

# Addar Khobor Khoborer Adda CURRENT AFFAIRS

Important for all exams WBCS, Police, Miscellaneous,  
WBPS Food SI, Clerkship, Rail, Bank, SSC



## HIGHLIGHTED POINTS

**Grammy Awards 2024: Falguni Shah's 'Abundance in Millets' Nominated for Best Global Music Performance**

**Cricketer Sachin Tendulkar's statue unveiled at Wankhede Stadium**

**Virat Kohli Breaks Sachin Tendulkar's Record for Most Centuries In An ODI**

**India's first woman Supreme Court judge Justice Fathima Beevi Passes Away**

**Saffron From Kishtwar In Jammu and Kashmir Gets GI Tag**



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## Monthly Current Affairs Magazine – November 2023

## National News

**NMC to launch “one nation, one registration platform” for doctors**

In a significant development, the National Medical Commission (NMC) has embarked on a mission to assign a unique identification number to every doctor in the country by the end of 2024. The cornerstone of this initiative is the creation of the National Medical Register (NMR), which will serve as a centralized repository for doctors practicing in India. This move is expected to streamline the healthcare sector and enhance transparency. A pilot project for the National Medical Register (NMR) is set to be launched within the next six months, and the full-scale implementation is slated for completion by the end of 2024. Dr. Yogendra Malik, a member of the Ethics and Medical Registration Board of the NMC, provided insights into this ambitious project.

**President Murmu Reached Ladakh For Her Maiden Two-Day Visit**

President Droupadi Murmu embarked on her first official visit to Ladakh, a region renowned for its breathtaking landscapes and resilient inhabitants. During her two-day stay, she participated in a series of events that celebrated the spirit of Ladakh and highlighted the unwavering commitment of its troops. President Droupadi Murmu's visit began with a warm reception at the Leh airport. The Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, B. D. Mishra, along with the Chief Executive Councilors (CEC) of Leh and Kargil, Dr Mohd Jaffer Akhoun, extended a gracious welcome, setting the tone for a visit filled with camaraderie and goodwill.

**Kozhikode Named India's First 'City of Literature' by UNESCO**

Kozhikode, a city located in the southern Indian state of Kerala, has made its mark on the global stage by being named one of the latest entrants into the UNESCO Creative Cities Network. This prestigious recognition was bestowed upon Kozhikode on World Cities Day, alongside Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh, which was recognized as a 'City of Music'. Kozhikode's new title as the 'City of Literature' marks a significant milestone, as it's the first city in India to hold this coveted distinction. The UNESCO Creative Cities Network comprises cities from across the globe that are acknowledged for their strong commitment to harnessing culture and creativity as an integral part of their development strategies. These cities stand out for their innovative practices in human-centered urban planning. With the inclusion of Kozhikode and Gwalior, the network now boasts 350 creative cities in more than 100 countries, representing seven creative fields: Crafts and Folk Art, Design, Film, Gastronomy, Literature, Media Arts, and Music.

**EESL Launched 'National Efficient Cooking Programme' To Transform Cooking Practices In India**

Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture of Public Sector Undertakings under the Ministry of Power, unveiled two groundbreaking initiatives, the National Efficient Cooking Programme (NECP) and the Energy Efficient Fans Programme (EEFP) on November 2, 2023, in New Delhi. These initiatives were launched by the Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Shri R. K. Singh. These programs aim to revolutionize cooking practices in India and underscore the importance of energy-efficient fans. EESL's commitment to these initiatives includes the distribution of 1 crore efficient BLDC fans and 20 lakh energy-efficient induction cook stoves across the nation. The NECP is set to transform cooking practices in India by introducing induction-based cook stoves that offer a cost advantage of 25-30% over traditional cooking methods.

**ECI designed in-house software for complete Candidate and election management through 'ENCORE'**

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has developed an in-house software named 'ENCORE,' which stands for Enabling Communications on Real-time Environment. ENCORE is a comprehensive software suite designed for efficient candidate and election management, offering a range of features for smooth operations during the electoral process. ENCORE provides a seamless and integrated platform for Returning Officers to manage various election-related tasks, from candidate nomination to voter turnout tracking, counting of votes, result compilation, and data management.

**Rajnath Singh Inaugurated 'India Manufacturing Show' In Bengaluru**

On November 2, 2023, the Honorable Raksha Mantri, Shri Rajnath Singh, inaugurated the three-day 'India Manufacturing Show' in Bengaluru, Karnataka. This is the sixth edition of the show. Organized jointly by Laghu Udhog Bharti & IMS Foundation and supported by the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, this event carries the central theme of 'Make in India, Make for the World.' The event not only serves as a platform for showcasing cutting-edge technologies and innovations but also emphasizes the significance of small-scale industries in India's economic landscape.

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi as Elected Chairman of Shree Somnath Trust for Five-Year Term**

In a historic development, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been elected as the chairman of the Shree Somnath Trust (SST) for a five-year term, marking a significant departure from the traditional one-year tenure for the trust's chairman.

The decision, approved by the charity commissioner of Gujarat, underscores the importance of continuity and leadership in managing the iconic Somnath temple near Veraval. At the 122nd meeting of the SST's board of trustees held at Raj Bhavan in Gandhinagar, Prime Minister Modi, the incumbent chairman, was re-elected to the position for a five-year term. This marks a historic moment as it is the first time in the 74-year-long history of the Shree Somnath Trust that a chairman has been elected for a five-year tenure.

### **Sarbananda Sonowal flags off domestic sailing of the first International Cruise Liner in India**

In a historic moment, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and AYUSH, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, flagged off the maiden voyage of Costa Serena, India's first International Cruise Liner from Mumbai. This monumental event marks the initiation of a transformative phase in India's cruising and tourism industry, driven by the visionary "Dekho Apna Desh" initiative of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

### **India to Host 2024 World Telecommunication Standardisation Assembly**

India is set to host the prestigious World Telecommunication Standardisation Assembly (WTSA) in 2024, marking a significant step towards the advancements of 5G and 6G networks. Union Communication & IT Minister, Ashwini Vaishnaw, made this announcement at the India Mobile Congress 2023, emphasizing the country's growing importance in the global technology landscape. The World Telecommunication Standardisation Assembly (WTSA) is a quadrennial event and serves as the governing conference of the ITU Standardisation Sector (ITU-T). It is one of the three world conferences organized by the International Telecommunication Union, an entity within the United Nations system. This event plays a pivotal role in setting global telecommunication standards, making India's hosting of the WTSA a significant milestone.

### **Bharat Botanics To Open India's Largest Cold Oil Production Facility In Gujarat**

Recently, Bharat Botanics announced the opening of its cutting-edge wood-pressed Cold Oil processing facility in Gondal, Rajkot Gujarat. This 16,000 square feet automated facility is one of its kind, promoting 100% hygiene and transparency, marking a significant step towards healthier living, sustainability, and providing healthy edible oils for every customer it serves.

Mr. Manish Popat, Co-Founder of Bharat Botanics, emphasizes, 'We're excited to announce the expansion of our production capacity to meet the exponential rise in demand for our products from the 12,000 direct B2C customers we have served.'

He further stated, 'At Bharat Botanics' facility, seeds are crushed using traditional "Wooden Ghani's" with the cold-pressed technique, resulting in natural, chemical-free edible oils rich in healthy nutrients, natural flavor, and a scintillating aroma.'

### **Parshottam Rupala Inaugurated The Pavilion Of Department Of Animal Husbandry And Dairying**

Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Shri Parshottam Rupala, inaugurated the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying's pavilion on the World Food India event 2023. The event was not only a celebration of India's rich food culture but also a testament to the nation's commitment to sustainable agriculture and livestock practices. The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying played a pivotal role as a partner department in the World Food India event, showcasing its dedication to the advancement of the livestock and dairy sector. Joining Minister Parshottam Rupala at the inauguration was Minister for State of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Shri Dr. L. Murugan, demonstrating the collective effort of the Ministry to foster growth and innovation in this crucial domain. The function held during the event received an exceptional guest of honor in the form of the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu. Her presence at the event underlined the significance of the livestock and dairy sector in India's agricultural landscape.

### **KVIC Chairman inaugurates five-days 'Diwali Utsav' on the theme of 'Vocal for Local'**

In line with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's appeal for the promotion of locally-made products, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has taken a significant step towards fostering economic self-reliance for artisans in rural India. Under the leadership of Shri Manoj Kumar, Chairman of KVIC, the 'Diwali Utsav' Gramshilpa, Khadi Lounge was inaugurated in Connaught Place, New Delhi. This initiative aims to connect people with the spirit of 'Vocal for Local' during festive occasions. The 'Diwali Utsav' Gramshilpa, Khadi Lounge, and associated initiatives exemplify a concerted effort to amplify the 'Vocal for Local' message. As citizens embrace locally-made products, they not only celebrate festivals but also contribute to the economic empowerment of rural artisans, aligning with the transformative vision set forth by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

**WBCS MAHAPACK PRO**

\*Mahapack এখন নতুন রূপে

**BANGLA**

- লাইভ ক্লাস
- রেকর্ডেড ভিডিও
- অনলাইন মক টেস্ট
- ই-বুক স্টাডি ম্যাট
- হার্ড কপি মক টেস্ট বই
- একাধিক অপশনাল সাবজেক্ট
- পার্সোনালিটি টেস্ট এর গাইডেন্স ভিডিও
- অনলাইন এবং অফলাইন

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL  
WBCS

**Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde unveils Shivaji Maharaj statue in J&K's Kupwara**

Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, along with other dignitaries, inaugurated a statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in the Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir on November 7. The statue, a symbol of cultural pride, was installed at the 41 National Rifle (Maratha LI) camp, which is located in close proximity to the Line of Control (LoC) separating India and Pakistan. During the inauguration ceremony, Chief Minister Shinde expressed his pride in having a magnificent equestrian statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj situated near the India-Pakistan border. This event signifies the importance of preserving cultural heritage even in challenging regions.

**CJI DY Chandrachud Inaugurates Mitti Cafe In Supreme Court**

Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud inaugurated 'Mitti Cafe', a unique establishment situated within the Supreme Court premises. This cafe stands out for being entirely managed by individuals with disabilities, encompassing those who are visually impaired, have cerebral palsy, and are paraplegic. The cafe's management team comprises individuals with diverse abilities, breaking down barriers and setting an inspiring example. The Chief Justice expressed his hope that the legal community, including lawyers, would rally behind this initiative, emphasizing the importance of support for the differently-abled. Chief Justice Chandrachud shared that 'Mitti Cafe' has already established 38 outlets in various parts of the country. Moreover, he highlighted the cafe's extraordinary service during the COVID-19 pandemic, where they provided six million meals, showcasing the potential of inclusive employment and meaningful contributions by differently-abled individuals.

**Supreme Court: Nationwide Ban On Use Of Barium And Other Prohibited Chemicals In Firecrackers**

In a recent clarification, the Supreme Court of India emphasized that its directive, issued in the 2021 order, banning the use of barium and other prohibited chemicals in firecrackers applies not only to the National Capital Region but to the entire country. This clarification arose during the hearing of an application seeking compliance from the Rajasthan government regarding the apex court's orders, underscoring that these directives are binding on every state in India. In October 2018, the Supreme Court took a significant step by imposing a ban on the production and sale of all crackers except 'green crackers' and those designed to emit reduced emissions, commonly referred to as improved crackers. The court also prohibited the manufacture and sale of 'joined crackers,' which are long rows of crackers joined together.

**PM Modi To Launch PM-PVTG Mission And Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra On Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas**

On November 15, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to launch the PM-PVTG Development Mission, a groundbreaking scheme aimed at fostering the comprehensive development of approximately 28 lakh people belonging to Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs). This significant event is scheduled to coincide with the birth anniversary celebration of the revered tribal freedom fighter, Birsa Munda, observed as Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas for the past three years.

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Two-Day Visit to Jharkhand**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to make history by becoming the first Prime Minister to visit Ulihatu Village, the birthplace of Bhagwan Birsa Munda. This monumental visit is scheduled for November 15th, where the Prime Minister will pay homage at the Bhagwan Birsa Munda Memorial Park cum Freedom Fighter Museum in Ranchi. On the occasion of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas, PM Modi will kickstart the 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra.' This initiative underscores the Prime Minister's commitment to ensuring the saturation of flagship government schemes, reaching every targeted beneficiary in a timely manner. During the celebration, PM Modi will launch the 'Pradhan Mantri Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PM PVTG) Development Mission.' With a budget of approximately Rs 24,000 crores, this mission aims to uplift 75 PVTGs residing in 220 districts across 18 states and UTs.

**FATF On-Site Review in India: Evaluating Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terror Financing Framework**

A team from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), headquartered in Paris, has commenced on-site review meetings in India. The objective is to assess the country's legal framework in place to combat money laundering and terrorist financing. The FATF team, consisting of over a dozen members, including Secretariat officials and domain experts, arrived in Delhi in early November. The on-site visit, spanning approximately two weeks, involves meetings with senior government officials and private sector representatives. The team is expected to engage with entities such as the Department of Revenue, Enforcement Directorate, Narcotics Control Bureau, National Investigation Agency, and financial regulators.

**India To Become World's Third-Largest Economy By 2027: FM Nirmala Sitharaman**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman recently addressed the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue, highlighting India's remarkable economic trajectory amidst global challenges. She predicted that by 2027, India would surpass Japan and Germany to become the world's third-largest economy, underlining the resilience of the Indian economy amid global uncertainties. Despite global headwinds, Sitharaman

emphasized that India's economic growth is estimated to be just under 7%, the highest among major economies. She pointed out that even conservative estimates from the IMF indicate India's ascendancy to the position of the world's third-largest economy by 2027, with a GDP crossing the USD 5 trillion mark.

### **Solar-Powered 'Ramayana' Vessels to Navigate Saryu River in Ayodhya**

In a remarkable initiative, two solar-powered 'mini-cruise' ships are set to commence operations in the sacred Saryu River in Ayodhya, just ahead of the inauguration of the Ram Temple in January next year. Varanasi-based Alaknanda Cruise, under the leadership of director Vikas Malviya, will pioneer this unique service, providing an immersive experience centered around the life and teachings of Lord Ram. The introduction of solar-powered 'Ramayana' vessels along the Saryu River represents a harmonious blend of tradition and modernity.

### **India Achieves Historic Milestone in Patent Grants: 41,010 Patents in 2023-24**

In a significant development, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal announced that the Indian patent office has achieved an unprecedented milestone by granting a record-breaking 41,010 patents in the current fiscal year, up until November 15. This remarkable figure starkly contrasts with the 2013-14 fiscal year when only 4,227 patents were granted. Minister Piyush Goyal took to the social media platform X to share the news, emphasizing the historical significance of this achievement. He hailed the accomplishment as the "highest ever number of patents granted so far in 2023-24," highlighting the remarkable progress India has made in fostering innovation.

### **India-bound ship hijacked by Yemen's Houthi rebels in Red Sea, says IDF**

A cargo ship named "Galaxy Leader," en route from Turkey to India, has been hijacked by Yemen's Houthi rebels in the Red Sea. Approximately 50 crew members from various nations were on board. The Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) confirmed the hijacking but clarified that the ship is not Israeli. Hamas militants clashed with Israeli forces in Gaza's largest refugee camp. Reports of a potential hostage release deal between Israel and Hamas, involving women and children. Denial of a tentative deal by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and US officials.

### **India Dispatches Second Round Of Aid To Gaza Amidst Israel-Hamas Conflict**

India has once again demonstrated its commitment to providing humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip amidst the escalating conflict between Israeli forces and Hamas terrorists. The second batch of aid, carried by the Indian Air Force's C17 aircraft, comprises 32 tonnes of essential supplies. The aircraft is destined for the El-Arish Airport in Egypt, approximately 45km away from the Rafah crossing, the

sole entry point for humanitarian aid into Gaza. This initiative follows India's earlier contribution on October 22, where the country sent the first batch of aid, including 6.5 tonnes of medical assistance and 32 tonnes of disaster relief materials. The aid encompassed life-saving medicines, surgical items, tents, sleeping bags, tarpaulins, sanitary utilities, and water purification tablets, addressing the urgent needs of the Palestinians affected by the ongoing conflict.

### **UK stance on agri GI items remains hurdle in FTA talks with India**

Negotiations between the UK and India for a free trade agreement (FTA) are currently underway, with a key unresolved issue revolving around the level of protection for Geographical Indication (GI) products from the agricultural sector. The UK seeks heightened safeguards for its GIs, including renowned items like Scotch whisky, Stilton cheese, and Cheddar cheese. GI products, such as Scotch whisky and certain cheeses, are those whose quality and distinctiveness are attributed to a specific geographical origin. Once a product receives GI status, others cannot sell a similar item under the same name. The UK is pushing for a higher level of GI protection than what India traditionally provides. The negotiations include discussions on the intellectual property rights (IPRs) chapter, and the UK desires an elevated level of safeguarding for its GIs.

### **Anurag Thakur Launched Inaugural VFX And Tech Pavilion At 54th IFFI**

In a groundbreaking move, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, the Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, inaugurated the VFX and Tech Pavilion at the 54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa. This pavilion, a first in the history of Film Bazaar by NFDC at IFFI, is set to be a focal point for showcasing the latest advancements in film-making technology, encompassing animation, visual effects, virtual reality, and CGI. Minister Thakur took a tour of various sections within the Pavilion, including the Cine Museum and the Viewing Zones of streaming giants Amazon Prime and Netflix. The inspection also involved a firsthand demonstration of Sony's full frame Cinema Line Cameras. Notably, the Minister engaged with young filmmakers selected under the 75 Creative Minds of Tomorrow initiative and interacted with authors participating in the Book to Box section of the Tech Pavilion.

