

Weekly Current Affairs 9th to 14th October 2023 - English

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. Current Good Manufacturing Practices, commonly referred to as cGMP, are stringent quality standards mandated by the World Health Organization (WHO) for pharmaceutical manufacturing. 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.

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. Shri Hardeep Singh Puri spoke about the country's achievements in the green and clean energy sector during the 26th Energy Technology Meet, shedding light on the nation's accomplishments and its future goals. Shri Hardeep Singh Puri proudly announced that India has exceeded its biofuel blending targets, a critical component of the nation's green energy strategy. The initial goal was to achieve a 10 percent biofuel blending rate by November 2022. Surpassing expectations, India reached this milestone five months ahead of schedule. Furthermore, the ambitious target of 20 percent biofuel blending, originally set for 2030, has now been advanced to 2025. This remarkable progress demonstrates India's commitment to cleaner energy sources and reduced environmental impact.

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," 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. Efforts were focused on promoting faceless and suo-moto service delivery. Jammu & Kashmir, Kerala, and Odisha achieved 100% service saturation through their Unified Service Delivery Portals (e-UNNAT, e-Sevanam, and Odisha One, respectively).

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.

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 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. 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 education system of the past.

The advertisement features a dark background with a white 'A' logo in a red circle at the top left. To the right, the word 'Bengali' is written in white. Below the logo, 'WBPSB' is written in large white letters. Underneath, 'Miscellaneous Batch' is written in white on a yellow background. Below that, 'Prelims + Mains + Interview' is written in white, followed by 'লাইভ ক্লাস + রেকর্ডেড ক্লাস + ই-বুক' in white. A red box contains the text 'Start Oct 14, 2023'. At the bottom, there is a group photo of several people in black shirts.

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

Union Minister of Ayush and Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, inaugurated a month-long celebration drive in a curtain raiser press conference at the media center, emphasizing the significance of Ayurveda and its role in promoting holistic well-being across India. This celebration marks the 8th National Ayurveda Day, observed as a tribute to Lord Dhanvantari, the God of Ayurveda, and coincides with Dhanteras, a day dedicated to seeking blessings for good health. Ayurveda Day is not just a celebration of an ancient medical tradition; it's an embodiment of the principles of "Jan Sandesh, Jan Bhagidhari, and Jan Andolan for Jan Arogya," emphasizing community participation and healthcare awareness. The Ministry of Ayush seeks to explore Ayurveda's potential not only for human health but also for the well-being of the environment, plants, and animals. This year's theme, "Ayurveda for One Health," underscores the interconnectedness of human, animal, plant, and environmental health.

International News**Swaminarayan Akshardham, Largest Hindu Temple Set Up In New Jersey**

BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham, the largest Hindu temple in the United States, celebrated its grand opening on Sunday, October 8, in Robbinsville, New Jersey. This architectural marvel is not only a testament to the vibrant Hindu community in the US but also a symbol of the enduring spirit of artistry, spirituality, and human dedication. The temple, set up in the picturesque city of Robbinsville, New Jersey, is a remarkable achievement. It stands as the largest Hindu temple outside India in the modern era. The grand opening was marked by a letter from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, recognizing the profound spiritual significance of this momentous occasion.

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 United States' historical role as a major supplier of arms to Israel. A swift and unwavering commitment to providing "rock solid" support. President Biden's communication with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Promise of additional military aid and support for Israel in the face of unprecedented attacks. The significant loss of life on both sides of the conflict, with over 600 lives lost in Israel and at least 370 deaths in Gaza.

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. The LAC, the de facto border between India and China, has been a source of tension for many years, and eastern Ladakh is no exception. Over three years of confrontation have persisted, leading to periodic clashes and standoffs, mainly in friction points along this border.

Putin in Kyrgyzstan 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. Putin, who has seldom traveled abroad since deploying troops into Ukraine in early 2022, notably had not left Russia since the ICC issued a warrant, accusing him of overseeing the illegal deportation of children from Ukraine. Despite the warrant and ICC's allegations, Russia, including Putin, rejects the court's jurisdiction and claims. Putin's visit comes at a critical time, with signs indicating Russia's influence in former Soviet republics like Armenia is under pressure. Sanctions imposed on Russia by Western countries have strained Moscow's relationships with its neighboring nations.

