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International News

Indonesia Launches 'Whoosh,' Southeast Asia's First High-Speed Railway

Indonesian President Joko Widodo officially inaugurated Southeast Asia's first high-speed railway on Monday, marking a significant milestone for the nation's infrastructure development. The ambitious project, known as the "Whoosh" high-speed railway, is a key component of China's Belt and Road Initiative and is poised to dramatically reduce travel times between two vital Indonesian cities: Jakarta & Bandung

"Whoosh",' which stands for 'Waktu Hemat, Operasi Optimal, Sistem Handal' in the Indonesian language, translates to 'timesaving, optimal operation, reliable system.' This name reflects the project's commitment to efficiency and reliability.

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

Pakistan's inflation rate surged to 31.4% year-on-year in September, driven by soaring fuel and energy prices. This alarming increase followed a high of 27.4% in August, highlighting the severe economic challenges faced by the nation. To curb inflation, Pakistan increased interest rates to a staggering 22%. The country's currency, the rupee, hit all-time lows in August but rebounded in September, becoming the best-performing currency due to authorities' crackdown on unregulated FX trade. The Ministry of Finance anticipates inflation to remain high at 29-31% in the coming months. Despite this, the government recently reduced petrol and diesel prices after consecutive hikes, citing international petroleum prices and an improved exchange rate.

Pro-China Leader Mohamed Muizzu Wins Maldives Presidential Election

Mohamed Muizzu, the candidate from the Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM), emerged victorious in the presidential polls after a runoff vote. This victory came after a first round of polling failed to produce a clear winner. Muizzu secured more than 53 percent of the vote in the runoff, defeating the incumbent president, Ibrahim Solih. President Ibrahim Solih

gracefully conceded defeat and congratulated Muizzu on his victory. Muizzu, currently serving as the mayor of the capital city, Male, is a well-educated leader with a doctorate in civil engineering from the University of Leeds in the United Kingdom. He previously held the position of Minister of Housing in former President Abdulla Yameen's cabinet.

State News

Bihar Caste Census Reveals Demographic Insights

The Bihar government recently released the results of its caste survey, shedding light on the state's demographic composition. The survey provides valuable data on caste distribution in Bihar. Here are the key findings from the Bihar caste survey: Extremely Backward Class (EBC) comprises 36.01% of the population. Other Backward Class (OBC) constitutes 27.13% of the population. Scheduled Caste (SC) population stands at 19.65%. Scheduled Tribe (ST) population is 1.68%. General Caste population is 15.52%. Yadavs represent 14% of the population. Hindus make up 82% of the population. Muslims account for 17.71%.

KVIC Inaugurated A New Khadi India Outlet At IIT Delhi

In a bid to bridge the generational gap and ignite a renewed interest in the age-old fabric, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) inaugurated a revamped Khadi India outlet at the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Campus in Delhi on October 2. Recognizing the need to adapt to contemporary fashion preferences, a new range of Khadi apparel has been crafted. This collection is designed to appeal to young audiences with vibrant colors and contemporary silhouettes. Khadi Institutions, under the guidance of the (Centre of Excellence for Khadi) CoEK team, have standardized the production of nine distinct styles of Khadi apparel. The IIT outlet will serve as a trailblazer, setting the stage for a fresh narrative around Khadi fashion.

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

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin recently celebrated the achievements of nine eminent space scientists from the state, including renowned figures like K Sivan and Mylswamy Annadurai, for their remarkable contributions to India's space program. In a special event held in Chennai on 2nd October 2023, Chief Minister Stalin announced cash awards of Rs.25 lakh for each of the scientists and unveiled plans for a scholarship program to encourage scientific innovation among postgraduate engineering students. CM Stalin made two significant announcements during the ceremony. First, a cash award of Rs.25 lakh would be

granted to each of the nine scientists as a token of appreciation for their hard work and dedication. Second, the government would establish a scholarship program in the name of renowned scientist, benefiting nine postgraduate engineering students. A corpus of Rs.10 crore would be allocated for this purpose, covering all expenditures, including tuition and hostel fees.

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

On October 2, 2023, a two-day master training program for capacity-building within the F4S program was launched in Sambalpur, Odisha. This event saw the participation of 95 Physical Education Teachers/Trainees from various States/UTs, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS), and AIFF. The primary goal of this training was to equip these educators with the skills and knowledge needed to promote football as an integral part of physical education. Football for Schools (F4S) is an ambitious program spearheaded by the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). F4S aims to revolutionize physical education in Indian schools. At its core, F4S aims to empower approximately 700 million children by integrating football into their education. This initiative recognizes the potential of sports, particularly football, in fostering holistic development. It emphasizes accessibility for both boys and girls, collaborating with relevant authorities and stakeholders to make football an integral part of the education system.

Defence News

Indian Navy To Unveil Weaponized Boat Swarms And Underwater Vessels At Swavlamban 2.0

The Indian Navy is preparing to host the second edition of the Naval Innovation and Indigenization Seminar, known as Swavlamban, scheduled to take place on October 4th and 5th in the vibrant city of New Delhi. The Indian Navy is set to unveil two remarkable platforms at this event: the Autonomous Weaponized Boat Swarms and the Autonomous Vessel Underwater (AUV). The Indian Navy has entered into a significant agreement with the Sagar Defence Engineering Pvt. Ltd for the development of these autonomous systems. With the implementation of an integrated autonomous system, the foremost objective is to address India’s maritime security needs by executing diverse naval and security missions.

Indian Air Force Set to Induct Astra BVR Air-to-Air Missile

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is making significant strides towards enhancing its air defense

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

Economy News

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

In September 2023, India's Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues witnessed a significant slowdown, growing at the slowest pace in 27 months. The growth rate dropped to 10.2% from the previous months' approximately 10.8%. This decline, although notable, was coupled with some intriguing state-wise variations in GST collections. Components of GST included Central GST (CGST) collections of ₹29,818 crore, State GST (SGST) of ₹37,657 crore, and Integrated GST (IGST) of ₹83,623 crore. GST compensation cess inflows were ₹11,613 crore, which included ₹881 crore collected on the import of goods. Pending dues from businesses, especially since the initiation of GST in 2017-18, might have contributed to the rise in September's revenues.

Important Days News

World Nature Day 2023

World Nature Day, established by the World Nature Organization (WNO) on October 3, 2010, serves as a crucial platform to raise awareness about the challenges our environment faces, particularly due to climate change. This annual celebration unites individuals, groups, and organizations worldwide in their commitment to spreading information about climate change and advocating for its mitigation. The initiative aims to combat ignorance about climate change, ensuring that people across the globe understand the urgency of the situation. It also encourages eco-friendly practices such as recycling, reducing plastic usage, and adopting sustainable lifestyles.

World Space Week (WSW) 2023: October 4 to 10

World Space Week (WSW) is a global celebration that highlights the significance of space science and technology in enhancing human life. Established in 1999 by the United Nations General Assembly, this annual event takes place from October 4 to 10. The choice of October 4 as the starting date of WSW is a tribute to the day when the Soviet Union launched Sputnik 1, the first human-made Earth satellite, marking the beginning of the Space Age and the first Space Race. The theme for World Space Week 2023 is "Space and Entrepreneurship." This theme underscores the evolving landscape of the commercial space industry and its growing influence.

Summits and Conferences News

Ministry of MSME's 'Shramdaan Event' for a 'Garbage-Free India'

On 1st October 2023, the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) took a significant step towards realizing the vision of a "Garbage Free India." Aligning with the national initiative championed by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, a unique event titled 'Shramdaan' was organized by the Ministry. Shramdaan' epitomized a united and concerted effort. Participants from the Ministry of MSME, including its diverse range of organizations and field offices scattered across the country, actively participated. This collective engagement amplified the impact of the cleanliness drive. "Garbage Free India" The focal theme of 'Shramdaan' revolved around the concept of "Garbage Free India." Emphasizing the importance of cleanliness, the event sought to engage citizens in proactive measures for a cleaner and healthier nation.

Appointments News

Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti Assumes Charge as Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff

Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti, AVSM, VSM, took over as the Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff, marking a significant transition in the leadership of the Indian Navy. With a distinguished career spanning over 35 years, Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti brings a wealth of experience and expertise to his new role. Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti was commissioned into the Indian Navy on July 1, 1988, embarking on a journey that would see him become a distinguished leader in the maritime domain. He specialized in Navigation and Direction, a critical aspect of naval operations. Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti's tenure as a Flag Officer included commanding several crucial naval assets, including: INS Nishank (Missile Boat), INS Kora (Missile Corvette) and INS Kolkata (Guided Missile Destroyer).

Awards News

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

This year Nobel Laureates in Physics 2023, Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz and Anne L'Huillier were recognised "for experimental methods that generate attosecond pulses of light for the study of electron dynamics in matter". Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz and Anne L'Huillier have demonstrated a way to create extremely short pulses of light that can be used to measure the rapid processes in which electrons move or change energy. The Nobel Prize in Physics is awarded by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, Sweden. The Nobel Prize in Physics has been awarded 116 times to 222 Nobel Prize laureates between 1901 and 2022. John Bardeen is the only laureate who has been awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics twice, in 1956 and 1972. This means that a total of 221 individuals have received the Nobel Prize in Physics. Click on the links to get more information.

Sudha Murty, the First Woman to get Global Indian Award

Renowned author, philanthropist and the wife of Infosys co-founder N.R. Narayana Murthy, Sudha Murthy, was honored with the prestigious Global Indian Award by the Canada India Foundation (CIF) at a grand Indo-Canadian gala in Toronto. The award, which carries a value of $50,000, is presented annually to an outstanding Indian personality who has left an indelible mark in their respective field. Sudha Murty's exceptional contributions to literature, philanthropy and her dedication to giving back to society made her a fitting recipient for this esteemed award. In a touching and generous gesture, Sudha Murthy donated $50,000 award money to The Field Institute at the University of Toronto. The institute is renowned internationally for its efforts in strengthening collaborations, innovation and learning in mathematics and various other disciplines.

Sports News

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

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

Kipgen (IND). Best Goalkeeper was Lionel Daryl Rymmei (IND). Top Scorers of the Tournament (all 3 goals) are:

Gwgwmsar Goyary (IND)

Jigme Namgyal (BHU)

Samir Tamang (NEP)

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

On Monday, the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) appointed former India captain Ajay Jadeja as the team mentor for the upcoming ODI World Cup, scheduled to be held in India from October 5 to November 19. Ajay Jadeja, a former Indian captain and middle-order batter, has a distinguished cricketing career to his name. He played 15 Test matches for India from 1992 to 2000, amassing 576 runs at an impressive average of 26.18, with four half-centuries to his name, and a highest score of 96. He has been an integral part of 111 First-Class matches and 291 List A games, showcasing his versatility and proficiency across different formats of the game

Ajay Jadeja's new role as the mentor of the Afghanistan National Cricket Team for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 signifies the trust and expectations placed upon him by the team management. His extensive experience, both as a player and as a coach, makes him a valuable addition to the Afghan cricket setup.

Science & Technology News

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

In a significant boost to the agri-tech sector, experts have recommended 24 start-ups for technical and financial support from a dedicated fund of Rs 20 crore. This transformative initiative was announced during the ATMAN (Agri sTartup deMo And funding) 2023 program. ATMAN (Agri sTartup deMo And funding) 2023 program was organized by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) in collaboration with four Technology Innovation Hubs. These hubs, established under the National Mission on Inter-disciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS) at prominent Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), played a crucial role in identifying and nurturing these promising agri-start-ups. A total of 55 start-ups participated in the ATMAN 2023 program, presenting their innovative solutions across five panels. These panels were dedicated to precision farming, agro IoT, agri 4.0, mechanization, automation, market intelligence, yield prediction, farm advisory, and

communication. The expert jury, after careful evaluation, identified and recommended 24 start-ups as potential beneficiaries of the Rs 20 Crore fund.

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International News

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

On 3 October, Uganda Airlines announced a significant milestone in its operations by commencing direct flight services between Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport and Entebbe International Airport in Uganda. This development marks a historic moment as it reconnects India and Uganda with a non-stop air service after more than 50 years of hiatus. The maiden flight for this route, UR 430, is scheduled to take off from Entebbe on 7 October, with the return flight, UR 431, departing from Mumbai on 8 October. Uganda Airlines will operate this direct service between Mumbai and Entebbe thrice a week, utilizing its Airbus A330-800 neo aircraft. The flight will offer passengers a three-class configuration, comprising Business Class with 20 seats, Premium Economy with 28 seats, and Economy Class with 210 seats. This variety of seating options ensures that travelers have choices that suit their preferences and needs.

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

The tallest statue of the 'Architect of the Indian Constitution,' B.R. Ambedkar, known as the 'Statue of Equality,' is set to be unveiled in Maryland on October 14. The memorial symbolizes the enduring ideals of equality and human rights, reflecting the core principles that Dr. B.R. Ambedkar stood for throughout his life. Standing at a towering height of 19 feet, the 'Statue of Equality' is a testament to the enduring impact of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's work. This monumental sculpture is poised to become the largest statue of Babasaheb outside of India. The 'Statue of Equality' is the creation of the distinguished artist and sculptor Ram Sutar. Mr. Sutar is renowned for his exceptional craftsmanship and previously sculpted the iconic 'Statue of Unity' dedicated to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

India Participates in the 5th Meeting of Moscow Format

In a significant diplomatic gathering held in the Russian City of Kazan, representatives from various countries convened for the fifth meeting of the Moscow Format Consultation on Afghanistan. The primary focus of this high-level meeting was to discuss the ongoing

situation in Afghanistan, with an emphasis on regional security and the integration of Afghanistan into border regional economic processes. One of the key outcomes of the meeting was a collective call on the Taliban to establish a government system that is "truly inclusive" and represents the interests of all key ethnopolitical groups within the country. Additionally, the participants urged the Taliban to intensify their efforts in counter-terrorism and anti-drug activities.

State News

Jammu And Kashmir's Renowned Pashmina Craft Receives GI Tag

Basohli Pashmina, an age-old traditional craft originating from the picturesque district of Kathua in Jammu and Kashmir, has recently earned the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag. Basohli Pashmina is renowned for its exceptional softness, fineness, and feather-like weight. Crafted by skilled artisans using traditional hand-spinning techniques, this exquisite fabric has been a symbol of luxury and elegance for over a century. Its hallmark is its remarkable ability to provide warmth without adding bulk, making it an ideal choice for cold climates and discerning fashion enthusiasts. The Department of Industries and Commerce, in collaboration with NABARD Jammu and Human Welfare Association, Varanasi, played a pivotal role in securing the GI tag for Basohli Pashmina. This achievement was the result of concerted efforts to preserve and promote this craft, recognizing its cultural significance and economic potential.

Defence News

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

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) kick-started an all-female bikers' expedition rally named 'Yashasvini' from Srinagar to Gujarat on Tuesday. The rally, an ode to women empowerment, was flagged off from the iconic Ghanta Ghar near the city center of Lal Chowk in Srinagar. This all-female cross-country bike rally is not just an ordinary road trip; it's a testament to determination and strength. Covering a staggering distance of 2134 kilometers, the rally will traverse through 40 districts, spanning across 15 states and Union Territories. During this incredible journey, the three teams from Srinagar, Shillong, and Kanyakumari will engage with various target groups as part of the "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" initiative. They will interact with school children and college girls, women self-help groups, cadets of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) and anganwadi workers to inspire and empower women across diverse age groups and backgrounds.

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

Amidst its ongoing efforts to modernize and replace its aging Russian-origin aircraft, the Indian Air Force (IAF) has announced plans to retire its iconic MiG-21 fighter jets and replace them with the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mark 1A. The Air Chief Marshal confirmed that the MiG-21 fighter aircraft would cease operations by 2025, with the LCA Mark 1A being the replacement of choice. The MiG-21 has been a stalwart of the Indian Air Force for over six decades. During the press conference, it was announced that the legendary MiG-21 would participate in what might be its final flypast anywhere in the world. The aircraft has played a pivotal role in safeguarding India's airspace and has been instrumental in various missions and operations.

India and Bangladesh annual joint military exercise "SAMPRITI" begins

India and Bangladesh commenced the 11th edition of their annual joint military exercise, SAMPRITI, in Umroi, Meghalaya. SAMPRITI-XI involves the participation of 170 personnel from the Bangladesh contingent, led by Brigadier General Mohammed Mafizul Islam Rashed, Commander of the 52 Bangladesh Infantry Brigade. Since its inception in Jorhat, Assam, in 2009, SAMPRITI has successfully conducted ten editions until 2022. SAMPRITI-XI, spanning 14 days, engages approximately 350 personnel from both sides, emphasizing the significance of enhancing interoperability, sharing tactical drills, and promoting best practices. The history of SAMPRITI dates back to 2009, when it was first established as a platform for joint military exercises between India and Bangladesh. Over the past decade, this initiative has witnessed substantial growth, becoming a symbol of the strong defence ties between the two nations.

IAF's Ambitious Rs 3 Lakh Crore Weapon Procurement Plan: A Strategic Investment in India's Defense

Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari announced that the Indian Air Force (IAF) is set to procure a range of weapon systems, including aircraft, helicopters, and missiles, with an estimated cost ranging from Rs 2.5 lakh crore to Rs 3 lakh crore over the next six to seven years. The majority of the equipment will be sourced from Indian industry, aligning with the government's 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India) initiative. The IAF is investing in force multipliers, including AI-based decision tools, electronic warfare equipment, robust networks, and space and cyber capabilities.

The IAF will acquire 97 additional Tejas light combat aircraft Mark-I at an estimated cost of Rs 67,000 crore, supplementing the previous procurement of 83 such aircraft among others.

Economy News

India's Manufacturing PMI Hits 5-Month Low in September

In September, India's manufacturing sector saw a notable slowdown, reaching a five-month low, as reported by the seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI). This index slipped to 57.5 from 58.6 in August, indicating a deceleration in activity. One of the key factors contributing to the slowdown was a decrease in new orders during September, compared to the previous month. While input cost inflation reached its lowest point in over three years, firms raised their output charges at a pace higher than the long-run average. Despite the slowdown in various aspects of manufacturing activity, firms expressed the highest level of optimism regarding their business prospects for the year ahead in 2023.

World Bank Retains India's FY24 GDP Growth at 6.3% Amidst Challenges

Despite substantial external challenges, India's economy remains robust, prompting the World Bank to maintain its growth forecast for the fiscal year 2023-24 at 6.3%. This decision reflects India's remarkable resilience within a demanding global environment. India's economic resilience is underpinned by key factors, including strong domestic demand, significant public infrastructure investments, and a strengthening financial sector. Notably, bank credit growth has surged to 15.8% in the first quarter of FY23/24, indicating a healthy financial environment. Auguste Tano Kouame, the World Bank's Country Director in India, emphasized the need for stimulating private investments through public spending. Creating favorable conditions for India to leverage global opportunities is crucial for achieving higher growth in the future.

World Bank Raises India's Retail Inflation Forecast To 5.9% For FY24

The World Bank, in its latest India Development Update, has revised its retail inflation forecast for India for the fiscal year 2023-24. The new projection stands at 5.9 percent, up from the earlier estimate of 5.2 percent made in April. This upward revision is attributed to certain factors which caused a sharp increase in food prices in July 2023. The World Bank highlighted the impact of abnormal rainfall on food prices during the monsoon season. While there was a temporary easing of food prices in August, the bank expects this situation to continue to influence headline inflation throughout the fiscal year. The World Bank's updated estimates come ahead of the RBI's monetary policy review, scheduled for October 6. With food inflation now under control, it is anticipated that the RBI will maintain the status

quo. In its August policy review, the central bank had projected retail inflation to be 5.4 percent for FY24.

Important Days News

World Animal Welfare Day 2023

World Animal Day, also known as World Animal Welfare Day, is a global initiative celebrated annually on October 4th. This day serves as an International Day of Action, advocating for the rights and welfare of animals. The choice of this date coincides with the feast day of Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. This event unites animal lovers worldwide, raising awareness and fostering a sense of responsibility towards the well-being of animals. The theme for World Animal Day 2023, "Great or Small, Love Them All," emphasizes the importance of acknowledging animals as sentient beings. It underscores the need to elevate global animal care standards and advocates for animal rights universally.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month 2023

Breast Cancer Awareness Month is observed throughout the entire month of October each year. During this time, individuals, healthcare organizations, and nonprofits collaborate to raise awareness and promote breast cancer prevention and treatment. The primary objective of this month-long campaign is to raise awareness about breast cancer, promote early detection, support those affected by the disease, and raise funds for research, prevention, and treatment. It serves as a reminder of the importance of regular breast examinations and mammograms to detect breast cancer at an early, more treatable stage. Breast Cancer Awareness Month was established in the early 1980s to promote breast cancer awareness, early detection, and support for individuals and families affected by the disease. Since then, it has become a global movement that has contributed to increased awareness and improved outcomes for breast cancer patients.

World Teachers' Day 2023

World Teachers' Day, observed annually on October 5th, is a global celebration dedicated to honoring the invaluable contributions of teachers to society. This day serves as an opportunity to recognize the vital role teachers play in shaping the future and to address the challenges they face. World Teachers' Day is a momentous occasion to celebrate how teachers are catalysts for educational transformation. Teachers have the unique opportunity to make a lasting impact on the lives of their students, shaping sustainable futures and finding personal

fulfillment in their vocation. World Teachers' Day was inaugurated on October 5, 1994, marking the 30th anniversary of the 1966 conference. Since then, it has grown into a globally recognized annual event that honors teachers and their contributions to education.

National Wildlife Week 2023

The National Zoological Park recently kick-started the celebration of the 69th Wildlife Week, a significant event aimed at raising awareness about the importance of wildlife conservation in India. This year's theme, "Partnerships for Wildlife Conservation," reflects the collaborative efforts required to protect and preserve the nation's rich biodiversity. The festivities coincide with the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, reinforcing the principles of Ahinsa (non-violence) and compassion for all living beings. The choice of dates for Wildlife Week, spanning from October 2 to October 8, holds deep symbolism.

Schemes News

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates Tourist Facilities in Nathdwara

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated several key projects in Nathdwara, Rajasthan, which included the 'tourist facilities at Nathdwara.' These projects were funded by the Ministry of Tourism as part of the Krishna circuit of the Swadesh Darshan scheme. The Ministry of Tourism allocated a substantial budget of Rs. 23.59 Crore for the development of tourism facilities in Nathdwara. Notably, a tourism interpretation cum cultural center was developed at a cost of Rs. 13.43 Crore. The interpretation center serves as an informative hub about Shrinathji (Lord Krishna) and Shri Vallabhacharyaji, the revered devotee and founder of Pushtimarg, a major branch of the Vaishnava sect. At this center, tourists can delve into various aspects of Shrinathji's life, including his journey from Goverdhan to Nathdwara, divine acts, worship rituals, adornment, appearances, festivals, and related customs.

PM SVANidhi Scheme Surpasses 50 Lakh Beneficiaries Mark

The Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi, or PM SVANidhi scheme, has achieved a significant milestone by providing assistance to over 50 lakh street vendors across the country. Street vendors have long been essential contributors to the urban informal economy, offering vital goods and services to urban residents. Administered under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, this scheme has been instrumental in integrating street vendors into the formal economic sector, offering them new opportunities for upward mobility. Launched on June 1st, 2020, the PM SVANidhi Scheme is a micro-credit initiative

aimed at providing collateral-free working capital loans of up to 50 thousand rupees to urban street vendors. This visionary scheme not only bolsters the livelihoods of street vendors but also contributes to the formalization of the urban informal economy, aligning with the government's broader economic goals.

Appointments News

PayU elevates Anirban Mukherjee as Global CEO

Anirban Mukherjee, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of PayU India, has been promoted to the role of global CEO of PayU. Anirban Mukherjee will be taking over from Laurent Le Moal, who has decided to step back from the day-to-day operational management of the business. However, Le Moal will continue to be involved with Prosus and PayU in an advisory capacity. In his new role as Global CEO, Anirban Mukherjee will be entrusted with the overall business operations of PayU on a global scale. His reporting line will directly lead to Ervin Tu, the interim CEO of Prosus and Naspers, the parent company of PayU. This move signifies a pivotal moment in PayU's journey as it gears up to shape the future of the global digital payments industry. PayU India claims to serve over 450,000 merchants, work with more than 70 large banks through its paytech platform called Wibmo and provide credit facilities to over 2 million customers in India. The company's business in India continues to grow and it plays a vital role in the country's dynamic fintech sector.

Awards News

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

Moungi G. Bawendi, Louis E. Brus and Alexei I. Ekimov were awarded Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2023 "for the discovery and synthesis of quantum dots". Quantum dots now illuminate computer monitors and television screens based on QLED technology. They also add nuance to the light of some LED lamps, and biochemists and doctors use them to map biological tissue. The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2023 rewards the discovery and development of quantum dots, nanoparticles so tiny that their size determines their properties. The Nobel Prize amount for 2023 is set at Swedish kronor (SEK) 11.0 million per full Nobel Prize.

Sports News

Asian Games 2023, India Team wins archery mixed team compound gold

Indian players Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Pravin Ojas Deotale won gold in the Compound Archery Mixed Team. India has made its mark at the Asian Games 2023, excelling in specific sports that brought a total of 71 medals for the country. The duo defeated the South Korean pair of So Chaewon and Joo Jaehoon 159-158 at the Fuyang Yinhu Sports Centre Final Field. This is the first gold for Archery in the ongoing Asian Games. India have now won 16 gold, 26 silver and 29 bronze medals in the Hangzhou Games and have a chance to add to add more to their tally. China is currently on top with 164 golds, 90 silvers and 46 bronze medals. Japan and South Korea are second and third in the list.

Asian Games 2023, Annu Rani wins gold in women's javelin throw

India's Annu Rani won the gold medal in the women's javelin throw with a 69.92m throw at the Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou. She became the first Indian woman to win a javelin gold in Asian Games history. Rani started with a 56.99m throw in her first attempt and followed it with a 60+ in the next one. Her 61.28m throw in the second attempt put her in the medal contention but her 62.92m throw in the fourth attempt turned out to be sufficient for a gold. Rani's first-place finish secured India its 15th gold. Sri Lanka's Nadeesha Dilhan Lekamge Hatarabage, with 61.57 metres throw, and China's Huihui Lyu, with 61.29 metres throw, won silver and bronze, respectively.

Parul Chaudhary wins 5000m gold

Parul Chaudhary has become the third Indian track and field athlete to win gold at the 2023 Asian Games, winning the women's 5000m. Parul hanged back for much of the race before breaking away from the rest of the pack with Japan's Ririka Hironaka ahead of her. Parul has added to the silver medal she won in the 3000m women's steeplechase. Parul on Tuesday registered a time of 15:14.75. Parul's gold is India's third from track and field at the 2023 Asian Games, adding to the medals won by shotputter Tajinderpal Singh Toor and men's 3000m steeplechase winner Avinash Sable. This was India's 14th gold at the Games. The Indian athlete overtook Japan's Ririka Hironaka in the last 20-25 metres of the race to claim the yellow metal.

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

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has made an exciting announcement on Tuesday,

designating the legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar as the ‘Global Ambassador‘ for the highly anticipated Cricket World Cup 2023. This prestigious event is scheduled to kick off tomorrow in the vibrant city of Ahmedabad, India. Sachin Tendulkar holds the record for participating in six 50-over World Cups. His association with this global cricketing spectacle goes back decades, from being a ball boy in 1987 to donning the Indian jersey in numerous editions. Sachin’s legacy and his passion for the game make him the perfect choice to unveil the World Cup trophy before the inaugural match. The Cricket World Cup 2023 will officially commence with a grand ceremony before the first match between England and New Zealand. Sachin Tendulkar’s presence on this occasion will undoubtedly add a touch of cricketing magic, marking the beginning of what promises to be a thrilling tournament.
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5 October 2023

National News

Ministry Of Tourism Inaugurates PATA Travel Mart 2023 In New Delhi

The Ministry of Tourism, India, took center stage as it organized the inaugural ceremony for the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Travel Mart 2023 in the vibrant city of New Delhi. The 46th edition of this prestigious event is being held at the magnificent International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC) within Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. Running from October 4th to 6th, 2023, this event serves as a global gathering of tourism professionals and business stakeholders. Importantly, this physical edition marks the return of the Travel Mart after a three-year hiatus due to the pandemic. This year’s event boasts a diverse range of activities, including the prestigious PATA Gold Award, the PATA Youth Symposium, and the PATA Forum on Sustainability. In addition to these enriching experiences, the event remains a vital platform for business-to-business (B2B) interactions.

GoI notifies establishment of National Turmeric Board

The Union government of India has notified the constitution of the national turmeric board, which will focus on the development and growth of turmeric and turmeric products in the country. The board will help in setting up processing units and aid in its export. The board will lay stress on exports, R&D and develop traditional value-added turmeric products, while also giving importance to quality and food safety as per established standards. India is the largest producer, consumer and exporter of turmeric in the world. It enjoys 62 per cent share in the global turmeric market. Turmeric is majorly cultivated in Tamil Nadu, Telangana state, Karnataka, MP, Odisha, Bengal and Gujarat. With the focused activities of the board, it is expected that turmeric exports will reach `one billion by 2030.

International News

Eurozone Economy Faces Contraction in Q3 Amidst Sliding Demand

Recent data and surveys suggest that the eurozone economy likely contracted in the third quarter of the year. Demand in the region saw a significant decline in September, marking the fastest pace of decrease in nearly three years. The final Composite Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), compiled by S&P Global and considered a reliable indicator of overall economic health, inched up to 47.2 in September, compared to August's 46.7. However, this figure remained below the critical 50-mark, indicating a fourth consecutive month of economic contraction. While it slightly exceeded a preliminary estimate of 47.1, it still points to economic challenges. Economists, such as Franziska Palmas at Capital Economics, are predicting that the eurozone economy could enter a recession in the latter half of 2023. The drop in retail sales in August and the weakness in the final PMIs for September support this view.

State News

Glacial Lake Burst in Sikkim Causes Devastation

At least seven people have lost their lives, and a significant number remain injured or missing in the wake of flash floods that struck Sikkim on October 4. These devastating floods were triggered when a glacial lake, formed by the gradual melting of a Himalayan glacier, unexpectedly overflowed, leading to the inundation of the Teesta river basin. The floods originated from the sudden overflow of the South Lhonak lake, located at an altitude of approximately 5,200 meters above sea level. This catastrophic event resulted in the destruction of the Chungthang dam, a critical component of Sikkim's largest hydroelectric project, and caused extensive damage to highways, villages, and towns. The Chungthang dam, a concrete-rock structure, was breached at its center due to the force and speed of the surging water, estimated at nearly 54 kilometers per hour. The suddenness of the event left little time for warnings or preventive measures.

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

Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, Shri Arjun Munda, inaugurated the 4th Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) National Cultural & Literary Fest and Kala Utsav-2023 in the

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

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

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

Defence News

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

State-run aircraft manufacturer Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) recently delivered the first trainer version of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas to the Indian Air Force (IAF). The Tejas trainer aircraft is part of an earlier order for 40 Mk-1 jets. Out of these 40 aircraft, the IAF has already inducted 32 single-seater jets and established two LCA squadrons. The remaining eight aircraft are trainers. HAL has committed to delivering seven more twin-seater aircraft to the IAF by March 2024. The Tejas trainer aircraft boasts modern concepts and technologies, including relaxed static-stability, quadraplex fly-by-wire flight control, carefree maneuvering, advanced glass cockpit, integrated digital avionics systems, and advanced composite materials for the airframe.

Economy News

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

In September 2023, India witnessed a remarkable surge in its diesel exports to Europe, reaching their highest levels for the year. This surge was driven by a combination of factors. Data from energy cargo tracker Vortexa sheds light on this significant development. India's diesel exports to Europe in September reached approximately 333,000 barrels per day (bpd), marking a substantial increase of nearly 47 percent from August. This surge was even more impressive when compared to the same month the previous year, with a year-on-year increase of 57 percent, according to data provided by Vortexa. The primary drivers behind this resurgence were the constrained supplies from the Middle East and the US due to autumn refinery maintenance and robust demand in Europe. Serena Huang, Head of Asia-Pacific Analysis at Vortexa, emphasized these factors.

UNCTAD Raises India's 2023 Growth Estimate to 6.6%

In its latest trade and development report, the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has revised India's economic growth forecast for 2023 upward to 6.6% from the earlier projection of 6%. However, the report also anticipates a slowdown in India's growth to 6.2% in 2024. Furthermore, the UNCTAD highlights concerns about the global economic outlook, with a deceleration to 2.4% in 2023, followed by a marginal improvement to 2.5% in 2024. UNCTAD emphasizes the importance of policy changes and institutional reforms to prevent a lost decade in the global economy. It also urges leading central banks and policymakers to adopt a new policy direction to address economic challenges.

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

In a recent announcement, the government has decided to keep the interest rate on General Provident Fund (GPF) savings unchanged at 7.1% for the October-December quarter. This marks the 15th successive quarter where the government has maintained the status quo, ensuring stability for government employees' retirement savings. The Finance Ministry officially notified the retention of the 7.1% interest rate. This rate is also applicable to other provident funds for government employees, including those serving in crucial sectors such as Railways and the Armed Forces. While certain small savings schemes have witnessed rate hikes for five consecutive quarters, the popular Public Provident Fund (PPF) has remained untouched at 7.1% since the first quarter of 2020-21. Notably, the returns on five-year recurring deposits were raised to 6.7% for this quarter, a slight increase from the 6.5% offered in the July-September period.

Business News

Coca-Cola India Rolls Out 100% Recycled PET Bottles For Small Packs

Beverage company Coca-Cola India made a significant announcement on Wednesday, unveiling its latest sustainability initiative with the launch of fully recycled PET bottles for its flagship Coca-Cola brand. These bottles are available in pack sizes of 250 ml and 750 ml, and they are set to be distributed across various markets in the country. The move comes as part of Coca-Cola's global commitment to reducing its environmental footprint. This initiative is part of the company's broader sustainable packaging platform, which also includes a commitment to collect and recycle the equivalent of one bottle or can for every one sold globally by 2030. Furthermore, Coca-Cola aims to make 100% of its packaging recyclable by 2025.

Important Days News

World Teachers Day 2023

World Teachers' Day, observed annually on October 5th, is a global celebration dedicated to honoring the invaluable contributions of teachers to society. This day serves as an opportunity to recognize the vital role teachers play in shaping the future and to address the challenges they face. The theme for World Teachers' Day 2023 is "The Teachers We Need for the Education We Want: The Global Imperative to Reverse the Teacher Shortage". World Teachers' Day was inaugurated on October 5, 1994, marking the 30th anniversary of the 1966 conference. Since then, it has grown into a globally recognized annual event that honors teachers and their contributions to education.

Ranks and Reports News

Global Infrastructure Faces Staggering Annual Losses of $300 Billion Due to Worsening Climate Impacts

The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) has released a biennial report highlighting the alarming annual losses in global infrastructure due to the worsening impacts of climate change and disasters. This report underscores the critical challenges faced by low-and-middle-income countries (LMICs) in maintaining resilient infrastructure systems. The global annual average loss (AAL) in principal infrastructure sectors due to disasters and

climate change stands between USD 301 and USD 330 billion. When including health and education infrastructure, along with building stock, this range increases significantly to USD 732 to USD 845 billion.

Appointments News

RBI Appoints Muneesh Kapur as Executive Director

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the appointment of Muneesh Kapur as an Executive Director (ED) starting from October 3, 2023. This significant appointment brings Mr. Kapur into a key leadership position within the central bank. Before his promotion to the role of Executive Director, Muneesh Kapur held the position of Adviser-in-Charge within the Monetary Policy Department. Additionally, he served as the Secretary to the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), where he played a crucial role in shaping the nation's monetary policy. In his new capacity as Executive Director, Muneesh Kapur will assume responsibility for overseeing the operations of the Department of Economic and Policy Research. This department plays a pivotal role in formulating economic policies and conducting research crucial to the RBI's decision-making processes.

Aditya Puri Joins Deloitte As Senior Advisor

Former managing director and CEO of HDFC Bank Aditya Puri joined Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP as senior adviser. Puri would leverage his expertise and experience to help drive a tech-enabled transformation in the financial services sector and champion initiatives aimed at boosting financial inclusion across India. In September 1994, Puri took over as CEO of HDFC Bank, a position he moved on from in October 2020. His 26 years as HDFC Bank CEO make him the longest-serving head of a private bank in India. Before setting up HDFC, he spent more than 20 years with Citibank across India, Greece, Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong, Taiwan and China. His last role with Citibank was as CEO of its operations in Malaysia. A renowned and well respected name in the banking industry, he was, at one point, the country's highest-paid banker. The former HDFC MD and CEO is a commerce graduate from Panjab University and a qualified chartered accountant.

Agreements News

Fintech Unicorn Slice To Merge With North East Small Finance Bank

Indian fintech unicorn Slice has officially confirmed its merger with North East Small

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

Awards News

Nobel Prize in Literature 2023 awarded to Jon Fosse

The Nobel Prize in Literature 2023 was awarded to Norwegian author Jon Fosse or Jon Olav Fosse, "for his innovative plays and prose which give voice to the unsayable". The Nobel Prize in Literature is awarded by the Swedish Academy, Stockholm, Sweden. The Nobel Prize amount for 2023 is set at Swedish kronor (SEK) 11.0 million per full Nobel Prize. Jon Fosse, born in 1959, is widely considered one of the most important writers of our time. For almost forty years he has written novels, plays, poems, stories, essays, and children's books. His award-winning work has been translated into more than fifty languages, and his plays have been staged over a thousand times all over the world. The Nobel Prize in Literature has been awarded 115 times to 119 Nobel Prize laureates between 1901 and 2022. The Nobel medal in literature was designed by Swedish sculptor and engraver Erik Lindberg and represents a young man sitting under a laurel tree who, enchanted, listens to and writes down the song of the Muse.

Sports News

Asian Games 2023, Indian team wins gold in men's 4x400m relay

The Indian quartet won gold medal in the men's 4x400m relay at the Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou, China. The team comprising of Amoj Jacob, Muhammed Anas Yahiya, Rajesh Ramesh and Muhammad Ajmal Variyathodi finished with a time of 3:01.58. India qualified for the finals by clocking the fastest time of 3:03.81 minutes in the heat 1 ahead of Qatar, Japan and Iraq. India also holds the Area Record in the event achieved by the same quartet at the recently concluded Athletics World Champions in Belgium. The team clocked 2:59.05

minutes to qualify for the finals behind the eventual champion USA in that event. While Qatar finished second, it were the Sri Lankans who took home a bronze after finishing third.

Asian Games 2023, Neeraj Chopra wins Gold in Javelin Throw

India celebrated a remarkable 1-2 finish in the Men's Javelin Throw competition at the Asian Games 2023, held at the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Park Main Stadium in the People's Republic of China. Neeraj Chopra secured the gold medal, while Kishore Kumar Jena clinched the silver, showcasing their exceptional talent on the grand continental stage. Neeraj Chopra, the reigning champion, delivered an outstanding performance by achieving a season's best throw of 88.88 meters. This remarkable feat not only secured the gold medal for him but also marked his second consecutive gold at the Asian Games, following his victory in Jakarta 2018. Kishore Kumar Jena, a rising star in Indian javelin throwing, led Neeraj Chopra and registered an impressive 87.54 meters with his fourth throw, Kishore Kumar Jena secured the silver medal in Hangzhou.

Jyothi, Aditi, Parneet strike Gold in Compound Archery at Asian Games

India's archery team continued its exceptional performance at the 19th Asian Games in 2023 by clinching the gold medal in a thrilling final match against Chinese Taipei. The team, consisting of Jyoti Surekha Vennam, Aditi Swami and Parneet Kaur, showcased their incredible skills and nerve under pressure, securing India's second gold medal in archery at the event. In the final match, Aditi, Parneet and Jyothi maintained remarkable composure, finishing with a perfect 30. This put immense pressure on the Taipei side, who managed two 10s from their last two archers but fell short by one point. India clinched the gold medal with a final score of 230-229.

