnessed unprecedented growth and expansion.
- One of Ashwin Dani’s most significant achievements was the global expansion of Asian Paints.

Michael Gambon, Dumbledore in 'Harry Potter,' dies at 82

- The world of acting mourns the loss of a legendary talent, as Michael Gambon, renowned for his portrayal of Professor Dumbledore in the Harry Potter film series, has passed away at the age of 82.
- Born in Ireland on October 19, 1940, Gambon was raised in London. Gambon’s breakthrough in the world of acting came in 1980 when he delivered a mesmerizing performance in Bertolt Brecht’s “Life of Galileo” at London’s National Theatre.
- It was this performance that prompted actor Ralph Richardson to famously refer to him as “the great Gambon.” Even though he had previously enjoyed modest success in plays by Alan Ayckbourn and Harold Pinter, it was this portrayal that truly catapulted him into the spotlight.

MS Swaminathan, driver of India’s transformatory Green Revolution, passes away

- Mankombu Sambasivan Swaminathan, fondly known as M.S. Swaminathan, was a legendary figure in the field of agriculture and a true humanitarian, passed away at the age of 98. Born on August 7, 1925, in Tamil Nadu’s Thanjavur district, he dedicated his life to improving the lives of India’s low-income farmers and revolutionizing the nation’s agricultural landscape.
- Swaminathan’s journey in agriculture began in 1949 when he embarked on research into the genetics of important crops like potato, wheat, rice, and jute. Little did he know that his work would later become a lifeline for India.

Former Italian president Napolitano dies aged 98

- Former Italian President Giorgio Napolitano has died at the age of 98. His passing marks the end of an era in Italian politics, as he was not only the longest-serving president but also a central figure in shaping the country’s post-war history.
- Giorgio Napolitano, who served as the President of Italy from 2006 until 2015, was a pivotal figure in the nation’s political landscape. He holds the distinction of being the first president

in Italian history to be reelected to the office, a testament to his widespread popularity and the trust placed in him by the Italian people.

UK scientist Ian Wilmut, creator of 'Dolly' the Sheep clone, passes away at 79

- Wilmut made headlines and heated ethical debates in 1996 when he and his team created Dolly, the first mammal to be cloned from an adult cell.
- British scientist Ian Wilmut, whose research was central to the creation of the cloned animal, Dolly the Sheep, has died at the age of 79, the University of Edinburgh said on Monday.
- His death on Sunday years after being diagnosed with Parkinson's disease was announced by the University of Edinburgh, where he worked.
- Wilmut, along with Keith Campbell from the animal sciences research institute in Scotland, generated news headlines and heated ethical debates in 1996 when they created Dolly, the first mammal to be cloned from an adult cell.

Arun Kumar Sinha, Director of SPG Responsible For PM's Protection, Passes Away

- Arun Kumar Sinha, who served as the Director of the Special Protection Group (SPG), has passed away at the age of 61 while undergoing treatment at a hospital in Gurugram, where he had been receiving medical care for some time. Sinha held a pivotal role in the security apparatus of the country, as he was responsible for providing proximate security to the Prime Minister of India. This significant duty underscores the magnitude of his contributions to the nation's security.
- Arun Kumar Sinha, an Indian Police Service (IPS) officer from the 1987 Kerala cadre, had a distinguished career spanning multiple decades. His journey in the Special Protection Group (SPG) began in March 2016, when he assumed the role of its 12th director. His appointment was made on a contractual basis, lasting until May 31, 2024, at the rank and compensation level of director general of police. On May 31, he was granted a one-year extension in service, underscoring his unwavering commitment to his responsibilities. This tenure allowed him to lead the SPG with utmost dedication and professionalism.

Malini Rajurkar, Hindustani vocalist whose 'tappa' renditions were epic, passes away at 82

- Noted Hindustani classical vocalist Malini Rajurkar, who epitomised simplicity and depth, passed away in a Hyderabad hospital. She was 82 and had been suffering from age-related ailments. She has performed in major music festivals in India, including Gunidas Sammelan (Mumbai), Tansen Samaroh (Gwalior), Sawai Gandharva Festival (Pune), and Shankar Lal Festival (Delhi). She is noted especially for her command over the Tappa and the Tarana genre. She has also sung lighter music. Her renditions of Marathi natyageete, pandu-nrupati janak jaya, naravar krishnasamaan, ya bhavanatil geet purane have been particularly popular.

- Malini Rajurkar was born in Ajmer in Rajasthan in 1941. She studied music from the Ajmer Music College, under the guidance of Govindrao Rajurkar and his nephew Vasantrao Rajurkar, who was to become her future husband. She was an exponent of Gwalior gharana and one of the foremost proponents of 'khayal' and 'tappa' genre.

Piloo Reporter, the first among neutral umpires in Tests, dies at 84

- Piloo Reporter, a former international umpire, passed away on September 3 at a Thane hospital, Mumbai. He was 84 years old and had been dealing with cerebral contusions, leading to an extended period of bedridden illness.
- In his long and illustrious career spanning 28 years, Piloo Reporter known for his jovial nature and vigorous style of signaling boundaries, stood in 14 Tests and 22 ODIs. His unique way of signaling boundaries earned him the affectionate nickname "PD" in the cricketing fraternity.
- Reporter's remarkable skills as an umpire came into the spotlight when he stood in seven matches during the 1992 Cricket World Cup held in Australia and New Zealand. His contributions to the game were celebrated not only in India but on the international stage as well.

Heath Streak, former Zimbabwe cricket captain, dies aged 49

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

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

Japanese retailer Uniqlo names Katrina Kaif as 1st Indian ambassador

- Japanese clothing giant Uniqlo has announced its partnership with Bollywood actress Katrina Kaif, marking her as the brand's first ambassador in India. This collaboration is part of Uniqlo's strategy to expand its presence in the Indian market and promote its Fall-Winter 2023 campaign.
- Katrina Kaif, a prominent figure in the Indian film industry, has been chosen as the face of Uniqlo's marketing efforts in India.

RBI deputy governor M. Rajeshwar Rao's term extended

- 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).

- 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.
- 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.

RBI extends tenure of HDFC Bank MD Sashidhar Jagdishan by 3 years

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

DIPA appoints Dhananjay Joshi as Chairman, Sandeep Girotra as Vice-Chairman

- Digital Infrastructure Providers Association (DIPA) has appointed Dhananjay Joshi, MD and CEO of Summit Digitel, as the chairman. Dhananjay Joshi takes over the baton from Akhil Gupta, Chairman of Bharti Enterprises, who served as Chairman of the industry body since 2011. DIPA named Sandeep Girotra, CEO of American Tower India, as the new vice chairman of the association.
- The changes in the leadership management will come into effect from October 1, 2023. The telecom industry body concluded its annual general body meeting for 2022-23, with the announcements of its leadership for the term 2023-24. Akhil Gupta has accepted the request of the executive committee members to hold the position of Patron Member, DIPA.
- The Digital Infrastructure Providers Association (DIPA) is a non-profit industry body that represents the digital infrastructure industry in India. It was founded in 2010 as the Tower and Infrastructure Providers Association (TIPA), but was renamed DIPA in 2020 to reflect the broader scope of its membership.

PIO named CEO of Penguin Random House

- Nihar Malaviya has been named as permanent CEO of Penguin Random House, nine months after he was appointed the interim chief executive. Malaviya succeeded Markus Dohle, who departed weeks after a federal judge struck down

Penguin Random House's attempted merger with Simon & Schuster, a deal Dohle had pushed for. Penguin Random House, the world's largest trade publisher, has been undergoing a company-wide reorganization in 2023, with numerous senior editors either laid off or departing under a voluntary retirement plan.

- Bertelsmann, the German media conglomerate, has owned Random House since 1998. Random House and Penguin merged in 2013.
- Malaviya, 48, joined Bertelsmann in 2001, and had served in a variety of positions before becoming CEO. He was most recently COO and president of Penguin Random House in the U.S.

IRS Officer Rahul Navin Appointed In-Charge Chief 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.

Srinivasan K Swamy elected ABC chairman for 2023-24

- 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 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.

Mastercard India appoints former SBI chief Rajnish Kumar as chairman

- Mastercard, the global financial services corporation, has made a significant appointment in its Indian operations by naming Rajnish Kumar as the Chairman of Mastercard India. This move reflects Mastercard's commitment to strengthening its presence in India and navigating the dynamic landscape of domestic payments. Kumar, the former Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI), brings a wealth of experience to the role.
- Rajnish Kumar's career spans nearly four decades in India's largest bank, the State Bank of India. During his tenure, he held various leadership positions and played a pivotal role in managing critical operations not only in India but also in

the UK and Canada. His contributions to the banking sector are well-acknowledged, with one of his notable achievements being the spearheading of the YONO platform, a groundbreaking digital banking initiative.

- 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.

Haryana Govt appoints renowned film actress Mita Vashisth as Chairperson of Haryana Film and Entertainment Policy

- In a significant development for the entertainment industry in Haryana, the state government has appointed renowned film actress Mita Vashisth as the chairperson of the governing council tasked with overseeing the implementation of the Haryana Film and Entertainment Policy. This appointment follows the untimely demise of the beloved actor, director, and producer Satish Kaushik, who previously held the position. Mita Vashisth's extensive experience in the world of entertainment and her dedication to the craft make her a fitting choice for this prestigious role.
- Mita Vashisth's journey in the world of entertainment has been nothing short of remarkable. With a career spanning decades, she has left an indelible mark on Indian cinema, television, theater, and more. Born in Pune, Maharashtra, Mita ventured into acting and quickly rose to prominence with her exceptional talent. Her impressive resume includes roles in 43 films, numerous television serials, web series, and theater productions.

Sandeep Bakshi's re-appointment as ICICI Bank MD & CEO gets RBI approval

- In a significant development, ICICI Bank, the country's second-largest private sector bank, has announced that it has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for the re-appointment of Sandeep Bakhshi as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD and CEO) of the bank. This approval comes as a crucial step in ensuring the stability and leadership continuity of the bank.
- As per the exchange filing made on September 11, the RBI has approved Sandeep Bakhshi's re-appointment as MD and CEO of ICICI Bank with effect from October 4, 2023, extending his term until October 3, 2026. This three-year extension reflects the confidence of both the board of directors and the RBI in Mr. Bakhshi's leadership and vision.
- Sandeep Bakhshi has been at the helm of ICICI Bank since October 15, 2018, prior to which he held the position of Whole-time Director and Chief Operating Officer (COO). With an impressive 36-year tenure within the ICICI Group, Bakhshi brings a wealth of experience to his role. He has contributed significantly to various aspects of the ICICI Group, including ICICI Limited, ICICI Lombard General Insurance, ICICI Bank, and ICICI Prudential Life Insurance.

Mylswamy Annadurai Joins SS Innovations Board

- SS Innovations, India's renowned surgical robotic firm, has made a groundbreaking announcement by appointing Padmashri Dr. Mylswamy Annadurai, famously known as the Moon Man of India, as a Director on its Board of Directors. This appointment encompasses both the Indian entity, SS Innovations Private Limited, and the global entity, SS Innovations International. This strategic move aims to further strengthen the company's position in the field of surgical robotics and cutting-edge technologies.
- In his capacity as a Director on the Board of SS Innovations, Padmashri Dr. Annadurai, renowned for leading multiple space missions, brings invaluable leadership and guidance. Notably, he is poised to lead not just a team of scientists but, more significantly, guide a team of engineers responsible for the creation of the world-class surgical robotic system incorporating the latest technologies and products.
- Annadurai's role extends beyond steering SS Innovations internally; he is well-positioned to guide the company towards potential collaborations with indigenous Indian companies. These collaborations could lead to the development and production of components currently used in the SSI MANTRA System. Such partnerships would not only reduce technology costs but also promote high-tech Indian companies on a global stage.