### **President of India Launches 'New Education for New India' Campaign in Odisha**

In a significant move towards fostering values and uplifting the consciousness of students, the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, launched the 'New Education for New India' campaign by Brahma Kumaris, Sambalpur, in Sambalpur, Odisha on November 22, 2023. The campaign aims to instill moral values in students, contributing to the creation of a better society. The launch of the 'New Education

for New India' campaign reflects the commitment of the Indian government to the holistic development of students by integrating moral values into the education system. The President's address underscores the significance of moral education in shaping responsible citizens and fostering a positive societal outlook. Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya's efforts in providing avenues for character-building and self-realization are acknowledged as valuable contributions to the pursuit of happiness and peace.

### India to Chair International Sugar Organisation

India is set to take the helm as the chairman of the International Sugar Organisation (ISO) in 2024, marking a significant milestone for the country. As the world's largest consumer and second-largest producer of sugar, this leadership role reflects India's growing influence in the global sugar sector. The announcement came during the 63rd council meeting of the ISO, headquartered in London.

## International News

### Chinese Communist Party Delegation Enhances Ties with Solomon Islands

A recent visit by a Chinese communist party delegation to the Solomon Islands has highlighted the growing cooperation between the two nations and its significance for their people. The delegation, led by Guo Yezhou, the deputy head of the international department under China's Communist Party central committee, engaged in high-level meetings with Solomon Islands' leadership during their visit. During the visit, the Chinese delegation met with Solomon Islands' Prime Minister Manasseh Sogavare, foreign minister, and energy minister. This series of meetings underscored the importance of diplomatic ties between the two nations. China and the Solomon Islands had previously signed a policing pact in July, which marked the elevation of their relationship to a "comprehensive strategic partnership." This significant step was taken during Prime Minister Sogavare's meeting with Chinese Premier Li Qiang in Beijing. It represents a deepening of ties in various areas of cooperation.

### Thailand Announces Visa-Free Entry For Indians to Boost Tourism

Thailand is taking steps to revitalize its tourism industry by allowing visa free entries for the citizens of India and Taiwan. This move comes as the high season approaches and is part of a broader strategy to attract more visitors to the country. Thailand had previously visa requirements for Chinese tourists, a significant source of visitors before the pandemic. Starting from 10th November 2023 and continuing until 10th May 2024, tourists from India and Taiwan can enter Thailand without the need for a visa. This decision aims to make it easier for travelers from these countries to explore the beauty of Thailand and contribute to the country's tourism sector. As

per the announcement, travelers from India and Taiwan can enjoy a maximum stay of 30 days in Thailand without the need for a visa. This new policy is expected to attract a significant number of tourists from these regions and give a much-needed boost to the local economy.

### "Bhutan's King Wangchuck Arrives in Delhi for Talks with Prime Minister Modi"

Bhutan's King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck recently arrived in India on a highly anticipated trip, receiving a red carpet welcome. The visit holds significant importance as it coincides with renewed efforts by Bhutan and China to resolve their longstanding border dispute. New Delhi is closely monitoring these negotiations due to potential implications for India's security interests, particularly in the Doklam tri-junction.

### IIT Madras Sets Its First International Campus On Zanzibar Island In Tanzania

IIT Madras has become the first Indian Institute of Technology to establish an international campus on the picturesque Zanzibar Island in East Africa. Inaugurated by the President of Zanzibar, Hussein Ali Mwinyi, this historic initiative signifies a brighter educational future, facilitated by a memorandum of understanding between India and Tanzania, ushering in a new era of global education and cooperation.

The establishment of the IIT Madras Zanzibar Campus represents a remarkable achievement for both India and Tanzania.

This endeavor reflects the Indian government's commitment to spreading the excellence of India's education system to international arenas.

While the initial campus is located in the Bweleo district, approximately 15 kilometers south of Zanzibar Town, there are plans for a permanent campus to be jointly developed by the Government of Zanzibar and the Government of India.

### India and Bhutan Enhance Bilateral Ties with New Initiatives

India and Bhutan have recently announced several key initiatives to strengthen their bilateral relationship. During a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bhutan King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, both countries discussed trade, technology, and cross-border connectivity. This comes at a time when China and Bhutan are in negotiations to resolve their border dispute.

The two nations have agreed to conduct a "final location survey" for a proposed rail link between Kokrajhar in Assam, India, and Gelephu in Bhutan, which is set to be built with Indian support.

Additionally, there is consideration for establishing another rail link between Banarhat in West Bengal, India, and Samtse in Bhutan, aimed at enhancing cross-border connectivity.

**Widespread Displacement Crisis in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**

The conflict in the eastern province of North Kivu, DRC, between M23 rebels and government-backed militias has worsened since October. This conflict is causing massive displacement, and the UN's International Organization for Migration (IOM) is deeply concerned about the humanitarian situation. As of October 2023, the number of internally displaced people (IDPs) in the DRC has reached a record high of 6.9 million. This is a result of ongoing conflict and rising violence, creating one of the largest internal displacement crises globally. Most of the internally displaced people, about 5.6 million, are concentrated in the eastern provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri, and Tanganyika. Conflict is the main reason for this displacement, with up to one million people being forced to leave their homes in North Kivu due to the M23 conflict.

**Klyuchevskaya Sopka Volcano's Eruption in Kamchatka, Russia**

The highest active volcano in Eurasia, Klyuchevskaya Sopka, recently erupted on the Kamchatka Peninsula in Russia, spewing a significant amount of ash into the air. This eruption marked the third time it erupted in the year 2023. While no injuries were reported, authorities took precautionary measures by closing schools in two nearby towns.

The eruption sent ash clouds soaring to a height of 13 kilometers (8 miles) above sea level.

This was the third eruption in 2023, following earlier eruptions in April and June.

The eruption didn't result in any reported injuries, but authorities closed schools in Ust-Kamchatsk and Klyuchy, two towns with populations of approximately 5,000 residents each.

Klyuchy is located about 30 kilometers (20 miles) from the volcano, and Ust-Kamchatsk is 50 kilometers (30 miles) away.

Bengali

**সংকল্প**

**WBPS Clerkship 2.0**

লাইভ ক্লাস + কনটেন্ট + মক টেস্ট  
+ টাইপিং গাইডেন্স

Start Date: 4 Dec 2023

**Russia pulled out of Treaty of Conventional Armed Forces in Europe**

Russia has formally withdrawn from the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE), citing NATO's expansion as a barrier to cooperation. The move follows Russia's recent revocation of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and a test launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile. Signed in 1990 after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the CFE aimed to limit conventional arms and prevent a rapid build-up of forces between Cold War rivals. Moscow, holding an advantage in conventional weaponry at the time, was initially reluctant to embrace the pact. They argued that NATO countries had been bypassing restrictions as the alliance expanded, rendering the pact irrelevant to Russia's security concerns. NATO accused Russia of non-compliance with the CFE for years, pointing to Moscow's suspension of participation in 2007 and complete withdrawal in 2015. Russia, after a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, officially denounced the CFE in May 2023. The U.S. and its allies had linked ratification of the adapted 1999 CFE to Russia's withdrawal of troops from Georgia and Moldova, a linkage Moscow contested.

**Unprecedented Seismic Activity in Iceland Sparks Concerns**

The Iceland Met Office has issued a stark warning of a "considerable" likelihood of a volcanic eruption in the coming days, following a series of seismic events that have rattled the country. This seismic activity has prompted the declaration of a state of emergency in Iceland. On November 10, Iceland experienced an extraordinary swarm of earthquakes, with a staggering 800 quakes hitting the southwestern Reykjanes peninsula in less than 14 hours. Over the preceding 24 hours, a total of 1,400 earthquakes were recorded, adding to the already alarming tally of 24,000 seismic events since late October. The most potent quake, measuring 5.2 in magnitude, struck approximately 40 km from Reykjavík, the capital of Iceland.

**Union Minister Kiren Rijiju to Represent India at Maldives President's Swearing-In**

Union Minister Kiren Rijiju has arrived in the Maldives to represent India at the swearing-in ceremony of Maldives President-elect Mohamed Muizzu. The ceremony is scheduled to take place on November 17 in the capital, Male. Mohamed Muizzu, a close associate of former Maldives President Abdulla Yameen, secured victory in the presidential runoff held in September, defeating the incumbent Ibrahim Mohamed Solih. Yameen's presidency saw close ties with China, raising expectations of a potential shift in Maldives' foreign policy.



**Luc Frieden Assumed The Position Of Prime Minister In Luxembourg**

Luxembourg, a small but influential European nation, is set to undergo a significant political shift as former finance minister Luc Frieden assumes the role of prime minister. This change comes on the heels of the recent election, where Frieden's Christian Social People's Party (CSV) emerged victorious, reshaping the country's political dynamics. After nearly six weeks of deliberations, a pivotal moment arrived as the CSV, under Frieden's leadership, signed a coalition agreement with the Democratic Party led by former Prime Minister Xavier Bettel. This collaboration solidifies a coalition government that combines the Christian democratic ideology of CSV with the liberal stance of Bettel's party.

**Landmark Election In Argentina Since The Restoration Of Democracy**

Argentina has witnessed a seismic shift in its political landscape as Javier Milei, a self-described anarcho-capitalist and right-wing populist, secured a decisive victory in the recent presidential runoff. Milei's triumph over Economy Minister Sergio Massa marks a departure from the traditional political order, promising a radical overhaul of the state in response to the nation's deep-seated discontent with soaring inflation and increasing poverty. In a stunning turn of events, with 97.6% of votes tallied, Milei emerged with 55.8%, outpacing Massa's 44.2%, a margin wider than anticipated by pollsters. This electoral outcome stands as the most significant mandate since Argentina's return to democracy in 1983, signifying a clear mandate for change and a rejection of the status quo.

**Union Minister Shri Anurag Singh Thakur Launches 17th Film Bazaar At IFFI, Goa**

The Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Youth Affairs & Sports, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, inaugurated the Film Bazaar, the largest South Asian film market at Marriott Resort, Goa. The film bazaar is a bustling marketplace of ideas, a haven for filmmakers, producers, and storytellers from around the world. It is described as a confluence of creativity and commerce, where ideas and inspirations form the foundation of a thriving cinematic marketplace. Shri Anurag Singh Thakur highlighted the robust growth of the Indian media & entertainment industry, boasting an annual growth rate of 20%. It is recognized as the fifth-largest and most globalized industry globally. The Film Bazaar, now in its 17th year, has become an integral part of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI), growing into one of Asia's premier film markets.

**Israel and Hamas Reach Truce Deal, Set to Release 50 Hostages**

Israel and Hamas have reached a significant diplomatic breakthrough in their ongoing conflict. The deal, announced involves the release of at least 50 hostages and numerous Palestinian prisoners. The agreement also includes a four-day truce for besieged Gaza residents after weeks of intense

warfare. As part of the deal, Palestinian militants are set to release 50 women and children who were kidnapped during a raid into southern Israel on October 7. The Hostages and Missing Families Forum group expressed happiness about the pending partial release, emphasizing the lack of clarity regarding specific individuals. Hamas welcomed the "humanitarian truce," indicating that 150 Palestinians would be released from Israeli jails. The resistance committed to the truce as long as Israel honored it. The conflict began with a severe attack by Hamas gunmen on October 7, prompting Israel to declare war on Hamas.

**UAE Inaugurates World's Largest Single-Site Solar Power Plant**

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has inaugurated the world's largest single-site solar power plant, the 2-gigawatt (GW) Al Dhafra Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Independent Power Project (IPP). The plant, located 35 kilometers from Abu Dhabi city, will generate enough electricity to power almost 200,000 homes and is expected to displace 2.4 million tonnes of carbon emissions annually. The project was inaugurated by Sheikh Hazza bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Ruler of Abu Dhabi, and emphasized the importance of the plant as a symbol of progress in solar power efficiency, innovation, and cost competitiveness.

**Report: US Granted \$677 billion In Aid To 213 Countries From 2001 to 2023**

According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United States emerges as the foremost aid provider in 2022. The data from ForeignAssistance.gov, an official US government platform, reveals key insights into the patterns and destinations of US aid between 2001 and 2023. A comprehensive analysis indicates that the US has disbursed a staggering \$677 billion in aid to 213 countries from 2001 to 2023. This financial assistance spans various nations, addressing diverse needs and challenges. Despite the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, the US has been a consistent source of financial support for Israel. In 2022, Israel topped the list of recipients of US military financing with a substantial sum of \$3.3 billion. This support is part of a larger trend where Israel has historically been a major beneficiary of US aid.

**Afghanistan Closes Its Embassy In India Permanently**

The Afghanistan embassy in New Delhi has officially announced its permanent closure, citing persistent challenges from the Indian government as the primary reason. This decision comes after the embassy had already ceased operations on September 30, hoping for a favorable change in the Indian government's stance. The embassy clarified that the closure should not be seen as an internal conflict or a result of diplomats switching allegiance to the Taliban. Instead, it attributes the decision to broader changes in policy and interests, emphasizing the challenges faced in maintaining normal diplomatic operations.

## State News

**Celebrating Karnataka Rajyotsava: 50 Years of Karnataka's Formation**

November 1, 2023, marks the 50th anniversary of Karnataka's formation, a significant day in the state's history. Originally founded on November 1, 1956, as a result of the State Reorganisation Act, Karnataka was initially known as Mysore State. It was later renamed Karnataka on November 1, 1973. This day, known as Karnataka Rajyotsava, celebrates the merger of Kannada-speaking regions into a single state. CM Siddaramaiah expresses best wishes to the people of Karnataka on Kannada Rajyotsava. Highlights the significance of this day as a unifying moment for Kannadigas scattered across different regions.

**Kerala To Launch Multilingual Microsites For Boosting Religious Tourism**

In an attempt to promote pilgrimage tourism, Kerala tourism is taking some major steps with the launch of a series of microsites. These microsites are crafted to not just illuminate the state's abundant heritage but also to emphasize the profound importance of its primary religious destinations. Kerala Tourism's new plan to boost religious places and pilgrim tourism in the state focuses on the launch of some new microsites. These are all set to provide the necessary information and features of all the added tourist places. The plan is to introduce a microsite that is rich in facts and information in different languages, with a primary attention on Sabarimala Temple. The microsite on Sabarimala in the Pathanamthitta district will share some fascinating details about the religious destination in a total of 5 languages. The languages are English, Hindi, Kannada, Tamil, and Telugu. A new transformation is expected on the microsite regarding the shrine. This project has a budget of ₹61.36 lakh. The Tourism Department has sanctioned the budget recently for the Sabarimala microsite.

**NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd's First 50 MW Dayapar Wind Project In Kutch, Gujarat**

NTPC Renewable Energy Limited (NTPC REL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of NTPC, has marked a significant milestone in its renewable energy journey by declaring the commercial operation of its first project. This project, a 50 MW wind farm located in Dayapar, Kutch, Gujarat is a first-of-its-kind effort in India's renewable energy journey. NTPC REL's debut project, the 50 MW wind farm at Dayapar, Kutch, Gujarat, officially commenced its commercial operations on November 4, 2023. Dayapar Wind stands out as the first capacity in India to be declared commercial under the new Indian Electricity Grid Code and General Network Access Regime. The commissioning of Dayapar Wind is just the first step in NTPC REL's ambitious growth plan. Currently, the company has 15 other renewable energy projects under various stages of execution, with a combined capacity of 6,210 MW. These projects promise to significantly enhance the renewable energy capacity of NTPC Group.

**President Droupadi Murmu's Visit On Uttarakhand Foundation Day**

On November 9, Uttarakhand observes its 23rd Foundation Day, and President Draupadi Murmu will participate, marking the first instance in 23 years that a President has been part of Uttarakhand's Foundation Day program. India's President, Smt Droupadi Murmu, is on a visit to Uttarakhand from November 7 to 9, 2023. This three-day visit carries immense importance for both the state and the President, aligning with the celebration of Uttarakhand Foundation Day. This day commemorates the state's establishment and honors its distinct cultural identity. President Droupadi Murmu participated at the 35th convocation of Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture & Technology in Pantnagar. This event highlighted the significance of education and agricultural technology in the region, emphasizing the crucial role of agriculture in Uttarakhand's economy.

**Bihar Governor Approves Bill Raising Reservation From 50% to 65%**

In a significant move towards addressing social inequality, the Governor of Bihar, Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, approved the 'Bihar Reservation Amendment Bill' on November 17. This legislative development comes after the State Government passed the bill unanimously during the winter season, with Chief Minister Nitish Kumar expressing his commitment to swift implementation. The bill raises the reservation quota for Backward, Extremely Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes from 50% to 65%, surpassing the 50% ceiling set by the Supreme Court. This article delves into the key aspects of the reservation amendment, its implications and the social justice agenda it aims to promote.

**Gyanodaya Express to Revolutionize Education in J&K : LG Manoj Sinha**

flagged off the Gyanodaya Express from the Katra railway station in Reasi district. This unique project, also known as the "College on Wheels," aims to empower approximately 700 girl students from universities in the Union Territory. The initiative is set to revolutionize education by providing immersive and collaborative learning experiences beyond traditional classroom boundaries. The Gyanodaya Express draws inspiration from the life of Mahatma Gandhi, who embarked on an epic train journey across the country, interacting with people from diverse backgrounds. The initiative aligns with Gandhi's principles of Satya and Ahimsa (Truth and Non-violence), aiming to awaken society with universal and eternal values.

**"Ghol" Fish Declared State Fish of Gujarat**

In a significant move to recognize and promote the rich aquatic biodiversity of the region, the 'Ghol' fish has been officially declared the state fish of Gujarat. The announcement was made by Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel during the inaugural ceremony of the first Global Fisheries Conference India 2023 held at Gujarat Science City. Union Minister for Fisheries Parshottam Rupala was also present at the event, which brought together stakeholders from across the globe.

**Odisha Achieves Rs 50,000 Crore Mining Revenue in the Financial Year 2021-22, Announces Chief Secretary**

Odisha Chief Secretary P K Jena announced a significant milestone in the state's economic landscape during the 77th annual technical meeting of the Indian Institute of Metals. The mining sector, a crucial contributor, has propelled Odisha's revenue from Rs 4,900 crore in 2016-17 to an impressive Rs 50,000 crore in the fiscal year 2021-22. Jena emphasized the transformative journey of the mining sector, highlighting a remarkable ten-fold increase in revenue over the past five years. The surge from Rs 4,900 crore to Rs 50,000 crore showcases the sector's pivotal role in reshaping Odisha's financial fortunes. Acknowledging the strategic importance of metals and metallurgical infrastructure, Jena assured continued support for the industry.