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6 October 2023

National News

Sarakka Central Tribal University approved for Telangana

On October 4th, the Union Cabinet approved the establishment of a tribal university in Telangana, named The Sarakka Central Tribal University. This university, with a budget of Rs 889 crore, will be located in Mulugu district. The initiative was a commitment made by the Central government as a part of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, which aimed to support both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in establishing tribal universities. Sammakka-Sarakka, a mother-daughter duo, holds a

special place in the local tribal folklore. Sammakka, married to Pagididda Raju, a Kakatiya dynasty chief, played a pivotal role in protesting against oppressive taxes imposed by local rulers. Sarakka, one of her daughters, lost her life in the battle, and Sammakka disappeared into the hills, believed to have transformed into a vermillion casket.

PM Modi inaugurated the country's first high-tech sports training center

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the country's first high-tech sports training centre for Divyangjan, named after former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh. This initiative aims to provide equal opportunities in sports, enhance talent, and encourage participation in various sports disciplines. Divyangjan from all over the country can practice and train in the Atal Bihari Training Center for Divyang Sports. The Atal Bihari Training Centre for Disability Sports is a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to training and nurturing athletes with disabilities. It houses world-class infrastructure and coaching staff to provide the best possible training environment for differently-abled athletes.

International News

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

Russian President Vladimir Putin recently announced the successful testing of a new nuclear-powered missile called "Burevestnik" during a speech that covered various topics, including nuclear weapons and international relations. The Burevestnik is a ground-launched, low-flying cruise missile with the capability to carry a nuclear warhead. What sets it apart is its nuclear propulsion, which allows it to remain airborne for an extended period and cover vast distances. The International Institute for Strategic Studies suggested in 2021 that the Burevestnik missile could have a theoretical range of up to 20,000 kilometers, making it capable of striking targets in the United States from various locations in Russia. Additionally, the missile operates at a low altitude (50-100 meters), making it challenging for air-defense radar systems to detect.

Russia Delivers Uranium for Bangladesh's Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant

Bangladesh recently received its first shipment of uranium from Russia, which will be used to fuel the country's Rooppur nuclear power plant. The plant, financed and constructed by Russia's Rosatom, is a significant project aimed at enhancing

Bangladesh's electrical grid and supporting its growing economy. The Rooppur power plant, located in Ishwardi, Bangladesh, will generate 2,400 megawatts of electricity when both units are fully operational. This capacity will provide electricity to approximately 15 million households in Bangladesh, making a substantial contribution to the nation's energy needs. Russia has funded the construction of the Rooppur power plant with an $11.38 billion loan. Bangladesh will begin repaying this loan over a period of two decades, starting in 2027. Once the Rooppur plant begins production, Bangladesh will join the ranks of over 30 countries with operational nuclear power reactors.

State News

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

In an important development towards gender equality and women's empowerment, the Madhya Pradesh government has announced a groundbreaking policy to reserve 35% of all state government job positions for women, excluding the Forest Department. This progressive amendment to the Madhya Pradesh Civil Services (Special Provision for Appointment of Women) Rules, 1997, comes just ahead of the upcoming state assembly elections. Additionally, an impressive 50% of teaching positions will be reserved for women, emphasizing the government's commitment to gender balance and women's empowerment in the education sector.

Arunachal Pradesh's Yak Churpi' Receives GI Tag

Slightly sour and salty churpi, a naturally fermented cheese prepared from the milk of Arunachali yak, nurtured in the high-altitude areas of Arunachal Pradesh, has recently received the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag. Churpi, a traditional cheese made from yak milk, has been a staple food for tribal communities in Arunachal Pradesh. Its nutritional profile, rich in protein, makes it a vital dietary source, especially in regions where fresh vegetables are scarce. Churpi is not just a food item; it holds deep cultural significance for the people of Arunachal Pradesh. It is considered an integral part of the tangible cultural and tribal heritage of the region. The cheese-making process, passed down through generations, is a testament to the rich cultural heritage of these tribes.

Economy News

RBI revealed its fourth bi-monthly Monetary Policy

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revealed its fourth bi-monthly monetary policy on October 6. The central bank has decided to maintain the repo rate at 6.50% and has adopted a stance of 'withdrawal of accommodation.'

The various rates are as under:

Policy Repo Rate: 6.50%

Standing Deposit Facility (SDF): 6.25%

Marginal Standing Facility Rate: 6.75%

Bank Rate: 6.75%

Fixed Reverse Repo Rate: 3.35%

CRR: 4.50%

SLR: 18.00%

The MPC is tasked with determining the policy repo rate, a crucial tool for achieving the inflation target set by the RBI. The MPC convenes a minimum of four times annually, with a quorum of four members required for the meeting to proceed.

"India's Services PMI Soars to 61 in September, Output Hits 13-Year Peak, Job Growth Steady"

In September, the services sector in India experienced a significant boost in both domestic and international demand, reaching a 13-year high, according to a survey-based index by S&P Global Market Intelligence. This index, known as the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), climbed to 61, up from 60.1 in August. Despite this growth, job creation was moderate. Business activity and new work intakes in the services sector surged to levels not seen in over 13 years. Both domestic and international sales to Asia, Europe, and North America contributed to this growth. The services sector accounts for 54% of Gross Value Added (GVA) in India's economy.

Banking News

SBI Introduces 'Mobile Handheld Device' To Drive Financial Inclusion

In a groundbreaking move aimed at enhancing accessibility and convenience in availing banking services, the State Bank of India (SBI) has introduced the 'Mobile Handheld Device' for its Financial Inclusion (FI) customers. This pioneering initiative, unveiled by the Chairman of SBI, Shri Dinesh Khara, seeks to empower financial inclusion and extend essential banking services to the masses. The Mobile Handheld Device is set to revolutionize banking accessibility by bringing kiosk banking directly to customers' doorsteps. It offers greater flexibility to Customer Service Point (CSP) agents, enabling them to reach out to customers wherever they are. The Mobile Handheld Device will initially provide five core banking services:

Cash withdrawal

Cash deposit

Fund transfer

Balance inquiry

Mini statement

RBI forms external working group on expected credit loss framework

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken a significant step by forming an external working group (WG) to address the expected credit loss (ECL) framework for loan loss provisioning. This initiative aims to gather independent insights into the intricacies of this substantial shift in the banking sector. The WG will be led by R. Narayanaswamy, former Professor at IIM Bangalore. It consists of eight experts, with representation from six banks and one member each from KPMG and the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad. The primary objectives of this working group include: 1)Defining Credit Risk Model Principles. 2)Addressing Credit Risk Elements. 3)Validation Methodology and 4)Prudential Floors.

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

Centre has decided to extend the tenure of Mr. Dinesh Khara as the Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI), the nation's largest lender, until August of the following year. Mr. Khara's tenure, which began on October 7, 2020, for a three-year term, is now set to continue until he reaches the age of 63. Mr. Khara has been the Managing Director and CEO of SBI Mutual Fund from November 2013 to August 2016. In August 2016, Mr. Khara was appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of the State Bank of India. Beyond his academic qualifications, Mr. Khara is also a Certified Associate of the

Indian Institute of Bankers (CAIIB). Dinesh Khara has a remarkable career trajectory within the State Bank of India. He embarked on his journey with the bank as a probationary officer in 1984. He has played a pivotal role in overseeing the merger of five associates and the Bhartiya Mahila Bank with SBI.

Awards News

Dilip Nongmaithem Receives Bal Sahitya Puraskar In Manipuri Language

The Sahitya Akademi, India's premier literary institution, has once again recognized and celebrated outstanding literary contributions with the prestigious 'Bal Sahitya Puraskar' for the year 2023. This time, the honor has been conferred upon Dilip Nongmaithem, an accomplished author in the Manipuri language, for his remarkable work titled "Ibemma Amasung Ngabemma." This award is a testament to his profound storytelling and significant impact on children's literature. The accolade consists of an engraved copper-plaque, symbolizing the recognition of the author's literary achievement, and a monetary prize of ₹50,000, which further supports and encourages their creative endeavors.

Nobel Peace Prize 2023 awarded to Narges Mohammadi

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

Appointments News

Ramaswamy N Appointed as Chairman and Managing Director of GIC Re

On October 4, 2023, the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re) made a significant announcement regarding the appointment of its new Chairman and

Managing Director (CMD), Ramaswamy N. This appointment is effective from October 1, 2023. The appointment of Ramaswamy N follows the standard succession planning procedures as Devesh Srivastava, the outgoing CMD, concluded his four-year term at the end of September 2023 upon reaching the age of 60. Ramaswamy N's association with GIC Re dates back to 1988 when he joined as a direct recruit officer. Over the course of more than three decades, he has demonstrated unwavering commitment and expertise in various facets of non-life insurance.

Sports News

Asian Games 2023, Abhishek, Ojas, Prathamesh Win Gold in Compound Men's Team Archery

India's men's compound team of Abhishek Verma, Ojas Deotale and Prathamesh Jawkar secured another archery gold medal after its 235-230 win against South Korea in the Asian Games. The third end started with Korea scoring 28/30 while India managed a perfect 30. Another nine from Korea in the second trio of arrows helped extend its lead to five points to 175-170 after End 3. India scored 60/60 in the final end to ensure that Korea got no space to make its way back. Earlier, the women's compound team of Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Aditi Gopichand Swami and Parneet Kaur bagged a gold medal.

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

India's Dipika Pallikal and Harinder Pal Sandhu won the gold medal in the mixed doubles squash tournament at the Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou, the People's Republic of China. Dipika Pallikal and Harinder Pal Sandhu defeated Malaysia's Aifa Azman-Mohd Syafiq Kamal 2-0 (11-10, 11-10) in the mixed doubles final. This is the first time a squash mixed doubles tournament has featured at the Asian Games. India has made its mark at the Asian Games 2023, achieving its best-ever medal tally in the history of the tournament. As of October 5, India has won a total of 84 medals, with 21 gold medals, 31 silver medals and 32 bronze medals.

Science and Technology News

Nokia Opens 6G Lab Facility In Bengaluru

Telecom giant Nokia has made a significant stride towards the future of wireless

technology with the establishment of its state-of-the-art 6G lab at the company's global R&D center in Bengaluru, India. This "first-of-its-kind" project is set to revolutionize the way we perceive and interact with the digital and physical worlds. The primary objective is to accelerate the development of fundamental technologies and innovative use cases that will shape the future of wireless communication. One aspect of Nokia's 6G lab is its research into "network as a sensor" technology which enables wireless networks to act as sensors, capable of perceiving objects, people, and movement without the need for traditional on-board sensors. Nokia's 6G lab aims to fully integrate sensing capabilities into the wireless network infrastructure.

Obituaries News

Veteran Communist Party Leader Anathalavattom Anandan Passed Away

Veteran CPI(M) leader and former legislator Anathalavattom Anandan, who played a key role in building the trade union base for the party in the state, passed away at a hospital on Thursday. He was 86 years old. Anathalavattom Anandan was born in Varkala, Thiruvananthapuram district, in 1937. His journey in the world of politics began in 1954. In 1956, Anandan became a member of the undivided Communist Party of India (CPI) and remained steadfast even after the party split in 1964. He was elected to the state assembly from the Attingal constituency three times, representing the people's interests and championing the cause of the working class. His tenure in the legislative assembly, spanning 1987, 1996, and 2007, demonstrated his commitment to serving the people of Kerala.

6 October 2023

National News

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International News

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

Russian President Vladimir Putin recently announced the successful testing of a new nuclear-powered missile called "Burevestnik" during a speech that covered various topics, including nuclear weapons and international relations. The Burevestnik is a ground-launched, low-flying cruise missile with the capability to carry a nuclear warhead. What sets it apart is its nuclear propulsion, which allows it to remain airborne for an extended period and cover vast distances. The International Institute for Strategic Studies suggested in 2021 that the Burevestnik missile could have a theoretical range of up to 20,000 kilometers, making it capable of striking targets in the United States from various locations in Russia. Additionally, the missile operates at a low altitude (50-100 meters), making it challenging for air-defense radar systems to detect.

Russia Delivers Uranium for Bangladesh's Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant

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

construction of the Rooppur power plant with an $11.38 billion loan. Bangladesh will begin repaying this loan over a period of two decades, starting in 2027. Once the Rooppur plant begins production, Bangladesh will join the ranks of over 30 countries with operational nuclear power reactors.

State News

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

In an important development towards gender equality and women's empowerment, the Madhya Pradesh government has announced a groundbreaking policy to reserve 35% of all state government job positions for women, excluding the Forest Department. This progressive amendment to the Madhya Pradesh Civil Services (Special Provision for Appointment of Women) Rules, 1997, comes just ahead of the upcoming state assembly elections. Additionally, an impressive 50% of teaching positions will be reserved for women, emphasizing the government's commitment to gender balance and women's empowerment in the education sector.

Arunachal Pradesh's Yak Churpi' Receives GI Tag

Slightly sour and salty churpi, a naturally fermented cheese prepared from the milk of Arunachali yak, nurtured in the high-altitude areas of Arunachal Pradesh, has recently received the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag. Churpi, a traditional cheese made from yak milk, has been a staple food for tribal communities in Arunachal Pradesh. Its nutritional profile, rich in protein, makes it a vital dietary source, especially in regions where fresh vegetables are scarce. Churpi is not just a food item; it holds deep cultural significance for the people of Arunachal Pradesh. It is considered an integral part of the tangible cultural and tribal heritage of the region. The cheese-making process, passed down through generations, is a testament to the rich cultural heritage of these tribes.

Economy News

RBI revealed its fourth bi-monthly Monetary Policy

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revealed its fourth bi-monthly monetary policy on October 6. The central bank has decided to maintain the repo rate at 6.50% and has adopted a stance of 'withdrawal of accommodation.'

The various rates are as under:

Policy Repo Rate: 6.50%

Standing Deposit Facility (SDF): 6.25%

Marginal Standing Facility Rate: 6.75%

Bank Rate: 6.75%

Fixed Reverse Repo Rate: 3.35%

CRR: 4.50%

SLR: 18.00%

The MPC is tasked with determining the policy repo rate, a crucial tool for achieving the inflation target set by the RBI. The MPC convenes a minimum of four times annually, with a quorum of four members required for the meeting to proceed.

"India's Services PMI Soars to 61 in September, Output Hits 13-Year Peak, Job Growth Steady"

In September, the services sector in India experienced a significant boost in both domestic and international demand, reaching a 13-year high, according to a survey-based index by S&P Global Market Intelligence. This index, known as the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), climbed to 61, up from 60.1 in August. Despite this growth, job creation was moderate. Business activity and new work intakes in the services sector surged to levels not seen in over 13 years. Both domestic and international sales to Asia, Europe, and North America contributed to this growth. The services sector accounts for 54% of Gross Value Added (GVA) in India's economy.

Banking News

SBI Introduces 'Mobile Handheld Device' To Drive Financial Inclusion

In a groundbreaking move aimed at enhancing accessibility and convenience in availing banking services, the State Bank of India (SBI) has introduced the 'Mobile Handheld Device' for its Financial Inclusion (FI) customers. This pioneering initiative, unveiled by the Chairman of SBI, Shri Dinesh Khara, seeks to empower financial inclusion and extend essential banking services to the masses. The Mobile Handheld Device is set to revolutionize banking accessibility by bringing kiosk banking directly to customers' doorsteps. It offers

greater flexibility to Customer Service Point (CSP) agents, enabling them to reach out to customers wherever they are. The Mobile Handheld Device will initially provide five core banking services:

Cash withdrawal

Cash deposit

Fund transfer

Balance inquiry

Mini statement

RBI forms external working group on expected credit loss framework

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken a significant step by forming an external working group (WG) to address the expected credit loss (ECL) framework for loan loss provisioning. This initiative aims to gather independent insights into the intricacies of this substantial shift in the banking sector. The WG will be led by R. Narayanaswamy, former Professor at IIM Bangalore. It consists of eight experts, with representation from six banks and one member each from KPMG and the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad. The primary objectives of this working group include: 1)Defining Credit Risk Model Principles. 2)Addressing Credit Risk Elements. 3)Validation Methodology and 4)Prudential Floors.

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

Centre has decided to extend the tenure of Mr. Dinesh Khara as the Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI), the nation's largest lender, until August of the following year. Mr. Khara's tenure, which began on October 7, 2020, for a three-year term, is now set to continue until he reaches the age of 63. Mr. Khara has been the Managing Director and CEO of SBI Mutual Fund from November 2013 to August 2016. In August 2016, Mr. Khara was appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of the State Bank of India. Beyond his academic qualifications, Mr. Khara is also a Certified Associate of the Indian Institute of Bankers (CAIIB). Dinesh Khara has a remarkable career trajectory within the State Bank of India. He embarked on his journey with the bank as a probationary officer in 1984. He has played a pivotal role in overseeing the merger of five associates and the Bhartiya Mahila Bank with SBI.

Awards News

Dilip Nongmaithem Receives Bal Sahitya Puraskar In Manipuri Language

The Sahitya Akademi, India's premier literary institution, has once again recognized and celebrated outstanding literary contributions with the prestigious 'Bal Sahitya Puraskar' for the year 2023. This time, the honor has been conferred upon Dilip Nongmaithem, an accomplished author in the Manipuri language, for his remarkable work titled "Ibemma Amasung Ngabemma." This award is a testament to his profound storytelling and significant impact on children's literature. The accolade consists of an engraved copper-plaque, symbolizing the recognition of the author's literary achievement, and a monetary prize of ₹50,000, which further supports and encourages their creative endeavors.

Nobel Peace Prize 2023 awarded to Narges Mohammadi

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

Appointments News

Ramaswamy N Appointed as Chairman and Managing Director of GIC Re

On October 4, 2023, the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re) made a significant announcement regarding the appointment of its new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), Ramaswamy N. This appointment is effective from October 1, 2023. The appointment of Ramaswamy N follows the standard succession planning procedures as Devesh Srivastava, the outgoing CMD, concluded his four-year term at the end of September 2023 upon reaching the age of 60. Ramaswamy N's association with GIC Re dates back to 1988 when he joined as a direct recruit officer. Over the course of more than three decades, he has demonstrated unwavering commitment and expertise in various facets of non-life insurance.

Sports News

Asian Games 2023, Abhishek, Ojas, Prathamesh Win Gold in Compound Men's Team Archery

India's men's compound team of Abhishek Verma, Ojas Deotale and Prathamesh Jawkar secured another archery gold medal after its 235-230 win against South Korea in the Asian Games. The third end started with Korea scoring 28/30 while India managed a perfect 30. Another nine from Korea in the second trio of arrows helped extend its lead to five points to 175-170 after End 3. India scored 60/60 in the final end to ensure that Korea got no space to make its way back. Earlier, the women's compound team of Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Aditi Gopichand Swami and Parneet Kaur bagged a gold medal.

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

India's Dipika Pallikal and Harinder Pal Sandhu won the gold medal in the mixed doubles squash tournament at the Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou, the People's Republic of China. Dipika Pallikal and Harinder Pal Sandhu defeated Malaysia's Aifa Azman-Mohd Syafiq Kamal 2-0 (11-10, 11-10) in the mixed doubles final. This is the first time a squash mixed doubles tournament has featured at the Asian Games. India has made its mark at the Asian Games 2023, achieving its best-ever medal tally in the history of the tournament. As of October 5, India has won a total of 84 medals, with 21 gold medals, 31 silver medals and 32 bronze medals.

Science and Technology News

Nokia Opens 6G Lab Facility In Bengaluru

Telecom giant Nokia has made a significant stride towards the future of wireless technology with the establishment of its state-of-the-art 6G lab at the company's global R&D center in Bengaluru, India. This "first-of-its-kind" project is set to revolutionize the way we perceive and interact with the digital and physical worlds. The primary objective is to accelerate the development of fundamental technologies and innovative use cases that will shape the future of wireless communication. One aspect of Nokia's 6G lab is its research into "network as a sensor" technology which enables wireless networks to act as sensors, capable of perceiving objects, people, and movement without the need for traditional on-board sensors. Nokia's 6G lab aims to fully integrate sensing capabilities into the wireless network infrastructure.

Obituaries News

Veteran Communist Party Leader Anathalavattom Anandan Passed Away

Veteran CPI(M) leader and former legislator Anathalavattom Anandan, who played a key role in building the trade union base for the party in the state, passed away at a hospital on Thursday. He was 86 years old. Anathalavattom Anandan was born in Varkala, Thiruvananthapuram district, in 1937. His journey in the world of politics began in 1954. In 1956, Anandan became a member of the undivided Communist Party of India (CPI) and remained steadfast even after the party split in 1964. He was elected to the state assembly from the Attingal constituency three times, representing the people's interests and championing the cause of the working class. His tenure in the legislative assembly, spanning 1987, 1996, and 2007, demonstrated his commitment to serving the people of Kerala.

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International News

Escalation of Israel-Palestine Conflict: "Operation Al-Aqsa Flood" Unleashed by Hamas Sparks Widespread Violence

The Israel-Palestine conflict has escalated dramatically as Hamas, the armed Palestinian group, initiated "Operation Al-Aqsa Flood," firing over 5,000 rockets into Israel. The situation quickly escalated into a full-scale war, resulting in significant casualties and widespread fear among civilians. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared a state of war, emphasizing the seriousness of the situation. He asserted that this was not a mere operation but a full-blown war. Netanyahu vowed that Hamas would face an unparalleled retaliation. The conflict between Israel and Palestinian militants, particularly Hamas, dates back to 2007. The latest escalation followed heightened tensions, exacerbated by Israel's closure of borders to Gazan workers. The conflict's toll included both combatants and civilians, with a significant number of casualties reported on both sides.

EU Approves World's First Green Bond Standards to Combat Greenwashing

In a significant move to combat greenwashing and assist investors in identifying truly

sustainable companies, European Union lawmakers have approved groundbreaking standards for companies issuing "green" bonds. This new initiative aims to promote transparency and credibility in the green bond market, preventing misleading climate-friendly claims. The European Parliament's approval marks the introduction of a voluntary standard for the use of the "European Green Bond" label, heralded as the first of its kind globally. This standard is designed to guide investors towards genuinely sustainable investment opportunities while providing issuing companies with confidence regarding the suitability of their bonds for environmentally conscious investors. These standards not only enhance transparency but also establish a registration system and supervisory framework for external reviewers of European green bonds. By ensuring rigorous oversight, the EU aims to bolster investor confidence in green bonds, thereby supporting the region's transition to climate neutrality.

State News

Tripura Becomes Fourth State To Implement E-Cabinet System

Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha recently introduced the state's e-cabinet system. This move positions Tripura as the fourth Indian state, and the second in the Northeast region, to adopt an e-cabinet system after Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Arunachal Pradesh. The introduction of this system signifies a commitment to paperless cabinet meetings, reducing the carbon footprint and promoting environmental sustainability through the use of digital tablets by ministers and bureaucrats. During the debut e-cabinet meeting, the government approved a proposal to procure a loan of Rs 160 crore from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The launch of the system was made possible through collaboration between the National Informatics Centre and the state's information and cultural affairs department.

Rajasthan to have three new districts: CM Ashok Gehlot

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

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

The inaugural edition of the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) – NITI Aayog State

Workshop Series on Enabling Women-led Development through Entrepreneurship was organized at CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) Auditorium, Goa. The workshop was held in collaboration with the Government of Goa with a focus on the western region of the country. Swayampurna Goa initiative: Celebrating the three-year milestone of the Swayampurna Goa initiative, Dr. Pramod Sawant emphasized its focus on skill development and the deployment of "Swayampurna Grameen Mitras" for the doorstep delivery of government services in every block and Panchayat. Swayampurna e-bazaar: Furthermore, the Chief Minister reiterated the role of women in socio-economic progress, announcing the Swayampurna e-bazaar during Dussehra, aimed at expanding market access through Common Service Centres.

All India Police Science Congress Kicked Off In Dehradun Today

The 49th All India Police Science Congress (AIPSC) organized by the Uttarakhand Police commenced today, October 7th at the Forest Research Institute in Dehradun. With the theme of "Policing in Amrit Kaal," this annual event, held under the auspices of the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D), promises to be a platform for insightful discussions on various aspects of modern policing. The 49th AIPSC selected six compelling themes for discussion, each addressing vital challenges and developments in contemporary policing. The 49th AIPSC is embracing technology for its management, showcasing its forward-thinking approach.

Economy News

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

The U.S. job market experienced substantial growth in September, bolstering the case for potential interest rate hikes by the Federal Reserve later this year. Nonfarm payrolls, a key indicator of employment trends, saw a remarkable increase of 336,000 jobs in September. The unexpectedly strong job growth in September has raised the prospects of the Federal Reserve taking action to raise interest rates in the near future. While the central bank's primary mandate is to control inflation and ensure price stability, a robust labor market can also influence its policy decisions. One notable aspect of the employment report is the moderation in wage growth. While job creation has surged, wage growth has shown signs of tempering, which could alleviate some concerns about inflationary pressures. The Federal Reserve often considers both employment and inflation when determining its monetary policy.

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

RBI Governor Das highlighted that the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is steadfastly dedicated to realigning inflation with the 4% target. The MPC has adopted a majority decision to withdraw accommodation, thereby fostering inflation alignment while supporting economic growth. Governor Das emphasized that the RBI's inflation target remains at 4% and not within the range of 2 to 6%. The central bank aims to actively pursue anti-inflationary measures while supporting growth to achieve this target. Governor Das acknowledged several risks to the economic outlook, including geopolitical tensions, global economic slowdown, volatility in financial markets, and uneven monsoon rains. These factors necessitate careful monitoring of incoming data and distinguishing between durable and transitory elements of price shocks.

Business News

REC Launches 'SUGAM REC' Mobile App For 54EC Bonds Investors

REC Limited, a prominent Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) specializing in Power Sector Financing and Development, announced the launch of its latest digital innovation, the 'SUGAM REC' mobile application. This exclusive app has been specifically designed to cater to the needs of investors interested in REC's 54EC Capital Gain Tax Exemption Bonds. With 'SUGAM,' REC aims to simplify the investment process and enhance the overall experience for both existing and prospective investors. The 'SUGAM REC' mobile application is set to revolutionize the way investors interact with REC's 54EC Bonds. With this app, investors can access a wealth of information about REC's 54EC Bonds, including features, benefits, and eligibility criteria. This feature empowers investors with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions.

Air India Installs Massive Engineering Warehouse At Delhi Airport

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

engineering spares, tools, and ground support equipment, this facility aims to significantly improve the turnaround time of flights operating out of Delhi. Air India's mega warehouse will serve as a one-stop solution for storing a wide range of aircraft spares, tools, and ground support equipment. This extensive inventory will cover everything from basic hardware to highly sophisticated and complex components such as avionics, hydraulics, structural elements, pneumatic systems, and mechanical parts.

Summits and Conferences News

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

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate the 10th edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Summit on January 10, 2024. The summit is scheduled to take place from January 10 to 12, 2024, at the Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. This event promises to be a golden opportunity for investors to engage with Gujarat and tap into its potential for growth and prosperity. This event holds significance as it aligns with the Prime Minister's vision of "Viksit Bharat @2047," emphasizing India's growth and development. The 10th Vibrant Gujarat Summit carries the theme of "Gateway to the future." This theme underscores the state's vision for the future and its role as a gateway to investment and development opportunities.

Appointments News

India's Historic Re-election as AIBD GC President

India has been re-elected as the President of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) General Conference (GC) for an unprecedented third successive term. This remarkable accomplishment, announced by Apurva Chandra, Secretary of the Information & Broadcasting Ministry, signifies a monumental moment in AIBD's history. The pivotal moment in India's broadcasting history unfolded during the 21st General Conference & Associated Meetings 2023. Established in 1977 under the auspices of UNESCO, AIBD stands as a prestigious institution with 92 member organizations spanning 44 countries. Among its members are 26 government representatives from various countries, comprising 48 broadcasting authorities and broadcasters, along with 44 affiliates from 28 nations and regions across Asia, Pacific, Europe, Africa, Arab States, and North America.

Reliance's JioMart Ropes In MS Dhoni As Brand Ambassador

Reliance Retail's JioMart has signed up Mahendra Singh Dhoni, India's most iconic cricketer, as its brand ambassador. Dhoni's association comes alongside the rebranding of their festive campaign JioMart to "JioUtsav, Celebrations Of India," which is scheduled to launch on October 8, 2023. The JioUtsav campaign is designed to celebrate India's vibrant culture, its people, and the various festivals that mark the country's calendar. This campaign takes inspiration from Dhoni's life, recognizing that he has given the nation numerous reasons to celebrate through his incredible cricketing achievements. JioMart has been steadily expanding its presence in the Indian e-commerce market. Whether it's electronics, groceries, fashion, or home essentials, JioMart aims to provide a wide array of choices to cater to every customer's needs. Currently, the platform collaborates with over 1000 artisans and offers a diverse range of 150,000 unique products.

Awards News

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

Dr. Joyeeta Gupta, an Indian-origin professor at the University of Amsterdam, has been awarded the prestigious Dutch Spinoza Prize for her groundbreaking work in the field of climate change. Dr. Joyeeta Gupta becomes the twelfth researcher affiliated with the University of Amsterdam to receive this prestigious award, highlighting the institution's commitment to excellence. Dr. Gupta's research primarily focuses on understanding and addressing the distributional challenges posed by climate change through effective governance. She emphasizes that climate change consequences directly impact the socio-economic disparities between affluent and underprivileged communities.

Sports News

INDIA GETS 100 MEDALs AT THE ASIAN Games 2023, First Time in History

India made history on October 7, 2023, by winning its 100th medal at the Asian Games for the first time ever. This is a remarkable achievement, and it is a testament to the hard work and dedication of Indian athletes and coaches. India's 100th medal was won by the women's kabaddi team, who defeated Chinese Taipei 26-25 in a thrilling final. This medal was fittingly won by a team that has been so dominant in kabaddi over the years. India's success at the Asian Games is a sign of the growing strength of Indian sport. India has consistently improved its performance at the Games over the years, and it is now one of the leading nations in Asian sport.

Indian men's hockey team Clinches Gold at Asian Games 2023

In a historic moment at the Gongshu Canal Sports Park Stadium in Hangzhou, the Indian men's hockey team secured a remarkable victory over Japan, winning the gold medal and earning a coveted spot at the Paris 2024 Olympics. In a highly anticipated showdown, India defeated Japan with a commanding scoreline of 5-1 in the Asian Games 2023 men's hockey final. This victory not only clinched the gold medal but also ensured a place in the upcoming Olympics. This victory marks the Indian men's hockey team's fourth gold medal at the Asian Games, following triumphs in 1966, 1988, and 2014 editions. Their consistent excellence continues to shine on the international stage.

Ojas Deotale is Nagpur's First Asian Games Gold Medalist

In the final of 19th Asian Games 2023, on Saturday at the Fuyang Yinhu Sports Centre, Indian archer Ojas Deotale from Nagpur won gold medal in the men's individual compound archery event. This victory marks Ojus Deotale third gold medal in the Asian Games 2023. Ojus Deotale's success can be attributed to his exceptional precision and determination in the archery field. Deotale missed the 10-point circle only once in the centre of the target only once as he compiled a score of 140 out of a possible 150 in the final in which each archer shoots five rounds (called End in archery) with three arrows in each round. Deotale, the 21-year-old from Nagpur in Maharashtra who won the World Championship in Berlin earlier this year, shot his only score of nine in the final on in the second arrow of the fourth round. In contrast, Verma encountered a nine off the third arrow in the second round and then got an eight on the second arrow of the third, thus pushing him three points behind Deotale.

Indian Women's Kabaddi Team Clinches Gold at Asian Games 2023

The Indian women's kabaddi team emerged victorious against a determined Chinese Taipei, securing the gold medal in the Asian Games 2023. In a fiercely contested match, the Indian women's kabaddi team clinched the gold medal by defeating Chinese Taipei with a nail-biting score of 26-25. The Indian women's kabaddi team previously secured gold at Guangzhou 2010. They defended their title at Incheon 2014. In Jakarta 2018, they finished as runners-up. Chinese Taipei showcased their growth in kabaddi by upgrading their bronze medal from Jakarta 2018 to silver in the Asian Games 2023.

Asian Games 2023, India wins Gold in Men's Cricket

In a historic debut at the Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou, China, the Indian men's cricket team secured the gold medal in the T20 competition. Their triumph came as a result of their higher T20 rankings, after the final against Afghanistan was postponed due to rain. This victory marked a significant moment in Indian cricket history, as they chose to skip previous editions of the Asian Games in 2010 and 2014. Afghanistan, ranked 10th in the ICC's T20 rankings, had to settle for silver after the final match against India was interrupted by rain. Rain halted the game when Afghanistan was 112 for five after 18.2 overs in the first innings, leaving them powerless to change their fate. Earlier in the day, Bangladesh defeated Pakistan in a last-ball thriller to win the bronze medal.

Jyothi Surekha Vennam wins Gold in Women's Archery at Asian Games 2023

India's Jyothi Surekha Vennam won gold medal in the women's individual compound archery event at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, on Saturday. Jyothi defeated So Chaewon of South Korea 149-145 in the final to complete a hattrick of gold medals, having already won titles in the women's and mixed team events. This remarkable achievement etched her status as a standout athelete in the field. Jyothi Surekha Vennam cliched her third Gold in the ongoing 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou as archers began the final day of games events on Saturday, October 7 on a high. Jyothi, who won a gold in the mixed team and women's team events, beat Korea's Chaewon So in the final 149-145.

Important Days News

World Cotton Day 2023

World Cotton Day, observed on October 7 each year, emphasises cotton's importance in generating jobs and supporting economies, especially in less developed countries. The theme for World Cotton Day 2023, 'Making cotton fair and sustainable for all, from farm to fashion,' is championed by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). The day's celebrations promote fair trade and help developing nations engage in all aspects of the cotton industry to improve their economies. The first World Cotton Day was proposed on October 7, 2019, and was officially approved by the WTO.
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National News

India To Observe 10 Oct As Good Manufacturing Practice Day

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

International News

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

The Swaminarayan Akshardham temple in Robbinsville Township, New Jersey, was inaugurated on 8th October 2023, under the guidance of its spiritual head, Mahant Swami Maharaj. Measuring an impressive 255ft x 345ft x 191ft, the New Jersey Akshardham temple is the second largest temple globally, only surpassed by Cambodia's Angkor Wat. This temple represents the third Akshardham, meaning the 'abode of the divine,' constructed by the organization, following two others in New Delhi and Gujarat, where BAPS is headquartered.

Biden orders US ships, warplanes to move closer to Israel

Amidst a recent attack by the Palestinian terrorist organization Hamas, President Joe Biden has promptly demonstrated solidarity with Israel. Given its role as a key arms provider to Israel, the United States is dispatching military reinforcements and aid to strengthen Israel's defense capabilities. The Pentagon's move to send the aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford and accompanying warships to the eastern Mediterranean, strengthening fighter aircraft squadrons in the region to bolster Israel's defense. The rapid provision of additional equipment and resources, including munitions, to the Israel Defense Forces, reaffirms the United States' unwavering support for Israel and its people.

Defence News

360 Degree Appraisal System Introduced In The Indian Navy

The Indian Navy, known for its commitment to excellence and continuous improvement, has

embarked on a transformative initiative known as the '360 Degree Appraisal Mechanism.' This initiative recognizes the invaluable contributions of both women and men in whites and aims to enhance their professional and personal development. The '360 Degree Appraisal Mechanism' involves a systematic survey process that includes input from a variety of sources, such as peers and subordinates, in addition to the traditional senior officer evaluations. Incorporating the '360 Degree Appraisal Mechanism' into its promotion process aligns with the Indian Navy's broader mission of remaining a 'Combat Ready, Credible, Cohesive, and Future-Proof Force.'

Army concludes 70 schemes under EP-4 worth 11000 Crore

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

Indian Air Force Unveils New Ensign On Its 91st Anniversary

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

Economy News

GST Council clears a few measures to boost foreign trade

The 52nd GST Council meeting took place under the leadership of Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman. The meeting covered various important decisions and recommendations related to changes in GST tax rates, trade facilitation measures, and compliance streamlining. The GST rates for food preparations made from millet flour have been adjusted. If sold loose, it will have a 0% GST rate, and if sold pre-packaged, it will have a 5% GST rate. Imitation zari threads made from metallized polyester or plastic film will be taxed at a 5% GST rate. Foreign going vessels converting to coastal runs will be subject to 5% IGST. Conditional IGST exemption is recommended for these vessels, provided they reconvert to foreign going vessels within six months. The GST rate on molasses will be reduced from 28% to 5%.

Banking News

YES Bank Becomes The First Lender To Offer 'ONDC Network Gift Card'

YES Bank, a prominent financial institution in India, has taken a significant leap forward in the digital commerce space by introducing the ONDC Network Gift Card. This move makes YES Bank the first bank in the country to issue such a card. In partnership with the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), this initiative aims to transform the shopping experience for Indian consumers. The ONDC Network Gift Card is at the forefront of democratizing digital commerce. Unlike traditional gift cards that restrict usage to a specific brand or store, this concept empowers customers to utilize the gift card for purchasing products from any brand and any seller across a wide array of segments. The ONDC Network Gift Card leverages the Rupay network, which is a homegrown payment system in India. Customers can load amounts ranging up to Rs 10,000 onto the card. This adaptability makes it suitable for various shopping budgets, from small purchases to more substantial shopping sprees.

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

To support the Indian government's Digital India initiative, the State Bank of India (SBI) introduced a new card called NAV-eCash on the Indian Navy's aircraft carrier, INS Vikramaditya. The launch took place on October 1, 2021, at Karwar. The NAV-eCash card is a significant step toward digital payments. It utilizes dual chip card technology, allowing payments both offline and online. This means it works even without real-time internet connectivity. In online mode, NAV-eCash functions like a regular debit or prepaid card, offering all standard features. It serves as an innovative solution for cashless transactions, particularly in areas lacking consistent internet access, such as warships at sea, offshore oil platforms, and remote regions.

Business News

RBI doubles UCB gold loan limit to ₹4 lakh

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has made an important announcement regarding gold loans offered by urban cooperative banks (UCBs). They have decided to double the lending limits for gold loans under a specific repayment scheme. RBI has decided to increase the existing limit for gold loans under a scheme called "bullet repayment" from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 4 lakh for urban cooperative banks. This change is applicable to UCBs that have met certain lending targets in the Priority Sector. In a bullet repayment scheme, borrowers don't need to worry about repaying the loan during its tenure. They only repay the interest and the principal amount at the end of the loan term.

Important Days News

Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Day 2023

Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Day is an annual celebration held on October 9th. This special day honors the establishment of the Indian Foreign Service, a critical institution for India's diplomatic, consular, and commercial representation worldwide. The Day serves as a reminder of the invaluable contributions made by diplomats and foreign service officers in promoting India's interests and fostering global cooperation. This day not only honors the past but also looks forward to a future where diplomacy continues to play a vital role in shaping India's international relationships. The roots of IFS Day trace back to a significant moment in Indian history. On October 9, 1946, the Indian government formally established the Indian Foreign Service.

World Post Day 2023

World Post Day is celebrated each year on October 9th to commemorate the creation of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in 1874. It's a day to recognize the crucial role that post offices play in connecting communities. Postal operators offer basic financial services to approximately 1.5 billion people worldwide, including payments, money transfers, and savings. The theme for World Post Day 2023, "Together for Trust: Collaborating for a safe and connected future," underscores the importance of governments and postal services working together to develop a digital single postal territory.

