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HIGHLIGHTED POINTS

- **President Murmu's Historic African Visit: Strengthening Ties**
- **World's Highest Imaging Cherenkov Telescope Unveiled in Ladakh**
- **38th National Games to be Held in Uttarakhand**
- **India's Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (Lupex) Approved**
- **Tata Sons Chairman Ratan Tata Passes Away At 86**



Contents

Monthly Current Affairs Magazine - October 2024	3
National News	3
International News	7
State News	11
Economy News.....	13
Rankings & Reports News.....	15
Business News.....	15
Agreement News.....	17
Appointment News.....	17
Banking News.....	19
Science & Technology News.....	21
Schemes and Committees News	22
Summits & Conference News	23
Awards & Honors News.....	25
Important Dates News	27
Sports News.....	30
Obituaries News.....	33
Defence News	33
Books & Authors News.....	35
Miscellaneous News.....	35

Monthly Current Affairs Magazine – October 2024**National News****PM Narendra Modi Inaugurates Banjara Virasat Museum in Maharashtra**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Banjara Virasat Museum in Pohardevi, Washim, Maharashtra, celebrating the rich cultural heritage of the Banjara community. The museum, a four-story structure, houses 13 galleries showcasing the legacy of the Banjara community and its leaders. Modi also paid floral tributes to Sant Sevalal Maharaj and Sant Ramrao Maharaj, spiritual icons of the community, and performed rituals at the Jagdamba Temple. He is set to launch agricultural and animal husbandry initiatives worth ₹23,300 crore.

Postmaster General Yadav Marks the Start of National Postal Week

The Department of Posts is making significant strides in expanding its service horizons by leveraging innovative technologies and services to connect with citizens across the country, especially in rural and remote areas. During the inauguration of 'National Postal Week' at the Regional PMG office in Ahmedabad. Postmaster General of North Gujarat Region, Shri Krishna Kumar Yadav, highlighted the continued relevance of traditional mail in an age dominated by digital communication.

India-UAE Investment Pact: Reducing Arbitration Time and Expanding Protection

India has recently signed a Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) aimed at enhancing investor confidence and fostering stronger economic ties. One of the key changes in this agreement is the reduction of the arbitration period for foreign investors from five years to three years. This new provision allows investors to seek international arbitration if disputes are unresolved by the Indian judicial system within the stipulated timeframe. The BIT, effective from August 31, 2024, also extends protections to shares and bonds, broadening the scope of investments covered compared to the previous agreement.

Democracy in Action, Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir Voters Give Their Mandate

The recently concluded Assembly elections of Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir and the Election Commission announced the result on 8th October, 2024. In Jammu and Kashmir alliance led by INC-NC and in Haryana BJP party won the mandate from the people. The elected governments will assume the office for the next five years.

Union Cabinet Approved the National Maritime Heritage Complex at Lothal, Gujarat

In a significant move to preserve and showcase India's rich maritime heritage, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the development of the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) at Lothal, Gujarat. The project will unfold in two phases, and it aligns with the government's broader vision to highlight the country's ancient maritime prowess, which dates back over 4,500 years. The National Maritime Heritage Complex is set to be a world-class museum that will boost tourism, create jobs, and promote India's cultural and maritime legacy.

PM Modi Inaugurates Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) Mumbai

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) in Mumbai, aiming to enhance youth employability and create an industry-ready workforce for Industry 4.0. The IIS, built on a 4-acre campus at the National Skill Training Institute, focuses on cutting-edge technologies like factory automation, AI, data analytics, and additive manufacturing.

Govt to set up 10 new ESIC medical colleges, extend unemployment allowance

The government, led by Labour and Employment Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, has announced the establishment of 10 new ESIC medical colleges and the extension of the unemployment allowance scheme under the Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojna until June 2026. These decisions align with the Prime Minister's Independence Day (2024) promise to add 75,000 medical seats in the next five years.



India's Textiles Sector Targets \$350 Billion by 2030

India's textiles sector is set for significant expansion, with an 11% year-on-year growth in Ready-Made Garments (RMG) of all Textiles exports, as per India's trade data of August 2024, signaling a bright future. The Textiles sector in the country is expected to grow to USD 350 billion by 2030, driven by India's inherent strengths and a strong policy framework that encourages investment and exports.

RSS Marks 100 Years on Vijaydashami

The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), the world's largest voluntary organization, is entering its 100th year on the auspicious occasion of Vijaydashami. Founded on this very day in 1925, also known as Dussehra, the RSS has grown exponentially over the past nine decades, expanding its reach across India and abroad.

BEML Secures Contract for India's First Indigenous Bullet Trains

State-owned BEML has been awarded a contract worth ₹866.87 crore by Integral Coach Factory (ICF) to design, manufacture, and commission India's first indigenously built bullet trains. This project marks a significant milestone in India's high-speed rail journey, as it will feature two high-speed trainsets, each comprising eight cars, with a test speed of 280 km/h and an operational speed of 250 km/h. The trains are set to roll out by late 2026, produced at BEML's Bengaluru facility, as part of the broader initiative to enhance India's rail infrastructure.

Omar Abdullah Takes Oath as Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir

Omar Abdullah, a prominent leader of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), has been sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, marking a significant political transition in the region. Abdullah took the oath of office in a ceremony administered by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. His ascension to the position comes after the National Conference emerged victorious in the recent elections, albeit without the direct involvement of the Congress party, which has chosen to provide external support instead.

International 6G Symposium Inaugurated by Union Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia

Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, the Union Minister of Communications and Development of the North Eastern Region, inaugurated the International 6G Symposium alongside the ITU-WTSA24 and IMC 24 events. He emphasized the transformative potential of 6G technology in driving economic growth and innovation, stating that the shift towards software-centric approaches offers a significant opportunity for India, which boasts a large pool of

engineering and software talent. Scindia projected that India will contribute 10% of global 6G patents through the Bharat 6G Alliance, reinforcing the nation's ambition to lead in this new technological era.

Kaksar Bridge Renamed in Honor of Kargil War Hero Capt. Amit Bhardwaj

In a poignant ceremony, Kaksar Bridge was renamed Capt. Amit Bhardwaj Setu to honor the sacrifice of Capt. Amit Bhardwaj during the Kargil War. The event, attended by prominent military and civil officials, including CEC Dr. Mohd Jaffer Akhoun and Major General K. Mahesh, SM, celebrated Bhardwaj's bravery and dedication to his nation.

Cabinet Approves 3% DA Hike for Central Govt Employees

In a significant move, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved a 3% hike in the dearness allowance (DA) for central government employees and pensioners, bringing the total DA to 53% of the basic pay. This increase is aimed at compensating employees against rising prices and is effective from July 1, 2024. The decision, announced by Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, will result in an annual cost of ₹9,448.35 crore to the exchequer, benefiting approximately 49.18 lakh employees and 64.89 lakh pensioners.

40th Raising Day of National Security Guard

On October 16, 2024, Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari, commemorated the 40th Raising Day of the National Security Guard (NSG), praising the bravery and dedication of its personnel. In a heartfelt message on social media platform X, he stated, "On the 40th Raising Day of National Security Guard, we salute the valor, dedication, and unwavering spirit of our brave soldiers. Their relentless efforts ensure the safety and security of our nation. We honor their service and commitment in defending India from all threats. Jai Hind!".

Supreme Court's Justice Statue Removes Blindfold

The traditional Lady of Justice, often depicted blindfolded with scales and a sword, has undergone a symbolic transformation in the Supreme Court of India. Under the guidance of Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, the newly commissioned statue sheds the blindfold and replaces the sword with the Constitution.

SC Upholds Section 6A of Citizenship Act by 4-1 Majority

In a significant ruling, the Supreme Court on October 17 upheld the constitutional validity of Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, 1955, with a 4-1 majority, affirming the Assam Accord. The bench, led by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, deemed the provision constitutional, recognizing its role in addressing illegal immigration from

Bangladesh into Assam. Justice JB Pardiwala dissented, calling Section 6A unconstitutional.

“Scam se Bacho” Government and Meta Team Up to Fight Online Scams

In a significant move to tackle the rising tide of online scams and cyber frauds, the Secretary of Information and Broadcasting, Sh. Sanjay Jaju, delivered the keynote address at the launch of the “Scam se Bacho” campaign in New Delhi. This initiative, developed by Meta in collaboration with key government ministries.

NITI Aayog to Host International Methanol Seminar

NITI Aayog is gearing up to host the Second International Methanol Seminar and Expo 2024 on October 17-18, 2024, at the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi. This two-day event is a significant part of India’s Methanol Economy Programme, initiated in 2016 in collaboration with the Methanol Institute, USA.

Indian Railways Reduces Advance Reservation Period from 120 to 60 Days

In a significant policy shift, the Indian Railways has announced a reduction in the Advance Reservation Period (ARP) for long-distance train bookings from 120 days to 60 days, effective November 1, 2024. This decision aims to enhance passenger convenience by reducing the blocking of funds for ticket bookings made months in advance, especially during peak travel seasons like festivals.

PM Modi to Launch National Learning Week Initiative

On Saturday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the ‘Karmayogi Saptah’ National Learning Week (NLW) aimed at enhancing the individual and organizational capacity of civil servants. This initiative, part of the broader ‘Mission Karmayogi’ launched in September 2020, seeks to foster a future-ready civil service that embodies Indian values while maintaining a global outlook.

CJI Chandrachud Nominates Justice Sanjiv Khanna as Successor

Justice Sanjiv Khanna is set to become the 51st Chief Justice of India (CJI), following the recommendation by current CJI DY Chandrachud in a letter to the Union law ministry. Justice Khanna, the second-most senior judge of the Supreme Court, will take over the position after Justice Chandrachud’s retirement on November 10, 2024.

First-Ever Coal Gallery Inaugurated at National Science Centre, New Delhi

Union Culture and Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Minister of State for Coal and Mines Satish Chandra Dubey inaugurated the first-ever coal gallery at the National Science Centre in New Delhi. The exhibition, titled

“Black Diamond – Unveiling the Depths,” highlights coal’s journey from its formation to its essential role in modern energy production. Through immersive displays, the gallery educates visitors on coal extraction, mining technologies, environmental practices, and future innovations in sustainable energy.

Saharanpur, Rewa, and Ambikapur Airports Launched by PM Modi

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated three new airports developed under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) – UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) from Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh today. The newly inaugurated airports are located in Rewa (Madhya Pradesh), Ambikapur (Chhattisgarh), and Saharanpur (Uttar Pradesh).

Discovery of 16th Century Copper Plates in Tiruvallur District

A significant archaeological discovery has been made at the Sri Singeeswarar temple in Mappedu village, Tiruvallur district, where a set of copper plate inscriptions dating back to the 16th Century CE were found. During a routine check of the temple’s lockers, overseen by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments (HR and CE) Department, officials uncovered two leaves of copper plates strung together with a ring featuring the seal of the Vijayanagara Kingdom. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) confirmed that the inscriptions, engraved in 1513 during the reign of King Krishnadevaraya, are written in Sanskrit using the Nandinagari script.

Launch of Bharat Chana Dal Phase II by Union Minister Pralhad Joshi

Union Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Shri Pralhad Joshi has launched the retail phase of Bharat Chana Dal Phase II in Delhi-NCR, marking a significant step in the government’s commitment to provide essential food items at affordable prices. This initiative includes flagging off mobile vans from NCCF, NAFED, and Kendriya Bhandar to facilitate the distribution of pulses during the festive season.

Rajiv Ranjan Singh to Inaugurate 21st Livestock Census

The Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh, also known as Lalan Singh, is set to launch the 21st Livestock Census operation, a significant initiative aimed at gathering comprehensive data on India’s livestock sector. The launch event is scheduled for October 25, 2024 at Hotel Leela Ambience Convention in Shahdara, New Delhi.

₹200 Crore Census Aims to Boost Livestock Sector in India

Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh launched the 21st Livestock Census on Friday, which will be conducted until

February next year at a cost of ₹200 crore. He emphasized that the collection of precise data is crucial for the government to formulate effective policies aimed at ensuring animal health security and promoting growth in the livestock sector.

Decode PM's address in the 115th Episode of 'Mann Ki Baat'

In the recent episode of Mann Ki Baat, the Prime Minister of India touched on several pivotal themes: the country's unity, cultural heritage, the significance of self-reliance, and growing technological advancements. This comprehensive session highlighted India's journey of resilience and progress while celebrating its diverse cultural tapestry and strides in innovation.

Sohrai Paintings: A Gift to Russian President Vladimir Putin

Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented unique, handcrafted artifacts representing different regions of India to leaders of various countries during the recently held BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia. These gifts, each selected for their cultural significance and historical roots, showcased the country's diverse traditional art forms, including Jharkhand's Sohrai painting and Maharashtra's Mother of Pearl Sea Shell Vase and Warli Painting. The carefully chosen items served as cultural ambassadors, promoting Indian indigenous art on a global stage.

Centre to Begin Census from 2025: Key Details

The Central government is set to commence the long-awaited census exercise in 2025, aiming for completion by 2026. This census was originally scheduled for 2021 but faced delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Following its completion, the BJP-led government plans to initiate a delimitation exercise for Lok Sabha seats, which is expected to be finalized by 2028.

Railway Protection Force Unveils 'Digital Memorial of Valour'

On October 25, 2024, the Railway Protection Force (RPF) launched the 'Digital Memorial of Valour' in New Delhi, a heartfelt initiative dedicated to honoring the sacrifices of its brave personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty.

India's First Writer's Village Opens in Dehradun

India's first 'Writer's Village' was inaugurated in Dehradun by former President Ram Nath Kovind, along with Uttarakhand Governor Lt Gen Gurmeet Singh (retd) and Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami. This unique village aims to foster creativity and provide a nurturing environment for writers from across the country, establishing Dehradun as a new cultural hub for literary talent.

PM Modi Unveils ₹12,850 Cr Health Projects on Ayurveda Day

On the occasion of Dhanvantari Jayanti and the 9th Ayurveda Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched, inaugurated, and laid the foundation for healthcare projects valued at over ₹12,850 crore at the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) in New Delhi. These projects mark a significant enhancement to India's healthcare infrastructure, supporting the Prime Minister's vision of accessible, high-quality healthcare for all citizens.

Cultural Tribute Konark Wheel Replicas Unveiled at Amrit Udyan

Four sandstone replicas of the iconic Konark wheel have been installed at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre and Amrit Udyan, according to an official statement released. This initiative aims to highlight and promote India's rich cultural heritage, providing visitors with a deeper appreciation of the country's historical artistry and craftsmanship.

India Rolls Out Its First Made-In-India C295 Aircraft by September 2026

India is set to mark a significant milestone in its aerospace industry with the rollout of the first locally assembled C295 military transport aircraft from the Vadodara facility in September 2026. This initiative, part of the "Make in India" campaign, represents a robust collaboration between Airbus and Tata Advanced Systems. The facility was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, highlighting the deepening defense ties between India and Spain.

Ayushman Bharat: Free Health Coverage for Seniors 70+

In a significant expansion of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Ayushman Vaya Vandana Card on October 29, 2024, providing free healthcare coverage to all senior citizens aged 70 and above, irrespective of income. This extension, rolled out on Ayurveda Day at the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) in New Delhi, enables seniors to avail free treatment worth up to ₹5 lakh annually at AB PMJAY empaneled hospitals. The initiative, however, excludes seniors in Delhi and West Bengal due to non-implementation by these state governments.

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International News

Nepal Appoints Prakash Man Singh Raut as Chief Justice

Nepal's President Ramchandra Paudel appointed Prakash Man Singh Raut as the new Chief Justice of the country. Paudel administered the oath of office and secrecy to Chief Justice Raut at a special ceremony organized at Sheetal Niwas, the President's Office.

End of an Era: Singapore Bids Farewell to Horse Racing After 181 Years

After 181 years of horse racing, Singapore hosted its final race day at the Singapore Turf Club on Saturday, as the site prepares to be repurposed for new housing developments. This decision, influenced by the growing population surpassing six million, marks a significant shift in the city-state's approach to land use, prioritizing housing over recreational activities.