Lokesh Suji Elected To International Esports Federation Membership Committee For 3-Year Term

- The General Body of the International Esports Federation (IESF) has elected Lokesh Suji, Director of the Esports Federation of India (ESFI) and Vice-President of the Asian Esports Federation (AESF), to its esteemed Membership Committee on a three-year term. This election marks the first time that an Indian has become a part of the membership committee of the International Esports Federation. The IESF is a global Esports organization working towards promoting Esports as a true sport beyond language, race, and culture barriers.
- Its Membership Committee is instrumental in upholding consistency, fairness, and excellence among its members. They enforce the federation's rules, promote integrity, and nurture unity within the Esports community. The committee also carefully assesses new member applications to maintain high standards and advance the global Esports mission.

Uday Kotak resigns as MD and CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank

- Uday Kotak has formally resigned from his position as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Kotak Mahindra Bank, with the change taking effect from September 1st, 2023. However, he will continue to play a vital role as a non-executive director within the organization until his tenure concludes on December 31, 2023.

- Dipak Gupta, the joint managing director of Kotak Mahindra Bank, will take on the responsibilities of the Managing Director and CEO on an interim basis. This transition is subject to approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the members of the bank. It reflects the bank's commitment to maintaining stability and continuity in its leadership.

Senior IIS officer Dr. Vasudha Gupta assumes charge as Principal DG of Akashvani and NSD

- 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.

Indo-US task force set up to elevate electronics trade to \$100 bln in next decade

- In a remarkable endeavor to strengthen trade relations between India and the United States within the electronics sector, the Indian Cellular & Electronics Association (ICEA) has established a dedicated task force. With a goal to elevate the current Indo-US electronics trade, currently at \$8 billion, to an ambitious \$100 billion within the next decade, this initiative follows collaborative efforts initiated after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to the United States last month.
- Ambitious Trade Target: ICEA Chairman Pankaj Mohindroo emphasized that achieving this monumental goal would significantly bolster India's aspirations to become a global hub for innovation and manufacturing in the electronics sector.
- Comprehensive Representation: ICEA, serving as the apex industry body, represents the entire electronics ecosystem in India, including components, subassemblies, EMS (Electronic Manufacturing Services), and finished goods across various Electronic System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) verticals, such as mobile phones, consumer electronics, and IT hardware.
- The establishment of the Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) is a pivotal component of this initiative. It will facilitate cooperation in futuristic domains, including artificial intelligence, quantum computing, space exploration, semiconductors, and defense technology.

Manish Desai assumes charge of Principal Director General 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, 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.

MS Dhoni becomes endorser of Rs 10.50 lakh worth tractor, Anand Mahindra welcomes

- Industrialist Anand Mahindra has welcomed Mahindra Singh Dhoni as the cricketer became a brand ambassador of his Swaraj Tractors. There have been times when Mahendra Singh Dhoni has expressed his passion for farming. And now, he has become a brand ambassador of Swaraj Tractors.
- Dhoni's rise from Ranchi to being one of the most well known cricketers on the planet is a stuff of legends. He has one of the most inspiring journeys in sports history. He is the most successful Indian cricket team captain who has won the Cricket World Cup twice, in the ODI and the T20I formats. Dhoni continues to inspire the young generation with his intact dedication and seriousness towards his goal. This is the reason the fans continue to show their love and respect towards the player despite he retiring from international cricket three years back.
- From working as a ticket collector at a railway station, Dhoni transformed into India's biggest trophy collector, leading the team to ICC T20 World Cup 2007, ICC ODI World Cup 2011 and ICC Champions Trophy 2013 as skipper. MS Dhoni is undoubtedly one of the greatest captains cricket ever witnessed.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Environmental Health Day 2023: 26th September

- Every year on September 26, World Environmental Health Day is celebrated to highlight the intricate relationship between humans and their environment. This annual observance emphasizes the profound impact of our surroundings on our well-being and aims to promote healthier and safer communities worldwide.
- Environmental Health is a critical branch of public health that focuses on examining and enhancing the connection between human beings and their environment. It encompasses various facets of our daily lives, including our living spaces, food, surroundings, and the air we breathe.
- Fostering Healthy Communities: Environmental Health endeavors to create communities that are not only safe but also conducive to promoting overall human and environmental well-being.

World Rivers Day 2023: 24th September

- World Rivers Day, observed on the fourth Sunday in September each year, is a global celebration that underscores the immense value of our rivers and aims to raise public awareness about their significance. This year it will be marked on September 24. This annual

event also advocates for the conservation and sustainable management of these vital natural resources.

- The inception of World Rivers Day in 2005 can be traced back to the United Nations' launch of the Water for Life Decade, spearheaded by Canadian river advocate Mark Angelo. This day's roots are deeply embedded in BC Rivers Day, an event initiated by Angelo in British Columbia, Canada, in 1980. While BC Rivers Day consistently occurs on the fourth Sunday of September, it serves as the inspiration for the global celebration, making the date for World Rivers Day adaptable but consistently in September.

World Day of the Deaf 2023: 24th September

- World Day of the Deaf, observed every year on the last Sunday in September, is a global celebration that sheds light on the challenges faced by the deaf and hard-of-hearing community. This year, it will fall on September 24. This day is dedicated to recognizing their linguistic and cultural diversity, promoting sign language as a crucial means of communication, and advocating for their inclusion and equal opportunities in society. In this article, we delve into the history, significance, and key objectives of World Day of the Deaf.
- The World Federation of the Deaf (WFD), a global NGO committed to advancing the rights and living standards of the deaf community, initiated the observance of World Deaf Day in 1958.
- The 72nd anniversary of World Deaf Day in 2023 holds particular significance for the WFD.

World Rose Day 2023: 22nd September

- World Rose Day, also known as The Welfare of Cancer Patients Day, is an annual observance held on September 22nd. It is a day dedicated to honoring and supporting individuals worldwide who are courageously battling cancer. This poignant day serves as a reminder of the resilience of cancer patients and aims to spread awareness about the challenges they face while inspiring them to maintain a positive outlook on their journey toward recovery.
- World Rose Day finds its roots in the touching story of Melinda Rose, a 12-year-old Canadian cancer patient.
- Melinda was diagnosed with Askin's Tumor, one of the rarest blood cancers, in 1994. Her prognosis was bleak, with doctors predicting just a few weeks of life.
- Despite the grim prognosis, Melinda defied expectations and lived for six more months, spreading joy and hope among fellow cancer patients.

World Alzheimer's Day 2023: 21st September

- World Alzheimer's Day, observed on September 21 every year, is a global initiative aimed at increasing awareness about Alzheimer's disease and reducing the stigma associated with it and other forms of dementia. Alzheimer's disease, the most prevalent type of dementia, accounts for 60-70% of dementia cases. It is a progressive brain disorder that affects memory, cognitive function, and behavior, gradually impacting an individual's daily life. This article delves into the significance of World Alzheimer's Day 2023, its theme, and essential information about Alzheimer's disease.

- In 2023, the theme for Alzheimer's Day is 'Never Too Early, Never Too Late.' This theme emphasises the crucial importance of identifying risk factors and taking proactive steps to reduce those risks.

World Bamboo Day 2023: 18th September

- World Bamboo Day, observed annually on September 18, is a global initiative that sheds light on the incredible significance of bamboo. This remarkable plant, often referred to as "green gold," holds immense potential in sustainable development, poverty alleviation, environmental conservation, and cultural preservation. World Bamboo Day serves as a platform to raise awareness about the myriad benefits of bamboo and its role in addressing pressing global challenges.
- Bamboo, a rapidly growing type of grass, is renowned for its exceptional qualities, including strength, flexibility, and eco-friendliness. This day celebrates the incredible versatility and sustainability of bamboo as a valuable resource.
- World Bamboo Day owes its existence to the dedicated efforts of the World Bamboo Organization (WBO), a non-profit organization established in 2005 by Susanne Lucas and David Knights. Their vision was to promote bamboo as a versatile and valuable resource with the potential to transform industries and livelihoods.

International Equal Pay Day 2023: 18th September

- International Equal Pay Day, celebrated on 18 September, is a significant global observance that highlights the ongoing struggle for equal pay for work of equal value. This day underscores the commitment of the United Nations to uphold human rights and combat all forms of discrimination, particularly discrimination against women and girls. One pressing issue it addresses is the gender pay gap, which continues to persist in various parts of the world.
- The gender pay gap is a stark representation of inequality. It quantifies the difference between the average earnings of men and women, typically expressed as a percentage of men's earnings. In 2023, women in the United States, for instance, earn an average of 82 cents for every dollar earned by men. This glaring gap means that women have to work more than 15 months to earn what men do in just 12 months.

International Day for Interventional Cardiology 2023: 16th September

- The International Day for Interventional Cardiology, celebrated annually on 16 September, is a significant occasion dedicated to recognizing the crucial field of interventional cardiology and its impact on heart health worldwide. This day serves as a platform to raise awareness, acknowledge advancements, and emphasize the importance of interventional cardiology in saving lives.
- Interventional cardio-angiography improves health, increases life expectancy and improves the quality of life. The first coronary angioplasty was performed by Dr. Andreas Grüntzig on 16

September 1977. Since then angioplasty has been the procedure that has saved the most grams of myocardium at risk worldwide.

World Lymphoma Awareness Day 2023: 15 September

- World Lymphoma Awareness Day (WLAD) is an annual event observed on September 15th. It is dedicated to increasing awareness about lymphoma, a group of blood cancers that affect the lymphatic system, a crucial part of our immune system. Lymphomas come in various forms, with Hodgkin lymphoma and non-Hodgkin lymphoma being the two main types.
- In summary, World Lymphoma Awareness Day is a day of global significance. It not only informs the public about lymphoma but also supports patients and their families, promotes research, fights stigma, and advocates for better healthcare access. Through these efforts, we move closer to a world where lymphoma is better understood and more effectively treated.

World Ozone Day 2023: 16th September

- World Ozone Day, also known as the International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, is observed annually on 16th September. This day serves as a reminder of the critical role played by the ozone layer in safeguarding our planet Earth. The ozone layer, primarily composed of Trioxxygen molecules (O₃), acts as a shield against harmful Ultraviolet (UV) rays from the sun.
- The theme for World Ozone Day 2023 is "Montreal Protocol: Fixing the Ozone Layer and Reducing Climate Change." This theme emphasizes the pivotal role of the Montreal Protocol in not only protecting the ozone layer but also mitigating climate change.

International Day of Democracy 2023: 15th September

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

engagement of youth in democratic processes is crucial for the future of democracy.

Engineers Day 2023: 15th September

- Engineers' Day, observed on September 15th each year in India, is a day dedicated to celebrating the remarkable contributions of engineers to society. It is also an opportunity to remember the visionary engineer, Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, whose birth anniversary coincides with this special day. In this article, we will explore the history, significance, and the reason why Engineers' Day is celebrated on September 15th.
- Born in 1861, Visvesvaraya initially pursued a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree at the University of Mysore. However, he later transitioned to engineering studies at the prestigious College of Science in Pune, one of Asia's oldest engineering institutions. Beginning his career in the Public Works Department for the Government of Bombay, Visvesvaraya undertook complex projects, including the development of a patented irrigation system featuring water floodgates at the Khadakvasla reservoir near Pune and the construction of the Krishna Raja Sagara Dam in Mysore.
- In 1912, he assumed the role of the 19th Diwan of Mysore, a position he held until 1918.