Indian Air Force Day 2023

The Indian Air Force (IAF) celebrated its 91st Air Force day on 8 October 2023. This special day was displayed over the holy Sangam area of Prayagraj by the Indian Air Force flying its aircraft in the luv Kush, Sugreev and a Bharat formation along with others. The celebration of Air Force day marks the participation of total number of 120 aircraft in the air display in Prayagraj. The celebration of Indian Air Force Day marks the establishment of the Indian Air Force was officially established on 8 October 1932 and the first AC flight came into being on 1 April 1933. The Indian Air Force day 2023's motto is "Nabham Sparsham Deeptham" which means touch the sky with glory. According to some data, the Indian Air Force employs over 1400 aircraft and 1,70,000 personnel.

Agreements News

India And Saudi Arabia Tie Up For Green Hydrogen

India and Saudi Arabia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on securing a green hydrogen supply chain and collaborating on power grid interconnection. This significant agreement was formalized in Riyadh during the MENA Climate Week 2023, with Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy, RK Singh, representing India and Saudi Minister of Energy, Abdulaziz bin Salman Al-Saud, representing Saudi Arabia . To fully realize the potential of energy sector cooperation, both countries have agreed to conduct Business-to-Business (B2B) Business Summits and regular interactions. These initiatives will help establish comprehensive supply and value chains in various areas of energy collaboration.

Awards News

Nobel Prize 2023 in Economic Sciences Awarded to Claudia Goldin

The Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2023 was awarded to Claudia Goldin "for having advanced our understanding of women's labour market outcomes". This year's Laureate in the Economic Sciences, Claudia Goldin, provided the first comprehensive account of women's earnings and labour market participation through the centuries. Her research reveals the causes of change, as well as the main sources of the remaining gender gap. Claudia Goldin was born in 1946 in New York, NY, USA. She has

done PhD from University of Chicago, IL, USA in 1972. She was Professor at Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA.

Sports News

David Warner becomes fastest to 1000 ODI World Cup runs

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

Kenyan Kiptum Breaks Marathon World Record

Kenya's Kelvin Kiptum left the running world in awe as he shattered the men's world record, clocking a time of just two hours and 35 seconds, to claim victory at the Chicago Marathon on Sunday. He broke the previous record set by Eliud Kipchoge in the 2022 Berlin Marathon. Kelvin Kiptum's journey to the pinnacle of marathon running has been nothing short of extraordinary. The young Kenyan had previously secured victories in his first two marathon appearances, first triumphing in Valencia and then repeating his success in the London Marathon. However, Kiptum's record-breaking performance in Chicago surpassed all expectations. Kiptum's victory marked the third time a men's world record had been established on the streets of Chicago, but it was the first time since Morocco's Khalid Khannouchi achieved the feat in 1999. The Kenyan runner's triumph sent shockwaves throughout the running community, igniting excitement and anticipation for future races.

Closing Ceremony Marks the End of the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou

The 19th Asian Games 2023 concluded with a spectacular closing ceremony held at the Hangzhou Olympics Stadium in China. The event celebrated the love and unity between the participating countries, showcasing the cultural diversity and sporting excellence of the Asian nations. Renowned hockey player P. R. Sreejesh had the honor of being India's flag bearer during the closing ceremony, representing his country with pride on the international stage. The official handover of the Asian Games flag, the current flag, and the torch marked the

beginning of a new chapter for the Asian Games. Raja Randhir Singh, the interim president of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), handed over these symbols to the Japanese delegation, signifying Nagoya, Japan, as the host city for the 20th Asian Games in 2026.

Obituaries News

British Filmmaker Terence Davies Dies At 77

British filmmaker Terence Davies, known for his thought-provoking and introspective films, has sadly passed away at the age of 77 at home after a short illness. He is recognized for his internationally acclaimed films, including 'Distant Voices, Still Lives' and 'The Long Day Closes'. Terence Davies was celebrated for his unique approach to cinema, which often delved into themes such as LGBT life, Catholicism, and other common aspects of human existence. His films were characterized by their sympathetic portrayals and philosophical depth, earning him a special place in the hearts of cinephiles worldwide. Davies' talent and unique storytelling style quickly gained recognition in the film industry. His first two films, 'Distant Voices, Still Lives' (1998) and 'The Long Day Closes' (1992), dealt with themes drawn from his personal life and received critical acclaim, earning spots on lists of the best British films.

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National News

What is the Digital India Act 2023?

The recent introduction of the Digital India Act 2023 (DIA) led by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY), demonstrates a proactive stance in governing and molding India's digital future. The Digital India Act 2023 aims to harmonize and consolidate digital laws in India, working alongside other key legislation like the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, National Data Governance Policy and Indian Penal Code amendments for cybercrime. Together, these laws create a framework to govern India's digital realm. The Digital India Act 2023 is a forward-looking legal framework designed to cater to India's burgeoning digital economy. The act provides an easily accessible adjudicatory mechanism for addressing online civil and criminal offenses, delivering timely remedies and enforcing the rule of law on the internet.

International News

India & Switzerland Celebrated 75 Yrs Of Friendship

India and Switzerland recently celebrated 75 years of their enduring friendship and fruitful collaboration in a beautiful Kumaon village nestled in the Uttarakhand region of India. The three-day event, aptly named 'Swiss Himalayan Bounty,' unfolded last week at a charming homestay in Satoli village, positioned at an altitude of 6,000 feet near Mukteshwar in the Nainital district. Robert Graf, the head of SHA (Swiss Himalayan Amity), outlined the organization's holistic approach to uplift the hill communities of Uttarakhand. He emphasized their efforts to promote the use of smokeless 'chulhas' (stoves) in the region, addressing both health and environmental concerns.

'India, Tanzania to sign 15 agreements with eye on USD 10 billion trade'

India and Tanzania are set to boost their bilateral cooperation as Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan visits India after an eight-year gap. The visit aims to elevate their relations to a strategic partnership and enhance trade and investment ties. Tanzanian Foreign Minister January Yusuf Makamba anticipates the signing of 15 agreements spanning government-to-government and private sector collaborations., Potential announcement of an extension of an Indian-assisted water project in Tanzania and India's substantial contribution of USD 1 billion for water projects in Tanzania. Tanzanian President will address a business forum in New Delhi aiming to sign new deals and partnerships between Tanzanian and Indian companies. The Objective will be to enhance trade volumes and expand bilateral trade to USD 10 billion in the next three years.

Israel imposes total siege on Gaza

Hamas launched a surprise offensive, leading to Israeli airstrikes on Gaza. Dozens of Palestinians killed and wounded, with over 570 casualties reported. More than 123,000 people displaced in Gaza due to the conflict. Israel imposed a total siege on the Gaza Strip and cut off water supply following a surprise offensive by Hamas. The conflict has escalated, causing civilian casualties and displacement. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed a strong response, threatening to turn Hamas sites to rubble. Israel imposed a complete siege on Gaza, impacting 2.3 million people: no electricity, food, water, or gas.

State News

Hyderabad's Landmark Achievement: India's First Solar Cycling Track

Hyderabad, India, proudly inaugurated its first solar roof cycling track, Healthway in a stride towards promoting eco-friendly and active mobility. This innovative track was officially opened by K Tarakarama Rao, the state Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister. Healthway aims to encourage cycling as a means of transportation while incorporating sustainability and technological innovation. Notably, Healthway is the second of its kind globally, emphasizing Hyderabad's commitment to embracing innovative and sustainable solutions for urban mobility. The 23-kilometer-long Healthway cycling track comprises two distinct stretches: a pink line spanning 8.5 kilometers from Nanakramguda to the Telangana State Police Academy and a blue line stretching 14.5 kilometers from Kollur to Narsingi. It boasts five different access points, making it convenient for cyclists across the city.

Bihar govt announces 10% reservation for EWS in judicial services

The Bihar government has unveiled a 10% reservation quota for people falling under the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) category in the state's judicial services, as well as in government-run law colleges and universities. The decision to implement this reservation stems from the state's commitment to promote social equality and provide opportunities to those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. The recent caste-based survey revealed key demographic insights, highlighting the need for targeted affirmative action. This amendment paves the way for the inclusion of EWS reservation in the higher judicial services, ensuring equitable representation in the judicial system. It also extends the EWS reservation to recruitment in the judicial wing of the Bihar Civil Services, aligning it with the broader commitment to providing opportunities for economically disadvantaged sections of society.

NLC India Ltd Secures 810 MW Solar PV Project In Rajasthan

NLC India Ltd. (NLCIL), a Navaratna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Ministry of Coal, has recently achieved a remarkable feat in the renewable energy sector by securing an 810 MW solar photovoltaic power project. This project is awarded by Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RRVUNL). The 810 MW solar photovoltaic power project in Bikaner marks the largest renewable energy project undertaken by NLCIL. With this addition, the total power project capacity in Rajasthan will surge to 1.36 GW, out of which 1.1 GW is green power. One of the key advantages of this project is its location in Rajasthan, which receives abundant solar radiation throughout the year. This positioning is set to enhance the project's Capacity Utilization Factor (CUF) significantly. Over its lifetime, the project is expected to generate more than 50 billion units of power. Moreover, it will offset over 50,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions, contributing to a cleaner and greener Rajasthan.

Defence News

Country's Oldest Think Tank USI To Hold First Ever Indian Military Heritage Festival

The United Service Institution of India (USI), the nation's oldest think tank, is set to host the first-ever Indian Military Heritage Festival (IMHF), scheduled for October 21 and 22. This groundbreaking event aims to fill a void in the national discourse and cultural calendar by shedding light on India's rich military history, contemporary security concerns, and the pursuit of self-reliance in military capabilities through the Atmanirbhar Bharat programs. The IMHF seeks to deepen our understanding of India's extensive military heritage and traditions. It will explore various aspects, including indigenous historical knowledge systems, India's role in the world wars, post-Independence challenges, and perspectives on war and conflict. Through insightful discussions, the festival aims to enlighten attendees from all walks of life about the multifaceted dimensions of India's military history.

Annual Joint HADR Exercise 2023 (AJHE-23) – CHAKRAVAT 2023

AJHE, known as CHAKRAVAT, is a significant initiative that has evolved since its inception in 2015 into a multi-agency endeavor that includes the active participation of India's armed forces, paramilitary forces, disaster response organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academic institutions, and international organizations. The Annual Joint HADR Exercise is conducted on a rotational basis by India's three armed services: the Indian Army, Indian Navy (IN), and Indian Air Force (IAF). The previous edition of the exercise was hosted by the IAF in Agra. In 2023, the Indian Navy is set to host AJHE-23 in Goa from October 9th to 11th. This exercise involves a scenario-based simulation to assess and refine disaster response strategies and coordination among participating agencies. On October 11, 2023, a Multi-Agency Capability Demonstration will take place. This segment will showcase rescue and relief drills, emphasizing the nuances and important lessons learned in disaster response.

Economy News

Urban unemployment rate drops to 6.6% in Q1

The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released its quarterly bulletin of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), shedding light on the urban unemployment situation in India during the first quarter of the fiscal year. In the April-June

quarter of this fiscal year, the urban unemployment rate in India dropped to 6.6%. This was the lowest level recorded since the PLFS bulletin was launched in 2018. Several states and union territories (UTs) reported higher urban unemployment rates than the national average. Notable ones include Himachal Pradesh (13.8%), Rajasthan (11.7%), Chhattisgarh (11.2%), Jammu and Kashmir (10.9%), and Kerala (10%). States/UTs with lower-than-national average unemployment rates included Delhi (2.7%), Gujarat (2.8%), West Bengal (4.4%), Bihar (6.1%), Maharashtra, and Haryana (6.5%).

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

According to the data, released by the Controller General of Accounts, the fiscal deficit for the April-August period in FY24 stood at Rs 6.42 trillion. This accounts for 36 per cent of the full-year target of Rs 17.87 trillion. The primary deficit, which represents the fiscal deficit without considering interest payments, stood at Rs 2.75 trillion. This amounts to 38.9 per cent of the full-year target of Rs 7.06 trillion. The primary deficit is a crucial metric as it reflects the government's ability to meet its expenditure commitments without relying on borrowing for interest payments. The total government expenditure during the April-August period in FY24 amounted to Rs 16.72 trillion. This represented 37.1 per cent of the annual goal, which is notably higher than the Rs 13.90 trillion spent during the same period in the previous fiscal year.

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

In a meeting with the Export Promotion Councils, the Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles Shri Piyush Goyal unveiled a significant initiative to issue system-based automatic 'Status Holder' certificates under the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023. Now, exporters will no longer need to submit applications for Status Certificates. Instead, the certification will be granted every year in August, based on annual export figures available with the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCIS), along with other risk parameters. This flexibility empowers exporters to adapt to changing market conditions and export patterns. This initiative aligns perfectly with the Digital India ethos, reflecting the Indian government's commitment to leveraging technology to enhance governance and streamline processes.

Banking News

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

Outlook Group announced the launch of its highly anticipated retirement planning event, "40After40," in association with IDFC FIRST Bank. This two-day event and expo will take place at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai on January 23-24, 2024. "40After40" aims to be a comprehensive platform for all retirement-related discussions, offering panel discussions, expert chats, masterclasses, interactions with financial planners, and product presentations. Outlook Group's "40After40" event is an extension of its commitment to raising awareness and facilitating discussions about the critical yet often neglected topic of retirement planning. The event's primary goal is to offer valuable insights and expert guidance to individuals, empowering them to make informed decisions and secure a prosperous retirement.

Business News

Irdai to deploy Bima Vahak in every Gram Panchayat before end of 2024

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has announced its ambitious plan to deploy 'Bima Vahaks' in every Gram Panchayat across the country by December 31, 2024. IRDAI has introduced the 'Bima Vahaks (BV)' initiative to expand insurance coverage and accessibility. The objective of this initiative remains women-centric, with the aim of creating a dedicated distribution channel that ensures the availability of insurance services in every corner of India. Bima Vahaks, both corporate and individual, are authorized to undertake various activities, including the collection of proposal information and Know Your Customer (KYC) documents. They will also coordinate services related to insurance claims.

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

The stock price of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ), an entity under the Gautam Adani-led group, experienced a significant decline of over 5 percent on NSE (National Stock Exchange) amid certain events affecting the region. APSEZ stated that it is actively monitoring the situation, particularly in South Israel, where the events are concentrated. The company is ensuring the safety of its employees and confirmed that all staff members are secure. APSEZ emphasized its preparedness, stating that it has a robust business continuity plan in place. This plan is designed to enable the company to respond effectively to any unforeseen events and challenges that may arise.

Important Days News

World Mental Health Day 2023

World Mental Health Day on October 10th is a global initiative that brings organizations and individuals together to commemorate the importance of mental well-being. World Mental Health Day was established by the World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH) in 1992. This occasion serves to enhance knowledge, raise awareness, and drive actions that promote and protect the mental health of all individuals as a fundamental human right. World Mental Health Day 2023 provides a platform for individuals and communities to unite under the theme "Mental health is a universal human right." The theme of World Mental Health Day 2023 serves as a catalyst for individuals and communities to address mental health challenges.

Schemes News

GST Amnesty Scheme 2023

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council, in its 52nd meeting has announced an amnesty plan to streamline the process of appealing against demand orders issued by tax inspectors. Under the existing GST rules, a individual has a three-month window from the date of issuance of an assessment order to file an appeal against it. This period can be extended by one additional month. To avail of this extended appeal period, taxpayers will be required to make an increased pre-deposit. Previously set at 10 percent of the tax demand, the pre-deposit has now been raised to 12.5 percent. This change ensures that taxpayers have a vested interest in their appeals while providing some financial flexibility. The GST Council's decision to extend the appeal deadline and increase the pre-deposit threshold is expected to benefit a significant number of taxpayers who were unable to file appeals within the previous time constraints. This move reflects the Council's commitment to making the GST system more taxpayer-friendly.

Summits and Conferences News

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

Sri Lanka to take over as Chair of IORA for the next two years. Foreign Ministers of 16 countries will attend IORA meeting in Colombo including Foreign Ministers of India, Bangladesh, Mauritius, Iran, Malaysia, and South Africa. The IORA Council of Ministers meeting is the highest decision-making body of the Association. It is held annually to discuss

and decide on IORA priorities.

The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is an intergovernmental organisation of 23 member states and 11 dialogue partners from Africa, West Asia, South Asia, South-East Asia, and Oceania. It was established in 1997 to promote regional cooperation and development.

Science and Technology News

Solar and Lunar Eclipse in October 2023

October 2023 is set to be a remarkable month for astronomy enthusiasts and stargazers around the world. It will mark a rare celestial event when both Solar and Lunar eclipses will grace the night skies. On October 14, 2023, stargazers can witness an annular solar eclipse, where the sun forms a mesmerizing "ring of fire" around the moon. The spectacle will grace the night sky, commencing at 11:29 PM and concluding at 11:34 PM (New Delhi Time). On 28th October 2023, the moon will gracefully traverse through Earth's shadow, creating a partial lunar eclipse. This captivating lunar spectacle will unfold between 01:06 and 02:23 IST. Stargazers in various regions, including Asia, America, Europe and Africa, will be treated to this celestial spectacle. In New Delhi, the lunar eclipse will commence at 11:31 PM and conclude at 03:36 AM.

Obituaries News

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

Chef Michael Chiarello, a culinary expert known for his extraordinary talent and passion for food, passed away at Queen of the Valley Medical Center in Napa, California. He succumbed to an acute allergic reaction that led to anaphylactic shock, as announced by his company Gruppo Chiarello in a statement. Chiarello's influence extended far beyond the walls of his restaurants. He graced television screens for a decade, hosting shows on PBS, Food Network, Fine Living, and the Cooking Channel. His Emmy-winning cooking show, "Easy Entertaining With Michael Chiarello," ran for an impressive 10 seasons on Food Network, where he shared his culinary expertise and inspired viewers to explore the art of cooking. Throughout his career, Chiarello received numerous accolades for his contributions to the culinary world. He was named Chef of the Year by Food & Wine magazine in 1985 and later received the prestigious CIA's Chef of the Year award in 1995.

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National News

Petroleum Minister Inaugurates 26th Energy Technology Meet At Bharat Mandapam

In the esteemed presence of notable dignitaries, Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, the Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Housing and Urban Affairs inaugurated the 26th Energy Technology Meet at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. Highlighting India's growing energy demand, Minister Puri projected:
Currently, India stands as the world's third-largest consumer of oil.

The third-largest LPG consumer.

The fourth-largest LNG importer.

The fourth-largest refiner.

The fourth-largest automobile market globally.

Shri Hardeep Singh Puri also announced that India has exceeded its biofuel blending targets. Furthermore, the ambitious target of 20 percent biofuel blending, originally set for 2030, has now been advanced to 2025.

International News

Sheikh Hasina unveils largest project built with Chinese aid

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina marked a historic moment in the country's infrastructure development by inaugurating the 82-km Padma Bridge Rail Link. The inauguration ceremony took place at Mawa Railway Station in Munshiganj. The Padma Bridge Rail Link stands out as the largest infrastructure project in Bangladesh financed under Chinese preferential loans, with the Exim Bank of China providing a substantial loan of Tk 21,036.70 crore. This landmark initiative is poised to directly benefit 80 million people and could potentially boost Bangladesh's economic growth by 1.5%. The project, estimated to cost Tk 39,246.80 crore, holds the promise of a considerable economic boost for Bangladesh. It is expected to increase the country's economic growth by enhancing connectivity and facilitating smoother transportation across regions.

What is Hamas, the Palestinian militant group?

In October 2023, Hamas, an Islamist militant group governing the Gaza Strip, launched a

massive surprise attack on southern Israel, killing hundreds of civilians and soldiers and taking dozens as hostages. Hamas, short for Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiya (Islamic Resistance Movement), was founded in 1987 by Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, a Palestinian cleric with ties to the Muslim Brotherhood. It emerged during the first intifada as the political arm of the Brotherhood in Gaza. It gained popularity for the social services it provided and as a rejection of Fatah's perceived corruption. Since Israel's withdrawal from Gaza in 2005, Hamas has been the de facto authority in the territory. It won a majority in the PA's legislature in 2006 and established its government.

State News

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

The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India, recently unveiled the 'A-HELP' (Accredited Agent for Health and Extension of Livestock Production) programme in the state of Jharkhand. 'A-HELP' program is a groundbreaking initiative aimed at empowering women by engaging them as Accredited Agents who will significantly contribute to disease control, animal tagging, and livestock insurance. The initiative has been made possible through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between DAHD (Department of Animal husbandry and Dairying) and the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) under the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India.

3000 Crore has been approved by Assam for economic corridor project

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

Uttarakhand CM Launches App & Portal To Boost Self-Employment

The state government of Uttarakhand took a significant step towards empowering its youth

by launching the 'Yuva Uttarakhand mobile application.' The primary objective of this innovative app is to provide valuable information about self-employment opportunities to the state's unemployed youth. In addition to the 'Yuva Uttarakhand mobile application,' the Chief Minister also inaugurated the 'Prayag portal.' This portal is dedicated to providing job information and serves as a comprehensive resource for job-seeking youth in the state. Chief Minister Dhami, also announced the establishment of self-employment centers in all districts of Uttarakhand which will serve as hubs where local residents can access information and application details related to various self-employment schemes. In a remarkable initiative, two such centers were inaugurated in the first phase, located in Dehradun and Udham Singh Nagar.

Economy News

India's Net Direct Tax Collections Surge by 21.8%, Surpassing Half of Budget Projections

India has witnessed a remarkable increase in its net direct tax collections, with a substantial growth rate of 21.8% amounting to ₹9.57 lakh crore by October 9. This surge has exceeded over half of the annual Budget estimates. The boost is primarily attributed to a 32.5% rise in personal income tax revenues and a 12.4% increase in corporate taxes. Personal income tax collections have seen a remarkable upswing of 32.5%. This highlights the robust contribution of individual taxpayers to the country's tax revenue. Corporate taxes have also played a crucial role in this tax collection surge, showing a healthy increase of 12.4%.

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

In its October 2023 World Economic Outlook (WEO) report, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) raised India's economic growth forecast for the fiscal year 2023-24. The growth projection was increased from 6.1% to 6.3% due to stronger-than-expected consumption during April-June. The report also highlighted India's resilient domestic economic activity and the positive impact of robust domestic demand, contrasting global economic trends. The IMF also anticipated retail inflation in India to rise to 5.5% in fiscal 2023-24 before easing to 4.6% in 2024-25. This projection aligns with the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) inflation target over the medium term.

Banking News

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

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken a significant step to address supervisory concerns by ordering Bank of Baroda (BoB) to immediately halt the onboarding of new customers onto their mobile app, 'bob World'. The directive from RBI underscores the presence of material supervisory concerns that have arisen during the customer onboarding procedures of 'bob World,' the mobile app provided by Bank of Baroda. These concerns have prompted RBI to intervene and ensure the rectification of these deficiencies. Bank of Baroda is committed to ensuring that the existing customers who are already onboarded onto the 'bob World' app will not experience any disruptions or inconveniences due to this suspension. The bank is taking steps to guarantee the seamless continuation of services for its current user base.

Important Days News

International Day of the Girl Child 2023

The International Day of the Girl, observed every year on October 11, is a global initiative dedicated to raising awareness about gender inequality and advocating for the rights and empowerment of girls. The International Day of the Girl was first celebrated in 2012. This day was established to focus attention on the unique challenges girls face and to promote their empowerment and the fulfillment of their human rights. The day was born out of the recognition that girls, like boys, deserve equal opportunities and rights. The theme for the International Day of the Girl in 2023 is "Invest in Girls' Rights: Our Leadership, Our Well-being." This theme emphasizes the need to invest in girls, recognizing that their leadership and well-being are crucial for a fairer and more equal future.

Schemes News

Govt Introduces Shreshta Scheme For Quality Education Of Scheduled Caste Students

In a remarkable move towards enhancing education and bolstering the socio-economic advancement of Scheduled Caste (SC) students, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has unveiled the 'Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas' (SHRESHTA). SHRESHTA, designed to provide high-quality education to SC students, aims to create an environment conducive to their holistic development and secure their future prospects. The scheme's implementation comprises two distinct approaches. The first category includes top CBSE/State Board-affiliated private residential schools known as SHRESHTA institutions. The second implementation approach relates to existing NGO/VO-operated schools and hostels. This approach is specifically

intended for educational institutions up to the 12th grade that are managed by voluntary organizations (VOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Ranks and Reports News

Mukesh Ambani Surpasses Gautam Adani As India's Richest On Hurun List

According to the 360 ONE Wealth Hurun India Rich List for 2023 released recently, Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani has surged ahead of Adani Group's Gautam Adani to claim the title of the richest Indian. Mukesh Ambani, the chairman of Reliance Industries, saw his wealth grow by a modest 2 percent, reaching a staggering Rs 8.08 lakh crore. This significant wealth increment has solidified his position as the wealthiest individual in India. Cyrus Poonawalla, the Managing Director and Chairman of Serum Institute of India (SII), retained his position as the third wealthiest individual in India. His fortune experienced an impressive 36 percent jump, reaching Rs 2.78 lakh crore. Shiv Nadar, the founder and chairman of HCL Technologies, maintained his position as the fourth richest Indian. His wealth increased by 23 percent to reach Rs 2.28 lakh crore.

Agreements News

Bridgestone Partners With Tata Power To Install EV Chargers For Four Wheelers

Tyre manufacturer Bridgestone India has announced a significant collaboration with Tata Power to promote electric mobility in the country. Under this partnership, Tata Power will install high-capacity DC fast chargers at Bridgestone dealerships across India, making it easier for electric vehicle (EV) owners to recharge their vehicles quickly and conveniently. Tata Power will deploy 25/30 KWh capacity DC fast chargers, which are capable of charging a four-wheeler within one hour. This rapid charging capability allows for the efficient use of these chargers, with the potential to serve 20-24 vehicles in a single day. The chargers will operate 24×7, ensuring round-the-clock availability for EV owners. To ensure a seamless charging experience, Tata Power will provide installation and charging assistance, along with maintenance support for the chargers. In addition, they will offer remote vehicle charging monitoring and e-payment services through the EZ Charge mobile application.

India, Italy sign defence agreement

India and Italy have cemented their defense cooperation with the signing of a significant agreement. The agreement, signed during the official visit of India's Defense Minister,

Rajnath Singh, to Italy, encompasses various aspects of security and defense collaboration. The agreement outlines the following key areas of bilateral cooperation:

1.Security and Defense Policy: India and Italy will collaborate on defining and shaping security and defense policies.

2.Research and Development: Joint efforts will be made in research and development projects related to defense technology and innovation.

3.Education in the Military Field: Both nations will promote educational exchanges and partnerships in military training and knowledge sharing.

4.Maritime Domain Awareness: Enhancing awareness and security in maritime domains will be a focus of the cooperation.

5.Sharing of Defense Information: India and Italy will exchange crucial defense information to strengthen their defense capabilities.

6.Industrial Cooperation: The two nations will work together on co-development, co-production, and establishing joint ventures in the defense sector.

Appointments News

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

The Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) has recently elected Navneet Munot, the Managing Director and CEO of HDFC Asset Management, as the Chairman during a Board meeting. Munot, a Chartered Accountant and a CFA charter holder, boasts over three decades of experience in the financial services sector. He will succeed A Balasubramanian, Managing Director of Aditya Birla Sun Life Asset Management Company, who will complete two consecutive terms in October. The Board of AMFI has also elected Anthony Heredia, MD and CEO of Mahindra Manulife Mutual Fund, as the Vice-Chairman. With his extensive experience in the investment management industry, Heredia takes over the role from Radhika Gupta, MD of Edelweiss Asset Management.

Sports News

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

Iranian Mohammadreza Shadloui Chiyaneh became the most expensive overseas player at the auction and was brought by Puneri Paltan for Rs 2.35 crore. Shadloui's countryman Fazel

Atrachali became the second-most expensive overseas player and was sold to the Gujarat Giants for Rs 1.60 crore. Maninder Singh stays with the Bengal Warriors, as they used their Final Bid Match (FBM) card to get their captain back for Rs 2.12 crore. He is the second-most expensive domestic player and third overall.

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

The 37th edition of the National Games, scheduled for 2023, is set to take place in the picturesque state of Goa. After multiple delays and changes in hosting rights, the event is finally slated to run from October 26 to November 9, marking the first time Goa has hosted this prestigious competition. The National Games 2023 will feature an impressive 43 sports, including both Olympic and indigenous disciplines, a significant increase from the 36 sports in the previous edition. Several sports will make their National Games debut, such as Kho Attachable, yogasana, and mallakhamb. With over 10,000 athletes expected to participate, the National Games 2023 promises to be a grand spectacle of Indian sports talent. The various sporting competitions will be spread across multiple venues throughout Goa. However, cycling and golf will be held in New Delhi.

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

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) with the Olympic Museum has aligned with Reliance Foundation to build on the success of the Olympic Values Education Programme (OVEP) in India and signed a new cooperation agreement. This agreement underscores the organisations' shared priority to promote Olympic values through sport among young people. The new cooperation was agreed upon by IOC President Thomas Bach and Nita Ambani, IOC Member in India and Reliance Foundation Founder Chairperson, during a visit to the Reliance Foundation Young Champs (RFYC) football academy in Mumbai. The IOC and Reliance Foundation plan to focus on three main areas: 1) Grade-specific activities in selected schools to promote Olympism and the Olympic values and instill positive behavioural changes. 2) Virtual and in-person sessions between athletes and students to promote physical activity and discuss Olympic values. 3) Raise awareness of Olympic values through interactive games, quizzes and workshops at sporting and educational events.

Science & Technology News

ISRO To Conduct First Test Flight Of Gaganyaan Mission On October 21

Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for Space, Science, and Technology, officially announced

that, on October 21, The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is poised to make history as it prepares to conduct the first in a series of critical test flights in anticipation of the much-anticipated Gaganyaan mission, which marks India's maiden charge into manned space exploration. The forthcoming test flight will be executed at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. The primary objective of this mission is to evaluate the "crew module," the pivotal component that will house Indian astronauts during their journey into space. The test mission entails launching the crew module into outer space and orchestrating its return to Earth, with a successful touchdown in the Bay of Bengal. To ensure a seamless and safe recovery process, the Indian Navy has initiated mock operations to prepare for this momentous occasion.

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CURRENT AFFAIRS SNIPPETS

12-10-2023

International News

1.India, China Hold 20th Round Of Military Talks In Ladakh

- **India** and **China** held their **20th corps commander-level meeting** at the Chushul-Moldo border in Ladakh. Both countries engaged in a series of diplomatic discussions to address the persisting issues along the **Line of Actual Control** (LAC) in eastern Ladakh.
- These talks, held at the Corps Commander level, aimed to foster an open and constructive atmosphere, fostering an early and mutually acceptable resolution. While these discussions did not yield a clear breakthrough, they emphasized the commitment of both nations to peaceful dialogue and negotiation.
- One of the key takeaways from these recent talks is the importance of a frank, open, and constructive dialogue between the two nations. Despite historical

differences and geopolitical competition, maintaining a diplomatic channel is crucial to finding a mutually acceptable resolution.

National News

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

- Union Minister of Ayush and Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal**, announced a **month-long celebration drive** regarding the **8th National Ayurveda Day.** This year, Ayurveda Day falls on **November 10, 2023**, and it serves as a platform to address specific health issues through Ayurveda.
- The month-long Ayurveda Day celebrations are designed to create awareness and educate students, farmers, and the general public about the benefits of Ayurveda. This day is observed as a tribute to **Lord Dhanvantari**, the God of Ayurveda, and coincides with **Dhanteras**, a day dedicated to seeking blessings for good health.
- The theme, “Ayurveda for One Health,” resonates with India’s G20 Presidency theme, “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam,” which means the world is one family. Ayurveda Day 2023 carries the tagline “**Ayurveda for everyone on every day**,” emphasizing its applicability to every aspect of life, from humans to animals, plants, and the environment.

3.Operation Ajay Set To Evacuate Indian Nationals From Israel

- **India** has launched **Operation Ajay,** a dedicated initiative to facilitate the safe return of its citizens from **Israel** amidst the ongoing developments in the region. External Affairs Minister **Dr S Jaishankar** announced this operation, emphasizing the government’s commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of Indian nationals abroad.

- Special charter flights and other arrangements are being organized to bring back Indian citizens from Israel. The Indian Embassy in Israel has initiated contact with registered Indian citizens, starting with the first group, for the special flight. Subsequent flights will follow, and communication will be made accordingly.
- A 24-hour Control Room has been established to monitor the situation and assist Indian nationals. Indian nationals in the region are urged to stay calm, vigilant, and follow security advisories issued by the authorities.

4.Anurag Thakur Unveils Trailer For Animated Series "Krish, Trish, And Baltiboy – Bharat Hain Hum"

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

5.Union Cabinet Approves Setting Up Of 'Mera Yuva Bharat' Autonomous Body For Youth Development

- **The Union Cabinet,** under the leadership of Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi,** has approved the establishment of an autonomous body named **"Mera Yuva Bharat" (MY Bharat).**

- **MY Bharat** aims to enable equitable access for young individuals to realize their aspirations and contribute to the holistic development of the nation across various government sectors. This body is designed to serve as a pivotal mechanism for youth development, with a strong emphasis on technology-driven solutions.
- This initiative aligns with the **National Youth Policy** and targets individuals between the **ages of 15-29,** with a subset of programs catering to those **aged 10-19**. **Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat)** will be officially launched on **31st October, 2023,** which coincides with **National Unity Day.**

6.Dr. Jitendra Singh Launches The Intelligent Grievance Monitoring System (IGMS) 2.0 Public Grievance Portal And Automated Analysis In Tree Dashboard

- On **29th September 2023**, **Dr. Jitendra Singh,** the Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions, inaugurated the Special Campaign 3.0 in the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).**
- This campaign, themed **"Digital DARPG,"** is aimed at enhancing service delivery, utilizing emerging technologies, and ensuring efficient management within government offices.
- Under the **"Digital DARPG"** initiative, **DARPG** initiated a comprehensive approach towards unified service delivery portals. Collaborating with **27 Senior Officials,** including **Right to Service Commissioners from** States/UTs, DARPG identified 164 services for pan-India e-service delivery, in addition to the 56 mandatory e-services.

State News

7.UP Declares Gangetic Dolphin As State Aquatic Animal

- **Uttar Pradesh** Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath** has made a significant announcement regarding the **Gangetic Dolphin,** designating it as the state's aquatic animal. This move highlights the importance of conserving these unique creatures and preserving the purity of the rivers and ponds they inhabit.
- Uttar Pradesh's decision to declare the Gangetic Dolphin as the state aquatic animal and the launch of the **"Meri Ganga Meri Dolphin 2023" campaign** demonstrate the government's commitment to wildlife conservation, environmental preservation, and raising awareness about the importance of maintaining the purity of rivers and ponds.
- In addition to recognizing the importance of the Gangetic Dolphin, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has proposed a plan to train individuals from villages connected to the Tiger Reserves as guides. This initiative aims to create employment opportunities and raise awareness within the local community about the importance of wildlife conservation.

Economy News

8.IMF Maintains 2.5% Growth Forecast For Pakistan

- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has decided to keep **Pakistan's economic growth forecast at 2.5%.** This figure remains consistent with the IMF's previous report and is in line with official projections, although it falls short of the official target by 1%.
- Among international financial institutions, the IMF's 2.5% growth projection is the highest. In contrast, the World Bank has forecasted 1.7% growth, the Asian Development Bank predicts 1.9%, and the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) anticipates growth around 2%.
- The IMF's report projects that Pakistan's economic growth may reach 5% by the year 2028, with this forecast subject to change due to rapid economic developments within the country.

Business News

9.SEBI Said To Probe Adani- Gulf Ties

- **The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has launched an investigation into the relationship between the **Adani Group**, a prominent Indian conglomerate, and the **Gulf Asia Trade & Investment** fund based in the **British Virgin Islands.**
- **The Gulf Asia** fund, reportedly owned by Dubai-based businessman **Nasser Ali Shaban Ali,** allegedly invested in Adani's listed companies after SEBI's directive in June 2013, which required companies to increase public shareholding to at least **2 percent** of their total floats.
- SEBI officials are closely examining whether the **Adani Group** and the **Gulf Asia** fund acted "in concert," potentially violating regulations. The probe aims to determine whether there have been violations of share ownership regulations, following allegations of accountancy fraud and stock manipulation made against the **Adani Group.**

10.Bharti Group To Acquire French Insurer AXA's 49% Stake In Bharti AXA Life Insurance Co.

- The **Bharti Group** has announced its acquisition of **French insurer AXA's** 49% stake in **Bharti AXA Life Insurance Co**. This move marks the consolidation of a venture that was jointly run for nearly two decades.
- The acquisition by Bharti Group, conducted through its **Bharti Life Ventures arm**, is expected to conclude by December this year, subject to regulatory approvals.
- This development positions Bharti Group to compete more effectively with established players like HDFC Life Insurance, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, SBI Life Insurance, and LIC in a market that ranks ninth in the world, according to the latest annual report by the insurance regulatory body.

11.BOB To Raise 10,000 Crore Rupees To Fund Affordable Housing, Infra

- **On October 11,** the **Bank of Baroda's** board approved a plan to raise up to Rs **10,000 crore** through long-term bonds. These funds will be used to support infrastructure development and affordable housing.
- The bank's statement mentioned that this fundraising could be done in single or multiple tranches during the **fiscal year 2023-24** and beyond, depending on the need.
- Bank of Baroda reported a **17 percent year-on-year (YoY)** growth in total advances, reaching **Rs 10.3 lakh crore,** with domestic advances up by **16.6 percent YoY.** The international book also saw a **21 percent YoY increase (6.4 percent quarter-on-quarter).**

Important Days News

12.World Sight Day 2023 Is Observed On 12th October

- Every year, the **second Thursday of October** marks a crucial occasion on the global calendar, **World Sight Day.** This day is dedicated to raising awareness about vision impairment and blindness. This year it falls on **12th October.**
- The theme for World Sight Day 2023, **'Love Your Eyes at Work,'** resonates deeply in our fast-paced, digital age where we increasingly strain our eyes through prolonged screen time and demanding work schedules. It emphasizes the importance of caring for our eyes while navigating the challenges of the modern workplace.
- The roots of World Sight Day trace back to **October 8, 1984,** when the Lions Club Foundation initiated this awareness day. Over time, it evolved into a collaborative effort led by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** and the **International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IABP),** encompassing NGOs, eye care groups and hospitals globally.

Agreements News

13.IGNOU & ICAI Ink MoU For Academic Collaboration

- The **Indira Gandhi National Open University** (IGNOU) has recently renewed and restructured its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India** (ICAI).
- This MoU provides ICAI students with an opportunity to **acquire academic qualifications** without compromising their practical knowledge during their articleship. Both ICAI and IGNOU will play a pivotal role in providing students with a balanced blend of academic and practical exposure.
- The significance of this agreement is underscored by its alignment with the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020** and the curriculum and credit framework set forth by the **University Grants Commission** (UGC).

Awards News

14.MRPL Secured ‘Best Innovation In Refinery’ Award For 2022-23

- **Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd** (MRPL) has once again clinched the prestigious ‘**Best Innovation in Refinery**‘ award for the year **2022-23**, bestowed by the **Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** at the **26th Energy Technology Meet 2023**.
- One of the pivotal aspects of the patent was the **development of a hydrocarbon gas composition** that could effectively replace energy-intensive stripping steam in the distillation process. This breakthrough not only reduced energy consumption but also contributed to environmental sustainability by minimizing resource usage.
- The ‘Best Innovation in Refinery’ award was presented to a team led by MRPL’s Managing Director, **Sanjay Varma**. This recognition ceremony took place at the **Energy Technology Meet 2023**, a prestigious event held in New Delhi. The Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, **Hardeep Singh Puri,** had the honor of presenting the award to MRPL’s accomplished team.