India and Maldives Boost Ties with \$750 Million Currency Swap Deal

India has extended significant financial aid to the Maldives by signing a \$750 million currency swap agreement to ease the country's foreign exchange crisis. This includes a \$400 million swap and an additional ₹3,000 crore (\$357 million) under the SAARC Currency Swap Framework, available until 2027. The agreement was sealed during a meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu, who is on a five-day visit to India. Both leaders discussed key economic and security collaborations, adopting a "vision statement" that reinforces their partnership.

India-Maldives Ties Strengthened: RuPay Card Launch and Airport Upgrade

The recent inauguration of a new runway at Hanimadhoo International Airport and the launch of the RuPay card in the Maldives signify a pivotal moment in the evolving relationship between India and the Maldives. Conducted through a virtual ceremony, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu marked these developments as essential steps to enhance economic ties and boost tourism cooperation.

Unified Cross-Border Payments: UPI and AANI Link-Up

Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal has informed that the Indian and UAE governments are working on interlinking the UPI of India and the AANI of UAE. It will facilitate seamless cross-border transactions between two countries. This will benefit over 3 million Indians residing in the UAE enabling them to use the power of UPI and AANI.

Hurricane Milton Approaches: Residents Evacuate Tampa Bay Area

As Hurricane Milton threatens the Florida coast, residents of the Tampa Bay region are evacuating in droves, fearing a potentially catastrophic storm. With preparations underway to safeguard against dangerous storm surges, severe winds, and possible tornadoes, officials are urging residents to evacuate while they still can. Craig Fugate, former FEMA director, emphasized the urgency: "Today's the last day to get ready." Meanwhile, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis announced the deployment of over 300 dump trucks to clear debris from Hurricane Helene, highlighting the ongoing challenges the state faces.

Protests Erupt in Pakistan Following 40% Tax Hike Under IMF Bailout

Pakistan is witnessing widespread protests after the government raised taxes by 40% as part of a \$7 billion bailout deal with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). This move, aimed at stabilizing a faltering economy plagued by high inflation and depleted foreign reserves, has pushed many citizens to the brink, exacerbating an already critical cost of living crisis. As basic necessities become increasingly unaffordable, the population's patience wears thin, posing a significant challenge for Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's coalition government.

Bangladesh Forms Nine-Member Constitution Reform Commission

Bangladesh's interim government has established a nine-member Constitution Reform Commission, headed by Bangladeshi-American professor Ali Riaz, to review and propose reforms within 90 days. The commission, formed after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina resigned, aims to create a

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more representative and democratic framework. Members include professors, legal experts, and student representatives, with student Mahfuj Alam serving as special assistant to Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus. The commission is part of broader reforms announced by Yunus, which include commissions for judiciary, police, electoral system, public administration, and anti-corruption.

Tunisia's President Kais Saied Secured Second Five-Year Term

President Kais Saied has secured a second five-year term as Tunisia's leader in an election marked by both overwhelming numbers and significant concerns. The Independent High Authority for Elections of Tunisia (ISIE) announced on October 7, 2024, that Saied had won a staggering 90.7 percent of the votes cast, a figure that has raised eyebrows among democratic observers worldwide.

China's 'Anaconda Strategy' Tightens Grip on Taiwan

Beijing is systematically increasing pressure on Taiwan through a multifaceted strategy that military officials describe as the "Anaconda Strategy," aimed at compelling Taipei to accept reunification as inevitable. Although the situation around Taiwan has been relatively stable compared to global conflicts like those in Ukraine, this calm may be deceptive. Chinese military activities are intensifying, with a marked increase in air and naval incursions near Taiwan, raising concerns about a potential blockade or cyber warfare aimed at crippling Taiwan's economy and communications.

Young Sherpa Conquers World's Tallest Mountains at 18

An 18-year-old Nepali mountaineer, Nima Rinji Sherpa, made history on Wednesday by becoming the youngest person to summit all 14 of the world's 8,000-meter (26,246-foot) peaks. His remarkable achievement was sealed after successfully reaching the summit of Tibet's 26,335-foot Shisha Pangma.

India Joins 44th Codex Nutrition Committee Meeting

India participated in the 44th session of the Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU) held in Dresden, Germany from October 2 to October 6, 2024. As a key contributor, India made pivotal interventions on significant agenda items.

UNGA Elects 18 New Members to Human Rights Council for 2025-2027 Term

The UN General Assembly (UNGA) has elected 18 new members to the 47-member Human Rights Council for the 2025-2027 term. This decision was made through a secret ballot held recently, with countries like Benin, Bolivia, Colombia, Cyprus, Qatar, and Thailand among the newly elected. The newly elected members will begin their three-

year terms on January 1, 2025. The Human Rights Council, based in Geneva, plays a crucial role in promoting and protecting human rights globally. The elections reflect a commitment to staggered terms, ensuring continuity within the Council's composition.

President Murmu's Historic African Visit: Strengthening Ties

President Droupadi Murmu is set to embark on a significant state visit to Algeria, Mauritania, and Malawi from October 13 to 19, 2024. This marks the first-ever visit by an Indian head of state to these three African nations, highlighting India's commitment to enhancing its partnerships on the continent. The visit follows a year after the African Union became a permanent member of the G20 during India's presidency, reinforcing India's strategic engagement with Africa.

Nicaragua Cuts Diplomatic Ties with Israel Amid Ongoing Conflict

Nicaragua has officially severed diplomatic relations with Israel, a move announced by Vice President Rosario Murillo following a congressional resolution. This decision aligns with Nicaragua's leftist government, led by President Daniel Ortega, which has condemned Israel's actions in the ongoing Gaza conflict and labeled its government as "fascist and genocidal." While the announcement is largely symbolic, as there are minimal existing relations between the two nations, it underscores a broader trend in Latin America where countries with leftist ideologies are increasingly showing solidarity with the Palestinian cause.

India Climbs to No. 2 in Supplying Russia with Restricted Tech

India has surged to become the second-biggest supplier of restricted critical technologies to Russia, US and European officials said, highlighting the challenge in efforts to choke off exports fueling President Vladimir Putin's war machine.

World Health Organization Obtains \$1 Billion Funding for Upcoming Years

The World Health Organization secured \$1 billion in pledges during a fundraising event in Berlin, marking a significant initiative to reform its funding model and enhance its ability to address global health emergencies.

Abu Dhabi Crowned World's Richest City in Sovereign Wealth Funds

As of October 2024, Abu Dhabi has been recognized as the richest city globally regarding sovereign wealth funds, boasting an impressive \$1.7 trillion in capital. This significant achievement highlights the city's financial prowess and strategic investments.

India Delivers Haemodialysis Machines to PNG, Supplies Aid to Lebanon

India has fulfilled a significant commitment made during the third Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC III) Summit by sending its first consignment of 12 Haemodialysis machines to Papua New Guinea (PNG). Also in response to rising tensions and ongoing conflict in southern Lebanon, India has dispatched the first tranche of a 33-ton consignment of medical supplies as part of a humanitarian effort to support Lebanon.

India and Colombia Sign Audio-Visual Co-Production Agreement

India and Colombia have signed an Audio-Visual Co-Production Agreement on October 15, 2024, to enhance collaboration in the film industries of both nations. This agreement, signed by Dr. L. Murugan, India's Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting, and Jorge Enrique Rojas Rodriguez, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Colombia, marks a significant step in deepening cultural ties and cooperation across various sectors. The partnership aims to pool creative and technical resources, enabling filmmakers from both countries to collaborate on film projects, thereby expanding their markets and promoting goodwill.

President Murmu Awarded Honorary Doctorate in Algeria

President Droupadi Murmu, on her three-nation tour, received an Honorary Doctorate in Political Science from Sidi Abdellah Science and Technology Pole University in Algiers on October 14. Expressing her gratitude, she stated, "It is indeed a humbling experience for me to be honoured with the Honorary Doctorate. This is an honour for my country more than for me as an individual." She underscored the importance of education in reducing inequalities and urged Algerian students to engage with India's educational initiatives.

Israel Kills Hamas Chief Yahya Sinwar

On the evening of October 17, 2024, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) made a significant announcement: Yahya Sinwar, the head of Hamas in Gaza, was killed during a targeted ground operation in Rafah, located in southern Gaza. Sinwar, one of the most feared and influential leaders of Hamas, was among three high-ranking Hamas militants killed during this mission. His identity was confirmed using DNA testing, which relied on samples obtained from his previous imprisonment in Israel.

Ex-RAW Official Vikas Yadav Wanted by FBI in Plot to Murder Khalistani Terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun

The US Justice Department has charged former Indian intelligence officer Vikash Yadav with orchestrating a plot to

assassinate Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, a Khalistani terrorist residing in New York. Yadav, along with co-conspirator Nikhil Gupta, hired an individual to execute the killing for \$100,000 in 2023, but the assassin turned out to be an FBI informant.

Indo-Turkiye Friendship Association Launched in Hyderabad

In a significant move to strengthen bilateral ties, the Indo-Turkiye Friendship Association (ITFA) was inaugurated in Hyderabad on October 16, 2024. The initiative seeks to enhance cooperation in key areas such as economy and trade, culture and tourism, science and technology, and education between India and Turkiye. This launch is particularly poignant as both regions commemorate notable historical milestones—300 years since the Nizams of the Asaf Jah dynasty in Hyderabad and a century since the abolition of the Ottoman Sultanate and Caliphate.

Om Birla Addresses the 149th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly in Geneva

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla recently addressed the 149th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) held from October 13 to 17, 2024, at the IPU headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. During his address, Birla emphasized the critical need for multilateralism in today's world, advocating for dialogue and cooperation among parliaments in the realms of science, technology, and innovation for the common good.

Timeline of India-Canada Tensions: A Diplomatic Downturn

Tensions between India and Canada have escalated significantly, particularly following the murder of Sikh separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in June 2023. This incident triggered a series of diplomatic retaliations, including the expulsion of Indian diplomats by Canada and subsequent expulsions by India. The conflict has deep roots, dating back to controversies involving Sikh separatism and criticisms exchanged over various issues, including farmer protests in India. Below is a timeline detailing key events that have contributed to the strained relations.

Subianto Announces Indonesia's Largest-Ever Cabinet

Newly inaugurated President Prabowo Subianto has unveiled Indonesia's largest-ever Cabinet, comprising 109 members. Named the "Red and White Cabinet" after Indonesia's flag, this lineup reflects his vision of a strong, unified government. Subianto, who was sworn in on Sunday, seeks to unite the nation's multicultural fabric and diverse political interests. Analysts, however, have noted that the expanded Cabinet might overburden the bureaucracy.

India Doubles Grant to Enhance Education in Sri Lanka's Plantation Sector

India has increased its grant for upgrading schools in Sri Lanka's plantation areas, raising its total commitment to Rs. 600 million (INR 172.25 million). This initiative is aimed at improving educational infrastructure in the Indian-origin Tamil community, with the focus on nine schools across Central, Uva, Sabaragamuwa, and Southern Provinces. The move strengthens India-Sri Lanka bilateral ties in education, continuing the legacy of development cooperation initiated in previous years.

Hurricane Oscar Hits Cuba, Triggers Protests Amid Economic Crisis

Hurricane Oscar made landfall in the Bahamas before crossing Cuba's eastern coast, leaving at least six dead and causing widespread destruction. The storm triggered power outages that halted daily activities, prompting protests in neighborhoods like Santos Suárez and central Havana. Residents banged pots and pans, while some blocked streets in protest over water shortages. The blackout followed energy issues that have persisted since Hurricane Ian in 2022.

Pakistan Limits Chief Justice's Term to Three Years

On October 21, Pakistan enacted the Constitution (26th Amendment) Act, 2024, limiting the Chief Justice's tenure to three years and establishing a special commission for appointing the top judge from three senior-most Supreme Court judges. The amendment received President Asif Ali Zardari's assent after being passed by both Houses of Parliament amid strong opposition from the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, led by former Prime Minister Imran Khan. This legislation prevents Justice Masoor Ali Shah from succeeding current Chief Justice Qazi Faez Isa, who is set to retire on October 25.

NCGG Completes 34th Training for Maldivian Civil Servants, Boosting Indo-Maldivian Ties

The National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) has successfully concluded its 34th Capacity Building Programme (CBP) for Maldivian civil servants in New Delhi. Held from October 14–25, 2024, this two-week program, organized in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), represents the second initiative under a renewed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar and Maldives' Foreign Minister Mr. Moosa Zameer. The MoU, effective from 2024 to 2029, aims to train 1,000 Maldivian civil servants, reinforcing India's commitment to enhancing governance across the Maldives.

US, Japan, and South Korea Collaborate on India's Digital Infrastructure

The United States, Japan, and South Korea have jointly announced the Digital Infrastructure Growth Initiative for India (DiGi Framework), marking a new chapter in digital infrastructure support for India. The DiGi Framework, formalized on October 25, 2024, was signed by US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), and Korea Eximbank. It targets key technological advancements in India, including 5G, Open RAN, submarine cables, optical fiber networks, data centers, smart cities, e-commerce, AI, and quantum technology.

Salt Typhoon: Chinese Espionage Group Targets Trump and Vance in 2024 U.S. Election

A cyber-espionage operation allegedly orchestrated by a Chinese hacking group known as "Salt Typhoon" has reportedly targeted the phone data of former President Donald Trump, his running mate JD Vance, and various Democratic figures, including staff from Vice President Kamala Harris's campaign. Sources indicate that investigators are assessing whether the hackers accessed or monitored any communications data through a sophisticated breach of telecom systems. The Trump campaign was informed about the breach earlier this week, highlighting the serious implications for national security amid a contentious election season.

Brazil Opts Out of China's Belt and Road Initiative

In a significant diplomatic decision, Brazil has chosen not to join China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), becoming the second member of the BRICS bloc, after India, to opt out of Beijing's ambitious multi-billion-dollar infrastructure project. The move has sparked widespread interest and debate, as it reflects Brazil's cautious stance on joining China's influential global initiative. The decision, led by President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and influenced by Celso Amorim, his special presidential adviser for international affairs, signals Brazil's intent to pursue alternative forms of collaboration with China, without becoming bound by the BRI's framework.

Indian Railways Renews MoU with Switzerland for Advanced Infrastructure Modernization

Indian Railways has renewed its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Switzerland's Federal Department of the Environment, Transport, Energy and Communications (DETEC) to deepen technical collaboration, targeting infrastructure modernization and operational efficiency. Signed via video conferencing, this agreement marks the continuation of a partnership initiated in 2017, focusing on areas critical to railway technology enhancement.

The MoU renewal received backing from India's Ministry of Railways and Ministry of External Affairs, with Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw highlighting the alignment with India's modernization goals.

World's First Green Energy Island Sails Into Cost Storm

In the heart of the North Sea, an ambitious green energy project is taking shape. Named after Belgium's Princess Elisabeth, this groundbreaking energy island represents a bold step towards renewable energy transformation. At a bustling shipyard along the North Sea coast, workers are constructing massive concrete structures that will form the foundation of this world-first initiative.

State News

Vishnu Deo Sai: 'Jal-Jagar' Initiative Redefines Water Conservation

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai inaugurated the Jal-Jagar Mahotsav at the Ravishankar Reservoir in Gangrel Dam, Dhamtari, marking a significant milestone in the state's water conservation initiatives. This event highlights the district administration's innovative strategies to address groundwater depletion, gaining recognition for its proactive approach.

Kaimur Approved as Bihar's Second Tiger Reserve

The central government has given its in-principle approval for Bihar's second tiger reserve in Kaimur district. This decision follows a proposal from the Bihar government to develop the Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary (KWLS) into a tiger reserve. Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR) in West Champaran was the only tiger reserve in Bihar until now.

Wayanad Gets Advanced X-Band Radar

After devastating floods and landslides claimed over 200 lives in Kerala's Wayanad district in July 2024, the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences took a crucial step to bolster disaster preparedness by approving the installation of an X-band radar in the region. The torrential rains, which triggered a massive landslide in the valley above Punchirimattom near the Mundakkai area, led to catastrophic debris flows, intensifying the destruction.