State News**Bihar gov't announces 10% reservation for EWS in judicial services**

In a significant move, 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. This announcement comes on the heels of the release of the state's caste-based survey results. The decision was formally approved by the Bihar cabinet, as announced by Additional Chief Secretary (Cabinet Secretariat) S Siddhartha.

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) and marks a significant step forward in NLCIL's commitment to clean and sustainable energy solutions. The journey towards this achievement started when RRVUNL floated a tender for an 810 MW solar photovoltaic power project on December 21, 2022. The project is strategically located in the Bikaner district of Rajasthan, a region known for its abundant solar radiation potential. NLCIL, with its expertise and dedication to renewable energy, successfully secured the entire capacity, positioning itself as a key player in the state's renewable energy landscape.

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. The launch event, graced by dignitaries, shed light on the vital role that women play in the state's livestock sector and the potential of this new initiative to transform the landscape of animal husbandry. Minister Shri Badal Patralekh, the chief guest of the programme, emphasized the pivotal role of women in the overall development of Jharkhand's livestock sector. He highlighted the 'A-HELP' program as 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.

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. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, while addressing a gathering of students about to complete their higher education at the Yuva Mahotsav held at Parade Ground, expressed his vision for a self-reliant and empowered youth. During the event, the Chief Minister also distributed appointment letters to 17 individuals who were selected through employment fairs. Additionally, he took the opportunity to tour the exhibitions organized by various government departments.

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. These efforts contribute to the broader goal of protecting India's rich biodiversity and ecological heritage.

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. According to recent reports, the city has been chosen as a potential Ramsar Convention site of International Importance, a recognition coveted by wetland-rich regions around the globe. 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.

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

The Eastern Ghats, known for their captivating landscapes and diverse ecosystems, have long captured the fascination of nature enthusiasts. Now, an exciting development is on the horizon for those eager to delve into this unique environment.

'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 MEG is a splendid initiative set to take shape in approximately 30 acres of reserved land, which belongs to the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department, within the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) limits. It's strategically located adjacent to the ACA-VDCA cricket stadium along the old NH-16 road. Scheduled to open its gates to the public in November 2023, the MEG promises to be an oasis of natural beauty, biodiversity, and education.

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 Joyal, the Mission Director of the National Health Mission in Uttar Pradesh. The award is a testament to UP's dedication to mental health and the invaluable service it provides to its citizens. 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.

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 and are aimed at enhancing connectivity and fostering economic development in the state.

Bridge Projects Overview:

1. RCC Bridge Over Pacha River at Lachang:
Location: Laimoya, Nerewa & Sorrowa villages in East Kameng District.
2. RCC Bridge from Goang to Donigaon Village:
Location: Over Pacha river at Goang, on the way to Donigaon in East Kameng District.
3. Three Bridges on NH-313:
Location: Spanning from Roing-Anini road to New Chidu village via NHPC Colony in Lower Dibang District.
4. Double Lane Steel Composite Bridge with RCC Decking at Kharsa, Dirang:
Location: West Kameng District.
5. RCC Bridge at Pikte Point:

Location: Across the river Sigen to connect Tabiripo Saku village on Koyu-Goye road in Lower Siang District.

6. RCC Bridge Over Ngopok River:
Location: Mebo-Dholla road in East Siang District.
7. Steel Composite Bridge Over River Panyor:
Location: To connect Chullyu & Kebi village near Yazali Agri-Farm in Lower Subansiri District.

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.

Recommendations on GST Rates for Goods and Services

- I. Changes in GST Rates for Goods
 1. Food Preparation of Millet Flour
 2. Imitation Zari Thread
 3. Foreign Going Vessels
- II. Other Changes Related to Goods
 4. Extra Neutral Alcohol (ENA)
 5. Molasses:
 6. Rectified Spirit for Industrial Use
- III. Changes in GST Rates for Services
 7. Exemptions for Government Services
 8. Job Work Services for Barley Processing
 9. GST on Bus Transportation Services via ECOs
 10. District Mineral Foundations Trusts (DMFT)
 11. GST on Indian Railways

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. Comparatively, during the same period in FY23, the fiscal deficit was 32.6 per cent of the full-year target. It's worth noting that India's aim is to narrow its fiscal deficit to 5.9 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) by the end of the current financial year, down from 6.4 per cent in the previous year. 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. In the same period last year, between April and August, the primary deficit was 28.2 per cent of the budgetary estimate. 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.