Books & Authors News

15.Vivek Agnihotri Launches His Latest Book “The Book Of Life: My Dance With Buddha For Success”

- **Vivek Agnihotri,** director of The Kashmir Files, has launched his latest book, **“The Book of Life: My Dance with Buddha for Success” i**n Lucknow. He also directed a medical drama film ‘The Vaccine War’ in 2023.
- **Balram Bhargava** is the writer of the book on which the movie is based. Bhargava’s book, ‘Going Viral – Making of Covaxin: The Inside Story’, documents his experiences.
- This book is an initiative which will herald a new era in the realm of books, wherein the creativity that is innate in every one of us finds expression. For this, and to establish a connection between him and readers, Vivek Ranjan Agnihotri has linked this book to the Internet.

Sports News

16.Manikanta H Hoblidhar Sets New National Record In 100m Sprint

- The **62nd National Open Athletics Championships 2023** kicked off with a bang in **Bengaluru**, as **Manikanta Hoblidhar** from **Services** etched his name in the record books by smashing a new national record in the **men’s 100m category**.
- In the semi-finals of the Men’s 100m, Manikanta Hoblidhar sprinted from the third lane, with extraordinary speed and determination. He powered his way to victory, crossing the finish line in first place with a remarkable timing of **10.23 seconds.** Earlier in the day, Manikanta had showcased his remarkable speed with a time of 10.50 seconds in the preliminary heat.
- The podium for the men’s 100m at the 62nd National Open Athletics Championships 2023 featured other talented athletes as well. **Elakkiyadasn K** from **Railways** secured the **second position** with a time of 10.49 seconds. **Saisiddharth R** claimed the **third spot** on the podium with a timing of 10.55 seconds, displaying his sprinting prowess.

17.Rohit Sharma Smashes India’s Fastest World Cup Century

- India captain **Rohit Sharma** smashed his **31st ODI century** and put India on course for a mammoth win against **Afghanistan in their World Cup 2023** tie at Delhi's Arun Jaitley Stadium.
- Rohit Sharma completed his hundred off **63 balls,** fetching him the record for the fastest century ever by an Indian in the history of World Cup. Before Rohit, the milestone belonged to **Kapil Dev off 72 balls** against Zimbabwe in 1983, the India captain bested the former all-rounder's accomplishment by nine balls as India dominated Afghanistan in their chase of 273 and won by 8 wickets.
- Earlier during his innings, Rohit knocked down two more impressive milestones. First, he completed 1000 runs in World Cup, becoming only the fourth Indian to the landmark after Tendulkar, Virat Kohli and Sourav Ganguly and then struck three sixes to become the leading six-hitter in international cricket, surpassing 'Universe Boss's Chris Gayle.
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13 October 2023

International News

1.Is Israel A NATO Member?

- Israel is not a NATO member but holds the status but enjoys a "Non-NATO Ally Status," a prestigious designation shared with 30 other countries like **Japan and South Korea.** This status signifies a strategic partnership with the US military but stops short of full NATO membership.
- As of 2023, NATO encompasses 31 sovereign member countries. Although Israel is not among these members, its status as a major non-NATO ally highlights its significant role in the alliance's framework. Major non-NATO ally is a designation given by the U.S. government to some of its close allies.
- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, also called the North Atlantic Alliance, is an intergovernmental military alliance between 31 member states – 29 European and two North American. The main objective of NATO Countries is to protect the independence and security of the Allies via political and military action.

2.Putin In Kyrgystan For First Trip Abroad Since ICC Arrest Warrant

- Russian President **Vladimir Putin** embarked on his first foreign trip since the **International Criminal Court (ICC)** issued an arrest warrant for him in

March, raising international attention and scrutiny. The visit took place in **Kyrgyzstan,** a **Central Asian nation** historically tied to **Moscow.**

- During his meeting with **Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov,** Putin emphasized Russia's significance as Kyrgyzstan's top trade partner and largest investor, reaffirming their commitment to mutual cooperation.
- As part of his visit, Putin participated in a ceremony marking the **20th anniversary** of **Russia's Kant military airbase,** strategically located outside **Bishkek.** This outpost serves as a crucial tool for Moscow to project power in the region, underscoring Russia's geopolitical interests in Central Asia.

State News

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

- The Union Road Transport & Highways Minister, Nitin Gadkari, recently announced the approval of **seven bridge projects in Arunachal Pradesh**. These projects, with a cumulative cost of **Rs 118.5 crore**, are part of the **Setu Bandhan scheme.**
- These bridges will significantly improve connectivity within the state, making remote areas more accessible. This will ease the movement of people and goods, ultimately promoting economic development. With these bridges in place, the transportation of agricultural produce and other goods will become more efficient, benefiting local economies.
- The projects align with the government's commitment to improving the overall quality of life for the people of Arunachal Pradesh. Enhanced connectivity means better access to healthcare, education, and other essential services.

4.UP Wins Award For Using Telecommunication Technology In Mental Health And Counselling

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

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

5.54th International Film Festival Of India To Take Place From November 20 To 28

- The **54th** edition of **International Film Festival of India** (IFFI), known for its celebration of cinema from around the world, is scheduled to take place from **November 20 to 28** in the beautiful coastal state of Goa.
- India has been the host of **53 International Film Festivals of India** (IFFI) since 1952, which have included both competitive and non-competitive segments. Starting in 1975, the festival became an annual event. The upcoming 54th edition of the festival, featuring a competition for feature films by directors from all continents, is set to take place in Goa.
- IFFI is an annual event organized by the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**, Government of India, in partnership with the **Entertainment Society of Goa, Government of Goa**, the festival's host state. The responsibility for its management has shifted to the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) following the merger of film media units.

6.Udaipur Set To Become India's First Wetland City

- The **Rajasthan government**, in collaboration with the **Environment and Forest Department**, is making concerted efforts to elevate **Udaipur**, also known as the '**City of Lakes**,' to international prominence by aiming to become **India's first wetland city**.
- Udaipur, with its striking natural beauty and ecological significance, is poised to fulfill all the requirements stipulated by the Ramsar Convention. Covering an area of **37 square kilometers**, the city is graced by five major lakes – **Pichola**, **Fateh Sagar**, **Rang Sagar**, **Swaroop Sagar**, and **Doodh Talai**.
- The Ramsar Convention, officially known as the **Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat**, is a global treaty designed to protect and sustainably utilize wetlands of international importance.

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

- '**Miniature Eastern Ghats**' (MEG) forest arena, scheduled to become a prominent tourist destination in Visakhapatnam from **November 2023**, will offer visitors the opportunity to immerse themselves in the stunning mountain landscape.
- The 'Miniature Eastern Ghats' isn't just a forest; it's a celebration of the unique flora found in the Eastern Ghats. The forest arena is home to a wide array of **medicinal plants**, making it a living pharmacy. Additionally, it boasts an astrology-themed garden, featuring **27 varieties of plants** linked to the zodiac signs.
- The Miniature Eastern Ghats is a one-stop place to showcase the biodiversity of the Eastern Ghats. Around **₹2.5 crore** has been spent, contributed by various government and private organizations as part of their corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities.

Economy News

8.Retail Inflation Cooled From 6.83% In Aug To 5% In Sept In September,

India experienced a notable drop in retail inflation, marking a significant shift from the peak levels seen **15 months** earlier. This decline, attributed largely to softer vegetable prices, brought the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** to a three-month low.

- In August and the previous months, high vegetable prices had fueled inflation. In September, food inflation stood at **6.56%, down from 9.94%** in August. Cereal inflation dropped from **11.85% in August to 10.95%** in September.
- Despite the overall decrease, certain components continued to experience price increases, including: **Cereals:** Cereals saw an 11% increase in prices. **Pulses:** Pulses witnessed a 16% rise in prices and**Spices:** Prices of spices increased by 23%.

9.India's Industrial Output Hits 14-Month High At 10.3% In August With Strong Manufacturing Performance

- **The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation** recently unveiled data indicating a remarkable surge in India's industrial output in August. **The Index of Industrial Production (IIP)** reported a staggering growth of **10.3 percent,** marking the highest growth in **14 months.** This figure surpassed the consensus estimate of **9.1 percent,** demonstrating the sector's robust performance.
- In comparison to July, where industrial growth was initially reported at **5.7 percent** but later revised to **6.0 percent,** August's growth represents a

substantial improvement. Notably, in August 2022, the industrial sector had experienced a decline of **-0.7 percent,** emphasizing the significant progress in just one year.

- While the current performance is impressive, experts anticipate a gradual slowdown in industrial activity in the coming months, even though it will remain robust. Some categories of goods might experience a temporary boost in **September and November** due to shifts in the festival calendar, potentially affecting October's figures.

Banking News

10.RBI Imposes ₹5.4 Crore Penalty On Paytm Payments Bank

- The **Reserve Bank of India** (RBI) imposed a significant fine of **₹5.39 crore** on **Paytm Payments Ban**k, highlighting various instances of non-compliance with the RBI's guidelines.
- The penalties were levied for failing to adhere to specific provisions concerning **Know Your Customer** (KYC) **protocols**, **cybersecurity measures**, and other regulatory requirements.
- Paytm also **failed to implement device binding control measures** related to '**SMS delivery receipt check**.' Additionally, its V-CIP infrastructure was unable to prevent connections from IP addresses located outside India, which poses a potential security risk.

11.RBI Cancels Registration Certificate Of Ind Bank Housing Ltd

- The **Reserve Bank of India** (RBI) has recently taken a significant regulatory action by canceling the Certificate of Registration of **Chennai-based Ind Bank Housing Ltd**. Ind Bank Housing Ltd, established in **1991**, has been facing financial challenges, as evidenced by its widening net loss and negative capital adequacy ratio.
- This move has raised eyebrows in the financial sector, as Ind Bank Housing Ltd had major shareholders in the form of **Indian Bank** and **HUDCO** (Housing and Urban Development Corporation Ltd), who held a 51 percent and 25 percent stake in the housing finance company, respectively.
- As part of its response to the financial challenges, Ind Bank Housing Ltd has taken a significant step by **discontinuing the provision of new loans**. The company is currently not engaged in any new lending activities. Moreover, the

credit period of existing loans has already expired. This strategic move is an attempt to mitigate further financial risk and focus on recovering existing loans.

Business News

12.RITES Ltd Granted 'Navratna' Status: India's 16th Central Public Sector Enterprise

- **RITES Ltd,** a prominent **Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)** under the Ministry of Railways, has achieved the prestigious **'Navratna' status,** becoming the **16th CPSE** in India to be granted this distinction.
- RITES Ltd is known for providing transport infrastructure consultancy, railway inspection, rolling stock leasing and maintenance, and various related services. The achievement of Navratna status acknowledges its contribution to the nation's growth and development.
- To achieve Navratna status, a PSU must also meet specific financial benchmarks, including:
    - A net profit of over **Rs 5,000 crore** for three consecutive years.
    - An average annual turnover of **Rs 25,000 crore** for three years.
    - An average annual net worth exceeding **Rs 15,000 crore** for three years.

Important Days News

13.International Day For Disaster Risk Reduction 2023

- **The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction,** observed annually on the **13th of October,** brings global attention to the critical issues of disasters and inequality.
- This day serves as a platform for creating awareness, educating communities, and promoting resilience in the face of natural and man-made disasters. The theme of UN International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2023 is **"Fighting inequality for a resilient future."**
- **The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction was started in 1989,** after a call by the United Nations General Assembly for a day to promote a global culture of risk-awareness and disaster reduction. The day celebrates how people and communities around the world are reducing their exposure to disasters and raising awareness about the importance of reining in the risks that they face.

Summits and Conferences News

14.India, France Defence Ministers Hold Fifth Dialogue

- **Shri Rajnath Singh,** the Indian Defence Minister, concluded his two-nation European tour with a significant meeting in **Paris** with the French Minister of Armed Forces, **Mr. Sebastien Lecornu.** The **5th Annual Defence Dialogue** between the two ministers was marked by discussions spanning various aspects of defense cooperation.
- The ministers assessed the current regional security situation, highlighting the importance of strategic cooperation between **India and France** in the face of evolving global challenges. Ongoing **military-to-military** engagements were reviewed, emphasizing the need for strengthening these partnerships.
- Both ministers discussed strategies to enhance defense industrial cooperation between India and France, recognizing its mutual benefits. Discussions extended to potential collaboration in niche domains such as **space, cyber, and Artificial Intelligence,** reflecting the need to stay at the forefront of technology.

15.Ninth G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20) and Parliamentary Forum

- **The Ninth P20 Summit,** in collaboration with the **International Parliamentary Union (IPU),** is hosted by the **Parliament of India.** This significant event will take place in New Delhi on **13-14 October 2023,** with a Pre-Summit Parliamentary Forum scheduled for **12 October 2023.**
- The summit's theme, **"Parliaments for One Earth, One Family, One Future,"** derives its essence from the ancient **Indian philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam,** emphasizing the interconnectedness of the world as one family.
- Addressing global challenges by focusing on strategies and collaborations to accelerate the achievement of **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** outlined by the United Nations. This session also aims to empower women, promote gender equality, and create opportunities for their active participation in shaping sustainable economies.

Ranks and Reports News

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

- In the latest **Global Hunger Index (GHI)** for 2023, India has been ranked 111 out of 125 countries, marking a decline from its 107th position in 2022. The GHI is an annual assessment of hunger levels globally, published by **Irish NGO** Concern Worldwide and **German NGO** Welt Hunger Hilfe.
- **Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Chile, China and Croatia** are the top five countries in GHI 2023. **Chad, Niger, Lesotho, Congo, Yemen, Madagascar, and Central African Republic** are the countries ranked at the bottom of the index.
- In comparison to neighboring countries, India's GHI ranking appears stark:
    - **India: 111th**
    - **Pakistan: 102nd**
    - **Bangladesh: 81st**
    - **Nepal: 69th**
    - **Sri Lanka: 60th**

Appointments News

17.South Indian Bank Appoints VJ Kurian As Its New Chairman

- **VJ Kurian** has been appointed as the non-executive part-time chairman of the **South Indian Bank,** based in Thrissur. His appointment is set to take effect from **November 2, 2023, and will continue until March 22, 2026.**
- This development follows regulatory approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and comes as **Salim Gangadharan,** the current non-executive part-time chairman, is set to retire after the completion of his term on November 1, 2023.
- The outgoing non-executive part-time chairman, Salim Gangadharan, will be retiring from his position on November 1, 2023. This change marks the end of his term, making way for VJ Kurian to step into this important role.

Awards News

18.Tamil Writer Sivasankari Presented With Saraswati Samman 2022

- Tamil writer **Sivasankari** was honored with the prestigious **'Saraswati Samman' in 2022** for her memoirs, **"Surya Vamsam."** The award, presented by the K.K. Birla Foundation, was given to her by former Union Minister M. Veerappa Moily, along with a citation, a plaque, and a prize of ₹15 lakh.
- Surya Vamsam, a two-volume work, offers a profound glimpse into the life of an innocent child who evolved into an acclaimed author. Additionally, the book beautifully reflects the societal transformations that have occurred over the past seven decades.

- The Saraswati Samman is one of India's most prestigious literary awards, recognizing outstanding literary works by Indian citizens. To date, **32 Saraswati Samman awards** have been presented to deserving authors, with Sivasankari's memoir, Surya Vamsam, adding to the illustrious list.

Sports News

19.Gold Medalist Neeraj Chopra Appointed Laureus Ambassador

- Asian Games gold medalist and reigning Olympic and World Champion in men's javelin, **Neeraj Chopra,** has been honored as a **Laureus Ambassador,** pledging his support to the Laureus Sport for Good initiative.
- This recognition comes as a result of his historic achievement at the Tokyo Olympics, where he secured the first-ever gold medal for an Indian track and field athlete. Neeraj's association with Laureus began in 2022 when he was shortlisted for the Breakthrough of the Year award at the Laureus World Sports Awards.
- Neeraj Chopra's appointment as a Laureus Ambassador places him in the company of elite athletes spanning generations. He joins esteemed figures in Indian sports, such as Kapil Dev, Rahul Dravid, and Sachin Tendulkar, who have been associated with the organization.

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National News

1.IMI 5.0 Campaign With Special Focus On Boosting Measles And Rubella Vaccination To End Today

- **India's Intensified Mission Indradhanush** (IMI) **5.0**, a flagship immunization campaign launched by the Health Ministry, is nearing its conclusion today. This campaign strives to reach **children** who have missed vaccine doses or fallen behind their vaccination schedule, along with **pregnant women** across the country.
- IMI 5.0 is a major undertaking to enhance immunization coverage for all vaccines provided under the **Universal Immunization Programme**, as per the National Immunization Schedule. Unlike previous iterations, this year, the

campaign was conducted across all districts in the country and extended to include **children up to five years of age**, expanding the scope of its mission. Previous campaigns had only targeted children up to two years old.
- IMI 5.0 also carried a special focus on improving the vaccination coverage for **measles** and **rubella**. The goal is to eliminate both infections from the country by **2023**. This critical aspect of the campaign aims to ensure that children and pregnant women receive the necessary doses to protect against these diseases, contributing to the nation's broader public health goals.

State News

2.CM Hemant Soren Unveils 'Juhi' Mascot For Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2023 In a vibrant ceremony at Project Bhawan in Dhurva, Ranchi, Jharkhand, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jharkhand, **Hemant Soren,** unveiled the mascot for the upcoming **Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2023. 'Juhi,'** the mascot, takes inspiration from the beloved elephant at Betla National Park.

- The event also marked the initiation of the Trophy Tour for the Jharkhand Women's Asian Champions Trophy Ranchi 2023. The magnificent trophy will embark on a tour across all districts of the state, commencing on October 13, 2023. The Trophy Tour will conclude on October 25, 2023, with the trophy returning to Ranchi, setting the stage for the tournament's commencement.
- The unveiling of the mascot 'Juhi' and the launch of the Trophy Tour mark the exciting countdown to the Women's Asian Champions Trophy Ranchi 2023. With a rich cultural symbol and the support of esteemed dignitaries, the tournament promises to be a celebration of athleticism, heritage, and unity.

Defence News

3.First Ever Mobile Tower Installed At Siachen Glacier By The Indian Army

- The **Siachen Glacier**, known as the **world's highest battlefield**, has witnessed a groundbreaking development with the installation of a mobile tower. The **Fire and Fury Corps** of the Indian Army, in collaboration with **Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited** (BSNL), achieved this remarkable feat,

bringing enhanced mobile communication to soldiers deployed at elevations exceeding **15,500 feet**.

- The "**Siachen Warriors**" in partnership with BSNL erected the first-ever **BSNL Base Transceiver Station** (BTS) at forward posts in the Siachen Glacier region. This strategic installation promises to **bridge the communication gap** for the soldiers stationed in one of the harshest terrains on Earth. The aim is to enhance the well-being of the courageous soldiers who protect the nation in this perilous setting.

4.3 Naga, Youngest Naga Battalion, Gets President's Colour

- In a momentous ceremony at the Kumaon Regimental Centre (KRC) in Ranikhet, the **3rd Battalion of the Naga Regiment,** also known as **3 Naga,** was presented with the prestigious **President's Colour award.**
- This significant recognition, symbolized by a flag, was bestowed upon the battalion by **Army Chief Gen. Manoj Pande,** marking a remarkable milestone in the unit's illustrious history.
- This award acknowledges their unwavering commitment, dedication, and acts of valor. It is a moment of pride not only for the battalion but also for the entire nation. The 3rd Battalion of the Naga Regiment was established on October 1, 2009, in Haldwani, situated amidst the Kumaon Hills, the ancestral home of the Kumaon and Naga regiments.

5.Proposals For Acquisition Of Aircraft Carrier, LCA Mk1A Jets Lined Up For Approval By DAC

- **The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)** is set to review two significant proposals with a cumulative budget exceeding **1 lakh crore.** These proposals come from the **Indian Navy** and the **Indian Air Force,** presenting ambitious plans for the country's defense capabilities.
- The Navy has proposed a repeat order of an **Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC)-II,** following the success of the **INS Vikrant.** This carrier is estimated to cost around **40,000 crore.**
- The **Indian Air Force** is seeking **97** additional **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)-MK1A** fighters to bolster its aerial capabilities. This request is estimated to cost approximately 67,000 crore.

Economy News

6.Goods Exports Dipped, But August Tally Lifts Outlook

- India's goods exports faced a continuous decline, marking the seventh consecutive month of downturn in **August 2023.** The **year-on-year data** revealed a **6.86% decrease,** plummeting to **$34.48 billion.**
- Imports in August 2023 exhibited a decline of **5.23%,** amounting to **$58.64 billion.** This fall was primarily attributed to reduced imports of **petroleum, coal and coke, pearls, precious and semi-precious stones, and fertilizers.**
- Despite the overall decrease, half of the top thirty export items, including engineering, electronics, pharmaceuticals, and select agricultural goods, experienced growth in August. This positive trend sparked optimism within the government about future prospects.

Banking News

7.ICICI Bank Introduces 'IFinance,' A One-Stop Solution For Multi-Bank Account Access

- **ICICI Bank** has recently launched '**iFinance**,' a revolutionary feature that is set to change the way millions of customers, including retail clients and sole proprietors, manage their finances.
- This innovative service empowers customers to consolidate their **savings** and **current accounts** from **multiple banks** into one convenient location. The 'iFinance' feature is available through **ICICI Bank's digital platforms**, including the iMobile Pay app, Retail Internet Banking (RIB), Corporate Internet Banking (CIB), and **InstaBIZ**, the Bank's mobile app designed for businesses.
- By providing a unified view of customers' finances across multiple banks and **offering a range of powerful features**, ICICI Bank is empowering users to take control of their financial well-being like never before. This is a significant

step towards making banking simpler, more accessible, and ultimately, more user-friendly.

Business News

8.Zomato Introduces Parcel Delivery Service, ‘Xtreme’ With Primary Focus On Merchants

- The prominent Indian food tech company, **Zomato**, has introduced a hyperlocal delivery service called ‘**Xtreme**‘. This service aims to leverage the extensive fleet of over 3 lakh two-wheeler delivery executives that Zomato has at its disposal.
- Xtreme offers a versatile solution for businesses and individual users by allowing them to **ship small parcels of items** that encompass a wide spectrum of products, including documents, medicines, food, groceries, apparel, cosmetics, and more. These parcels can weigh **up to 10 kg**, making it a flexible option for a variety of delivery needs.
- Xtreme is designed to cater to the needs of both **small and large businesses** for the intracity delivery of small packages. The service has already been rolled out in nearly 750-800 cities where Zomato provides food delivery and is accessible via a separate app.

9.Indian Oil Corporation Board Approves ₹1,660 Crore Investment In NTPC Green Energy JV

- Indian Oil Corporation’s board has given the green light for an equity investment of ₹1,660.15 crore, securing a 50% stake in the joint venture company Indian Oil NTPC Green Energy. This strategic move aligns with their commitment to renewable energy initiatives.
- The joint venture was established in June, bringing together Indian Oil Corporation and NTPC Green Energy, a wholly owned subsidiary of power producer NTPC. The collaboration aims to develop renewable energy-based power projects, specifically focusing on solar PV and wind technologies.
- The approved funds will be utilized to set up state-of-the-art renewable energy power plants. These plants will play a crucial role in meeting the round-the-clock power requirements of upcoming projects within IndianOil refineries.

10.Microsoft Completes $69 Billion Acquisition Of Activision Blizzard

- **Microsoft** has successfully completed its acquisition of Activision Blizzard, the renowned developer behind popular video game franchises like **Call of Duty and World of Warcraft.**
- This monumental deal, valued at $69 billion, signifies **Microsoft's largest-ever acquisition** in its history, surpassing the $26 billion purchase of LinkedIn in 2016 and the $7.5 billion acquisition of Bethesda in 2021.
- This acquisition positions Microsoft as a formidable player in the gaming sector, allowing it to emerge as the **third-largest gaming company** by revenue globally, trailing only **Tencent and Sony**.

Important Days News

11.World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) 2023

- **World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) 2023** is a global event celebrated twice a year, each with a unique focus. This year, the fall celebration falls on **October 14** and revolves around the theme **"Water: Sustaining Bird Life."**
- It's a day that highlights the importance of migratory birds and their conservation efforts. World Migratory Bird Day 2023 brings our attention to the remarkable journeys and vital role of water in the lives of migratory birds.
- In 1993, the United States initiated the idea of a day dedicated to migratory birds. It was a joint effort by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Their aim was to encourage bird festivals and educational programs nationwide. Later, in 2016, the first global World Migratory Bird Day was celebrated.

Summits and Conferences News

12.PM Modi To Inaugurate 141st IOC Session In Mumbai

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** is set to inaugurate the 141st International Olympic Committee (IOC) session at the **Jio World Centre** in Mumbai on October 14.
- This marks India's second time hosting the IOC session, following a gap of nearly four decades since the **86th IOC session** was held in New Delhi in 1983. The previous event in New Delhi laid the groundwork for the growth of sports in India.

- The IOC session serves as a pivotal platform for making critical decisions concerning the future of the Olympic Games and facilitates interaction and knowledge exchange among stakeholders in the world of sports. The event fosters collaboration and knowledge sharing among various stakeholders in the sports world.

13.17th CII Annual Tourism Summit

- **The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** is organizing the **17th CII Tourism Summit on October 13, 2023, in Mumbai.** This event will unite industry stakeholders to discuss challenges and outline a roadmap for the sector's growth.
- A well-defined regulatory framework is needed to ensure a seamless and secure travel experience for visitors. Encouraging responsible tourism practices can help preserve natural and cultural assets.
- India's G20 Presidency presents a unique opportunity to attract tourists worldwide. Strategic marketing campaigns can significantly increase the number of visitors, benefiting the industry today and in the future.

Ranks and Reports News

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

- London-based property consultant, **Knight Frank**, has recently unveiled its Global Prime Residential Index, providing insight into the performance of various cities across the world in the residential real estate market.
- With an astonishing annual percentage change of six percent, **Mumbai** has ascended 76 places to secure the **19th position** on the index, a significant improvement from its **95th position in Q2 2022**.
- Bengaluru, known as India's Silicon Valley, stands as the **second-highest ranked Indian city** on the index. The city has moved up to the **22nd position** from the 77th spot in Q2 2022, showcasing the strong growth it has witnessed.
- New Delhi, the national capital of India, secured the **25th position** on the Global Prime Residential Index. Chennai and Kolkata, two other major Indian cities, have been ranked 4th and 5th, respectively, among Indian cities and globally stood at the **39th** and **40th** positions.

Awards News

15.NTPC Becomes The Only Indian PSU To Feature In Forbes "World's Best Employers 2023" List

- India's largest integrated energy conglomerate, **NTPC Limited**, has achieved a remarkable distinction by being named one of the "**World's Best Employers 2023**" in the **Forbes World's Best Employers list**, which was officially unveiled on October 10, 2023.
- This prestigious recognition places NTPC at the **261st position** among the top 700 companies globally and highlights its exceptional commitment to fostering a positive work environment and employee-centric practices. Notably, NTPC Limited is the sole Indian Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) to secure a place on this distinguished list.
- NTPC's inclusion on the Forbes World's Best Employers List 2023 underscores the company's commitment to a progressive "**People before PLF**" (Plant Load Factor) **approach** which revolves around placing employee well-being and development at the forefront of its operations, ensuring that the needs of its workforce are paramount.

16.Michael Douglas To Be Conferred Satyajit Ray Excellence In Film Lifetime Award

- Renowned Hollywood actor **Michael Douglas** is set to receive the prestigious **Satyajit Ray Excellence in Film Lifetime Award** at the **54th International Film Festival to be held in Goa.**
- Michael Douglas's illustrious career boasts numerous awards and iconic film roles. He has an impressive list of accolades, including two Academy Awards, five Golden Globe Awards, a Primetime Emmy Award, the Cecil B. DeMille Award, and the AFI Life Achievement Award. These honors underscore his remarkable acting prowess and contributions to the film industry.
- The 54th edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) is scheduled to take place from November 20 to 28 in the picturesque state of Goa. IFFI is a platform that celebrates the art of filmmaking, providing a global stage for showcasing the best of international and Indian cinema.

Appointments News

17.Sandeep Shandilya Assumes Role As Hyderabad Police Commissioner

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

Sports News

18.Neeraj Chopra Nominated For 2023 World Athlete Of The Year Award

- World Athletics, the global governing body for athletics, has officially nominated **Neeraj Chopra** for the prestigious **Men's Athlete of the Year award for 2023.**
- A panel of international athletics experts, representing all six continental areas of World Athletics, diligently selected the **11 nominees** for this prestigious award. Among these nominees, Neeraj Chopra, the Olympic and world champion, is vying for the title of the world's best male athlete.
- The voting process for the 2023 World Athletes of the Year award has commenced. After a thorough three-way voting process, the finalists will be determined. The winners will be officially announced on December 11, 2023, through World Athletics' social media platforms.

19.Shubman Gill Named As ICC 'Player Of The Month' For September

- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has once again acknowledged outstanding cricketing performances by awarding the 'Player of the Month' titles for September 2023. These awards not only honor their individual performances but also acknowledge their significant contributions to their respective teams' successes.
- In this edition, India's **Shubman Gill** clinches the **ICC Men's 'Player of the Month,'** while Sri Lanka's **Chamari Athapaththu** emerges as the **ICC Women's 'Player of the Month.'** Shubman Gill's prolific run-scoring and Chamari Athapaththu's all-round brilliance have rightfully earned them these accolades.

20.Former England Captain Alastair Cook Announced His Retirement From Cricket

- Former England captain **Alastair Cook,** a cricketing legend, has officially announced his retirement from the sport. This marks the end of a remarkable career, both internationally and at his long-time county team, Essex.
- Cook had previously retired from international cricket in 2018, leaving behind an illustrious legacy. He amassed an astonishing **12,472 Test** runs during his international career, making him the highest-scoring English batter and the fifth-highest run-scorer in Test history.
- His achievements and leadership on the field have left an indelible mark, making him one of the most respected and revered figures in the sport. Cook's legacy will be celebrated for generations to come, and his records will serve as a testament to his exceptional talent and dedication to the game.

21.IOC Has Accepted The Recommendation To Include T20 Cricket Into The 2028 Olympics

- The **International Olympic Committee** (IOC) recently took a significant step towards embracing the world's most popular sport, **Cricket**, by accepting the **recommendation** to include T20 cricket for both men and women at the **2028 Los Angeles Summer Olympics.**
- The LA28 local organizing committee played a significant role in pushing for cricket's inclusion. It recommended the "**potential inclusion**" of not only cricket but also four other sports: **baseball/softball**, **flag football**, **lacrosse**, and **squash**. These recommendations align with the broader ethos of LA28, creating a diverse and dynamic sporting environment for the 2028 Los Angeles Games.
- India's performance at the **Hangzhou Asian Games**, where the country secured over 100 medals for the first time, was a key influencer in the IOC's decision-making process. Bach also noted that India ranks second on the IOC's social media handles, highlighting the tremendous interest of the young generation in the Olympics.

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National News

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

The government has initiated a novel program that allows individuals and entities to earn and trade green credits, which are units of incentives for environmentally beneficial actions. This program aims to encourage positive environmental contributions through market-based incentives. The program is introduced at the national level, promoting a competitive market-based approach for green credits to incentivize environmental actions. It is a voluntary initiative stemming from the 'LiFE' (Lifestyle for Environment) campaign. The initiative encourages industries, companies, and entities to fulfill their existing or other obligations under existing laws. It also promotes voluntary environmental measures by allowing the generation or purchase of green credits. However, green credits generated or procured to meet legal obligations cannot be traded.

One Nation One Student ID Card – APAAR ID

The Ministry of Education and Government of India has initiated the APAAR ID, known as the "One Nation One Student ID Card." This groundbreaking program aims to digitally centralize academic data, including degrees, scholarships, rewards, and other credits for students.

The One Nation One Student ID Card, APAAR ID, is a significant step towards a more organized and accessible academic experience for students in India. By registering and downloading your APAAR ID, one can unlock various benefits and conveniently store his/her academic records.

International News

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

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

Tallest BR Ambedkar Statue Outside India Unveiled In Washington

In a historic event, a 19-foot tall statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, the principal architect of India's Constitution, was formally inaugurated in a suburb of Maryland, Washington. This statue is being considered as the tallest of its kind outside of India and holds significant importance for both Indian-Americans and the Indian diaspora around the world. The statue was crafted by the renowned artist and sculptor Ram Sutar, who is known for creating the 'Statue of Unity' of Sardar Patel, located on an island in Gujarat's Narmada River.

Understanding the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) and Its Significance

The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) recently convened its Council of Ministers meeting in Colombo on October 11, drawing interest from countries worldwide. Its genesis can be traced back to a speech by former South African President Nelson Mandela during a visit to India in 1995. With 23 member nations and 11 dialogue partners, IORA plays a crucial role in fostering regional cooperation around the Indian Ocean. These countries include African, West Asian, South Asian, South East Asian, Australian, and Indian Ocean littoral states. The Indian Ocean Region holds immense importance due to its geographical, economic, and strategic relevance. Approximately one-third of the world's population, totaling 2.6 billion people, resides in this region.

Jaishankar unveils Rabindranath Tagore's bust in Vietnam

In a recent diplomatic gesture, India's External Affairs Minister, S. Jaishankar, inaugurated a bust of Nobel Laureate writer and poet Rabindranath Tagore in Bac Ninh city, symbolizing the historical and cultural ties between the two nations. The inauguration of Tagore's bust in Bac Ninh city stands as a testament to the enduring relationship and mutual respect that both countries share, fostering a brighter future for their diplomatic and cultural ties. Indian monks played a significant role in introducing Buddhism to Vietnam, laying the foundation for a shared spiritual heritage. A living symbol of the age-old links between India and Vietnam is the Bodhi tree, a gift from President Rajendra Prasad to President Ho Chi Minh in 1959.

State News

Bharat Rashtra Samithi In Telangana Unveils Manifesto For Underprivileged

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) recently unveiled its manifesto, promising a host of transformative initiatives aimed at improving the lives of underprivileged citizens. In a press

conference on October 15th, party president and Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao outlined these pledges, highlighting their commitment to uplift the marginalized sections of society. One of the standout promises in the BRS manifesto is the provision of life insurance coverage of ₹5 lakh to over 93 lakh Below Poverty Line (BPL) families. It alsop pledges the supply of superfine rice through the public distribution system to all ration card holders. Under the Saubhagya Laxmi scheme, the BRS has promised to provide a monthly honorarium of ₹3,000 to eligible women. The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) is an Indian political party primarily operating in the state of Telangana. It was established on April 27, 2001, by K. Chandrashekar Rao, with the primary objective of achieving statehood for Telangana, with Hyderabad as its capital.

Kerala Gets Its First 3D-Printed Building In Just 28 Days

Kerala has marked a significant milestone in the world of construction with the inauguration of Amaze-28, the state's first building constructed using 3D printing technology. This innovative architectural wonder, with its 380-square-foot, one-room summer house, was unveiled in the Kerala State Nirmithi Kendra (Kesnik) campus at PTP Nagar, Thiruvananthapuram. Amaze-28's construction process comprised a mere 28 hours of 3D printing, with the remaining components, such as windows and roofing, completed using conventional methods. the technology's primary advantage is its unprecedented speed,

Banking News

RBI Imposes ₹1 Crore Penalty On Union Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken a stern stance on non-compliance with its regulatory directives by imposing penalties on Union Bank of India, RBL Bank, and Bajaj Finance, all of which have faced penalties for various breaches of RBI's regulatory guidelines. The RBI has imposed a penalty of ₹1 crore on Union Bank of India for its failure to adhere to the regulatory guidelines on 'Loans and Advances – Statutory and Other Restrictions.' RBL Bank has been fined an amount of ₹64 lakh for its failure to comply with RBI's regulatory approval norms concerning the acquisition of shares or voting rights in private sector banks. Pune-based Bajaj Finance has also been levied a penalty of ₹8.50 lakh for breaching regulatory norms related to the reporting of certain frauds to the RBI.

Important Days News

Central Electricity Authority Celebrates Its 50th Foundation Day

The Central Electricity Authority, the organization under the Ministry of Power, Government of India, which provides technical and policy support to the government and to all other stakeholders in the power sector, celebrated its 50th Foundation Day on October 15, 2023.

Working towards the vision of ensuring reliable 24×7 power supply of adequate quality to all consumers in the country, the CEA has been at the forefront of the evolution of the power sector in India, with its pivotal role in planning and managing the country's electricity needs.

The 50th-anniversary celebration of the Central Electricity Authority served as a platform to reflect on the sector's accomplishments, ongoing challenges, and a vision for a brighter, greener, and more electrified future for India.

World Food Day 2023

World Food Day is an annual observance that takes place on October 16. It is a global initiative aimed at addressing the pressing issues of hunger, food security, and access to proper nutrition. The theme for World Food Day 2023 is "Water is life, water is food. Leave no one behind." This theme emphasizes the critical role of water in food production, nutrition, and livelihoods

The roots of World Food Day trace back to the establishment of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 1945. However, it wasn't until 1979, during the FAO Conference, that World Food Day was officially recognized as a global holiday. Over 150 countries came together to celebrate and promote the importance of food and nutrition.

World Students Day 2023

World Students Day, observed on October 15 each year, is a day dedicated to commemorating the birth anniversary of the late Indian President, Dr. A.PJ. Abdul Kalam. In 2023, World Students Day takes on special significance as we celebrate the 92nd birth anniversary of the A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. This day is a tribute to his remarkable contributions to education and his unwavering commitment to the welfare of children and students across India and the world. The theme for World Students Day 2023 is "FAIL: stands for First Attempt in Learning." This theme, introduced by the Ministry of Education and the Government of India, aims to motivate students to embrace failure as a learning experience and continue their educational journey.

International Day of Rural Women 2023

The International Day of Rural Women, celebrated annually on October 15, is a day dedicated to recognizing the vital contributions of rural women worldwide. It is celebrated to recognize the work of these heroines in the food systems of the world and claim rural areas with equal opportunities for all. The day recognizes "the critical role and contribution of rural women, including indigenous women, in enhancing agricultural and rural development, improving food security and eradicating rural poverty." The theme of International Day of Rural Women 2023 is "Rural Women Cultivating Good For All". This theme underscores the essential role that all roral women and girls, including indigenous and tribal women, play in agricultural labor, particularly in developing nations.

August 23 to be celebrated as National Space Day, Govt issues notification

In a momentous announcement, the Indian government has designated August 23rd as National Space Day, a day to celebrate the remarkable success of the Chandrayaan 3 mission. This decision comes in recognition of India's significant achievement in space exploration, placing it among the world's leading spacefaring nations. On August 23rd of this year, the Chandrayaan 3 mission achieved a groundbreaking milestone by successfully landing on the South Pole of the Moon. This achievement is not only a point of pride for India but also a global first, solidifying India's position in the upper echelons of space exploration. National Space Day will serve as a source of inspiration for young minds, motivating them to pursue careers in STEM fields, ultimately bolstering India's prowess in the space sector.

World Anaesthesia Day 2023

World Anaesthesia Day, celebrated on October 16 each year, is a significant occasion that highlights the critical role of anaesthesia in modern medical treatments. This day not only recognizes the birth of anaesthesia but also serves as a platform to raise awareness about the importance of this field in healthcare. World Anaesthesia Day raise awareness about the importance of this field in healthcare and recognizes the ongoing need to ensure safe anaesthesia practices worldwide. The theme for World Anaesthesia Day in 2023 is 'Anaesthesia and Cancer Care.' This theme sheds light on the indispensable role of anaesthesia in cancer treatments. World Anaesthesia Day commemorates the birth of anaesthesia as a medical practice. The pivotal moment occurred on October 16, 1846, when William Thomas Green Morton conducted the first successful demonstration of ether anaesthesia at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

Schemes & Committees News

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

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

Appointments News

B K Mohanty Assumes Charge As Director Of Finance At IREDA

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

Awards News

Nawanpind Sardaran Village In Punjab Receives Best Tourism Village Award

The beautiful Nawanpind Sardaran village, located just five kilometers south of National Highway-54 in Gurdaspur, Punjab, was recently awarded the title of "Best Tourism Village of India 2023" by the Union Ministry of Tourism. This recognition was a testament to the remarkable efforts of the Sangha sisters, who have passionately dedicated themselves to preserving their ancestral homes, Kothi and Pipal Haveli, and promoting sustainable tourism in their village. The Sangha family's efforts extended beyond just promoting tourism. With

the support of the Gurdaspur district administration, they involved the local community and created employment opportunities.