Maharashtra Government Renames Skills University After Ratan Tata

In a significant tribute to the late industrialist Ratan Tata, the Maharashtra government announced on October 14, 2024, that the Maharashtra State Skills Development University will be renamed the "Padma Vibhushan Ratan Tata Skills University." This decision honors Tata's substantial contributions to education, skill development, and social causes across India. Tata, who passed away on October 9,

was revered not only for his business acumen but also for his philanthropic efforts. His body was placed for public homage at the National Centre of Performing Arts (NCPA), where he was honored with full state rites.

Caste Survey Begins in Telangana, Third in India

Telangana becomes the third state to initiate a caste-based headcount, following Andhra Pradesh and Bihar. The Telangana government has initiated the process of a comprehensive household caste survey in the state aimed at targeted and equitable resource distribution among all communities.

Kaziranga Named India's Second Largest Butterfly Diversity Hub

Kaziranga National Park, renowned for its iconic one-horned rhinoceros, has now gained recognition as India's second-largest butterfly diversity hub. Following Namdapha National Park in Arunachal Pradesh, Kaziranga is home to an impressive 446 butterfly species. This newfound distinction highlights the park's rich biodiversity.

Nayab Saini Sworn in as Haryana CM, BJP Wins Third Term

Nayab Singh Saini was sworn in as Haryana's Chief Minister for the second time, marking BJP's third consecutive term in power in the state. Governor Bandaru Dattatreya administered the oath at a ceremony attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Ministers, and NDA leaders. Saini's council of 13 ministers also took the oath. Saini, a Dalit leader from Kurukshetra, led the BJP to victory in the October 5 Assembly elections, securing 48 seats in the 90-member house. Saini's rise to the top post continues from his earlier roles in the BJP, including as Haryana BJP chief.

Maharishi Valmiki's Name for All ST Schools, Raichur University: CM Siddaramaiah

On the occasion of Valmiki Jayanti, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced that all Scheduled Tribe (ST) residential schools in the state and Raichur University will be named after Maharishi Valmiki. The announcement was made during a programme organized by the Department of Backward Classes Welfare to celebrate the contributions of Valmiki.

India's First Self-Powered Indoor Air Quality Monitor Launched at Thiruvananthapuram Airport

Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh, has inaugurated Pavana Chitra, India's first self-powered indoor air quality monitoring facility, located at Thiruvananthapuram International Airport. This innovative facility is powered by indigenous indoor solar cells developed by the CSIR-NIIST, utilizing locally available materials.

Sanskrit to Become Mandatory in 416 Uttarakhand Madrasas

The Uttarakhand Madrasa Education Board (UMEB) has proposed making Sanskrit a compulsory subject in 416 madrasas across the state. This initiative aims to enhance the educational curriculum and support the academic growth of students. The board plans to formalize this change by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the state's Sanskrit department.

'Mera Hou Chongba' A Celebration of Unity in Manipur

The "Mera Hou Chongba" festival was celebrated in Manipur amidst ongoing ethnic tensions between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities. This annual festival serves as a significant cultural event aimed at reinforcing the bonds of brotherhood and harmony among the indigenous communities of the state, highlighting the rich cultural tapestry of Manipur.

129 Wetlands to Be Revived in Assam to Alleviate Flood Risks

To address the immediate skill gaps in Andhra Pradesh, Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, and Minister of State for the Ministry of Education, Government of India, inaugurated a new National Skill Training Institute (NSTI) extension center at the Andhra Medical Tech Zone (AMTZ) campus in Visakhapatnam and engaged with the candidates at the center.

Kerala Assembly Passes Resolution Against Waqf Amendment Bill

The Kerala Assembly unanimously passed a resolution urging the BJP-led central government to withdraw the Waqf (Amendment) Bill 2024, which was introduced in the Lok Sabha in August and subsequently referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC). The state's lawmakers expressed concerns over the bill, asserting that it could undermine the autonomy of Waqf boards and the management of Waqf properties.

Karnataka Eyes Top Spot as Asia's Animation and Gaming Powerhouse

During a special address at the second edition of the Indian Gaming Convention (IGC), Shri Priyank Kharge, Karnataka's Minister of Information Technology and Biotechnology, expressed the state's ambition to lead the gaming and animation industry. Kharge stated, "Karnataka has all that is needed to ensure that we become the gaming and animation capital of not only this country but also of Asia."

Foundation Stone Laid for Naval Communication Station in Telangana

On October 15, 2024, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh laid the foundation stone for a new Very Low Frequency (VLF) Station of the Indian Navy at Damagundam Reserve Forest,

Vikarabad, Telangana. Covering 2,900 acres and costing Rs 3,200 crore, this facility aims to enhance the Navy's communication capabilities, facilitating secure and reliable long-distance transmission essential for effective command and control in complex maritime environments.

Haryana Becomes First State to Implement Dalit Sub-Quotas

In a landmark move, Haryana has become the first state to implement sub-quotas for the Dalit community by subclassifying the Scheduled Castes (SCs). The decision follows the Supreme Court's August 2023 ruling, granting states the power to divide SCs and STs for preferential reservations. Haryana's move, backed by a state commission's recommendations, is aimed at addressing the underrepresentation of the "Deprived Scheduled Castes" (DSC), who are more marginalized in employment sectors compared to "Other Scheduled Castes" (OSC). The state has divided the SC community into two groups: DSC, which includes 36 castes like Balmikis and Dhanaks, and OSC, which includes castes such as Chamars and Jatavs.

Madhya Pradesh Introduces 'Pink Alarms' for Enhanced Women's Safety at Datia Hospital

In a pioneering move aimed at enhancing the safety of women in healthcare settings, Madhya Pradesh has installed 'pink alarms' at the government-run district hospital and medical college in Datia. This initiative addresses growing concerns about the safety of female staff in public hospitals, a pressing issue that gained heightened attention following the tragic rape and murder of a trainee doctor at RG Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

New Citizen Sentinel App Unveiled in Kerala for Traffic Monitoring

In a significant move to enhance traffic law enforcement, Kerala's Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) has launched the Citizen Sentinel mobile application, empowering citizens to actively participate in ensuring road safety. The app allows users to report traffic violations in real time by capturing photos or videos of infractions and uploading them for review by enforcement officials.

Odisha Govt Increases Casual Leave for Women Employees

In a significant move, the Odisha government has announced an increase in the casual leave (CL) entitlement for women employees, granting an additional 12 days annually, effective immediately. This brings their total CL to 27 days, compared to 15 days for male employees. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi directed the increase, following Deputy CM Pravati Parida's earlier Independence Day announcement of one paid menstrual leave per month for women staff.

Shillong Tops Travel Destinations for Indian Travellers in 2025

Shillong has emerged as the most popular destination for Indian travellers in 2025, as revealed by Skyscanner's "Travel Trends Report" released on Wednesday. Meghalaya's capital topped the list, surpassing Baku (Azerbaijan) and Langkawi (Malaysia), showing a strong interest among Indians for unique and immersive experiences. The report indicates that 66% of Indians plan to travel more in the coming year.

Delhi Government Establishes Special Courts for People with Disabilities

In a significant move towards inclusivity, the Delhi government, led by Chief Minister Atishi, has approved the establishment of special courts dedicated to people with disabilities. This initiative aims to provide fair and swift justice by designing court environments that cater specifically to the needs of individuals with disabilities. Atishi described this as a "historic step" that underscores the government's commitment to ensuring equitable judicial processes for all citizens.

Bihar CM Unveils Rs 7,160 Cr for Panchayat Development

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for a range of development projects totaling Rs 7,160 crore. Among these initiatives are 2,615 panchayat government buildings spread across various blocks in the state and a new panchayat resource center in Sonapur, Saran district.

ADB Approves \$434M Loan for 500 MW Solar Plant in Assam

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has sanctioned a USD 434.25 million loan to support Assam's renewable energy ambitions by constructing a 500 MW grid-connected solar photovoltaic (PV) facility in the Karbi Anglong district. The Assam Solar Project aims to significantly enhance the state's renewable energy capacity, bolstering energy security and promoting sustainable energy development in the region.

International Gita Mahotsav 2024: A Celebration of Culture, Spirituality, and Global Unity

A Grand Cultural Event The International Gita Mahotsav will be celebrated from November 28 to December 15, 2024, in Kurukshetra, Haryana, promising a grand display of Indian heritage, spirituality, and culture. Since 2016, this event has expanded globally, spreading the message of the Bhagavad Gita and enhancing Haryana's global presence.

NTPC & Indian Army Collaborate for Sustainable Energy in Ladakh

NTPC has teamed up with the Indian Army to establish a solar hydrogen-based microgrid at Chushul, Ladakh, aimed at ensuring a stable power supply for off-grid Army locations using green hydrogen. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh laid the foundation stone for this innovative project through video conferencing. This initiative is significant in replacing existing diesel generators with a sustainable energy solution capable of providing 200 kW of power year-round, despite the region's harsh winter conditions where temperatures can drop to -30°C at an altitude of 4,400 meters.

Rajasthan Village Adopts Green Technology for Zero-Waste Goal

Aandhi, a small village located about 43 km from Jaipur in Rajasthan, is making strides towards becoming a zero-waste model through the implementation of green technology interventions. This initiative aims to transform various types of waste such as food waste, agricultural waste, wastewater, and hospital waste generated from local sources, including schools, farms, and community health centers, into valuable resources.

Economy News

RBI Monetary Policy Meeting 2024: Repo Rate Unchanged and Other Key Outcomes

The Indian rupee has shown resilience against the US dollar, settling at 83.97 due to active intervention from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Despite ongoing pressure from foreign portfolio outflows, rising crude oil prices, and a strengthening dollar index, the RBI's strategies have kept the rupee from breaching the psychologically significant 84 mark. Market experts believe that RBI's presence in various currency markets has been crucial in preventing a sharp depreciation.

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RBI Intervention Stabilizes Rupee Below 84 Against the Dollar

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Wholesale Inflation Rises to 1.84% in September, Food Prices Surge

India's wholesale price inflation (WPI) increased to 1.84% in September 2024, up from 1.31% in August, driven by a sharp rise in food prices, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. This surge was primarily due to a spike in vegetable prices, with onion, potato, and tomato costs rising by 78.8%, 78.1%, and 74.5%, respectively. The food price inflation rose to 11.53% from 3.11% in August, marking a two-year high. Despite deceleration in other categories such as fuel and manufactured products, food price inflation led the overall increase.

Dia Mirza Appointed Jury Member for ALT Environmental Film Festival 2024

Bollywood actress and environmental activist Dia Mirza has been appointed as a jury member for the All Living Things Environmental Film Festival (ALT EFF) 2024, scheduled from November 22 to December 8. The festival will showcase 72 films, including 38 India premieres, focusing on critical environmental issues like climate change and wildlife conservation. Mirza expressed her honor in participating, emphasizing the festival's role in fostering dialogue about sustainability.

S. Paramesh Assumes Office as New Director General of Indian Coast Guard

S. Paramesh officially took charge as the Director General (DG) of the Indian Coast Guard at its headquarters in New Delhi. His appointment comes following the tragic demise of his predecessor, DG Rakesh Pal, last month. Paramesh, who had been officiating as the Director General, was formally appointed by the government a day prior. Upon assuming office, he was honored with a ceremonial guard of honour.

India's First Biopolymer Facility Inaugurated in Pune

In a significant step towards positioning India as a global leader in biotechnology and sustainable solutions, Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, inaugurated India's first Demonstration Facility for Biopolymers at Jejuri in Pune in October 2024.

ShakthiSAT Mission: Empowering 12,000 Girls in Space Technology

Aerospace startup Space Kidz India has launched the ShakthiSAT mission, aiming to train 12,000 girls aged 14-18 from 108 countries in space technology, targeting a satellite launch under ISRO's Chandrayaan-4 mission in 2026. A prototype presentation will be made to Prime Minister Narendra Modi later this year or early next year. This initiative not only emphasizes skill development in the realm of space but also seeks to inspire and empower young women globally.

Global Public Debt Set to Exceed \$100 Trillion, Warns IMF

According to a report released by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the world's total public debt is poised to surpass \$100 trillion this year for the first time. The IMF warns that this figure may rise even more rapidly than previously anticipated, driven by political sentiment favoring increased spending and the growing borrowing needs associated with slow economic growth.

NIPFP Lowers India's FY25 GDP Growth Estimate to 6.9-7.1%

The National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) has revised its growth forecast for India to 6.9-7.1% for FY25, citing a notable moderation in growth during the June quarter. This slowdown is attributed to a significant contraction in net exports and reduced government consumption due to the implementation of the model code of conduct.

Mudra Loan Limit Doubled to Rs 20 Lakh: A Boost for Entrepreneurs

The government has doubled the limit of Mudra loans under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 20 lakh, introducing a new 'Tarun Plus' category. This change, announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in her July 2024 Budget speech, aims to promote entrepreneurship and support emerging business owners. The increase is designed to empower budding entrepreneurs who have successfully repaid previous loans under the existing Tarun category, furthering the government's commitment to "Funding the Unfunded".

Drop in India's Foreign Exchange Reserves to \$688.26 Billion

India's foreign exchange reserves decreased by \$2.163 billion, bringing the total to \$688.267 billion for the week ending October 18, as reported by the Reserve Bank of India. This decline follows a significant drop of \$10.746 billion in the previous week, marking one of the largest reductions in reserves in recent times.

Rankings & Reports News**Significant Income Rise for Rural Households NABARD Reports 57.6% Increase**

A recent survey by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) highlights a remarkable increase in the average monthly income of rural households, which rose by 57.6% over the past five years. The second 'All India Rural Financial Inclusion Survey (NAFIS) 2021-22' reports that the average monthly income grew from ₹8,059 in 2016-17 to ₹12,698 in 2021-22, indicating a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 9.5%.

Economic Freedom of the World: 2024 Annual Report

The Economic Freedom of the World: 2024 Annual Report evaluates the extent to which individuals in 165 jurisdictions can make their own economic choices. According to the latest data from 2022, the top three most economically free regions are Hong Kong (1st), Singapore (2nd), and Switzerland (3rd). The report indicates a global decline in economic freedom over the past three years, reversing a trend of improvement that lasted nearly two decades.

India Ranks 79th in World Justice Project's Rule of Law Index 2023

The World Justice Project (WJP) Rule of Law Index 2023 reveals that India ranks 79th out of 142 countries, reflecting a continuing decline in the rule of law globally. This year's Index shows a decline in the rule of law in 59% of the countries surveyed, marking the sixth consecutive year of global declines since 2016. Notably, India has experienced a drop in several key areas, particularly in the Fundamental Rights factor, where its score fell from 0.50 in 2022 to 0.49 in 2023. This decline is attributed to ongoing issues such as corruption, judicial inefficiency, and government overreach.

Greenpeace Report: 77% of Women Feel Unsafe on Delhi Buses After Dark

Despite the Delhi government's "Pink Ticket" scheme enabling free bus travel for women since October 2019, a recent Greenpeace report reveals that 77% of women feel unsafe on buses after dark due to poor lighting, infrequent schedules, and incidents of harassment, particularly in overcrowded buses. While the scheme has issued over 100 crore tickets and contributed to both economic savings for women and environmental benefits, safety remains a primary concern.

Business News**LIC Increases Stake in Bank of Maharashtra to 7.10% via QIP**

The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has significantly boosted its stake in Bank of Maharashtra from 4.05% to 7.10%, as disclosed in an exchange filing on

October 5, 2024. This increase follows the allotment of 25.96 crore equity shares priced at ₹57.36 each through a Qualified Institutional Placement (QIP). This strategic move reflects LIC's confidence in the bank's growth potential and is aimed at strengthening its balance sheet to support expansion plans.

Global Skincare Sensation Augustinus Bader Arrives in India Through Reliance's Tira

Reliance's beauty platform Tira announced the launch of globally luxury skincare and haircare brand Augustinus Bader for the Indian Market. Known for its scientifically advanced and award-winning formulas, Augustinus Bader products are now available exclusively on Tira.

