



Current Affairs Supplement
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Registered/ Corporate Office

DELHI

+91- 8920-180-477
F – 92, 2nd Floor, Hanuman Mandir Market
Near Royal Bakery (Metro Gate No. – 3)
Munrika, New Delhi – 110067

MUMBAI

+91-7900-005-077
401 & 2, Fourth Floor, Krishna Plaza, Above
Krishna Sweets, Jan Kalyan Bank, Next to
Ganesh Tower, Shivaji Path Opposite Thane
Railway Station (W) - 400601

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National

NMC To Launch “One Nation, One Registration Platform” For Doctors

- The **National Medical Commission (NMC)** has embarked on a mission to assign a unique identification number to every doctor in the country by the end of **2024**. The cornerstone of this initiative is the creation of the **National Medical Register (NMR)**.
- **National Medical Register (NMR)** will serve as a centralized repository for doctors practicing in India. This move is expected to streamline the healthcare sector and enhance transparency.
- The NMR will replace the existing Indian Medical Register (IMR) and will be accessible to the public through the NMC’s website. It will offer below mentioned comprehensive information about registered doctors:

Sno	Information	Description
1	Unique Identification Number (UID)	A unique identification number assigned to each doctor.
2	Registration Number	The doctor’s registration number used for verification.
3	Name and Place of Work	Details about the doctor’s name and workplace.
4	Qualifications	Information regarding the doctor’s educational degrees.
5	Specialization	The area of expertise in which the doctor practices.
6	Institute/University	The institution or university where qualifications were obtained.

Kozhikode Named India’s First ‘City Of Literature’ By UNESCO

- **Kozhikode**, a city located in the southern Indian state of **Kerala**, has made its mark on the global stage by being named one of the latest entrants into the **UNESCO Creative Cities Network**. Kozhikode’s new title as the ‘City of Literature’ marks a significant milestone, as it’s the **first city in India** to hold this coveted distinction.
- This prestigious recognition was bestowed upon Kozhikode on World Cities Day, alongside **Gwalior** in Madhya Pradesh, which was recognized as a ‘**City of Music**’. **Prague** was the first city to receive the City of Literature title in 2014.
- With the inclusion of Kozhikode and Gwalior, the UNESCO Creative Cities Network now boasts **350 creative cities in more than 100 countries**, representing **seven creative fields**: Crafts and Folk Art, Design, Film, Gastronomy, Literature, Media Arts, and Music.



Celebrating Karnataka Rajyotsava: 50 Years Of Karnataka’s Formation

- **November 1, 2023**, marks the **50th anniversary of Karnataka’s formation**, a significant day in the state’s history. This day, known as **Karnataka Rajyotsava**, celebrates the merger of Kannada-speaking regions into a single state.
- Karnataka was originally founded on **Karnataka Rajyotsava Day on November 1, 1956**, following the enactment of the **State Reorganisation Act**. The state’s formation brought together all Kannada-speaking regions into a single entity. Karnataka was officially renamed from **Mysore on November 1, 1973**.



- Apart from Karnataka, several other states and territories, including **Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Lakshadweep, and Puducherry**, also commemorate their formation day on **November 1**.

UPSC tightens rules for appointment of State Police Chiefs

- **The Supreme Court** has directed all **states and Union territories** to refrain from appointing any police officer as acting **Director General of Police (DGP)**.
- Instead, states are mandated to send names of senior police officers to the **Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)** for consideration as potential candidates for the position of **DGPs or Police Commissioners**.
- **The UPSC** will meticulously evaluate the submitted names and prepare a list of the three most suitable officers. States are then free to appoint one of these officers as the **police chief**. The emphasis is on meritocracy and transparency in the selection process.



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

- According to the RBI, More than **97% of the ₹2,000 banknotes** in circulation as of **May 19, 2023**, have been returned by **October 31, 2023**. The remaining **₹2,000 banknotes** in circulation are still considered legal tender.
- The total value of ₹2,000 banknotes in circulation was **₹3.56 lakh crore** as of **May 19, 2023**. This value has significantly reduced to **₹10,000 crore** as of **October 31, 2023**.
- The facility for deposit and exchange of **₹2,000 banknotes** at bank branches ended on **October 7, 2023**. The central bank's initial goal for introducing these banknotes was to meet the currency needs of the economy after the withdrawal of **₹500 and ₹1,000** banknotes in **November-December 2016**.

Prime Minister launches 'MeraYuva Bharat (MY Bharat)' platform on the National Unity Day

- On October 31st, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the '**MeraYuva Bharat (MY Bharat)**' platform, a groundbreaking initiative designed to empower the youth of India.
- This autonomous body, established by the Union Cabinet on October 11, 2023, aims to **serve as a technology-driven facilitator for youth development** and youth-led progress, fostering equitable opportunities and fostering a sense of social responsibility among young individuals.
- '**MeraYuva Bharat (MY Bharat)**' envisions a harmonious blend of physical and digital engagement, **enabling young people aged 10-19 years to seamlessly connect with programs**, mentors, and local communities. The goal is to deepen their understanding of local issues, nurture leadership skills, and encourage active participation in finding constructive solutions.



PM To Inaugurate World Food India 2023 Mega Food Event

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the second edition of **World Food India 2023**, a celebration of India's culinary heritage and its global food potential. This **second edition** unites culture, cuisine, and commerce, providing a platform for discussions, partnerships, and agri-food sector investments.
- One of the most anticipated attractions of World Food India 2023 is the 'Food Street.' This culinary delight will **showcase regional cuisines** and the royal culinary heritage of India.
- World Food India 2023 aims to position India as the 'food basket of the world.' The event coincides with the celebration of 2023 as the **International Year of Millets**, further emphasizing the importance of diverse and sustainable food sources.



Kerala Government Challenges Governor Arif Mohammed Khan In Supreme Court Over Pending Bills

- The Kerala Government has approached the Supreme Court of India, seeking a declaration that **Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan** has failed to fulfill his Constitutional powers and duties in dealing with Bills passed by the State Legislature.
- The Kerala Government filed a special leave petition before the Supreme Court on November 2, 2023, raising concerns about the **Governor's handling of pending Bills**. T.P. Ramakrishnan, a Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA), also submitted a separate petition to address this issue.
- The Kerala Government has alleged that the Governor acted in a manifestly arbitrary manner, subverting the **Constitution by withholding Bills** passed by the State Legislature for an indefinite period. The State is seeking a declaration from the Supreme Court that the Governor is obligated to dispose of all Bills presented to him within a reasonable time frame.