United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation Day 2023: 12 September

- United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, on September 12 of every year, is celebrated by several countries around the world. The United Nations' Day for South-South Cooperation celebrates the economic, social and political developments made in recent years by regions and countries in the South and highlights United Nations efforts to work on technical cooperation among developing countries.
- The International Labour Organization (ILO) plays a pivotal role in championing workers' rights on a global scale, and in an increasingly interconnected world it recognizes the significance of South-South and triangular cooperation as a key avenue for achieving its mission. The ILO has also helped to establish the role of South-South collaboration in supporting countries to meet their development goals, and in the achievement of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- This year the ILO has partnered with the governments of Brazil, China and India to launch new programmes and reaffirm commitments.

National Forest Martyrs Day 2023: 11th September

- National Forest Martyrs Day is observed on September 11 in India. This day is a tribute to those who laid down their lives in the line of duty, defending the forests and wildlife that are important for the well-being of our planet. The Day is an important day to remember the sacrifices made by forest officers and

personnel in protecting our forests and wildlife. It is also a day to reaffirm our commitment to conserve these precious natural resources.

- National Forest Martyrs Day is significant because it honours and recognises the sacrifices made by forest guards, rangers, and other personnel who have lost their lives in the line of duty. This day emphasises the importance of forest conservation. It serves as a reminder that forests are not just a collection of trees but complex ecosystems that support many species, maintain ecological balance, and also provide many benefits to humans. National Forest Martyrs Day sheds light on the dangers forest rangers encounter while combating illegal activities such as logging, poaching, and encroachments.

Himalaya Diwas 2023: 9th September

- Himalaya Day or Himalaya Diwas is celebrated every year on 9 September with an aim to preserve the Himalayan ecosystem and region. The Himalayas play an important role in saving and maintaining nature and protecting the country from adverse weather conditions. Apart from being rich in biodiversity of flowers and fauna, the Himalayan range is also responsible for bringing rain to the country. Himalaya Day is also an excellent day to raise awareness among the general public and bring about community participation in conservation activities. This year nation celebrates 14th Himalaya Diwas.
- This day is celebrated to mark the importance of the Himalayas. The Himalayan hill cities face many challenges due to poor building planning and design, poor infrastructure like roads, water supply, sewage etc. and unprecedented felling of trees. This results in serious ecological issues.

Suicide Prevention Awareness Day 2023: 10th September

- Every year, World Suicide Prevention Day is celebrated on September 10. The day is dedicated to educate and aware people about the measures to prevent the suicides that are currently increasing at an alarming rate across the globe. Suicide is a major public health issue that needs to be addressed in order to eradicate it from the society. Lack of awareness is one of the main factors contributing to the worldwide rise in suicide mortality rates each year.
- According to the World Health Organization (WHO), "It is estimated that there are currently more than 700 000 suicides per year worldwide. The 10 September each year aims to focus attention on the issue, reduces stigma and raises awareness among organizations, governments, and the public, giving a singular message that suicides are preventable."
- The theme of World Suicide Prevention Day 2023 is "Creating Hope Through Action". The theme reflects the need for collective, action to address this urgent public health issue.

International Day to Protect Education from Attack 2023:9th September

- The International Day to Protect Education from Attack is an international observance established by the United Nations General Assembly on September 9 every year. It was

established in response to the growing number of attacks on schools and educational institutions around the world. These attacks can take many forms, including shelling, bombing, and occupation. They can also include the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict.

- The International Day to Protect Education from Attack is an important day to raise awareness of the issue of attacks on education and to call for action to protect the right to education for all children.
- It is a reminder that education is a fundamental human right. The right to education is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international treaties. However, this right is often violated in armed conflict.
- It is a call to action to protect schools and educational institutions from attack. Attacks on education can have a devastating impact on children's lives. They can disrupt education, leading to learning loss and increased dropout rates. They can also lead to physical and psychological harm and even death.

International Literacy Day 2023: 8th September

- International Literacy Day is celebrated on September 8 every year to promote the importance of literacy for dignity and human rights, and a literate and sustainable society. The day is celebrated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) at the global, regional, country, and local levels across the world.
- The theme 'Promoting literacy for a world in transition: Building the foundation for sustainable and peaceful societies'. Under this theme, Literacy Day 2023 will be celebrated at the global, regional, country, and local levels across the world. At the global level, a conference will be organized in person and online on Friday, 8 September 2023, in Paris, France. This global celebration will include the award ceremony of the UNESCO International Literacy Prizes to announce this year's outstanding prizewinning programmes.

World physiotherapy day 2023: 8th September

- World Physical Therapy Day recognises and celebrates the significant contributions of physical therapists and physiotherapists in promoting health and well-being. It serves as an opportunity to raise awareness about the crucial role these professionals play in helping people recover from injuries, manage chronic conditions, and improve their overall physical function and quality of life. This day also highlights the importance of physical therapy in healthcare systems worldwide and encourages further research and development in this field.
- World Physical Therapy Day is celebrated on September 8 every year.
- Theme of World Physical Therapy Day 2023: "Arthritis" is the theme for World Physical Therapy Day 2023. Rheumatoid arthritis and axial spondylarthritis are two types of inflammatory arthritis that will be highlighted on this day. The theme of last year's World Physical Therapy Day was osteoarthritis.

Teacher's Day 2023: September 5th

- National Teachers' Day in India is celebrated on September 5th every year. It is a day to honor and celebrate the contributions of teachers to society. The day is also observed as a tribute to the memory of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, the second President of India from 1962 to 1967. Dr. Radhakrishnan was a scholar, philosopher, and teacher. He was also a strong advocate for education and believed that teachers played a vital role in shaping the future of the nation. In 1962, when his students asked him to celebrate his birthday, he requested that they instead observe September 5th as Teachers' Day. This year Teacher's Day 2023 is celebrated on Monday.
- On National Teachers' Day, schools and educational institutions hold special events to honor teachers. Teachers are given gifts, flowers, and other tokens of appreciation. Students also perform cultural programs and give speeches to express their gratitude to their teachers. National Teachers' Day is a day to reflect on the importance of teachers in our lives. Teachers are the ones who help us learn and grow, and they deserve our respect and appreciation.

Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia Inaugurates Utkela Airport In Odisha With Maiden Flight

- On August 31, 2023, Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, accompanied by Gen Vijay Kumar Singh (Retd), Minister of State for Civil Aviation, marked a significant milestone with the inauguration of Utkela Airport in Odisha. This development comes as part of the ambitious UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) scheme, aimed at enhancing regional air connectivity across India.
- The key highlight of this inauguration is the introduction of a direct flight route between Utkela and Bhubaneswar. This air link promises to strengthen regional connectivity and stimulate economic growth within the region.
- Travel between Utkela and Bhubaneswar will now be remarkably efficient, with the flight covering the distance in just one hour and twenty minutes. Minister Scindia emphasized that this improved connectivity would catalyze economic activities and create employment prospects in the area.

World Coconut Day 2023: September 02

- Every year, World Coconut Day is celebrated on September 2. The day is celebrated to understand the benefits of this fruit and promote awareness. In India, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh are the main states that grow coconuts.
- Coconuts are one of the most loved fruits in India. The country produces a lot of coconut every year, and the flesh is used in a range of dishes across India. From making sweet dishes with coconut to using the coir to make ropes. Every bit of coconut can be used, and it is a highly nutritious food as well.
- The flesh of the coconut, also known as kernel, is an excellent fruit to consume. Loaded with benefits, coconuts are used in a range of dishes. Coconut milk and oil are also extracted from the fruit. Used both for cooking and nourishing the hair and face, coconut oil makes for a healthy alternative to other cooking oils. Coconut milk is a very important ingredient in a

range of cuisines. Coconut water is a healthy beverage as well. Coconut coir is used for making ropes, rugs and doormats.

SUMMITS AND MOU'S

D Pradhan to launch Bharatiya bhasha utsav and technology summit

- Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan is to launch a two-day Bharatiya Bhasha Utsav and Technology & Bharatiya Bhasha Summit, to be held on September 30th and October 1st, 2023 at New Delhi. It will set the course for a technologically enriched future for Bharatiya languages in education.
- Shri Sridhar Vembu, Chairman of the Board of Governors of IIIT-DM, Kanchipuram and CEO of Zoho Corporation, will deliver the keynote address. Eminent dignitaries, educationists, technology and language experts, and officials of the Ministry of Education will be present at the event.
- The Government of India has proposed to celebrate the birthday of renowned Tamil poet and freedom fighter Mahakavi Chinnaaswami Subramania Bharati as Bharatiya Bhasha Divas (11 December). The Bharatiya Bhasha Utsav will be held from 28th September 2023 to 11th December 2023.

Google and HP join hands to make chromebooks under Rs 20,000-30000 for students

- In a significant development, HP has announced a partnership with Google to manufacture Chromebooks in India, with production set to commence on October 2. This collaboration aims to make affordable computing devices accessible to Indian students and support the government's "Make in India" initiative.
- The Chromebook devices will be manufactured at the Flex Facility near Chennai, where HP has been producing laptops and desktops since August 2020.
- Chromebooks from Google have gained popularity in the global education sector and are also gaining traction in India. Local manufacturing of these Chromebooks, which fall within the price range of Rs 20,000 –30,000, is expected to open doors for HP to secure orders from government schools. Addition ally, HP aims to compete with the 9-inch tablet market by introducing its 11-inch Chromebooks.

PM addresses programme marking 20 years celebration of Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, graced the occasion commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit. This prestigious event took place at Science City in Ahmedabad, a city that has witnessed the remarkable transformation of Vibrant Gujarat over the past two decades.
- The inception of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit occurred two decades ago, precisely on September 28, 2003, under the forward-thinking guidance of the former Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Narendra Modi. B K Goenka, Chairman of Welspun lauded the summit as a global event that serves as a role model for other states. Mr. Goenka recalled Shri Modi's advice during the first Vibrant

Gujarat, which led to successful expansion in the Kutch region. Today, Kutch is poised to become a hub of green hydrogen production.

Infosys ties with Microsoft for industry-wide 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.
- A noteworthy instance involves the effective deployment of an AI-driven solution for a leading financial services firm.

Foreign ministers of Quad nations meet on sidelines of UN General Assembly

- On the sidelines of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), Foreign Ministers from the Quad nations – India, Australia, Japan, and the U.S. – convened to discuss various important issues. The Quad ministers reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring a “free and open” Indo-Pacific region, emphasizing the resolution of disputes in accordance with international law. They also pledged allegiance to the principles outlined in the UN charter and voiced support for UN reform.
- The Quad nations stressed the need for comprehensive UN reform, including the expansion of both permanent and non-permanent representation on the UN Security Council. They also voiced concerns about attempts to undermine the international system, possibly alluding to Russia's use of the veto in the Security Council concerning the Ukraine conflict.

China, U.S. and India absent at U.N.'s Climate Ambition Summit

- The Climate Ambition Summit (CAS) at the United Nations General Assembly on September 21 highlighted the absence of major economies crucial in shaping global emissions reduction efforts. China, the United States, and India, collectively responsible for 42% of global greenhouse gas emissions, were notably missing from this critical event. The CAS aimed to showcase leaders with credible actions and policies to uphold the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C degree goal and promote climate justice.
- Leading up to the summit, around 100 heads of state responded to Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' call for increased climate action. However, only representatives from 34 states and 7 institutions were given speaking slots at the summit. Surprisingly, India's neighbors, such as Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Pakistan, were among the speakers, along with emerging economies like South Africa and Brazil.