DigiLocker Partners with UMANG App for Seamless Access to Government Services

DigiLocker, a secure cloud-based platform for document storage and verification, has integrated with the UMANG app to enhance access to various government services. This collaboration aims to simplify citizen interactions with the government, enabling users to manage multiple services through a single platform. To utilize this integration, users need to update the DigiLocker app, install the UMANG app, and access a range of services conveniently. This partnership marks a significant step in India's digital governance efforts, providing authenticated documents equivalent to originals as per regulatory standards.

HAL Becomes 14th Maharatna Company

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has been upgraded to the status of Maharatna, making it the 14th Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) to receive this prestigious classification from the Government of India. This announcement, made on October 12, enhances HAL's operational autonomy and financial capabilities, allowing it to invest up to 15% of its net worth in projects and up to ₹5,000 crore in foreign ventures without government approval. The stock price responded positively, trading at ₹4,510, reflecting a 1.42% increase.

Solex Energy Partners with SBI for Solar Project Financing

Solex Energy has partnered with the State Bank of India (SBI) to provide financing options for solar projects, targeting commercial, industrial, and institutional customers. Under this collaboration, SBI will offer loans up to ₹10 crore through its Surya Shakti Solar Finance Scheme, aiming to make solar energy more accessible and affordable in India.

India's Vaccine Regulatory System Declared Functional by WHO

India's vaccine regulatory system has been recognized as "functional" by the World Health Organization (WHO) following an evaluation from September 16-20, 2024. The WHO assessment team confirmed that India meets global

standards for ensuring vaccine safety, quality, and efficacy. This recognition reaffirms India's significant role in the global pharmaceutical industry, especially in vaccine production, while showcasing its regulatory strength through Maturity Level 3 certification in the WHO Global Benchmarking Tool.

SECL Becomes First Coal Company to Open Four AMRIT Pharmacies

South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL), a Chhattisgarh-based subsidiary of Coal India, has opened its fourth AMRIT (Affordable Medicines and Reliable Implants for Treatment) Pharmacy, making it the first coal company to do so. This 216th AMRIT pharmacy, located at SECL's Health Centre in Indira Vihar Colony, Bilaspur, will provide generic and life-saving medicines at highly subsidized rates, benefiting SECL employees, the general public, and underserved tribal and rural communities. This initiative aligns with the government's Special Campaign 4.0 to promote inclusivity and improve access to healthcare.

Adar Poonawalla Acquires 50% Stake in Karan Johar's Dharma Productions

In a significant development within the Indian entertainment industry, Adar Poonawalla, CEO of the Serum Institute of India, has entered into a binding agreement to acquire a 50% stake in Karan Johar's renowned production house, Dharma Productions, and its digital arm, Dharmatic Entertainment. The deal, valued at ₹1,000 crore, represents a landmark partnership between two major entities from vastly different industries: cinema and pharmaceuticals.

Reliance and Nvidia Partner to Build AI Infrastructure in India

Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries has teamed up with US chipmaker Nvidia to establish AI infrastructure in India, announced during the Nvidia AI Summit 2024 in Mumbai. This collaboration aims to position India as a leading intelligence market, with plans to deploy Nvidia's GB 200 supercomputer technology for large-scale AI capabilities. The initiative emphasizes India's vast IT talent, digital data, and a youthful population, aligning with Prime Minister Modi's vision of self-sufficiency in AI development.

Hindalco Industries Ltd. Joins the International Copper Association (ICA) as Newest Member

The International Copper Association (ICA) is a prominent global industry body that brings together major copper producers worldwide. Representing 50% of the world's copper production, ICA is a not-for-profit trade association comprising 33 member organizations spanning six continents. With its headquarters in Washington, D.C., the ICA has operational footprints across the United States, Europe, Asia, and Latin America, advocating sustainable and responsible copper production practices.

IIM Shillong and SIDBI Collaborate to Foster Northeast Entrepreneurship

In a significant step to bolster entrepreneurship in India's Northeast, the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Shillong has partnered with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI). Through its IIM Shillong Foundation for Incubation and Enterprise (IIMSFIIE), this collaboration introduces a structured entrepreneurship training and incubation programme.

Nvidia Overtakes Apple A New Leader in Market Value

Nvidia has officially dethroned Apple as the world's most valuable company, achieving this milestone on Friday after a remarkable surge in its stock price driven by soaring demand for its cutting-edge supercomputing AI chips. At one point, Nvidia's market value soared to an impressive \$3.53 trillion, just edging out Apple, which was valued at \$3.52 trillion, according to data from LSEG.

Airbus Launches State-of-the-Art Headquarters and Training Centre in India

Airbus has inaugurated its new India and South Asia Headquarters and Training Centre, marking a significant investment in the Indian aerospace sector. Located in the National Capital Region (NCR), this facility is poised to play a key role in training pilots and technicians and expanding Airbus's industrial footprint in India. The centre is equipped with four A320 simulators and boasts a capacity to train up to 800 pilots and 200 technicians annually.

EIB Funds ₹2,800 Cr for Bengaluru Suburban Railway to Enhance Urban Mobility

The European Investment Bank (EIB Global) has announced a significant loan of €300 million (approximately ₹2,800 crore) for the construction of a new suburban railway network in Bengaluru. This initiative aims to build four dedicated rail corridors covering 149 km, with plans for 58 stations and two depots. EIB Vice-President Nicola Beer highlighted that this project will facilitate a shift from road to rail, effectively tackling issues like congestion, air pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions while enhancing affordable mobility for residents.

GAIL and VERBIO India Partner to Advance Agricultural Residue-based CBG Projects

GAIL (India) Limited and VERBIO India have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly develop agricultural residue-based compressed biogas (CBG) projects in India. This collaboration aims to turn agricultural waste into renewable energy, aligning with India's climate objectives and enhancing rural incomes. The MoU was signed by GAIL's Executive Director, Sumit Kishore, and VERBIO's Managing Director, Ashish Kumar, with the event attended by Sandeep Kumar Gupta, C&MD of GAIL, and Claus Sauter, Founder/CEO of VERBIO.

Nita Ambani Unveils Free Healthcare for 1 Lakh Women & Children

Celebrating the 10th anniversary of Sir H. N. Reliance Foundation Hospital, Nita M. Ambani, Founder and Chairperson of Reliance Foundation, introduced the New Health Seva Plan, a significant initiative providing free health screenings and treatments to over 1,00,000 women and children from underserved communities.

IndusInd Bank and Tata Power: Financing Solar for MSEs

IndusInd Bank has partnered with Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL) to provide collateral-free solar financing solutions for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) in India. This strategic alliance aims to facilitate easy access to solar energy financing, promoting sustainability and reducing operational costs for MSEs. The loans, which range from ₹10 lakhs to ₹2 crores, are subject to the bank's credit approval, require a 20% margin, and feature competitive interest rates with repayment terms of up to seven years.

Jio Financial Services Launches SmartGold for Convenient Digital Gold Investments

Jio Financial Services Limited (JFSL) has introduced SmartGold, a digital gold investment platform, allowing customers to invest in 24-karat physical gold through the JioFinance app. This offering aligns with the company's broader strategy to enhance financial services accessibility during the auspicious Dhanteras season. Customers can start investing with a minimum of just ₹10, ensuring a flexible and secure investment experience. The underlying gold will be stored in insured vaults, allowing customers to redeem their digital gold for cash or physical gold coins and jewelry at any time.

Agreement News

Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar Appointed as Chairperson of NCW

Smt. Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar has been appointed as the new Chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW), making her the 9th individual to hold this esteemed position. The announcement was made by the Narendra Modi government, highlighting a commitment to advancing women's rights and issues in India.

Abhyuday Jindal Named New President of Indian Chamber of Commerce

The Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), a prominent national business association, has appointed Abhyuday Jindal, Managing Director of Jindal Stainless Limited, as its new president. The announcement was made during ICC's annual plenary session held in New Delhi, where Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal served as the chief guest.

India-Pakistan Extend Kartarpur Corridor Agreement for Five Years

In a significant diplomatic development, India and Pakistan have agreed to renew their pact on the Kartarpur Sahib Corridor for an additional five years, just days after External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's visit to Islamabad, where he met with Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Deputy Prime Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar.

EC Signs Electoral Cooperation Pact with Uzbekistan

The Election Commission of India signed an agreement for electoral cooperation with Uzbekistan's central poll body. This agreement was formalized during Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar's visit to Tashkent, where he is serving as an international observer for the upcoming elections scheduled for October 27.

Appointment News

India Announces Key Ambassadorial Appointments

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has announced a significant diplomatic appointment with Sanjeev Kumar Singla being named as India's next Ambassador to France. This strategic move represents an important shift in India's diplomatic corps and brings a wealth of experience to one of India's crucial European partnerships.

BCCI Appointment of New Anti-Corruption Unit Chief

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has made a significant move in its fight against corruption by appointing retired IPS officer Sharad Kumar as the new chief of its Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU). This strategic appointment brings decades of law enforcement experience to cricket administration.

Vipin Kumar Assumes Role as Chairman of Airports Authority of India

Vipin Kumar, a 1996-batch IAS officer from the Bihar cadre, has officially taken charge as the Chairman of the Airports Authority of India (AAI). Before this new role, he served as the Additional Secretary in the Department of School Education & Literacy under the Ministry of Education, Government of India.

Bharti Airtel Announces Shashwat Sharma as New CEO

In a significant restructuring move, Bharti Airtel has appointed Shashwat Sharma as the new Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), effective January 1, 2026. This decision is part of a structured succession plan, allowing the incumbent MD and CEO, Gopal Vittal, to transition into the role of Executive Vice Chairman. This change comes after Vittal's 12-year tenure, during which Airtel expanded its revenue market share from 30% to 40% and increased its market capitalization fivefold.

Air Marshal SP Dharkar Steps into Vice Chief of Air Staff Position

Air Marshal SP Dharkar, a distinguished fighter pilot with an impressive 3,600 hours of flying experience, took over as the Vice Chief of the Air Staff. His extensive expertise in aviation and leadership positions within the Indian Air Force is expected to bolster the operational readiness and strategic capabilities of the service.

Manish Tiwary Appointed as Managing Director of Nestlé India Limited

In a significant leadership transition, Manish Tiwary, former head of Amazon India, has been appointed as the Managing Director of Nestlé India Limited. His tenure will begin on 1st August 2025, following the retirement of the company's current Chairman and Managing Director, Suresh Narayanan, who will step down on 31st July 2025. This leadership change marks an important phase for Nestlé India as it moves forward under the guidance of a seasoned business leader with nearly three decades of experience in the consumer goods and e-commerce sectors.

Noel Tata a New Leader of Tata Group's Charitable Efforts

The Tata Trusts, holding a significant 66% ownership of Tata Sons, wields immense influence over the strategic, investment, and philanthropic directions of one of India's largest conglomerates. Recently, Noel Tata was appointed chairman of this philanthropic arm, following the death of his half-brother, Ratan Tata.

L Satya Srinivas Appointed CEO of GeM Portal

The Indian government has appointed L Satya Srinivas, currently serving as Additional Secretary in the Department of Commerce, as the additional CEO of the Government e Marketplace (GeM). This decision follows the recent appointment of the previous CEO, P K Singh, as secretary of the renewable energy ministry. Srinivas, an officer from the 1991 batch of the Indian Revenue Service (Customs & Indirect Taxes), will take on this crucial role, overseeing online procurement processes for all central government ministries and departments. The GeM portal, launched on August 9, 2016, aims to streamline and enhance the public procurement process.

Amit Kumar Appointed Next CMD of AI Assets Holding Limited

Amit Kumar has been selected by the Public Enterprise Selection Board (PESB) for the role of Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of AI Assets Holding Limited (AIAHL), a Schedule 'B' Public Sector Undertaking (PSU). Currently serving as the Executive Director and Asset Manager at ONGC, Kumar was chosen from seven candidates. His appointment awaits necessary clearances and approval from

the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). This selection highlights ongoing efforts to fill key leadership positions within PSUs, as evidenced by the PESB's recent advertisements for several critical vacancies across various organizations.

Azeema Takes Charge as Maldives Ambassador to India

A week after Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu's first official visit to India following his election last year, which was marked by an "India out" policy, senior diplomat Aishath Azeema is set to take over as the Maldives' ambassador to India, replacing Ibrahim Shaheeb. This move signals the island nation's intent to restore and strengthen ties with one of its closest bilateral partners.

Praveen Vashista to Take Over as Special Secretary, Internal Security

Senior IPS officer Praveen Vashista has been appointed as the new Special Secretary for Internal Security. This key appointment underscores the government's focus on strengthening internal security in the country.

Acko Appoints Sandip Goenka as CEO of ACKO Life

Acko has appointed Sandip Goenka as the CEO of its newly launched life insurance division, ACKO Life. As a founding member of the division, Sandip has been pivotal in establishing the D2C life insurance business. With over two decades of experience in life, health, general insurance, and consulting, he brings significant expertise to drive growth and operational efficiency. Sandip's previous roles include CFO at Exide Life Insurance and leadership positions at TATA AIA and EY. His knowledge in actuarial sciences, M&As, and cross-cultural business management will be instrumental in Acko Life's expansion.

Vikram Dev Dutt Takes Charge as Coal Secretary

Vikram Dev Dutt, a 1993-batch IAS officer from the AGMUT cadre, has officially assumed the role of Coal Secretary. Previously serving as the Director General of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Dutt takes over from VL Kantha Rao, who held the additional charge after Amrit Lal Meena was appointed as the Chief Secretary of Bihar. With India's power demand projected to grow by 6-7% annually, Dutt faces the significant challenge of enhancing coal production to meet the rising needs of the Power and Industrial sectors.

ECI Appoints Ajay Kumar Singh as Jharkhand's New DGP Ahead of Elections

Ajay Kumar Singh, a senior IPS officer, has been appointed as the new Director General of Police (DGP) for Jharkhand. His selection comes from a panel of three IPS officers recommended by the State Government, following the Election Commission's order for the immediate removal of acting DGP Anurag Gupta.

Prabhakar Raghavan, IIT-Madras Alumnus Appointed as Google's Chief Technologist

Prabhakar Raghavan, an alumnus of the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-Madras), has been appointed as Google's Chief Technologist. He was previously the Senior Vice President at Google, responsible for overseeing a broad spectrum of products including Google Search, Assistant, Geo, Ads, Commerce, and Payments. His new role marks a significant shift in Google's leadership, especially as the company undergoes core business restructuring.

JP Morgan Chase India Appoints Pranav Chawda as New CEO

Pranav Chawda has been appointed as the new chief executive officer (CEO) of JP Morgan Chase India for a term of three years. Previously heading the commercial banking unit of the US-based JP Morgan, Chawda's appointment comes after receiving the necessary approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). His leadership is expected to drive the bank's growth and strategic initiatives in the Indian market.

Dr. Neena Malhotra Appointed Ambassador to Sweden

The Government of India has appointed Dr. Neena Malhotra as the next Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Sweden. Currently serving as an Officer on Special Duty in the Ministry of External Affairs, Dr. Malhotra is an esteemed Indian Foreign Service officer from the 1992 batch. She has a distinguished career, having previously served as the Indian Ambassador to Italy, the Republic of San Marino, and the United Nations Organizations in Rome. Dr. Malhotra holds a PhD from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) in New Delhi and is expected to assume her new role shortly.

Justice Sanjiv Khanna Appointed as 51st Chief Justice of India

In a major judiciary update, Justice Sanjiv Khanna has been appointed as the 51st Chief Justice of India (CJI), with his oath-taking ceremony set for November 11, 2024. His appointment follows CJI DY Chandrachud's recommendation and was confirmed by President Droupadi Murmu. Justice Khanna will serve as CJI until his retirement on May 13, 2025, holding a tenure of approximately 183 days.

Amitabh Chaudhry Re-Appointed as MD and CEO of Axis Bank by RBI

Axis Bank has officially announced the re-appointment of Amitabh Chaudhry as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer for a new three-year term, effective from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2027.