Sports News

PM confirms India's bid to host 2036 Olympics

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the 141st International Olympic Committee (IOC) Session at the Jio World Centre in Mumbai. The event marked a significant moment in India's sporting history, with PM Modi expressing India's eagerness to host the Olympics and Youth Olympics in the coming years. India's pride in hosting the IOC Session for the second time, after a gap of 40 years, was underscored. The historical context was mentioned, with the previous session held in New Delhi in 1983. This event marked a significant milestone in India's sports diplomacy. In a proactive move, PM Modi extended an invitation to host the 2029 Youth Olympics, showcasing India's readiness to contribute significantly to the global sports arena. He expressed confidence in India receiving constant support from the IOC for this endeavor.

Grandmaster Raunak Sadhwani crowned U-20 world junior rapid chess champion

Grandmaster Raunak Sadhwani won the FIDE World Junior Rapid Chess Championship in Sardinia, Italy. Raunak scored 8.5 over 11 rounds to win the Championship ahead of Arseniy Nesterov of Russia, who scored 8. He became the winner by defeating Tobias Koele of Germany in the final round. Raunak became a grandmaster at the age of 13. He is the ninth youngest player in history and the fourth youngest Indian to be awarded the title. Raunak earned a spot in the 2021 Bullet Chess Championship after winning a qualifier event. He played alongside world-class bullet players like GMs Hikaru Nakamura, Alireza Firouzja, Levon Aronian, Daniel Naroditsky, and more. He won a bronze medal with the Indian team at the 2022 FIDE Olympiad.

Science & Technology News

ISRO tie-up With Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA) For 'Space On Wheels' Exhibition

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA) have joined hands to create an exciting and educational initiative called the "Space on Wheels" program. This program is designed to take the wonders of space exploration to the East Siang District

of Arunachal Pradesh, making it accessible to students and space enthusiasts in the region.

The program was inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor of Arunachal Pradesh University, Prof Tomo Riba, along with the presence of JN College Principal Dr. Tasi Taloh and the national coordinator of the Space on Wheels program, Akash Pandey. The program saw more than 800 students from various educational institutions actively engage with the "Space on Wheels" exposition

The primary objective of the "Space on Wheels" program remains to provide valuable insights into ISRO's activities and India's space missions to school and college students in Arunachal Pradesh. Additionally, it strives to sensitize the youth about the exciting and rewarding career opportunities in the field of space science.

Obituaries News

22.Former Chief Election Commissioner MS Gill Passed Away

Former Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Manohar Singh Gill passed away at a South Delhi hospital on Sunday, leaving behind a legacy of public service and dedication. He served as a significant figure in both the Indian bureaucracy and politics. Manohar Singh Gill, who recently passed away at the age of 86, began his career as a young bureaucrat. He assumed the role of Chief Election Commissioner in December 1996 and held it until June 2001. During his tenure, Gill played a crucial role in shaping the electoral processes of the country. Moreover, he became the first former CEC to join politics when he entered the Rajya Sabha as a member of the Congress party. In 2008, he was appointed as the Union Sports Minister, further highlighting his dedication to serving the nation in various capacities.

Miscellaneous News

PM Narendra Modi Releases New Garba Song "Maadi"

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has penned down a Garba song, titled 'Maadi', composed by Meet brothers, Manmeet Singh and Harmeet Singh. The song, celebrates the splendour of the Navratri festival and the vibrant traditions of Gujarat. Divya Kumar lent his voice to the track, while the music was composed by Manmeet Singh and Harmeet Singh from Meet Bros. Titled 'Garbo,' the song voiced by singer Dhvani Bhanushali and composed by Tanishk Bagchi was released under the banner of Jjust Music, a music label founded by actor-producer Jackky Bhagnani. In Navratri, Gujarat erupts into a nine-night dance festival, perhaps the longest in the world. For nine consecutive nights, people across villages and cities of the state gather in open spaces to celebrate.Stories of relationships between Lord

Krishna and the Gopis, and their emotions, also often make their way into the ras garba music.

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17 October 2023

National News

1.SC Refers Electoral Bond Case To 5-Judge Constitution Bench

- **The Supreme Court** decided to refer a group of petitions challenging the **electoral bond scheme** for political party funding to a five-judge **Constitution bench.** The bench, led by Chief Justice **D Y Chandrachud,** received an urgent application requesting a conclusive judgment. The matter is set to be heard on October 30.
- Electoral bonds are introduced as an alternative to providing cash donations to political parties. This change aims to make political funding more transparent and accountable.
- There are four **Public Interest Litigations (PILs)** pending on this issue, indicating the public interest and concern regarding the electoral bond scheme. One of the PIL petitioners had stated in March that a substantial amount, totaling **Rs 12,000 crore,** had been paid to political parties through electoral bonds.

2.Supreme Court Dismisses Appeal To Legalise Same-Sex Marriage

- India's **Supreme Court** recently made a significant decision, **declining an appeal to legalize same-sex marriages** in the country, dealing a blow to LGBTQ rights in one of the world's most populous nations.
- Chief Justice **Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud** emphasized that issues like same-sex marriage should be **within the domain of the parliament**, highlighting the court's commitment to steering clear of policy matters.

- Chandrachud also called for measures to prevent discrimination against LGBTQ individuals. This includes the **establishment of hotlines and safe houses for vulnerable members** of the LGBTQ community.

International News

3.Poland Pro-EU Opposition Tipped To Win Parliament Polls

- **Poland's** recent parliamentary elections marked a significant turning point, ending eight years of populist rule by the **Law and Justice (PiS) party.** The liberal opposition, led by former **EU chief Donald Tusk,** emerged victorious, promising a fresh era for the nation.
- One of the pivotal issues in the elections was women's rights, especially concerning Poland's strict abortion laws. Tusk's promise to liberalize these laws mobilized a significant number of women voters. For the first time, more women than men turned out to vote, with a remarkable **73.7%** of women participating.
- **Tusk's Civic Coalition,** along with potential allies **Third Way** and Left, is set to secure a majority in the **460-seat parliament.** This outcome signifies a potential shift towards more liberal policies, including improved relations with the **European Union** and a promise to unblock frozen **EU funds.**

State News

4.PM Inaugurates Rs 4200 Crore Worth Of Development Projects In Uttarakhand

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi recently marked a historic day in **Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand**, as he laid the foundation stone and dedicated several development projects worth approximately **Rs 4200 crore**.

- These initiatives spanned various sectors, including rural development, road infrastructure, power generation, irrigation, drinking water supply, horticulture, education, healthcare, and disaster management, among others.
- These initiatives demonstrate the commitment of the Prime Minister to fostering growth, connectivity, and resilience in Uttarakhand, contributing to the state's sustainable development and enhancing the quality of life for its residents.

5.Uttar Pradesh Government's 'Swachch Tyohar, Swasth Tyohar' Campaign

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

6.Jharkhand First State To Take Steps To Ensure Minimum Wages For Workers

- **Jharkhand** is making history by becoming the first state in India to take steps towards including gig workers, such as **Swiggy, Zomato, Ola, Uber, and Rapido employees,** under the ambit of minimum wages. This initiative is a

significant move towards ensuring fair compensation for those in the gig economy.

- Jharkhand's groundbreaking move to consider minimum wages for gig workers and review minimum wage standards for other laborers is a significant step toward ensuring fair compensation for workers in various sectors. A committee has been formed by the Jharkhand State Minimum Wage Advisory Council, under the state's labor department, to address this issue.
- The primary objective of this committee is to study the working conditions of gig workers, including those in the delivery and ride-hailing services. Based on their findings, the committee will make recommendations regarding minimum wages for these workers.

Economy News

7.The Expected Economic Growth Of India In 2023-24

- **India** has shown remarkable resilience amidst global challenges, as per the latest **India Development Update (IDU)** by the **World Bank.** Despite a tough global environment, India's economy grew at **7.2% in FY22/23,** making it one of the fastest-growing major economies.
- India's strong internal demand played a vital role in its economic growth. Significant investments in public infrastructure boosted economic activity. The financial sector grew stronger, contributing to the overall economic resilience.
- Bank credit grew by **15.8%** in the first **quarter of FY23/24,** indicating a healthy financial environment. Inflation rose to **7.8%** in July due to increased food prices, but it's expected to normalize gradually. Fiscal consolidation is expected to continue, with the fiscal deficit projected to decline from **6.4% to 5.9% of GDP.** Public debt is stabilizing at **83% of GDP.**

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

- The **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry** (FICCI) recently unveiled its latest Economic Outlook Survey, providing insights into the anticipated growth of India's economy in the upcoming fiscal year, FY24.
- The survey's central projection foresees a 6.3% growth in the Indian economy for FY24. This projection hinges on several key factors. The festival season is also anticipated to stimulate economic growth. Festive occasions often lead to increased consumer spending, which, in turn, fuels economic expansion.
- Growth in the agricultural sector is predicted to decrease from **4%** in FY23 to 2.7% in the current fiscal year due to the influence of El Niño on monsoon rainfall. The industry sector is expected to grow at a rate of **5.6%**, reflecting its importance in India's economic landscape. The services sector is anticipated to exhibit robust growth at **7.3%**, underlining its role as a key contributor to India's economic expansion.

9.Wholesale Inflation In India Remains Negative For Sixth Consecutive Month

- **India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** remained in the negative zone for the sixth consecutive month in September, standing at **-0.26 percent.** This means that prices for goods at the wholesale level continued to decrease.
- The food index of the **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** dropped significantly, primarily due to a sharp decrease in tomato prices. While tomatoes saw a significant fall of **73 percent** in September, other food items like **cereals (1 percent), pulses (6 percent), fruits (5 percent), and milk (0.7 percent)** experienced price hikes, causing concerns for consumers.
- The WPI data showed a **0.59 percent month-on-month (MoM)** decrease in September, similar to the **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** decline of **1.1 percent.** Despite this, the unfavorable base effect, combined with rising prices in certain categories, offset the sequential fall, highlighting ongoing challenges.

Business News

10.Asian Development Bank Invests $181 Million To Improve Ahmedabad's Peri-Urban Areas

- **The Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has given the green light for a **$181** million loan to enhance the quality of life in the peri-urban areas around **Ahmedabad,** a city in the state of **Gujarat, India.** The aim is to improve urban living conditions and mobility in these rapidly growing areas.
- One of the main goals of this project is to control urban sprawl. This is a planning approach that could be used in other states as well. It helps manage the growth of cities and their surrounding regions.
- The project will also improve the connectivity of peri-urban areas to **Ahmedabad city.** This includes enhancing **10 junctions** along the existing **Sardar Patel Ring Road.**

11.NSDC And Coca-Cola India Launch 'Super Power Retailer Program' To Empower Retailers

- In a significant move to empower the retailer community in the states of **Odisha and Uttar Pradesh,** the **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC),** operating under the **Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE),** has joined forces with **Coca-Cola India.**
- Together, they have announced the launch of the 'Super Power Retailer Program' under the Skill India Mission, with its pilot phase initiated in Odisha. This collaborative initiative seeks to provide essential training to retailers, equipping them to expand their businesses and enhance consumer experiences, ultimately strengthening India's economy.
- Through this collaborative effort between NSDC and Coca-Cola India, retailers will gain the skills and knowledge required to thrive in the competitive retail sector. This initiative is not only a milestone in Skill India's mission but also a significant contribution to India's economic growth by strengthening its workforce and supporting small and micro retailers in their business endeavors.

Important Days News

12.International Day For The Eradication Of Poverty 2023

- The **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty,** celebrated annually on **October 17th,** is a global initiative aimed at raising awareness and addressing the pressing issue of poverty.
- In 2023, the focus is on **"Decent Work and Social Protection: Putting dignity in practice for all."** This theme emphasizes the importance of universal access to decent work and social protection in upholding human dignity.
- The UN General Assembly officially declared October 17 as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty through resolution **47/196 on December 22, 1992.** International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2023 holds immense significance as a global reminder of the ongoing battle against poverty.

Summits & Conferences News

13.India And UK Hold First 2+2 Foreign And Defence Dialogue In New Delhi

- The inaugural **India-UK '2+2' foreign and defence dialogue** was held in New Delhi. The dialogue saw both sides focusing on ways to enhance cooperation in **various critical areas** such as trade and investment, defense, critical technologies, civil aviation, health, and energy.
- In addition to bilateral cooperation, the dialogue also delved into international developments, with particular attention to the **Indo-Pacific region**. Both countries share a vision for peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific, emphasizing the importance of a free, open, and inclusive region.
- The dialogue explored the possibility of enhancing collaboration in areas such as **counterterrorism**, **Humanitarian Assistance** and **Disaster Relief** (HADR), and **maritime security**. These discussions reflect the commitment of both nations to working together to address global challenges and ensure the safety and security of the region.

14.World Health Summit 2023

- The **2023 World Health Summit** took place from October 15 to October 17 under the theme **"A Defining Year for Global Health Action**" in Berlin, Germany, and online.
- This summit fosters international collaboration and open discourse rooted in scientific insights, placing global health at the forefront of political agendas and advancing the global health conversation in alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Non-communicable diseases** (NCDs) have emerged as a significant **global health challenge**, demanding immediate attention and a multi-faceted approach this year.

15.PM To Inaugurate Global Maritime India Summit 2023 In Mumbai

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will virtually inaugurate the **third edition** of the **Global Maritime India Summit 2023** (GMIS 2023), set to be held from 17th to 19th October at MMRDA Grounds in **Mumbai**.
- This prestigious maritime event is organized by the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways** and promises to be a significant gathering for the global maritime community.
- **GMIS 2023** provides the ideal platform for unveiling '**Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**,' a comprehensive 25-year roadmap for India's maritime blue economy. This visionary plan outlines strategic initiatives aimed at enhancing port facilities, promoting sustainable practices, and fostering international collaboration
- One of the most prominent projects is the **Tuna Tekra all-weather deep draft terminal**, which will be constructed at a cost exceeding 4,500 crore rupees at the Deendayal Port Authority in Gujarat. This terminal will play a pivotal role as a gateway for Indian trade within the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor.

Ranks & Reports News

16.Female Labour Force Participation Rate Jumps To 37.0%

- **The Periodic Labour Force Survey Report for 2022-23,** released on **October 9, 2023**, by the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation,** reveals that more women in India are actively participating in the workforce.
- The Female Labor Force Participation Rate, a measure of women engaged in work or actively seeking employment, has risen by **4.2 percentage** points, reaching **37.0% in 2023.** This increase is a positive sign for women's employment and participation in the workforce.
- **The Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR)** is a crucial economic indicator. It shows the percentage of the population within working age, usually **15 to 64,** who are either employed or actively seeking employment. A high **LFPR** indicates a healthy economy with ample job opportunities.

Appointments News

17.Justice Siddharth Mridul Appointed As The Chief Justice Of Manipur High Court

- Justice **Siddharth Mridul** was appointed as the chief justice of **Manipur High Court** three months after the Supreme Court Collegium recommendation. On October 9, the Centre had notified the Supreme Court that the appointment of a new chief justice of Manipur High Court will be issued 'shortly', stating that the file has been cleared and the rest of the process will follow soon.
- The bench led by Justice SK Kaul told Attorney General for India R Venkataramani that the proposal for appointment of Chief Justice of a "sensitive" High Court (alluding to the Manipur High Court) is also among the pending resolutions.
- In a related development, the Supreme Court collegium last week recommended the transfer of Justice MV Muralidaran, who is presently the Acting Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court, to Calcutta High Court.

Awards News

18.69th National Film Awards 2023 Conferred By President Droupadi Murmu

- On 17 October, President **Droupadi Murmu** will confer the **69th National Film Awards 2023** at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. These awards, initially delayed due to the pandemic, are finally set to honor outstanding achievements in Indian cinema.
- **Allu Arjun** secured the Best Actor award for his role in the film “Pushpa: The Rise,” showcasing his exceptional talent and performance. **Alia Bhatt** and **Kriti Sanon** shared the spotlight as they were jointly awarded the Best Actress title for their outstanding performances in “Gangubai Kathiawadi” and “Mimi,” respectively.
- The film “**Rocketry: The Nambi Effect**” received the prestigious award for Best Feature Film, recognizing its excellence in storytelling and production. A significant win went to “**The Kashmir Files**,” which was honored with the **Nargis Dutt Award for Best Film** on National Integration, highlighting its contribution to the cinematic portrayal of India’s social fabric.

Obituaries News

19.Noted Malayalam Film Producer PV Gangadharan Passes Away At 80

- Noted Malayalam film producer and director of Mathrubhumi group of publications **P.V. Gangadharan** passed away in Kozhikode on October 13 morning. He was 80.
- Mr. Gangadharan had made his mark in the realm of cinema and politics. An active member of the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC), he had contested in the Kerala Legislative Assembly elections from the Kozhikode North constituency in 2011.
- He had won awards such as Kanakkinavu (Nargis Dutt Award for National Integration, 1997), Santham (national award for best film, 2000), Oru

Vadakkan Veeragadha, Veendum Chila Veettu Karyanagal, Achuvinte Amma and Notebook (State awards in various categories).

Miscellaneous News

20.‘Gadkari’: The Biopic Of ‘Expressway Man Of India’

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

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18 October 2023

National News

India to Invest ₹143 Lakh Crore in Infrastructure by 2030

India is gearing up for a substantial infrastructure spending spree, with a plan to invest nearly ₹143 lakh crore between fiscal years 2024 and 2030. This represents more than double the ₹67 lakh crore spent on infrastructure over the past seven financial years starting from 2017. A notable aspect of this investment is that ₹36.6 lakh crore will be allocated to green projects. This marks a fivefold increase compared to the amount spent on sustainability-focused initiatives between fiscal years 2017 and 2023. The emphasis on green investments reflects India’s commitment to environmental sustainability. The hydrogen sector is set to attract substantial investments, estimated at ₹1.5 lakh crore between fiscal years 2024 and 2030. Mandates for green hydrogen use and incentive schemes will play a crucial role here, as the production cost of green hydrogen is double that of fossil-based hydrogen.

Dharmendra Pradhan Launched IndiaSkills 2023-24 In New Delhi

The Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship unveiled the IndiaSkills 2023-24 program and celebrated the remarkable achievements of the WorldSkills 2022 winners. India, securing the 11th position in the global competition last year, is now poised to make giant strides in skill development. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan outlined the need to increase the number of participants and provide impetus to the ecosystem of skill development underscoring the significance of competencies over traditional degrees. The minister emphasized the importance of introducing employable skills, which would enhance the market acceptance of the workforce. Union Minister further extended his congratulations to 18 candidates from India for their exceptional performance at the World Skills Competition 2022 Special Edition. India's participation across 50 skills resulted in a commendable 11th position, accompanied by 2 Silver Medals, 3 Bronze Medals, and 13 Medallions for Excellence.

International News

India-Sri Lanka Ferry Service Reopens After Four Decades

An age-old sea route between India and Sri Lanka has been rejuvenated with the inauguration of a passenger ferry service from Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu to Kankesanthurai in Jaffna, Northern Sri Lanka. The passenger ferry service, named 'Cheriyapani,' was officially launched on a Saturday. The one-way ticket for this high-speed craft costs approximately Rs 7,670, with a generous baggage allowance of up to 40 kg per passenger. The journey commences at Nagapattinam at 7 am, reaching Kankesanthurai by 11 am, and the return trip starts at 1.30 pm, arriving in Nagapattinam by 5.30 pm. The reestablishment of the passenger ferry service has the potential to have a profound impact on the region. By providing an additional transportation option, it can amplify religious tourism in the coastal regions of both India and Sri Lanka.

'IRON BEAM' Missile Defence System

Israel recently tested its new laser-based 'Iron Beam' missile defence system. The system is designed to destroy short-range rockets, artillery, and mortar bombs. The system could also intercept unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). It has a range of up to 7 km. Iron Beam constitutes the sixth element of Israel's integrated missile defense system, in addition to Arrow 2, Arrow 3, David's Sling, and Iron Dome. Iron Beam uses a fiber laser to generate a laser beam to destroy an airborne target. Iron Beam uses a fiber laser to generate a laser

beam to destroy an airborne target. The main benefits of using a directed energy weapon over conventional missile interceptors are lower costs per shot, an unlimited number of firings, lower operational costs, and less manpower. There is also no interceptor debris to fall on the area protected.

Biden's Visit to Israel Amid Ongoing Conflict

United States President Joe Biden is set to visit Israel amid an ongoing conflict with Hamas fighters. The trip was confirmed by US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, and the White House released an official statement emphasizing strong support for Israel. Biden's visit comes after Hamas fighters breached Israel's heavily fortified Gaza border, initiating a surprise attack. Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared war on Hamas, resulting in significant casualties and destruction. President Biden will meet with Israel's Prime Minister Netanyahu in Tel Aviv. He will then travel to Jordan's capital, Amman, for discussions about increasing humanitarian aid to Gaza. In Amman, he will meet with Jordan's King Abdullah, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, and the Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, who opposes Hamas and governs the West Bank.

State News

UP CM Yogi Adityanath Announces Free Gas Cylinder For Ujjwala Scheme Beneficiaries

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath revealed the latest addition to the Ujjwala scheme – every beneficiary will receive a free cooking gas cylinder as a Diwali gift. The significance of this Diwali gift for the Ujjwala scheme beneficiaries cannot be understated, as it marks a pivotal moment in improving the lives of the less privileged. The announcement came during an event in Bulandshahr, where Chief Minister Adityanath not only shared this uplifting news but also inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of various development projects worth a substantial Rs 632 crore. Chief Minister Adityanath also praised the impact of the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' campaign, which has now reached a point where women like Parul Chaudhary and Annu Rani have won gold medals in the Asian Games, bringing honor to the country and Uttar Pradesh.

Economy News

PM Modi unveils long term blueprint for India's maritime economy

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a series of significant maritime projects, including the unveiling of a long-term vision document for the blue economy. These initiatives are aligned with the 'Amrit Kaal Vision 2047' for the Indian maritime blue economy. The vision document outlines strategic initiatives aimed at enhancing port facilities, promoting sustainable practices, and facilitating international collaboration. The Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of the Tuna-Tekra all-weather deep-draft terminal, to be built at a cost of more than Rs 4,500 crore at Deendayal Port Authority in Gujarat. The greenfield terminal, developed through a public-private partnership (PPP) mode, is expected to emerge as an international trade hub. The Prime Minister also dedicated more than 300 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth more than Rs 7.16 lakh crore for global and national partnerships in the maritime sector.

Banking News

RBI imposes monetary penalty on four co-operative banks & 1 HFC

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken action against several banks and a housing finance company in Gujarat due to their failure to follow certain banking regulations. These are:

Gujarat Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd. was penalized ₹4.50 lakh for violating RBI instructions on deposit placement and Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR), exceeding inter-bank exposure limits, and failing to maintain the minimum CRR on certain days. Nagarik Sahakari Bank Ltd. incurred a ₹2.00 lakh penalty for breaching sections of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. Makarpura Industrial Estate Co-operative Bank Ltd. faced a ₹2.00 lakh penalty for failing to transfer eligible funds to the Depositor Education and Awareness Fund, and sanctioning a loan with a bank director's relative as a guarantor. The Sevalia Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd. received a ₹50,000 penalty for non-compliance with RBI directives regarding loans and advances. West End Housing Finance Limited was fined ₹1.70 lakh for failing to follow National Housing Bank (NHB) directions on shareholding changes and for changing its shareholding without prior written permission from NHB or RBI, exceeding permitted limits.

Business News

IDFC gets CCI nod for merger with IDFC First Bank

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has given its approval for the merger of the Infrastructure Development Finance Company (IDFC) and IDFC First Bank. This approval

was communicated through a regulatory filing on October 17, 2023. This merger comes in the context of Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) completing its merger with HDFC Bank on July 1. As of June 30, 2023, IDFC held a 30.93 percent stake in IDFC First Bank through its non-financial holding company. Both entities aim to complete the merger in the current fiscal year and have agreed on a share exchange ratio of "155:100." This means that for every 100 shares of IDFC, shareholders will receive 155 shares of IDFC First Bank.

Govt To Sell 7% Equity Stake In Hudco Through OFS

The Indian government has announced its plans to divest 7% equity in Housing and Urban Development Corp. Ltd (Hudco) via an offer for sale (OFS) scheduled for October 18-19. This strategic move is expected to generate approximately ₹1,100 crore in revenue. The offer for sale will commence on October 18 for non-retail investors, with retail investors being able to bid on the following day. The government intends to divest 7% equity, including a green shoe option of 3.5%. The floor price for the offer is set at ₹79 per share, which is 12% lower than the closing price of ₹89 on the BSE as of the previous Tuesday. Approximately 140 million shares will be put up for sale, with a total value of around ₹1,106 crore. Notably, there will be no retail discount offered for the OFS, as confirmed by Hudco in a filing with the BSE.

Important Days News

World Trauma Day 2023

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

Kati Bihu 2023

Kati Bihu, also known as Kongali Bihu, is a significant festival celebrated by the Assamese people in the northeastern state of Assam. It falls on the first day of the 'Kati' month, which

typically occurs in the middle of October. Kati Bihu 2023 is celebrated on 18th October and it marks the beginning of the rice crop's growth and the start of the new harvest season. Kati Bihu is one of the three major festivals in Assam, alongside Bhogali Bihu and Rongali Bihu. It connects people to their agricultural roots and celebrates the importance of the harvest. Kati Bihu is solemn festival, primarily focused on the month's restrictions and remembrance of the past year. It signifies the start of the sowing season in Assam. The empty granaries and growing paddy fields symbolize the scarcity during this time, earning it the nickname "Poor" or "Kongali."

Ranks & Reports News

NSO Released Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Annual Report 2022-2023

The PLFS (Periodic Labour Force Survey), by the NSO (National Statistical Office), has released its results for the period of April to June 2023. The report indicates a notable decrease in the country's unemployment rate, a rise in the Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR), and an improvement in the Worker-Population Ratio (WPR). The findings from the PLFS shows decrement in the Unemployment Rate (UR) for individuals aged 15 years and above. In urban areas, the UR decreased from 7.6% in April-June 2022 to 6.6% in the same period of 2023. One of the key takeaways from the PLFS is the increase in the Labor Force Participation Rate (LFPR) for individuals aged 15 years and above. In urban areas, the LFPR has risen from 47.5% in April-June 2022 to 48.8% in the same period of 2023. The Worker-Population Ratio (WPR) is another important indicator of the health of a nation's labor market. In urban areas, the WPR increased from 43.9% in April-June 2022 to 45.5% in the same months of 2023 for individuals aged 15 years and above.

Kempegowda International Airport tops global on-time performance rankings

In a recent report published by aviation analytics firm Cirium, the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) in Bengaluru, also known as the Bengaluru International Airport, has been recognized as the "world's most punctual airport" for the past three consecutive months. The report covered approximately 89.03% of the total flights operated from KIA, amounting to 18,913 flights. The airport, managed by Bangalore International Airport Limited, achieved punctuality rates of 87.51% in July, 89.66% in August, and 88.51% in September. While KIA excelled in on-time departures, it had an OTP rate of 79.46% for arrivals, which was the lowest among the top five airports featured in the report. Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport was the only other Indian airport listed among the top five punctual airports globally, further emphasizing India's growing prominence in the aviation industry.

Appointments News

Arindam Bagchi Appointed as India's Ambassador to UN in Geneva

Arindam Bagchi, currently serving as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, has been appointed as India's next Ambassador/Permanent Representative to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva. Arindam Bagchi is set to succeed the incumbent Indian envoy to the UN in Geneva, Indra Mani Pandey, who assumed the role in July 2020. After a three-year tenure, Pandey is now scheduled to return to New Delhi, paving the way for Bagchi to take the helm. Arindam Bagchi, a seasoned Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer from the 1995 batch. He has served as a director in the Prime Minister's Office, where he was involved in managing significant national and international affairs. Additionally, Bagchi has worked at India's permanent mission at the United Nations in New York, gaining valuable experience in international diplomacy.

Awards News

Bhopal Mahila Thana Achieves ISO Certification

The Bhopal Mahila Thana, located in the city of Bhopal, has achieved a significant milestone by securing ISO certification. This certification highlights the police station's commitment to maintaining high standards in its operations and infrastructure. Over the past three years, the Bhopal Mahila Thana has dedicated efforts to improve its infrastructure. This transformation has led it to become the second ISO-certified police station in the city, with the Misrod police station being the first to achieve this recognition. The Bhopal Mahila Thana adopted a "victim-friendly" approach. A dedicated play area, referred to as a "swing house," was established for children. Furthermore, the police station saw the construction of more than five toilets and the creation of a feeding room for women.

Sports News

Ashutosh Sharma Breaks Yuvraj Singh's Fastest Fifty Record

Ashutosh Sharma, a middle-order batter for the Railways cricket team, broke Yuvraj Singh's record for the fastest fifty by an Indian. Ashutosh achieved this milestone during a Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy Group C clash in Ranchi against Arunachal Pradesh. Ashutosh took the crease at the score of 131 for 4 with just five overs to go. He then went on to smash 53 off 12

studded with eight sixes and just one four, which came through the covers. Ashutosh fell the next ball after reaching his record-breaking half-century and walked back with a stunning strike rate of 441.66. Yuvraj Singh, a cricketing legend, had held the record for the fastest fifty by an Indian for 16 years, with his fifty coming off 12 balls during the inaugural T20 World Cup in 2007 against England. However, Ashutosh Sharma changed the narrative with an astonishing performance.

India's represent his Contingent for the Asian Para Games

India is set to be well-represented at the fourth Asian Para Games scheduled to take place in Hangzhou, China, from October 22 to 28. The nation is sending a robust contingent of 446 members, including 303 athletes, demonstrating a commitment to para sports. The Sports Ministry of India has played a pivotal role in this endeavor by sanctioning the participation of 303 sportspersons, comprising 191 male and 112 female athletes. This support underscores India's dedication to promoting para sports and creating opportunities for athletes with disabilities. This year's Asian Para Games will witness India fielding its largest-ever contingent. In the previous edition held in Jakarta, India was represented by 190 athletes across 13 sporting events. This dedicated group returned with a remarkable tally of 72 medals, which included an impressive 15 gold medals.

Science & Technology News

PM Modi directs ISRO to land on the moon by 2040

India's Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, has announced ambitious plans to expand the country's space activities, including sending its first astronaut to the moon by 2040 and establishing a native space station by 2035. Following the success of the Chandrayaan-3 lunar probe, India is gearing up for lunar exploration. India is developing a roadmap for moon exploration, which includes building a next-generation launch vehicle, constructing a new launch pad, and creating human-centric laboratories and associated technologies. India signed NASA's Artemis Accords for space exploration, and NASA will provide advanced training to Indian astronauts and send them to the International Space Station in 2024. ISRO and NASA plan to launch a low-Earth orbit observatory in 2024 to map the Earth's ecosystems, ice mass, vegetation biomass, sea level, and natural disasters.

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International News

Jericho Missile: A'Doomsday' Weapon

Recently, Israeli legislator Revital "Tally" Gotliv, a member of the Knesset representing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud Party, has ignited a global debate with her provocative comments about the use of a "doomsday" weapon against Hamas and Palestine. Gotliv made these statements on X, a popular social media platform. The Jericho missile program is an integral part of Israel's military capabilities, dating back to the 1960s. This program, initially a collaboration with the French aerospace company Dassault, was named after the biblical city located in the West Bank. In subsequent years, Israel introduced the Jericho-3, an intermediate-range missile system. It boasted a longer length than the Jericho-2 and a larger diameter of 1.56 meters. The single warhead of the Jericho-3 weighed approximately 750 kilograms and had a range of 4,800 to 6,500 kilometers. Its payload capacity extended to about 1,300 kilograms (2,866 pounds), making it a formidable part of Israel's military arsenal.

Power Minister R.K. Singh To conduct ISA's Sixth Assembly In New Delhi From October 30

The Sixth Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) is set to take place in New Delhi from October 30 to November 2, 2023. This prestigious event will be presided over by the President of the ISA Assembly and the Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Government of India, Shri R.K. Singh. The Sixth Assembly of the ISA will be a platform for intensive discussions on ISA initiatives that have a direct impact on crucial aspects of energy, including energy access, energy security, and energy transitions. The primary areas of focus will include: 1. Universalization of Energy Access through Solar Mini-Grids. 2. Mobilizing Finance for Accelerated Solar Deployment & 3. Diversifying Supply Chains and Manufacturing for Solar. With 96 countries already registered to participate in the upcoming Sixth ISA Assembly, including 20 ministers, and the involvement of various multilateral development banks and stakeholders, the event promises to be a key milestone in advancing solar energy on the world stage.

State News

India's First Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) To Be Launched In UP

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate the priority section of the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) Corridor and simultaneously launch the RapidX train, symbolizing the beginning of RRTS operations in

India. The event will take place at the Sahibabad RapidX Station in Uttar Pradesh on October 20, 2023. The priority section of the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS Corridor, spanning 17 kilometers, is a significant development in India's transportation infrastructure. This section will connect Sahibabad to the 'Duhai Depot,' with stations at Ghaziabad, Guldhar, and Duhai along the way. With a remarkable design speed of 180 kilometers per hour, RRTS aims to provide high-speed trains for intercity commuting every 15 minutes, with the potential to increase frequency to as often as every 5 minutes, depending on demand.

Tamil Nadu's AI-Powered Elephant Protection System Aims to Prevent Train Collisions

Tamil Nadu is nearing the completion of its pioneering artificial intelligence (AI)-based early warning system designed to safeguard wild elephants from train collisions. This innovative project is being implemented along the Ettimadai–Walayar railway section, serving as an additional layer of protection for these majestic pachyderms. The Forest Department has successfully installed 12 e-surveillance towers for this groundbreaking project, divided between the 'A' and 'B' lines of the twin single line railway. Thermal imaging cameras have been affixed to all towers along the 'A' line, while the 'B' line is currently undergoing camera installation and networking-related tasks. Tamil Nadu's AI-based early warning system stands as a remarkable initiative to preserve the lives of wild elephants and reduce the risks associated with train collisions. As the final stages of implementation are underway, it is anticipated that this system will play a pivotal role in safeguarding the precious wildlife in the Ettimadai–Walayar region, demonstrating the harmonious coexistence of technology and conservation.

Defence News

India likely to sign deal with US for 31 MQ-9B drones by Feb 2024

India is in the process of finalizing a significant defense deal with the United States. According to reliable sources, the agreement involves the purchase of 31 MQ-9B Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) from General Atomics (GA). This deal is expected to enhance India's military capabilities significantly. The deliveries will start from February 2027, three years after the contract's signing. The deal's estimated cost is $3,072 million, and it follows the U.S. Foreign Military Sales (FMS) route. The 31 drones are allocated for different branches of the Indian military: 15 for the Indian Navy and 8 each for the Indian Army and Air Force. These drones, in Sky Guardian and Sea Guardian variants, offer enhanced Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) capabilities for the Indian armed forces. They can fly at long ranges, communicate via satellite for up to 40 hours, operate in diverse weather conditions, and safely integrate into civil airspace.

21st India-France Military Sub-Committee meeting Held In New Delhi

The 21st edition of the India-France Military Sub Committee (MSC) meeting took place on October 16-17, 2023, at the Air Force Station in New Delhi. This crucial meeting was co-chaired by Air Vice Marshal Ashish Vohra from the Indian side and Major General Eric Peltier from the French side. The India-France MSC serves as a forum established to advance defense cooperation between India and France. It facilitates regular discussions at both strategic and operational levels between the HQ Integrated Defence Staff of India and the Joint Staff HQ of the French Armed Forces. The main aim of this committee is to foster collaboration and strengthen the existing defense engagements between the two countries. The 21st edition of the MSC meeting was marked by a friendly, warm, and cordial atmosphere. The discussions during the two-day meeting revolved around exploring new initiatives within the scope of existing bilateral defense cooperation mechanisms and reinforcing ongoing defense engagements.

Economy News

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

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved an increase in the Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for Rabi Crops for the Marketing Season 2024-25. This decision aims to ensure fair prices for farmers and encourage crop diversification. Minimum Support Prices are the guaranteed prices that the government offers to farmers for their crops. These prices act as a safety net, ensuring that farmers receive a reasonable income for their produce.

Table: Minimum Support Prices for Rabi Crops in 2024-25

S.No.	Crops	MSP RMS 2024-25	Cost of Production RMS 2024-25	Increase in MSP (Absolute)	Margin Over Cost (In %)
1	Wheat	Rs. 2275	Rs. 1128	Rs. 150	102%

2	Barley	Rs. 1850	Rs. 1158	Rs. 115	60%
3	Gram	Rs. 5440	Rs. 3400	Rs. 105	60%
4	Lentil (Masur)	Rs. 6425	Rs. 3405	Rs. 425	89%
***5**	**Rapeseed & Mustard**	**Rs. 5650**	**Rs. 2855**	**Rs. 200**	
6	Safflower	Rs. 5800	Rs. 150	Rs. 150	52%

India extends curbs on sugar exports to calm local prices

India has decided to extend its restrictions on sugar exports beyond October in an effort to stabilize domestic prices, particularly in the lead-up to key state elections. This decision could potentially affect global sugar prices and raise concerns about increased food price inflation worldwide. India has maintained restrictions on sugar exports for the past two years. In the previous season, ending on September 30, India allowed mills to export only 6.2 million metric tons of sugar, a significant decrease from the 11.1 million tonnes permitted in 2021/22. The primary reason for this extension is to increase the supply of sugar in India, thereby helping to lower domestic prices. This move is strategically timed ahead of key state elections. India has chosen to impose an indefinite export restriction, in contrast to the usual one-year limit, to achieve its price reduction goals.

Centre approves 4% hike in DA for central govt employees

The Union Government recently took a significant step to benefit Central government employees and pensioners by increasing the Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR) by 4%. This increase will be effective from July 1, 2023. Union Minister Anurag Thakur announced a 4% increase in Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief. The DA will go up from 42% to 46%. This decision benefits a large number of people, including 48.67 lakh central government employees and 67.95 lakh pensioners. Additionally, the government approved Diwali bonuses for Group C and non-gazetted Group B level officials, including paramilitary forces. The finance ministry set a limit of ₹7,000 for non-productivity linked bonuses (ad hoc bonuses) for central government employees for the year 2022–2023.

Banking News

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

On the occasion of the 106th birth anniversary of its visionary founder, K.P Hormis yesterday, the Federal Bank recently inaugurated the 'Mookkannoor Mission,' a groundbreaking initiative designed to drive change and progress in the village of Mookkannoor, located in the Ernakulam district of Kerala. Mookkannoor, a serene village nestled in the beautiful Ernakulam district, is a place of profound cultural heritage and natural beauty. However, like many parts of the country, it faces various challenges. Federal Bank, headquartered at Aluva, took it upon itself to transform this village and uplift the lives of its residents. The 'Mookkannoor Mission' is a grand vision that encompasses a wide range of activities aimed at enhancing the overall well-being of the village. The Federal Bank is committed to executing a comprehensive plan that covers digitization of the entire village, a rigorous cleanliness drive, waste management, tree plantation, community development, and the implementation of renewable energy projects.