6. 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. This transformative step not only reduces compliance burden and promotes ease of doing business but also underscores the importance of government collaboration.

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. For males above the age of 15, the urban unemployment rate decreased from 6.0% in the previous quarter to 5.9%. For females in the same age group, the unemployment rate decreased from 9.2% to 9.1% during the same period.

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.

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. Key sectors like petroleum products, gems and jewellery, readymade garments, and chemicals were major contributors to this decline. 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. 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. The trade deficit in August 2023 reached a ten-month high, stagnating at \$24.16 billion, a figure consistent with the same period in 2022.

Rankings & Reports News

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.

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. The GHI 2023 report highlights that India has the highest child wasting rate in the world, standing at 18.7 percent during 2018-22, which signifies acute undernutrition. The rate of undernourishment in India is reported at 16.6 percent, and the under-five mortality rate is 3.1 percent. The prevalence of anemia among women aged between 15 and 24 years in India is alarmingly high at 58.1 percent. India's overall GHI score is 28.7, categorizing the hunger situation in the country as "serious." The Women and Child Development Ministry, a key governmental body, has raised serious concerns about the GHI 2023 report. According to the ministry, the index suffers from "serious methodological issues and shows a malafide intent."

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. In the latest report for Q2 2023, Mumbai, Bengaluru, and New Delhi have showcased impressive growth, securing notable positions on the index. 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. This puts Mumbai at the top among Indian cities in terms of percentage increase on the global index. In Q2 2023, Mumbai experienced a residential price appreciation of six percent year-on-year.

Business News

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 operates the Haifa port in Israel and has emphasized its vigilance in ensuring business continuity despite the challenges faced. APSEZ stocks witnessed a sharp decline, falling by 4.89 percent on the BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange) and 5.09 percent on the NSE. On the BSE, the stocks closed at Rs 789.90, and on NSE, they closed at Rs 788.5.

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 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. In January, a damning report by short-seller Hindenburg Research accused the Adani Group of governance risks, asserting that offshore shell firms clandestinely owned stakes in Adani's publicly-listed companies. This accusation led to SEBI's scrutiny of the conglomerate's affairs. In January, a damning report by short-seller Hindenburg Research accused the Adani Group of governance risks, asserting that offshore shell firms clandestinely owned stakes in Adani's publicly-listed companies. This accusation led to SEBI's scrutiny of the conglomerate's affairs.

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. Notably, this acquisition also represents Microsoft's most significant foray into the gaming industry. The United Kingdom's Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) initially sought to block the acquisition in April due to concerns that Microsoft, as the creator of the Xbox gaming console, would wield excessive influence in the emerging cloud gaming market. This opposition raised concerns about potential anti-competitive effects in the industry.

Appointment 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. A Balasubramanian, the outgoing Chairman of AMFI, has played a pivotal role in the organization. Having served two consecutive terms, his leadership has been instrumental in shaping the mutual fund industry in India. As he steps down, he leaves behind a legacy of growth and development.

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. 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.

Bengali

WBPSC

Miscellaneous Batch

Prelims + Mains + Interview
লাইভ ক্লাস + রেকর্ডেড ক্লাস + ই-বুক

Start Oct 14, 2023

Banking News**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.

1. Digital Payment Advancement:

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.

2. Joint Unveiling:

The card was jointly unveiled by Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar, FOCINC WNC (Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Western Naval Command), and Shri CS Setty, Managing Director (Retail and Digital Banking) of SBI.

3. Unique Features:

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.

4. Collaborative Effort:

The concept for NAV-eCash was developed by a team of officers from INS Vikramaditya and brought to fruition by SBI, India's largest public sector bank.

The card is tailored to replace cash transactions with digital payments, ensuring convenience and security in various challenging environments.

5. Digital Transactions Anywhere:

NAV-eCash is specifically designed for use in locations where real-time internet connections are limited, allowing digital transactions to take place seamlessly.

This innovation aligns with the nation's broader goal of promoting digital financial solutions and enhancing accessibility across diverse settings.