Asia Clean Energy Summit 2024

The Asia Clean Energy Summit (ACES), a cornerstone event of the annual Singapore International Energy Week (SIEW),

is held on the 11th edition from October 22-24, 2024, in Singapore. This premier conference and exhibition brings together experts, innovators, and policymakers to advance clean energy solutions in Asia.

Bhupendra Patel Inaugurates 17th Urban Mobility India Conference & Expo 2024

Chief Minister Shri Bhupendra Patel inaugurated the 17th Urban Mobility India Conference & Expo-2024 today at the Mahatma Mandir Convention Centre in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The event, running from October 25 to 27, 2024, gathers over 2,000 professionals and academics to discuss the future of urban transport in India. The conference focuses on the theme "Standardisation and Optimisation of Urban Transport Solutions," aiming to enhance urban mobility through integrated strategies and innovative practices.

Deepak Agarwal Appointed as Managing Director of NAFED by Appointments Committee of the Cabinet

In a recent development, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed Deepak Agarwal, a 2000-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from the Uttar Pradesh cadre, as the new Managing Director (MD) of the National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd (NAFED). This appointment is set for a period of five years, signifying a stable leadership aimed at enhancing the efficiency and reach of NAFED, a pivotal organization in India's agricultural sector.

Banking News**RBI and Maldives Monetary Authority Sign \$400 Million Currency Swap Agreement**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA) have signed a currency swap agreement under the SAARC Currency Swap Framework for 2024-2027. This agreement allows the Maldives to access up to \$400 million under the US Dollar/Euro Swap Window and Rs 30 billion under the Indian Rupee (INR) Swap Window.

RBI Deputy Governor M. Rajeshwar Rao's Tenure Extended for One Year

The government has approved a one-year extension for M. Rajeshwar Rao as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), effective October 9, 2024. This decision was made by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, following a notification dated October 4. Rao's tenure was initially set for three years starting from October 2020, and this marks his second consecutive one-year extension.

Navi Achieves 5th Spot in UPI Rankings for Second Time

Navi, a fintech company co-founded by Sachin Bansal, has made significant strides in the Unified Payments Interface

(UPI) landscape, emerging as India's fifth-largest ecosystem player. In September, the company achieved remarkable transaction volumes, processing 120.41 million transactions valued at Rs 6,549.1 crore.

Partha Pratim Sengupta Appointed as MD & CEO of Bandhan Bank

In a significant development in the Indian banking sector, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Partha Pratim Sengupta as the Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Bandhan Bank for a period of three years. Sengupta's appointment comes in the wake of the resignation of Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, the founder MD and CEO of the bank, who recently stepped down from the post.

HDFC Opens First Singapore Branch to Expand Global Presence

HDFC Bank has officially opened its first branch in Singapore as part of its strategy to expand its international operations. Granted a wholesale banking license by the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), effective from October 15, 2024, the bank aims to offer a variety of financial products and services to residents of Singapore.

RBI Bars Navi Finserv, 3 NBFCs for Lending Violations

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has barred four non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), including Sachin Bansal's Navi Finserv, from sanctioning and disbursing loans starting October 21, 2024. The ban affects Navi Finserv, Asirvad Microfinance, Arohan Financial Services, and DMI Finance, which were found guilty of charging exorbitant interest rates and failing to comply with regulatory pricing policies. The move is part of the RBI's ongoing crackdown on excessive interest rates and non-compliance with guidelines.

India and South Korea Set to Join FTSE Russell EMGB Index in 2025

Global index provider FTSE Russell has announced that India's sovereign bonds will be included in its Emerging Markets Government Bond Index (EMGBI) starting September 2025. This follows similar inclusions by JP Morgan and Bloomberg Index Services, which could potentially attract billions of dollars into India's local bond market.

Additionally, South Korean government bonds are set to be added to the FTSE World Government Bond Index (WGBI) in November 2025 after spending two years on the watch list.

Freo Secures IRDAI License to Expand Insurance Offerings

Freo, the digital finance application, has received a corporate agent license from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI), allowing it to offer a range of customized insurance products to its 25 million users. This initiative comes amid India's low insurance

penetration rate of approximately 4.2%, which is significantly below the global average of 7%. With a commitment to "Insurance For All By 2047," Freo aims to provide affordable and intuitive insurance solutions to address the needs of its diverse user base, particularly in Tier II and III cities.

RBI Updates Alert List of Unauthorized Forex Trading Platforms

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has expanded its 'Alert List' of unauthorized forex trading platforms by adding 13 new entities, bringing the total to 88. This list includes names of entities not authorized to deal in forex under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) or to operate electronic trading platforms (ETPs) for forex transactions. Some notable additions to the list include TDFX, Inefex, and Ranger Capital. The RBI emphasized that this Alert List also includes entities promoting unauthorized platforms through advertisements or claiming to offer training/advisory services.

Shillong Tops Travel Destinations for Indian Travellers in 2025

Shillong has emerged as the most popular destination for Indian travellers in 2025, as revealed by Skyscanner's "Travel Trends Report" released on Wednesday. Meghalaya's capital topped the list, surpassing Baku (Azerbaijan) and Langkawi (Malaysia), showing a strong interest among Indians for unique and immersive experiences. The report indicates that 66% of Indians plan to travel more in the coming year.

Delhi Government Establishes Special Courts for People with Disabilities

In a significant move towards inclusivity, the Delhi government, led by Chief Minister Atishi, has approved the establishment of special courts dedicated to people with disabilities. This initiative aims to provide fair and swift justice by designing court environments that cater specifically to the needs of individuals with disabilities. Atishi described this as a "historic step" that underscores the government's commitment to ensuring equitable judicial processes for all citizens.

FSIB Recommends Ashok Chandra as Next MD and CEO of PNB

The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) has recommended Ashok Chandra as the next Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Punjab National Bank (PNB). Currently serving as Executive Director at Canara Bank since November 2022, Chandra's banking career began in September 1991 with Corporation Bank. He holds a Master's degree in Economics and is a Certified Associate of the Indian Institute of Bankers. He will succeed Atul Kumar Goel, whose tenure ends on December 31, 2024.

SBI and India Exim Bank Bridge Trade Financing Gaps in Africa

The State Bank of India (SBI) and India Exim Bank are actively supporting businesses in African countries by addressing the trade finance gap, as highlighted by the South African heads of the two organizations during the India Entrepreneurs Forum (IEF).

Science & Technology News**WHO Certifies India's Triumph Over Trachoma Elimination**

The World Health Organization (WHO) has officially validated India's elimination of trachoma as a public health problem, marking a significant achievement in public health. Trachoma, caused by the bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis*, is one of the leading causes of global blindness. WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus praised India for its commitment to combating this debilitating disease, joining the ranks of Nepal and Myanmar in the WHO South-East Asia Region and 19 other countries worldwide that have achieved this milestone.

India's Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (Lupex) Approved

India's National Space Commission has officially approved the Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (Lupex), marking the country's fifth lunar mission. This mission follows the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 in August 2023, which made India the fourth nation to land on the Moon. Lupex is a collaborative endeavor between India's ISRO and Japan's JAXA, aimed at exploring the Moon's resources, particularly water in its polar regions.

Marburg Virus Outbreak in Rwanda: A Public Health Crisis

The recent outbreak of Marburg virus in Rwanda has raised significant alarm, marking the first reported cases in the country. As of late September 2024, health officials confirmed 26 cases, including 12 fatalities, with over 80% of infections occurring among healthcare workers. The Marburg virus is one of the deadliest pathogens known, causing severe hemorrhagic fever with a case fatality rate ranging from 24% to 88%. Given Rwanda's limited healthcare resources, this outbreak poses a substantial threat to the country's already fragile health system.

World's Highest Imaging Cherenkov Telescope Unveiled in Ladakh

On October 4, 2024, Dr. Ajit Kumar Mohanty, Secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, inaugurated the Major Atmospheric Cherenkov Experiment (MACE) Observatory in Hanle, Ladakh. This monumental facility is the largest

imaging Cherenkov telescope in Asia and stands as the highest of its kind in the world, located at an altitude of approximately 4,300 meters.

Europa Clipper Embarks on Journey to Jupiter's Icy Moon

NASA's Europa Clipper spacecraft has embarked on a monumental journey to explore Europa, one of Jupiter's moons that is believed to harbor a vast subsurface ocean beneath its icy shell. The mission, which launched on October 14, 2024, aboard a SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket, marks the beginning of an exciting scientific quest to determine whether this distant ocean world could support life.

IIT Madras Set to Launch International Research Centre in Dubai by 2025

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras has announced plans to launch its inaugural international flagship centre in Dubai, focusing on research, innovation, and entrepreneurship. Set to open in early 2025, this initiative aims to foster collaboration and knowledge exchange between India and the UAE.

New Snake Species in Himalayas Named After Leonardo DiCaprio

A team of scientists has discovered a new species of snake in the Western Himalayas, naming it *Anguiculus dicaprio* in honor of Hollywood star Leonardo DiCaprio, recognizing his significant contributions to wildlife conservation.

SBI Named Best Bank in India for 2024 by Global Finance Magazine

State Bank of India (SBI) has been awarded the title of Best Bank in India for 2024 by Global Finance Magazine during its 31st Annual Best Bank Awards, held in Washington, coinciding with the Annual Meetings of the IMF and the World Bank. SBI Chairman CS Setty accepted the award, highlighting the bank's dedication to exceptional services and its role in promoting financial inclusion across the nation. This recognition underscores SBI's long-standing commitment to winning customer trust and its pivotal role in the evolving Indian banking landscape.

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Receives RBI Approval for Foreign Exchange Services

Ujjivan Small Finance Bank has secured approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) for foreign exchange services, marking a significant milestone in its operational capabilities. The bank has been granted the 'Authorised Dealer Category 1 licence,' allowing it to offer a comprehensive range of foreign exchange products and services. This development aligns with the bank's strategy to enhance its service offerings and cater to the growing demand for forex solutions among its customers.

Schemes and Committees News**GREEN Meghalaya Plus Scheme Unveiled by CM in Tura**

Conrad K Sangma, Meghalaya Chief Minister launched the GREEN (Grassroot level Response Towards Ecosystem Enhancement and Nurturing) Meghalaya Plus (GMP) Scheme in the first week of October in the state. The main purpose for the launching of the scheme is for conservation and enhancement of forest cover.

Nijut Moina Scheme Launched in Assam to Fight Child Marriage

In a significant move to fight against child marriage in Assam, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma of Assam has initiated the disbursement of monthly financial assistance under the Nijut Moina scheme. This step marks a decisive phase in the government's ongoing battle against this social issue, aiming to provide crucial support to families and empower young girls to pursue their education and well-being.

77th WHO Regional Committee for South-East Asia

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has commenced its 77th Regional Committee session for Southeast Asia in New Delhi, marking a significant gathering of health leaders from across the region. This three-day conference, running from October 7 to 9, brings together health ministers and delegates from eleven member states to address critical public health challenges and forge collaborative solutions. JP Nadda, India's Minister of Health, has been elected as the Chairperson of the 77th Session, bringing his extensive experience in health policy to guide the deliberations.

Atal Pension Yojana Crosses 7 Crore Enrollments Milestone

The Atal Pension Yojana (APY), launched in 2015 to provide a universal social security system for all, particularly the underprivileged and workers in the unorganized sector, has achieved a major milestone. As of FY 2024-25, total enrollments have surpassed 7 crore, with over 56 lakh new enrollments added in the current financial year. This achievement highlights the success of the scheme in reaching vulnerable sections of society.

Humsafar Policy: Transforming India's Highway Infrastructure

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has unveiled a groundbreaking initiative to revolutionise the travel experience on India's national highways. The Humsafar Policy, launched on Tuesday, represents a comprehensive approach to enhancing highway infrastructure and services, promising to transform the journey for millions of travellers across the country.

PM GatiShakti: Three Years of Infrastructure Transformation

The PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, launched on October 13, 2021, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, marks three years of transformative achievements in India's infrastructure landscape. The initiative has significantly improved project execution by integrating data from over 44 central ministries and 36 states and union territories, leading to reduced logistics costs and enhanced service delivery. As of now, over 200 major infrastructure projects have been assessed, focusing on multimodal connectivity and efficient resource allocation.

From Learning to Leading the PM Internship Scheme

The Prime Minister's Internship Scheme was launched on October 3, 2024. This ambitious initiative, implemented through an online portal, aims to provide one crore young individuals with valuable internship opportunities over the next five years, allowing them to immerse themselves in diverse business environments and explore various professions. Also, Prime Minister Internship Scheme Portal went live for candidates to register at 5pm on October 12, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs said in a press release.

Skill Ministry and Meta Partner to Launch AI Assistant for Skill India Mission

The Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has partnered with Meta to introduce an AI-powered assistant for the Skill India Digital (SID) Portal and establish five Centres of Excellence (CoEs) in Virtual Reality (VR) and Mixed Reality (MR) across India.

EAM Jaishankar Launches e-Migrate Portal to Ensure Safe Overseas Travel

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar inaugurated the revamped eMigrate V2.0 web portal and mobile app in Delhi, aiming to enhance safe and legal migration for Indian citizens. This initiative underscores the Indian government's commitment to protecting the rights and dignity of workers abroad while facilitating their mobility and welfare. It aligns with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and reflects India's proactive approach to global migration dynamics.

Government to Extend UDAN Scheme for 10 More Years: Transforming India's Aviation Landscape

In a landmark announcement on October 21, 2024, Civil Aviation Minister K. Ram Mohan Naidu declared that the government will extend the UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) scheme for an additional 10 years. The decision, made during a special event celebrating eight years of the scheme, reinforces the government's commitment to enhancing regional air connectivity and making air travel accessible to every citizen of India.

PM Modi Launches Karmayogi Saptah to Boost Civil Service Skills

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Karmayogi Saptah, or National Learning Week, on October 19, 2024, at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi. This initiative is part of Mission Karmayogi, which aims to foster continuous skill enhancement among civil servants, aligning their competencies with the evolving goals of India, especially towards achieving a developed nation by 2047.

Yogi Adityanath Rolls Out Key Welfare Schemes for Police Personnel on 'Police Smriti Diwas'

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath unveiled a series of welfare schemes for police personnel, including a substantial 70% increase in uniform allowance and a 25% hike in housing allowance for constables residing in barracks. These significant measures were announced during his address at the 'Police Smriti Diwas' event in Lucknow, held in honor of police personnel who have laid down their lives in the line of duty, according to an official statement.

Mission Basundhara 3.0 Assam's Push for Indigenous Land Rights

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma officially launched Mission Basundhara 3.0 at an event held at Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra in Guwahati. This ambitious initiative is designed to empower indigenous communities by providing them with formal land rights, ensuring greater security and recognition of their holdings.

UDAN's 8th Anniversary: A Transformative Journey in Indian Aviation

Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked the 8th anniversary of the UDAN (Ude Desh ke Aam Nagrik) scheme, celebrating its transformative impact on India's aviation sector. Launched in October 2016, UDAN aimed to make air travel affordable for the common man and boost regional connectivity. The Prime Minister highlighted the increase in airports and air routes, emphasizing how the scheme has enhanced trade, commerce, and regional growth. Union Home Minister Amit Shah lauded UDAN's success in making air travel accessible in underserved regions, noting its role in unlocking India's growth potential.

Pradhan Mantri Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana

The Pradhan Mantri Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana (PMVKY), launched on October 28, 2014, is an initiative targeting the upliftment and inclusion of India's tribal communities, who represent 8.9% of the population. Addressing their unique socio-economic challenges, this scheme emphasizes sustainable development with a budget allocation of ₹26,135.46 crore from 2021-2026. The program is aligned

with the government's vision of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" and focuses on empowering tribes across the nation with essential services, financial assistance, and preservation of cultural heritage.

Nationwide Volunteering Initiative: 'This Diwali with MY Bharat'

Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya has launched a nationwide volunteering initiative, 'This Diwali with MY Bharat - Ye Diwali MY Bharat Ke Saath,' to commemorate the first anniversary of the MY Bharat Portal. Scheduled from October 27 to 30, 2024, the initiative aims to engage over 200,000 volunteers across 500 locations in India, promoting social service and community spirit during the Diwali festivities. This initiative not only underscores the significance of volunteerism but also strengthens the connection between local communities and volunteers.