ShivNadar Tops The Hurun India Philanthropy List 2023

- HCLTech founder **Shiv Nadar** and his family have retained the top spot on the **EdelGiveHurun India Philanthropy List 2023**.
- For the fiscal year 2022-23, they made a substantial donation of **Rs 2,042 crore**, marking the fifth consecutive year that Nadar, aged 78, has claimed this distinguished rank.
- Leading Philanthropists:

Rank	Name	Donation (in Crores)
1	Shiv Nadar and Family	Rs 2,042
2	AzimPremji and Family	Rs 1,774
3	MukeshAmbani and Family	Rs 376
4	Nikhil Kamath	Rs 110
5	GautamAdani and Family	Rs 285
8	NandanNilekani	Rs 189
9	Cyrus Poonawalla and Adar Poonawalla	Rs 179

10	Rohini Nilekani	Rs 170
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Prime Minister Narendra Modi as Elected Chairman of Shree Somnath Trust for Five-Year Term

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

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

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

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

- NTPC REL's debut project, the 50 MW wind farm at Dayapar, Kutch, Gujarat, officially commenced its commercial operations on November 4, 2023. Dayapar Wind stands out as the **first capacity in India** to be declared commercial under the new **Indian Electricity Grid Code** and General Network Access Regime.
- NTPC REL is not limiting its efforts to wind and solar energy. The company is also venturing into **green hydrogen technologies**, recognizing the growing importance of hydrogen as a clean energy source. Using the microgrid principle, NTPC REL is setting up a **large green hydrogen capacity in Ladakh**, further contributing to India's sustainable energy future.
- NTPC REL was incorporated as a wholly-owned subsidiary of NTPC in **October 2020**, with a clear mission to accelerate the addition of renewable energy capacity within the NTPC Group. As part of its long-term growth plan, NTPC aims to achieve a remarkable **60 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2032**.



Prime Minister Modi Extends Free Ration Scheme For 5 More Years

- Prime Minister Modi declared the extension of **PradhanMantriGaribKalyan Anna Yojana** for another five years. The scheme, which was initially introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, provides 5 kg of free food grains every month to those in need.
- The PradhanMantriGaribKalyan Anna Yojana has played a crucial role in supporting the **economically vulnerable segments of society**, especially during lockdowns and economic disruptions caused by the pandemic.
- PMGKAY is an extensive program designed to benefit a substantial portion of the Indian population. It targets approximately **80 crore (800 million)** individuals who fall under the category of “poor.” These beneficiaries include those living below the poverty line, daily wage laborers, and other vulnerable groups.



ISRO Chief Withdraws Release Of His Autobiography ‘NilavuKudichaSimhangaal’

- The Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), **S Somanath**, has decided to withdraw the publication of his forthcoming autobiography, titled ‘**NilavuKudichaSimhangaal**’ (which roughly translates to ‘**Lions that drank the Moonlight**’).
- The decision comes in the wake of a controversy surrounding alleged critical comments made by Somanath about his predecessor, K Sivan. The comments led to a public outcry, prompting Somanath to take the unprecedented step of withdrawing the book’s publication.
- S Somanath acknowledged that his book did contain references to the lack of clarity surrounding the announcement of the failure of the Chandrayaan-2 mission. Chandrayaan-2 was India’s second lunar exploration mission, which, in 2019, unfortunately failed to achieve a soft landing on the moon.

Bharat Botanics To Open India’s Largest Cold Oil Production Facility In Gujarat

- Recently, **Bharat Botanics** announced the opening of its cutting-edge wood-pressed **Cold Oil processing facility** in Gondal, Rajkot **Gujarat**.
- This 16,000 square feet automated facility is one of its kind, promoting **100% hygiene and transparency**. This marks a significant step towards a healthier India, one that embraces **natural, chemical-free edible oils**.
- Bharat Botanics is **India’s leading wood-pressed edible oil (B2C) brand**, known for its pure, chemical-free, and natural oils. Their products are not just a symbol of **Atmanirbharta**; they are a testament to dedication to local communities, environmental responsibility, and fostering a culture of wellness.



Mundra Becomes India’s First Port To Handle 16.1 Million Tonnes Of Cargo

- With its strategic location, superior infrastructure and consistent growth, **Mundra Port**, the flagship of **Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ)** Becomes India’s First Port To Handle 16.1 Million Tonnes Of Cargo
- Mundra Port’s remarkable feat does not stop at just one record. It crossed the **100 MMT-mark in a mere 210 days**, surpassing its previous record of **231 days from the previous year**.

- In addition to its rapid growth in cargo volume, the port also witnessed double-digit growth in containers, with a **10% increase and in liquids and gas, a 14% increase**. This growth demonstrates its versatility and adaptability to handle various types of cargo efficiently.

IIT Kanpur Launches A Center Of Excellence Called ATMAN To Monitor Air Quality

- The **Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK)** has established a Center of Excellence (CoE) named **ATMAN (Advanced Technologies for Monitoring Air-quality iNdicators)**. It represents a pivotal move towards **achieving self-reliance in air quality monitoring** and management.
- The CoE is at the forefront of **indigenous air quality sensor fabrication**, combining it with artificial intelligence and machine learning models to ensure precise and reliable results. The technology's optimization involves **careful sensor placement** to maximize overall citizen satisfaction with air quality information available to the public.
- This initiative of establishing the Center of Excellence—ATMAN has firmly positioned the institute at the forefront of efforts to combat air pollution. Through ATMAN, IIT Kanpur is dedicated to the meticulous **evaluation of health risks associated with air pollutants**, as well as a comprehensive review of air quality standards.



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

- **Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL)** has become the **largest renewable energy company in India**, reaching an installed capacity of 8.4 gigawatts (GW) last week.
- This remarkable achievement is attributed to the commissioning of a 0.15 GW solar power park in Rajasthan, further solidifying AGEL's position in the market.
- AGEL stands out as a leader in **India's renewable energy landscape**, boasting a 5 GW capacity in the solar segment alone, which is the largest in the country.
- AGEL has an ambitious goal of achieving 45 GW of renewable energy capacity by the year 2030.

Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde Unveils Shivaji Maharaj Statue In J&K's Kupwara

- Maharashtra Chief Minister **Eknath Shinde**, along with other dignitaries, inaugurated a statue of **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj** in the **Kupwara** district of **Jammu and Kashmir** on **November 7**. The statue of **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj** holds a special connection to Maharashtra.
- The statue was installed at the **41 National Rifle (Maratha LI) camp**, which is located in close proximity to the **Line of Control (LoC)** separating **India and Pakistan**.
- The soil and water used in the statue's construction were sourced from five different forts across the state, including **Shivneri, Torna, Rajgarh, Pratapgarh, and Raigarh**.

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

- ISRO's maiden solar mission, **Aditya L1**, has captured its **first high-energy X-ray glimpse of solar flares**.
- The **High Energy L1 Orbiting X-ray Spectrometer (HEL1OS)** on board the Aditya-L1 spacecraft recorded the impulsive phase of solar flares, as announced by the space agency.
- A **solar flare** is a sudden brightening of the solar atmosphere, and the recorded data from Aditya L1 is consistent with the **X-ray light curves** provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites (GOES).



7 Ring Smart Ring Is Here To Enable Contactless Payments In India

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

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

- In a recent clarification, the **Supreme Court of India** emphasized that its directive, issued in the 2021 order, **banning the use of barium** and other prohibited chemicals in firecrackers applies not only to the National Capital Region but to the entire country.
- In **October 2018**, the Supreme Court took a significant step by **imposing a ban** on the production and sale of all crackers except 'green crackers' and those designed to emit reduced emissions, commonly referred to as improved crackers.
- The court also prohibited the manufacture and sale of '**joined crackers**,' which are long rows of crackers joined together.
- Additionally, the **use of barium salts** in fireworks was **banned**, and it was mandated that the noise levels of the crackers should adhere to permissible limits.