**Meghalaya Launches 'Water Smart Kid Campaign' For Youth Water Conservation Awareness**

In a significant move to instill a sense of responsibility and awareness among the younger generation regarding water conservation, Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma launched the 'Meghalaya Water Smart Kid Campaign.' This initiative, operating under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), aims to educate children about the vital importance of water conservation.

**West Bengal News****Mamata Banerjee Names Sourav Ganguly As The 'Brand Ambassador of Bengal'**

The Bengal Global Business Summit, an annual event held in Kolkata, marked a significant moment this year as Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee declared former cricketer and ex-president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), Sourav Ganguly, as the "Brand Ambassador of Bengal." Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, in her inaugural address at the Bengal Global Business Summit 2023, unveiled a series of ambitious policies aimed at transforming the economic landscape of the state. These policies include doubling the state's exports, upgrading logistical infrastructure, and fostering the manufacturing of renewable energy. Expressing her rationale for choosing Sourav Ganguly as the Brand Ambassador, Banerjee stated, "Sourav Ganguly is a very popular figure, and he can work for the young generation in a very good manner. I want to involve him as the Brand Ambassador of Bengal." This move not only adds a prominent personality to the state's promotional efforts but also leverages Ganguly's influence to connect with the younger demographic.

**Economy News****PFRDA Makes 'Penny Drop' Verification Mandatory For NPS Fund Withdrawal**

The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has introduced new National Pension System (NPS) withdrawal rule changes, providing subscribers with greater

flexibility in managing their retirement funds. In addition, the PFRDA has made 'penny drop' verification mandatory for NPS fund withdrawals. PFRDA has introduced the Systematic Lump Sum Withdrawal (SLW) facility, allowing NPS subscribers to withdraw their lump sum retirement corpus in a phased manner. This empowers subscribers to choose how much and when they want to access their balance, offering an alternative to committing to a full annuity for their entire post-retirement period. NPS subscribers can withdraw up to 60% of their pension corpus through SLW on a monthly, quarterly, half-yearly, or annual basis. This flexibility extends until the age of 75, providing subscribers with choices to suit their financial needs in retirement.

**NPCI: UPI Records 1,140 Crore Transactions In October, Total Value Exceeds Rs 17.6 Lakh Crore**

In October, UPI achieved a remarkable milestone, crossing an astonishing 11.4 billion transactions with a total transaction value surpassing Rs 17.6 lakh crore. This extraordinary feat is indicative of the growing popularity and trust in UPI as a secure and efficient payment platform. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), which operates the UPI system, released data highlighting the impressive performance of UPI. The platform recorded a 55 percent year-on-year growth in transaction volume and a 42 percent growth in transaction value. This surge in activity showcases the increasing reliance on UPI for everyday financial transactions. UPI had crossed the 10 billion transaction mark in August and continued its upward trajectory. In September, it recorded 10.56 billion transactions, a clear indicator of the platform's consistent growth. By October, UPI had surpassed 11.4 billion transactions, further solidifying its position as India's preferred mobile payments platform.

**October Gross GST Collections Reach ₹1.72 Lakh Crore**

In October, India witnessed a significant rebound in its Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections, reaching a 10-month high of ₹1.72 lakh crore. This growth of 13.4% year-on-year is the sharpest uptick since December 2022, reversing a three-month trend of deceleration. Several factors contributed to this impressive recovery, including increased domestic transactions, higher services imports, and robust GST levies on goods imports.

**"India's Carbon Tax Response to CBAM Raises Concerns for EU Manufacturing"**

The European Union's proposed Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) has stirred controversy, with India's Commerce and Industry Minister strongly criticizing it as "ill-conceived." Reduce carbon emissions from imported goods. Promote a level playing field between the EU and its trading partners. Protect EU companies that have invested in green technologies. Encourages non-EU countries to adopt stringent environmental regulations, reducing global carbon emissions. Prevents carbon leakage by discouraging companies from relocating to countries with weaker environmental regulations. Generates revenue for supporting EU climate policies.

**PMI points to manufacturing growth easing to 8-month low**

India's manufacturing sector experienced a significant slowdown in October, with the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) falling to 55.5, marking an eight-month low compared to the previous month's 57.5. The data, released on November 1, highlighted the impact of cost pressures and subdued demand for specific products. The deceleration in Manufacturing PMI for October is concerning, especially in light of recent data that revealed India's eight core sectors posted the lowest growth rate in four months in September, at 8.1 percent. These core industries contribute more than 40 percent to the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), making them a lead indicator of industrial growth.

**UBS Raises India's GDP Forecast to 6.3% for FY24**

Foreign brokerage UBS recently revised its FY24 real GDP growth estimate for India, raising it to 6.3%. The brokerage's chief economist, Tanvee Gupta Jain, highlighted various factors contributing to this uptick despite challenges such as slower global growth and upcoming elections.

**Morgan Stanley Forecasts Robust 6.5% Growth for India's Economy in FY24 and FY25**

In its recently released "2024 India Economics Outlook," Morgan Stanley Research predicts that India's economy will experience substantial growth, hovering around 6.5% for both FY2024 and FY2025. The investment bank attributes this positive outlook to the country's resilient domestic fundamentals, strong corporate and financial sector balance sheets, and the impact of recent policy reforms. Morgan Stanley highlights the resilience of India's economy amid global uncertainties. Strong corporate and financial sector balance sheets contribute to the positive outlook. Policy reforms have a positive impact on the economic landscape.

**India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI) Records Seventh Consecutive Month of Deflation in October**

India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation rate continued its downward trend, reaching a three-month low of -0.52% in October. This marks the seventh consecutive month of deflation, with various factors contributing to the sustained negative trajectory. The persistent deflation in factory gate prices can be attributed to the high base effect and declines in the prices of several key sectors. Notably, chemicals, chemical products, electricity, textiles, basic metals, food products, and paper and paper products have experienced reductions in prices compared to the same period in the previous year.

**DGFT Forecasts Explosive Growth in Indian E-commerce Exports, Aiming for \$200 Billion in 6-7 Years**

India's Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) predicts a remarkable surge in the country's e-commerce exports, projecting a potential rise from the current \$1.2 billion to an impressive \$200 billion within the next six to seven years. The

DGFT, Santosh Kumar Sarangi, shared these insights at the 'E-commerce Exports' conference organized by Ficci, underlining the vast potential inherent in India's e-commerce sector.

**Global economy: Inflation eases in US, UK; India's trade gap widens in Oct**

In recent developments, both the United States and the United Kingdom have experienced a slowdown in inflation. This has led to growing speculation that central banks on both sides of the Atlantic may initiate interest rate cuts by the middle of the next year. While expectations for economic growth in Europe are on the rise, there are disparities within the European Union. The economic recovery in the EU's eastern region remains fragile, even as other parts of Europe show signs of improvement. In Asia, the economic recoveries in China and Japan are facing uncertainties, with factors such as slowing consumption contributing to shaky prospects. Bloomberg charts highlight a broad slowdown in US inflation during October. Market participants view this as a positive signal, indicating that the Federal Reserve might conclude its interest rate hikes.

**Rural Retail Inflation Outpaces Urban Counterpart for 18 Out of 22 Months**

As the central government continues its efforts to address economic challenges, recent data from the National Statistical Office (NSO) reveals a concerning trend in India's inflation dynamics. Despite initiatives like the extended free-food programme and ongoing efforts to stimulate rural demand, rural inflation has consistently surpassed urban inflation in 18 of the past 22 months, spanning from January 2022 to October 2023.

**India Set to Extend Rice Export Bans Through 2024, Impacting Global Prices**

India, the leading global exporter of rice, is anticipated to prolong its restrictions on overseas sales into the next year. This decision is poised to keep rice prices near their highest levels since the 2008 food crisis. For the past decade, India has been a major player in global rice exports, constituting almost 40% of the total. However, to maintain domestic supplies and curb price surges, the Indian government has imposed export duties and minimum prices. Notably, certain rice varieties, including broken and non-basmati white rice, are prohibited from export. In response to these measures, rice prices soared to a 15-year high in August. Buyers from vulnerable importing nations hesitated to make purchases, and some even sought waivers.

**Covid Call: Over a third of EPFO Members Opted for Non-Refundable Withdrawals**

In response to the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) introduced a special window allowing non-refundable withdrawals for its subscribers. This measure aimed to alleviate financial strains during the unprecedented times.

EPFO manages the retirement savings of approximately 60 million subscribers. The organization oversees a corpus of around ₹18 lakh crore. The government amended the EPF Scheme, 1952, allowing members non-refundable withdrawals. Members could withdraw funds equivalent to basic wages and dearness allowance for three months or up to 75% of the amount in their EPF account, whichever was less.

**Anticipated Deceleration in Growth for ‘Unsecured Retail Loans’ in FY24**

Recent regulatory measures implemented by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are set to reshape the landscape of unsecured retail loans in Mumbai. Crisil Ratings predicts a notable deceleration in the growth of these loans, contrasting sharply with the robust 45% expansion observed last year. According to Crisil Ratings, the growth of unsecured retail loans is likely to slow down to 20-30%, reflecting a strategic shift by non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) in response to the regulatory changes. This contrasts with the steady growth anticipated in secured asset classes. The recent RBI directive instructing banks and NBFCs to allocate more capital for consumer loans is expected to have significant repercussions. Compliance with these guidelines is estimated to cost a substantial ₹84,000 crore in capital.

**Indian Rupee Hits Record Low at 83.38 Against US Dollar**

The Indian rupee closed at a new low of 83.38 against the US dollar, marking a slight decline from the previous close of 83.34. This drop was attributed to increased dollar demand from oil companies and intervention by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to mitigate a steeper fall.

**Dollar Demand from Oil Companies:** The primary factor contributing to the rupee’s decline was the heightened demand for dollars from oil companies. This demand, coupled with RBI interventions, played a crucial role in shaping the day’s forex market dynamics.

**RBI Intervention:** The Reserve Bank of India actively intervened to stabilize the rupee, preventing a more significant depreciation. Despite these efforts, the currency closed at a new low, indicating the challenges faced by the central bank in managing the forex market.

**Rankings & Reports News**

**Alarming Rise in Road Accidents and Fatalities: India’s Road Safety Crisis**

In 2022, India faced a severe road safety crisis, witnessing a shocking increase in road accidents and fatalities. According to data released by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, the country experienced 53 accidents and 19 deaths every hour, amounting to a staggering 1,264 accidents and 42 deaths daily. This alarming situation demands urgent attention and effective measures to ensure road safety for all citizens.

**‘India Leads in Workplace Burnout: 59% Report Burnout Symptoms, Reveals Survey’**

A recent survey conducted by the McKinsey Health Institute in 2023 shed light on the state of employees’ well-being in workplaces, with India taking the lead in workplace burnout. According to the survey, a staggering 59% of Indian respondents reported experiencing burnout symptoms. The survey revealed that burnout was more prevalent among certain demographic groups. Younger workers, aged 18 to 24, were particularly affected. Additionally, employees in smaller companies and those in non-managerial roles reported higher levels of burnout. This report comes shortly after NR Narayana Murthy, co-founder of Infosys, made controversial remarks on social media, suggesting that young people should work 70 hours a week to boost the country’s productivity. While some business leaders defended this perspective, others criticized it for seemingly promoting an unhealthy “overwork culture.”

**Adani Green Energy Surpasses 8.4 GW Capacity Mark, Leading India’s Renewable Energy Sector**

Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) has achieved a significant milestone by becoming the largest renewable energy company in India, reaching an installed capacity of 8.4 gigawatts (GW) last week. This remarkable achievement is attributed to the commissioning of a 0.15 GW solar power park in Rajasthan, further solidifying AGEL’s position in the market. AGEL stands out as a leader in India’s renewable energy landscape, boasting a 5 GW capacity in the solar segment alone, which is the largest in the country. Among its industry peers, AGEL faces competition from ReNew, which comes close with an 8.3 GW capacity, while Tata Power and Greenko Energies each have nearly 4 GW capacity. State-owned NTPC follows with a green energy capacity of 3.2 GW.

**WHO Confirms India’s Achievement In Decreasing TB Incidents**

The World Health Organization’s (WHO) ‘Global TB Report 2023’ highlighted that India’s commitment to combating tuberculosis (TB) has yielded impressive results. The Union Health Ministry, in a statement on Wednesday, emphasized the significant progress made by India in case detection and the overall impact on the TB program. The WHO’s ‘Global TB Report 2023’ lauds India’s efforts in improving case detection, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The report notes that India has successfully reversed the impact of COVID-19 on the TB program, highlighting the resilience and adaptability of the healthcare system. One of the notable achievements outlined in the report is the improvement in TB treatment coverage. According to the data, India has reached a treatment coverage of 80% for estimated TB cases. This marks a significant increase of 19% compared to the previous year, showcasing the effectiveness of India’s TB treatment programs.

### Greenhouse Gas Concentrations Soar to Record Highs in 2022, Prompting Urgent Calls for Action

The United Nations' World Meteorological Organization (WMO) has issued a stark warning, revealing that greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere reached unprecedented levels in 2022. The surge in the three primary culprits – carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane, and nitrous oxide – sets the stage for intensified climate impacts, including soaring temperatures, extreme weather events, and rising sea levels. Despite persistent warnings from the scientific community and numerous climate conferences, WMO Chief Petteri Taalas expresses deep concern, stating that humanity is still "heading in the wrong direction."

### BofA Survey Highlights Japan and India as Preferred Markets in Asia Pacific

In a recent fund manager survey (FMS) conducted by Bank of America (BoFA), Japan and India emerged as the most favored markets in the Asia Pacific region. The survey revealed that Japan holds the top position with a net 45 percent overweight, followed by India at 25 percent. In contrast, Thailand, China, and Australia are perceived as less attractive, with net underweight figures of 13 percent, 9 percent, and 9 percent, respectively.

### Delhi's Khan Market world's 22nd priciest high street retail location

Real estate consultant Cushman & Wakefield has unveiled its 'Main Streets Across the World' report, shedding light on prime retail rental rates globally. Delhi's upscale Khan Market has secured the 22nd spot, marking a slight drop from the 21st position last year. The annual rent per square foot stands at USD 217. Despite the slip, New York's Fifth Avenue continues to dominate as the world's most expensive retail destination. Milan's Via Montenapoleone climbed to second place, displacing Hong Kong's Tsim Sha Tsui to third. London's New Bond Street and Paris's Avenues des Champs-Élysées retained the fourth and fifth positions.



Bengali

কর্তৃত্ব

SSC GD 26000+ Vacancy

লাইভ+ রেকর্ডেড ভিডিও +  
স্টাডি ম্যাট + মক টেস্ট

Start ডিসেম্বর 21, 2023

### TCS Claims Top Spot In Customer Satisfaction Among IT And Cloud Services Providers In Spain

Indian IT giant Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has achieved remarkable success in Spain, securing the number one position in service delivery quality and commercial competitiveness, according to an independent survey conducted by Whitelane Research. The survey, which encompassed insights from 285 CXOs of leading IT spending organizations, assessed 28 top IT service providers based on a comprehensive investigation of over 875 unique IT sourcing relationships and more than 1,050 cloud sourcing relationships. The company's commitment to delivering high-quality services and maintaining a competitive edge has propelled it to the forefront of the Spanish IT market.

## Business News

### Zurich Insurance Group to Take 51% Stake in Kotak General Insurance

Zurich Insurance Company is set to make a substantial investment in Kotak General Insurance, marking a significant move in the insurance industry. The Swiss-based Zurich Insurance will acquire a 51% stake in Kotak General Insurance, with plans to increase its ownership over-time. This development is poised to bring innovation and growth to the Indian insurance market.

**First Foreign Partner:** This joint venture with Zurich is Kotak Mahindra Bank's first partnership with a foreign entity in nearly six years. It is a significant move, as all non-bank businesses within the Kotak group are currently 100%.

**General Insurance Arm:** Kotak General Insurance had faced financial challenges in the past, with a loss of Rs.117 crore in FY23, higher than the Rs.83 crore loss in FY22. However, the company is well-capitalized with an 183% solvency ratio in FY23.

**Past Ventures:** The bank has explored previous joint ventures, with Goldman Sachs for the capital market and securities business (1992- 2006) and Old Mutual for the life insurance business (ended in 2017). Both of these partnerships lasted for 14 years each.

### National Basketball Association (NBA) ropes in Bhaane to drive its e-commerce platform in India

The National Basketball Association (NBA) and Bhaane, a leading contemporary clothing brand, have joined forces in a groundbreaking multi-year partnership to introduce NBAStore.in. This online store caters to the burgeoning demand for official NBA merchandise in India, featuring an extensive array of items including jerseys, apparel, headwear, footwear, basketballs, and accessories from renowned brands like Nike, New Era, Mitchell & Ness, Wilson, and NBA Fanwear by Suditi. Expressing enthusiasm about the collaboration, Sunny Malik, NBA India's Business Head of Global

Partnerships and Media, highlighted the venture's commitment to enhancing accessibility to basketball and the NBA in India. NBAStore.in presents a diverse collection of authentic NBA memorabilia, catering to the preferences of basketball enthusiasts in India.

### **STPI Launches LEAP AHEAD Initiative For Startups to get Access to Investment, Mentorship & Global Connect**

The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (Meity) Secretary, Shri S Krishnan, recently launched the LEAP AHEAD initiative, a collaborative effort between the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) and The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) Delhi-NCR. This initiative aims to support and accelerate the success of tech startups in India, particularly those in the scaling stage, growth stage, product diversification or planning expansion into new geographical locations. With funding support of up to Rs.1 Crore and a comprehensive three-month mentorship program, this initiative is set to be a game-changer for the Indian startup ecosystem.