Rajasthan Government Launches Scheme to Lure Investments

To encourage private investment and boost economic growth, the Rajasthan government has launched the Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme (RIPS) 2024. This new flagship initiative is designed to provide enhanced financial incentives across a broader range of sectors. The introduction of RIPS comes just ahead of the 'Rising Rajasthan' Global Investment Summit 2024.

Summits & Conference News**44th and 45th ASEAN Summits Kick Off in Vientiane, Laos**

The 44th and 45th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summits and related events began on October 9 in Vientiane, Laos, focusing on the theme "ASEAN: Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience." Lao President Thongloun Sisoulith urged member countries to uphold peace, stability, and sustainable development while honoring their commitments to multilateralism. This year marks a significant opportunity for ASEAN to build a more integrated and resilient community in response to pressing challenges.

ASEAN Summit: Enhancing Regional Ties and Connectivity

The recently concluded 44th and 45th ASEAN Summits in Vientiane, Laos (October 8-11) brought together leaders from ASEAN countries and partners, emphasizing resilience and connectivity across key areas. With nearly 90 documents adopted, the summits focused on strengthening ASEAN's role in the Indo-Pacific, addressing supply chain connectivity, sustainable agriculture, and climate change. New cooperation fields like digital economy and green transition were also highlighted.

India Digital Agri Conference 2024

The India Digital Agri Conference 2024, co-organized by the Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) and IIT Ropar TIF – AWaDH in New Delhi, marked a significant milestone in revolutionizing Indian agriculture. The event focused on leveraging digital technologies like AI, IoT, drones, and data analytics to address challenges such as climate change, food security, and sustainable resource management. By modernizing farming practices, enhancing productivity, and fostering cross-sector collaboration, the conference laid the foundation for India’s leadership in Agri-tech.

PM Modi Launches ITU Telecom Conference and India Mobile Congress 2024

On October 15, 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first-ever telecom standards conference organized by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in India, alongside the eighth edition of the India Mobile Congress (IMC) in New Delhi. This event marks a significant milestone for India as it hosts the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) for the first time in the Asia-Pacific region, highlighting India’s growing role in the global telecom landscape.

AI Centres of Excellence to Boost Research, Innovation, and Economy

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan announced the establishment of three Artificial Intelligence Centres of Excellence (AI-COEs) focused on health, agriculture, and sustainable cities. These centres, located at AIIMS Delhi, IIT Ropar, and IIT Kanpur, will promote research, innovation, and economic development while addressing public welfare. Led by top educational institutions, industry partners, and startups, the centres aim to provide interdisciplinary research and scalable solutions. This initiative aligns with the “Make AI in India, Make AI work for India” vision from the 2023-24 Budget.

SCO Summit 2024, Key Insights and Implications

Islamabad is set to host the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit on October 15-16, 2024. This significant diplomatic event will see the participation of various regional leaders, including India’s External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Prime Ministers from China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Belarus, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Iran’s First Vice-President. The summit marks a critical milestone as it is the first high-level visit by an Indian official to Pakistan in nearly nine years, presenting an opportunity for Pakistan to showcase its diplomatic capabilities and strengthen ties with participating nations.

SCO Summit 2024: Key Outcomes and Strategic Insights

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit, held in Islamabad on October 15-16, 2024, gathered high-level officials from member states to address regional security, economic cooperation, and terrorism. India’s External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, along with leaders from China, Russia, Iran, and Central Asian countries, attended the event. Despite strained India-Pakistan relations and ongoing China-India border disputes, the summit provided a platform for multilateral dialogue, but no bilateral talks were expected.

18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas to Be Held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha

Odisha is set to host the 18th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas from January 8th to 10th next year in its capital city, Bhubaneswar. The event, which celebrates the contributions of the Indian diaspora, will take place at Janata Maidan. Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has approved the proposal submitted by the Union Ministry of External Affairs, making Bhubaneswar the venue for this prestigious global gathering.

Colombia Hosts COP16 Nearly 200 Countries Engage in Dialogue

The two-week United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP16) commenced today in Colombia, bringing together environmental leaders from nearly 200 countries to evaluate historic commitments aimed at halting and reversing the loss of biodiversity. This significant gathering follows the signing of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by 196 countries, an ambitious treaty designed to protect the planet’s diverse ecosystems.

2024 BRICS Summit: Expanding Cooperation and New Milestones

The 2024 BRICS Summit, held in Kazan, Russia, from October 22-24, marks a significant turning point for the group as Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the UAE join its ranks following their inclusion at the 2023 summit. The event centers around the theme, “Strengthening Multilateralism for Fair Global

Development and Security,” with key discussions on alternative global payment systems, dedollarization, and enhanced cooperation. The summit witnessed the adoption of the BRICS Kazan Declaration, endorsing UN reforms and investigating cross-border financial solutions to reduce reliance on the US dollar.

India's Linguistic Heritage Celebrated at Pravasi Parichay 2024 in Riyadh

The 2024 edition of the Embassy's flagship diaspora engagement event, Pravasi Parichay, was inaugurated by Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan, the Ambassador of India to Saudi Arabia, at the Embassy Auditorium in Riyadh. This week-long cultural celebration kicked off with a specially curated event titled “Classical Languages of India,” designed to showcase the country's rich linguistic diversity.

Awards & Honors News

MIDORI Prize 2024 Recognizes Conservation Leaders from Kazakhstan and Peru

The MIDORI Prize for Biodiversity 2024 has been awarded to Vera Voronova from Kazakhstan and Ysabel Agustina Calderón Carlos from Peru for their exemplary contributions to biodiversity conservation and sustainability. Voronova, the executive director of the Association for the Conservation of Biodiversity of Kazakhstan, has led efforts to restore ecosystems and protect endangered species in Central Asia, benefiting rural communities. Calderón Carlos, founder of Sumak Kawsay in Peru, has been recognized for her work in preventing the decline of pollinators, particularly through her “Bee Honey Route,” which combines honey production with community development and ecosystem restoration.

2025 National Anubhav Awards: Honoring Public Service Impact

The National Anubhav Awards Scheme recognizes the contributions of retiring and retired government employees by encouraging them to share their valuable experiences and insights. The initiative is spearheaded by the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW), under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions, Government of India.

Celebrating Excellence in Indian Cinema at the National Film Awards

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting confers the prestigious National Film Awards along with cinema's highest honor, the Dadasaheb Phalke Award each year. The 70th National Film Awards were conferred on 8 October 2024 by Hon. President Draupadi Murmu.

Baker, Hassabis, Jumper Awarded Nobel 2024 in Chemistry for Pioneering Protein Research

The 2024 Nobel Prize in Chemistry has been awarded to David Baker for his innovative work in computational protein design and to Demis Hassabis and John M. Jumper for their groundbreaking AI-based protein structure prediction. These discoveries, recognized by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, represent major advancements in understanding and designing proteins.

5th National Water Awards 2023 Announced, Check Complete List of Winners

The Department of Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD & GR), under the Ministry of Jal Shakti, proudly announces the winners of the 5th National Water Awards (NWA), 2023. These prestigious awards recognize the efforts of individuals, organizations, and institutions across India in water conservation and management. With 38 winners across 9 categories, the awards aim to raise awareness and encourage best practices in water usage and sustainability.

ISRO Chairman S. Somanath Receives Prestigious IAF World Space Award for Chandrayaan-3

Dr. S. Somanath, Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), has been honored with the prestigious International Astronautical Federation (IAF) World Space Award. This accolade was awarded in recognition of the remarkable success of Chandrayaan-3, India's lunar mission that made history with its soft landing on the Moon's South Pole. The award ceremony took place in Milan, Italy, and marked a significant milestone in India's growing prominence in space exploration.

Rajkumar Hirani Honoured with National Kishore Kumar Award 2023

In a heartwarming tribute to the legacy of legendary singer and actor Kishore Kumar, the renowned filmmaker Rajkumar Hirani was conferred with the prestigious National Kishore Kumar Award for the year 2023. The award ceremony took place in Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh, the birthplace of Kishore Kumar, on the occasion of the 37th death anniversary of the iconic singer. This award, instituted by the Madhya Pradesh Government's Department of Culture, celebrates artists who have significantly contributed to Indian cinema in various fields, much like Kishore Kumar himself.

Chiratae Ventures Honors Narayana Murthy with Patrick J. McGovern Awards

Chiratae Ventures, a prominent Indian venture capital fund, has recognized three influential leaders with the 2024 Patrick J. McGovern Awards. Narayana Murthy, the Founder

of Infosys, received the India Lifetime Achievement Award for his groundbreaking contributions to the tech industry. Shantanu Narayen, Chair and CEO of Adobe, was awarded the Global Lifetime Achievement Award, while Abhinav Asthana, CEO and Founder of Postman, received the Exceptional Entrepreneurial Achievement Award. The awards honor the legacy of Patrick J. McGovern, a pioneer in technology media and an early supporter of Indian entrepreneurship.

Actor Darasing Khurana Wins Mahatma Gandhi Leadership Award in UK

Indian actor and philanthropist Darasing Khurana, 32, has been honored with the prestigious Mahatma Gandhi Leadership Award for his impactful work in raising awareness about mental health issues, particularly in his role as the 'Commonwealth Year of Youth Champion.

Urmila Chaudhary Honored with Global Anti-Racism Championship Award 2024

Urmila Chaudhary, a prominent social campaigner from Nepal, has been honored with the prestigious Global Anti-Racism Championship Award 2024. The award was presented by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken during a ceremony held at the Department of State in Washington, D.C.

María Corina Machado and Edmundo González Urrutia Awarded the 2024 Sakharov Prize

The European Parliament has announced that María Corina Machado and President-elect Edmundo González Urrutia will be the recipients of the 2024 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought. This prestigious award recognizes their relentless efforts to restore democracy and freedom in Venezuela amidst severe political and economic challenges. The award decision was made by the Conference of Presidents and was publicly announced by European Parliament President Roberta Metsola.

Bibhab Talukdar Wins IUCN's Top Conservation Leadership Award

Assam-based conservation scientist Bibhab Kumar Talukdar has been awarded the prestigious Harry Messel Award for Conservation Leadership by the Species Survival Commission (SSC) of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in Abu Dhabi. This honor, awarded during the 5th IUCN SSC Leaders' Meeting, acknowledges his groundbreaking contributions to species conservation, particularly for Asian rhinos, through both leadership and on-ground initiatives. Talukdar has been an influential conservationist associated with IUCN SSC since 1991 and became Chair of the Asian Rhino Specialist Group in 2008.

Bhubaneswar's Public Transport System Shines at UMI 2024

The 17th Urban Mobility India (UMI) Conference & Exhibition 2024 concluded with a valedictory session led by Union Minister for Housing & Urban Affairs and Power, Shri Manohar Lal, at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. This three-day event brought together key stakeholders and experts to discuss advancements in sustainable urban mobility solutions.

Shaktikanta Das Earns A+ in Central Bank Report Card 2024

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das has been awarded an A+ grade in the Central Bank Report Cards 2024, marking his second consecutive year of recognition. This accolade was presented by Global Finance during an event in Washington, D.C. The grades, ranging from "A+" to "F," assess central banks on their effectiveness in critical areas such as inflation control, economic growth targets, currency stability, and interest rate management.

Rodri Clinches Men's Ballon d'Or 2024 and Bonmati Wins it for Spain

The 2024 Ballon d'Or ceremony in Paris was a night dominated by Manchester City and Spain midfielder Rodri, who triumphed over competitors from Real Madrid to claim football's most prestigious individual award. The event was also notable for numerous other recognitions, including those for promising young talents, coaching excellence, and outstanding club achievements.

Chiranjeevi Honored with ANR Award by Amitabh Bachchan

Amitabh Bachchan recently honored renowned Telugu film star Chiranjeevi at the ANR National Awards 2024, an event organized by the Akkineni International Foundation. This prestigious award recognizes artists for their lifetime contributions to cinema. During the ceremony, Bachchan praised Chiranjeevi's remarkable impact on the film industry and expressed his heartfelt gratitude towards him and the contributions of the Telugu film industry to Indian cinema.

Pro Kabaddi League Wins 'Best Sports League' at CII Awards

The Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) proudly received the prestigious 'Best Sports League of the Year' award at the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Sports Business Awards 2024. The award ceremony, part of the CII Score Card 2024 event, took place in New Delhi on October 18, coinciding with the launch of PKL's 11th season.

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar Honoured with Fiji's Highest Civilian Award

The Republic of Fiji has bestowed its highest civilian award, the "Honourary Officer of the Order of Fiji," on Gurudev Sri Sri Ravi Shankar. This recognition, presented by Fiji's President, Ratu Wiliame M. Katonivere, acknowledges Sri Sri's contributions to promoting peace, unity, and uplifting communities globally. Sri Sri expressed his gratitude on social media, saying, "Honoured to receive Fiji's highest civilian award".

Wagh Bakri Tea Group Honored with Prestigious Generational Legacy Award

The Wagh Bakri Tea Group has received the esteemed "Generational Legacy Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Indian Economy" from Hurun India. This recognition, awarded during the inaugural Hurun India Family Business Awards, highlights the group's substantial impact on the Indian economy and celebrates its enduring legacy in the tea industry.

Important Dates News**World Cotton Day 2024, Celebrating Cotton's Global Impact**

As the world marks the fifth anniversary of World Cotton Day on October 7, 2024, we delve into the significance of this global celebration that honors one of agriculture's most versatile and valuable crops. Cotton, far beyond its well-known role in textiles, has emerged as a cornerstone in various industries, from medical supplies to animal feed and edible oil production.

World Habitat Day 2024, Empowering Youth for a Sustainable Urban Future

World Habitat Day, celebrated annually on the first Monday of October, is a global observance dedicated to raising awareness about the fundamental right to housing. Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1985, the day serves as a reminder that everyone deserves a safe, decent, and affordable place to live. This year the day was celebrated on the 7th of October.

Indian Air Force Day 2024, Theme, Significance and Historical Journey

As India prepares to commemorate the 92nd Indian Air Force Day on October 8, 2024, the nation stands united in honoring the exceptional dedication and sacrifices of its air warriors. This significant occasion serves as a reminder of the Indian Air Force's (IAF) remarkable journey from its humble beginnings to becoming one of the world's most formidable aerial forces. The chosen theme, "Bhartiya Vayu Sena: Saksham, Sashakt, Atmanirbhar" (translating to Potent, Powerful, and Self-Reliant), encapsulates the IAF's vision for

the future. This theme resonates deeply with India's broader objective of achieving self-sufficiency in defense capabilities while maintaining operational excellence.

World Mental Health Day 2024

World Mental Health Day, observed annually on October 10, was first initiated in 1992 by the World Federation for Mental Health (WFMH). This global observance aims to raise awareness about mental health issues and mobilize efforts in support of mental health care worldwide.

National Postal Day 2024, Celebrating India's Postal Heritage

Every year on October 10th, India commemorates National Postal Day, a significant observance that marks the establishment of the Indian Postal Service. This annual celebration serves as a tribute to the vast network of postal workers and the crucial role they play in connecting the nation through communication services. The day holds particular importance as it commemorates the founding of the postal service during the East India Company's rule, establishing a legacy that continues to evolve and serve the nation's communication needs.

International Day of Rural Women 2024, Date, Theme and Significance

The International Day of Rural Women is celebrated annually on October 15, recognizing the critical role rural women play in the advancement of agriculture, rural development, and poverty eradication. In 2024, the theme for this significant day is "Rural Women Sustaining Nature for Our Collective Future: Building climate resilience, conserving biodiversity, and caring for land towards gender equality and empowerment of women and girls." This theme underlines the importance of rural women as key actors in promoting environmental sustainability and climate resilience while also emphasizing the need for gender equality.