Kozhikode And Gwalior Join UNESCO Creative Cities Network

- In a recent announcement, UNESCO welcomed 55 new cities into its **Creative Cities Network (UCCN)**, which focuses on promoting creativity as a strategic factor in urban development.
- Notably, two Indian cities, **Kozhikode and Gwalior**, made their mark by joining this esteemed network.
- Kozhikode, situated in Kerala, stands out as the first Indian city to be designated as the **‘City of Literature’** by UNESCO, marking a historic achievement.
- Gwalior, located in Madhya Pradesh, has earned the distinction of being designated as the **‘City of Music’** by UNESCO, following in the footsteps of Varanasi, which received this recognition in **2015**.



CJI DY Chandrachud Inaugurates Mitti Cafe In Supreme Court

- Chief Justice of India (CJI) **DY Chandrachud** inaugurated **‘Mitti Cafe’**, a unique establishment situated within the **Supreme Court premises**.
- This cafe stands out for being **entirely managed by individuals with disabilities**, encompassing those who are visually impaired, have cerebral palsy, and are paraplegic.
- **‘Mitti Cafe’** has already established **38 outlets in various parts** of the country. Moreover, during the **COVID-19 pandemic**, they provided **six million meals**, showcasing the potential of inclusive employment and meaningful contributions by differently-abled individuals.



National Education Day 2023: What is its history and theme

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

Ayodhya Sets Guinness Record By Lighting 22 Lakh Diyas

- The seventh Deepotsav in Ayodhya set a new world record by emerging as the largest event of lighting lamps together at one location, with over 22 lakh ‘diyas’ illuminated along the Saryu river.
- The **22+ lakh ‘diyas’** (earthen lanterns), 6.47 lakh more than the previous year, were lit by 25,000 volunteers at the 51 ghats of Ram Ki Paidi along the river.
- The festivities were not confined to lamp lighting alone. **Cultural presentations** by artists from 21



states, 11 tableaux, and **Ramlila performances** from countries like **Russia, Sri Lanka, Singapore, and Nepal** added a vibrant and diverse flavor to the event.

Uttarakhand To Become The First State To Adopt The Uniform Civil Code (UCC)

- **Uttarakhand** is on the brink of making history as it prepares to become the **first state in India** to implement the **Uniform Civil Code (UCC)**.
- The move is part of a broader effort to create a legal framework that **ensures fair treatment** and opportunities for all citizens, regardless of their gender, sex, religion, or sexual orientation.
- As of now, **Goa stands as the only state with a civil code**, introduced during Portuguese rule.
- **Kerala** is the **first state in the country to formally oppose the UCC**, showcasing the diversity of opinions and perspectives on this crucial legal reform.

Indian Skydiver Shital Mahajan Makes History Near Mt Everest

- Indian skydiver **Shital Mahajan** has etched her name in history by jumping off a helicopter from a staggering height of **21,500 ft near the world's highest peak, Mt Everest**.
- This remarkable feat marks her as the first woman to accomplish such a daring skydive. Mahajan skillfully landed at **Kalapatthar peak, situated at an altitude of 17,444 ft**.
- Shital Mahajan is a renowned Indian skydiver with numerous records to her name.
- Her remarkable accomplishments include holding several skydiving records and being honored with the **Padma Shri, the fourth-highest civilian award in India, in 2001**.



Kochi In Condé Nast List Of Best Places To Visit In 2024

- **Kochi**, a vibrant city in the Indian state of **Kerala**, has earned a prestigious spot on **Condé Nast Traveller's list of the best places** to visit in Asia in 2024.
- The recognition is a nod to the city's commitment to providing enriching experiences for travelers while embracing eco-friendly practices and preserving its cultural heritage.
- **Kochi International Airport (CIAL)** stands out as the world's first airport to operate solely on solar energy. This eco-friendly initiative underscores Kerala's commitment to sustainable practices.



India Ranks Third In Global Unicorn Rankings With 72 Unicorns

- In the dynamic world of startups and unicorns, **India** has secured the **third position** globally with an impressive count of **72 unicorn companies**.
- The **first Indian company** to make a mark on the global stage is **BYJU's**, securing the **36th position** with a noteworthy valuation of **\$11.50 billion**.
- The **United States** leads the global unicorn race with an unparalleled **668 unicorn companies**, more than three times the count of China in the second position.

- **China** holds the **second-highest number of unicorn companies**, boasting a total of **172** with a combined valuation of \$641.67 billion.

Uttar Pradesh Cadre IPS Officer Alok Sharma Named New Chief Of SPG

- Senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer **Alok Sharma** has been appointed as the **new director of the Special Protection Group (SPG)**, the elite security unit responsible for safeguarding the Prime Minister.
- This crucial appointment comes in the wake of the unfortunate **demise of SPG chief Arun Kumar Sinha** in September.
- Alok Sharma, who **currently serves as the additional director general of SPG**, assumes the leadership role with immediate effect, according to a government order approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.

Uttar Pradesh Government Banned Halal Certified Products

- The **Uttar Pradesh government** has imposed an immediate ban on the production, storage, **distribution and sale of halal certified products** within the state.
- The decision encompasses a wide range of items, including dairy products, sugar, bakery goods, peppermint oil, beverages, edible oil, certain medicines and cosmetic products.
- Products such as **oil, sugar, toothpaste and spices are now being labeled with halal certificates**, leading to confusion about food quality and potentially violating government rules.
- The ban aims to address these concerns and ensure that certification is done exclusively by authorized bodies like the **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)**.

Bihar Governor Approves Bill Raising Reservation From 50% To 65%

- In a significant move towards addressing social inequality, the **Governor of Bihar, Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar**, approved the **‘Bihar Reservation Amendment Bill’** on November 17.
- The bill raises the reservation quota for **Backward, Extremely Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes from 50% to 65%, surpassing the 50% ceiling set by the Supreme Court.**
- The **‘Bihar Reservation Amendment Bill’** brings about a comprehensive reevaluation of reservation quotas across various categories. The legislative amendments not only apply to employment opportunities but also extend to educational institutions.

India-Australia 2+2 Dialogue

- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** recently engaged in bilateral talks with Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister **Richard Marles** in New Delhi.
- The discussions were part of the **India-Australia 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue**, aimed at enhancing defence cooperation and strengthening the strategic relationship between the two nations.
- The **2+2 dialogue** is a strategic format involving the foreign and defence ministers of India and its allies. This format facilitates discussions on critical strategic and security issues, fostering a deeper understanding of each other’s concerns and sensitivities.
- The recent dialogue covered various critical areas, including anti-submarine warfare, air-to-air refuelling, security in the Indo-Pacific region, hydrography cooperation, and collaboration in sectors such as critical minerals, space, education, science, and technology.