### **InterGlobe Enterprises ties up with US-based Archer for air taxi service**

InterGlobe Enterprises, a major shareholder in IndiGo, has announced a strategic partnership with Archer Aviation Inc, a US-based company specializing in electric vertical takeoff and landing (eVTOL) aircraft. The collaboration aims to introduce and operate an all-electric air taxi service in India. InterGlobe Enterprises, a majority shareholder in IndiGo. Archer Aviation Inc, a New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) listed company specializing in eVTOL aircraft. InterGlobe sees the partnership as an opportunity to provide a futuristic, sustainable, and cost-competitive air transport solution in India. Archer views India as a significant market for eVTOL aircraft, given its large population and urban congestion challenges.

### **Jio and OneWeb Secure Licenses for Satellite Internet Services**

In a significant leap forward for the telecommunications landscape in India, the Department of Telecom (DoT) has granted Internet Service Provider (ISP) licenses to Jio Satellite Communications and OneWeb. This developmental follows a year after both companies obtained permits to offer satellite communication services, marking a crucial milestone in their efforts to revolutionize internet connectivity. The newly acquired ISP licenses empower Jio Satellite Communications and OneWeb to provide internet services by seamlessly integrating satellite capabilities with terrestrial networks. Additionally, they can utilize Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT) technology to establish direct connections with end consumers. This move reflects a commitment to bridging the digital divide and expanding internet access to previously underserved regions.

### **Asia-Pacific Airlines Aim for 5% Green Fuel Usage By 2030**

The Association of Asia-Pacific Airlines (AAPA) has announced a groundbreaking target for its 14 member airlines, including newly inducted Air India, to achieved 5% sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) usage by 2030. This move aims to address the aviation industry's carbon emissions challenges, signaling a significant demand for sustainable fuel production. Despite the commendable goal, the aviation industry faces challenges such as limited SAF availability and cost implications. The AAPA emphasizes the need for a comprehensive approach, stressing that the industry is "feedstock and pathway agnostic." This means that sustainable feedstock for aviation fuel is available globally in the form of waste, agricultural and forestry residues. However, the transition requires support from oil majors, as well as governmental subsidies and incentives.

### **GAIL Completes World's Inaugural Ship-To-Ship LNG Transfer**

In a groundbreaking move, Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL), the country's leading gas firm, has successfully executed the world's first ship-to-ship liquefied natural gas (LNG) transfer. This innovative approach aims to reduce shipping costs and cut emissions significantly, marking a pivotal moment for GAIL as it explores unconventional methods to enhance its business operations.

### **Bengaluru Tops in Women-Led Startups, Followed by Mumbai and Delhi**

India's startup landscape has witnessed remarkable growth, emerging as the third-largest hub in the world, following the United States and China. Bengaluru, the capital of Karnataka, topped the list of women-led startups, boasting 1,783 women-led startups, leading the charge for gender diversity in entrepreneurship. Despite the overall success of the startup ecosystem, the gender gap remains a significant challenge. According to the data of Traxon, Bengaluru is at the forefront of women-led startups, with 1,783 ventures, followed by Mumbai (1,480) and Delhi (1,195). Noida, Kolkata and Ahmedabad also make notable contributions, ranking eighth, ninth and tenth, respectively, showcasing the geographic distribution of women entrepreneurs in India.

### **Nippon Life India AIF Set to Mobilize ₹1,000 Crore for Private Credit Expansion**

In the dynamic financial landscape of Mumbai, Nippon Life India Asset Management has strategically entered the realm of private credit, aligning with the shifting trends following regulatory tightening by banks and mutual funds withdrawing from promoter funding. This move echoes similar initiatives by Centrum and Aventus.

Fundraising Drive: Nippon Life India Alternative Investment Fund aims to raise a substantial ₹1,000 crore, targeting investors such as high-net-worth individuals and family offices.

Strategic Deployments: Having already invested 100 crore in two strategic deals, the fund is poised for further growth with a green shoe option to secure an additional 1,000 crore.

**Warren Buffett's Exit from Paytm: A Rs 507 Crore Loss**

Warren Buffett-led Berkshire Hathaway has made headlines by completely divesting its 2.46% stake in One 97 Communications, the parent company of Paytm. The move resulted in a significant loss of about Rs 507 crore for the legendary investor. Berkshire Hathaway's entire stake was sold at an average price of Rs 877.2 per share. The shares were acquired by Ghisallo Master Fund and Copthall Mauritius Investment, with the former purchasing 42,75,000 shares and the latter acquiring 75,75,529 shares. Berkshire Hathaway garnered nearly Rs 1,371 crore from the transaction. Berkshire Hathaway's entire stake was sold at an average price of Rs 877.2 per share.

**Mastercard and U GRO Capital Collaborate for MSME Financing**

Mastercard, a prominent global technology company in the payments industry, has forged a strategic partnership with U GRO Capital, a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) specializing in Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) financing. This collaboration aims to provide financial solutions to small businesses in India, addressing the longstanding challenge of limited access to capital faced by MSMEs. In India, over 64 million MSMEs encounter significant hurdles, with only 14% having access to credit, according to recent reports. This collaboration seeks to alleviate these challenges by offering a comprehensive digital supply chain financing solution tailored for millions of small businesses in the country.

**Agreement News**

**India and Italy sign Mobility and Migration Partnership Agreement to facilitate movement of workers, students**

India's External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar, held a productive meeting with Italy's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, Antonio Tajani, in Rome. The discussions revolved around strengthening the strategic partnership between India and Italy, exploring opportunities in various sectors, and addressing global issues. During the meeting, both leaders recognized the untapped potential in several key sectors, including agro-tech, innovation, space, defense, and the digital domain. They expressed their commitment to exploring opportunities for collaboration and growth in these areas. The leaders also engaged in detailed discussions about global issues, including the situation in West Asia, the conflict in Ukraine, and the evolving Indo-Pacific landscape. This highlights the broad scope of their diplomatic engagement.

**India and UAE pen MoU to foster education connect between two countries**

India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at bolstering their educational cooperation. The agreement covers various aspects, including student and faculty mobility, exchange of information, capacity development, and academic collaboration between educational institutions in both countries.

**Exchange of Information in Education:** Both countries will share educational information, facilitating better collaboration and coordination in the field of education.

**Capacity Development of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Teaching Staff:** This initiative focuses on enhancing the skills and expertise of TVET instructors, ensuring the quality of technical and vocational education.

**Facilitation of Academic Collaboration:** The MoU encourages collaboration between higher education institutions in India and the UAE. This will open doors to twinning programs, joint degrees, and dual degree programs, further strengthening educational ties between the two nations.

**RBI Appoints Manoranjan Mishra As Its New Executive Director**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Manoranjan Mishra as the new Executive Director, effective from November 1, 2023. With over three decades of experience in the RBI and a strong background in various aspects of banking and finance, Mishra's appointment brings a wealth of expertise to the central bank. Mishra has a post-graduate degree in economics and an MBA in banking and finance. Additionally, he obtained a master's degree in finance and financial regulation from Aston Business School in the United Kingdom. His strong academic qualifications have enhanced his abilities in the finance field. Before his promotion to the prestigious position of Executive Director, Manoranjan Mishra held the position of Chief General Manager in the Department of Regulation.

**Rohit Rishi Appointed As Executive Director At Bank Of Maharashtra**

Rohit Rishi has assumed the position of Executive Director at the Bank of Maharashtra. The appointment is for a tenure of three years, starting from November 1, 2023 in place of Shri A.B. Vijayakumar. His extensive experience, academic qualifications, and professional acumen make him a valuable addition to the bank's leadership team. Rohit Rishi's professional journey started in 1995 when he joined Indian Bank as an Industrial Development Officer. With over 28 years of experience, he has successfully navigated through diverse aspects of the banking industry. Throughout his career, Rishi has demonstrated his ability to thrive in diverse roles, contributing significantly to the growth and transformation of the organizations he served.



**India And ADB Ink \$400 Million Deal For Urban Infrastructure Development**

India has taken a significant step towards the development of high-quality urban infrastructure with the signing of a \$400 million policy-based loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The agreement, aimed at improving service delivery and promoting efficient governance systems, underscores the nation's commitment to fostering planned and sustainable urbanization.

**India and US Strengthen Innovation Ties with Landmark Pact**

India and the United States have taken a significant step to boost collaboration among startups and promote innovation through a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed on November 14 in San Francisco. This partnership, established under the framework of the India-US Commercial Dialogue, aims to enhance innovation ecosystems and address regulatory challenges in the startup landscape. The MoU focuses on fostering collaboration between India and the US in the startup ecosystem, addressing regulatory obstacles, and sharing best practices for fundraising by entrepreneurs. The ultimate goal is to promote innovation and job growth, particularly in critical and emerging technologies (CET) as identified under the India-US initiative for Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET).

**India and EU ink Semiconductor Agreement To Boost Supply Chain**

India and the European Union (EU) marked a significant milestone on Friday by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on semiconductors. This collaborative effort aims to establish a robust supply chain, promote innovation, and align both regions with global developments in the semiconductor industry.

The signing of the MoU between India and the European Union signifies a pivotal step in fortifying their collaboration in the semiconductor industry.

As the digital landscape evolves, this partnership is poised to drive innovation, create a skilled workforce, and contribute to the global semiconductor ecosystem.

**Appointment News**

**Indian diplomat re-elected to serve on UN Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions**

Senior Indian diplomat, Surendra Adhana, has been re-elected to serve on the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) at the United Nations for the term 2024-26. This re-election underscores his expertise and the confidence placed in him by the international community.

Counsellor Surendra Adhana, representing India's Permanent Mission to the United Nations, has been re-elected to the ACABQ by acclamation. This re-election reflects his standing as a seasoned diplomat and his demonstrated capabilities in addressing complex budgetary and administrative matters at the United Nations. The functions and responsibilities of the Advisory Committee, as well as its composition, are governed by the provisions of Assembly resolutions 14 (I) of 13 February 1946 and 32/103 of 14 December 1977 and rules 155 to 157 of the rules of procedure of the Assembly.

**Heeralal Samariya Appointed as the New Chief Information Commissioner**

In an official announcement dated November 6, 2023, Shri Heeralal Samariya was appointed as the Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission. He formally assumed his new role on the same day. A swearing-in ceremony was held in the Central Information Commission to mark the assumption of office by the new appointees. During the ceremony, Shri Heeralal Samariya administered the oath of office to the newly appointed Information Commissioners.

**Hitesh Kumar S Makwana appointed Surveyor General of India**

The Central Government of India announced a series of significant appointments and postings for senior bureaucrats, reinforcing its commitment to efficient governance and administrative leadership. These appointments span various ministries and departments, each entrusted with critical responsibilities. Hitesh Kumar S. Makwana, an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) official of the Tamil Nadu cadre, has been appointed as the Surveyor General of India. Prior to this appointment, he served as an Additional Secretary in the Union Home Ministry. Anurag Agarwal, an IAS official from the Punjab cadre, now assumes the role of Additional Secretary & Financial Advisor in the Ministry of External Affairs, bringing his administrative expertise to international diplomacy and finance.

**N. Srikant Appointed As Additional Secretary In MNRE**

Andhra Pradesh cadre IAS officer N. Srikant has been appointed as the additional secretary of the Union Ministry of Power and New and Renewable Energy, as per an official release. This marks a new chapter in Mr. Srikant's illustrious career, adding to his already impressive list of accomplishments in the field. Mr. Srikant, a 1998-batch officer of the All India Services, has a rich and diverse career trajectory. Mr. Srikant has consistently demonstrated leadership and innovation throughout his career. During his tenure as the Energy Secretary in Andhra Pradesh, Mr. Srikant played a crucial role in implementing cost-effective measures that resulted in substantial economic savings for the state.

**NPCI Appoints Pankaj Tripathi as 'UPI Safety Ambassador'**

In a significant move to enhance awareness and security on digital payment platforms, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has appointed Bollywood actor Pankaj Tripathi as the "UPI Safety Ambassador." This strategic partnership aims to address growing concerns about the safety of digital payment systems, particularly the United Payments Interface (UPI). The NPCI officially announced its collaboration with Pankaj Tripathi on the social media platform X (formerly known as Twitter). In a video, the acclaimed Bollywood actor shed light on various initiatives by NPCI, including UPI, RuPay and IMPS, aimed at simplifying digital payments and ensuring their security. Tripathi emphasized the extensive reach of UPI payments, spanning cities, towns and even the remotest villages across the country.

**Supreme Court Welcomes Three New Judges to Tackle Pending Cases**

In a significant development, the Supreme Court of India has expanded its judicial strength by welcoming three new judges. This move, coming at a time when pending cases are nearing a critical mark, reflects the court's commitment to addressing the persistent challenge of backlog. Let's delve into the details of this noteworthy development. The recent induction of three judges has taken the Supreme Court's judicial strength to its sanctioned capacity of 34. This is crucial for ensuring that the court has the necessary manpower to handle the multitude of cases that come its way. Delhi High Court Chief Justice Justice Satish Chandra Sharma, and Rajasthan and Gauhati Chief Justices Augustine George Masih and Sandeep Mehta were sworn in as Supreme Court judges within three days of the apex court Collegium recommending them. The expedited appointments align with the Collegium's intent to address the perennial issue of pending cases.

**Former PM David Cameron Appointed As The UK Foreign Secretary**

Rishi Sunak, upon his return from the Deepavali celebrations in his hometown of Southampton, U.K., made waves in the political landscape by resurrecting the political career of former U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron, appointing him to the role of Foreign Secretary. Cameron brings a wealth of experience, having served as the country's leader from 2010 to 2016. His tenure as Prime Minister was marked by the divisive Brexit referendum, ultimately resulting in the U.K.'s departure from the European Union. He served as the Leader of the Conservative Party from 2005 to 2016, and held the position of Leader of the Opposition from 2005 to 2010.

**Mika, the AI-Powered Robot, Takes the Helm as CEO of Dictador**

In a groundbreaking move, Dictador, a Polish beverage company, appointed Mika, an AI-powered humanoid robot, as its experimental CEO in August of the previous year. This decision highlights a growing trend in integrating artificial intelligence into leadership roles. Mika, described as a more sophisticated version of the well-known AI robot Sophia, shared in a Reuters video interview that she operates tirelessly, being "always on 24/7" and working seven days a week. Her responsibilities range from identifying potential clients to selecting artists for designing bottles for the rum producer. Mika emphasizes her decision-making process, relying on extensive data analysis aligned with the company's strategic objectives. This approach aims to ensure unbiased and strategic choices that prioritize the organization's best interests, devoid of personal bias.

**Biden Appoints Indian American Shakuntla Bhaya To The Administrative Conference of US**

US President Joe Biden has recently announced several key appointments, including the notable selection of Indian American Shakuntla L Bhaya to serve in a crucial role. According to the White House, Bhaya has been appointed as a member of the Council of the Administrative Conference of the United States. Shakuntla L Bhaya, a co-owner of the Law Offices of Doroshov, Pasquale, Krawitz & Bhaya, a statewide Delaware law firm, brings a wealth of legal experience to her new role. Her legal practice is dedicated to representing individuals who have suffered serious injuries due to unsafe decisions made by businesses and individuals. Bhaya's commitment to justice and advocacy is reflected in her work over the years, earning her a reputation as a dedicated and accomplished legal professional.

**Uttar Pradesh Cadre IPS officer Alok Sharma Named New Chief Of SPG**

Senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Alok Sharma has been appointed as the new director of the Special Protection Group (SPG), the elite security unit responsible for safeguarding the Prime Minister. This crucial appointment comes in the wake of the unfortunate demise of SPG chief Arun Kumar Sinha in September. Alok Sharma, who currently serves as the additional director general of SPG, assumes the leadership role with immediate effect, according to a government order approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. Alok Sharma hails from the Uttar Pradesh cadre of the IPS and brings with him a wealth of experience and expertise in the realm of law enforcement. His stellar career trajectory and commitment to duty have positioned him as a fitting choice for heading the SPG, a role that demands utmost dedication and strategic acumen.

**Mira Murati Appointed As Interim Chief Executive Officer At OpenAI**

On November 18, OpenAI, the prominent artificial intelligence research and deployment company, made headlines by announcing the dismissal of its CEO and co-founder, Sam Altman. The decision came following an official statement released by the company's board on November 17. In the wake of Altman's departure, Mira Murati has been appointed as the interim Chief Executive Officer of OpenAI. Mira Murati, a 34-year-old mechanical engineer born to Albanian parents, has been an integral part of the OpenAI team. She initially joined the company in 2018 as the Vice President of AI and partnerships. Expressing her thoughts on the new role, Murati sees this as a positive development and an opportunity to shape a future where artificial intelligence is harnessed for the greater good.

**Microsoft Names Aparna Gupta As Leader Of Global Delivery Center**

In a strategic move to strengthen its leadership team, Microsoft has recently announced the appointment of Aparna Gupta as the new Global Delivery Center (GDC) leader. In this role, Ms. Gupta is set to spearhead customer innovation and delivery excellence, playing a pivotal role in advancing Microsoft's commitment to providing cutting-edge solutions to its global clientele. Microsoft's Global Delivery Center (GDC) serves as the delivery arm of Industry Solutions Delivery, with its roots dating back to its establishment in Hyderabad in 2005. Over the years, it has expanded its footprint to include two more locations: Bangalore and Noida. The GDC is a multifaceted entity encompassing four Centers of Excellence (CoE) specializing in app innovation, data and Artificial Intelligence, infrastructure and security, and business applications. Additionally, it oversees crucial functions such as partner and delivery management, along with adoption management.