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. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das stated that this decision is in line with RBI's earlier promise to provide incentives to UCBs that meet specific lending targets. These targets are related to lending to marginalized sectors of the population.

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

Outlook Group is excited to announce 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. According to a National Statistical Office (NSO) report titled "Elderly in India 2021," the elderly population in India is on the rise. It is projected to increase by 41 percent over a decade, from 138 million in 2021 to 194 million in 2031.

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'. This action comes in the wake of material deficiencies discovered by the RBI during the customer onboarding process. 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.

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 Bank, 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. The RBI's decision to impose a ₹5.39 crore fine on Paytm Payments Bank stems from multiple instances where the bank failed to meet regulatory requirements.

Summits & Conference News**Sri Lanka to take over as Chair of Indian Ocean Rim Association**

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. 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. Foreign Ministers of India, Bangladesh, Mauritius, Iran, Malaysia, and South Africa, as well as ministerial and senior-level participation from other member and dialogue partner countries. Sri Lanka to take over as Chair of IORA for the next two years.

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 renewed partnership aims to enhance academic collaboration between these two esteemed institutions, ushering in a new era of educational opportunities for students in the field of Chartered Accountancy. The signing ceremony for the MoU took place in the presence of eminent figures in the world of education and accountancy. Among those attending were Prof. Nageshwar Rao, the Vice Chancellor of IGNOU, and CA Aniket Sunil Talati, President of ICAI, along with dignitaries from ICAI and faculty members from the School of Management Studies (SOMS) at IGNOU. The MoU was officially signed by CA Jai Kumar Batra, Secretary of ICAI, and Dr. Alok Chaube, Registrar of IGNOU.

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.

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 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.

Awards & Honors News**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. This significant achievement comes after a stiff competition with prominent players in the industry, including IOCL, BPCL, and HPCL, marking the second consecutive year that MRPL has received this accolade. The basis for MRPL R&D's well-deserved recognition and award was a groundbreaking patent. This patent revolved around an energy-efficient hydrocarbon distillation process, a true milestone in energy technology.

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. The book was selected by a Chayan Parishad (Selection Committee), led by former Supreme Court judge Arjan Kumar Sikri. The committee's discerning judgment highlighted the exceptional literary value of Surya Vamsam. 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.

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. This honor recognizes his remarkable contributions to the world of cinema. In addition to this accolade, the festival will see the presence of Hollywood actor Catherine Zeta Jones, as well as their son. Michael Douglas's illustrious career boasts numerous awards and iconic film roles.

Important Dates News**International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2023: Date, Theme, History and Significance**

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."

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. He was a part of the Australian World Cup-winning unit in 2015 too.

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. Rohit has 978 runs in 17 innings and needs 22 more to pip Warner. 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.

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.

Origin and Early Years: The National Games, formerly known as the Indian Olympic Games, made its debut in Lahore, undivided India, in 1924.

Hosting Troubles: Goa was originally awarded the hosting rights for the 36th edition of the National Games, slated for 2016. However, due to numerous postponements, Gujarat hosted the event in the previous year.

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. A total of 137 matches will be played in the 10th edition of PKL. As many as 132 league stage matches will be followed by the playoff comprising five matches, two eliminators, two semifinals and the final.

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. During the ceremony, President Bach and Mrs Ambani exchanged pennants representing OVEP and Reliance Foundation and joined students in leaving their handprints on a new Olympic Values Pledge Wall, marking a commitment to be a positive role model both in sports and in day-to-day life.

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. The opening day of the championship witnessed an outstanding performance by the young sprinter, who left spectators in awe with his lightning-fast speed. 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. Manikanta Hoblidhar surpassed the previous national record of 10.26 seconds held by Amiya Kumar Mallick since April 2016.

11th Sultan Of Johor Cup To Be Held In Johor, Malaysia In November 2023

The 11th edition of the Sultan of Johor Cup in 2023 is scheduled to be held in Johor, Malaysia. Hockey India has announced the 20-member Indian junior men's hockey team that will participate in the 11th Sultan of Johor Cup. This prestigious tournament is set to take place from October 27 to November 4. Notably, this year's edition will feature eight teams, expanding from the customary six. In this year's Sultan of Johor Cup, India has been placed in Pool B. They will face tough competition from Malaysia, Pakistan, and New Zealand. Meanwhile, Pool A will consist of Germany, Australia, South Africa, and Great Britain. The tournament promises fierce competition, as these junior teams strive to prove their mettle on the international stage.