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

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently made significant revisions to its master direction on Know Your Customer (KYC) for regulated entities. These changes incorporate amendments to the Prevention of Money Laundering rules and, importantly, deal with the requirement of beneficial owner (BO) identification for partnership firms. Under the revised norms, the definition of "Principal Officer" has been clarified. A Principal Officer is now defined as an officer at the management level nominated by the regulated entity (RE). This change aims to provide greater clarity regarding the individuals responsible for furnishing information. It ensures that senior management is held accountable for compliance with KYC regulations. The revised guidelines have fine-tuned the definition of Customer Due Diligence (CDD). This step is crucial in enhancing the efficacy of KYC processes. The CDD now encompasses not only the identification and verification of the customer's identity but also emphasizes the use of reliable and independent sources for this purpose.

Business News

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

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has given the green light to the Green Energy Corridor (GEC) Phase-II – Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) for a massive 13-gigawatt (GW) Renewable Energy (RE) project in Ladakh. The project's primary objective is to establish a colossal 13 GW renewable energy project in Ladakh, a region known for its complex terrain, harsh climatic conditions, and defense sensitivities. The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) revealed that the project has an estimated total cost of ₹20,773.70 crore. Central Financial Assistance (CFA) will cover 40 percent of the project cost, amounting to ₹8,309.48 crore. Additionally, it will be linked to the Leh-Alusteng-Srinagar line to provide power to Jammu & Kashmir. This comprehensive approach encompasses 713 km of transmission lines, including a substantial 480 km of HVDC line, and the installation of 5 GW capacity HVDC terminals at both Pang (Ladakh) and Kaithal (Haryana).

Ranks & Reports News

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

In a significant shift in the global remote work landscape, India has been ranked 64th out of 108 countries in the Global Remote Work Index (GRWI). This marks a substantial decline of 15 places from the previous year, raising concerns about the country's readiness for remote work. India's remote work challenges are largely rooted in subpar digital and physical infrastructure. The nation ranked 77th in this category, indicating that its e-infrastructure is among the least developed globally (95th position). India's internet services, although widely available, are plagued by issues of cost (78th) and quality (70th), hampering remote work efficiency.

The top 10 countries which scored the highest on the Global Remote Work Index (GRWI) are:

Sno.	Country
1	Denmark
2	Netherlands

3	Germany
4	Spain
5	Sweden
6	Portugal
7	Estonia
8	Lithuania
9	Ireland
10	Slovakia

Global Pension Index 2023: Countries With The Best Pension System

The 15th annual Mercer CFA Institute Global Pension Index (MCGPI) recently revealed the ranking of retirement income systems in various countries. The Netherlands secured the top position, followed by Iceland and Denmark. India showed improvement, moving up to the 45th rank out of 47 systems analyzed. Netherlands on Top: The Netherlands had the highest overall index value (85.0), making it the best in the world. Iceland and Denmark: Iceland (83.5) and Denmark (81.3) claimed the second and third positions in the ranking, respectively. Argentina at the Bottom: Argentina had the lowest index value (42.3). India ranked 45th out of 47 countries. India's overall index value increased to 45.9 from 44.5 in 2022, primarily due to improvements in adequacy and sustainability sub-indices. The 2023 Global Pension Index added Botswana, Croatia, and Kazakhstan to the analysis.

Appointments News

Dr Meenesh Shah elected to Board of International Dairy Federation

Dr. Meenesh Shah, the Chairman and Managing Director of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), has been elected to the Board of the International Dairy Federation (IDF) during the General Assembly of IDF on October 15. Dr Shah has been associated with International Dairy Federation for a long. He is the Member Secretary of the Indian National Committee and also a member of the Standing Committee on Dairy Policy and Economics. He had also spearheaded the successful organisation of the World's largest Dairy Conference – IDF WDS 2022 in India in September 2022, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The International Dairy Federation is the leading source of scientific and technical expertise for all stakeholders of the dairy value chain. IDF's network of dairy experts has provided a mechanism for the dairy sector to reach a global consensus on how to help feed the world with safe and sustainable dairy products.

Sanjay Kulshreshtha named as new Chairman and Managing Director of HUDCO

Sanjay Kulshrestha has joined as the Chairman & Managing Director of the HUDCO from 16th October 2023. He is an electrical engineer with over 32 years of expertise in Infrastructure Financing, Hedging, Risk Management, ALM, thermal power plant management, Power Sector Project Financing etc. In 2006, he joined REC, initially in Mumbai and later moved to the Delhi Headquarters where he has been a Power Sector Financing expert for the last 17 years where he managed the techno-commercial appraisal of power sector projects and pioneered implementation of multiple government schemes. He has been a member of various committees on Hedging, Risk, Infrastructure Financing, ALM, etc. and worked in close coordination with Ministry of Power, State Governments & power utilities, Private developers, RBI and Multilateral Development Banks. Additionally, he acted as the CEO of RECPDCL, an REC subsidiary working in power sector consultancy services.

Presidential Appointments: New Governors for Odisha and Tripura

President Droupadi Murmu has recently appointed new governors for Odisha and Tripura, bringing experienced leaders to these important roles. Raghubar Das served as the Chief Minister of Jharkhand from 2014 to 2019. He is the only leader who completed a full five-year term as the Chief Minister of Jharkhand. Presently, he is a national vice president of the BJP. Nallu Indrasena Reddy is a three-time MLA and a prominent BJP leader from Telangana. He previously held the position of national secretary of the BJP. President Murmu appointed him as the Governor of Tripura, recognizing his political experience and dedication.

Agreements News

MeitY, IBM To Accelerate Innovation In AI, Semiconductor & Quantum Computing

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has taken a significant step towards fostering innovation and technological growth in India by signing three memorandum of understanding (MoUs) with tech giant IBM. These agreements aim to accelerate developments in the fields of artificial intelligence (AI), semiconductor technology, and quantum computing.

One of the key outcomes of this collaboration is the establishment of a National AI Innovation Platform (AIIP) under the Digital India initiative. This platform will serve as a hub for imparting AI-related skills to the youth and enhancing the AI ecosystem in India. Furthermore, the AIIP will focus on integrating advanced foundation models and generative

AI capabilities to support scientific, commercial, and human capital development in AI. Under the MoU with ISM, IBM will support the semiconductor research center to promote innovation in various areas related to semiconductor technology. IBM will provide expertise on intellectual property, tools, and skill development, focusing on logic, advanced packaging, heterogeneous integration, and advanced chip design technologies. The third MoU between IBM and C-DAC marks an essential collaboration in the advancement of the 'National Quantum Mission.' Together, they will work towards building competencies in quantum computing technology, imparting training to create a skilled talent pool in quantum technology, and fostering startups in this cutting-edge field.

Science & Technology News

Google and Qualcomm partner to make RISC-V chip for wearable devices

The partnership between Qualcomm and Google to produce wearable devices based on RISC-V technology marks a significant step in the development of open-source hardware and its application in consumer electronics. By utilizing RISC-V technology, Qualcomm aims to challenge the dominance of proprietary technologies, particularly those provided by British chip designer Arm Holdings. This includes the potential for more customized, power-efficient, and high-performance processors, enhancing the overall user experience for Android-based wearable devices. This move could potentially facilitate the adoption of RISC-V technology on a global scale, further accelerating its development and implementation across various industries. The reference to concerns expressed by lawmakers regarding the potential exploitation of open collaboration among American companies, particularly by China, emphasizes the delicate balance between open-source innovation and maintaining national interests.

Miscellaneous News

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

Tata Group-owned Air India Express has unveiled a dynamic new brand identity, characterized by a striking color scheme dominated by shades of orange and turquoise. This rebranding signifies a new phase in the airline's ambitious growth and transformation journey, starting with the induction of modern and fuel-efficient Boeing B737–8 aircraft. The airline's new visual identity features an energetic and premium color palette of Express Orange and Express Turquoise with Express Tangerine and Express Ice Blue as secondary colors. With 50 aircraft set to be inducted into the fleet over the next 15 months, Air India

Express is poised to double in size in a remarkably short span. Over the next 5 years, it aims to expand its fleet to about 170 narrow-body aircraft, covering both domestic and short-haul international routes.
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International News

China's Nuclear Arsenal Buildup: U.S. Pentagon Report

The U.S. Pentagon has released a report on China's military power, indicating that China is expanding its nuclear weapons arsenal at a faster rate than previously estimated. The Pentagon 2023 report suggests that China is on track to have over 1,000 nuclear warheads by 2030. China has been exerting military, diplomatic, and economic pressure on Taiwan. This includes ballistic missile overflights, increased warplane incursions into Taiwan's defense zone, and large-scale military exercises encircling Taiwan. China's aim is to modernize its military to become "world-class" by 2049. China's military spending in 2023 reportedly increased by 7.2% to $216 billion USD, exceeding its economic growth. Some sources suggest that the actual spending could be higher.

S Jaishankar Unveils Mahatma Gandhi's Bust In Vietnam

Recently, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar embarked on a significant official visit to Vietnam. This visit marked not only the strengthening of bilateral relations but also a celebration of the enduring principles and values adopted by Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore. One of the prominent events during Jaishankar's visit to Vietnam was the unveiling ceremony of a bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Ho Chi Minh City. In his address, Jaishankar emphasized the symbolic importance of this event, highlighting Gandhi's global recognition for his principles of truth, non-violence, and freedom. In addition to unveiling Mahatma Gandhi's bust, Jaishankar also unveiled the bust of Rabindranath Tagore in Bac Ninh province. Tagore, an eminent poet and philosopher, holds a special place in the hearts of Indians and has made a lasting impact on world literature. This event served to celebrate India's rich cultural heritage and its cultural connections with Vietnam.

State News

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

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma inaugurated the newly constructed 'Shraddhanjali' flyover in Guwahati on October 19, 2023, marking a significant milestone in the state's infrastructure development as it was completed in just 60 days. This achievement stands out, considering that it was completed 300 days ahead of the original schedule. The 2.28-kilometer-long Shraddhanjali flyover, linking Commerce Point with Sundrapur on RG Baruah Road is considered to be the second longest flyover in the state. The construction of the Shraddhanjali Flyover was accomplished within a budget of Rs 316 crore. The name "Shraddhanjali" was chosen for the flyover in honor of Shraddhanjali Kanan, a park situated inside the state zoo cum-botanical garden. This thoughtful naming decision pays tribute to an iconic location within Assam, highlighting the state's rich cultural and natural heritage.

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

The Arunachal Pradesh State Cabinet has given the green light for the establishment of a Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF) for three tiger reserves, the allocation of honorariums to third language teachers, the amendment of the state's industrial and investment policy, and the formulation of the Arunachal Pradesh Home Guard Rules for 2023. The state cabinet approved the formation of a Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF). This specialized force will be responsible for safeguarding the three tiger reserves in the state, namely Namdapha, Pakke, and Kamlang. This initiative aims to reduce poaching and illegal activities in the tiger reserves, ultimately securing the future of these critically endangered big cats. The formation of the Arunachal Pradesh Home Guard Rules for 2023 was another key decision by the state cabinet. These new rules will help streamline the functioning of the Home Guard in the state and enhance its effectiveness in safeguarding the well-being of Arunachal Pradesh's citizens.

Defence Newsq

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

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

the UK Army, challenges participants to navigate a demanding 60 km course in the rugged terrains of Wales, UK. This course includes troublesome mountains and swamplands. The teams are tasked with completing this formidable course in less than 48 hours, all while executing tactical missions, making it one of the most challenging military exercises in the world.

Economy News

India's Growing Contribution to Global Economic Growthe

Krishna Srinivasan, Director of IMF Asia & Pacific Department, has stated that India's contribution to global economic growth will increase from its current 16% to 18% within the next five years. Srinivasan highlighted that the region's economy is expected to grow by 4.6% in 2023 and 4.2% in 2024. This growth trajectory positions the region to contribute approximately two-thirds to the global economic expansion. Srinivasan underlined the robustness of India's economy, projecting a growth rate of 6.3% for the fiscal year 2023/24. India's fiscal deficit target of 5.9% for FY24 is expected to be met by the central government.

Business News

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

Tata Motors, a prominent name in the Indian automotive sector, announced a significant move that would reshape the country's logistics landscape. The company revealed its plan to acquire a 27% stake in Freight Tiger, a software-as-a-service (SaaS) platform specializing in end-to-end logistics solutions. Tata Motors committed to a substantial investment of ₹150 crore in Freight Tiger, securing a 27% stake in the (Software as a service) SaaS platform. However, Tata Motors also holds the option to further invest ₹100 crore over the next two years, depending on the prevailing market value. Beyond its marketplace function, Freight Tiger offers a suite of SaaS solutions to digitize and streamline various aspects of logistics interactions. These solutions include freight tracking, assignment management, carrier matching, documentation, and payment processing. Over the past seven years, the platform has successfully integrated and eliminated inefficiencies in cargo movements, handling over 10 million trips on an annualized basis.

Important Days News

World Statistics Day 2023 Celebrates On 20 October

World Statistics Day, observed every year on October 20, is a global celebration dedicated to raising awareness about the pivotal role that advanced, reliable, and high-quality statistics play in the development of nations worldwide. In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly established World Statistics Day, marking October 20 as a day of global significance. The primary purpose of this observance is to recognize and celebrate the remarkable achievements of national statistical systems and to underscore the profound relevance of statistics across various facets of society. The idea of celebrating World Statistics Day was proposed at the United Nations Statistical Commission's 41st Session in February 2010. The commission recommended marking October 20, 2010, as the first World Statistics Day.

World Osteoporosis Day 2023 Observed On 20th October

Every year, on October 20th, the world observes World Osteoporosis Day to shed light on the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of osteoporosis. This bone disorder affects millions worldwide, making it a critical global public health concern. "Step Up for Bone Health – Build Better Bones" serves as the central theme for World Osteoporosis Day in 2023. This theme underscores the importance of taking proactive steps to improve bone health and prevent osteoporosis. The first World Osteoporosis Day took place in 1996, marking the beginning of an annual tradition. Since then, the International Osteoporosis Foundation has played a pivotal role in advocating for the diagnosis, treatment, prevention, and research of osteoporosis on a worldwide scale.

International Chef's Day 2023 Celebrates On 20th October

Every year, on October 20th, International Chefs Day is celebrated worldwide, paying tribute to the art and science of cooking. This day, introduced by the late chef Dr. Bill Gallagher in 2004, serves as a platform to honor the contributions of chefs across the globe. According to the World Chefs official website, the theme for this year's International Chefs Day celebration is 'Growing A Healthy Future.' This theme underscores the importance of ensuring a healthy and sustainable planet for future generations through culinary practices. This day serves as a reminder that each of us possesses the potential to experiment in the kitchen. International Chefs Day underscores the idea that culinary creativity is within everyone's reach. In addition to celebrating culinary expertise, International Chefs Day highlights the importance of incorporating healthy dietary habits into our daily routines.

Appointments News

Puma Ropes in Mohammed Shami as its Brand Ambassador

Puma, the renowned sports brand, has announced the inclusion of Mohammed Shami, a prominent Indian fast bowler, as its brand ambassador. This strategic partnership adds another star to Puma's impressive roster of brand ambassadors. Under this partnership, Mohammed Shami will serve as the brand ambassador for Puma, endorsing a range of products including footwear, apparel, and accessories. In tandem with welcoming Shami, the brand has also introduced new bowling spikes with a specially designed mid-sole catering to the needs of fast bowlers. Mohammed Shami's cricketing journey is marked by remarkable achievements. He made his debut for Team India against the West Indies in 2013 at the iconic Eden Gardens. In this debut match, he left an indelible mark by taking nine wickets, a feat that remains unmatched by any Indian fast bowler in their debut match.

Centre notifies appointment of 17 judges across 8 HCs

In a surprising move, the Union government issued notifications for the transfer of 16 high court judges and the appointment of 17 new judges across various high courts. This action, announced by Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal on a social media platform, marked the highest number of judicial notifications made by the Centre in a single day. Notably, these transfers included judges recommended by the collegium earlier in the year. One of the transferred judges, Justice MV Muralidaran, had issued a contentious order in Manipur, sparking ethnic clashes between the Meiteis and the Kukis. This order, which called for the inclusion of the Meitei community in the Scheduled Tribe (ST) list, became a trigger point for conflict in the northeastern state. As of October 1, a staggering 31% of high court judge positions (347 out of 1,114) were vacant across 25 high courts in India. This high vacancy rate further exacerbated the challenges faced by the judiciary.

Awards News

ICAI receives UN Award for its contribution to sustainability reporting

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) received a prestigious UN award for its top-ranked sustainability initiatives, including the Sustainability Reporting Standards Board.UNCTAD announced the winners during the 8th World Investment Forum in Abu Dhabi on October 17 2023. ICAI's sustainability initiatives received the highest score among 70 initiatives worldwide. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) honored ICAI during the 8th World Investment Forum for its contributions to sustainability reporting. The ICAI was recognized for their work through the Sustainability

Reporting Standards Board (SRSB). The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) presented ICAI with the ISAR Honours 2023 for their outstanding contributions.

Jina Mahsa Amini wins EU's Sakharov Prize 2023

The European Parliament President, Roberta Metsola, announced the laureate of the 2023 Sakharov Prize in the Strasbourg plenary chamber. Jina Mahsa Amini and the Iranian "Woman, Life, Freedom" movement were awarded this prestigious prize, joining the ranks of remarkable past recipients like Malala Yousafzai and Nelson Mandela. Mahsa Amini, a young woman of only 22, passed away on September 16, 2022, while in the custody of Iran's religious police. Her alleged offense was a breach of the Islamic republic's strict dress code for women. Her untimely death galvanized global attention and support for the "Woman, Life, Freedom" movement. The Sakharov Prize is accompanied by a €50,000 endowment and holds a prominent place in recognizing individuals and movements that champion human rights and freedom. It serves as a powerful reminder of the ongoing struggle for justice and equality on a global scale.

Shreya Ghoshal won 5th National Awards 2023

Renowned playback singer Shreya Ghoshal has added another feather to her cap, receiving the prestigious Best Female Playback Singer award at the 69th National Film Awards. The award was presented to her by the Hon'ble President of India, Droupadi Murmu, in a grand ceremony held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. Shreya Ghoshal's remarkable journey in the Indian film industry has been adorned with accolades, and this recent win marks her fifth National Film Award. Her first National Award was in 2003 for the soul-stirring rendition of "Bairy Piya" in the iconic movie 'Devdas.' Established in 1954, the National Film Awards stand as a pinnacle of recognition for excellence in Indian cinema. This annual event is eagerly anticipated by filmmakers, artists, and cinema enthusiasts, as it showcases the best of Indian cinema.

Sports News

Karthikeyan Murali's Remarkable Victory Over Magnus Carlsen

In a remarkable turn of events at the ongoing Qatar Masters, 24-year-old Indian chess grandmaster Karthikeyan Murali achieved a stunning feat by defeating the world's number one player, Magnus Carlsen. Karthikeyan Murali's triumph over Magnus Carlsen in the

Qatar Masters is a momentous occasion in the world of chess. It highlights the immense talent and potential of Indian chess players on the international stage. Karthikeyan's win not only secured a place in the annals of chess history but also positioned him among other leading players with an impressive score of 5.5 out of 7. This exclusive club of chess masters includes players like SL Narayan, Javokhir Sindarov, David Paravyan, Arjun Erigaisi, and Nodirbek Yakubboev.

Hyderabad To Host Second Edition Of E-Prix In 2024

After a period of uncertainty, the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) and Formula E have officially confirmed the return of the Hyderabad EPrix for a second edition. This highly anticipated event is scheduled to take place on February 10, 2024. One of the most exciting aspects of the 2024 Hyderabad EPrix is the debut of an Indian driver, Jehan Daruvala. Daruvala will be making his mark in the all-electric single-seater championship, driving for Maserati MSG Racing and representing the Indian team Mahindra Racing. The Hyderabad EPrix for its second edition in 2024 is a significant milestone for the world of motorsport and for India. With the inclusion of a talented Indian driver, Jehan Daruvala, and Formula E's commitment to India, the event promises to be an unforgettable experience for both competitors and fans.

Miscellaneous News

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

India's tourism industry is experiencing an unprecedented boom, especially in the wake of the global pandemic and the country is poised to become the fourth-largest global spender in the travel sector by 2030, with total expenditures estimated to soar to a staggering $410 billion. The incredible recovery of India's tourism expenditure is showcased in Booking.com and McKinsey & Company's latest report titled 'How India Travels.' This report highlights several key factors that are propelling this resurgence. In 2022, India led the way in tourism expenditure recovery, reaching 78 percent of 2019 levels. This impressive recovery far outstripped the Asian average of 52 percent. As a result, the number of aggregate trips is projected to increase dramatically, from 2.3 billion in 2019 to a staggering 5 billion by 2030.

IMD Issues Alert For Cyclone Tej To Mumbai

The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a cautionary notice regarding a potential cyclonic storm forming in the Arabian Sea. This impending weather event, likely to

be named ‘Cyclone Tej‘, has the potential to impact Mumbai, Pune, and other regions of Maharashtra and the Konkan area. According to an IMD official, a cyclonic circulation has been observed over the southeast Arabian Sea and the adjoining Lakshadweep region. However, the probability of this system intensifying into a cyclonic storm is currently low. The IMD has issued a warning to fishermen in Maharashtra and South Gujarat, urging them to avoid venturing into the sea until the situation becomes clearer. This precautionary measure is essential to ensure the safety of those engaged in maritime activities.
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National News

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

Previously known as RapidX, country’s first semi-high-speed regional rail service, Namo Bharat marks the introduction of the Regional Rapid Train Service (RRTS) in India. These trains are designed with the utmost passenger convenience and safety in mind. Moreover, these trains offer features such as overhead luggage racks, Wi-Fi connectivity, and mobile and laptop charging outlets at every seat. Fare structures for Namo Bharat have been meticulously designed, taking into account the distance or stations covered. The minimum fare for the premium coach is set at Rs 40, with a maximum fare of Rs 100. For the five standard coaches operating on the priority section, fares range from a minimum of Rs 20 to a maximum of Rs 50. The Namo Bharat trains will offer a remarkable average speed of 100 kilometers per hour, outperforming both traditional metro trains and passenger trains in the Indian Railways network. These state-of-the-art train sets have been manufactured by Alstom, a renowned company, right here in Gujarat, further bolstering India’s ‘Make in India’ initiative.

International News

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

On October 17, the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) in collaboration with the Acquisition Technology & Logistics Agency (ATLA), a division of the Japanese Ministry of Defense, successfully test-fired a medium-caliber maritime electromagnetic railgun from an offshore platform. This remarkable feat marks the first time any nation has managed to launch a railgun from an offshore platform. Typically, railguns are mounted on ships, but

Japan aspires to employ this technology both on land and at sea, making this test an unprecedented advancement in the field. A railgun is a cutting-edge electromagnetic weapon designed to launch projectiles at incredibly high velocities. This technology is capable of targeting various objects, including ships, missiles, and aircraft. The primary goal of Japan's railgun program is to integrate this technology with long-range missiles, augmenting its capacity to intercept aerial targets effectively.

Defence News

Indian Navy gets Third Guided Missile Destroyer Imphal

In a significant development for the Indian Navy, the state-of-the-art stealth guided missile destroyer, Yard 12706 (Imphal), has been officially transferred to Indian Navy on October 20, 2023. Imphal is the third vessel of Project 15B that was built at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL). The Project is a follow-on of the Kolkata class (Project 15A) destroyers commissioned in the last decade. With a displacement of 7,400 tons and an overall length of 164 meters, this guided missile destroyer boasts advanced weaponry and cutting-edge sensors, including surface-to-air missiles and torpedoes. Imphal which is designed by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau (WDB) and constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders stands as a symbol of India's prowess in indigenous shipbuilding.

Mid-Planning Conference For Multilateral Naval Exercise (MILAN) – 24

The Indian Naval is all set to host MILAN 24, a significant multilateral naval exercise, at Visakhapatnam from 19th February to 27th February 2024. This event follows a long-standing tradition of hosting the MILAN exercise, showcasing India's commitment to fostering international maritime cooperation. The upcoming MILAN 24 will consist of both a harbour phase and a sea phase. MILAN 24 will coincide with India G20 Presidency and the conduct of the exercise would yet again realise the 'G20 theme Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'. MILAN 24 is likely to witness the largest-ever participation to date with invites being extended to over 50 countries. MILAN, a biennial multilateral naval exercise, was initiated by the Indian Navy in 1995. Initially, it was aligned with India's 'Look East Policy.' However, as India's international engagement evolved with the 'Act East policy' and the 'Security And Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)' initiative by Hon'ble PM Narendra Modi, MILAN opened its door to participation from Friendly Foreign Countries (FFCs).

Banking News

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

The Reserve Bank of India has taken a significant step in the digital transformation of the nation's financial landscape by initiating a pilot run to test the E-Rupee, a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), for inter-bank borrowing. The E-Rupee pilot project is a remarkable endeavor that seeks to harness the potential of blockchain technology and digital currency to revolutionize the way inter-bank transactions are conducted in India. An essential aspect of the pilot project is to evaluate the behavioral patterns for users. The insights gathered during this phase will inform design choices and decisions on the policy framework. One of the key objectives of the retail CBDC pilot is reach a daily transaction volume of 10 lakh (1 million) transactions by December 2023. RBI is diligently working to set the stage for achieving this target, focusing on crucial elements like interoperability among various stakeholders. The initial transactions rate of 18,000-20,000 transactions per day is expected to significantly increase in the coming months.

RBI Inaugurates Sub-Office in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has established a sub-office in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh, bolstering its commitment to financial inclusion and development in the region. Dr. Michael Debabrata Patra, Deputy Governor of RBI, inaugurated the sub-office on October 20, 2023, marking a milestone in the central bank's regional presence. The newly inaugurated sub-office in Itanagar is equipped with various departments and cells that will cater to the unique financial and developmental needs of the region. These specialized units include: 1. Financial Inclusion and Development Department (FIDD) 2. Human Resource Management Department (HRMD) 3. Consumer Education and Protection Cell (CEPC) 4. Market Intelligence Cell (MIC). With the inauguration of the sub-office in Itanagar, RBI has now extended its reach to all seven states in the northeastern region of India. This underscores the central bank's dedication to promoting financial stability, economic development, and financial inclusion across the entire northeast.

Business News

RBI Approves Kotak Mahindra Bank To Acquire MFI Sonata Finance

Kotak Mahindra Bank has received the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) approval to acquire 100% stake in micro-lender Sonata Finance. This acquisition marks a crucial step for Kotak Mahindra Bank in expanding its footprint in the microfinance sector. As a result of this acquisition, Sonata Finance will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of Kotak Mahindra

Bank. The acquisition, valued at approximately Rs 537 crore, was announced in February and has now received the crucial approval from the RBI. Founded in 2006, Sonata Finance is headquartered in Lucknow, India, and primarily operates in 10 states, with a strong focus on the northern regions of the country. It boasts a network of 502 branches and serves nearly 900,000 customers, predominantly comprising women borrowers who operate under the joint liability group model.

Important Days News

National Police Commemoration Day 2023 Celebrates on 21 October

On October 21, 1959, ten courageous Policemen laid down their lives in a fierce ambush by heavily armed Chinese troops at Hot Springs in Ladakh. In their memory and that of all Police personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice while on duty, October 21 is observed as Police Commemoration Day. In 2018, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji dedicated the National Police Memorial (NPM) in Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, to the nation on Police Commemoration Day. The NPM plays a pivotal role in giving Police Forces a sense of national identity, pride, unity of purpose, common history, and shared destiny. The NPM is more than just a memorial; it is a site of pilgrimage and a place of reverence for Police personnel and citizens alike. It reminds all who visit of the tremendous sacrifices made by these brave men and women in uniform. The Memorial is open to the public on all days except Mondays.

Agreements News

IRCTC Partners With Zomato For Delivery Of Pre-Booked Meals

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

Appointments News

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

Hewlett-Packard (HP) has announced a significant leadership change with the appointment of Ipsita Dasgupta as the Senior Vice President & Managing Director for its India market. Ms. Dasgupta's role will encompass overseeing all facets of HP's strategy and profitability in the India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka regions. Ipsita Dasgupta brings a wealth of experience and accomplishment to her role at HP. Her career includes key positions in esteemed organizations including the President of Corporate Strategy and Incubated Business at Star India. Additionally, she has played a vital role as the Chief Commercial Officer for South Asia and Greater China at General Electric Company. With 24 years of international operating experience across various industries, her multifaceted career journey and her executive roles in both media and technology corporations position her as an ideal candidate to lead HP's endeavors in the India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka markets.

Awards News

Gujarat's Dhordo Awarded UNWTO's Best Tourism Village 2023

The beautiful village of Dhordo in Gujarat has garnered international recognition after it secured a place on the list of the 54 best tourism villages announced by the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

Dhordo village has recently hosted the inaugural Tourism Working Group Meeting of the G20, during India's presidency of the influential group. This gathering of global leaders in the enchanting landscapes of Dhordo showcased the village's capacity to host international events and highlighted its growing importance in the world of tourism. The UNWTO's Best Tourism Villages 2023 accolade is a tribute to villages leading the way in nurturing rural regions, preserving landscapes, upholding cultural diversity, safeguarding local values, and celebrating culinary traditions. It was Launched in 2021.

West Bengal Governor Presents 'Durga Bharat Samman' Awards

Hindustani classical vocalist and composer Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty has been conferred with the prestigious 'Durga Bharat Samman' by the Governor of West Bengal, C V Ananda Bose. Bose also conferred the award, in its first edition, on the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for its recent successful 'Chandrayaan' mission, besides the Garden Reach

Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE). Visva-Bharati, a renowned central university, was also honored with the 'Durga Bharat Samman.' The accolade acknowledges the institution's unwavering commitment to providing quality education, research, and its role in nurturing future leaders and thinkers. All four recipients of the 'Durga Bharat Samman' were not only honored with this prestigious award but were also presented with a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh each, a plaque, and a citation. These tokens of appreciation serve as a testament to their exceptional dedication, commitment, and achievements in their respective fields.

Science & Technology News

Gaganyaan TV-D1 Mission Takes a Historic Leap

In a historic moment for India's ambitious human space mission, the Test Vehicle-D1 (TV-D1), designed for the ISRO's Gaganyaan program, successfully took flight. The launch marked a significant milestone in India's space endeavors. The TV-D1 launch aimed to achieve several critical mission objectives. These are: 1. Flight Demonstration and Evaluation of Test Vehicle Subsystems. 2. Crew Escape System Evaluation. 3. Crew Module Characteristics Assessment and 4. DecelerationSystem Demonstration at Higher Altitudes. The successful TV-D1 launch not only signifies a remarkable achievement for India's space program but also reaffirms the nation's commitment to exploring the possibilities of human space travel. As India moves closer to its goal of launching astronauts into space, this mission paves the way for a brighter future in space exploration.

ISRC Report: Blueprint For India's Dominance In The Semiconductor Sector

The India Semiconductor R&D Committee recently handed over a comprehensive report on the India Semiconductor Research Center (ISRC) to Union Minister of State for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Electronics & IT, Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar. This report outlines a strategic roadmap that aims to place India at the forefront of global semiconductor research and innovation The report comprehensively identifies the pillars of ISRC, which include Advanced Silicon, Packaging R&D, Compound/Power Semiconductor, and Chip Design & EDA (Electronic Design Automation). These pillars form the foundation of ISRC's mission to propel India's semiconductor capabilities and research. The ISRC report is not merely a short-term plan; it's part of a decadal strategy. The ISRC is set to have a profound impact on India, its young scientists, researchers, and startups, aligning seamlessly with Prime Minister Modi's vision for 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India). Over the next four to five years, the ISRC aims to become a global leader in semiconductor research and innovation.

Google Launches DigiKavach Program to Fight Online Financial Frauds in India

Tech giant Google has taken a proactive step to address the growing concern of online financial frauds in India. Through its new program, DigiKavach, Google aims to combat these fraudulent activities by understanding the strategies. Google's DigiKavach program involves a comprehensive study of the methods and modus operandi used by online scammers. By gaining insights into the tactics employed by fraudsters, Google can better develop strategies to counter these fraudulent activities. One of the primary objectives of DigiKavach is to create and implement countermeasures to combat emerging online scams. Google is actively working to enhance its security infrastructure to protect Indian users from scams, malware, and online fraud.

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National News

India To Host World's Largest Textiles Event, Bharat Tex 2024

India is set to host the upcoming Bharat Tex 2024 Expo, scheduled to take place from February 26-29, next year. The event will showcase India's capabilities as a reliable supplier of textile products, spanning the entire value chain, all under one roof. With an exhibition area spread across 2,00,000 square meters, Bharat Tex 2024 Expo has been conceived as the largest textile fair in the world in terms of exhibition area. Minister Goyal emphasized that it would provide a platform for weavers, craftsmen, and the handloom sector to showcase their skills and what's possible on a global stage. He also asserted that this event will not just set the benchmark for future endeavors but also highlight India's true capabilities and strengths as a global player.

International News

US Imposes Sanctions on Three Chinese Firms for Alleged Missile Component Supply to Pakistan

The United States has imposed sanctions on three Chinese companies for their alleged involvement in supplying missile components to Pakistan. These sanctions were issued under

Executive Order 13382, which focuses on entities involved in the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. The three Chinese companies subjected to sanctions are as follows: 1) General Technology Limited, 2) Beijing Luo Luo Technology Development and 3) Changzhou Utek Composite Company. The US State Department has stated that these sanctions are part of the global nonproliferation regime and are intended to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery, and associated procurement activities of concern. The US government remains committed to disrupting procurement networks that support activities related to proliferation.

State News

Project Nilgiri Tahr: Tamil Nadu's Effort to Conserve an Endangered Species

Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has launched "Project Nilgiri Tahr," an initiative aimed at conserving and protecting the endangered Nilgiri Tahr species. The project, with a budget of ₹25 crore, seeks to better understand the Nilgiri Tahr's population, distribution, and ecology, as well as address immediate threats to their survival. A core objective of Project Nilgiri Tahr is to develop a deeper understanding of the Nilgiri Tahr's population, distribution, and ecological requirements. This knowledge is crucial for their conservation. The project aims to re-introduce Nilgiri Tahr to their historic habitats, helping to restore their natural range and protect their populations. The Forest Department has established a project office in Coimbatore to oversee and manage the various aspects of Project Nilgiri Tahr. A full-time Project Director and a Senior Scientist, assisted by four Senior Research Fellows, have been appointed to lead and execute the project's activities.

Defence News

Defence Minister Inaugurated Indian Military Heritage Festival In New Delhi

The Indian Military Heritage Festival took center stage at the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi. The event was inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who was joined by Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Pande. The United Service Institution of India (USI), the oldest tri-service think tank of India working since 1870 conducted the annual 'Indian Military Heritage Festival'. This grand occasion served as a tribute to India's rich military history and aimed to inspire the youth of the nation. The United Service Institution of India (USI) is a think tank dedicated to national security and defense services, headquartered in New Delhi, India. Its mission is to promote and advance interest and knowledge in the fields of defense services, encompassing the arts, sciences, and literature related to this domain.

Major General Sir Charles MacGregor founded the United Service Institution in 1870 in Shimla.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Launches Project 'Udbhav' To Promote "Indianisation"

The Indian Army recently launched 'Project Udbhav' with the aim of rediscovering the profound Indian heritage of statecraft and strategic thoughts derived from ancient Indian texts. "Project Udbhav, initiated by the military, aims to tap into ancient Indian treatises such as Chanakya's Arthashastra, Kamandaka's Nitisara, and the Thirukkural by the Tamil poet-saint Thiruvalluvar to glean insights on statecraft, strategy, diplomacy, and warfare. 'Project Udbhav' bridges the gap between ancient wisdom and modern military techniques, enabling India to address the evolving security challenges of the 21st century. The project embodies the belief that age-old scriptures and writings, spanning centuries in the past, contain profound knowledge that can significantly benefit modern military strategies.

Iron Sting Weapon Israel

Israeli forces have introduced the cutting-edge "Iron Sting" system, designed to neutralize rocket launchers with remarkable accuracy, marking the first-ever use of this technology. The Magellan unit, in collaboration with the Air Force, has successfully thwarted dozens of terrorists using various weapons, including the innovative and highly precise mortar bomb known as "Steel Sting." This deployment is expected to revolutionize ground warfare by providing military units with organic, effective firepower while minimizing collateral damage and civilian casualties.

Economy News

Indian Government Grants Approval for Non-Basmati Rice Exports

The Indian government has given the green light for the export of 1.34 million tonnes of Non-Basmati White Rice to seven countries. This export approval has been issued by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT). The approved exports are intended for seven countries, namely Nepal, Cameroon, Cote D'Ivoire, Republic of Guinea, Malaysia, Philippines, and Seychelles. The Philippines will receive the largest quota, with up to 295,000 metric tonnes of non-Basmati white rice eligible for export. Cameroon is allotted 190,000 metric tonnes. Malaysia will import up to 170,000 metric tonnes. Nepal is set to receive 95,000 metric tonnes.

Banking News

RBI Imposes ₹2.5 Crore Penalty On L&T Finance For Non Compliance

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently taken regulatory action against L&T Finance Limited by imposing a monetary penalty of ₹2.50 crore (Rupees Two crore Fifty lakh only) on the company. According to a press release issued by the RBI, this penalty has been levied due to non-compliance with specific provisions of the Non-Banking Financial Company – Systemically Important Non-Deposit taking Company and Deposit taking Company (Reserve Bank) Directions, 2016. During the statutory inspection, several deficiencies in compliance were identified by the RBI. These are: 1)Failure to Inform Retail Borrowers, 2) Lack of Notification for Changes in Penal Interest Rates and 3) Non-Disclosure of Changes in Loan Terms and Conditions.

HDFC Bank Unveils XpressWay Digital Platform for Swift Loans

HDFC Bank, a leading financial institution, has introduced its cutting-edge digital platform, XpressWay, to streamline and expedite its banking products and services. This innovation empowers customers to enjoy a more rapid and hassle-free banking experience. XpressWay is designed to provide customers with a host of key features, making banking more efficient and customer-centric. Customers can expect faster processing times and an effortless banking journey. It also reduces the environmental footprint and streamlining processes. Empowering customers with self-service options for convenience. and available for both existing and new customers, XpressWay is an integral component of HDFC Bank's 'NOW,' an umbrella brand encompassing the bank's digital products and services.

RBL Bank Introduces GO Savings Account

RBL Bank, a prominent player in the Indian banking sector, has announced the launch of its cutting-edge digital banking product, the GO Savings Account. Customers can enjoy high-interest rates of up to 7.5% per annum, making their savings work harder for them. This account introduces a novel subscription-based model, which combines simplicity and high-value benefits for customers seeking modern banking solutions. This innovative account follows a subscription-based model, with a first-year subscription fee of Rs. 1999 + taxes. Subsequent annual renewals are available at a fee of Rs. 599 + taxes. The account opening process has been streamlined to allow customers to open an account within minutes. All that is required are PAN and Aadhaar details, minimizing the hassle. GO Account holders benefit from fee-free transactions, making everyday banking more cost-effective.

Business News

Govt To Invest ₹30,000 Crore To Expand Crop Insurance Portal Coverage

The government has unveiled plans to allocate ₹30,000 crore to enhance the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) portal. The primary objective of this initiative is to transform the PMFBY into a comprehensive platform that will extend insurance coverage beyond crops to include a wide range of agricultural assets, such as ponds, tractors, livestock, and even palm trees. This ambitious project will be driven by the innovative AIDE app, which was launched in July. The AIDE app aims to ensure door-to-door enrollment, making crop insurance more accessible and convenient for farmers. The PMFBY portal, which primarily dealt with subsidized crop insurance, is evolving into a versatile platform. Farmers will soon have the opportunity to secure insurance coverage for their non-subsidized agricultural assets. The goal is to empower farmers with the ability to protect their assets comprehensively.