IREDA & Bank of Maharashtra Sign A Contract To Make Funding For Renewable Energy Projects

- The Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) has joined forces with Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) by signing a Memorandum of Understanding

(MoU) under the administrative control of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy in the field of renewable energy sector.

- The central objective of this collaboration is to promote and facilitate co-lending and loan syndication for a diverse spectrum of renewable energy projects across India. This initiative aligns with India's ambitious goals of reducing carbon emissions and transitioning to clean and sustainable energy sources.
- The MoU was formally inked by Bharat Singh Rajput, General Manager (Technical Services) at IREDA, and Rajesh Singh, General Manager (Retail & MSME Credit) at Bank of Maharashtra. The signing ceremony took place at IREDA's Business Centre in New Delhi, marking a crucial milestone in the partnership.

14th World Spice Congress to promote international trade of Indian spices

- The 14th edition of the World Spice Congress (WSC) commenced in Vashi, Navi Mumbai. This three-day event is being meticulously organized by the Spices Board India, a subsidiary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in collaboration with several trade bodies and export forums. India, often referred to as the 'Spice Bowl' of the world, is known for producing high-quality, rare, and medicinal spices. The World Spice Congress (WSC) aims to create new opportunities for the international trade of Indian spices.
- The event is not limited to traders; it also welcomes policy regulators. Special business sessions have been dedicated to promoting spice trade among G20 countries. Participants include policymakers, regulatory authorities, spice trade associations, government officials, and technical experts from key G20 nations.
- Maharashtra was chosen as the venue for WSC due to its significant spice production. The state is a leading producer of turmeric and boasts two GI-tagged turmeric varieties and one GI-tagged chilli variety. Additionally, coastal areas of Maharashtra are known for producing GI-tagged Kokum. The state serves as one of India's largest exporting hubs for spices.

SHREYAS National Fellowship Scheme benefits more than 21,000 SC students for Higher Education

- The Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills (SHREYAS scheme), comprising four central sector sub-schemes, has been instrumental in empowering thousands of students from Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) since its inception in 2014. This umbrella scheme encompasses "Top Class Education for SCs," "Free Coaching Scheme for SCs and OBCs," "National Overseas Scheme for SCs," and "National Fellowship for SCs." This article provides an overview of these sub-schemes, highlighting the allocated budgets, expenditure details, and the number of beneficiaries over the past nine years.
- The scheme aims to offer high-quality coaching to economically disadvantaged SC and OBC candidates, enabling them to participate in competitive exams and gain admission to prestigious technical and professional higher education institutions.

- Families with a total annual income of up to 8 lakhs are eligible for this scheme.
- 3500 slots are allocated annually, with a student ratio of 70% SC and 30% OBC. Additionally, 30% of slots are reserved for female candidates.
- From 2014-15 to 2022-23, a total of 109.77 crore rupees have been disbursed, benefiting 19,995 beneficiaries.

Indian Navy to showcase promising technologies during "Swavlamban -2023"

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

India shares unique relationship with UNCITRAL 2023

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

Ashok Leyland signs MoU to invest ₹1,000 crore to set integrated bus plant in UP

- In a significant move towards promoting clean mobility and bolstering the commercial vehicle industry, Ashok Leyland, a flagship company of the Hinduja Group, announced on

Friday, September 15, its plans to invest ₹1,000 crore in Uttar Pradesh. This substantial investment is geared towards establishing a state-of-the-art bus manufacturing facility, marking the company's maiden venture in the state.

- To kickstart the development of this facility, Ashok Leyland is allocating an initial investment of ₹200 crore. This initial phase will lay the foundation for the larger project, which is expected to reach ₹1,000 crore in investment over the next five years.
- The proposed manufacturing facility is set to be located near Lucknow, positioning it strategically within the state. This hub will serve as a beacon for clean and eco-friendly mobility solutions, in line with Ashok Leyland's mission to address environmental concerns and embrace sustainability.

Swiggy partners with Goa govt to launch chautha-bazar 2023

- Goa Chief Minister, Pramod Sawant, on Thursday unveiled the Goa Chavath e-Bazaar, listing products by local women entrepreneurs and self-help groups on 'Swiggy Minis' as part of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with online delivery platform, Swiggy.
- The delivery platform has entered into an agreement with the Goa government on Thursday to launch Chavath e-Bazaar on 'Swiggy Minis'.
- This collaborative effort aims to grant online access to local entrepreneurs, thereby expanding their customer base during the festive season. The MoU was exchanged between the Chief Minister of Goa Pramod Sawant and Dolly Surekha from Swiggy.

Nabard partners with UNDP India for data-driven innovations in agriculture

- In a significant development, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) have solidified their commitment to revolutionize Indian agriculture through data-driven innovations. Their collaborative effort is aimed at bolstering the agricultural and food systems to uplift the livelihoods of smallholder farmers.
1. Open-Source Data Sharing: Both organizations will actively share open-source data, laying the foundation for product development and the transfer of agricultural technology.
 2. Policy Framing Support: The partnership will extend support to the formulation of agrarian policies, which can prove to be instrumental in shaping the future of Indian agriculture.
 3. Digital Public Goods: One of the primary focuses is on enhancing and disseminating collaborative digital public goods like "DiCRA" (Data in Climate Resilient Agriculture).

Thomas Cook India partners with NPCI to launch RuPay Forex Card

- Thomas Cook (India) Limited, India's leading omnichannel forex services company, has entered into a groundbreaking partnership with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to introduce a pioneering RuPay prepaid

forex card tailored for Indian travelers visiting the United Arab Emirates (UAE). This significant technological endeavor is being enabled by NPCI Certified Partner, CARD91.

- The strategic alliance between Thomas Cook and RuPay harnesses the vast potential of NPCI's global card payment network of India. This initiative resonates with the "Made in India" ethos, offering comprehensive international payment solutions for Indian travelers venturing overseas.
- The Thomas Cook and RuPay forex card partnership has embarked on its journey with the UAE as its inaugural destination. The rollout plan encompasses a phased approach, with the first phase featuring the RuPay card loaded in UAE Dirhams (AED). This arrangement offers extensive usability across the UAE, catering to a wide range of transactions and ATM withdrawals.

PM Modi launched Global Biofuel Alliance: India's green energy assault

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

India, Saudi Arabia close historic agreement on enhanced cooperation in energy sector

- India and Saudi Arabia, two major players in the global energy landscape, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), paving the way for a stronger partnership between these nations in various aspects of the energy sector. This historic agreement was signed by Union Minister for New & Renewable Energy and Power, R. K. Singh, on behalf of India and by Abdulaziz bin Salman Al-Saud, representing Saudi Arabia.
- The MoU, as outlined in the official press release from the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, encompasses a wide range of energy-related areas for Many collaboration:
 - Renewable Energy
 - Energy Efficiency
 - Hydrogen
 - Electricity and Grid Interconnection
 - Petroleum and Natural Gas
 - Strategic Petroleum Reserves

- Digital Transformation and Innovation
- Cybersecurity and Artificial Intelligence
- Bilateral Investment
- Circular Economy
- Supply Chain Localization

Airbus signs MoU with Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya to develop aerospace human capital in India

- Indian Railways' Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV) Vadodara and Airbus, a global aviation giant, have recently embarked on a strategic collaboration aimed at fortifying the Indian aviation sector. This partnership, sealed through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed at Rail Bhawan, New Delhi, signifies a significant milestone in fostering industry-academia alliances to propel India's aviation industry to new heights.
- The MoU was signed in the presence of Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of Railways, Communications, Electronics, and IT, who also serves as the First Chancellor of Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya. Accompanying him were Ms. Jaya Varma Sinha, the Chairperson and CEO of the Railway Board, and other senior officials. This collaboration follows Airbus' recent partnership with Tata to establish a C295 aircraft manufacturing facility in Vadodara, Gujarat, marking a renewed commitment to bolstering India's aerospace sector.
- Airbus stands as the world's largest manufacturer of commercial aircraft and a leading producer of helicopters, defense equipment, and space technology. Over the years, Airbus has developed a symbiotic relationship with India, recognizing it as a pivotal driver of global aviation and a vital source of talent and resources. Airbus is committed to nurturing all the necessary elements for building a fully integrated aerospace ecosystem in India, with "Make in India" at the core of its business strategy.

What is Bharat Mandapam, the venue of G20 summit in New Delhi

- The G20 Summit, scheduled for this weekend in the national capital, is a highly anticipated event featuring top world leaders, including US President Joe Biden and UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. The summit will be held at the International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC) complex, also known as Bharat Mandapam, in New Delhi's Pragati Maidan. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated this complex on July 26 this year. It boasts state-of-the-art facilities, including a convention centre, exhibition halls, and an amphitheatre.
- During the G20 Summit, Bharat Mandapam, referred to as the "culture corridor" will showcase diverse traditions from 29 countries, including India and the special invitees to the G20. This display will encompass physical and virtual exhibitions, creating an immersive experience for visitors.
- On Tuesday, a 27-ft-tall bronze statue of Nataraja, made of Ashtadhatu and weighing about 18 tons, was installed at Bharat Mandapam. Renowned sculptor Radhakrishnan Sthapaty from Swami Malai in Tamil Nadu and his team completed this sculpture in a record seven months.

Supreme Court of India and Singapore sign MoU for judicial cooperation

- India and Singapore on Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on judicial cooperation in the island city-state.

- Chief Justice of India Dhananjaya Yashwant Chandrachud, during his official visit to Singapore, met Chief Justice of Singapore Sundaresh Menon. They witnessed signing of an MoU between the Supreme Court of India and the Supreme Court of Singapore for judicial cooperation.
- On February 3, Justice Menon had visited India and even sat on the Supreme Court of India bench.
- Justice Menon, who has been serving as the fourth chief justice of Singapore since 2012, had attended a function to mark the 73rd anniversary of the establishment of the Supreme Court.

PM Modi's participation in 20th ASEAN-India Summit and 18th East Asia Summit

- Prime Minister Modi participated in the 20th ASEAN-India Summit and engaged in comprehensive discussions with ASEAN partners to reinforce the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. He reaffirmed the central role of ASEAN in the Indo-Pacific and highlighted the alignment between India's Indo-Pacific Ocean's Initiative (IPOI) and ASEAN's Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP). Emphasis was placed on the timely review of ASEAN-India FTA (AITIGA).
1. Proposal for a South-East Asia-India-West Asia-Europe economic corridor.
 2. India offered its Digital Public Infrastructure Stack to ASEAN nations.
 3. Announcement of an ASEAN-India fund for Digital Future, focusing on digital transformation and financial connectivity.
 4. Renewed support for the Economic and Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) as a knowledge partner.

Global Fintech Fest 2023

- In a remarkable comeback, the Global Fintech Fest (GFF) is set to reclaim its title as the world's largest fintech conference in 2023. This year's event promises to be a spectacular showcase of innovation and collaboration in the fintech industry. Let's delve into the highlights of GFF 2023.
- The conference commenced with a prestigious inauguration ceremony graced by Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, the Minister of Finance, Government of India. Her remarks emphasized the transformative role of fintech in India's financial landscape.
- GFF 2023 revolves around a central theme that embodies the fintech industry's aspirations and responsibilities. Theme: 'Global Collaboration for a Responsible Financial Ecosystem: Inclusive | Resilient | Sustainable'

NTPC to host conference on 'Green Hydrogen Pilots in India'

- In the run-up to the highly anticipated G20 Summit, a pivotal conference centered around "green hydrogen pilots in India" took place in New Delhi on September 5. Hosted by NTPC Limited, a leading Indian public sector undertaking, this one-day event showcased a remarkable array of green hydrogen initiatives, combining the efforts of both public and private sector entities.