**Banking News**

**SBI Card Partners With Reliance Retail To Introduce 'Reliance SBI Card'**

SBI Card, one of India's leading credit card issuers, has joined hands with Reliance Retail to introduce the co-branded Reliance SBI Card, a lifestyle-focused credit card aimed at revolutionizing the shopping experience for customers. This partnership allows cardholders to access a world of rewards and benefits while engaging within Reliance Retail's extensive and diverse ecosystem. From fashion and lifestyle to grocery shopping, consumer electronics to pharmaceuticals, furniture to jewelry, and much more, this card promises an all-encompassing shopping adventure. Furthermore, Reliance SBI Card users can also take advantage of curated offers continually rolled out by SBI Card. The collaboration between

SBI Card and Reliance Retail is poised to offer a spectrum of exclusive rewards, ranging from special welcome benefits to tailor-made travel and entertainment perks. Additionally, customers can earn special spends-based milestone rewards, such as renewal fee waivers and Reliance Retail vouchers, for transactions across the expansive Reliance Retail network.

**RBI Prescribe Norms For Closure Of DCCB Branches**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently made an important announcement regarding District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs). These banks are now permitted to close their un-remunerative branches without seeking prior permission from the central bank, although they will require approval from the Registrar of Cooperative Societies of the respective state. This decision aims to streamline the functioning of DCCBs and ensure that the process of branch closure is carried out responsibly and transparently. DCCBs, in order to close a branch, will have to follow a specific decision-making process. The decision to shut down a branch should be taken by the Board of the bank. This decision should be based on a thorough evaluation of various relevant factors and the entire process should be properly recorded and minuted during the Board meeting.

**More than 97% of ₹2,000 notes returned: RBI**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has provided an update on the withdrawal of ₹2,000 denomination banknotes as of October 31, 2023. The central bank's initial goal for introducing these banknotes was to meet the currency needs of the economy after the withdrawal of ₹500 and ₹1,000 banknotes in November-December 2016. The update highlights the status of these ₹2,000 banknotes and the ongoing procedures for their exchange or deposit. More than 97% of the ₹2,000 banknotes in circulation as of May 19, 2023, have been returned by October 31, 2023. The remaining ₹2,000 banknotes in circulation are still considered legal tender.

**RBI Announces Phased Discontinuation of Incremental Cash Reserve Ratio (I-CRR)**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has unveiled a plan to gradually discontinue the Incremental Cash Reserve Ratio (I-CRR) in response to evolving liquidity conditions. This strategic move aims to ensure that the financial system remains stable and money markets operate smoothly. The RBI has outlined a phased release of the I-CRR funds. On September 9, 25% of the I-CRR will be released, followed by another 25% on September 23. The remaining 50% of the I-CRR will be released on October 7. The RBI Governor, Shaktikanta Das, introduced the I-CRR, mandating all scheduled banks to maintain a 10% reserve ratio on the increase in their net demand and time liabilities (NDTL) between May 19, 2023, and July 28, 2023. The objective was to absorb surplus liquidity stemming from various factors, including the reintroduction of ₹2,000 notes into the banking system.

**HSBC India Launches E-Bank Guarantees to Modernize Trade Finance**

HSBC India, in collaboration with the National E-Governance Services Ltd (NeSL), has introduced electronic bank guarantee services, a groundbreaking initiative that aims to streamline trade finance processes. This digital solution is designed to replace the traditional and time-consuming paper-based bank guarantee system.

**Axis Bank Partners With IRMA To Promote Financial Inclusion And Literacy In India**

Recently, Axis Bank and the Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish the Axis Bank Chair for financial inclusion at IRMA. This chair will play a pivotal role in advancing financial inclusion and financial literacy in India, aligning with the vision of equitable and sustainable transformation for the nation.

**IndusInd Bank Pioneers as First Live Financial Information Provider under RBI's Account Aggregator Framework**

In a groundbreaking move, IndusInd Bank has achieved the significant milestone of becoming the inaugural bank to go live as a 'Financial Information Provider' (FIP) under the recently introduced 'Account Aggregator Framework' by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

1. Revolutionizing Customer Empowerment: IndusInd Bank's live integration as an FIP marks a revolutionary stride in customer empowerment through technological innovation.

2. Comprehensive Financial Insights: Customers can now enjoy an array of benefits, including the ability to view account statements, track deposits, plan investments (such as shares, mutual funds, insurance, EPF, PPF), and avail credit cards, all through a unified window.

3. Pathbreaking Initiative by RBI: The RBI's introduction of the Account Aggregator Framework is acknowledged as a groundbreaking step, offering individuals and small to mid-sized businesses seamless access to services that cater to their diverse financial requirements.

**Kotak Mahindra Bank Appoints Ashok Vaswani As MD & CEO**

The Board of Directors of Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. made a significant announcement on Friday, appointing Ashok Vaswani as Managing Director & CEO, and a key managerial personnel of the bank. This appointment is set for a three-year term, commencing from January 1. At 62, Ashok Vaswani brings with him an impressive track record spanning over three-and-a-half decades. His journey began at Citigroup, where he laid the foundation for his expertise. Further he contributed significantly during his tenure at Barclays. His professional trajectory has been defined by his ability to build and grow global businesses at scale.

**Acko partners with R Madhavan as their 'voice of the customer'**

ACKO, the insurtech company making insurance convenient, transparent, and accessible for Indians, has partnered with renowned actor R Madhavan as its 'Voice of the Customer'. This collaboration aims to dispel common misconceptions about insurance and empower consumers to make informed decisions. This strategic partnership between ACKO and R Madhavan marks a significant step forward in bridging the trust gap in the Indian insurance industry. By leveraging Madhavan's influence and ACKO's expertise, the collaboration aims to empower consumers with the knowledge and tools they need to make informed insurance decisions.

**RBI Takes Action Against Abhyudaya Cooperative Bank's Governance Issues**

In a move aimed at addressing governance-related concerns, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced on Friday that it has superseded the board of Abhyudaya Cooperative Bank for a duration of 12 months. This action comes as a response to certain material concerns arising from observed poor governance standards within the bank. As part of the regulatory intervention, Satya Prakash Pathak, former Chief General Manager of State Bank of India, has been appointed as the Administrator to oversee the bank's affairs during the 12-month period. The RBI clarified that while the board has been superseded, no business restrictions have been imposed on the bank. Normal banking activities will continue under the guidance of the appointed Administrator.

**Bandhan Bank Board Approves Reappointment of Chandra Shekhar Ghosh as MD & CEO**

The board of directors at Bandhan Bank has given the green light for the reappointment of Chandra Shekhar Ghosh as the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer (MD&CEO). The Kolkata-based private sector lender has extended Ghosh's tenure for a period of three years. The current term is set to expire on July 09, 2024. The reappointment is contingent upon the approval of both the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the shareholders of the bank. As per regulatory provisions, the application for the reappointment of the MD & CEO must be submitted to the RBI at least six months before the conclusion of the current term. Ghosh is set to assume his renewed role from July 10, 2024, and will not be liable to retire by rotation.

**Science & Technology News**

**India's Deep Ocean Mission (DOM): Unlocking the Depths of the Ocean**

India's Deep Ocean Mission (DOM) marks a significant stride in underwater exploration, aiming to delve 6,000 meters into the ocean depths. Spearheaded by the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), DOM encompasses diverse pillars, each contributing uniquely to India's ambitious foray into the oceans. India's choice of 6,000 meters aligns with the

presence of valuable resources, such as polymetallic nodules and sulphides, at depths ranging from 3,000 to 5,500 meters in the central Indian Ocean. Strategic allocation of 75,000 sq. km by the United Nations International Seabed Authority (ISA) reinforces India's focus on sustainable resource extraction within its Exclusive Economic Zone and central Indian Ocean territory.

**Wolbachia: A Bacterial Symbiont with Intriguing Biological Roles**

Wolbachia is a type of intracellular bacteria that infects a wide range of arthropods, including insects and other invertebrates. It has garnered significant attention in recent years due to its intriguing biological properties and potential applications in various fields.

**Nature of Wolbachia:** Wolbachia resides inside the cells of its host organisms, forming a symbiotic relationship.

**Transmission:** It is primarily transmitted vertically from mother to offspring, but horizontal transfer can also occur through mechanisms such as parasitoid wasps and other vectors.

**Host Range:** Wolbachia infects a diverse array of hosts, including insects like mosquitoes, ants, and butterflies, as well as some nematode species.

**NASA's INFUSE Mission: Studying the Cygnus Loop Supernova Remnant**

NASA recently launched a sounding rocket as part of its Integral Field Ultraviolet Spectroscopy Experiment (INFUSE) mission. This mission aims to study the Cygnus Loop, a 20,000-year-old supernova remnant located 2,600 light-years away from Earth. The Cygnus Loop offers a unique opportunity to explore the life cycle of stars and gain insights into how new star systems form in the universe. The primary objective of the INFUSE mission is to deepen our understanding of the formation of new star systems in the universe. By analyzing the properties and characteristics of the Cygnus Loop, scientists aim to unravel the complex processes that occur after a massive star undergoes a supernova explosion.

**IBM And AWS Launched An Innovation Lab In Bengaluru**

IBM and Amazon Web Services (AWS) have announced the launch of an Innovation Lab situated at the IBM Client Experience Center in Bengaluru, India. This marks a significant expansion of their collaborative services, with a focus on empowering mutual clients through the capabilities of generative artificial intelligence (AI). The newly established Innovation Lab stands as a testament to the commitment of IBM and AWS to facilitate experimentation with cutting-edge cloud-enabled technologies, including generative AI. Open to clients worldwide, the lab encourages exploration of joint solutions, testing prototypes, and validating proofs of value with the aim of accelerating innovation across various industries.

**7 Ring Smart Ring Is Here to Enable Contactless Payments in India**

Seven, a consumer electronic startup, has introduced the 7 Ring smart ring in India. The new wearable comes with an interesting standout feature, which is the ability to make contactless payments with its help. The 7 Ring smart wearable has a Zirconia Ceramic build and comes with scratch resistance, which can make the case both durable and stylish. It also has an IP68 rating for water and dust resistance. You can choose from the 7 size options available. The 7 Ring smart ring has an MRP of Rs 7,000 and can currently be ordered (by select people) for Rs 4,777 as an early bird offer via the company's website.

**India's Aditya-L1 Recorded First-Ever Sight Of Solar Flares**

ISRO's maiden solar mission, Aditya L1, has marked a significant achievement by capturing its first high-energy X-ray glimpse of solar flares. During its initial observation period starting from around October 29, the High Energy L1 Orbiting X-ray Spectrometer (HEL1OS) on board the Aditya-L1 spacecraft recorded the impulsive phase of solar flares, as announced by the space agency in a statement on Tuesday.

**Samsung Unveils Its Generative AI Model Samsung Gauss**

Seoul, November 10, 2023 – Samsung has taken a significant leap into the world of generative artificial intelligence (AI) with the public revelation of its groundbreaking model, Samsung Gauss. Named after the renowned mathematician Carl Friedrich Gauss, credited with establishing the normal distribution theory, Samsung Gauss marks the South Korean tech giant's ambitious stride toward utilizing AI to enhance the lives of consumers globally. The announcement was made at the Samsung AI Forum, an annual event that has been a focal point for experts and academics since 2017.

**SpaceX Launched Its 29th Mission To Deliver Research Gear And Equipment To The ISS**

SpaceX's Cargo Dragon embarked on its 29th mission to the International Space Station (ISS), launching from the iconic Pad 39 at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida at 8:28 p.m. EDT (Eastern Daylight Time) on November 9th. The timing was meticulously synchronized with Earth's rotation, aligning the seaside firing stand directly with the orbital plane of the space station—a prerequisite for rendezvous missions with objects hurtling through space at speeds exceeding 17,000 mph. The ascent to space unfolded seamlessly, and approximately 12 minutes after liftoff, the Dragon spacecraft was released to navigate autonomously. Pending successful progression, the spacecraft was scheduled to rendezvous with the space station docking at the lab's forward port.

**'Mika' Becomes World's First AI Human-Like Robot CEO**

In a groundbreaking move, Hanson Robotics and Dictador, a Polish run company, have appointed the world's first humanoid robot CEO named Mika. This innovative project aims to blend advanced artificial intelligence and machine learning with the unique values of the company. While this development sparks excitement about the potential of AI in leadership roles, it also raises concerns among workers about job security. Dictador, in collaboration with Hanson Robotics, has introduced Mika as the "official face" of the company. Mika utilizes advanced AI and machine learning algorithms to swiftly and accurately process data. However, concerns have been raised about a "significant delay" in Mika's response time, highlighting the evolving nature of AI technology.

**6th India-OPEC Energy Dialogue High-Level Meeting Held In Vienna, Austria**

The 6th High-Level Meeting of the India-OPEC Energy Dialogue took place on 9 November 2023, at the OPEC Secretariat in Vienna, Austria. The co-chairs of the meeting were HE Haitham Al Ghais, Secretary General of OPEC, and HE Hardeep Singh Puri, Honourable Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs of the Republic of India. The open and candid discussions during the meeting were centered around crucial issues related to oil and energy markets. The emphasis was particularly on ensuring availability, affordability, and sustainability to guarantee the stability of energy markets globally.

**Popular Video Chat Service Omegle Shuts Down After 14 Years**

Omegle, a once-popular online chat service founded in 2009 by Leif K-Brooks, has recently announced its shutdown after more than 14 years of operation. The platform, which allowed individuals to connect and talk with strangers, experienced a surge in popularity but ultimately faced challenges that led to its demise.

**Google Introduces AI Chatbot Bard For Teenagers**

Google is taking a significant step in catering to the educational needs of teenagers with the launch of its AI chatbot, Bard. In a blog post by Tulsee Doshi, Google's Product Head for Responsible AI, the company outlined its commitment to creating a secure and engaging learning experience for younger users. While the minimum age for managing a Google Account is 13, the accessibility of Bard will be subject to regional regulations, which may set slightly higher age benchmarks. The AI chatbot has undergone training to identify and filter out unsafe content, prioritizing the well-being of its young users.

**Schemes and Committees News****COLORS joins forces to support the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' initiative**

COLORS, India's leading Hindi GEC, today announced its collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Child Development's 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' initiative, to address the issue of girl child abandonment, through the launch of its new fiction show Doree. Television as a medium has played a huge role in holding a mirror to society and led to many women becoming agents of change. With an aim to bring societal change and address the gender bias against girl child, through this association COLORS aims to raise awareness about the social evil of girl child abandonment. In addition to launching a primetime show on the subject, as part of this association, COLORS will promote the 24-hour emergency toll free Child helpline number (1098) for those seeking assistance for any abandoned girl child across the nation.

**Jal Diwali - "Water for Women, Women for Water Campaign" launched**

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) is poised to introduce a groundbreaking initiative called the "Women for Water, Water for Women Campaign" in collaboration with the Ministry's National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM) and in partnership with the Odisha Urban Academy. This campaign, known as "Jal Diwali," is scheduled to kick off on November 7, 2023, and run through November 9, 2023.

**MoHUA Rolls Out Swachh Diwali Shubh Diwali Signature Campaign**

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is launching the Swachh Diwali Subh Diwali Campaign from November 6th to 12th 2023, under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0 with an objective of celebrating Diwali in an environmentally responsible and sustainable way. It emphasizes the importance of local products, reducing single-use plastic and maintaining cleanliness during and after the festival. In this article, we will delve into the various aspects of this initiative. The Swachh Diwali Subh Diwali Campaign aims to promote a clean and eco-friendly celebration of Diwali. It seeks to raise awareness and motivate individuals to use locally made products, eliminate single-use plastic and prioritize cleanliness before and after Diwali. This initiative aims to instill a sense of environmental responsibility and align the cultural significance of Diwali with the Swachh Bharat mission and the principles of Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE).

### Legal Literacy And Legal Awareness Program (LLLAP) Reaches More Than 6 Lakh People

The Legal Literacy and Legal Awareness Program (LLLAP) under the DISHA scheme, facilitated by the Department of Justice, extends its reach to over 600,000 individuals through the collaborative efforts of 14 implementing agencies. Access to justice is a fundamental right enshrined in the Constitution of India. The A2J Division of the Department of Justice (DoJ), Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India, has been diligently working to make this right a reality, especially in the North Eastern States and the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. Since 2012, the DoJ has been implementing the Access to Justice Scheme, focusing on legal empowerment, dissemination of information, and capacity development. The first phase concluded in 2017, followed by the successful completion of the second phase in March 2021. Now, a new scheme, 'Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice' (DISHA), has been launched to further the cause of access to justice in India.

### IREDA Launches CSR Portal to Improve Transparency in CSR Initiatives

In a significant move towards reinforcing transparency and accountability, the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA), operating under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, has recently unveiled a dedicated Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) portal. This portal marks a crucial step in IREDA's commitment to social responsibility and sustainability, providing a platform to manage CSR initiatives with increased transparency and efficiency. The core objective of the newly launched CSR portal is to enhance transparency in managing CSR requests from various organizations and institutions. Accessible 24/7, the portal incorporates a comprehensive CSR policy and a proposal checklist, ensuring effective scrutiny of CSR requests. By embracing transparency and accessibility, IREDA aims to streamline the execution of its social welfare projects, making them easily accessible to the public.



### 'Hello Naariyal' Call Centre Launched By CDB

In a significant move to support coconut farmers and enhance coconut cultivation practices, the Coconut Development Board (CDB) has recently launched the "Hello Naariyal" Friends of Coconut Trees (FoCT) call centre facility. This initiative aims to provide valuable assistance to farmers in various aspects of coconut harvesting and plant management operations. The launch event witnessed the presence of key dignitaries, including C.F. Joseph, Advisor, Horticulture, Priya Ranjan, Joint Secretary (Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture) and Prabhat Kumar, Horticulture Commissioner and CEO of CDB. The primary objective of the "Hello Naariyal" initiative is to create a dedicated platform to address the needs of coconut growers, offering expert guidance and serving related to coconut cultivation.

### Government's 'Skills on Wheels' Initiative for Rural Empowerment

In a bid to empower rural communities, the government is set to launch the 'Skills on Wheels' initiative, aiming to deliver skill training directly to the doorsteps of rural individuals, with a particular focus on equipping rural youth, especially women, with foundational digital skills. In the initial phase, the Ministry of Skills Development plans to collaborate with the private sector, leveraging corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs for skill impartation. Ved Mani Tiwari, the CEO of the National Skills Development Corporation (NSDC), revealed that discussions are underway with various corporate entities to take up the initiative under their CSR spend, with the intention of rapidly expanding the program's reach.