Breast Cancer Awareness Day 2024, Date, Theme, History & Significance

Breast Cancer Awareness Month (BCAM), observed every October, is an annual global campaign designed to raise awareness about breast cancer, its symptoms, and the importance of early detection. This initiative brings attention to the impact of breast cancer on individuals, families, and communities, while also emphasizing the need for timely diagnosis and treatment. In the United States, October 13 is nationally recognized as Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day, a day dedicated to increasing awareness about metastatic (stage four) breast cancer. In 2024, the campaign's theme is "No one should face breast cancer alone", underscoring the importance of peer support for patients and survivors, many of whom experience feelings of isolation during their cancer journey.

World Standards Day 2024, Date, History, Theme and Significance

World Standards Day, celebrated every year on October 14, honors the immense contributions of individuals and organizations involved in the development and implementation of international standards. These standards play a critical role in shaping various industries by ensuring safety, quality, efficiency, and interoperability in products and services worldwide. The day serves to raise awareness about the value of standardization in facilitating international trade, economic development, and improving quality of life.

World Food Day 2024, Know The Date, History, Theme & Significance

World Food Day, observed annually on October 16th, serves as a global call to action in the fight against hunger and malnutrition. As we approach World Food Day 2024, it's crucial to understand the significance of this year's theme and the ongoing challenges in global food security.

World Student's Day 2024, A Tribute to Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam

Every year on October 15, World Students' Day is observed to honor the life and contributions of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, a visionary leader, educator, and former President of India. Known as the "Missile Man of India," Dr. Kalam is celebrated for his work in science, technology, and education, and his deep affection for students and the youth of the nation. The day marks Dr. Kalam's birthday and serves as a reminder of his enduring legacy in inspiring young minds toward innovation and academic excellence.

International Abhidhamma Divas 2024: Date, History, Teachings, Celebrations, and Significance

India, the birthplace of Buddhism, holds an enduring spiritual legacy as the land where Gautama Buddha attained enlightenment and shared profound teachings that continue to influence human thought and understanding. Central to this spiritual tradition is the Abhidhamma, a deep philosophical component of Buddhism that focuses on mental discipline, self-awareness, and ethical conduct.

World Anaesthesia Day 2024: Date, History, Theme, and Significance

World Anaesthesia Day is celebrated annually on October 16 to highlight the vital role of anaesthesia in modern medicine. It commemorates the first successful public demonstration of diethyl ether anaesthesia in 1846 and recognizes the contributions of anesthesiologists worldwide. The day serves as a reminder of how anaesthesia has transformed medical care by making surgeries painless, enhancing patient safety, and improving outcomes.

The theme for World Anaesthesia Day 2024 is "Workforce Well Being."

World Statistics Day 2024, Date, Theme, History and Significance

World Statistics Day is an international celebration held every five years to highlight the significance of statistics in shaping societies, improving lives, and driving informed decision-making. In 2024, the global community will come together on October 20th to commemorate this special day. This celebration underscores the vital role statistics play in fostering sustainable development, promoting transparency, and empowering policymakers across the world.

World Iodine Deficiency Day 2024, A Comprehensive Overview

World Iodine Deficiency Day, also known as Global Iodine Deficiency Disorders Prevention Day, is observed annually on 21st October. The primary goal of this observance is to raise awareness about the importance of iodine in maintaining good health and to emphasize the adverse consequences of iodine deficiency, which remains a global public health issue. This article provides a detailed overview of iodine's essential role, the impacts of deficiency, national and global efforts to eradicate iodine deficiency, and the achievements of various programs aimed at ensuring adequate iodine intake.

Disarmament Week 2024: 24-30 October

Disarmament Week, starting annually on October 24, coincides with the anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. The week-long observance is dedicated to raising awareness about the importance of disarmament and promoting international dialogue to reduce the spread and impact of weapons. It was first called for in the Final Document of the UN General Assembly's 1978 Special Session on Disarmament (resolution S-10/2) and reinforced in 1995 by the General Assembly's invitation (resolution 50/72 B, 12 December 1995) to governments and NGOs to actively participate.

Global Media and Information Literacy Week 2024, 24-31 October

Global Media and Information Literacy Week is an annual event observed from 24th to 31st October to raise awareness and celebrate the progress achieved towards Media and Information Literacy for all. During Global Media and Information Literacy Week, stakeholders around the world organize events and UNESCO co-hosts with a Member State the global conference gathering the Media and Information Literacy community.

United Nations Day 2024: Date, Theme, History, and Significance

The United Nations Day, celebrated annually on October 24, marks the anniversary of the entry into force of the United Nations Charter in 1945. This day is a global celebration of the UN's mission to promote peace, security, human rights, and development around the world. In 2024, the United Nations Day once again serves as a reminder of the organization's pivotal role in addressing global challenges and fostering international cooperation.

World Development Information Day 2024: Date, Theme, History, and Significance

World Development Information Day is celebrated every year on October 24, coinciding with United Nations Day. This observance was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1972, with the primary goal of drawing global attention to development issues and promoting the dissemination of information that supports international cooperation for development. As we approach 2024, the significance of this day continues to grow, highlighting the importance of mobilizing public opinion in support of sustainable development and economic progress worldwide.

Celebrating Dedication: Adarsh Karmayogi Awards by Mines Ministry

The Mission Karmayogi National Program is a program that seeks to transition the Civil Services from a 'Rule-Based' to a 'Role-Based' approach, prioritizing a citizen-centric governance model. On October 19, 2024, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the National Learning Week, also known as Karmayogi Saptah, which will run from October 19 to October 25.

World Polio Day 2024: Date, History, Theme, and Significance

World Polio Day is observed annually on October 24 across the globe to raise awareness about the crippling disease, poliomyelitis, or polio. The day underscores global efforts to eradicate the disease and ensure a polio-free world for future generations. Poliovirus, the cause of polio, is a life-threatening virus that can lead to paralysis and, in severe cases, death. There are three types of wild polioviruses: Wild

Poliovirus Type 1 (WPV1), Wild Poliovirus Type 2 (WPV2), and Wild Poliovirus Type 3 (WPV3).

International Day of Diplomats 2024: Honoring the Unsung Guardians of Global Peace

The International Day of Diplomats, celebrated annually on October 24, shines a spotlight on the critical role that diplomats play in shaping international relations, promoting peace, and fostering cooperation among nations. Diplomats work tirelessly behind the scenes, often in complex and challenging environments, to resolve conflicts, negotiate trade agreements, and bridge cultural divides. This day serves as an opportunity to appreciate their contributions to global diplomacy, peacebuilding, and the facilitation of dialogue across borders.

Commemoration of Sardar Patel's 150th Birth Anniversary

The government will celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel with a nationwide program spanning two years, from 2024 to 2026. Announced by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on October 23, 2024, the initiative aims to honor Patel's monumental contributions to India, particularly his vision in establishing one of the world's most robust democracies and his pivotal role in unifying the nation from Kashmir to Lakshadweep. This commemoration not only recognizes Patel's historical significance but also reinforces the current government's commitment to national unity.

World Day for Audiovisual Heritage 2024, Date, History & Significance

The World Day for Audiovisual Heritage is celebrated annually on October 27 to honor the efforts of audio-visual preservation professionals and institutions that work to protect our cultural heritage for future generations. Established by UNESCO in 2005, this day highlights the importance of preserving audiovisual materials like films, sound recordings, and broadcasts, which face unique risks such as chemical decay and technological obsolescence.

Diwali 2024 Date and Significance: Is Deepawali On October 31 or November 1?

Diwali, also known as Deepavali, is one of the most cherished festivals celebrated across India and in Indian communities around the world. Known as the "Festival of Lights," Diwali symbolizes the victory of light over darkness and good over evil. As the festival approaches, there's often confusion regarding its exact date, as the celebration spans several days and dates may vary depending on regional traditions and practices. This year, Diwali will be celebrated on either October 31 or November 1, 2024, depending on the location, with each day having a special ritual dedicated to the gods and goddesses. Below, we explore the festival's dates, timings, significance, and customs in detail.

International Animation Day, History, Significance, Celebration

International Animation Day (IAD) was created by ASIFA (Association Internationale du Film d'Animation) in 2002 to honor the origins and influence of animation. It commemorates the first public projection of animated images, Émile Reynaud's Théâtre Optique in Paris on October 28, 1892. International Animation Day, also known as IAD, is held annually on 28th October.

International Day of Care and Support, Date, History, Significance, Objectives

Every year on October 29th, the International Day of Care and Support is observed to honor the accomplishments of caregivers and promote laws and programs that promote and improve care in all of its manifestations. The International Day of Care and Support 2024 celebrates the essential role of compassion, solidarity, and care in building stronger, more inclusive communities.

October 27, Indian Army Infantry Day, Context, PM Remarks

Infantry Day is celebrated annually in India on October 27 to commemorate the significant role played by the infantry in protecting the nation's sovereignty and security. This day marks the landing of the 1st Battalion of the Sikh Regiment at Srinagar airfield in 1947, a pivotal moment in the defense of Jammu and Kashmir against invading forces.

Ayurveda Day 2024, Date, Theme, History and Significance

Ayurveda, one of the world's oldest holistic healing systems, has its roots in ancient India and continues to offer a comprehensive approach to health and wellness. As we prepare to celebrate the 9th Ayurveda Day on October 29, 2024, this observance aligns with Dhanvantari Jayanti and brings together over 150 countries under the theme, "Ayurveda Innovations for Global Health." This year's theme highlights Ayurveda's potential to address global health issues, including non-communicable diseases, antimicrobial resistance, climate-related health issues, and more.

National Unity Day Celebration: Amit Shah Flags Off 'Run for Unity'

In New Delhi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched the 'Run for Unity' to commemorate National Unity Day on Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary, highlighting Patel's role in India's unification and development. Joined by dignitaries, Shah honored Patel's legacy and emphasized Prime Minister Modi's vision of a unified and developed India by 2047.

Sports News**Nitish Kumar Unveils Logo, Mascot for Upcoming Women's Asian Champions Trophy**

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar unveiled the logo and mascot for the Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2024. Scheduled to take place in Rajgir from November 11 to 20, the tournament will feature the mascot named 'Gudiya,' inspired by Bihar's state bird, the sparrow. The unveiling marks a significant step toward creating a vibrant atmosphere for the upcoming championship.

Dipa Karmakar Announces Retirement: The End of a Historic Gymnastics Journey

Dipa Karmakar, India's trailblazing gymnast, who narrowly missed out on a podium finish at the Rio 2016 Olympics, has announced her retirement from the sport. Famous for performing the risky "Prodnova" vault, often called the "vault of death," Karmakar leaves behind a legacy of courage and determination that redefined Indian gymnastics.

The End of an Era: Andrés Iniesta Announces Retirement

Andrés Iniesta, The Spaniard, maestro of the game announced retirement from professional football after a long 22 years serving in the field. The player who represented the National team of Spain and FC Barcelona, one of the best clubs in the world.

38th National Games to be Held in Uttarakhand

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has chosen Uttarakhand as the host for the 38th Summer National Games, scheduled to take place from 28th January to 14th February 2025. This announcement marks a significant achievement for the state, as it will be hosting the prestigious event for the first time, followed by the upcoming Winter Games, which will be held outside Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh for the first time. The 37th National Games, held in Goa from 25th September to 9th November 2023, paved the way for Uttarakhand's momentous turn to showcase its capabilities on the national sporting stage.

Asian Table Tennis Championships 2024 Men's and Women's Wins Bronze

The Indian men's table tennis team secured a bronze medal at the Asian Table Tennis Championships 2024 held in Astana, Kazakhstan, marking their third consecutive bronze in this event. India's top-ranked women's doubles duo, Ayhika Mukherjee and Sutirtha Mukherjee, achieved a remarkable milestone by claiming a bronze medal at the Asian Table Tennis Championships 2024. Ayhika and Sutirtha became the first all-Indian women's doubles pair to win a medal at the Asian Championships, following Gool Nasikwala's gold medal win with Japan's Yoshiko Tanaka in

1952. India's total medal tally at the Asian Championships now stands at eight, all of which are bronze medals. The Indian men's team clinched the bronze medal after losing in the semi-finals to Chinese Taipei with a score of 3-0.

Harmanpreet Singh Becomes Most Expensive Buy in Hockey India League Auction

India's star drag-flicker and captain, Harmanpreet Singh, emerged as the most expensive player in the Hockey India League auction on Day 1. Soorma Hockey Club secured the services of the Indian captain for a whopping Rs 78 lakh, marking the highest bid on the first day of the auction, held on Sunday. A total of 54 players, including 18 international stars, went under the hammer as eight franchises vied to strengthen their squads with top talents from India and abroad.

Ganguly Takes Charge as JSW Sports Director of Cricket, Heads Delhi Capitals

Sourav Ganguly, the former Indian cricket captain and ex-BCCI President, has been named the Director of Cricket for JSW Sports. In this role, Ganguly will oversee all cricketing operations for the organization, including its key franchises like Delhi Capitals' men's and women's IPL and WPL teams, and Pretoria Capitals, which competes in the SA20 League.

Vivaan Secures Silver, Naruka Takes Bronze at Shooting World Cup

India's shooting contingent made a strong mark at the ISSF World Cup Final with Vivaan Kapoor securing a silver medal in the men's trap event and Anant Jeet Singh Naruka claiming a bronze in the men's skeet competition. These achievements raised India's total medal count to four at the prestigious event, reflecting the nation's growing prowess in the global shooting arena.

Neetu David, Alastair Cook, and AB de Villiers Inducted into ICC Hall of Fame

In a historic recognition, former Indian cricketer Neetu David, along with England's Alastair Cook and South Africa's AB de Villiers, has been inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame for 2024. This accolade highlights their remarkable contributions to cricket, marking a significant moment for women's cricket in India as David becomes the second woman from the country to receive this honor, following Diana Edulji's induction in 2023.

Liu Yukun, Yang Ji-in Shine as ISSF Athletes of the Year

China's Liu Yukun, the reigning Olympic champion in the Paris 2024 Olympics, was honored as the athlete of the year by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF). Also, Korea's Yang Ji-in, was named the female athlete of the year, recognizing her remarkable achievements in the sport.

Bala Devi Becomes First Indian Woman to Score 50 International Goals

Ngangom Bala Devi, born on February 2, 1990, has etched her name in Indian football history by becoming the first Indian woman to score 50 international goals. Playing as a forward for the Manipur Police and the Indian national team, Devi's journey reflects her dedication and significant contributions to women's football in India. Her recent achievement was celebrated following a goal against Pakistan in the 2024 SAFF Women's Championship, further solidifying her status as a trailblazer in Indian sports.

Railways Triumph Over Indian Oil to Clinch Women's Hockey Title

Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) won the Senior Women Inter-Departmental National Hockey Championship by defeating Indian Oil 3-1 in the final, held at Major Dhyanchand National Stadium. This win avenges their loss in last year's summit clash. Indian Oil scored first in the 18th minute through Deepika, but Vandana Katariya equalized for Railways just a minute later. Railways took the lead in the fourth quarter, with captain Navneet Kaur scoring a crucial goal, followed by a final strike from Salima Tete, who was named Player of the Match.

India Claims Runner-Up Spot at Asian Armwrestling Cup

India achieved a commendable runner-up position in the overall team standings at the Asian Arm Wrestling Cup 2024, which took place at the Aurika Skycity Hotel in Mumbai. The Indian team finished second in the medal tally, only behind Kazakhstan, the top-ranking nation in the world of arm wrestling.

Israel Joins Asian Development Bank (ADB) as 69th Member Country

In a significant development for international financial cooperation, Israel has become the newest non-regional member of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The Manila-based lender announced the news on Friday, marking a major step for Israel in enhancing its global strategic ties and economic outreach. Israel officially joined the Asian Development Bank (ADB) as its 69th member and 20th nonregional member, after fulfilling all necessary membership requirements.

Egypt Declared Malaria-Free: A Milestone in Public Health

Egypt has reached a significant public health milestone by being officially declared 'malaria-free' by the World Health Organization (WHO) on October 20, 2024. This achievement makes Egypt the second country in the world to receive this certification in 2024, following Cabo Verde.