- The conference served as a platform for participants to witness pioneering pilot projects and gain invaluable insights into the future of clean energy in India. As the world increasingly recognizes the importance of transitioning to eco-friendly energy sources, these green hydrogen pilots offered a glimpse into the potential of this promising technology.
- A wide array of green hydrogen pilots was on display at the conference, each highlighting unique aspects of the clean energy landscape.

India extends support to SCO member countries to enhance legal, judicial capabilities:Law Ministry

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

BEL Inks MoU With IAI To Exploit Short-Range Air Defence Systems

- Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), Israel's leading aerospace and defense company, have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at enhancing cooperation in addressing India's requirements in the domain of Short Range Air Defence Systems. The Memorandum of Understanding was officially signed in Bengaluru.
- The partnership between BEL and IAI is not a new development; these two entities share a long history of association. They have been engaged in various joint development, production, and product support programs for the Indian Defense forces. This MoU is yet another milestone in their collaboration, signaling their commitment to further solidify their synergy.
- The MoU between BEL and IAI aligns perfectly with the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (Self-Reliant India) and 'Make in India' policies of the Government of India.

Education ministry, Meta partner on digital skilling, entrepreneurship

- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, the Ministry of Education, and Meta (formerly known as Facebook) have teamed together in a three-year alliance in a significant move intended to strengthen India's digital

capabilities. This ground-breaking program, titled “Education to Entrepreneurship: Empowering a Generation of Students, Educators, and Entrepreneurs,” aims to provide aspiring and established business owners with crucial digital marketing knowledge. It is aimed at a mind-boggling 5 lakh people.

- At the core of this collaboration is the mission to democratize digital skills, making them accessible to every corner of the nation.
- By utilizing Meta’s popular platforms such as Facebook, WhatsApp, and Instagram, the partnership will offer training in digital marketing skills in seven regional languages.
- This move aligns with India’s vision of becoming a global leader in skill development and technology adoption.

G20 Summit 2023 in Delhi

- The G20 Summit in Delhi in 2023 is an important international event that brings together leaders from member nations and guest nations to discuss various global issues.
- The G20 Summit 2023 is scheduled to take place on September 9th and 10th, spanning two days.
- The summit will be held at the prestigious ‘Bharat Mandappam,’ which is located within the ITPO Convention Centre in New Delhi’s Pragati Maidan.
- The Group of Twenty (G20) comprises 19 countries and the European Union. The member countries are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States. These countries collectively represent around 85% of the global GDP, over 75% of global trade, and about two-thirds of the world’s population.

Second edition of Naval Commanders' Conference, 2023 to begin in New Delhi

- The second edition of Naval Commanders' Conference, 2023 will begin today in New Delhi. The conference is the apex-level biannual event facilitating interaction between the Naval Commanders for deliberation and formulation of important policy decisions. During the three-day Conference, being conducted in a Hybrid format, the senior leadership of the Indian Navy will review major operational, materiel, logistics, training, and administrative activities undertaken during the previous six months.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Waheeda Rehman to be conferred with Dadasaheb Phalke Award for her stellar contribution to Indian Cinema

- Today on September 26, 2023, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Anurag Thakur, announced that the seasoned and accomplished actor, Waheeda Rehman, will be honored with the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award, India’s highest recognition in the world of cinema.

- Waheeda Rehman's illustrious career is synonymous with excellence. She has etched her name in the annals of Indian cinema as one of its finest talents. Known for her versatility, she has delivered unforgettable performances in a myriad of iconic films, including "Pyasa," "CID," "Guide," "Kaagaz Ke Phool," "Khamoshi," and "Trishul." Her contributions to the world of cinema have left an indelible mark that resonates with audiences across generations.
- Union Minister Anurag Thakur, taking to Twitter, expressed his immense happiness and honor in bestowing this prestigious award upon Waheeda Rehman. He highlighted her stellar contributions to Indian cinema, acknowledging her role in shaping the industry into what it is today.

National Medical Commission Achieves Prestigious WFME

- The National Medical Commission (NMC) of India has achieved a remarkable milestone by receiving a prestigious 10-year Recognition Status from the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME). This recognition signifies a significant achievement for NMC and India's medical education sector, highlighting their commitment to maintaining the highest standards of medical education and accreditation.
- The WFME recognition is a testament to the fact that Indian medical colleges have successfully met international standards in medical education. This recognition not only reflects positively on the quality of medical education in India but also aligns it with global benchmarks. This alignment has the potential to enhance the credibility and reputation of Indian medical institutions on the world stage.
- One of the most notable benefits of this recognition is the increased access it provides to Indian medical graduates seeking postgraduate training and medical practice abroad. Many countries, including the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, require WFME recognition for foreign medical qualifications. As a result, Indian medical professionals can now explore international opportunities more readily, furthering their careers and experiences.

Indian-origin author Chetna Maroo's debut novel shortlisted for 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.
- 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.

'Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar': Government Comes Out With New Set Of National Awards

- 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 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.
- 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.

Fashion designer Rahul Mishra awarded Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres

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

84 artistes, above 75 years, conferred with Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Awards

- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, in a momentous ceremony, presented the one-time Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Awards to 84 distinguished artistes from various realms of the performing arts. The significance of these awards lies in their aim to honor Indian artists aged above 75 years, who, despite their

remarkable contributions, have not received any national recognition in their illustrious careers thus far.

- The list includes three artists from Andhra Pradesh, two from Arunachal Pradesh, and six from Maharashtra. Furthermore, three recipients each hailed from Uttar Pradesh and

Awardee	Artistic Genre	Contributions / Achievements
Gujarat. Additionally, two artists each from Punjab and Delhi also received recognition.		
Mahabir Nayak (Jharkhand)	Music (Folk)	Celebrated for remarkable contributions to music
Harishchandra Prabhakar Borkar (Maharashtra)	Theatre	Acknowledged for significant contributions to theatre
Dharmeswar Nath (Assam)	Dance	Lauded for outstanding achievements in dance
Raghubir Malik	Hindustani Vocal	Notable in the world of Hindustani vocal
Dina Nath Mishra	Hindustani Vocal	Notable in the world of Hindustani vocal
Gowri Kuppuswamy	Carnatic Vocal	Lauded for mastery of Carnatic vocal
Anasuya Kulkarni	Carnatic Vocal	Lauded for mastery of Carnatic vocal
Lalitha Srinivasan	Bharatnatyam	Spotlight shone for expertise in Bharatnatyam
Vilasini Devi Krishnapillai	Bharatnatyam	Spotlight shone for expertise in Bharatnatyam
Smita Shastri	Kuchipudi	Celebrated for exceptional contributions to Kuchipudi
Kumkum Lal	Odishi	Celebrated for exceptional contributions to Odishi
Krishen Langoo (Jammu and Kashmir)	Theatre, Music (Folk)	Recognized for achievements in theatre and folk music
John Claro Fernandes (Goa)	Playwriting	Notable for contributions to playwriting in Goa
Tsering Stanzin (Ladakh)	Folk Music	Recognized for contributions to folk music in Ladakh

Mahabir Nayak (Jharkhand)	Music (Folk)	Celebrated for remarkable contributions to music
Harishchandra Prabhakar Borkar (Maharashtra)	Theatre	Acknowledged for significant contributions to theatre
Dharmeswar Nath (Assam)	Dance	Lauded for outstanding achievements in dance
Raghubir Malik	Hindustani Vocal	Notable in the world of Hindustani vocal
Dina Nath Mishra	Hindustani Vocal	Notable in the world of Hindustani vocal
Gowri Kuppuswamy	Carnatic Vocal	Lauded for mastery of Carnatic vocal
Anasuya Kulkarni	Carnatic Vocal	Lauded for mastery of Carnatic vocal
Lalitha Srinivasan	Bharatnatyam	Spotlight shone for expertise in Bharatnatyam
Vilasini Devi Krishnapillai	Bharatnatyam	Spotlight shone for expertise in Bharatnatyam
Smita Shastri	Kuchipudi	Celebrated for exceptional contributions to Kuchipudi
Kumkum Lal	Odishi	Celebrated for exceptional contributions to Odishi
Krishen Langoo (Jammu and Kashmir)	Theatre, Music (Folk)	Recognized for achievements in theatre and folk music
John Claro Fernandes (Goa)	Playwriting	Notable for contributions to playwriting in Goa
Tsering Stanzin (Ladakh)	Folk Music	Recognized for contributions to folk music in Ladakh

Karachi's Erica Robin Wins 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.

After year's delay, CSIR's Bhatnagar awards for 2022 announced

- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has publicised the list of awardees for the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) awards for 2022, considered among the prestigious prizes for science in India. After an unexplained delay of nearly a year in the announcement always made on September 26, the CSIR's foundation day. The CSIR had announced the Bhatnagar winners for 2021 nearly two years ago.

Name	Affiliation	Field of Study
Ashwani Kumar	CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology	Biological Sciences
Maddika Subba Reddy	Centre for DNA Fingerprinting Diagnostics, Hyderabad	Biological Sciences
Akkattu Biju	Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru	Chemical Sciences
Debabrata Maiti	Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay	Chemical Sciences
Vimal Mishra	Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar	Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
Dipti Ranjan Sahoo	Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi	Engineering Sciences
Rajnish Kumar	Indian Institute of Technology, Madras	Engineering Sciences
Apoorva Khare	Indian Institute of Science and	Mathematical Science
Neeraj Kayal	Microsoft Research Lab India	Mathematical Science

Name	Affiliation	Field of Study
Dipyaman Ganguly	Indian Institute of Chemical Biology, Kolkata	Medical Sciences
Anindya Das	Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru	Physical Sciences
Basudeb Dasgupta	Tata Institute of Fundamental Research	Physical Sciences

Army doctor awarded Dr Am Gokhale for ophthalmology in Pune

- Renowned ophthalmologist Brig Sanjay Kumar Mishra of Indian Army's Research and Referral Hospital on Sunday was conferred with the prestigious "Dr AM Gokhale Award" in Pune.
- Brig Sanjay Kumar Mishra hails from Mau, Uttar Pradesh and finished his tutoring from Prayagraj. He has been conferred with Bar to Sena Medal (Distinguished) by the President of India just before 26 January 2021. Earlier he was awarded the Sena Medal and Bar to Vishisht Seva Medal (VSM).
- During his residency at Command Hospital Lucknow set up the territory of Art Retinal Center in 2018, taking into account patients from different states.
- Brig Mishra is one of the highest decorated officers of Indian Armed Forces Medical Services.

Indian-American physician-author Siddhartha Mukherjee on UK non-fiction prize list

- 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.

Mumbai Professor Satyajit Majumdar honoured with Dr V G Patel Memorial Award 2023

- Mumbai Professor Satyajit Majumdar, dean of School of Management and Labour Studies from Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), has received the 'Dr V G Patel Memorial Award-2023 for Entrepreneurship Trainer, Educator and Mentor'

for his work in promoting and strengthening entrepreneurship in India. Patel is widely acknowledged as the Father of the Entrepreneurship Movement in India.

- Majumdar's name was chosen among 400 applicants from 26 states by a jury nominated by the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), Ahmedabad. Over the last two decades, Majumdar 63, has played an important role in the development of entrepreneurship, especially in the social sector. Along with his team, he has mentored more than 350 startups, including 40 in Jammu and Kashmir and group startups in Jhabua, West Bengal. Since joining TISS in 2010, Majumdar's main role has been to build an ecosystem for entrepreneurship. In 2012, TISS started a separate entrepreneurship cell under his leadership.

Telangana CIO Dr. Shanta Thoutam honoured with World Innovation Award at BRICS

- 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.
- 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.