### SATHI Program Faces Cancellation Under Department of Science and Technology

The recent cancellation of the SATHI (Sophisticated Analytical and Technical Help Institutes) program under the Department of Science and Technology (DST) has ignited a wave of apprehension among researchers and academics. This move has raised concerns regarding its potential impact on research funding, particularly in the context of the anticipated introduction of the National Research Foundation (NRF) and the potential influence of the private sector in shaping the research landscape. Launched in 2020, the SATHI program aimed to establish centers equipped with advanced analytical instruments, fostering collaboration and resource-sharing among institutions. The recent cancellation of the call for proposals under SATHI has left educational institutions, especially in Kerala, anxious about the future of their research initiatives.

### 'AGNI' Initiative to Promote Innovations by Ayurveda Practitioners

In a pioneering move towards fostering innovation and research in Ayurveda, the Central Council for Research in Ayurveda Sciences (CCRAS), under the Ministry of Ayush, has introduced the "Ayurveda Gyan Naipunya Initiative" (AGNI).

This initiative is strategically designed to encourage Ayurveda practitioners to contribute, document, and validate innovative medical practices for the betterment of educational and academic realms.

## Summits & Conference News

### UK to host the AI Safety Summit 2023 on November 1 — All you need to know

The United Kingdom's Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak, is set to host the AI Safety Summit 2023 on 1st and 2nd November at Bletchley Park, Buckinghamshire. This summit brings together global leaders, AI experts and industry representatives to discuss the growing concerns surrounding the safety of advanced AI technologies and the need for international cooperation to address these concerns. Bletchley Park, known for its historic role in British Enigma codebreaking during World War II, is chosen as the summit's location. It is a place with a rich history in computer science development.

### "Blinken and Austin's India Visit: Anticipated 2+2 Dialogue Next Week"

US Secretary of State Antony J Blinken and Defence Secretary Lloyd J Austin are scheduled to visit India for the India-US 2+2 ministerial dialogue, amidst ongoing international crises and challenges. US Secretary of State Antony J Blinken and Defence Secretary Lloyd J Austin will visit India for the 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue. Indian hosts include External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The meeting is scheduled for November 9-10, following Blinken's visits to Tel Aviv, Amman, Tokyo, and Seoul.

### NITI Aayog held Workshop on India-AU Collaboration

NITI Aayog, in partnership with the Observer Research Foundation (ORF), organized a workshop in New Delhi focused on implementing the commitments from the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration (NDLD) signed at a recent G20 Conference. The workshop aimed to strengthen cooperation between India and the African Union (AU) in three key areas: inclusive growth, sustainable infrastructure, and migration management.

### 2nd CII India Nordic Baltic Business Conclave 2023

The 2nd edition of the CII India Nordic Baltic Business Conclave is taking place in New Delhi on 22-23 November 2023. This initiative, in collaboration with the MEA, GOI, aims to foster collaboration between India and the Nordic Baltic Eight (NB8) countries, known for their prowess in innovation and technology. The conclave is strategically designed to facilitate dialogue among diverse stakeholders. Its primary focus is on key sectors, providing a platform for discussions that can potentially lead to groundbreaking partnerships. The event will also lay the groundwork for potential policy changes, fostering an environment conducive to impactful collaborations. The NB8, comprising Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, and Sweden,

represents a formidable force in innovation and technology. This collaboration holds immense promise, especially given India's increasing emphasis on technology as a driver of economic growth.

### Union Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari Inaugurates the 8th India Water Impact Summit (IWIS) in New Delhi

Nitin Gadkari, the Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, recently inaugurated the 8th Edition of the Indian Water Impact Summit (IWIS) on 22nd November 2023 in New Delhi. Organized by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and the Center for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies (cGanga), the three-day summit from November 22 to 24, 2023, brought together scientific experts, stakeholders and government representatives to address the dynamic challenges and opportunities in India's water sector. Shri Nitin Gadkari, the Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, delivered a compelling address, emphasizing the pivotal role of ethics, ecology, environment and economics in shaping a sustainable future

## Awards & Honors News

### India-Born Author Nandini Das Wins 2023 British Academy Book Prize

The British Academy Book Prize for Global Cultural Understanding, a prestigious international non-fiction award has been claimed by India-born author Nandini Das for her debut book, 'Courting India: England, Mughal India, and the Origins of Empire.' This remarkable work, hailed as the "true origin story of Britain and India told through England's first diplomatic mission to the Mughal courts," secured the top spot this year at a ceremony held at the British Academy in London. Nandini Das, a 49-year-old academic and Professor in the English faculty at the University of Oxford, has ventured to offer a fresh perspective on the beginnings of the British Empire. Her book delves into the historical account of the arrival of the first English ambassador in India, Sir Thomas Roe, during the early 17th century.

### New York city wins first US National Gatka Championship

The 1st US National Gatka Championship recently concluded at The Sikh Center of New York Inc., drawing hundreds of spectators. Organized by the Gatka Federation USA, this championship aimed to manage, standardize, promote, and popularize Gatka, the Sikh Martial Art, in the United States. Under the aegis of the World Gatka Federation, the event witnessed spirited competition, with the Kansas Gatka Association securing the runner-up position and the NJ Gatka Association achieving third place. The championship saw over 100 enthusiastic participants, both boys and girls, representing different State Gatka Associations and Akharas in the United States. This event was jointly organized by the Gatka Federation USA in collaboration with the host state, the New York Gatka chapter, known as the New York Gatka Association.



**Apolinaris D'Souza Honored With The 19th 'Kalakar Puraskar' Award**

The 19th edition of the prestigious 'Kalakar Puraskar,' organized by the Carvalho Household of Kundapura in association with Mandd Sobhann, Mangaluru, was awarded to Apolinaris D'Souza, a prominent Konkani singer, lyricist, and composer. The award ceremony took place on the 5th of November 2023, during a public event held at Kalaagann, Mangaluru.

**Grammy Awards 2024: Falguni Shah's 'Abundance in Millets' Nominated for Best Global Music Performance**

Falguni Shah, a Grammy Award-winning Indian vocalist and songwriter, has been nominated for the Best Global Music Performance category at the 2024 Grammy Awards for her song "Abundance in Millets", which features a speech written and delivered by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The song was created to raise awareness of millets, a supergrain that has the potential to help alleviate world hunger. Shah is a strong advocate for millets and has been working to promote their cultivation and consumption in India and around the world.

**Pakistan-Based Startup She-Guard Wins Top Climate Innovation Competition**

In a groundbreaking achievement, Pakistan-based cleantech startup She-Guard emerged victorious at the 'ClimateLaunchpad Asia-Pacific' finals, showcasing their innovative biodegradable and plastic-free sanitary product. The startup's mission is to transform banana crop waste into affordable, eco-friendly sanitary napkins, addressing the interconnected challenges of climate change, public health and solid waste management in Pakistan. She-Guard faced stiff competition with 172 other teams from six countries in the Asia-Pacific in the finals. The event hosted by national partner Centre4 Creativity & Sustainability, and funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland (Irish Aid), served as a platform for climate innovators to present their solutions.

**Salman Rushdie Honored With First 'Lifetime Disturbing the Peace Award'**

World-renowned author Salman Rushdie, celebrated for groundbreaking works like 'The Satanic Verses,' received the inaugural 'Lifetime Disturbing the Peace Award' from the Vaclav Havel Center. Simultaneously, Egyptian activist Alaa Abdel-Fattah was honored with the 'Disturbing the Peace Award for a Courageous Writer at Risk' during a ceremony held on November 14. Rushdie's presence at the event was unexpected, with only a handful of the 100 attendees aware of his attendance. Having recently received the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade, Rushdie humorously pondered on which side of "the fence" this new accolade placed him. Recently, Rushdie unveiled the publication of his latest book titled 'Knife: Meditations After an Attempted Murder.'

**96th Oscars: Jimmy Kimmel to Host Academy Awards for the Fourth Time**

The Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences has announced that Jimmy Kimmel will return as the host for the 96th Academy Awards in 2024, marking his second consecutive year and fourth overall. This decision comes after Kimmel's successful stint in 2023, where the ceremony garnered 18.7 million viewers, the highest since the pre-pandemic broadcast in 2020. In the aftermath of the 2022 Oscars, marred by the controversial incident of Will Smith's slap directed at Chris Rock, Kimmel took the helm for the 2023 ceremony. His approach was cautious, contributing to the stabilization of the Academy Awards after years of turmoil. This shows how Kimmel's hosting style played a crucial role in restoring the prestige of the Oscars.

**JSW Bags Award to Develop Greenfield Port in Karnataka For Rs 4,119 Crore**

JSW Infrastructure, a key player in the Indian port sector and part of the JSW Group, has recently announced the reception of a letter of award for the development of a state-of-the-art, all-weather, deep-water greenfield port at Keni in Karnataka. The port project, valued at Rs.4,119 crore, is set to be executed through a public-private partnership. This significant development is poised to enhance maritime infrastructure and boost trade in the North Karnataka region. JSW Infrastructure outlined the key features of the proposed Keni Port, emphasizing its modern, environmentally friendly, mechanized facilities designed for handling cape-size vessels. The initial phase will witness a capacity of 30 million tonnes per annum (MTPA), with substantial potential for expansion in the long run. Keni Port is strategically located between Mormugao Port in the north and New Mangalore Port in the south, contributing to its significance in the region.

**Indira Gandhi Peace Prize for 2022 Presented to COVID-19 Warriors**

The prestigious Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for the year 2022 was jointly awarded to the Indian Medical Association (IMA) and Trained Nurses Association of India. The award ceremony took place on November 19, where former Vice-President Hamid Ansari presented the honor to Dr. Sharad Kumar Agarwal, President of the IMA and Professor (Dr.) Roy K. George, President of the Trained Nurses Association of India. The award symbolizes a tribute to the relentless efforts of the COVID-19 warriors in India. Congress Parliamentary Party chairperson Sonia Gandhi, who heads the Indira Gandhi Memorial Trust, emphasized that the recognition extends to every doctor, nurse, paramedic and support staff for their selfless service, dedication and perseverance in the face of the unprecedented challenges posed by the pandemic.

**Uttar Pradesh bags First Prize for Best State in Inland Fisheries**

Uttar Pradesh, under the leadership of the Yogi Adityanath government, has secured a notable 'Best State' award for inland fisheries (plain areas). The state is set to receive this prestigious accolade at the two-day Global Fisheries Conference-2023 in Delhi on November 21 and 22. Cabinet Minister for Fisheries, Sanjay Nishad, announced this achievement, attributing it to the relentless efforts of the government to promote fisheries and elevate the income of fishermen. The success in fisheries is further underscored by the implementation of 31 projects under the Pradhan Mantri Sampada Yojna in Uttar Pradesh. A substantial sum of Rs.15,282.5 has been disbursed to beneficiaries as part of these initiatives. This financial support aims to empower individuals involved in the fisheries sector and contribute to the overall growth of the industry.

**Madhuri Dixit Receives Award At 54th IFFI**

Legendary actress Madhuri Dixit has been honored with the 'Special Recognition for Contribution to Bharatiya Cinema' award at the 54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Panaji, Goa. The announcement was made by Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting and Youth Affairs & Sports, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, along with MoS Information & Broadcasting, Dr. L. Murugan, and Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant. Spanning four remarkable decades, Dixit's illustrious career stands as a testament to her enduring impact on the silver screen. Shri Anurag Singh Thakur fittingly describes her as an "icon across the ages," acknowledging her exceptional ability to breathe life into diverse characters.

**NIF Book Prize For 2023 To Be Revealed On December 1st**

The Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIF) Book Prize has unveiled its shortlist, comprising five outstanding works that delve into diverse facets of India's history, society, and culture. The winner is slated to be announced on December 1, adding anticipation to the literary community.

This books are -

Founding Mothers of the Indian Republic by Achyut Chetan  
Delhi Reborn: Partition and Nation Building in India's Capital by Rotem Geva

Writer, Rebel, Soldier, Lover: The Many Lives of Agyeya by Akshaya Mukul

Land Guns Caste Woman: Memoirs of a Lapsed Revolutionary by Gita Ramaswamy

Nehru's India: A History in Seven Myths by Taylor C. Sherman

**Ishwak Singh Won Best Actor Award At Stars Asian International Film Festival**

Ishwak Singh won the Best Actor award at the Stars Asian International Film Festival (SAIFF) for his performance in the film 'Berlin,' serving as a testament to the universal appeal of his work and highlighting not only his exceptional talent but also his dedication to his craft. The film "Berlin" has not only

gained acclaim for Ishwak Singh's outstanding portrayal but has also enjoyed successful screenings at several film festivals, such as the Indian Film Festival of Los Angeles and Jio MAMI 2023. Produced by Zee Studios and Yippie Ki Yay Motion Pictures, the movie showcases a remarkable ensemble cast that includes Aparshakti Khurana, Rahul Bose, Kabir Bedi, and Anupriya Goenka in significant roles. "Berlin" maintains its grip on audiences, captivating them with its compelling narrative and exceptional performances. This solidifies its position as a standout film with international appeal.

**Important Dates News**

**7 Indian States & 2 UTs Celebrated Their Formation Day on November 1st**

1st November is recognized as the formation day of seven Indian states and 2 Union Territories. This special day marks the historical moment when Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Punjab, Karnataka, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh, along with the Union Territories of Lakshadweep and Puducherry, came into existence. In this article, we will delve into the significance of this day and the unique histories of these regions. In 1966, Punjab was officially formed as a state on November 1. The division of the former East Punjab was based on linguistic identity, creating two separate states: Punjab and Haryana. People in Punjab celebrate this day to honor their rich agricultural heritage and vibrant culture, taking pride in the establishment of the present boundaries of the state.

**International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists 2023**

The International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists is a globally recognized occasion that shines a spotlight on the dangers and violence journalists and media workers face in their line of duty. Every year, on November 2nd, this day serves as a poignant reminder of the vital role that a free press plays in upholding democracy and the imperative to safeguard those who uncover the truth.

**International Day for Biosphere Reserve 2023 Celebrated on 3rd November**

On November 3, the world celebrates the International Day for Biosphere Reserves, a day established by UNESCO during its 41st General Conference in 2022. This occasion provides an opportunity to understand and appreciate Biosphere Reserves (BR) and their significance in preserving the delicate balance between nature and culture. Biosphere Reserves play a crucial role in the conservation of our planet's natural and cultural diversity. On the International Day for Biosphere Reserves, we acknowledge the significance of these reserves in striking a balance between human development, cultural preservation, and environmental protection. As we celebrate this day, we reflect on the need to expand and support these designated areas to safeguard our shared heritage for generations to come.

**World Tsunami Awareness Day 2023 Observed on 05th November**

Every November 5th, a global community assembles to mark World Tsunami Awareness Day, emphasising the importance of Tsunami knowledge and awareness. Tsunamis are natural disasters of immense destructive power, often caused by underwater disturbances like earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, landslides, and even extraterrestrial collisions. These catastrophic events, though rare, have claimed countless lives throughout history. In the context of World Tsunami Awareness Day, let's explore the causes and impacts of tsunamis and how they intersect with the global goal of reducing inequality. Tsunamis, born from diverse underwater disturbances, are formidable natural disasters with the potential to inflict massive harm. World Tsunami Awareness Day seeks to raise awareness about these cataclysmic events while highlighting the critical role of reducing inequality in addressing their impacts. By promoting collaboration and understanding, we can work towards a more resilient and equitable future in the face of tsunamis and other natural disasters.

**International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict 2023**

The International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict, observed on November 6th each year, is a significant global initiative aimed at raising awareness about the severe consequences of war and armed conflicts on the environment. This day was established by the United Nations to underscore the importance of safeguarding the environment as a source of security and peace while preventing its exploitation during military conflicts. The occasion calls on individuals, nations, and organizations to speak out and reiterate their commitment to protecting our threatened planet, even in the face of armed aggression.

**India Celebrates 135th Birth Anniversary of CV Raman**

November 7, 2023, marks the 135th birth anniversary of the renowned Indian physicist, Sir Chandrasekhar Venkata Raman, who is celebrated for his groundbreaking discovery of the Raman Effect. This discovery revolutionized the field of physics and earned him the prestigious Nobel Prize. As we pay tribute to this great scientist on his birth anniversary. Let's delve into some interesting facts about his life and contributions that continue to inspire generations of scientists and researchers.

**World Radiography Day 2023 is Observed on 8th November**

World Radiography Day is observed each year on November 8 to commemorate the groundbreaking discovery of X-radiation by German physicist Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen in 1895. This day holds special significance in the field of radiography, recognizing the vital role of radiographers and highlighting the importance of medical imaging in modern

healthcare. Before the establishment of World Radiography Day, there was the European Day of Radiology, initiated on February 10, 2011. This observance aimed to commemorate the anniversary of Wilhelm Roentgen's passing on February 10, 1923, organized by the European Society of Radiology (ESR). World Radiography Day was officially established as an annual event on November 8, aligning with the anniversary of Roentgen's groundbreaking discovery of X-rays. This transition replaced the European Day of Radiology, which had previously been held on February 10.

**National Education Day 2023: What is its history and theme**

Date: November 11, 2023

Theme: Embracing Innovation

National Education Day is celebrated every year on November 11th to commemorate the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, India's first Education Minister. Azad was a visionary leader who played a pivotal role in shaping the country's education system. He was a strong advocate for universal primary education, girls' education, and free compulsory education for all children under the age of 14. He also played a key role in establishing some of India's most prestigious educational institutions, including the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and the University Grants Commission (UGC).

The theme for National Education Day 2023 is "Embracing Innovation." This theme highlights the importance of innovation in education and the need to promote creative and progressive teaching methods.