Delhi's Khan Market World's 22nd Priciest High Street Retail Location

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

Saffron From Kishtwar In Jammu And Kashmir Gets GI Tag

- **Kishtwar saffron**, a prized **spice** cultivated and harvested in the **Kishtwar Region of Jammu and Kashmir**, has recently been bestowed with the prestigious **Geographical Indication (GI) tag** by the Geographical Indications Registry.
- Saffron, with its Sanskrit name '**Kum-Kum**' or '**Lohit**,' stands as a cultural heritage in the region. The spice is also utilized in medicines and as a subtle, **digestive**, sedative, and exhilarant flavor in cooking.
- Known as '**Zafron**' in Persian, it is not just a condiment used in cooking but also finds its place in Hindu traditions. Hindus in India use saffron as a mark (**Tilak**) on the forehead, considering its aroma and color as auspicious.



OneWeb India Becomes First Firm To Get IN-SPACe Approval For Satellite Broadband

- **OneWeb India**, a subsidiary of the **Bharti Group** and part of the **Eutelsat Group**, has recently obtained approval from India's space regulator, **IN-SPACe**, to initiate Eutelsat OneWeb's commercial satellite broadband services in the country.
- This significant milestone positions OneWeb India as the **first organization to receive such authorization**, making it the **sole satellite broadband services provider** to secure all necessary regulatory approvals ahead of its commercial launch.
- In addition to the general approval for commercial services, Eutelsat OneWeb has also secured in-principle approval to **establish and operate two gateways in Gujarat and Tamil Nadu**.



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

- The Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Youth Affairs & Sports, **Shri Anurag Singh Thakur**, inaugurated the **Film Bazaar**, the largest South Asian film market at Marriott Resort, Goa.
- Initiated by the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), the Film Bazaar is now in its 17th year and is recognized as the fifth-largest and most globalized industry worldwide.
- The Film Bazaar plays a pivotal role in **connecting local filmmakers with global producers** and distributors, fostering collaboration and the exchange of creative ideas on an international scale.

Telangana Unveils The World's First 3D-Printed Temple

- **Telangana** has unveiled the **world's first 3D-printed temple**, a groundbreaking structure situated in Burugupally, Siddipet district.
- This innovative construction, achieved through a three-month 3D printing process, marks a significant technological milestone.
- The temple spans 4,000 square feet and stands at a height of 35.5 feet. It comprises three distinct parts, each dedicated to a different deity.
- The temple was constructed by Hyderabad-based Apsuja Infratech in collaboration with Simpliforge Creations, a 3D printing company.

Report: US Granted \$677 Billion In Aid To 213 Countries From 2001 To 2023

- According to the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)**, the **United States** emerges as the **foremost aid provider** in 2022.
- A comprehensive analysis indicates that the US has disbursed a staggering **\$677 billion** in aid to 213 countries from 2001 to 2023. This financial assistance spans various nations, addressing diverse needs and challenges.
- The aftermath of the 9/11 attacks and subsequent events in **Afghanistan** resulted in the country receiving a total of **\$111 billion of aid between 2001 and 2023**.
- Examining the recipients of US aid, **Israel emerges as the second-highest beneficiary**, receiving **\$65 billion**, followed closely by Iraq at \$64 billion.



Afghanistan Closes Its Embassy In India Permanently

- The **Afghanistan embassy** in New Delhi has officially announced its **permanent closure**, citing persistent challenges from the Indian government as the primary reason.
- The embassy clarified that the closure **should not be seen as an internal conflict** or a result of diplomats switching allegiance to the Taliban.
- The embassy has **handed over the mission solely to the Indian government**, leaving it to decide the fate of the mission, including the possibility of handing it over to Taliban diplomats.

Indian Rupee Hits Record Low At 83.38 Against US Dollar

- The Indian rupee closed at a new low of **83.38 against the US dollar**, marking a slight decline from the previous close of 83.34.
- This drop was attributed to increased dollar demand from oil companies and intervention by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to mitigate a steeper fall.
- The primary factor contributing to the rupee's decline was the heightened demand for dollars from oil companies. This demand, coupled with RBI interventions, played a crucial role in shaping the day's forex market dynamics.



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

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

- **Warren Buffett-led Berkshire Hathaway** has made headlines by completely divesting its 2.46% stake in One 97 Communications, the parent company of Paytm.
- Berkshire Hathaway exited Paytm by selling its entire 2.46% stake at an average price of Rs 877.2 per share. The transaction, resulting in a Rs 507 crore loss.
- Prior to the exit, Paytm's shares experienced a 3.23% decline, reaching Rs 893. The market response underscores the dynamic nature of investor sentiments, reflecting both challenges and opportunities for Paytm as it navigates its path to recovery.

President Droupadi Murmu Unveils Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Statue At Supreme Court

- On the auspicious occasion of **Constitution Day**, President Droupadi Murmu revealed a **statue of Dr B R Ambedkar** within the Supreme Court premises.
- Since **2015**, November 26 has been dedicated to Constitution Day, marking the historic adoption of the Constitution of India by the Constituent Assembly in 1949.
- This day was previously celebrated as **Law Day**, but the shift to Constitution Day highlights the nation's commitment to upholding the principles and ideals laid out in its foundational document.

Bengaluru Hosts Kambala Races

- The city of **Bengaluru** witnessed history in the making as it hosted its **first-ever Kambala event**, a spectacle that captivated over 11 lakh visitors.
- With the races commencing since Saturday, numerous teams had qualified for the quarter and semi-finals. Post races, an **LED screen** replayed the thrilling matches, allowing the audience to relive the excitement and share in the triumphs of the participants.
- In a special moment, a buffalo that had accumulated over **200 medals** and emerged as the consecutive winner in numerous championships was felicitated at the Bengaluru Kambala.



The Book, Titled 'Pranab, My Father: A Daughter Remembers' By Sharmishtha Mukherjee

- The book, titled '**Pranab, My Father: A Daughter Remembers**' authored by **Sharmishtha Mukherjee** is being brought out by **Rupa Publications**.
- The book is a mirror to the father-daughter relationship between Pranab Mukherjee and Sharmishtha.
- Mukherjee's life from an unprepossessing village in West Bengal's Birbhum district to a roller-coaster career thereafter are the highlights of an about-to-be-released biography penned by his daughter, classical dancer Sharmishtha Mukherjee.



Merriam-Webster: Word Of The Year For 2023 Is 'Authentic'

- With controversies surrounding 'deepfake' videos making headlines, **Merriam-Webster Dictionary** recently disclosed some of the **most searched words of the year 2023**.
- Merriam-Webster's word of the year for 2023 is "**authentic**." The term often revolves around identity, whether national or personal, influencing discussions on cuisine, self, voice, and more.
- **Merriam-Webster**, an **American company** renowned for its publication of reference books, particularly dictionaries, holds the distinction of being the oldest dictionary publisher in the United States. Merriam-Webster's citation file encompasses **over 16 million entries**, capturing individual instances of word usage.

Angkor Wat Becomes The 8th Wonder Of The World

- **Angkor Wat**, located in the heart of **Cambodia**, has recently earned the prestigious **title of the 8th wonder of the world**, surpassing Italy's Pompeii.
- This UNESCO World Heritage Site is not only the largest religious structure in the world but also a testament to architectural brilliance and cultural significance.
- Angkor Wat is an expansive temple complex that spans approximately **500 acres and serves as the largest religious monument in the world**.
- Originally constructed in the **12th century by King Suryavarman II**, the temple was dedicated to the **Hindu deity Vishnu**. Over time, it transformed into a major Buddhist temple, reflecting the transition from Hinduism to Buddhism.