RANKING

Green-certified Office Space in India Jumps 36% Since 2019

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

India retains 40th rank in the Global Innovation Index 2023

- India retains 40th rank out of 132 economies in the Global Innovation Index 2023 rankings published by the World Intellectual Property Organization. India has been on a rising trajectory, over the past several years in the Global Innovation Index (GII), from a rank of 81 in 2015 to 40 in 2023.
- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has also been collaborating in India's journey towards an innovation-driven economy. This year, the NITI Aayog, in partnership with the CII and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), is hosting, virtually, the India Launch of the GI 2023 on 29th September 2023.
- For the 13th year in a row, Switzerland is the most innovative economy in 2023 followed by Sweden, the United States, the United Kingdom and Singapore. Discover how other economies are performing in the Global Innovation Index 2023 rankings.

Infosys only Indian firm in TIME's top 100 World's Best Companies of 2023

- In a remarkable achievement, Infosys, the Bengaluru-headquartered IT services provider, has secured a coveted spot on TIME magazine's 'The World's Best Companies of 2023' list. Infosys stands out as the only Indian company to make it into the top 100 rankings, claiming the 64th position with an impressive overall score of 88.38. Notably, the company has earned a 'very high' growth rate, a testament to its commitment to excellence. On sustainability, Infosys ranked 135, and 103 for employee-satisfaction.
- Founded in 1981 by four engineers, including NR Narayana Murthy, Infosys has grown into India's second-largest IT company in terms of revenue. The company's illustrious history is marked by its dedication to technological excellence and innovation. Notably, Infosys has a prominent connection to the political landscape of the United Kingdom, as the son-in-law of NR Narayana Murthy is Rishi Sunak, who serves as the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

60 new elephant corridors identified across country, count reaches 150

- A recent report by the Union Environment Ministry has shed light on the state of elephant corridors in India. According to this comprehensive report titled "Elephant Corridors of India," the country boasts at least 150 elephant corridors, spread across 15 range-states, and encompassing four major elephant-bearing regions. This is a significant increase from the 88 corridors identified in the 2010 Elephant Task Force report, known as the "Gajah report." This expanded understanding of elephant corridors signifies the evolving challenges and the growing awareness of the importance of conserving these vital pathways.
- Elephant Corridors are land strips that enable the movement of elephants between two or more viable habitat patches. However, it's crucial to note that corridors leading elephants into human-dominated areas without connecting to suitable habitats are not considered true elephant corridors. Such misdirection

can lead to increased human-elephant conflict, putting both human and elephant lives at risk.

India Ranks 30th On The Best Countries List, Switzerland Tops While United States Slips To 5th

- Switzerland has once again claimed the title of the world's best country, according to the latest U.S. News & World Report's annual Best Countries rankings. This marks Switzerland's second consecutive year at the pinnacle and its sixth time overall as the No. 1 nation on the list.
- Switzerland excels particularly in entrepreneurship (No. 6), quality of life (No. 6), social purpose (No. 8), and cultural influence (No. 8). It also claims the top spot for being open for business.
- The rankings, released recently, reaffirm Switzerland's supremacy, closely followed by Canada at No. 2, Sweden at No. 3, Australia at No. 4, and the United States at No. 5. The United States has slipped one spot compared to its 2022 ranking. In the 2023 rankings, European countries dominated the top tier, securing 16 of the top 25 spots.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

'Ajay to Yogi Adityanath' creates history with 67 launches in eight states

- The recently launched graphic novel, 'Ajay to Yogi Adityanath,' has made history by achieving the highest number of book launches, earning it a place in the Asia Book of Records. This remarkable novel, penned by renowned author Shantanu Gupta, delves into the life of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, tracing his journey from humble beginnings to the pinnacle of political leadership.
- 'Ajay to Yogi Adityanath' is not just a graphic novel; it's a historical record of a remarkable journey. Yogi Adityanath's life story, as vividly depicted by Shantanu Gupta, serves as an inspiration for countless individuals striving to overcome obstacles and make a significant impact on society. This graphic novel not only breaks records but also sheds light on the incredible journey of a man who rose from the hinterlands of Uttarakhand to lead India's most populous state, Uttar Pradesh.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Hot, dry August spurs core sector output growth to 14-month high

- In a significant economic development, India's core sector witnessed impressive growth in August, reaching a 14-month high of 12.1%.
- In August, India's eight core industries experienced a remarkable growth rate of 12.1%, marking a substantial increase from the previous year when core sector growth was at 4.2%.
- Five of the eight core sectors played a pivotal role in driving this growth: cement (18.9%), coal (17.9%), electricity (14.9%), steel (10.9%), and natural gas (10.0%).

India's fiscal deficit at Rs 6.4 lakh cr in April-Aug, 36% of full-year target: CGA

- India's fiscal deficit for the first five months of the 2023-24 financial year has reached 36% of the full-year target, according to data from the Controller General of Accounts (CGA).

- The fiscal deficit at this point in the current financial year is higher than the previous year, standing at 32.6% of the Budget Estimates (BE) for 2022-23 during the same period.
- The Union Budget aimed to reduce the fiscal deficit to 5.9% of the gross domestic product (GDP) for 2023-24, compared to 6.4% in 2022-23.

Government raises windfall tax on crude oil to ₹12,100 per tonne

- In a recent move, the Indian government has announced significant changes to its tax policies related to the petroleum industry. These changes include an increase in the special additional excise duty (SAED) on domestically produced crude petroleum, as well as reductions in levies on diesel and Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF).
- Effective from September 30, 2023, the government has raised the windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil to Rs 12,100 per tonne. This marks an increase from the previous rate of Rs 10,000 per tonne, which was set during the last fortnightly review on September 15, 2023.

RBI's Swaminathan J chairs 28th Advisory committee meet in Lucknow

- The 28th Meeting of the Standing Advisory Committee to review the flow of credit to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises - MSME sector was held under the chairmanship of RBI Deputy Governor Mr. Swaminathan J, in Lucknow.
- Emphasising the significant role of the MSME sector, particularly in the context of the goal of attaining developed economy status by 2047, the RBI Deputy Governor stressed the need for collaborative efforts on the part of all stakeholders to unlock the full potential of MSMEs.
- He also highlighted various initiatives taken by the Reserve Bank such as the Account Aggregator framework, the digital Public Tech Platform to enable delivery of frictionless credit and the regulatory sandbox on MSME lending.

RBI imposes penalty on Saraswat Co-operative Bank, Bassein Catholic Co-operative Bank, Rajkot Nagarik Sahakari Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in its ongoing commitment to maintain the integrity and adherence to banking regulations, has imposed monetary penalties on three co-operative banks. These banks, namely Saraswat Co-operative Bank Limited, Bassein Catholic Co-operative Bank Ltd, and Rajkot Nagarik Sahakari Bank Ltd, were found to have deficiencies in regulatory compliance.
- Saraswat Co-operative Bank Limited, headquartered in Mumbai, has been penalized with a monetary penalty of ₹23 lakh.

Bank credit growth to dip to 13-13.5% this year from 15.9% in FY23: CRISIL

- In a recent analysis, Crisil, a leading research and ratings agency, has provided a comprehensive overview of the projected trends in India's bank credit growth for the fiscal year 2023-24 (FY24). Several factors have been identified that contribute to the anticipated decline in credit expansion. Here's a breakdown of their insights and predictions:
 1. Slower Economic Growth:
Previous Year's GDP Growth: 7.2%

Predicted Current Year's GDP Growth: 6%

The slower economic growth rate is a key factor affecting credit expansion.

RBI cancels licence of Mumbai-based 'The Kapol Co-operative Bank'

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken a significant step by cancelling the license of The Kapol Co-operative Bank Limited, a Mumbai-based cooperative bank. This decision was made primarily due to concerns regarding the bank's inadequate capital and earning prospects.
- The RBI, in a statement, announced the cancellation of The Kapol Co-operative Bank Limited's license. According to the central bank, this cancellation means that the cooperative bank is prohibited from conducting banking activities. This decision was made effective immediately, leaving the bank unable to perform its core functions.

India keeps borrowing plan unchanged for Oct-March

- The Indian government has chosen to keep its borrowing plan unchanged for the second half of the fiscal year 2023-2024 (H2FY24). The government's projected gross market borrowing for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024, stands at Rs 15.43 lakh crore. Between April and September, the government successfully borrowed Rs 8.88 lakh crore.
- In a significant move, India has introduced a new security with a 50-year tenure, aiming to raise Rs 30,000 crore through this instrument.
- As part of the borrowing plan for the second half of the fiscal year, the government will issue government green bonds worth Rs 20,000 crore, which will include a new 30-year security.

Amazon steps up AI race with up to \$4 billion deal to invest in Anthropic

- E-commerce giant Amazon.com has announced a strategic investment of up to \$4 billion in Anthropic, an AI startup, marking a significant move to enhance its presence in generative artificial intelligence. This partnership, as reported by Bloomberg (Software company), not only involves a substantial financial commitment but also provides Anthropic with access to Amazon's formidable computing power.
- This substantial \$4 billion investment in Anthropic reflects Amazon's commitment to advancing its position in the AI landscape. While it may not have an immediate financial impact on Amazon's cloud-services unit, it signals the company's determination to compete with industry leaders, particularly Microsoft, in the realm of artificial intelligence.

India allows 75,000 tonne of non-Basmati white rice exports to UAE

- The Government of India has recently made a significant decision to permit the export of 75,000 tons of non-basmati white rice to the United Arab Emirates (UAE). This move comes at a time when India had imposed restrictions on the export of non-basmati white rice, aiming to bolster domestic supplies amidst

concerns over inflation and the unpredictability of the monsoon season. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) made this announcement on Monday, signaling a shift in India's export policies.

- The export of non-basmati white rice to the UAE will be facilitated through the National Cooperatives Exports Limited (NCEL). NCEL plays a crucial role in ensuring the smooth execution of India's export initiatives, and its involvement in this endeavor underscores the government's commitment to balancing domestic and international demands for essential food commodities.

S&P retains India's FY24 growth forecast at 6%, citing global economic slowdown, rising monsoon risks

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

Apple Plans To Increase Production Over Five Times In India In 5 Years: Report

- Apple, the renowned iPhone maker, is gearing up to significantly expand its manufacturing operations in India. Government sources report that the company aims to increase its production in the country by over fivefold, reaching approximately \$40 billion (about 3.32 lakh crore) within the next 4-5 years.
- This ambitious move follows Apple's successful crossing of the \$7 billion production mark in the previous fiscal year. In addition to iPhones, Apple is poised to commence manufacturing AirPods in India. However, it appears that the company currently has no immediate plans to produce iPads, laptops, or participate in IT hardware Production Linked Incentive (PLI) schemes.
- Apple plans to scale up its production in India from \$7 billion to a remarkable \$40 billion within the next 4-5 years.
- The company aims to establish itself as a major player in India's manufacturing landscape.

Gautam Adani's Ambitious Vision for Dharavi: Transforming Asia's Largest Slum into a Modern City Hub

- Gautam Adani expressed his commitment to transforming Dharavi into a modern city hub. He plans to support small industries, create new job opportunities, especially for young people and women, and establish training and research centers. Adani envisions an organized marketplace in line with India's Open Network for Digital Commerce to be part of the redevelopment plan.

- Dharavi, one of Asia's largest slums, located in the heart of Mumbai, has long been a focal point for discussions on urban development and improving living conditions for its 1 million residents.
- In the late 1800s, Dharavi was home to potters, leather tanners, artisans, and embroidery workers who established trade and businesses in the region. Over time, slum dwellers settled here, constructing huts in an unplanned manner.