NLC India Green Energy Limited To Boost India's Green Energy Capacity

NLC India, a Navratna public sector company has established a wholly-owned subsidiary known as NLC India Green Energy Limited (NIGEL). The subsidiary is set to play a pivotal role in the country's sustainable energy journey, focusing on the expansion of renewable energy projects and technological innovations. With environmental sustainability taking center stage on a global scale, NIGEL is geared towards spearheading the renewable energy movement. The company recognizes the urgent need to accelerate renewable power generation, and it aims to do so with unwavering dedication. One of NIGEL's ambitious objectives is to establish renewable energy projects with a combined capacity of 6 GW by 2030. Currently, the company is actively developing projects that collectively contribute 2 GW of power generation capacity across various regions in India.

Ranks & Reports News

EU Report Recommends 2% Global Wealth Tax on Billionaires to Curb Evasion

The European Union Tax Observatory has published the 'Global Tax Evasion Report 2024,' calling for a 2% global wealth tax on billionaires. The report emphasizes the urgent need to combat tax evasion, which enables some billionaires to effectively pay between 0% to 0.5% of their wealth in taxes. The report advocates for the implementation of a global minimum tax on billionaires, set at 2% of their wealth. This measure is expected to address tax evasion

and generate approximately $250 billion from fewer than 3,000 individuals. The report justifies this proposal by highlighting the modest nature of the tax rate in light of billionaires' wealth growth, which has averaged 7% annually since 1995, adjusted for inflation. The report evaluates international efforts to combat tax evasion, citing significant progress in some areas.

Appointments News

Sanjay Kumar Jain selected as CMD, IRCTC

In a significant development for the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), Sanjay Kumar Jain, an officer of the Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) of the 1990 batch, has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD). His appointment comes after a vacancy in the position since the retirement of Mahendra Pratap Maal in January 2021. The recommendation for his appointment was made by the Search-Cum-Selection Committee (SCSC) and subsequently approved. Mr. Sanjay Kumar Jain is a seasoned officer with a remarkable track record. Before his elevation to the role of CMD, he served as the Principal Chief Commercial Manager in the Northern Railway. His diverse experience within the Indian Railways has allowed him to gain valuable insights into the functioning of the organization.

Ashok Vaswani To Succeed Uday Kotak As New CEO Of Kotak Mahindra Bank

Ashok Vaswani, a seasoned international banker with a remarkable career, is set to take the chair as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Kotak Mahindra Bank. This transition comes following Uday Kotak's surprise departure from his role. The appointment has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India. With a career spanning several decades, Ashok Vaswani has held pivotal roles in prominent financial institutions. Prior to joining Kotak Mahindra Bank, Vaswani was serving as the President of Pagaya Technologies, an Israel-based fintech company. At Pagaya Technologies, he was responsible for the development of real-time customer credit enhancement solutions. Kotak Mahindra Bank's announcement regarding Ashok Vaswani's appointment as the MD & CEO coincided with the release of the bank's financial results for the second quarter. The positive financial performance, along with the RBI's approval of Vaswani's appointment, bodes well for the bank's future prospects.

Awards News

CJI Chandrachud Honored With "Award For Global Leadership" By Harvard Law School

Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud, an distinguished alumnus of Harvard Law School, was bestowed with the prestigious 'Award for Global Leadership' by his institution. Chief Justice DY Chandrachud's association with Harvard Law School goes back several decades. He had pursued his Master of Laws (LLM) from 1982 to 1983 and later embarked on his Doctor of Juridical Science (SJD) journey from 1983 to 1986 from Harvard. The occasion also coincided with the celebration of the 100th anniversary of Harvard Law School's Graduate Law Program, highlighting the enduring commitment of the institution to legal education and innovation.

Important Days News

International Stuttering Awareness Day 2023 Observed On 22 October

International Stuttering Awareness Day is a global event that takes place annually on October 22nd, dedicated to raising awareness about stuttering, a speech disorder characterized by disruptions in fluency. This year, the theme for International Stuttering Awareness Day is "One Size Does NOT Fit All." It underscores the idea that each person with a stutter experiences life differently and faces unique challenges on a daily basis. Stuttering is not a one-size-fits-all condition. International Stuttering Awareness Day plays a crucial role in educating people about this complex condition and addressing the diverse needs and circumstances of individuals who stutter. With over 70 million people worldwide struggling with stuttering, it emphasizes that a one-size-fits-all approach is not suitable for everyone.

Sports News

Mohammed Shami make history to claim 2nd 5-wicket haul in World Cups

Mohammad Shami became the first Indian bowler to pick two five-wicket hauls in ICC ODI World Cups. He is now the ninth bowler overall to take two fifers in ODI World Cups. Additionally, Shami's achievement marked the seventh instance of an Indian bowler securing a fifer in ICC ODI World Cups. This accomplishment demonstrates the rich history of Indian bowling talent on the global stage. Mohammad Shami also surpassed the legendary spinner Anil Kumble's tally of 31 wickets in ODI World Cups. The list of Indian bowlers who have

previously achieved this feat includes Shami himself (2019), Ashish Nehra (2003), Venkatesh Prasad (1999), Robin Singh (1999), Yuvraj Singh (2011), and Kapil Dev (1983).

Asian Para Games 2023 Opening Ceremony

The Asian Para Games, organized by the Asian Paralympic Committee and recognized by the International Paralympic Committee, commences on October 22, 2023. This marks the fourth edition of the Games, featuring 566 medal events across 22 sports and 24 disciplines. The event promises thrilling moments as athletes from across Asia gather to compete. India is sending its largest-ever contingent, consisting of 313 athletes, to compete in various events at the Asian Para Games 2023. Renowned Para Shuttler Parul Parmar will proudly bear the Indian flag during the opening ceremony, symbolizing the spirit of Indian para-athletes. Para-club Thrower Amit Saroha joins Parul Parmar as the co-flag bearer, representing India with pride and determination.

Shubman Gill becomes fastest batter to score 2000 runs in ODIs

Shubman Gill, the dynamic Indian opener, has created a significant mark in the world of One Day International (ODI) cricket by becoming the fastest player to reach 2000 runs in this format. Shubman Gill accomplished this remarkable feat during India's World Cup match against New Zealand. He reached the 2000-run milestone in just 38 innings, setting a new world record. Hashim Amla, a legendary South African cricketer, had held the record for the fastest 2000 ODI runs before Gill's accomplishment. Amla achieved this milestone on January 21, 2011, during a match against India in St George's Park, Port Elizabeth.

Science & Technology News

ISRO's Gaganyaan Test Missions TV-D1: A Historical Milestone

In the historical context of space exploration, the recent test flight of Gaganyaan mission TV-D1 served as a crucial milestone. It was designed to evaluate the performance of drogue parachutes in stabilizing the spacecraft and decelerating it during reentry into Earth's atmosphere. The Gaganyaan project includes a series of test vehicle missions to ensure crew safety. These missions assess the crew escape system and parachute-based deceleration system under various flight conditions. Additional test flights will be conducted before the planned 2025 crewed mission. The recent test flight is just the beginning of a series of abort tests leading up to the 2025 crewed mission. It also paves the way for upcoming unmanned missions, including the launch of a female humanoid robot named Vyommitra.

Obituaries News

Legendary Spinner and Former Indian Captain, Bishan Singh Bedi Passes Away at 77

Bishan Singh Bedi, one of India's most iconic cricketers, passed away at the age of 77. A left-arm spinner and former captain of the Indian cricket team, Bedi's contributions to the sport has left an indelible mark on the cricketing world. Bedi is widely regarded as one of the greatest left-arm spinners in the history of the game. Bishan Singh Bedi made his Test debut against Australia in the 1969-70 series. His prowess as a spinner, leadership on the field, and contributions to Indian cricket as a mentor and selector will forever be celebrated. Bedi's influence extended beyond international cricket. He had a successful stint in County cricket, playing 102 First-Class games for Northamptonshire and picking 434 wickets from 1972 to 1977. In 1970, Bishan Singh Bedi was honored with the Padma Shri, one of India's highest civilian awards, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to cricket.

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National News

54th IFFI Reveals Indian Panorama Lineup For 2023 Scheduled To Be Held in Goa In November

The 54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) has officially announced its Indian Panorama selection for 2023, featuring a diverse array of 25 feature films and 20 non-feature films. These cinematic gems will be showcased during the festival, scheduled to run from November 20 to November 28 in Goa. These movies represent the artistic prowess and cultural diversity of Indian cinema. The 12-member feature film jury, led by TS Nagabharana, has meticulously chosen these films, making them a must-watch for film enthusiasts. The Indian Panorama, organized by the National Film Development Corporation under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, curates films of exceptional cinematic, thematic, and aesthetic quality. This selection is the result of a meticulous process involving renowned figures from the Indian film industry.

NCERT to Replace 'India' with 'Bharat' in Upcoming Books

In a significant move, the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has given its approval to replace the term "India" with "Bharat" in all textbooks across the

country. One of the most talked-about proposals is to replace the name 'India' with 'Bharat' in textbooks. This change is expected to reflect the traditional and indigenous name for the country. The idea behind this recommendation is to emphasize the historical and cultural significance of the name 'Bharat' while acknowledging the nation's rich heritage. The committee has also suggested a shift from 'ancient history' to classical history' in the curriculum. This change aims to provide a more nuanced and comprehensive understanding of India's historical evolution. It could entail a focus on specific periods or aspects of India's history that are considered classical, offering a deeper exploration of the nation's past.

International News

Bhutan and China make progress in border talks

China and Bhutan are working towards resolving their longstanding border disputes. Bhutan's foreign minister visited Beijing for talks with his Chinese counterpart, indicating progress in the negotiation process. China has disputes with only two of its 14 neighboring countries – India and Bhutan. Bhutan and China have ongoing border disputes since the 1980s, specifically in areas like Jakarlung, Pasamlung, and Doklam. Bhutan maintains that discussions about tri-junction points (involving India, China, and Bhutan) can only happen after India and China resolve their border issues. Bhutan is observing how India and China settle their disputes before initiating comprehensive talks regarding tri-junction points.

Sri Lanka announces free visas for Indians to boost tourism

Sri Lanka, in a bid to revitalize its tourism sector, has taken a significant step by waiving visa fees for tourists from seven countries, including India. This move aims to attract more visitors and help the country recover from recent economic challenges. To boost tourist arrivals, Sri Lanka's Cabinet has initiated a pilot project to issue free tourist visas to travelers from China, India, Russia, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Japan. This policy will be in effect until March 31, 2024. India has historically been Sri Lanka's top source market. This year alone, more than 2 lakh Indian tourists, constituting 20% of total arrivals, visited Sri Lanka until September. Previously, Indian tourists were required to pay a $20 visa fee, but this requirement has been waived, making it easier and more affordable for Indians to travel to Sri Lanka.

State News

Amit Shah Inaugurates IFFCO's Nano DAP Plant At Kalol In Gandhinagar, Gujarat

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah, inaugurated the Nano DAP (Liquid) Plant of the Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative (IFFCO) at Kalol in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. Nano DAP (Liquid) is a groundbreaking product that contains 8 percent nitrogen and 16 percent phosphorus. This innovative liquid fertilizer is poised to replace the traditional 50 kg bags of DAP, currently priced at Rs 1,350 for farmers. Union Home Minister Shah underscores the potential for liquid DAP and liquid urea to increase the population of earthworms in farmland, promoting natural farming practices without compromising production and income. This shift toward more sustainable agriculture also contributes to land conservation, offering a multi-faceted solution to address the challenges faced by Indian farmers.

Defence News

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

In a testament to their ongoing defense cooperation, the Indian and Malaysian armies have initiated "Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023." This joint bilateral training exercise, held at Umroi Cantonment in India, aims to strengthen military capabilities and enhance the synergy between the two nations. The Indian contingent, which will actively engage in the exercise, is being represented by a battalion of THE RAJPUT REGIMENT. The presence of this accomplished regiment highlights the significant role of the Indian Army in bolstering defense partnerships with friendly nations. "Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023," scheduled until November 5, 2023, will involve approximately 120 military personnel from both sides. The primary goal is to enhance military capabilities for conducting Multi-Domain Operations within a sub-conventional scenario. The last edition of "Exercise Harimau Shakti" took place in Pulai, Kluang, Malaysia, in November 2022.

Business News

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

Euro Zone businesses faced a significant setback this October, with a widespread drop in demand, raising concerns about a possible recession. The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) for the region fell sharply, indicating economic challenges. The PMI for services hit a 32-month low, indicating a sharp decline in demand. Manufacturing also suffered, with a prolonged period below the growth threshold. Even outside the European Union, the UK reported decreased activity, raising concerns about a potential recession. Geopolitical tensions, especially in the Middle East and Ukraine, add to global economic uncertainties.

ONGC Secures Bid To Purchase PTC's Wind Power Division For Rs 925 crore

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has successfully secured a bid to acquire PTC India Ltd's wind power unit for Rs 925 crore. However, this acquisition is still subject to the approval of PTC shareholders, which will determine its finalization. PEL was incorporated on August 1, 2008, and boasts a renewable energy portfolio with a total capacity of 288.8 MW. In the fiscal year 2022-23 (from April 2022 to March 2023), PEL reported a profit of Rs 13.88 crore with a revenue of Rs 296.77 crore. ONGC has previously declared its ambitious goal to achieve zero carbon emissions by 2038. To realize this objective, the company has pledged to invest Rs 2 lakh crore, with Rs 1 lakh crore allocated for establishing 10 gigawatts of renewable energy capacity, a green ammonia plant, and offshore wind energy projects by 2030.

Lay's announces Mahendra Singh Dhoni as Brand Ambassador

Lay's announces cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni as its brand ambassador, starring in a campaign – 'No Lay's, No Game.' Lay's is set to introduce the 'No Lay's No Game' campaign to the Indian audience, globally acclaimed for its association with sports tournaments. As Dhoni knocks on different doors, he receives a series of reactions, ranging from astonishment to exhilaration and even searches for Lay's. The TVC encapsulates the blend of the sports-watching experience, Lay's, and fan enjoyment, culminating in the resounding message, 'No Lay's, No Game.'

Banking News

MeitY urges RBI to design more detailed KYC to ensure traceability

Illegal instant loan apps have become a significant problem in India, leading to financial scams and even driving some victims to suicide. These apps offer quick money but compromise users' privacy and security. To address this, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) in India has proposed a solution. MeitY discussed the issue with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Department of Financial Services (DFS) to find a solution. MeitY suggested creating a detailed KYC (Know Your Customer) process called KYDFA (Know Your Digital Finance App) for companies. This is similar to the KYC process for bank accounts. KYDFA ensures only legitimate financial apps, following the law, can use the Indian banking system. It helps trace illegal apps and take legal action against them. KYDFA will establish traceability, helping authorities track the origin of illegal apps for legal actions.

Economy News

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

By 2030, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is predicted to reach a whopping $7.3 trillion, making it the second-largest economy in the Asia-Pacific region, just after China. India's GDP, when measured in United States dollars (USD), is predicted to jump from $3.5 trillion in 2022 to $7.3 trillion by 2030. This rapid expansion will make India's economy second only to China in the Asia-Pacific region. In 2021 and 2022, India experienced rapid economic growth. In 2023, the strong growth trend continued, with the GDP expanding by 7.8% year-on-year from April to June. This growth remains impressive despite the high comparison base established by the GDP growth of 13.1% in the same quarter in 2022.

Important Days News

World Development Information Day 2023

World Development Information Day, celebrated on October 24th each year by the United Nations, serves as a platform to draw attention to pressing global development issues and the critical need for enhanced international cooperation to address them. Established in 1972, this day is dedicated to promoting the effective dissemination of information and mobilizing public opinion, particularly among the youth, to foster greater awareness of development challenges. It coincides with United Nations Day. During a conference by United Nations General Assembly, a proposal was put forth to reduce conflicts between nations through the use of information technology and by seeking public opinion. This proposal culminated in the passing of a resolution on December 19, 1972. As of October 24, 1973, the world has observed World Development Information Day.

Global Media and Information Literacy Week 2023

Global Media and Information Literacy Week, observed from October 24 to 31 every year, is an event of great importance in the realm of information and media literacy. It serves as an occasion for reflection, celebration, and international collaboration on this critical topic. In this article, we explore the key aspects of this event, its theme for this year, and the fundamental concept of Media and Information Literacy (MIL). The theme for Global Media and Information Literacy Week 2023 is "Media and Information Literacy in Digital Spaces: A

Collective Global Agenda." This theme underscores the growing importance of digital literacy in a world where information is increasingly disseminated through digital channels.

UN Disarmament Week

UN Disarmament Week, celebrated on October 24 to 30, 2023, is an annual event organized by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). It plays a vital role in raising awareness of the significance of disarmament and advocating for the elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. Disarmament is essential for achieving global peace and security. The presence of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction poses a severe threat to humanity, making their elimination a necessity for creating a safer world for all. In 1978, the General Assembly's special session on disarmament called for the establishment of a week-long observance starting on October 24, the anniversary of the United Nations' founding. This initiative aimed to promote awareness and understanding of disarmament issues.

Awards News

US President Biden Honors Indian-American Scientists with National Medal for Technology & Innovation

US President Joe Biden recently awarded the prestigious White House National Medal for Technology and Innovation and the National Medal of Science to Ashok Gadgil and Subra Suresh, respectively, in recognition of their groundbreaking work that has not only advanced scientific knowledge but also improved the quality of life for countless individuals. Ashok Gadgil, a Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Civil and Environmental Engineering at UC Berkeley, was honored with the White House National Medal for Technology and Innovation. Gadgil has dedicated his career to developing cost-effective solutions to some of the world's most persistent problems, particularly in developing regions. Subra Suresh, a professor at large at Brown University's School of Engineering, was awarded the National Medal of Science, the highest honor bestowed upon scientists in the United States. Suresh's illustrious career has been marked by pioneering research across various domains, including engineering, physical sciences, and life sciences.

Ranks & Reports News

Mumbai second most polluted major global city as air quality worsens

India is grappling with severe air pollution issues, with Mumbai ranking as the second most polluted city according to IQAir, a leading air quality measurement company. Delhi, the capital, also faces significant air quality challenges, ranking sixth globally. The air quality index (AQI) measures pollution levels, indicating the health risks associated with breathing the air

Mumbai's AQI reached 160, far surpassing the safe limit, with fine particulate matter (PM2.5) concentration being 14.7 times higher than the World Health Organization's guidelines. Delhi, too, experienced dangerous pollution levels, exceeding the guidelines by 9.8 times. A study published in The Lancet revealed that around 1.6 million deaths in India in 2019 were attributed to air pollution. The economic toll was staggering, amounting to billions of dollars in losses, with premature deaths accounting for $28.8 billion and morbidity adding $8 billion to the burden.

Agreements News

QatarEnergy and Italy's Eni Ink 27-Year Natural Gas Deal

State-owned QatarEnergy recently announced a significant development in its efforts to expand its presence in the European gas market. The company has entered into a long-term agreement with Italy's Eni to supply liquefied natural gas (LNG) for a period of 27 years. Affiliates of QatarEnergy and Eni have finalized a long-term sale and purchase agreement for the supply of up to 1 million tons per year (mtpa) of LNG. This gas will be sourced from Qatar's North Field expansion project and delivered to the Floating Storage and Regasification Unit (FSRU) Italia, located in the port of Piombino in Tuscany, Italy. This operation is scheduled to begin in 2026. Over the past two weeks, QatarEnergy has been actively strengthening its European gas supply portfolio. In addition to the deal with Italy's Eni, QatarEnergy has signed 27-year agreements with Shell and TotalEnergies, both of which are considered the company's largest and longest European gas supply contracts to date. This marks a significant shift in Qatar's LNG export strategy, which traditionally favored Asian markets.

Appointments News

Air Marshal Sadhna Saxena Nair takes charge as DG Hospital Services

Air Marshal Sadhna S Nair has taken on the distinguished role of Director General Hospital Services (Armed Forces), marking a significant milestone in the Indian military. Notably, she is the first woman to hold this esteemed position upon her promotion to the rank of Air

Marshal. Before her historic appointment, Air Marshal Sadhna S Nair held the vital position of Principal Medical Officer (PMO) at HQ Training Command (Air Force), situated in Bangalore. A graduate from the Armed Forces Medical College in Pune, she was commissioned into the Indian Air Force in December 1985. Her dedication to education and professional growth is evident in her possession of a Post Graduate degree in Family Medicine, a testament to her commitment to providing high-quality medical care.

Chetan Bhagat Appointed Brand Ambassador For Edtech startup, Henry Harvin Education

In a significant move, Edtech startup Henry Harvin Education (HHE) recently announced acclaimed author and speaker Chetan Bhagat as its Brand Ambassador. This partnership represents a shared vision and commitment to empowering the youth of India. Henry Harvin Education stands as a prominent provider of training and advisory services, marking its inception in July 2013. With a global presence spanning over 11+ cities, the company boasts a dedicated team of over 400 employees and collaborates with a network of 650+ consultants. The core pillars of Henry Harvin's business encompass an array of offerings, including comprehensive training solutions tailored for individuals, corporates, and educational institutions. Their expertise also extends to advisory services, staffing solutions, and a selection of educational resources and books. With Chetan Bhagat as their brand ambassador, Henry Harvin Education is poised to reach new heights in their endeavor to provide quality education and empowerment to individuals, especially the youth of India.

Sports News

India's Unnati Hooda wins Abu Dhabi Masters 2023

In a thrilling showdown at the Abu Dhabi Masters 2023, young Indian badminton talent Unnati Hooda emerged as the champion in the women's singles event. This remarkable win marks her second BWF Super 100 World Tour title, further solidifying her reputation as a rising star in the sport. In the final match held at the ADNEC Marina Hall in the UAE capital, 16-year-old Unnati Hooda went head-to-head with 20-year-old Samiya Imad Farooqui. In an intense battle that lasted for 40 minutes, Hooda ultimately defeated Farooqui with a scoreline of 21-16, 22-20. Unnati Hooda's journey to this significant victory is noteworthy. Last year, she made history by becoming the youngest Indian to win a BWF tournament at the Odisha Open, where she also defeated Samiya Imad Farooqui, this time in the quarter-finals.

Science & Technology News

Skyroot Aerospace unveils Vikram-1 rocket, scheduled for full launch next year

Dr. Jitendra Singh, the Union Minister of Science and Technology, unveiled Skyroot's Vikram-1 orbital rocket in Hyderabad on Tuesday, October 24th. Dr. Singh also inaugurated Skyroot Aerospace's new global headquarters in Hyderabad, named MAX-Q. Skyroot's Vikram-1 is described as a "technologically advanced, multi-stage launch vehicle with a payload capacity of approximately 300 Kg to Low Earth Orbit. It is an all-carbon-fiber-bodied rocket equipped with 3D printed liquid engines. MAX-Q is described as "the country's largest private rocket development facility under a single roof." MAX-Q is equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure, encompassing integrated design, manufacturing, and testing facilities for space launch vehicles.

Obituaries News

First Black Action Hero, Richard Roundtree Passed Away At 81

Richard Roundtree, the iconic actor who redefined African American masculinity in the movies with his groundbreaking portrayal of the title role in "Shaft," passed away on Tuesday at his Los Angeles home at the age of 81 due to pancreatic cancer. He was also recognized as the "first black action hero." Roundtree's name remains closely associated with the 1970s, but he continued to work actively for the next four decades, appearing in numerous TV series and films. He demonstrated his versatility as an actor in various roles, showcasing his talent and adaptability. In 2011, he secured the African-American Film Critics Association award, while in 1994, he claimed the MTV Movie + TV Award for his role in "Shaft." Additionally, he earned a nomination for the Golden Globe Awards in 1972 and was recognized at the Soap Opera Digest Awards, among other accolades.

Miscellaneous News

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

Cyclone Hamoon, a severe weather phenomenon, struck the southeastern coast of Bangladesh on the 25th October 2023, causing widespread concern and necessitating the evacuation of thousands of people. Cyclone 'Hamoon' was named by Iran. 'Hamoon' is a Persian term signifying temporary desert lakes and marshlands that naturally form in region near the Helmand basin. These areas serve as seasonal water reservoirs. As of 25th October, 'Hamoon' was located approximately 40 kilometers east-southeast of Chittagong,

Bangladesh. The storm is characterized by strong winds with speeds ranging between 80 to 90 kilometers per hour, gusting up to 100 kilometers per hour. This powerful cyclone has posed a significant threat to the region. The IMD predicts that 'Hamoon' will continue its path in a north-eastern direction. Over the next six hours, it is expected to weaken into a deep depression, subsequently becoming a depression in the following six hours. While the intensity is expected to decrease, the impact on the affected areas is still a concern.
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National News

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

The Shri Ram Janambhoomi Trust extended a significant invitation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, asking him to attend the installation of Lord Ram's idol in the 'Garbhagriha' of the Ram Mandir at the Ayodhya temple, which Prime Minister Modi politely accepted. With the ground-level construction of the three-story Ram temple now completed, the temple trust has chosen Makar Sankranti, January 14, as the date for the commencement of Ram Lalla's consecration. This occasion is set to be an incredible milestone in the history of Ayodhya and India, symbolizing a fulfillment of a long-cherished dream for millions of people. As Prime Minister Modi graces the occasion on January 22, the nation will witness the culmination of a decades-long journey towards the realization of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

International News

China replaced missing defence minister Li Shangfu

China's Defense Minister, Li Shangfu, was recently removed from his position. He was also removed as a member of the Central Military Commission and one of China's five state councillors, which are powerful state roles. The decision to remove him was approved by the National People's Congress, but his successor was not named. Li had not been seen in public since late August, leading to much speculation about what happened to him. His disappearance comes after the removal of former Foreign Minister Qin Gang in July. The role of the defense minister in China is largely ceremonial. The defense minister serves as the public face of military diplomacy with other countries but does not have command power, which resides with the Central Military Commission.

US house of representative elected its new speaker

Republican Congressman Mike Johnson from Louisiana has been elected as the Speaker of the House of Representatives, marking the end of three weeks of political uncertainty in the United States. Mike Johnson won the election by a vote of 220 to 209 in a divided Congress. Mike Johnson, a 51-year-old lawyer, is a four-term Congressman from Louisiana's Fourth Congressional District. The Speaker of the House of Representatives is one of the most powerful political positions in the country. It's the third-highest in the line of succession after the U.S. President.

India partially resumes visa services for Canadians

India has now decided to resume visa services for Canadians in four categories: entry, business, medical reasons, and conferences. Emergency cases will continue to be considered. The India-Canada relationship faced difficulties due to a dispute over the killing of a Sikh separatist in British Columbia. As a result of the strained ties, India suspended visa services for Canadians worldwide. The High Commission of India in Ottawa and Indian consulates in Toronto and Vancouver temporarily halted these services, citing "safety and security considerations."

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

China is embarking on a groundbreaking endeavor by constructing an immense telescope in the western Pacific Ocean. The primary mission of this massive facility is to detect elusive particles known as "ghost particles" or neutrinos. This ambitious undertaking will result in the world's largest neutrino-detecting telescope. Neutrinos are a type of electron but, like neutrons, they do not have any charge. They are among the most abundant particles in our universe. Understanding neutrinos carries immense significance because they hold the potential to unravel one of the cosmos's most perplexing mysteries: the origins of cosmic rays. Situated in the South China Sea, this monumental apparatus, Trident, is projected to span a staggering 7.5 cubic kilometers.. TRIDENT is set to be finished by 2030. At present, the most extensive neutrino-detecting telescope is the "IceCube" at the University of Madison-Wisconsin, nestled deep in the Antarctic.

State News

12th Edition Of The Two-Day Bengaluru Literature Festival To Start On December 2

The 12th edition of the Bengaluru Literature Festival, a two-day event, is set to take place at The Lalit Ashok, Bengaluru starting on December 2. The festival will feature around 250 authors, including renowned names such as Jnanpith awardee, Chandrashekhara Kambara, Chetan Bhagat, Ramachandra Guha, and Perumal Murugan, among others. This year, the festival will be spread across two distinct venues: Seonee and Malgudi. These names hold a special significance in the world of literature. Seonee takes its name from the hills where Mowgli was reared, as described in Rudyard Kipling's "The Jungle Book." Meanwhile, Malgudi is named after the fictional town from R K Narayan's classic novel "Swami and Friends." The Bengaluru Literature Festival is also a platform to recognize and encourage talent. This year, the festival will feature Atta Galatta, a literary prize that celebrates outstanding contributions to Indian literature. It's a way to honor those who have made significant contributions to the world of words.

Govt gives nod to Jamrani Dam multipurpose Project in Uttarakhand

The Indian central government has given the green light to include the Jamrani Dam Multipurpose Project in Uttarakhand under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana-Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (PMKSY-AIBP). The Jamrani Dam project involves the construction of a dam near Jamrani village, which is situated on the Gola River, a tributary of the Ram Ganga River in the Nainital district of Uttarakhand. The Central government will provide Rs 1,557 crore to Uttarakhand for the completion of the Jamrani Dam project. The entire project is estimated to cost Rs 2,584 crore and is expected to be finished by March 2028.

Shillong Hosts Green Tourism Conclave For Responsible Tourism In Northeast

A Green Tourism Conclave took place in Shillong with the primary objective of nurturing environmentally conscious and responsible tourism in India, with a special emphasis on the Northeastern region and Odisha. The Green Tourism India conclave, at Shillong's state convention center, brought together key players in the tourism industry, including representatives from Meghalaya Tourism, Incredible India, Odisha Tourism, and Arunachal Tourism. Meghalaya's Tourism Minister, Bah Paul Lyngdoh, graced the event as the chief guest. The conclave highlighted the importance of sustainable luxury travel, emphasizing that travelers can enjoy luxurious experiences while respecting the environment and local cultures. This session provided insights into how the hospitality and tourism industry can provide luxury services in an eco-friendly and responsible manner.

Kerala Govt To Set Up ₹237 Crore Graphene Production Facility

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan took the decision to set up a innovative graphene production facility in a recent cabinet meeting. The facility is designed to operate on a public-private partnership model and will require an estimated investment of ₹237 crore. The Kerala Digital University will be the implementing agency, while the Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA) has been assigned the role of a special purpose vehicle for infrastructure development. Graphene, often hailed as the thinnest and strongest material in the world, offers a wealth of remarkable properties. It possesses exceptional chemical stability, high electrical conductivity, and an expansive surface area while remaining transparent and lightweight. These characteristics make it a material with vast potential for applications across various industries.

Economy News

Centre approves 22,303 Crore ₹subsidy on Key fertilizers

The Indian government recently announced changes in the subsidy rates for key fertilisers, affecting nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), potassium (K), and sulphur (S). Despite global price increases, the government aims to maintain affordable fertiliser prices for Indian farmers. During October-March, subsidies for N, P, K, and S have been reduced compared to April-September. Nitrogen subsidy decreased by 38%, phosphorus by 49%, potassium by 84%, and sulphur by 32.5%. Urea will remain highly subsidized at Rs 266 per bag. Complex fertilisers like DAP will cost Rs 1,350 per bag, NPK varieties at an average of Rs 1,470 per bag, and MOP at Rs 1,655 per bag. The subsidy revision is estimated to cost the government Rs 22,303 crore. Total subsidy on non-urea fertilisers is expected to be around Rs 60,000 crore, an increase from the initial estimate of Rs 44,000 crore.

Banking News

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Sets New Directive for Private Banks: Two Whole-Time Directors Mandatory

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a directive that places the onus on private banks and wholly-owned subsidiaries of foreign banks to establish a robust senior management team. The primary objective is to effectively steer these institutions through the present and emerging obstacles. To address these concerns, the RBI has mandated that private banks and wholly-owned subsidiaries of foreign banks must have a minimum of two Whole-Time Directors (WTDs) on their boards. This requirement includes the presence of the MD & CEO as one of the two WTDs. Banks that currently do not meet this minimum requirement are

directed to submit their proposals for the appointment of WTD(s) within a period of four months. Furthermore, banks that lack the necessary provisions regarding the appointment of WTDs in their Articles of Association are urged to seek approvals from the RBI without delay.

Important Days News

World Polio Day 2023

World Polio Day every October 24 highlights global efforts to eliminate polio and the importance of vaccination in protecting children from the disease. On January 13, this year, India completes 12 polio-free years which is considered as a remarkable achievement; the last polio case in India was detected in 2011. World Polio Day is celebrated every year on October 24 to create awareness around the importance of polio vaccination to protect children. Oral polio vaccine is highly effective in protection from polio. In the year 1988, there were around 3.5 lakh polio cases worldwide and the World Health Assembly resolved to eradicate the poliovirus. In 2002, WHO European Region was declared polio-free and from that time on October 24 every year, the World Polio Day is celebrated annually.

Accession Day 2023

India's union territory of Jammu and Kashmir celebrates October 26 as a public holiday to commemorate the historic signing of the Instrument of Accession in 1947. This significant document marked the accession of the princely state to India and set the stage for the region's integration into the Indian union. October 26 marks the day when Maharaja Hari Singh took the pivotal step of signing the Instrument of Accession, thereby securing the region's future within the Indian union. It stands as a symbol of unity and solidarity between the region and the rest of India. In 2020, October 26 was officially declared a public holiday in Jammu and Kashmir to honor this historic event. This holiday serves as a reminder of the region's integration into India and the significance of the Instrument of Accession in shaping the destiny of Jammu and Kashmir.

Summits & Conferences News

Dr S. Jaishankar reaches Bishek for 22nd SCO Council of heads of Government meeting

Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar recently visited Kyrgyzstan for a two-day trip.

This visit also includes Jaishankar's participation in a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO). Jaishankar engaged in discussions with Kyrgyz President Sadyr Zhaparov to explore opportunities for enhancing cooperation in banking, defense, and energy sectors. They discussed a wide range of areas such as banking, energy, health, pharmaceuticals, defense, agriculture, and investments. Jaishankar will participate in the SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting hosted by Kyrgyzstan. This meeting will include key figures like the Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and the Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi. This visit reflects India's commitment to maintaining and strengthening diplomatic ties within the SCO framework. It aims to promote regional cooperation and meaningful dialogue among member states.

Ranks & Reports News

SBI Report: PM SVANidhi Scheme Is A Gender Equaliser

A recent report by the State Bank of India's economic research department (ERD) sheds light on the remarkable impact of PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme, particularly in terms of gender equality and socio-economic transformation. The report highlights that 43 percent of the beneficiaries of the PM SVANidhi Scheme are female street vendors. The scheme has emerged as a gender equalizer, providing urban females with the means to become financially independent and contribute to their families' well-being. Approximately 75 percent of loan beneficiaries come from the "non-general category." This statistic demonstrates the power of well-intended policy schemes to drive transformative changes. The report also emphasizes that about 80 percent of borrowers are Hindu, while the remaining 20 percent are non-Hindu. The scheme has been successful in reaching out to individuals in need, regardless of their religious affiliations.

Agreements News

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

The Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK) and Airbus have formalized their partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This landmark agreement, signed, aims to significantly enhance the aerospace sector's talent pool in India through research and education initiatives. The collaboration between these two esteemed institutions will revolve around promoting research in advanced aerospace technologies. The partnership will also involve the development of programs and activities geared towards enhancing the technical capabilities of aerospace students in India. The primary goal of this collaboration is to establish a culture of cooperation that goes beyond conventional academia. It will offer

mentorship, exposure, and invaluable hands-on experience to IIT Kanpur students. This, in turn, will make a substantial contribution to the growth of India's burgeoning aerospace industry.

Appointments News

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

Actor Rajkummar Rao, celebrated for his portrayal of a principled government clerk in the Hindi film "Newton," tasked with conducting elections in the Naxal-affected areas of Chhattisgarh, is set to be inducted as a National Icon by the Election Commission (EC). Rajkummar Rao's portrayal in "Newton" resonated with audiences and critics alike. He essayed the character of an upright government official, undeterred by the adversities he faced while striving to conduct a free and impartial election in the Naxal-affected regions of Chhattisgarh. The formal induction of Rajkummar Rao as a National Icon of the EC is scheduled for October 26 (Today). Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar will bestow this honor upon the actor, acknowledging his outstanding contribution in promoting the significance of free and fair elections in India.

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

Professor Sarang Deo, a distinguished figure in the field of Operations Management and healthcare, has been appointed as a member of the Strategic and Technical Advisory Group (STAG) for Tuberculosis by the World Health Organization (WHO). Professor Sarang Deo, who currently serves as the Deputy Dean of Faculty and Research and as the Executive Director of the Max Institute of Healthcare Management at the Indian School of Business (ISB), is known for his pioneering research and innovative solutions in the healthcare sector. STAG-TB provides WHO with invaluable scientific and technical guidance. Its responsibilities include offering independent evaluations of WHO's strategic, scientific, and technical aspects related to tuberculosis work, reviewing the progress and challenges associated with TB-related core functions, and advising on priority activities for prevention and care.

Amol Muzumdar appoints India Women Head Coach

Amol Muzumdar, the former Mumbai batsman, has been named as the head coach of the India women's national team. The position of the head coach had been vacant since December 2022 when Ramesh Powar was abruptly removed from his post as part of the

BCCI's "restructuring module." Amol's illustrious career included amassing 11,167 runs from 171 first-class matches, which included an impressive tally of 30 centuries. Although he never had the opportunity to represent the Indian national team, Muzumdar's association with Mumbai was instrumental in securing eight Ranji Trophy titles for the team. In the post-playing phase of his career, Muzumdar embraced coaching, making a significant impact. He worked with age-group teams at the BCCI's National Cricket Academy and was at the helm for Mumbai. He also contributed to the coaching staff at Rajasthan Royals in the Indian Premier League (IPL) and assisted South Africa during their tour of India in 2019.

Sports News

Paralympics Javelin Thrower, Sumit Antil Breaks World Record

Reigning Paralympics champion Sumit Antil on Wednesday bettered his own javelin throw F64 world record with a stunning 73.29m effort on the way to winning gold for India. The F64 category belongs to athletes with a leg amputation who participate in standing position events using prosthetics. The 25-year-old Antil broke his own previous world record of 70.83m, which he had thrown while winning gold at the World Para Athletics Championships in Paris earlier this year. Other winners in paralympics include: Ankur Dhama, who made history by becoming the first Indian to claim two gold medals in a single edition of the Asian Para Games. Sundar Singh Gurjar, another Indian athlete who not only won the gold medal in the men's F46 javelin throw but also set a new world record with a remarkable throw of 68.60 meters.

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National News

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

India marked a significant milestone in its quest for self-reliance in the automotive sector by introducing the production of 'reference' petrol and diesel. These 'reference' fuels are distinct from regular and premium petrol and diesel, as they possess higher specifications, making them vital for calibrating and testing vehicles by manufacturers and agencies. The primary distinction between 'reference' fuel and regular or premium fuel lies in the octane number. While regular fuel typically has an octane number of 87, premium fuel boasts an octane number of 91. 'Reference' grade fuel, however, comes with an octane number of 97. Producing 'reference' fuel domestically offers a significant economic advantage. While the imported 'reference' fuel costs between Rs

800-850 per liter, its domestic production is expected to reduce costs to approximately Rs 450 per liter.

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

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

The Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium at Fatorda in South Goa serves as the primary venue for these games, providing a platform for athletes to showcase their skills and talents. Prime Minister Modi also mentioned his representation of India's aspirations to host the Youth Olympics in 2030 and the Olympics in 2036, reinforcing the country's dedication to the global sporting community.

Amit Shah Launched Logo, Website And Brochure Of NCEL In New Delhi

Union Home Minister Amit Shah recently inaugurated the logo, website, and brochure of the National Cooperative Exports Limited (NCEL) during a grand event in New Delhi. NCEL has been established to serve as a national-level multi-state cooperative society that will act as an umbrella organization for exports within the cooperative sector. This visionary initiative is set to open up new avenues for cooperatives, fostering economic growth and inclusivity. NCEL is committed to empowering farmers, laborers, and traders by providing them with opportunities for integrated growth. NCEL is poised to make a substantial impact on the export landscape, benefiting both cooperatives and the nation. NCEL boasts an authorized share capital of Rs 2,000 crore, reflecting the significant financial backing it has received to fulfill its mission.