Barda Wildlife Sanctuary Is Set To Become The Second Home For Asiatic Lions

- After Gir National Park and Sanctuary, the **Barda Wildlife Sanctuary (BWLS)** is set to become the second home to Asiatic lions.
- The Gujarat Forest Department presented its proposal to make BWLS the second home to the lions as part of "**Project Lion @ 2047**".
- Project Lion is an initiative launched by the **Government of India in 2021** to conserve and protect the Asiatic Lion and its habitat.
- The project aims to address the threats faced by the Asiatic lion population in India, which is found only in the Gir National Park and Sanctuary in Gujarat.



All 41 Workers Evacuated In Uttarakhand Tunnel After 17 Days

- On November 23, 2023, after **17 harrowing days** trapped underground, all **41 workers** were successfully rescued from the collapsed **Silkyara-Barkot tunnel in Uttarakhand, India**.
- The rescue operation, which involved a combined effort of the Indian Army, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), and local authorities, became a symbol of human resilience and determination in the face of adversity.



- The **4.5 km-tunnel** is part of the Centre's ambitious Char Dham project aimed at providing all-weather connectivity between four prominent Hindu shrines in **Uttarakhand – Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri**.

IFFI 2023: 'Endless Borders' Wins Golden Peacock

- The **54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** in Goa ended on November 28 with an award ceremony. The nine-day festival concluded at **Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium in Panaji, Goa**.
- For the prestigious Golden Peacock, a total of 15 films comprising 12 international and 3 Indian films competed. **'Endless Borders'** took home the award. Iranian actor Pouria Rahimi Sam bagged the Best Actor award for his role in 'Endless Borders'.
- 'Kantara' scripted history as it became the first Kannada film to win an award at IFFI. Kannada actor and filmmaker Rishab Shetty was honoured with the Special Jury Award for his pan-Indian blockbuster film.
- Legendary Hollywood actor and producer **Michael Douglas** was conferred with the **Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award** while 'Panchayat Season 2' got the Best Web Series Award.

Modi Govt Plans 7 New Bills For Winter Session

- The **upcoming Winter Session of the Parliament** is poised to witness significant legislative activity, with the Narendra Modi government planning to **introduce seven new Bills alongside addressing 11 pending bills**.
- The proposed legislations cover a diverse range of topics, from establishing a Central Tribal University in Telangana to providing women's quota in Jammu and Kashmir and Puducherry Assemblies.
- While the government is focused on introducing new bills, the session's key business will involve addressing pending bills, including **The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, The Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita, and The Bharatiya Sakshya Bill**.



Cabinet Approves Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan

- The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has recently approved the **Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN)**, a comprehensive initiative aimed at addressing the **challenges faced by Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs)**.
- The PM-JANMAN is designed to **implement 11 critical interventions**, spanning across nine ministries, including the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The comprehensive approach ensures that various facets of the PVTGs' challenges are addressed collaboratively.
- The **Ministry of Ayush** plays a pivotal role in the PM-JANMAN initiative by establishing Ayush Wellness Centres in line with existing norms. These wellness centres **aim to provide traditional Ayush healthcare facilities** to PVTG habitations.



Railways To Upgrade 'Kavach' To LTE: Ashwini Vaishnaw

- In a bid to enhance railway safety and address concerns over increasing accidents, Railways Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** announced the Ministry of Railways' plans to **upgrade its indigenous anti-collision system, Kavach, to 4G/5G (LTE-based) technology.**
- **Kavach**, developed indigenously, has been **deployed across more than 1,465 route kilometres (rkm)**, with ongoing work for an additional 3,000 rkm. The Ministry of Railways aims to **expedite the implementation of this anti-collision system** and make it more efficient over longer ranges.
- Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw disclosed that tenders for the next-generation Kavach would be released between May and June next year. The ministry plans to float tenders for the upgrade of the existing Kavach technology to LTE by the next month.



International

Akhaura- Agartala Rail Link To Be Inaugurated Virtually By PM Modi, Sheikh Hasina

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Bangladesh counterpart **Sheikh Hasina** inaugurated the **Agartala-Akhaura rail link project** virtually. This cross-border initiative aims to strengthen business ties and provide direct access between India's landlocked northeastern region and the **Chittagong port** in **Bangladesh**.
- Once operational, the rail link will reduce the rail journey from **Kolkata to Agartala (via Guwahati)** from **31 hours** and **1500 km** to just **10 hours** and **500 km**. The project is executed by **IRCON**.
- The project traces its origins to the agreement between **India and Bangladesh** during Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit to New Delhi in **January 2010**. Construction of the **15.064-km-long railway** line began in 2018, with **5.05 km in India** and the remaining **10.014 km in Bangladesh**.



UK To Host The AI Safety Summit 2023 On November 1 — All You Need To Know

- The **United Kingdom's Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak**, is set to host the **AI Safety Summit 2023 on 1st and 2nd November at Bletchley Park, Buckinghamshire**. This summit brings together global leaders to discuss the growing concerns surrounding the safety of advanced AI technologies
- The summit seeks to establish a shared understanding of the risks associated with Frontier AI and the necessity for global action to address them. It aims to initiate a process for international collaboration on Frontier AI safety, including support for national and international frameworks.
- The summit will propose appropriate measures for organizations to enhance Frontier AI safety, promoting responsible development. Identifying areas for potential collaboration on AI safety research, including evaluating AI model capabilities and creating new standards to support governance.

Lebanon's Hezbollah hits 19 positions in Israel simultaneously

- In recent developments in the **Middle East**, the armed wing of Hamas, known as the **Al-Qassam Brigades**, claimed responsibility for a rocket attack on the northern **Israeli town of Kiryat Shmona**. This attack resulted in injuries and damage to buildings.
- Simultaneously, Hezbollah, the **Lebanese Shia militant group**, launched an attack on **19 positions in Israel**, marking an escalation on Israel's northern border. Both Hamas and Hezbollah are considered proxies of Iran.
- Hezbollah, for the first time, admitted to using drones filled with explosives to target an **Israeli army** command position in the disputed **Shebaa Farms** area on the **Lebanese-Israeli border**.
- The Shebaa Farms area is a source of territorial dispute, with Israel claiming control since the **1967 war**, while both **Syria and Lebanon** assert it belongs to Lebanon.



Climate Change: Is White Hydrogen the New Saviour?

- **The energy and climate change** landscape has recently been electrified by the discovery of vast reserves of natural or “white” hydrogen.
- This development has sparked enthusiasm, with many seeing it as a potential game-changer in the fight against climate change. Amidst the excitement, it is crucial to dissect the reality behind this newfound energy source.