With entry into JP Morgan bond indices, India is playing in the world

- JP Morgan Chase & Co. is set to include Indian government bonds in its renowned benchmark emerging-market index. This long-anticipated move is expected to attract substantial foreign investments into India's debt market.
- The inclusion of Indian government bonds in the JP Morgan Government Bond Index-Emerging Markets is scheduled to take effect from June 28, 2024. India will have a maximum weight of 10% on this index, as outlined in a statement.
- JPMorgan's decision to include Indian government bonds in its index is attributed to India's introduction of the FAR (Fully Accessible Route) program in 2020 and its substantial market reforms aimed at facilitating foreign portfolio investments. A survey conducted among benchmark investors revealed that nearly three-quarters of respondents supported India's inclusion in the index.

Axis Bank launches 'NEO for Business', a mobile-first Business Banking proposition 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.
- "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.

Volvo To End Production Of Diesel Cars and SUVs By Early 2024

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

- Volvo's decision to phase out diesel is part of a broader vision aimed at transforming the company into a fully electric carmaker. This vision entails an ambitious goal to have all Volvo cars be electric by the end of this decade, specifically by 2030. By taking this bold step, Volvo is sending a clear message about its commitment to sustainability, environmental responsibility, and staying at the forefront of automotive innovation.

Ind-Ra raises GDP growth forecast for FY24 to 6.2%

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and India Ratings and Research have released contrasting forecasts for India's economic growth in the fiscal year 2024 (FY24). While ADB has lowered its projection to 6.3%, India Ratings has raised it to 6.2%. Here's a breakdown of their assessments and key factors influencing these predictions:
- Monsoon Patterns Impact: ADB cites erratic monsoon patterns as a primary reason for revising India's growth forecast down by 10 basis points to 6.3% for FY24. These patterns are expected to affect agricultural output.
- Inflation Concerns: ADB also revised its inflation projection for India in FY24 to 5.5%, up from the previous 5%. Adverse weather conditions have led to food inflation, contributing to South Asia's overall inflation rate. The continuation of the rice export ban could further escalate food price inflation.

Regular jobs increased, but unemployment still a concern

- In a recent report titled "State of Working India 2023: Social Identities and Labour Market Outcomes," a group of economists and researchers from Azim Premji University shed light on the employment landscape in India. This report highlights the dynamics of job creation, the prevalence of regular wage jobs, caste-based segregation, gender-based earnings disparities, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on unemployment rates. Let's delve into the key findings of the report.
1. Growth in Regular Jobs
 2. Diminished Pace Since 2019
 3. Limited Social Security
 4. Gender Disparities
 5. Reduction in Caste-based Segregation
 6. Earnings Disparities
 7. Post-COVID Unemployment

Upward revision: OECD raises India's FY24 GDP growth projection to 6.3%

- The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) has revised its GDP growth projection for India in the fiscal year 2024, forecasting a growth rate of 6.3%. This upward revision represents a notable increase from the previous estimate of 6%. The OECD attributes India's positive growth surprises to favorable agricultural outcomes driven by favorable weather conditions.

- While India sees an improved growth outlook, the global economy is projected to grow at a rate of 3% in 2023 and is expected to slow down further to 2.7% in 2024, as indicated in the OECD report. Despite a weaker-than-expected recovery in China, the report highlights that a significant portion of global growth in 2023 - 24 is expected to originate from Asia.

S&P Global revises India's FY24 growth forecast upwards to 6.6%; turns pessimistic on inflation

- S&P Global Market Intelligence has reevaluated India's economic growth prospects for the fiscal year 2024 (FY24). This upward revision is attributed to robust economic performance in the April-June quarter. Notably, the revised projection stands at 6.6%, a significant improvement from the 5.9% estimate put forth by the analytics firm in August.
- While the revised growth forecast is promising, S&P Global Market Intelligence also presents a concerning prediction regarding inflation. The analytics firm anticipates a sharp increase in inflation, with the rate surging to 6% in 2023. This projection marks a noteworthy climb from the 5.1% inflation rate estimated in August. Of particular note, this level of inflation is approaching the upper boundary of the Reserve Bank of India's target range.

SBI introduces digital opening of NRE/NRO account setup through YONO

- In a groundbreaking move, the State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest lender, has launched a cutting-edge digital platform for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) to seamlessly open NRE (Non-Residential External) and NRO (Non-Resident Ordinary) savings and current accounts. This innovative service is specifically tailored to "new to bank" (NTB) customers, aiming to simplify and expedite the account opening procedure.
- NRE Account: A Non-Residential External (NRE) account is established in India under the NRI's name to house their foreign earnings securely.
- NRO Account: Conversely, a Non-Resident Ordinary (NRO) account is opened in India in the NRI's name to manage income earned within the country, such as rent, dividends, pensions, interest, and more.

SBI To Send Chocolates To Borrowers Likely To Default On Monthly Repayments

- The State Bank of India (SBI), the largest public sector lender, has devised a unique strategy to tackle potential loan defaults. Recognizing that borrowers planning to default often ignore reminder calls, SBI is taking a proactive approach by personally visiting their homes unannounced and surprising them with a pack of chocolates. This innovative method is aimed at improving loan collections, particularly as SBI's retail lending has experienced substantial growth.
- SBI's retail loan book has witnessed remarkable growth, surging by over 16.46 percent to reach Rs 12,04,279 crore in the June 2023 quarter from Rs 10,34,111 crore in the previous year.

- To enhance its loan recovery efforts, SBI has partnered with fintech companies that utilize artificial intelligence (AI) technology. These fintech platforms play a dual role: one focuses on negotiating with borrowers, while the other assesses a borrower's likelihood of default.

Govt approves welfare measures for LIC agents, employees

- In a significant development, the Finance Ministry has granted approval for a range of welfare measures aimed at benefiting both Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) agents and its employees. These measures, which have been approved today, are expected to bring substantial advantages to the vast LIC workforce comprising over 13 lakh agents and more than one lakh regular employees.
- One of the key highlights of these welfare measures is the enhancement of the gratuity limit for LIC agents. Previously set at three lakh rupees, this limit has now been raised to an improved five lakh rupees. This change is expected to provide a more substantial financial cushion for LIC agents.
- Another notable provision is the eligibility of reappointed agents to receive renewal commissions. This decision is expected to motivate agents to continue their association with LIC and further strengthen their commitment to the organization.

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Indian Bank rolls out 'IB SAATHI' to enhance banking services

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

Digital rupee in circulation at Rs 16.39 cr in 2022-23 shows RBI data

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

Total E-rupee circulation: ₹16.39 crore.

Wholesale CBDC (e₹-W): ₹10.69 crore.

Retail CBDC (e₹-R): ₹5.70 crore.

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

₹200 notes follow with a circulation of 1.16%.

Denominations range from 50 paise to ₹100.

Circulation for these denominations falls between 0.01% to 0.83%.

Sidbi to raise Rs.10000 crore from rights issue next fiscal

- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), a key player in SME loan refinancing, has unveiled plans to raise Rs.10,000 crore through a rights issue in the upcoming fiscal year. This strategic move is aimed at bolstering its equity capital as the institution anticipates an expansion of its assets, targeting Rs.5 lakh crore by March 2024 from its current standing at approximately Rs.4 lakh crore as of March 2023.
- SIDBI's growth outlook is primarily driven by the surging demand for direct financing, a segment that has grown significantly over the past two years, now constituting 14% of its loan portfolio compared to a mere 7% previously.
- The ownership landscape of SIDBI includes the central government with a 20.8% stake, the State Bank of India holding 15.65%, and Life Insurance Corporation at 13.33%. The remaining equity is distributed among various public financial institutions and banks. It is expected that these stakeholders will subscribe to the proposed rights issue.

RBI Slaps Rs14 Lakh Penalty on 4 Cooperative Banks

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently took action against four cooperative banks, imposing monetary penalties due to various rule violations. Below, we provide a breakdown of the penalties and the reasons behind them.
 1. Baramati Sahakari Bank – Rs 2 Lakh Penalty
Violation: Failure to Credit Interest to Inoperative Savings Accounts
 2. Becharaji Nagarik Sahakari Bank – Rs 2 Lakh Penalty
Violation: Breach of Prudential Inter-Bank Counter-Party Exposure Limits
 3. Waghodia Urban Co-operative Bank – Rs 5 Lakh Penalty
Violations: Breach of Prudential Inter-Bank Counter-Party Exposure Limits and Non-Payment of Interest on Recurring Deposits and Term Deposits
 4. Viramgam Mercantile Co-operative Bank – Rs 5 Lakh Penalty
Violation: Not Specified in the Release

RBI's financial inclusion index rises; shows growth across all segments

- In a recent announcement by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Financial Inclusion (FI) Index has shown significant improvement, reaching a score of 60.1 in March 2023, compared to its previous reading of 56.4 in March 2022. This noteworthy advancement in the FI Index is attributed to growth across all sub-indices.
- The boost in the FI Index can be primarily attributed to enhancements in the usage and quality dimensions, signifying a deepening of financial inclusion, as highlighted in the central statement released by the RBI.

- When the FI Index was first introduced in August 2021, the score for the fiscal year ending March 2021 stood at 53.9. To provide historical context, it's worth noting that in March 2017, the FI Index languished at a mere 43.4.
- The FI Index is designed as a comprehensive tool, encompassing insights from various sectors including banking, investments, insurance, postal services, and pension. This collaborative effort involved consultations with the government and relevant sectoral regulators to ensure a holistic perspective on financial inclusion.

Air India Becomes The First Indian Airline To Add Self-Bag Drop For International Flights

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

LIC presents dividend cheque of Rs 1,831 crore to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

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

Retail sales up 0.1% month-over-month in August

- On September 14, the Indian government unveiled the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) data for the month of August, revealing a persistent trend of declining wholesale inflation. In August, the wholesale inflation rate plummeted to -0.52 percent, marking the fifth consecutive month in which it has remained in the

negative territory. Notably, in July, the wholesale inflation rate had been -1.36 percent, and in June, it had reached as low as -4.12 percent.

- The Wholesale Price Index, or WPI, serves as a crucial indicator that measures the fluctuations in prices of goods traded and sold in bulk by wholesale businesses to other companies. Unlike the Consumer Price Index (CPI), which tracks prices of goods and services directly purchased by consumers, the WPI focuses on factory gate prices before they reach the retail level.
- The government attributed the persistently negative inflation rate to a range of factors, including the decline in prices of mineral oils, basic metals, chemical and chemical products, textiles, and food products when compared to the corresponding month of the previous year.

Fitch retains India's growth forecast for FY'24 at 6.3 pc

- In a recent update, Fitch Ratings decided to maintain its growth forecast for India for the fiscal year 2023-24 (FY24) at 6.3%. Despite facing challenges such as tighter monetary policy and weakened exports, India's economy displayed remarkable resilience. Notably, the Indian economy posted a strong growth rate of 7.8% in the April-June quarter, primarily driven by robust demand and a thriving services sector.
- Fitch's projections include a growth rate of 6.5% for the following fiscal year (2024-25). However, the report raises concerns about inflation risks. Fitch has revised its year-end inflation projection upwards, citing the looming threat of El Nino. It suggests that temporary increases in inflation, especially in food prices, could impact consumers' discretionary spending power. Although the inflation's impact on consumers might be short-lived, other fundamental factors are weighing on the Indian economy.