Maldives President Introduces UPI Payment Service to Boost Economy

Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu has announced the introduction of India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) to enhance the country's economy by improving financial inclusion and transaction efficiency. This initiative is part of a broader strategy to strengthen ties with India following Muizzu's previous stance against Indian military presence in the Maldives. A consortium led by TradeNet Maldives Corporation will manage the rollout, with government oversight from various ministries to ensure successful implementation.

Vietnam Elects Military Leader Luong Cuong as President

Vietnam's parliament elected army general Luong Cuong as the new state president, marking a significant move to restore stability after a period of political upheaval. The 67-year-old Cuong succeeds To Lam, who briefly held the presidency before assuming the more powerful role of party chief following the death of general secretary Nguyen Phu Trong in July.

Karnataka Triumphs at 24th National Para-Swimming Championship

The 24th National Para-Swimming Championship concluded with Karnataka emerging as the overall champion, amassing an impressive 392 points. The competition saw a fierce battle for the top spots, with Maharashtra finishing a close second with 378 points, and Rajasthan securing third place with 248 points.

Deepika Kumari Wins Silver at 2024 Archery World Cup Final in Mexico

In a remarkable achievement, Deepika Kumari, a four-time Olympian from India, secured the silver medal in the women's recurve event at the 2024 Archery World Cup Final held on October 20, 2024, in Tlaxcala, Mexico. She faced off against Li Jiaman of China in the final but lost the match 6-0. Li Jiaman, who was part of China's silver medal-winning team at the Paris 2024 Olympics, claimed the gold.

Kagiso Rabada, Fastest to 300 Test Wickets by Balls Bowled

Kagiso Rabada has etched his name in cricket history by becoming the fastest bowler to reach 300 Test wickets based on balls bowled, achieving the milestone in just 11,817 deliveries. The South African pace sensation is now among the greats, surpassing legends like Waqar Younis (12,602 balls) and Dale Steyn (12,605 balls).

Indian Football Team Climbs to 125th in FIFA Rankings

The Indian men's football team has made a modest advancement in the FIFA rankings, moving up one spot to

125th, as per the latest update released on Thursday. This progress is attributed to their resilient performance in a recent international friendly against Vietnam, where they managed a 1-1 draw.

Under the guidance of new coach Manolo Marquez, the team is still in search of its first victory, having experienced one loss and two draws since his appointment. Despite this, India's points tally has improved to 1133.78, contributing to their rise in the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) standings, where they are now ranked 22nd, just ahead of Vietnam.

Chirag Chikkara Leads India to Gold at U23 World Wrestling Championships

Chirag Chikkara made history by becoming only the third Indian wrestler to win the Under-23 World Championship, contributing to India's impressive total of nine medals at the tournament. Competing in the men's freestyle 57kg category, Chikkara secured a thrilling victory with a narrow 4-3 win over Abdymalik Karachov of Kyrgyzstan in the final seconds of the match.

Sharapova, Bryan Brothers Inducted into 2025 Tennis Hall of Fame Class

In a prestigious recognition, Maria Sharapova and twins Bob and Mike Bryan were named to the International Tennis Hall of Fame's Class of 2025. The induction ceremony will be held on August 23 in Newport, Rhode Island, where they will be celebrated for their trailblazing achievements and contributions to tennis.

Indian Women's Hockey Legend, Rani Rampal Announces Retirement

Indian women's hockey legend Rani Rampal officially announced her retirement from international hockey on Thursday, marking the end of an illustrious career that spanned over 15 years. Known as the "Queen of Indian Hockey," Rani played 254 international matches and scored 120 goals, leading India to numerous milestones, including the famous fourth-place finish at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

Ashwin Surpasses Lyon: A Historic Day in the ICC World Test Championship

In a spectacular performance during the second Test against New Zealand in Pune, Ravichandran Ashwin set a new benchmark by becoming the highest wicket-taker in the ICC World Test Championship (WTC). He started the match just one wicket behind Australian spinner Nathan Lyon, who held the top spot with 187 wickets. However, Ashwin's brilliant bowling helped him overtake Lyon, ending the day with 189 WTC wickets.

Obituaries News

Tata Sons Chairman Ratan Tata Passes Away At 86

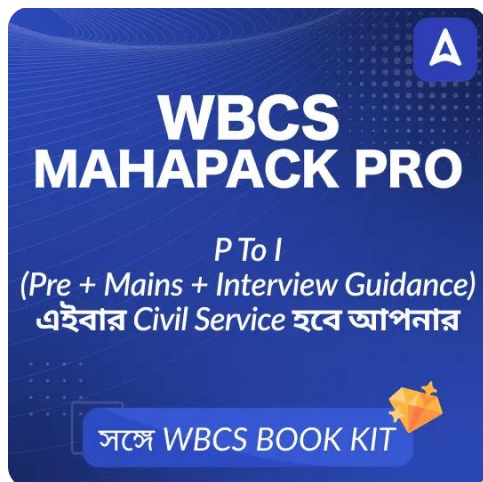
Tata Sons Chairman, Ratan Tata passed away on 9 October 2024 at the age of 86 due to prolonged age-related illness at Breach Candy Hospital, Mumbai. His passing marks the end of an era, as Tata's leadership and vision left an indelible mark on India's business and philanthropic landscape. His contributions to the Tata Group, the Indian economy, and global business have cemented his legacy as one of the greatest industrialists of all time.

Indranand Singh Jha, Akashvani Darbhanga Radio Presenter, Dies at 77

Indranand Singh Jha, a celebrated former radio presenter and compere of Akashvani Darbhanga, passed away at the age of 77 in his ancestral village, Chanaur, Darbhanga. Known affectionately as Khur Khur Bhai, Jha gained immense popularity for his rural radio talk program Gamghar, which resonated with listeners throughout his career. His distinctive voice and engaging style made him a beloved figure in the world of radio broadcasting. Following his death, social and cultural organizations have expressed their condolences and paid heartfelt tributes to Jha, reflecting on his lasting impact on the radio community and the hearts of many.

Ron Ely, TV's Iconic 'Tarzan,' Passes Away at 86

Ron Ely, best known for his portrayal of Tarzan in the 1960s NBC series, has died at the age of 86. Ely passed away on September 29 at his home in Los Alamos, California. His daughter, Kirsten Casale Ely, shared the news, describing her father as a "hero" and a "magical" influence on those around him. While Ely may not have achieved the fame of earlier Tarzan actor Johnny Weissmuller, he helped shape the modern image of the character, known for its shirtless and loincloth-wearing aesthetics. His passing marks the end of an era for fans of classic television.



Defence News

Visakhapatnam Hosts Malabar 2024 Naval Drill

MALABAR exercise will kick off from 8th October in Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh. It will be hosted by India, this year's exercise will see the participation of Australia, Japan, and the United States of America beginning with the Harbour Phase in Visakhapatnam, followed by the sea phase. The exercise will be conducted from 8th October to 18th October.

DefConnect 4.0: A Step Towards Indigenous Defence Innovation

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will inaugurate DefConnect 4.0 on October 7, 2024, at the Manekshaw Centre in Delhi, marking a major milestone in advancing indigenous defence innovation. Organised by Innovations for Defence Excellence – Defence Innovation Organisation (iDEX-DIO) under the Ministry of Defence's Department of Defence Production, the event brings together various stakeholders to promote collaboration and innovation in the defence ecosystem.

VSHORADS 4th Gen Missile Tested by DRDO

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully carried out three flight-tests of the advanced fourth-generation Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) at the Pokhran Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan on October 3-4. The tests mark a significant step in enhancing India's defense capabilities, showcasing the missile's precision and reliability in engaging fast-moving aerial targets.

Training Deployment: Indian Navy Ships Land in Muscat

The Indian Naval Ships Tir and Shardul, along with the Indian Coast Guard Ship Veera, from the First Training Squadron (1TS) of the Indian Navy, have successfully arrived in Muscat, Oman, as part of their long-range training deployment. This visit underscores the Indian Navy's commitment to enhancing maritime cooperation and strengthening ties with regional partners.

Indian Navy Commissions New Deep-Water Survey Vessel

The Indian Navy has received its latest large Survey Vessel for deep water hydrographic mapping specially designed, Nirdeshak (Yard 3026), second of four Survey Vessel (Large) ships, steered by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau and being built at Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata was delivered to the Indian Navy.

Army Commanders' Summit in Sikkim: Border Security in Focus

The Second Army Commanders' Conference of 2024 began on October 10 in a hybrid format at a forward location in

Gangtok, Sikkim. Bringing together senior leaders of the Indian Army, the conference serves as a crucial platform to review the nation's overall security landscape, address key conceptual issues, and devise strategies to tackle emerging challenges.

Indian Navy Partners with Bajaj Allianz for Naval Civilians' Insurance Coverage

In line with its focus on enhancing the welfare of Naval Civilians, the Indian Navy has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance. This initiative is a key highlight of 2024, declared as the "Year of Naval Civilians." It underscores the Navy's commitment to financial security and inclusivity for its civilian workforce, particularly by offering affordable life insurance options, including term insurance, to safeguard their families in the event of an untimely death.

Saluting Valor A Month-Long Tribute to 1962 Walong Heroes

The Indian Army is set to embark on a month-long series of commemorative events from October 17 to November 14, 2024, to honor the brave soldiers who fought valiantly in the Battle of Walong during the 1962 Sino-Indian War. This year marks the 62nd Walong Day, celebrating the courage and sacrifice of those who defended India's eastern front.

US Sends THAAD Missile Defense System to Israel

United States has announced it will send the advanced THAAD missile defence system to Israel. This move is part of a broader strategy to bolster Israel's defence capabilities and deter further aggression from Iran and other regional adversaries. The deployment underscores the US's "ironclad commitment" to Israel's defence and comes at a time of heightened geopolitical sensitivity in the region.

India, U.S. Finalize \$3.5bn Agreement for MQ-9B Armed UAVs

On October 15, 2024, India and the U.S. concluded a major defense deal worth \$3.5 billion for the procurement of 31 MQ-9B armed High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS). Manufactured by General Atomics, the MQ-9B systems are acquired through an inter-governmental agreement under the U.S. Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program.

Indian Army's Sudarshan Chakra Corps Holds 'Swavlamban Shakti' Exercise

The Army's Sudarshan Chakra Corps of the Southern Command is currently conducting 'Exercise SWAVLAMBAN SHAKTI' at the Babina Field Firing Ranges near Jhansi, with the primary objective of enhancing combat capabilities through the integration of niche and emerging technologies. The exercise commenced on 17th October, 2024 and is set to continue until October 22, as stated in a defense release.

India and Oman Conduct Joint Naval Drill 'Naseem Al Bahr' off Goa

The India-Oman bilateral naval exercise Naseem-Al-Bahr, held from October 13 to 18, 2024, off the coast of Goa, featured the participation of the Indian Navy's INS Trikand and Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft, alongside the Royal Navy of Oman's vessel Al Seeb. The exercise was conducted in two phases.

India Strengthens Navy with Fourth Nuclear Submarine

India's fourth nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), designated S4*, was officially launched into the water at the Ship Building Centre in Visakhapatnam, according to official sources. This advanced submarine represents a significant leap in capability and size compared to its predecessor, INS Arihant (S2), which primarily served as a technology demonstrator under the Advanced Technology Vessel program.

Swavlamban 2024: Advancing Naval Innovation and Indigenisation

The Curtain Raiser Press Conference for Swavlamban 2024, the third edition of the Indian Navy's Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO) Seminar, took place in New Delhi on October 22, 2024. Chaired by Vice Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, Vice Chief of Naval Staff (VCNS), the event highlighted the Navy's commitment to showcasing significant advancements in innovation and indigenisation aimed at bolstering India's defense capabilities. Scheduled for October 28-29, 2024, at Bharat Mandapam, Swavlamban 2024 promises to be a larger and more impactful gathering.

Justice Yahya Afridi Selected as Pakistan's Next Chief Justice Amid Political Unrest

A special parliamentary committee in Pakistan has appointed Justice Yahya Afridi as the next Chief Justice, bypassing the traditional seniority principle. This decision follows the 26th Constitutional Amendment, which granted the committee the authority to appoint the top judge, replacing the seniority-based elevation system. Afridi was chosen over two senior judges, Mansoor Ali Shah and Munib Akhtar, sparking concerns about deepening political turmoil.

63rd ITBP Raising Day 2024: Celebrating the Guardians of the Himalayas

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), one of India's five Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), celebrates its Raising Day on October 24 every year. The ITBP Raising Day commemorates the founding of this elite paramilitary force, which was raised in the aftermath of the 1962 Sino-Indian War. The force is entrusted with the security of the India-China border in the Himalayas and plays a critical role in safeguarding the nation's sovereignty.

New Missile Testing Range Approved in Andhra Pradesh

The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the establishment of a new missile testing range in Nagayalanka, Andhra Pradesh. This initiative aims to bolster India's defense capabilities, particularly for testing tactical missile systems. The new facility will focus on surface-to-air missiles, anti-tank missiles, and other advanced projects under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

India-Germany Maritime Partnership Exercise: Strengthening Naval Cooperation

The Indian Navy and German Navy recently completed their inaugural Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) in the Indian Ocean, marking a key milestone in naval collaboration. The exercise, held in the Bay of Bengal, included joint operations involving INS Delhi, a guided-missile destroyer from India, and Baden-Württemberg and Frankfurt Am Main, a frigate and replenishment tanker from Germany. This event highlights both nations' commitment to enhancing maritime interoperability and regional stability.

SIMBEX 2024: Strengthening Maritime Partnership Between India and Singapore

The 31st edition of the Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) is underway from October 23 to 29, 2024, at the Eastern Naval Command (ENC) in Visakhapatnam. This annual exercise showcases the evolving maritime collaboration between the Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN), furthering the strategic partnership and shared objectives of maritime security and interoperability.

GRSE's Seventh ASW Ship, 'Abhay', Joins Indian Navy Fleet

On October 25, 2024, the Indian Navy's seventh Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC), named 'Abhay', was launched at M/s L&T's Kattupalli facility. Built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), this vessel marks a significant addition to India's maritime defense capabilities.

Chanakya Defence Dialogue 2024 Culminates at New Delhi

The Chanakya Defence Dialogue 2024 concluded on October 25th at the Manekshaw Centre in Delhi, marking the second edition of this significant international seminar hosted by the Indian Army. The event brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including policymakers, strategic thinkers,

academics, veterans, and defense personnel from various countries, all focused on analyzing India's strategic directions and developmental priorities.

GSL Unveils Two Indigenous Fast Patrol Vessels for Coast Guard

Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) launched two indigenous fast patrol vessels, Adama and Akshar, designed for the Indian Coast Guard, on 28th October. These vessels are intended to enhance the protection of offshore assets, island territories, and conduct surveillance operations.

Books & Authors News**A New Book "War" By Veteran Investigative Journalist Bob Woodward**

Veteran investigative journalist Bob Woodward, best known for his role in uncovering the Watergate scandal, is set to release his latest book titled War, which has already begun to shake the political landscape. This highly anticipated book delves deep into the dynamics of power between former U.S. President Donald Trump, current President Joe Biden, and Russian President Vladimir Putin, revealing shocking insights into their leadership and the ongoing global crises.

A Book Titled "Mountain Mammals of the World" By M.K. Ranjitsinh

Few conservationists in India can claim a legacy as impactful as M.K. Ranjitsinh, whose new book, Mountain Mammals of the World, published by Penguin Random House, serves as a testament to his lifelong dedication to protecting endangered species. As a member of the royal family of Wankaner, Gujarat, Ranjitsinh has played a pivotal role in shaping India's wildlife conservation policies, and his latest literary endeavor reflects the culmination of decades of research, exploration, and unwavering passion for the natural world.

Miscellaneous News**J and K Set for New Government as President's Rule is Lifted**

The Central Government has officially revoked President's Rule in Jammu and Kashmir, paving the way for the appointment of a new Chief Minister. In a notification issued by President Droupadi Murmu, the revocation was enacted under the powers granted by the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, and relevant constitutional provisions.

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