“AI” Named Collins Dictionary’s Word Of The Year For 2023

- **Collins Dictionary** has declared “AI” as the Word of the Year for 2023, reflecting the increasing prominence of Artificial Intelligence in our daily lives. This recognition comes as U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak hosts a summit to explore the potential benefits of AI while addressing associated risks.
- In 2022, Word of the Year was “permacrisis,” reflecting the constant upheavals in British politics. The year prior, “NFTs” (non-fungible tokens) reached its peak of chatter, while 2020 was overwhelmingly dominated by the term “lockdown” in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Time Magazine Features Sheikh Hasina, World’s Longest Serving Female Head Of Govt

- At 76 years old, **Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina** was featured in a **Time cover story**, hailed as a political phenomenon who has played a pivotal role in guiding Bangladesh’s growth from a rustic jute producer to the Asia-Pacific’s fastest-expanding economy over the past decade.
- Sheikh Hasina has been a prominent figure in Bangladeshi politics, serving as the country’s prime minister since **2009**. Prior to this, she held the same office from **1996 to 2001**. Her remarkable journey in politics has seen her win more elections than even iconic leaders like Margaret Thatcher or **Indira Gandhi**.
- Under her governance, Bangladesh has transitioned from struggling to feed its population to becoming a food exporter. The GDP has seen remarkable growth, rising from \$71 billion in 2006 to **\$460 billion in 2022**, making it South Asia’s second-largest economy after India.



1st Global AI Safety Summit Concludes In UK

- The **AI Safety Summit 2023**, hosted at Bletchley Park, Buckinghamshire, on November 1 and 2, marked a significant global event driven by the vision of **British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak**.
- The central focus was to assess the risks associated with **cutting-edge AI models** and formulate strategies for policymakers and stakeholders to enhance AI safety for the public good.
- A primary focus of the AI Safety Summit was to establish global coordination and standards in the realm of AI safety. This led to the historic signing of the “**Bletchley Declaration**” by **28 countries**, including global heavyweights like the US, UK, and China.



- This declaration outlines plans for increased transparency from AI developers concerning safety practices and encourages scientific collaboration to better understand AI's potential risks.

Widespread Displacement Crisis In The Democratic Republic Of Congo (DRC)

- The conflict in the eastern province of North Kivu, DRC, between M23 rebels and government-backed militias has worsened since October.
- This conflict is **causing massive displacement**, and the UN's International Organization for Migration (IOM) is deeply concerned about the humanitarian situation.
- As of October 2023, the number of internally displaced people (IDPs) in the DRC has reached a **record high of 6.9 million**.
- This is a result of ongoing conflict and rising violence, creating one of the largest internal displacement crises globally.



Chile Becomes 95th Member Of International Solar Alliance ISA

- **Chile** has recently become the **95th member** of the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**, a significant development in the global effort to promote solar energy.
- The International Solar Alliance is an action-oriented, member-driven, collaborative platform aimed at promoting the increased deployment of solar energy technologies.
- Currently, there are **116 countries** that have signed up as signatories to the ISA, with 94 having successfully completed the necessary ratification to become full-fledged members.



Russia Pulled Out Of Treaty Of Conventional Armed Forces In Europe

- **Russia** has formally withdrawn from the **Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE)**, citing **NATO's** expansion as a barrier to cooperation.
- The move follows Russia's recent revocation of the **Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)** and a test launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile.
- Signed in **1990** after the fall of the **Berlin Wall**, the **CFE** aimed to limit conventional arms and prevent a rapid build-up of forces between Cold War rivals.



Islamic Arab Summit

- The **Joint Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit**, which took place in **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**, on Saturday, November 11, 2023, wrapped up yesterday.

- **H.E. Mr. Hissein Brahim Taha**, the Secretary-General of the OIC, called for an immediate, durable, and comprehensive cessation of the ongoing Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people
- The summit emphasizes the importance of a just, durable, and comprehensive peace based on international legitimacy resolutions and the Arab Peace Initiative.

Pablo Picasso's 'Woman With A Watch' Sells For Record \$139 Million

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



Biden And Xi Jinping Summit Highlights: Key Issues Discussed

- In a landmark four-hour meeting at the picturesque Filoli estate near San Francisco, **U.S. President Joe Biden and China's Xi Jinping** engaged in discussions that spanned critical issues ranging from military conflicts to drug trafficking.
- While assuring no immediate military plans, Xi discussed the conditions under which force could be employed.
- President Biden stressed the importance of peace in the Taiwan Strait and urged respect for **Taiwan's electoral process**.

Union Minister Kiren Rijju To Represent India At Maldives President's Swearing-In

- Union Minister Kiren Rijju has arrived in the Maldives to represent India at the swearing-in ceremony of Maldives **President-elect Mohamed Muizzu**. The ceremony is scheduled to take place on November 17 in the capital, Male.
- Mohamed Muizzu, a close associate of former Maldives President Abdulla Yameen, secured victory in the presidential runoff held in September, defeating the incumbent **Ibrahim Mohamed Solih**.
- Maldives holds a crucial position as India's key maritime neighbor in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**. It occupies a significant place in India's '**SAGAR**' (**Security and Growth for All in the Region**) vision and the 'Neighbourhood First Policy.'



Popular Video Chat Service Omegle Shuts Down After 14 Years

- **Omegle**, a once-popular online chat service founded in **2009** by Leif K-Brooks, has recently announced its **shutdown after more than 14 years** of operation.
- The platform, which allowed individuals to connect and talk with strangers, experienced a surge in popularity but ultimately faced challenges that led to its demise.
- Omegle received widespread criticism as it became **associated with various illicit activities**, particularly during the pandemic. The surge in usage exposed the platform to misuse, **raising concerns about user safety** and well-being.



Google Introduces AI Chatbot Bard For Teenagers

- **Google** is taking a significant step in catering to the educational needs of teenagers with the launch of its **AI chatbot, Bard**.
- The AI chatbot has undergone training to identify and filter out unsafe content, prioritizing the well-being of its young users.
- To enhance the accuracy of information provided by Bard, Google has implemented a **'double-check' response feature**, especially when handling fact-based queries.
- While this feature is not yet the default setting for all Bard users, it **adds an extra layer of reliability** to the information the chatbot dispenses, preventing the spread of misinformation.



Cyclone 'Midhili' Makes Landfall On Bangladesh's Coast

- The **Northeast Bay of Bengal** is currently under the influence of a cyclonic storm named **"Midhili,"** causing widespread concern and disruptions in the region.
- The cyclonic storm, **initially a deep depression** over the Bay of Bengal, has escalated into a significant weather event
- The adverse weather conditions have prompted government authorities to issue alerts and take precautionary measures.

India-Bound Ship Hijacked By Yemen's Houthi Rebels In Red Sea, Says IDF

- A cargo ship named **"Galaxy Leader,"** en route from **Turkey to India**, has been hijacked by **Yemen's Houthi** rebels in the **Red Sea**.
- Approximately **50** crew members from various nations were on board. The **Israeli Defence Forces (IDF)** confirmed the hijacking but clarified that the ship is not **Israeli**.
- The Washington Post reported ongoing US-mediated talks for a five-day ceasefire to facilitate aid shipments.
- Earlier reports on Qatari mediators seeking a deal for a three-day ceasefire in exchange for 50 hostages.



Argentina Elects 'Shock Therapy' Libertarian Javier Milei As President

- **Argentians have elected Javier Milei as their next president.** Milei, known for his wild appearance and sensational rhetoric, **pledged economic shock therapy and vowed to slash the size of the state during his campaign.**
- With **55.8% of the votes**, Milei's victory marks the widest margin since **Argentina's return to democracy in 1983**, defying all poll predictions.
- Drawing parallels with Trump, he also indicated a potential move of the **Argentina embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem**, echoing a controversial move by the Trump administration.