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

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 7th Edition of the India Mobile Congress at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. This prestigious event brought together leading figures from the telecommunications industry to showcase cutting-edge technologies, discuss vital issues, and promote innovation. During the event, Akash Ambani introduced Reliance Jio's groundbreaking initiative – Space Fibre, India's first satellite-based giga fibre service capable of delivering internet speeds

of up to 1 Gbps. Furthermore, the Jio Bharat device, offering 4G services, was on display at the Jio pavilion. At the Mobile Congress, Bharti Enterprises showcased the "future of innovation" with technologies like 5G Plus, AI-enabled tech, and other digital infrastructure solutions. These advancements are set to revolutionize the telecommunications landscape in India. During the event, Prime Minister Modi conferred awards upon 100 '5G Use Case Labs' established in educational institutions across India as part of the '100 5G Labs initiative.' This initiative focuses on developing 5G applications tailored to India's unique requirements and global demands.

International News

Robert Fico to become Slovakia's new prime minister

Slovakia's newly appointed Prime Minister, Robert Fico, has taken office for the fourth time amidst promises to prioritize Slovakian interests, reduce military aid to Ukraine, and curb immigration. Fico's Smer party won last month's elections, forming a coalition government with Hlas and the ultra-nationalist Slovak National Party (SNS). This alliance caused their suspension from the socialist group in the European Parliament. Fico advocates for humanitarian aid to Ukraine but opposes further military assistance and sanctions on Russia. He also aims to establish peace talks, aligning with Hungary's leader Viktor Orbán. Despite his nationalist stance, Fico asserts Slovakia's commitment to remain in the EU and NATO.

Italy Faces Record Low Births: A Deepening Demographic Crisis

Italy is experiencing a severe demographic crisis, with the number of births hitting a new low this year. Preliminary data from the national statistics bureau ISTAT reveals a concerning trend, indicating a continuation of the country's longstanding population decline. Between January and June of this year, there were 3,500 fewer births compared to the same period in 2022. In 2022, the total number of births fell by 1.7% to 393,000. This marked the 14th consecutive annual drop, reaching the lowest level since Italy's unification in 1861. Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has allocated approximately 1 billion euros ($1.05 billion) to tackle this crisis. The decline in births is attributed partly to the challenges faced by Italian women in balancing work and motherhood, which the government considers a national emergency for the country, the third largest economy in the Eurozone.

State News

Rajasthan govt launched 'iStart Talent Connect Portal'

Rajasthan government unveiled the 'iStart Talent Connect Portal' at Jaipur's Techno Hub. This new portal is a significant addition to the state's flagship initiative, iStart Rajasthan, and is a collaborative effort with the Jaipur-based startup, HyreFox. The 'iStart Talent Connect Portal' has been developed as a user-friendly platform to cater to the needs of both job providers and job seekers. It not only facilitates talent discovery but also allows companies to post job openings and connect with potential employees. The 'iStart Talent Connect Portal' is an initiative in line with the government's efforts to empower the job market in Rajasthan. This portal is designed to address the challenges faced by both corporates and startups in finding the right candidates for their organizations.

Defence News

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

In a significant display of international cooperation, India and the European Union (EU) recently carried out their first joint naval exercise in the Gulf of Guinea, aimed at strengthening maritime security in the region. On October 24, 2023, the Indian Navy's INS Sumedha, an Offshore Patrol Vessel, joined forces with ships from three EU member states in the Gulf of Guinea. The participating EU ships included the Italian Navy Ship ITS Foscari, French Navy Ship FS Ventôse, and Spanish Navy Ship Tornado. Together, these four vessels engaged in a series of tactical maneuvers conducted in international waters off the coast of Ghana. The exercises included boarding operations, flying exercises employing helicopters stationed on the French Ship Ventôse and Indian Naval Ship Sumedha, and personnel transfers between ships. These collaborative activities underscored the mutual commitment of India and the EU to assist coastal states and uphold maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea. They highlighted the extensive and dynamic nature of EU-India cooperation in the realm of maritime security.

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

The Indian Army inaugurated its first Vertical Wind Tunnel (VWT) at the Special Forces Training School (SFTS) in Himachal Pradesh. This cutting-edge facility provides military trainees with a controlled environment to enhance their Combat Free Fall

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

Banking News

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

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has informed lenders, financial institutions, and credit bureaus that they must resolve complaints filed by customers within 30 days or face a fine of ₹100 per day to ensure that customers' complaints related to credit information are addressed promptly. Additionally, the RBI has instructed CICs to pay compensation to complainants if they fail to resolve complaints within 30 calendar days, despite receiving updated credit information from CIs within 21 calendar days. This compensation framework seeks to hold CICs accountable for delays in resolving issues related to credit information. The need for a compensation framework arose from a significant number of customer complaints. Many borrowers reported that CICs did not promptly update their credit status, leading to difficulties in obtaining loans or credit cards. When customers tried to rectify default issues or incorrect classifications, the CICs often failed to take action within the stipulated time frame.

Business News

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

On October 26, foreign institutional investors (FIIs) continued their selling spree in the Indian stock market, while domestic institutional investors (DIIs) emerged as net buyers. According to data from the National Stock Exchange (NSE), FIIs collectively bought ₹10,239.05 crore worth of Indian equities, but they also sold ₹17,941.58 crore. This resulted in a net outflow of ₹7,702.53 crore. In contrast, DIIs were net buyers on this day, infusing ₹13,600.71 crore into Indian stocks and offloading ₹7,042.26 crore. This translated to a net inflow of ₹6,558.45 crore.

Zomato Introduces Maternity Insurance Plan for Women Delivery Partners

Zomato has taken a big step to support its women delivery partners by introducing a maternity insurance plan. This financial support is meant to ease the burden on women delivery partners and their families. This initiative is the first of its kind in the industry. The insurance plan will cover various pregnancy-related expenses, such as the cost of childbirth and any complications that might occur during motherhood. Zomato has partnered with ACKO, a technology-driven insurance company, to provide this maternity insurance coverage. The insurance plan offers benefits such as: Up to Rs 25,000 for a typical delivery. Rs 40,000 for a C-section birth and Rs 40,000 for difficulties related to pregnancy, including miscarriage and abortion. To be eligible for this insurance, women delivery partners must have completed 1,000 deliveries through the Zomato platform. Additionally, they need to have been active on the platform for the last 60 days from the date when the maternity insurance plan was announced.

Important Days News

World Day for Audiovisual Heritage 2023

World Day for Audiovisual Heritage 2023 is a significant initiative co-led by UNESCO and the Coordinating Council of Audiovisual Archives Associations (CCAAA) to pay homage to the dedicated audiovisual preservation professionals and institutions safeguarding our rich heritage for the benefit of future generations. The 2023 World Day for Audiovisual Heritage, observed on October 27, revolves around the theme "Your Window to the World." Audiovisual heritage serves as a unique window to the world, providing us with the ability to witness events we may have missed, hear the voices of the past, and create narratives that both inform and entertain. The World Day for Audiovisual Heritage (WDAH) has its roots in the adoption of the Recommendation for the Safeguarding and Preservation of Moving Images during the 21st General Conference of UNESCO in 1980.

Ranks & Reports News

India Ranks Third In Fintech Unicorns, With United States At The Top

According to global research firm Statista, India has secured the third position in the global fintech landscape with 17 fintech unicorns. India's top profitable companies

include Zerodha, Billdesk, Paytm, and Paytm. The United States and the United Kingdom maintain their supremacy in terms of both quantity and value. The US is home to an impressive 134 fintech unicorns, producing the highest value in the industry. Meanwhile, the UK ranks second with 27 fintech unicorns, making a substantial mark on the global fintech stage. China, despite having only eight fintech unicorns, has secured the fourth position. Giants like Tencent and Ant Financial have played a pivotal role in elevating China's overall financial market capitalization to $338.92 billion.

Schemes News

RCS- UDAN Completes 6 Successful Years

RCS-UDAN, launched in 2016, has significantly improved air connectivity in India, focusing on remote areas and underserved regions. It completed six successful years in 2023, marking a milestone in the country's aviation sector. RCS-UDAN connected previously unserved routes, linking cities and towns that lacked air connectivity. Started with UDAN 1.0, expanding to UDAN 5.2, the scheme continuously evolved, addressing various challenges and demands. Key Achievements of the scheme are: More than 130 lakh passengers benefited from RCS-UDAN, demonstrating its success in making air travel accessible. Various versions of UDAN introduced different elements, like helipads and seaplanes, to diversify connectivity options. UDAN contributed significantly to the tourism sector by connecting popular destinations and promoting religious and cultural tourism. Introduction of tourism routes and expansion of helicopter services in hilly regions stimulated tourism, benefiting local economies.

Agreements News

Reliance Jio Partners With Plume To Provide In-Home Services Enhanced By AI

Reliance Jio, India's leading telecom operator, has entered into a strategic partnership with Plume, a California-based company specializing in cloud-based AI-powered services to enhance the digital lives of its nearly 200 million subscribers. This partnership brings forth a range of innovative offerings under the names "HomePass" and "WorkPass." These services, enabled by Plume's cutting-edge platform, encompass whole-home adaptive WiFi, device and application performance optimization, cyberthreat protection, parental controls, WiFi motion sensing, and more. With Plume's AI-powered solutions, Jio can provide highly customizable and scalable cloud-based offerings tailored to the Indian market. This innovation will enable Jio to

rapidly expand its service portfolio, further solidifying its position as a leader in the Indian telecom market.

Awards News

West Bengal Teacher Deep Narayan Nayak Named Finalist for Global Teacher Prize 2023

Deep Narayan Nayak, a dedicated teacher from West Bengal, has achieved recognition as one of the top 10 finalists for the prestigious Global Teacher Prize 2023. This esteemed award, organized annually by the UK-based Varkey Foundation in collaboration with UNESCO and Dubai Cares, a UAE-based philanthropic organization, celebrates exceptional educators from across the globe. The Global Teacher Prize holds significant value, with a cash prize of USD 1 million. Its primary objective is to honor and celebrate exceptional teachers who have made substantial contributions to the field of education.

Appointments News

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

Luxury Swiss watch brand, Rado, a brand known for its excellence in watchmaking has welcomed none other than Bollywood sensation Katrina Kaif as its Global Brand Ambassador. Rado, founded in 1917, has long been a pioneer in the world of Swiss watchmaking. The brand is known for its innovative use of materials, including high-tech ceramic, and its commitment to creating watches that combine cutting-edge technology with exceptional design. With Katrina Kaif stepping into her role as Global Brand Ambassador, Rado is poised to expand its global reach and solidify its position as a brand that celebrates timeless elegance. This collaboration aims to redefine luxury and celebrate the enduring allure of both the brand and its new ambassador.

Sports News

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

Indian para-athletes excelled in the javelin throw events at the Asian Para Games in Hangzhou, China, with Sundar Singh Gurjar breaking a world record and Sumit Antil

successfully defending his gold medal. In the men's javelin throw-F46 final, India's Sundar Singh Gurjar delivered an outstanding performance, breaking the world record with a throw of 68.60 meters. This incredible achievement not only secured him the gold medal but also surpassed the previous world record held by Sri Lankan Dinesh Priyantha at 67.79 meters. Sundar's throw also set new Games and Asian Records. Reigning Olympic and world champion Sumit Antil put up a stellar defense of his gold medal in the men's javelin F64 event. In his first throw, he easily shattered the Games Record with a distance of 66.22 meters, surpassing his previous record set in 2018. His second throw came close to his world record of 70.83 meters, measuring 70.48 meters.

Science & Technology News

China launched its youngest ever space crew

China's space endeavors are reaching new heights, evident in the recent launch of Shenzhou 17 from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center. This mission highlights China's determination to explore outer space, fueled by a competitive spirit with the United States. The Shenzhou 17 crew comprises Tang Hongbo, Tang Shengjie, and Jiang Xinlin, with an average age of 38, making it the youngest team on a space station construction mission. Tang Hongbo, a seasoned astronaut, previously led a 2021 space mission for three months. The crew's primary tasks include conducting experiments in space medicine and technology. They will also install and maintain equipment both inside and outside the station. Moreover, China plans to send a new telescope into space, allowing in-depth exploration of the universe through surveys and sky mapping, although the installation timeframe remains undisclosed.

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National News

<u>Modi Government To Kick off Nationwide Yatra To Promote Awareness About Welfare Schemes On November 15</u>

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

Communication (IEC) vans. These vans will initially travel through tribal districts for a week, spreading information about government schemes. The primary goal of the 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' is to "reach the unreached" and provide information to those who are yet to benefit from government schemes. The government has identified 20 flagship schemes for popularization during the campaign. Panchayats that have achieved 100% saturation of schemes like Ayushman Card, Jal Jeevan Mission, Jan Dhan Yojana, PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, and ODF Plus status will receive special recognition during the campaign.

International News

Republican Mike Johnson Elected New US House Speaker

Mike Johnson, a relatively lesser-known Republican from Louisiana, has taken the elected as the new speaker of the US House of Representatives. He is the first Louisianan to become speaker and the first southerner to serve as speaker since Republican Newt Gingrich of Georgia in the 1990s. Johnson was elected to the Louisiana statehouse in 2015 and ran for Congress successfully in 2016. He now represents Louisiana's fourth congressional district. He describes himself as a "Christian, a husband, a father, a life-long conservative, constitutional law attorney and a small business owner". The United States House of Representatives, commonly referred to as the House, is one of the two chambers of the United States Congress, the other being the Senate. It plays a crucial role in the legislative process of the United States and is a fundamental component of the country's federal government.

Sponge Bombs: Israel's Secret Weapon Against Hamas

As the conflict between Israel and Hamas escalates, Israeli forces are planning to use an innovative type of bomb referred to as "sponge bombs." These sponge bombs have the capability to seal off the intricate network of tunnels beneath Gaza without causing explosions. Gaza is riddled with an underground infrastructure that reaches depths of 40-50 meters. This extensive network includes bunkers, headquarters, storage facilities, and is connected to over a thousand rocket launch sites. These tunnels come in diverse forms, with some stretching for hundreds of kilometers and descending as deep as 80 meters below the 360-square-kilometer coastal strip and its surrounding borders.

"Sponge bombs" are explosive devices designed to produce a sudden release of expanding foam that subsequently hardens. The devices are typically encased in protective plastic, with a metal barrier separating two distinct liquids. Upon activation, these liquids mix and move towards their intended target. In 2021, during exercises

conducted in a simulated tunnel system near the Gaza border, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) were observed using these devices.

Malaysia picks ruler of Johor state as country's new king

In a historic move, Malaysia's royal families have elected Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar of Johor state as the country's new king. This decision, made within Malaysia's distinctive rotating monarchy system, marks a significant transition for the nation. At the age of 64, Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar, the influential ruler of southern Johor state, has been elected as Malaysia's new king. This decision follows a predetermined rotation order among the country's nine state rulers. His ascension to the throne is scheduled for January 31, commencing his five-year term. Since gaining independence from Britain in 1957, Malaysia has upheld a distinctive monarchy system where nine ethnic Malay state rulers take turns serving as the king for five-year terms. This unique tradition provides stability to the nation and showcases Malaysia's cultural richness.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres launches advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence

The United Nations, under the leadership of Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, has taken a significant step toward managing the opportunities and challenges posed by artificial intelligence (AI). To facilitate international cooperation and consensus on AI governance, a 39-member advisory body has been established, comprising tech industry leaders, government officials, and academics from diverse backgrounds. The primary objective of the advisory body is to establish a consensus on the risks associated with AI on a global scale. By bringing together perspectives from various nations, the panel aims to formulate comprehensive recommendations on AI governance.

CCI Becomes A Member Of International Competition Network Committee

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has achieved a significant milestone by becoming a part of the prestigious 18-member steering committee of the International Competition Network (ICN). The ICN, which comprises 140 competition agencies from around the world, is a unique global body dedicated exclusively to competition law enforcement. Its primary purpose is to provide antitrust authorities with a specialized and informal platform for maintaining regular contacts and addressing practical competition concerns. The Competition Commission of India's inclusion in the ICN's steering committee is a testament to the regulator's consistent efforts in the field of competition law enforcement. India's commitment to promoting fair competition and its

proactive engagement in international dialogues have earned it a place among the select few competition authorities that guide the ICN's global initiatives.

State News

24th Hornbill Festival 2023 To Kick Off In Nagaland From December 1

Hornbill Festival 2023 will start from December 1. This festival stands out as one of the most anticipated and celebrated events of the year. This colorful festival not only showcases the rich cultural heritage of Nagaland but also draws thousands of curious travelers from around the world to partake in its festivities. The festival is aptly named after a bird, the hornbill, which holds special significance in the Naga culture. The hornbill is revered and respected among the Naga tribe and is considered a symbol of integrity and tradition. The Hornbill Festival is a tribute to this bird and the values it embodies. Hornbill is often referred to as the 'Festival of Festivals' because it brings together a traditional cluster of 17 Naga tribes. These tribes unite during the festival to promote intercultural harmony and showcase their unique customs, traditions, and art forms.

Defence News

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

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Safran Aircraft Engines, a leading French aero engine design, development, and manufacturing company, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at fostering industrial cooperation and collaboration. One of the central aspects of this collaboration involves HAL's production of LEAP (Leading Edge Aviation Propulsion) engine forgings at its state-of-the-art Foundry and Forge facility located in Bengaluru. These LEAP engines power prominent aircraft models such as the Airbus A320 Neo family and the Boeing 737 Max. Additionally, HAL and Safran Aircraft Engines are set to collaborate on the co-design and production of the next-generation Indian Multi-Role Helicopter (IMRH). By pooling their expertise, the two companies aim to create cutting-edge helicopter engines that meet the evolving needs of the Indian armed forces and civilian aviation sector.

Business News

RBI Approves MobiKwik's Zaakpay To Operate As Payment Aggregator

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted in-principle authorization to Zaakpay, the secure payment gateway arm of MobiKwik to operate as a payment aggregator. This authorization paves the way for Zaakpay to onboard new merchants onto its platform, facilitating quick and easy processing of online payments. Zaakpay offers over 100 different payment methods, including UPI, debit and credit cards, net banking, and mobile wallets, catering to the evolving needs of consumers and businesses alike. Zaakpay serves as a catalyst for businesses, enabling them to participate in digital marketplaces and reach consumers across the country while sitting in the most remote regions. This is a significant advantage, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and businesses looking to expand their reach in the digital realm.

Tata to Become India's First iPhone Manufacturer as Wistron Approves Factory Sale

The Tata Group has taken a significant step towards manufacturing and assembling Apple iPhones in India for both domestic and international markets by acquiring Wistron's operations in India. Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar announced this major venture, which highlights the Tata Group's ambition to establish itself as a key player in the global electronics industry. The Tata Group has set an ambitious timeline to commence iPhone production within just two and a half years. This endeavor is expected to bolster India's position as a prominent hub for smartphone manufacturing and exports. Wistron, a significant player in the global electronics manufacturing sector, has granted approval for the sale of its operations in India to the Tata Group. This approval is a pivotal step in the process of Tata Group's entry into iPhone manufacturing.

Important Days News

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

The Indian Army marked the 76th 'Shaurya Diwas' in Jammu and Kashmir, a day dedicated to commemorating a significant historical event, the landing of Indian forces in Kashmir on 27 October 1947. This operation marked the first civil-military victory for Independent India. During the 'Shaurya Diwas' celebrations, a striking replication of the historic event was performed as a tribute to the courageous soldiers and the resilient people of Jammu & Kashmir. The event brought together a distinguished audience, including senior Army and Air Force officers, as well as students, who bore

witness to a reenactment of history. On October 27, 1947, Indian Army troops landed at Budgam Airport, initiating a mission to evict Pakistani forces from Jammu and Kashmir. This day stands as a testament to the unwavering commitment to the unity and integrity of the nation.

International Day of Care and Support 2023

This 29 October marks the UN's first official International Day for Care and Support, which recognises the legacy of the first International Day for Care founded four years ago by trade unions to accelerate public investment in to the care economy. The United Nations General Assembly decided to proclaim 29 October as International Day of Care and Support. The resolution was adopted in recognition of the importance of care and support in advancing gender equality, promoting healthy aging, and ensuring the sustainability of our societies and economies. The resolution calls upon Member States, the UN system, civil society, the private sector, academia, and the public to observe the international day annually and to raise awareness of the importance of care and support, as well as the need to invest in a resilient and inclusive care economy.

Schemes News

Jai Bhim Mukhyamatri Pratibha Vikas Yojna Launched by Delhi Government

The Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi is inviting applications from eligible students belonging to SC/ST/OBC/EWS categories for free coaching under the "Jai Bhim Mukhyamatri Pratibha Vikas Yojna." This initiative aims to provide coaching for various competitive examinations and entrance tests. Eligible Examinations under this scheme are:

a. Various Group (A, B, C) Recruitment Exams conducted by agencies like SSC/DSSSB/Railway/Bank and entrance exams for MBA, MCA.

b. Various recruitment exams for Defense forces, including NDA, CDS, AFCAT.

c. Exams for recruitment of technical posts, such as IES, GATE, A.E., J.E.

Eligible students can receive free coaching from specific empanelled coaching institutes. Students also have the option to join non-empanelled coaching institutes and receive fee reimbursement, subject to the scheme's prescribed limit.

Summits & Conferences News

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

In a significant event held in New Delhi, Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister, Hardeep Singh Puri, inaugurated the 16th Urban Mobility India Conference and Exhibition 2023, with the theme, "Integrated and Resilient Urban Transport". The event, organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in collaboration with the Institute of Urban Transport (India) and the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd., aims to address critical aspects of urban transportation in the country. The conference theme, "Integrated and Resilient Urban Transport," underscores the importance of designing efficient and high-quality transport systems that can withstand challenges, including rapid climate change. The focus is on integrating various transport options, enhancing resilience from the planning stage itself.

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

The Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) in India, in partnership with IIT-BHU, has launched the 'Dark Patterns Buster Hackathon 2023.' This initiative aims to harness the collective power of hackers to develop cutting-edge solutions that protect consumers from the deceptive practices of dark patterns in e-commerce platforms. Dark patterns are deceptive design practices in user interface/user experience interactions across digital platforms, designed to mislead or trick users into unintended actions. The primary goal of this initiative is to protect consumers from various forms of unfair trade practices. The hackathon seeks to address not only the existing ten identified dark patterns but also new ones like Rogue Malwares, Trick Wording, and Saas Billing.

Science & Technology News

JioSpaceFiber: India's First Satellite-Based Gigabit Broadband Service

Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd, India's leading telecommunications provider has introduced 'JioSpaceFiber' satellite broadband service. This groundbreaking initiative was officially unveiled at the India Mobile Congress and represents the nation's first satellite-driven giga fiber service. The primary goal of this satellite broadband service is to extend high-speed internet access to previously underserved and remote regions in India. By enabling this connectivity, Jio aims to bring millions of homes and businesses

in India online, many of which are experiencing broadband internet for the first time. Akash Ambani, the chairman of Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd, stated that JioSpaceFiber aspires to provide every Indian with the opportunity to fully participate in a booming digital society. The service offers gigabit-level access to a wide array of governmental, educational, health, and entertainment services online.

Obituaries News

Former Chinese Premier Li Keqiang Passed Away At The Age Of 68

Li Keqiang, the former premier of China, passed away due to a sudden heart attack on October 27, 2023. Aged 68, he concluded his career in March, 2023 after completing two terms in office alongside Chinese President Xi Jinping. The leader of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, commonly referred to as the Chinese premier, holds the position of the country's head of government and also leads the State Council. This role represents the second-highest authority in China's political hierarchy, ranking below the general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party/president of China, and commands the highest position in the central government's civil service.The premier's term is five years in duration and can be renewed. Li resigned as a member of the CCP Central Committee in October 2022, and on March 11, 2023, he completed his term as China's premier, with Li Qiang taking over his role.

Miscellaneous News

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

The Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival made a return after a four-year interval with a grand ceremony at the Nita Mukesh Ambani Cultural Centre (NMACC) in Mumbai on October 27. The festival opened with a spectacular master ceremony, led by Priyanka Chopra Jonas, the chairperson of Jio MAMI. From October 27 to November 5, the Jio MAMI Mumbai Film Festival will unfold over ten days, showcasing more than 250 features and shorts across 20 screens in eight venues throughout Mumbai. The festival opened with Hansal Mehta's highly anticipated film, "The Buckingham Murders," a gritty crime drama set in the UK and starring Kareena Kapoor Khan. The festival's opening night was filled with prestige as it celebrated two legendary directors, Mani Ratnam and Luca Guadagnino, by presenting them with the Excellence in Cinema award. Veteran Indian critic Aruna Vasudev, acclaimed author and subtitler Nasreen Munni Kabir, and film programmer and casting director Uma Da Cunha received the prestigious lifetime achievement awards.

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National News

PM Modi dedicated projects worth ₹5950 Crore in Gujrat

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate and launch various developmental projects in Gujarat's Mehsana district, valued at ₹5,950 crore. 8 of the 16 projects will be inaugurated. In Mehsana, the Western dedicated freight corridor and an expanded railway line in Ahmedabad will be inaugurated. Gujarat Railway Infrastructure Development Corporation will launch a railway project benefiting the Mandal-Bechraji Special Investment Zone. Some of the Water-related are: Lake Recharging and Valasana barrage in Mehsana. Lift Irrigation Project in Mahisagar. Water supply projects in Banaskantha and Mehsana. Four-laning of Naroda-Dahegam-Harsol-Dhansura road in Sabarkantha.

Statue Of Unity Celebrates Its 5th Anniversary

The largest statue in India, dedicated to the Iron Man of the nation, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, known as the "Statue of Unity," celebrates its five-year anniversary today. On October 31, 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on the 143rd birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, inaugurated the Statue of Unity. This towering structure, standing at 182 meters, became a symbol of national pride and a historical landmark. In less than five years since its inauguration, the Statue of Unity has welcomed nearly 1.5 crore visitors. The following annual visitor statistics illustrate the statue's growing popularity:

Sno.	Year	Visitors (in lakhs)
1	2018	4.53
2	2019	27.45

3	2020	12.81 (Pandemic Time)
4	2021	34.29
5	2022	41.32
6	2023	31.92

International News

Chinese vessel begins research off the coast of Sri Lanka amid India's Concerns

Chinese research vessel Shiyan 6 arrived in Colombo, Sri Lanka, prompting concerns from India and the United States. The vessel is now beginning a two-day research mission off the Sri Lankan coast, with collaboration from Sri Lankan authorities. The marine scientific research will be conducted off the western coast of Sri Lanka in partnership with Sri Lanka's National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA) and the University of Ruhuna. Shiyan 6 is a Chinese research vessel added to the fleet in December 2020. It's the first Chinese research vessel focusing on geophysical exploration. The vessel is scheduled to operate for about 80 days with 13 research teams pursuing 28 scientific research projects over 12,000 nautical miles.

1971 Memorial in Bangladesh Honouring India Heroes

A memorial dedicated to the Indian soldiers who sacrificed their lives during the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971 is nearly completion in Ashunganj, Bangladesh. This monument serves as a symbol of solidarity and shared history between the two nations. The memorial, which is expected to be completed by December, will carry the names of around 1,600 Indian soldiers who sacrificed their lives during the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971. This marks the first time that Bangladesh is building a memorial exclusively to honor Indian soldiers who played a pivotal role in the nation's quest for independence. Efforts are being made to have the memorial inaugurated by both Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and Sheikh Hasina. Given the upcoming elections in both countries, the target for the inauguration is set for March or April, allowing both leaders to pay tribute to the heroes of the 1971 Liberation War.

State News

Manipur Celebrates Mera Houchongba 2023

Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh participated in this year's Mera Houchongba celebrations in Imphal on 28th October 2023. The event, which brought together the diverse communities of the state, emphasized the strong bond between the people of the hills and the valley. Mera Hounchongba has deep roots in the history of Manipur. The festival is observed and celebrated during the month of 'Mera,' which typically falls in September or October. It holds great cultural and religious significance for the people of the region. The term 'Houchongba' itself means 'intermingling' or 'amalgamantion,' and the festival beautifully embodies this concept. A remarkable feature of Mera Houchongba is the exchange of gifts between the hill tribes and valley people. These exchanges exemplify the spirit of unity and goodwill, further fostering the bonds between the diverse communities in Manipur.

Kerala Becomes First State With Hallmarking Centers In Every District

Kerala, the southern state of India, has achieved a remarkable milestone by inaugurating a hallmarking centre in Idukki. This achievement has solidified Kerala's position as the first state in India to establish hallmarking centres in all of its 14 districts. The Bureau of Indian Standards mandated the practice of hallmarking with the primary goal of protecting consumers, especially those who might not be well-versed with the intricacies of the gold market, from potential exploitation by unscrupulous jewelers. Hallmarking serves as a vital tool in ensuring the accurate determination and official recording of the proportionate content of precious metal in jewelry, artifacts, bullion, and coins.

Defence News

India Submits 'Letter of Request' To France For 26 Rafale-M Naval Fighter Jets

India has taken a decisive step in enhancing its naval capabilities by submitting a Letter of Request (LoR) to the French government. This formal communication signifies India's intent to acquire 26 Rafale Marine fighter aircraft for the Indian Navy. The aircraft procurement deal, valued at approximately Euro 5.5 billion, received the green light from the Defence Acquisition Council. This significant development

occurred just before the visit of the Indian Prime Minister to France, where he was a state guest for their Bastille Day parade in July. According to the proposal, the Indian Navy is set to receive a total of 26 Rafale Marine aircraft, consisting of 22 single-seated fighters and four trainer aircraft. These aircraft will serve as a crucial addition to the existing fleet of MiG-29s deployed on the aircraft carriers INS Vikramaditya and Vikrant.

IAF Deploys Three S-400 Missile Units Along China And Pakistan Borders

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has taken significant steps to bolster its air defense capabilities along the borders with China and Pakistan by deploying three out of the five agreed-upon S-400 air defense missile squadrons. In 2018-19, India entered into a crucial defense agreement with Russia to procure S-400 missiles worth ₹35,000 crore, aiming to acquire a total of five squadrons of these advanced air defense systems. However, the remaining two squadrons' delivery schedule has been affected by the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and officials from both countries are set to meet soon to finalize the timeline.

Economy News

IMF Forecasts Global Growth Slowdown To 2.9% In 2024

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has recently unveiled its latest economic projections, revealing that global growth is expected to remain at 3 percent in 2023 and further decline to 2.9 percent in 2024, marking one of the lowest growth rates in decades. Advanced economies are also expected to experience a decline, with growth dropping from 2.6 percent in 2022 to 1.5 percent in 2023 and 1.4 percent in 2024. Emerging markets and developing economies are likely to move from 4.1 percent in 2022 to 4 percent in both 2023 and 2024. The report suggests that global inflation is expected to gradually decrease, declining from 8.7 percent in 2022 to 6.9 percent in 2023 and 5.8 percent in 2024. This decline is influenced by tighter monetary policies and lower international commodity prices.

Important Days News

Vigilance Awareness Week 2023

The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) in India has initiated the Vigilance

Awareness Week 2023, which will run from October 30 to November 5, 2023. The theme for this year's awareness week is "Say no to corruption; commit to the Nation," or "भ्रष्टाचार का विरोध करें; राष्ट्र के प्रति समर्पित रहें" emphasizing the significance of opposing corruption and dedicating oneself to the welfare of the nation. Vigilance Awareness Week 2023 serves as a crucial platform for reinforcing the nation's commitment to combating corruption and promoting integrity. The week's activities aim to raise awareness, build capacity, and strengthen the nation's resolve to say no to corruption and stay dedicated to the welfare of the nation.

National Unity Day

The Government of India declared Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary on October 31 as National Unity Day or Rashtriya Ekta Diwas. He was also known as "Iron Man of India." National Unity Day, celebrated on October 31, is a momentous occasion that pays homage to the indomitable spirit of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and his unparalleled contributions to India's unity and integrity. In 2014, the Government of India made an official declaration to celebrate National Unity Day on October 31. This occasion serves as an opportunity to reaffirm the inherent strength and resilience of the nation, demonstrating its capacity to withstand both actual and potential threats to its unity, integrity, and security.

Ranks & Reports News

BigBasket tops Fairwork index for gig workers

The Fairwork India 2023 Report evaluated 12 digital platforms, with BigBasket excelling in fair pay, while Ola and Porter scored zero in fair work standards, calling for industry improvements. The report revealed significant disparities in fair pay, conditions, contracts, management, and representation among these platforms. Ola, Porter, Uber, Dunzo, Amazon Flex, Flipkart scored poorly, with Ola and Porter receiving zero points in the Fairwork India Ratings 2023.

Books & Authors News

PM Narendra Modi releases three books at Tulsi Peeth in Chitrakoot

In a significant and spiritually enriching visit, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi made his way to Tulsi Peeth in Chitrakoot, Madhya Pradesh. During his visit, Prime

Minister Modi performed 'pooja' (prayers) and 'darshan' (sacred viewing) at the renowned Kanch Mandir, an exquisite temple in the precincts of Tulsi Peeth. In a cultural and literary contribution, Prime Minister Modi released three books during this visit, each offering unique insights into Hinduism and its rich traditions. The books unveiled were 'Ashtadhyayi Bhashya,' 'Ramanandacharya Charitam,' and 'Bhagwan Shri Krishna ki Rashtraleela.' Tulsi Peeth, established by Jagadguru Rambhadracharya in 1987, is more than a religious institution. It serves as a center for social service and education, making it an indispensable part of Chitrakoot's cultural and spiritual landscape. The Peeth has been instrumental in publishing and disseminating Hindu religious literature, contributing to the preservation and propagation of ancient knowledge.

Awards News

Tata Motors Wins ₹766 Crore Arbitration Award in Singur Plant Dispute

Tata Motors has secured a significant ₹766 crore arbitration award from the West Bengal Industrial Development Corp. Ltd (WBIDC), concluding a prolonged dispute stemming from the closure of its Singur plant in 2008. This plant was intended for manufacturing the Nano, the world's most affordable car. WBIDC is to pay an 11% interest rate on this amount from September 2016 until full recovery. Tata Motors is also entitled to recover ₹1 crore towards the cost of the proceedings. Tata Motors initially invested in the Singur project to create the "people's car" at an affordable ₹1 lakh price tag. The company moved its manufacturing unit to Sanand, Gujarat, after abandoning the Singur project in 2008. The Sanand facility still operates for other Tata Motors passenger vehicles after the Nano project was discontinued in 2018.

Sports News

Max Verstappen Dominates Mexico City Grand Prix, Sets New Season Victory Record

Max Verstappen, the Red Bull racing sensation, showcased his exceptional skills at the Formula One Mexico City Grand Prix. Verstappen's incredible win marked his record-breaking 16th victory of the season, surpassing his own previous season's record. Max Verstappen's win at the Mexico City Grand Prix was his third consecutive victory at the Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez. With 51 career wins, he now shares the fourth position in Formula One history with Alain Prost. Lewis Hamilton secured the second position in the race, continuing his consistent performance. Charles Leclerc, who had started from pole position for the second consecutive race, finished third.

Lionel Messi wins eighth Ballon d'Or 2023

Lionel Messi and Aitana Bonmati have been honored as the 2023 Ballon d'Or recipients. Messi secures his eighth Ballon d'Or, setting a new record, thanks to his pivotal role in leading Argentina to their first World Cup victory since 1986. This remarkable achievement places Messi three Ballons d'Or ahead of his rival Cristiano Ronaldo, who last won the award in 2017. Messi has now been a top-three finalist for this prestigious accolade a total of 14 times, with five instances as the runner-up. Messi, who secured his inaugural Ballon d'Or in 2009 and held a four-year consecutive streak until 2012, was the runner-up to Haaland at the UEFA awards back in August.

Jyothi Yarraji Clinches Gold In 100m Hurdles In Record Time

At the 37th National Games, Hangzhou Asian Games silver medallist Jyothi Yarraji, and Tejas Shirse displayed their athletic prowess, smashing National Games records in the 100m and 110m hurdles events. Jyothi Yarraji, a remarkable athlete, broke her own record by finishing the 100m hurdles in just 13.22 seconds. Her incredible speed and technique were on full display, leaving the competition in her wake. Tejas Shirse initially set the Games record in the 110m hurdles with a time of 13.80 seconds during the morning event. In the final, he managed to improve his timing even further, clocking in at an impressive 13.71 seconds.

Zahid Hussain From South Kashmir Clinches Silver At Asian Shooting Championship

Hailing from the beautiful town of Anantnag, Kashmir, Zahid Hussain achieved a remarkable feat by securing the silver medal at the prestigious Asian Shooting Championship held in South Korea. Zahid Hussain secured the runner-up position in the men's 50M rifle prone event with a total score of 624.5 points. He finished just 1.1 points behind the gold medalist, Kazakhstan's Malinovskiy Konstantin, who scored 625.6 points. China's Du Linshu claimed the third spot with a total of 624.3 points.

The Asian Shooting Championships in 2023 hold immense significance as they serve as a qualifying event for the upcoming Paris 2024 Olympics. This event offers a total of 24 Olympic quotas, with the top two finishers from each country in the 12 Olympic shooting events securing spots for their national teams.

Science & Technology News

New Mushroom Species Discovered in Western Ghats

Researchers at the Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI) in Kerala, India, have identified a new species of mushroom, named Candolleomyces albosquamosus, found on the JNTBGRI campus in the Western Ghats. The new species belongs to the genus Candolleomyces, a small genus with only 35 recognized species globally. The discovery was published in the scientific journal Phytotaxa by researchers C. K. Pradeep and P. K. Nayana from JNTBGRI's Microbiology Division. Candolleomyces albosquamosus is characterized by its delicate appearance and honey-yellow cap. The mushroom has a bell-shaped cap with white woolly scale-like structures, giving it a unique appearance. Mature specimens have a cap diameter ranging from 12 mm to 38.5 mm, and a height of approximately 58 mm.

Aligarh Muslim University To Launch Its Own Satellite, Gets Nod From IN-SPACe

Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) has embarked on a groundbreaking space initiative, the 'SS AMU SAT' project, approved by the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe). Led by AMU's Robo Club, this initiative aims to develop a 3U CubeSat, marking the first satellite named after AMU's founder, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan. Objectives of this project are: 1)Utilize satellite imagery to study economic growth in India's poorest districts. 2) Test in-house developed satellite sub-systems for enhanced functionality and 3) Implement image compression technology for rapid multimedia transmission.

Obituaries News

Assam Former minister, retired teacher Sarat Barkotoky passes away

The state of Assam is in mourning as it bids farewell to a prominent political figure, Sarat Barkotoky, a former MLA, and minister who passed away in the early hours of October 30. Barkotoky, known for his unwavering dedication to the Indian National Congress, had a long and distinguished political career, having served as a minister of state in former Chief Minister Hiteswar Saikia's cabinet. Sarat Barkotoky was born on March 1, 1935, in Mathurapur, Sonari. Throughout his political career, Sarat Barkotoky remained a steadfast member of the Indian National Congress. He was a popular representative, serving the people of Assam with diligence and a deep sense of responsibility.

Renowned Bangladeshi Scientist Saleemul Huq Passed Away At 71

Saleemul Huq, a Bangladeshi-British scientist who gained renown as a "climate revolutionary" for his efforts to make high-polluting countries help the world's poorest and most vulnerable states deal with the devastating impacts of climate change has passed away in the Bangladeshi capital, Dhaka. He was 71. Saleemul Huq was born in Karachi, Pakistan, on Oct. 2, 1952. He grew up in Europe, Asia, and Africa due to his parents' diplomatic postings and moved to Britain in the 1970s to study at Imperial College London, where he received a doctorate in botany in 1978. Over the years, Dr. Huq contributed to the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with former U.S. vice president Al Gore for their work on spreading knowledge of man-made global warming. Last year, Dr. Huq was honored with the Order of the British Empire for his efforts to combat climate change.

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