RBI issues revised norms for classification, valuation of investment by banks

- The Reserve Bank of India had issued a Discussion Paper (DP) on January 14, 2022 proposing revisions to the current norms for the classification, valuation, and operation of investment portfolios of commercial banks. After considering the feedback received on the DP, the Reserve Bank of India (Classification, Valuation and Operation of Investment Portfolio of Commercial Banks) Directions, 2023 has been issued.
- The revised Directions include principle-based classification of investment portfolio, tightening of regulations around transfers to/from held to maturity (HTM) category and sales out of HTM, inclusion of non-SLR securities in HTM subject to fulfilment of certain conditions and symmetric recognition of gains and losses.
- These Directions are expected to enhance the quality of banks' financial reporting, improve disclosures (disclosures of fair value of investments in HTM category, fair value hierarchy, sales out of HTM, etc.), provide a fillip to the corporate bond market, facilitate the use of derivatives for hedging, and strengthen the overall risk management framework of banks.

Bank of Baroda Unveils Festive Campaign “BOB Ke Sang Tyohaar Ki Umang”

- In a bid to enhance customer offerings and provide tailored financial solutions, Bank of Baroda (BoB) has introduced four new savings accounts. These accounts cater to a diverse range of customer needs, making banking more accessible and convenient.
- BoB introduces the BoB LITE Savings Account, offering customers the flexibility of a lifetime no minimum balance requirement. This account empowers individuals to manage their finances without the burden of maintaining a minimum balance.
- Designed with the youth in mind, BoB presents the BOB BRO Savings Account, a zero balance savings account tailored specifically for students aged 16 to 25 years. This account eases the financial journey of students by eliminating the need for a minimum balance.

Cashfree Launches ‘AutoPay On QR’ For Subscription-Based Enterprises

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

RBI Governor launches Credit Line on UPI, other digital payment initiatives at Global Fintech Fest 2023

- In a significant move aimed at enhancing India’s digital payment ecosystem, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das unveiled a slew of new UPI (Unified Payments Interface) features developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). These introduced features are set to revolutionize the way Indians transact and manage their finances.
- One of the standout features introduced by the central bank is the concept of ‘Credit Line on UPI.’ The fundamental idea behind this feature is to provide pre-sanctioned credit lines from banks via UPI, making credit more accessible to a wider population.

- This initiative incorporates various elements such as the linkage of pre-sanctioned credit lines, the creation of digital credit products by banks, interest-free credit periods with defined interest rates, and a clear schedule of charges.
- Additionally, it offers customer engagement channels for credit sanction requests and the ability to link different pre-sanctioned credit lines through UPI-enabled apps for seamless transactions.

RBI likely to launch CBDC pilot in call money market by October

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

SBI launched 'Nation First Transit Card' for digital fare payments

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

SBI Card adds new features to AURUM super premium credit card

- SBI Card, India's largest credit card issuer, launched new features of its super-premium card 'AURUM', targeted at the premium section of society, such as high-net-worth individuals. With the enhancements, AURUM cardholders will be

able to avail benefits worth up to Rs 2 lakh annually, based on their spending. The card offers unlimited international lounge access to cardholders, as well as four international lounge visits for accompanying guests. In addition, the card also offers a one-year Club Marriott membership as a welcome gift.

- AURUM has been tailored to meet the discerning taste and lifestyle of the globetrotting and high-flying executives who pursue excellence in every aspect of their life. It has become one of the most coveted cards in the super-premium segment. Looking at the admiration it has garnered so far, we decided to take the cardholders' experience a notch higher.
- All in all, AURUM cardholders can expect a more rewarding, richer, and more luxurious experience. The joining and annual membership fee for this by-invitation-only card is Rs 9,999, an amount that will be reversed once the cardholder achieves a milestone of Rs 12 lakh spending in the card membership year.

SBI Card Launched 'SimplySAVE Merchant SBI Card' for MSME Segment

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

SBI announces introduction of UPI interoperability on CBDC

- The State Bank of India (SBI) has taken a significant leap in the world of digital currency by announcing the successful implementation of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) interoperability with its Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), also known as the Digital Rupee. This development is poised to revolutionize the way transactions are conducted, making digital currency more accessible and user-friendly.
- Accessible through the 'eRupee by SBI' application, this new feature allows SBI CBDC users to effortlessly scan any merchant UPI QR code, simplifying and expediting transactions.
- With this integration, the State Bank of India aims to bridge the gap between CBDC and the widely adopted UPI platform, bringing convenience and efficiency to the forefront of digital payments.

- SBI's journey towards CBDC integration began with its active participation in the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) retail digital e-rupee project, which commenced in December 2022.

RBI allows banks to enable UPI payments through pre-sanctioned credit line

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a significant expansion of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) System, allowing users to transact with pre-sanctioned credit lines issued by banks. This move marks a major development in India's digital payment landscape, enabling greater financial flexibility and convenience for consumers.
- The UPI System was primarily used for transactions involving deposited amounts. However, as of April 6, 2023, the RBI has proposed an expansion of the UPI System to include pre-sanctioned credit lines.
- This means that individuals can now make transactions using credit lines that have been pre-approved by scheduled commercial banks.
- The UPI System's scope has been expanded to include various types of accounts, including savings accounts, overdraft accounts, prepaid wallets, and credit cards.
- This comprehensive approach aims to provide users with more options and flexibility when conducting digital transactions.

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Launches Malaviya Mission - Teachers Training Programme

- Dharmendra Pradhan, the Union Minister for Education, introduced the Malaviya Mission – Teacher Training Program at Kaushal Bhawan in New Delhi as a crucial step in improving the standard of education in India. This ambitious project, spearheaded by the University Grants Commission (UGC) in partnership with the Ministry of Education, seeks to transform faculty capacity building and teacher preparation programs across the country's higher education institutions.
- One of the primary objectives of the Malaviya Mission is to provide specialized and tailored training programs for teachers.
- Recognizing that teaching methods and educational requirements have evolved, the program seeks to equip educators with the latest knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to excel in their roles.
- This emphasis on tailored training ensures that teachers can adapt to the changing dynamics of education effectively.
- In a symbolic gesture, Minister Pradhan announced the renaming of Human Resource Development Centres (HRDCs) as Madan Mohan Malaviya Teachers' Training Centres.

India GDP forecast after Q1 data 'surprises positively': Morgan Stanley

- In light of a positive surprise in the April-June quarter data, Morgan Stanley, the multinational investment bank, has revised its economic growth forecast for India for the fiscal year 2024. The bank has raised its projection from an earlier estimate of 6.2 percent to a more optimistic 6.4 percent. This upward revision is

attributed to the strong performance of the Indian economy, driven primarily by robust domestic demand.

- The GDP growth rate for India during the first quarter of fiscal year 2024 surpassed expectations, coming in at 7.8 percent, higher than Morgan Stanley's initial forecast of 7.4 percent. This positive surprise can be attributed to a more significant-than-anticipated growth in private consumption, as stated in a Morgan Stanley report.
- Morgan Stanley highlights the sustained momentum in domestic demand as a significant driver of India's economic growth. This momentum has led to GDP numbers exceeding expectations for two consecutive quarters. Factors contributing to this trend include strong Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections, credit growth, and a robust Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI).

Bad Bank Chairman Karnam Sekar reportedly quit over proposals to merge with IDRCL

- Karnam Sekar, Chairman of the National Asset Reconstruction Company of India (NARCL) tendered his resignation due to disagreements concerning the institution's structure and operations. This resignation follows a proposal for merging NARCL with India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL).
- The proposal to merge NARCL and IDRCL was initiated by IDRCL, which is headed by former State Bank of India managing director Diwakar Gupta. The suggestion was brought before the Finance Ministry with the aim of optimizing business opportunities and reducing costs through consolidation.
- Under the current structure, NARCL serves as the 'principal entity,' responsible for acquiring and aggregating bad loan accounts from banks. In contrast, IDRCL operates as a resolution agent, focusing on the loan resolution process. The merger would potentially reshape this division of responsibilities, leading to concerns and debates about the optimal structure of these entities.
- NARCL is registered with the Reserve Bank of India as an Asset Reconstruction Company under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. NARCL's primary objective is to address and resolve stressed loan assets exceeding ₹500 crore each, with a total value of approximately ₹2 lakh crore.

Bajaj Auto's Subsidiary Gains RBI Approval To Operate As An NBFC

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

- Bajaj Auto made the formal application to the Reserve Bank of India for an NBFC license on July 9 of the same year, seeking the regulatory green light to diversify its financial operations.

Paytm launches Card Soundbox that enables card payments

- One97 Communications, the parent company of fintech company Paytm, announced on Monday, September 4, the launch of Card Soundbox. "With this, the company empowers merchants to accept both mobile and card payments across all Visa, Mastercard, American Express and RuPay networks through its iconic Soundbox with 'tap and pay' that will help merchants scale their business," the company said in its press release.
- Post-announcement, the stock of One97 Communications ended 0.05 per cent lower at Rs 856.80 on the BSE.

UPI crosses 10 billion transactions for the first time in August

- The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in India has achieved a significant milestone by surpassing 10 billion monthly transactions in August. This achievement was confirmed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the Reserve Bank's non-profit agency. UPI has been a key driver of digital payments in India, and its rapid growth is noteworthy.
- In August, UPI recorded an impressive milestone of 10 billion monthly transactions, as confirmed by NPCI. This signifies the increasing popularity and adoption of digital payments in India.
- UPI's growth trajectory has been remarkable, with monthly transactions exceeding 10.24 billion by the end of August. This represents a significant increase from the 6.58 billion transactions recorded in August of the previous year, marking a growth rate of over 50% year-on-year.
- UPI's journey began in October 2019 when it crossed 1 billion monthly transactions for the first time. In less than four years, it has grown fourfold, showcasing its rapid adoption and acceptance in the Indian payment landscape.

Moody's raises India's GDP growth estimates for 2023 to 6.7%

- Global rating agency Moody's Investor Service has revised its economic growth projection for India, providing a positive outlook for the year 2023. The agency has increased its forecast for India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth to 6.7 percent, up from the previous estimate of 5.5 percent. This adjustment is attributed to the notable performance in the second quarter, driven by robust expansion in services and capital expenditures, resulting in a 7.8 percent real GDP growth compared to the previous year.
- Initial Forecast: Moody's previously estimated India's GDP growth for 2023 at 5.5 percent.
- Revised Projection:

Centre, states collect ₹1.59 trillion in GST in August

- In August, India witnessed a notable surge in Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection, amounting to ₹1.59 trillion, signifying an 11% increase compared to the same period last

year. This impressive growth can be attributed to enhanced compliance and anti-evasion measures put in place.

- August 2023's collection marked a significant rise from the ₹1.43 trillion collected in August 2022.
- However, it's important to note that GST collection moderated compared to the previous month, which recorded ₹1.65 trillion in July.
- The moderation in collection is primarily attributed to subdued growth in integrated GST (IGST) and the cess on imports, which increased by only 3% in August.
- Importantly, both imports and IGST collections have experienced fluctuations in recent months.

In 5-year deal, Viacom 18 bags BCCI TV and digital media rights for Rs 5,963 crore

- Viacom 18, a Reliance-owned media outlet, has emerged victorious in the auction for media rights, encompassing both digital and TV broadcasting, of India's domestic matches and BCCI-hosted domestic tournaments for the next five years. The auction took place on August 31, 2023. This significant acquisition complements Viacom 18's existing digital rights for the Indian Premier League (IPL) and the FIFA World Cup rights for India. Let's delve deeper into the details.
- Viacom 18 faced fierce competition from Sony Sports Network and Star Sports in the bidding process. Star Sports already held TV rights for ICC events and the IPL, leaving Sony to vie for these coveted rights.
- For the 88 matches scheduled between 2023 and 2028, the BCCI set a base price of Rs 20 crore per match for TV rights and Rs 25 crore per match for digital rights, totaling Rs 3,960 crore.

FundaMakers