Landmark Election In Argentina Since The Restoration Of Democracy

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



Luc Frieden Assumed The Position Of Prime Minister In Luxembourg

- **Luxembourg**, a small but influential European nation, is set to undergo a significant political shift as **former finance minister Luc Frieden** assumes the role of prime minister.
- This change comes on the heels of the recent election, where Frieden's **Christian Social People's Party (CSV)** emerged victorious, reshaping the country's political dynamics.
- Notably, **Xavier Bettel**, who led Luxembourg for an impressive decade, will transition to the role of foreign affairs minister.
- **Gilles Roth**, a member of the CSV, has been appointed as the new finance minister, tasked with navigating the economic policies crucial for Luxembourg's continued prosperity.



Israel And Hamas Reach Truce Deal, Set To Release 50 Hostages

- **Israel and Hamas** have reached a significant diplomatic breakthrough in their ongoing conflict. As part of the deal, Palestinian militants are set to release 50 women and children who were kidnapped during a raid into southern Israel on October 7.
- The agreement also includes a **four-day truce** for besieged **Gaza** residents after weeks of intense warfare. The Hostages and Missing Families Forum group expressed happiness about the pending partial release, emphasizing the lack of clarity regarding specific individuals.
- **Hamas** welcomed the **"humanitarian truce,"** indicating that **150 Palestinians** would be released from **Israeli jails**.



Israel Officially Designates Lashkar-E-Taiba As A Terrorist Organization

- Ahead of the **15th anniversary of the 26/11 Mumbai attacks**, Israel has officially declared the Pakistan-based terror outfit **Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT)** as a terrorist organization.
- This move is part of Israel's commitment to supporting the global war on terror. The announcement emphasizes Israel's proactive stance against terrorism.
- The announcement coincides with Israel's ongoing military operation in the **Gaza Strip**, initiated after the **October 7** attack by Hamas on Israeli targets.

The Langlands Program: World's Largest Mathematics Project

- Five years ago, in **2018**, **Dr. Langlands** was awarded the **Abel Prize**, one of the highest honors for mathematicians, for "his visionary program connecting representation theory to number theory."
- This groundbreaking initiative, known as the **Langlands Program**, has its roots in a 17-page letter written by Dr. Langlands to the French mathematician André Weil in 1967, setting forth a series of tentative ideas.
- The program's inception was motivated by a desire to bridge the gap between these two distant branches of mathematics, each with its unique set of principles and problems.
- The Langlands Program stands as a **testament to the enduring curiosity and ingenuity of mathematicians**.



Cyclone 'Michaung' To Hit Bay Of Bengal, The Fourth Storm This Year

- The **Bay of Bengal** is once again on high alert as meteorological conditions indicate the potential development of another cyclonic storm, closely following the impact of cyclonic storm '**Midhili**' on several northeastern states.
- According to the latest updates from **Skymetweather**, the upcoming cyclonic storm is poised to be the **fourth to hit the Bay of Bengal this year**, marking the **sixth storm overall in Indian waters**. The affected regions are anticipated to include India, Bangladesh, and Myanmar.
- The genesis of the upcoming tropical storm is traced back to the **Gulf of Thailand**. Meteorological conditions over the Gulf and adjoining Malay Peninsula indicate the potential for cyclonic circulation.



Dutch Election: Far-Right's Wilders Aims To Be PM After Shock Win

- **Geert Wilders**, leader of the Freedom Party (PVV), secured a landmark win in the recent **Dutch elections**, signaling a growing shift towards far-right ideologies in Europe.
- Wilders, known for his anti-immigration stance and admiration for leaders like **Donald Trump and Viktor Orban**, is eyeing the position of the **Netherlands'** next prime minister.
- Wilders' victory serves as a warning to mainstream parties across Europe, setting the stage for the upcoming European Parliament elections.

World's Biggest Iceberg On The Move After 30 Years

- The **world's largest iceberg**, named **A23a**, has embarked on a rare journey after being largely stationary for more than three decades.
- Weighing nearly a **trillion metric tonnes** and spanning an area of **4,000 square km**, this colossal iceberg originated from **West Antarctica's Filchner-Ronne Ice Shelf in 1986**.
- For the **first time in more than 30 years**, A23a is on the move. Strong winds and ocean currents are propelling it past the northern tip of the Antarctic Peninsula.



New Zealand Abandons Landmark Smoking Ban For Generation To Fund Tax Cuts

- **New Zealand's** recently elected government has decided to abandon its groundbreaking law aimed at banning smoking for future generations.
- The move is driven by the government's intention to finance tax cuts, but public health officials are expressing concerns about the potential consequences, foreseeing thousands of lives at risk, especially within Māori communities.
- The **2022 legislation**, considered a world-first, established a progressively increasing smoking age, preventing those born after **January 2009** from legally purchasing cigarettes. The primary goal was to curtail smoking-related fatalities and alleviate the strain on the health system.

Virgin Atlantic Flies World's 1st 100% Sustainable Aviation Fuel Flight From London To US

- A **Virgin Atlantic** passenger jet, fueled entirely by sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), completed a London-to-New York journey, showcasing the aviation industry's commitment to **low-carbon** options.
- Despite challenges, the flight signifies a crucial step towards reducing emissions in an industry responsible for **2-3%** of global carbon emissions.
- **Virgin Atlantic's Boeing 787**, powered by **Rolls-Royce Trent 1000 engines**, completed the long-haul flight using **100% SAF**. Notably, it is the first commercial airliner to achieve such a feat, underlining the industry's push for cleaner alternatives.



Nepal Becomes First South Asian Nation To Register Same-Sex Marriage

- The Constitution of Nepal, adopted in 2015, took a bold step by explicitly prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation. **Nepal became the first South Asian country to formally register a case of same-sex marriage.**
- This event occurred in the Dordi Rural Municipality of Lamjung district in Western Nepal, where the union of trans-woman Maya Gurung, 35, and gay man Surendra Pandey, 27, was legally recognized.
- In 2007, Nepal's Supreme Court had already set the stage by allowing same-sex marriage, laying the foundation for the recent groundbreaking development. Fast forward to June 27, 2023, when the Supreme Court issued an interim order in response to a writ petition, temporarily legalizing same-sex marriage.

COP28: A Comprehensive Guide To Key Information

- COP28 is the **28th Conference of the Parties (COP)** to the **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)**. It is a global summit where world leaders, policymakers, scientists, and activists come together to discuss and take action on climate change.
- COP came into existence in 2010. It facilitates the exchange of best practices and innovations across vital sectors crucial to decarbonisation efforts in the areas of energy, transport, buildings, industry, finance and nature.
- COP28 will take place in **Dubai, United Arab Emirates**, from **November 30, 2023, to December 12, 2023**. It is expected that around 70,000 participants will attend. COP28 is an important opportunity for world leaders to come together and take action on climate change.