**Children's Day 2023: Date, History, Significance and Quotes**

Children's Day in India is a special occasion celebrated every year on November 14th. This date was chosen to honor the birthday of India's first prime minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, a leader who deeply cherished children and believed in their potential to shape the nation's future. This day, known as Bal Diwas, is dedicated to raising awareness about children's rights and well-being. The theme of this year's Children's Day, 'For every child, every right', underscores the commitment to uphold the rights of every child worldwide. It calls for a collective effort from individuals, communities and governments to create a nurturing environment that fosters the physical, mental and emotional development of the younger generation.

**World Philosophy Day 2023 Celebrates on 16th November**

World Philosophy Day, observed annually on the third Thursday of November, stands as a testament to the enduring significance of philosophy in the development of human thought, cultural enrichment, and individual growth. This year World Philosophy Day observed on 16th November.

Organized by UNESCO, this day emphasizes philosophy's inspiring influence as both a discipline and an everyday practice capable of transforming societies and fostering intercultural dialogue. The theme for World Philosophy Day 2023 is "Philosophical Reflection in a Multicultural World".

**Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas 2023: Date, History and Significance**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked the celebration of 'Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas' at Birsa College, Khunti, Jharkhand, on 15th November 2023. Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas, also known as Tribal Pride Day, is celebrated to honor the birth anniversary of the revered tribal freedom fighter, Birsa Munda. This occasion also witnessed the release of the 15th instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme, reflecting the government's commitment to support farmers and promote inclusive agricultural development.

**International Students Day 2023 Observed on 17 November**

International Students' Day 2023, observed worldwide on Friday, November 17, is a special occasion that acknowledges the resilience and contributions of students globally. This celebration is particularly significant for those studying abroad, facing the challenges of navigating new cultures, languages, financial hurdles, and homesickness. As we mark International Students' Day, let us reflect on the beauty of diversity and unity. Interacting with people from various backgrounds not only enriches our lives but also cultivates empathy and understanding. This day serves as a reminder that, as human beings, our differences are what make us stronger. This day holds historical importance as it commemorates the Nazi invasion of a university in Prague in 1939.

**World Prematurity Day 2023: Date, Theme, Significance**

Premature birth is a significant global health concern, often leading to infant deaths and various health complications. Recognizing the gravity of this issue, World Prematurity Day is observed annually to raise awareness about the challenges faced by premature babies and their families. Every year, World Prematurity Day is observed on November 17. In 2008, European Parent organizations united to establish this international awareness day for preterm birth (A preterm birth is characterized by babies being born alive before the completion of 37 weeks of pregnancy). Since 2011, it has been celebrated globally as World Prematurity Day, a term coined by March of Dimes. This year, the special day falls on a Friday, providing an opportunity for communities worldwide to come together and make a collective impact. The global theme for this year's World Prematurity Day is "Small actions, big impact: Immediate skin-to-skin care for every baby everywhere," which underscores the significance of simple yet powerful actions that can make a substantial difference in the lives of premature babies.

**World AMR Awareness Week 2023 (November 18-24): Date, Theme, Significance**

The World Antimicrobial Resistance Awareness Week takes place from November 18 to 24, 2023, with the aim of enhancing awareness and comprehension of AMR while advocating best practices among One Health stakeholders. The primary goal is to diminish the emergence and transmission of drug-resistant infections. The chosen theme for WAAW 2023 will stay consistent with the previous year – "Preventing Antimicrobial Resistance Together," just as it was in 2022. Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) poses a significant threat to humans, animals, plants, and the environment, impacting all facets of our interconnected world. This year's theme emphasizes the imperative for collaborative efforts across various sectors to safeguard the efficacy of antimicrobials.

**World Fisheries Day 2023: Date, Significance and History**

World Fisheries Day is observed annually on November 21st to highlight the importance of sustainable fisheries management and to draw attention to the critical role of small-scale fishers in ensuring food security and livelihoods for millions around the world. This global event serves as a platform to raise awareness about the challenges facing fisheries, including overfishing, habitat destruction, and climate change. The theme for World Fisheries Day 2023 is 'Celebrating the Wealth of Fisheries and Aquaculture'.

**Shaheedi Diwas or Martyrdom Day of 'Guru Tegh Bahadur'**

In the annals of Indian history, the sacrifice and valor of individuals who stood against oppression and defended their religious beliefs resonate as timeless tales of inspiration. Among these luminaries is Guru Tegh Bahadur Singh, the 9th Guru of the Sikhs, whose martyrdom day is commemorated on November 24. Born on 21st April 1621, in Amritsar to Mata Nanaki and Guru Hargobind, Guru Tegh Bahadur's life is a testament to courage, conviction and the unwavering commitment to protect the Sikh faith. In his early years, Guru Tegh Bahadur, then known as Tyagamal, displayed remarkable courage. At the age of 13, he accompanied his father Guru Hargobind Sahib to Kiratpur, where they faced a Mughal army in Palahi village near Phagwara. In this skirmish, the young Teg demonstrated extraordinary bravery, earning him the name Teg Bahadur, which means 'brave sword.' This incident marked the beginning of a journey that would lead him to the throne as the 9th Guru of the Sikhs.

**Sports News**

**Cricketer Sachin Tendulkar's statue unveiled at Wankhede Stadium**

The iconic Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai is set to witness a momentous occasion as a statue of cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar will be unveiled, coinciding with the World Cup match between India and Sri Lanka. The statue, capturing the

legendary batsman in the midst of a cricket stroke, finds its place adjacent to the Sachin Tendulkar stand, paying tribute to the 'Little Master.' This remarkable sculpture is the creation of artist Pramod Kamble, a painter and sculptor from Ahmednagar. Kamble's craftsmanship brings to life the essence of Tendulkar's cricketing prowess, offering fans a tangible connection to the cricketing icon.

### **Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar Wins Gold Medal In The 50m Rifle 3P event**

Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar clinched the gold medal in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions event 2023 at the Asian Shooting Championship 2023. Tomar's impressive score of 463.5 in the final secured the top spot, making him the most successful Indian shooter at the event. Tian Jiaming from the People's Republic of China secured the silver medal with a score of 462.7, while his fellow countrymen Du Linshu clinched the bronze medal with 450.3 points. During the qualification round, Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar was the only Indian shooter to secure a place in the top eight, finishing in fifth place with a score of 591. His teammates, Akhil Sheoran and Swapnil Kusale, contributed to India's success by achieving ninth and eleventh positions with scores of 587 and 586, respectively. This collective effort resulted in the Indian team winning the silver medal in the team event.

### **Max Verstappen wins Brazilian Grand Prix 2023**

Brazilian Grand Prix, three-time champion Max Verstappen showcased his driving prowess by leading from start to finish and securing a well-deserved victory. The race, held at the Interlagos Circuit in São Paulo, provided a spectacular spectacle for Formula 1 fans around the world. Max Verstappen, representing Red Bull Racing, displayed exceptional control and skill as he led the race right from the beginning. His flawless performance on the track solidified his status as one of the sport's elite drivers. Max Verstappen's teammate, Sergio Perez, also of Red Bull Racing, delivered an impressive performance, securing the fourth position. This finish allowed Perez to create some distance between himself and Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton in the ongoing competition for the runner-up position in the championship.

### **Vidit Gujrathi, Vaishali R Claim Titles at FIDE Grand Swiss Chess Event**

Indian chess players Vidit Gujrathi and R Vaishali achieved remarkable victories at the FIDE Grand Swiss Chess 2023 held on the Isle of Man, earning them a coveted spot in the prestigious Candidates Tournament. The Candidates Tournament is a crucial spot in determining a challenger for the reigning world chess champion. Let's delve into the details of their outstanding performances. Vidit Gujrathi's victory at the FIDE Grand Swiss Chess event was nothing short of remarkable, especially considering his initial setback with a defeat in the opening round. However, Vidit displayed exceptional resilience and skill, securing the title with a

convincing victory against Alexander Predke in the final round, accumulating 8.5 points out of a possible 11. Vidit's triumph was a significant career milestone and he expressed his joy in an interview with the FIDE YouTube Channel, emphasizing the significance of winning this strong event and the opportunity to compete in the FIDE Candidates Tournament in Canada in April 2024.

### **Australian Cricketer Meg Lanning Announces Retirement From International Cricket**

Australia women's national team captain Meg Lanning, a stalwart of the cricketing world, has officially announced her retirement from international cricket, marking the end of a remarkable career that spanned 241 matches and included seven World Cup titles. Lanning, at 31, leaves behind a legacy that will be remembered for her exceptional contributions both as a player and a captain. Meg Lanning, in her 13-year international career, played six Tests, 103 one-day internationals (ODIs), and 132 Twenty20 internationals (T20Is). Her decision to step away from international cricket comes after achieving unparalleled success and etching her name in cricketing history. Speaking at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in front of family and friends, Lanning reflected on her decision, stating, "I feel like now I've got nothing left to achieve on the international stage. For me, I can't be half in or half out with anything, and I guess that's where I've landed with this decision."

### **New Zealand's Rachin Ravindra and West Indies' Hayley Matthews Win ICC Player of the Month Awards**

New Zealand's Rachin Ravindra has claimed his first ICC Men's Player of the Month award for his outstanding performances in the group stages of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 in India. The 23-year-old batter was in sparkling form, scoring a century and two half-centuries in six matches, finishing the month with 406 runs at an average of 81.20. Ravindra's most memorable performance came in the match against Australia, where he scored a blistering 116 in 89 balls. He also played a key role in New Zealand's opening day victory over defending champions England, scoring an unbeaten 123.

West Indies' Hayley Matthews has been named the ICC Women's Player of the Month for October after her scintillating performances in the T20I series against Australia. The top-ranked all-rounder in the MRF Tyres ICC Women's T20I Player Rankings smashed an unbeaten 99 in the first match and followed it up with a match-winning 132 not out in the second match. She also claimed six wickets in the series. Matthews' performances helped West Indies to win the series 2-1, and she was named the Player of the Series.

**ICC Suspends Sri Lanka Cricket's Membership Over Government Interference**

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has taken a significant step by suspending Sri Lanka Cricket's membership, citing serious breaches of its autonomy and government interference. The move comes in the wake of the Sri Lankan government's decision to sack the cricket board due to the national team's disappointing performance in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023. The suspension follows a tumultuous World Cup campaign by the Sri Lankan cricket team, currently ranked ninth in the 10-team standings after a disappointing performance of winnings only two out of nine matches. The struggles were further exacerbated by conflicts within the Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) management. The turmoil within Sri Lankan Cricket reached its peak when Sports Minister Roshan Ranasinghe sacked the SLC management, appointing former World Cup-winning captain Arjuna Ranatunga as the head of a seven-member interim committee. However, this decision faced a swift overturn by the Court of Appeal, adding to the chaos within the cricketing administration.

**Virat Kohli Breaks Sachin Tendulkar's Record for Most Centuries In An ODI**

In a historic moment at the ongoing ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, Virat Kohli, the Former Indian cricket captain, achieved a remarkable feat by becoming the first batter in the world to score 50 One Day International (ODI) centuries. In doing so, he surpassed the iconic Sachin Tendulkar's record of 49 centuries, solidifying his place as the leading century-scorer in ODI cricket. Virat Kohli's extraordinary performance at the World Cup includes not only reaching the 50th century milestone but also surpassing Sachin Tendulkar's record for the most runs in a single World Cup. Kohli surpassed Tendulkar's 673-run mark set during the 2003 World Cup, showcasing his consistency and dominance on the world stage. Virat Kohli's 49th ODI century was a special one as it coincided with his 35th birthday. On this occasion, he demonstrated his prowess by facing South Africa's formidable bowling lineup with resilience, emphasizing his ability to rise to the occasion in crucial matches.

**Shami Becomes First Indian Bowler To Claim Seven Wickets In A Single ODI Cricket Match**

In a historic display of skill and precision, Mohammed Shami etched his name in cricketing history by becoming the first Indian bowler to pick seven wickets in a One Day International (ODI). This extraordinary feat unfolded during India's World Cup semifinal clash against New Zealand in Mumbai on Wednesday. Shami's stellar performance saw him conclude with figures of 7/57, a display of bowling excellence that played a pivotal role in India's triumph over New Zealand. This remarkable achievement surpassed the previous best by Stuart Binny, who held the record with figures of 6/4.

**Virat Kohli's wax statue to be installed in Jaipur Wax Museum**

In a decision resonating with the euphoria of India's semi-final victory in the Cricket World Cup and Virat Kohli's extraordinary feat of completing 50 centuries in one-day cricket, a wax statue immortalizing the star cricketer is poised to join the distinguished ensemble at the Wax Museum within Jaipur's Nahargarh Fort. The first glimpse of this tribute to Virat Kohli has been revealed through the clay model, capturing the essence of his aggressive cricketing persona. Over the course of the next month, skilled artisans will meticulously craft the complete wax statue, ensuring an accurate and lifelike representation. Kohli's aggressive image on the cricket field has been meticulously incorporated into the statue's design.

**Novak Djokovic Wins Record Seventh ATP Finals Title**

Novak Djokovic made history on November 19, by securing his seventh ATP Finals title in Turin, Italy. The world number one defeated local favorite Jannik Sinner in a commanding fashion with a 6-3, 6-3 victory. This triumph places Djokovic ahead of the retired Roger Federer in ATP Finals victories, capping off a remarkable season that included three Grand Slam wins, bringing his total to a record-breaking 24 and claiming his 40th Masters 1000 titles. In the final against Sinner, Djokovic asserted control early in the match by breaking Sinner in the fourth game and comfortably serving out the opening set. The Serbian continued his dominance by breaking serve again at the start of the second set. Djokovic's command over the match silenced the partisan crowd, which had been fervently supporting Sinner throughout the tournament. The world number one reeled off 14 consecutive points, showcasing his exceptional form at the crucial moments of the tournament.

**AIFF and Odisha Govt Ink MoU For FIFA-AIFF Academy**

On November 21, 2023, a significant milestone was achieved in Indian football as the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and the Government of Odisha, in collaboration with FIFA, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish the AIFF-FIFA Talent Academy. The ceremony, graced by the presence of Mr. Arsene Wenger, FIFA's Chief of Global Football Development, marked a crucial step toward nurturing and developing football talent in India. The MoU, symbolizing the commitment of the AIFF and the Government of Odisha to football development, was formally signed in the presence of distinguished dignitaries. Mr. Kalyan Chaubey, President of AIFF, and Mr. R Vineel Krishna, Commissioner-cum-Secretary, Department of Sports and Youth Services, Government of Odisha, were present at the event. Additionally, Mr. Tushar Kanti Behera, the Sports Minister of Odisha, graced the ceremony with his presence.

**ICC Bans Transgender Players From International Women's Cricket**

In a significant policy decision, the International Cricket Council (ICC) has recently implemented a ban on transgender cricketers from participating in international women's cricket at the highest level. This decision has raised discussions around inclusivity, athlete rights and the impact of the ban on transgender individuals. The move is said to be in alignment with the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) guidelines, considering cricket's inclusion in the 2028 Olympics. The decision comes on the heels of controversy sparked by Canada's Danielle McGahey, who became the first transgender cricketer to participate in an official international match just two months ago. The 29-year-old opening batter playing in all six of Canada's matches during the Women's T20 World Cup Americas region qualifiers event in Los Angeles.

**ICC moves men's U-19 World Cup from Sri Lanka to South Africa**

The International Cricket Council (ICC) Board has made a decisive move by relocating the upcoming men's Under-19 World Cup from Sri Lanka to South Africa. This decision comes in the wake of the ICC's provisional suspension of Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), prompted by concerns of government interference in the administration of cricket in the island nation. Interestingly, it was Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) that first approached the ICC, bringing attention to the government's interference in cricket operations within the country. The ongoing discord between SLC and the Sports Ministry has been marked by accusations of corruption and mismanagement against SLC officials. An ICC Board member revealed that the decision to shift the U19 World Cup to South Africa was formally approved at a recent ICC Board meeting in Ahmedabad.

**Anahat Singh Becomes Second Youngest to Win National Squash Championship Title**

In a remarkable turn of events at the Senior National Squash Championships 2023, 15-year-old Anahat Singh scripted history by becoming the second youngest title winner in the tournament's prestigious history. The young prodigy faced off against Tanvi Khanna in the final, where Khanna was unfortunately forced to retire midway through the match due to a knee injury. Anahat's victory marked a historic moment, as she triumphed against her opponent who is 12 years her senior. The championship match witnessed a gripping battle between the generations, with Anahat initially losing the opener 9-11. However, she showcased her resilience in the second game, leading 6-4 before Khanna's untimely injury. The retirement of Khanna resulted in Anahat securing the title and etching her name in the record books as the second youngest Senior National Squash Champion in 23 years.

**Marlon Samuels, Former West Indies Player, Receives 6-year Ban**

On November 23, Marlon Samuels, the former West Indies batter, was handed a six-year ban from all forms of cricket by the International Cricket Council (ICC). The ban was imposed due to his failure to disclose benefits received during the Abu Dhabi T10 league, actions that could have brought the sport into disrepute, concealing information, and non-cooperation with the investigation officer. Samuels, who had an illustrious international cricket career playing 71 Tests, 207 ODIs, and 67 T20Is, faced charges related to his participation in the Abu Dhabi T10 league in 2019. The Emirates Cricket Board's anti-corruption code was violated on four counts, leading to charges by the ICC in September 2021.

**Obituaries News****Former governor of Nagaland, P B Acharya passes away at 92**

Padmanabha Balakrishna Acharya, a former governor of Nagaland and senior BJP leader, passed away in Mumbai on November 11, 2023, at the age of 92. Acharya was a respected figure in Indian politics and society, and his death is a significant loss. Acharya was born in Udupi, Karnataka, in 1931. He completed his matriculation from Christian High School, Udupi. He studied at the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial College (MGM College), Udupi, in 1949. After graduation, he worked in Mumbai and was associated with the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the student wing of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). He was also a member of the Mumbai University's senate and completed an LL.B degree from Mumbai University.