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. This decision was made during the IOC's executive board meeting in Mumbai, heralding a new era for the sport on the global stage. The acceptance of cricket's inclusion in the 2028 Los Angeles Summer Olympics represents a pivotal moment in the sport's history. The IOC's decision, taken at the executive board meeting, sets the stage for a potentially transformational development. The next step is for the IOC to vote on this recommendation at its Session, scheduled to be held in Mumbai from October 14 to 16.

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. This honor underscores Neeraj's remarkable achievements in the field of javelin throwing and his impressive gold medal victories at the

Olympics and World Championships. 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.

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. This prestigious recognition highlights the exceptional skills and contributions of cricketers on the global stage. 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.' Let's dive into their remarkable achievements. The ICC 'Player of the Month' awards for September 2023 celebrate cricketing excellence on both the men's and women's fronts. Shubman Gill's prolific run-scoring and Chamari Athapaththu's all-round brilliance have rightfully earned them these accolades. These awards not only honor their individual performances but also acknowledge their significant contributions to their respective teams' successes. Cricket enthusiasts around the world eagerly anticipate more remarkable displays from these outstanding players in the future.

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. Terence Davies was born into a large Catholic family in Liverpool. He left school at the age of 16 and spent a decade working as a clerk before pursuing his passion for filmmaking. His journey into the world of cinema began at Coventry Drama School. It was there that he crafted his first short film, "Children," an autobiographical piece that reflected his experiences during his school years.

Terence Davies' Autobiographical Journey: 'The Terence Davies Trilogy

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. Born on January 26, 1962, in Red Bluff, Calif., Chiarello's culinary journey began in his home state. In 1987, he opened his first restaurant, Tra Vigne, in the picturesque Napa Valley. This marked the beginning of his enduring relationship with the region and its culinary traditions. Over the years, Chiarello expanded his culinary empire, opening renowned restaurants such as Bottega, Ottimo, and Coqueta, each reflecting his distinct style and passion for creating unforgettable dining experiences.

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 Indian Navy has always prioritized its personnel as the cornerstone of its operational efficiency. The men and women who serve in white uniforms play a pivotal role in the Indian Navy's 'SHIPS FIRST' approach, which places the safety and effectiveness of naval operations above all else. This approach underscores the critical importance of having a skilled, motivated, and cohesive workforce. Traditionally, the Indian Navy relied on periodic Confidential Reports submitted by senior officers as the primary mechanism for evaluating its personnel. While this system had its merits, it also had inherent limitations. One of the key limitations was its 'Top-down' approach, which did not adequately account for a leader's impact on subordinates. In a rapidly evolving world, the need for a more comprehensive and inclusive appraisal mechanism became evident.

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 among others. 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.

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.

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. Let's delve into the significance of the President's Colour award and the achievements of 3 Naga. The presentation of the President's Colour to the 3rd Battalion of the Naga Regiment is not just a ceremony; it signifies the highest level of recognition for the battalion's achievements. This award acknowledges their

unwavering commitment, dedication, and acts of valor. 3 Naga has consistently demonstrated excellence and has added yet another feather to its cap with this prestigious honor. It is a moment of pride not only for the battalion but also for the entire nation.

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. IAC-II, displacing 45,000 tonnes, will incorporate modifications and newer technologies, enhancing the original design. It will be manufactured by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL). The proposal has already been cleared by the Defence Procurement Board (DPB) and is expected to be discussed at the upcoming DAC meeting.

The advertisement is for the WBPSB Bengali Miscellaneous Batch exam. It features the WBPSB logo at the top, followed by the text 'WBPSB' in large white letters. Below that, 'Miscellaneous Batch' is written in white on a yellow background. The exam structure is listed as 'Prelims + Mains + Interview' and 'লাইভ ক্লাস + রেকর্ডেড ক্লাস + ই-বুক'. The start date is 'Start Oct 14, 2023'. At the bottom, there is a group photo of several people in uniform.