**Sahara Group Founder Subrata Roy Passes Away at 75 After Prolonged Illness**

Sahara Group's visionary founder and chairman, Subrata Roy, breathed his last at the age of 75 in a Mumbai hospital. The news comes after a prolonged battle with illness, as stated in an official company announcement. Born in Bihar's Araria in 1948, Subrata Roy's remarkable journey began in 1978 when he initiated Sahara India Pariwar with a mere capital of ₹2,000. The company's evolution over the years positioned it as a leader in entrepreneurship, according to information on Sahara's website. After relocating from Bihar to Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, Subrata Roy later moved the headquarters of Sahara Group to Lucknow in the 1990s.

**Renowned Novelist A.S. Byatt Passes Away at 87**

Acclaimed British novelist Antonia Susan Byatt, widely known as A.S. Byatt, passed away at the age of 87. With a literary career spanning almost six decades, Byatt left an indelible mark on the literary world. Her notable work, "Possession: A Romance," earned her the prestigious Booker Prize in 1990. Byatt, the sister of novelist Margaret Drabble, drew parallels with the Brontes, establishing herself as one of the most significant writers and critics of her time.

**Renowned Art Historian BN Goswamy Passed Away At 90**

Renowned art historian and prolific writer, B. N. Goswamy, breathed his last at the Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) in Chandigarh on Friday at the age of 90. His passing marks the end of an era in the world of art scholarship and leaves behind a legacy that has enriched the understanding of Pahari paintings. "It wasn't a prolonged lingering illness. He was having a problem breathing for the last one month, but that was about it," said a family member. The swift nature of his decline highlights the suddenness of his departure, leaving the art community in shock and mourning. Born on August 15, 1933, B. N. Goswamy was not only a Padma Shri but also a Padma Bhushan awardee, receiving recognition for his invaluable contributions to the field of art history. His niche expertise lay in the Pahari style of paintings, and his body of work has been a cornerstone for scholars and enthusiasts alike.

**Dhoom Director Sanjay Gadhvi Passed Away At 56**

On Sunday, November 19, the film industry lost a creative force with the sudden demise of renowned filmmaker Sanjay Gadhvi. Best known for directing the blockbuster films "Dhoom" (2004) and its sequel "Dhoom 2" (2006), Gadhvi's contribution to Indian cinema has left an indelible mark. Sanjay Gadhvi, aged 56, passed away at his Mumbai home, leaving behind a legacy that continues to resonate with audiences. His untimely departure occurred just three days before he would have celebrated his 57th birthday. Sanjay Gadhvi was born to Manubhai Gadhvi, a prominent figure in Gujarati folk literature. Gadhvi clinched the title of 'Hottest Young Filmmaker' at the 2007 Stardust Awards for his work on Dhoom 2 (2006).

**Former RBI Governor S. Venkitaramanan Passed Away At 92**

Former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), S. Venkitaramanan, breathed his last at the age of 92 on November 18, succumbing to age-related issues at a private hospital in Chennai. Born on January 28, 1931, in Tirumayam of Pudukottai district, Venkitaramanan was not only academically inclined but also had a diverse educational background. He earned a post-graduate degree in physics from the University College Thiruvananthapuram. Subsequently, in 1968, he obtained a post-graduate degree in management from the Carnegie Mellon University in the U.S. He joined the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) in 1953. His administrative acumen was complemented by a keen understanding of economic and financial intricacies.

**Malayalam writer P. Valsala passes away at 85**

Award-winning Malayalam writer P. Valsala, aged 85, breathed her last in Kozhikode. Ms. Valsala, a trailblazer among women writers in Malayalam, leaves behind a rich literary legacy marked by accolades and critical acclaim. The literary community mourns the loss of a stalwart as P.

Valsala's journey comes to a close. Her profound impact on Malayalam literature, marked by accolades, empathy, and a diverse body of work, ensures that her legacy will continue to inspire and resonate with readers for generations to come.

**India's first woman Supreme Court judge Justice Fathima Beevi Passes Away**

Justice Fathima Beevi, the first female Supreme Court judge, passes away at the age of 96. Her remarkable journey, spanning the corridors of justice and governance, leaves an indelible mark on the nation's legal landscape. Justice Fathima Beevi's life and career stand as a testament to her dedication to justice, equality, and the rule of law. As India mourns the loss of a legal luminary, her legacy will continue to inspire generations of aspiring lawyers and jurists, reminding them of the transformative power of unwavering commitment to justice. Born in 1927, Justice Beevi embarked on her legal journey by earning her Bachelor of Law Degree from the prestigious Government Law College. She took her first step into the legal realm by enrolling as an advocate on November 14, 1950, setting the stage for a trailblazing career. Justice Beevi's ascent in the judicial hierarchy began with her service in the lower Judiciary of Kerala in 1950. From a Munsiff in the Kerala Subordinate Judicial Services to a Subordinate Judge, Chief Judicial Magistrate, and eventually a District and Sessions Judge, she demonstrated unwavering commitment and excellence in every role she undertook.

**Defence News****'Surat' Becomes The First Navy Warship To Be Named After A City In Gujarat**

On 6th November, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel unveiled the crest of the Indian Navy's latest warship 'Surat.' This event took place in the very city that the warship is named after, a historic first for the Indian Navy. The ceremony was graced by the presence of the Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar, Vice Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, and Rear Admiral Anil Jaggi, among other senior officers. 'Surat' holds the distinction of being the first warship named after a city in Gujarat. This tribute is significant because Surat has a remarkable maritime heritage. During the 16th to the 18th century, Surat was a thriving center for maritime trade and shipbuilding activities. The ships constructed in Surat were renowned for their longevity, with some vessels remaining in service for over a century. This historical connection adds depth and significance to the warship's name.

**Indian Air Force Arrives For Dubai Air Show 2023**

An Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent has touched down at the Al Maktoum International Airport in Dubai, signalling their participation in the prestigious Dubai Airshow, a biennial event set to enthrall aviation enthusiasts from November 13 to 17, 2023. Two of India's indigenous aircraft, the Light



Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas and the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Dhruv, are set to steal the spotlight at the Airshow. The Tejas will engage in both static and aerial displays, showcasing its prowess, while the Sarang Helicopter Display Team promises to mesmerize the audience with their exceptional formation aerobatics skills. The IAF's contingent, including the Tejas and Dhruv teams, made their journey to Dubai aboard the formidable C-17 Globemaster III aircraft, setting the stage for what promises to be a series of awe-inspiring performances. The grand spectacle is set to commence at the opening ceremony on November 13, where the Indian teams will join esteemed aerial display teams from around the world.

### **Bilateral Exercise BONGOSAGAR-23 and Coordinated Patrol CORPAT-23**

Date: November 07-09, 2023

Location: Northern Bay of Bengal

Participants: Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy

Indian Navy Ships: Kuthar, Kiltan, and Maritime Patrol Aircraft (MPA) Dornier

Bangladesh Navy Ships: Abu Bakr, Abu Ubaidah, and MPA

Joint patrolling along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL)

Maritime exercises to enhance interoperability, including communication drills, surface gun-shoots, tactical manoeuvres, and a steam past

Maiden Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) drills, including a Search and Rescue scenario at sea

Regular bilateral exercises and coordinated patrols strengthen mutual understanding and cooperation between the two navies.

The participation of indigenously built ships in the exercise is a testament to India's growing shipbuilding capabilities.

### **Rajnath Singh to Participate in 10th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus in Jakarta**

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is set to attend the 10th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM Plus) in Jakarta, Indonesia, spanning from November 16th to November 17th, as announced by the Ministry of Defence. During the event, Singh will engage in bilateral meetings with the Defence Ministers of the participating countries. These one-on-one sessions will be dedicated to addressing and discussing various aspects of defence cooperation. The release from the Defence Ministry emphasizes that the ADMM serves as the preeminent defence consultative and cooperative mechanism within ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations).

### **Indian Navy Launches 4th Anti-Submarine Warfare Craft, named 'Amini'**

On 16th November 2023, a significant milestone in India's naval capabilities was achieved as 'Amini,' the fourth of the

Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) Project, was successfully launched at M/s L&T Shipbuilding in Kattupalli. The Launch Ceremony, presided over by Vice Admiral Sandeep Naithani, Chief of Materiel, showcased the culmination of efforts towards indigenous shipbuilding. In adherence to maritime traditions, Mrs. Manju Naithani played a crucial role in launching the ship. The vessel was named 'Amini' to underscore the strategic maritime importance attributed to the island of Amini in Lakshadweep, positioned about 400 kilometers west of Kochi.

### **Joint Military Exercise "Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-2023" Begins in Pune**

The ninth edition of the Joint Military exercise, known as "Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-2023," kicked off in Aundh (Pune). Running from November 16th to 29th, 2023, the exercise aims to strengthen cooperation between the Indian and Sri Lankan military forces. Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-2023 represents a significant step in promoting collaboration and understanding between India and Sri Lanka. It emphasizes the importance of joint military efforts and modern techniques in addressing challenges, ultimately contributing to regional security and stability.

### **Droupadi Murmu To Confer President's Colour Award To AFMC On Dec 1**

On December 1, President Droupadi Murmu is set to confer the prestigious President's Colour to the Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC) in a grand ceremony, marking its platinum jubilee year. This event holds significant importance, considering AFMC's reputation as a premier establishment within the Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) and its standing as one of the leading medical colleges in the country. The AFMC stands as a beacon of medical education within the AFMS and is recognized globally for its ethos and unwavering commitment to the highest standards of medical training. One distinguishing feature of AFMC is its role in commissioning medical cadets into the Army, Navy, and the Air Force.

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- লাইভ ক্লাস
- রেকর্ডেড ভিডিও
- অনলাইন মক টেস্ট
- ই-বুক স্টাডি ম্যাট
- হার্ড কপি মক টেস্ট বই
- একাধিক অপশনাল সাবজেক্ট
- পার্সোনালিটি টেস্ট এর গাইডেন্স ভিডিও
- অনলাইন এবং অফলাইন

**Indo-US Joint Special Forces Exercise "VAJRA PRAHAR 2023" Commences in Meghalaya**

The 14th edition of the Indo-US Joint Special Forces exercise, known as "VAJRA PRAHAR 2023," commenced at the Joint Training Node in Umroi, Meghalaya, signaling a renewed commitment to enhancing military collaboration and interoperability between the Indian Army and the US Army Special Forces. Exercise VAJRA PRAHAR, initiated in 2010, stands as a testament to the robust partnership between the Indian Army and the US Army Special Forces. The exercise focuses on the exchange of best practices and experiences, with a primary emphasis on joint mission planning and operational tactics. Over the years, it has evolved into a vital platform for Special Forces from both nations to collaborate, fostering stronger defense cooperation.

**Indian Navy deploys INS Sumedha in Mozambique to boost interoperability**

Indian Naval Ship Sumedha arrived at Maputo, Mozambique on November 21, 2023, as part of the ongoing Extended Operational Deployment to Africa. This strategic port call aims to fortify long-standing diplomatic relations, enhance maritime cooperation, and promote interoperability between the Indian and Mozambican navies. The arrival of INS Sumedha in Maputo signifies India's commitment to strengthening its ties with Mozambique and the broader African region. Through professional exchanges and collaborative activities, both nations aim to not only deepen their maritime cooperation but also contribute to the overall stability and security in the Indian Ocean region. This deployment exemplifies the Indian Navy's proactive role in building international friendships and promoting peace and security across the seas.

**Headquarters, Integrated Defence Staff, CSIR tie up for R&D in defence tech**

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was officially inked between the Headquarters, Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). The agreement, focused on technical collaboration, joint research, and development in the realm of defence technology, is poised to significantly impact India's defence capabilities. The MoU ceremony, a testament to the commitment of both entities, featured the signatures of Lt General JP Mathew, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC), Ministry of Defence (MoD), and N Kalaiselvi, Director General, CSIR & Secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science & Technology (MoST). The MoU establishes an encompassing framework to foster collaborative interactions between CSIR Labs, HQ IDS, and the Indian Armed Forces—comprising the Indian Army, Indian Navy, and Indian Air Force.

**Indian Army Heads To Australia For Joint Military Exercise AUSTRALHIND-23**

In a significant development following the India-Australia 2+2 summit, an Indian Armed Forces contingent, comprising personnel from all three services, embarked on a journey to Perth for the second edition of AustraHind-23 – a collaborative military exercise between the two nations. This joint exercise, spanning two weeks from Nov 22 to Dec 6, aims to enhance inter-operability and conduct multi-domain operations in urban and semi-urban terrains, adhering to the United Nations peacekeeping operations protocol. Reflecting the collaborative spirit, the Australian side will also field representatives from all three services, with the Australian Army contingent boasting 60 personnel from the 13th Brigade, and 20 personnel each from the Royal Australian Navy and Royal Australian Air Force.

**India and Nepal Convene for the 17th Edition of Joint Military Exercise SURYA KIRAN**

The 17th edition of the Joint Military Exercise SURYA KIRAN is set to strengthen the longstanding ties between India and Nepal as military contingents from both nations converge in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand, for this annual event. The exercise, scheduled from 24th November to 7th December 2023, alternates between the two countries, underscoring their commitment to mutual cooperation. The Nepal Army contingent, comprising 334 personnel, has arrived in India for this collaborative endeavor. Represented by the Tara Dal Battalion, they join hands with the Indian Army contingent of 354 personnel, led by a Battalion from the esteemed KUMAON Regiment.

**Books & Authors News****ISRO Chief Withdraws Release of his Autobiography 'Nilavu Kudicha Simhanga'**

The Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), S Somanath, has decided to withdraw the publication of his forthcoming autobiography, titled 'Nilavu Kudicha Simhanga' (which roughly translates to 'Lions that drank the Moonlight'). The decision comes in the wake of a controversy surrounding alleged critical comments made by Somanath about his predecessor, K Sivan. The autobiography had garnered attention due to these remarks, but Somanath clarified that his intent was not to criticize anyone.

**Miscellaneous News****Renowned Filmmaker Shekhar Kapur to Chair International Jury Panel at IFFI**

The prestigious International Film Festival of India (IFFI), an annual cinematic extravaganza, is gearing up for its 54th edition, set to unfold in the picturesque state of Goa from November 20 to November 28, 2023. As one of the largest

celebrations of global cinema in South Asia, IFFI is a hotbed of artistic brilliance, drawing thousands of cinema enthusiasts and top talents from the international film industry. In a recent announcement, IFFI unveiled the distinguished members of its international jury panel, with acclaimed filmmaker Shekhar Kapur leading the team. Shekhar Kapur is widely recognized for his cinematic masterpieces, including 'Bandit Queen,' 'Mr. India,' and 'Masoom.' He has earned multiple awards, including two National Film Awards, four Filmfare Awards, and a BAFTA Award.

### Zojila Day commemorated at Zojila War Memorial on 1st November

Zojila Day, celebrated on November 1st at the Zojila War Memorial near Drass, is a tribute to the valorous actions of Indian troops during 'Operation Bison' in 1948. This operation was a significant milestone in Indian military history, as it unfolded in the challenging terrain of the Zojila pass, the gateway to Ladakh. The commemoration of Zojila Day involves a solemn wreath-laying ceremony led by the Commander of Drass and the brave warriors of the Leh-based Fire and Fury Corps. This gesture pays homage to the courageous Bravehearts who etched their names in history by liberating the Zojila pass from Pakistani intruders.

### EPFO celebrated its 71st Foundation Day in New Delhi

Union Minister for Labour & Employment, Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, inaugurated the 71st Foundation Day of the Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) on 1st November at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The event featured a documentary film titled "Achievements of EPFO," showcasing the organization's remarkable journey over seven decades. Additionally, the occasion witnessed the presentation of awards to various offices and establishments for their outstanding contributions and performance.

### Pablo Picasso's 'Woman with a Watch' Sells for Record \$139 Million

Pablo Picasso's famous painting "Femme à la montre" ("Woman with a Watch") sold for a record-breaking \$139 million at a Sotheby's auction in New York on November 8, 2023. The sale makes it the second most expensive Picasso painting ever auctioned, and the most expensive work of art sold at auction this year. The most expensive Picasso painting ever auctioned, "Les femmes d'Alger," reached \$179.3 million in 2015, showcasing the enduring appeal of Picasso's work in the art market. The painting is a portrait of Picasso's lover, Marie-Thérèse Walter, seated in a throne-like chair against a blue background. It was painted in 1932, at a pivotal year in Picasso's career, and is considered one of his most important works.

### Cyclone 'Midhili' Makes Landfall On Bangladesh's coast

The Northeast Bay of Bengal is currently under the influence of a cyclonic storm named "Midhili," causing widespread concern and disruptions in the region. Government authorities in several northeastern states have issued alerts following substantial rainfall, and the impact of the storm has been felt across various areas, affecting not only daily life but also cultural events. The cyclonic storm, initially a deep depression over the Bay of Bengal, has escalated into a significant weather event. Mizoram, Tripura, and Assam have experienced varying levels of rainfall, leading to disruptions in the Meghalaya Cherry Blossom Festival on its inaugural day. The adverse weather conditions have prompted government authorities to issue alerts and take precautionary measures.

### Saffron From Kishtwar In Jammu and Kashmir Gets GI Tag

Kishtwar saffron, a prized spice cultivated and harvested in the Kishtwar Region of Jammu and Kashmir, has recently been bestowed with the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indications Registry. This recognition solidifies the unique identity and quality of saffron produced in the Kishtwar region of Jammu, complementing its already legendary reputation. Kishtwar saffron finds its roots in the picturesque Kishtwar region, situated in the mountainous terrains of Jammu. This spice, locally known as "KUNG" and nationally as "KESAR," is a vital cash crop in this isolated district. The saffron production area, aptly named Mandal, covers about 120 hectares of cultivable land, making Kishtwar a significant hub for saffron cultivation.

### Bengaluru Set To Host Namma Kambala On November 25 and 26

Kambala, the popular buffalo racing contest native to the coastal Karnataka region, is all set to captivate the urban landscape of Bengaluru this weekend. The traditional folk sport, usually held in the aftermath of the southwest monsoon, will unfold its excitement at the iconic Palace Grounds on November 25 and 26. Organized by Tulukoota Bengaluru, this marks the first time Kambala has found a venue in the heart of Bengaluru.