India Takes Center Stage On QUAD's Climate Initiatives At COP28

- The upcoming **Conference of Parties (COP28) in the UAE** will witness an unusual alliance between developed nations like the US and emerging economies like India, united under the banner of the **Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD)**.
- India, holding the QUAD presidency for 2023, is strategically aligning its climate efforts with the alliance's goals. The QUAD nations—**US, Japan, Australia, and India**—are set to collaborate on climate adaptation, resilience initiatives, and sustainable lifestyle promotion, collectively addressing climate challenges.
- The India Pavilion at COP28 is slated to host significant events under the QUAD umbrella, highlighting the alliance's commitment to climate action. Notable sessions include discussions on climate adaptation, resilience for seaport infrastructure in the **Indo-Pacific region**, and the sustainable lifestyle mantra known as LiFE.



Sweden's Saab Secures India's First 100% FDI In Defense Project

- India has recently granted approval for **Sweden's Saab** to establish a new manufacturing facility in the country, marking a significant milestone as the first foreign company to receive **100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** in India's defense projects.
- While India previously permitted up to 74% FDI in the defense sector under the automatic route, clearances beyond that threshold were subject to individual assessment. The government relaxed these regulations in 2015 to encourage foreign investments, yet until now, no foreign firm had received permission for 100% FDI in defense.
- Saab's new entity, Saab FFV India, has been officially registered, and it will focus on manufacturing the latest generation of the Carl-Gustaf M4 shoulder-fired rocket system. This venture will be the first time Saab produces the Carl-Gustaf M4 outside of Sweden. The manufacturing facility is expected to be established in Haryana, India.



Defence

The US Military Has Set Its Latest Minuteman III Missile Launch To “Showcase” Its Nuclear Capability.

- The United States military recently conducted a **Minuteman III missile launch**, developed by **Boeing Co.** It is powered by three solid-propellant rocket motors: **First Stage ATK refurbished M55A1**, **Second Stage ATK refurbished SR-19**, and **Third Stage ATK refurbished SR-73**.
- The **Minuteman III** is an American land-based **intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM)**. The “**L**” in **LGM** signifies **silolaunched**; “**G**” denotes **surface attack**; “**M**” stands for **guided missile**, with “**30**” representing the **Minuteman series**, and the “**G**” after “**30**” indicating the current **Minuteman III variant**.
- The Minuteman III is a strategic weapon system employing a ballistic missile with intercontinental range. Missiles are dispersed in hardened silos, ensuring protection against attacks, and connected to an underground launch control center through a system of robust cables.



Chanakya Defence Dialogue 2023 Concludes With Takeaways On Security Challenges

- The **Chanakya Defence Dialogue 2023**, a two-day event hosted by the **Indian Army** in collaboration with the **Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS)**, took place on **November 3rd and 4th**.
- With a focus on addressing security challenges in **South Asia and the Indo-Pacific region**, the event featured six different sessions and aimed to foster collaborative security solutions.
-



Sno.	Session Title
1	Neighbourhood First & South Asia Outlook
2	Indo Pacific: Key Frontier
3	Security Through Collaboration
4	Tech's Impact on Defense & Security
5	Indian Defense Industry Empowering Capacity Building
6	Comprehensive Deterrence: India's Approach

Bilateral Exercise BONGOSAGAR-23 and Coordinated Patrol CORPAT-23

- The 4th edition of Bilateral Exercise between Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy, **BONGOSAGAR-23**, and the 5th edition of Coordinated Patrol (**CORPAT**) by the two navies was conducted in the Northern Bay of Bengal from 07 – 09 Nov 2023.

- Ships and aircraft from both navies undertook joint patrolling along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL), and subsequently conducted maritime exercises to enhance interoperability.

Joint Military Exercise “Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-2023” Begins In Pune

- The ninth edition of the Joint Military exercise, known as “**Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-2023**,” kicked off in **Aundh (Pune)**.
- Running from **November 16th to 29th, 2023**, the exercise aims to strengthen cooperation between the **Indian and Sri Lankan military** forces.
- The primary goal of Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-2023 includes enhancing joint responses during counter-terrorist operations. Tactical actions like raid missions, search and destroy operations, heliborne activities, and more will be rehearsed.



Indian Navy Launches 4th Anti-Submarine Warfare Craft, Named ‘Amini’

- On 16th November 2023, ‘**Amini**,’ the **fourth** of the **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) Project**, was successfully launched at M/s L&T Shipbuilding in **Kattupalli**.
- The contract for constructing **eight ASW SWC ships** was formalized between the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, on April 29, 2019.
- Belonging to the Arnala class of ships, these vessels are designed to **replace the existing Abhay class ASW Corvettes** of the Indian Navy.
- With a length of **77 meters**, a displacement of **900 tons**, and a maximum speed of 25 knots, the ASW SWC ships boast an impressive endurance of approximately **1800 nautical miles**.



India’s GDP Surpasses \$4 Trillion Mark: A Historic Milestone

- In a significant economic achievement, **India’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** has crossed the **\$4 trillion** mark in nominal terms.
- India’s consistent efforts across various sectors, coupled with strategic policies and a thriving entrepreneurial spirit, have played a pivotal role in achieving this historic milestone.
- The Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI) November bulletin revealed a stronger-than-expected GDP growth in the second quarter, surpassing the **RBI’s initial forecast of 6.5%**.



Indo-US Joint Special Forces Exercise “VAJRA PRAHAR 2023” Commences In Meghalaya

- The **14th edition** of the **Indo-US Joint Special Forces exercise**, known as “**VAJRA PRAHAR 2023**,” commenced at the Joint Training Node in Umroi, **Meghalaya**.
- Exercise VAJRA PRAHAR, initiated in 2010, stands as a testament to the robust partnership between the Indian Army and the US Army Special Forces.
- The exercise focuses on the exchange of best practices and experiences, with a primary emphasis on joint mission planning and operational tactics.
- The inaugural edition of VAJRA PRAHAR took place in 2010, with subsequent editions reinforcing the commitment to mutual learning and interoperability. The ongoing 14th edition,

spanning from November 21 to December 11, 2023, is hosted at Umroi Cantonment, Meghalaya

Indian Army Heads To Australia For Joint Military Exercise AUSTRAHIND-23

- An **Indian Armed Forces contingent**, comprising personnel from all three services, embarked on a journey to Perth for the **second edition of AustraHind-23** – a collaborative military exercise between the two nations.
- This joint exercise, spanning two weeks from **Nov 22 to Dec 6**, aims to enhance interoperability and conduct multi-domain operations in urban and semi-urban terrains, adhering to the United Nations peacekeeping operations protocol.
- The Indian contingent comprises **60 personnel from a battalion of the esteemed Gorkha Rifles** of the Indian Army. Additionally, an officer from the Indian Navy and 20 personnel from the Indian Air Force are part of this diverse team.
- Participants will engage in **multi-domain operations**, simulating scenarios in urban and semi-urban environments. This aligns with the United Nations peacekeeping operations protocol, emphasizing the importance of collaborative efforts in ensuring global peace and security.

India And Nepal Convene For The 17th Edition Of Joint Military Exercise SURYA KIRAN

- The **17th edition** of the Joint Military Exercise **SURYA KIRAN** is set to strengthen the longstanding ties between **India and Nepal** as military contingents from both nations converge in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand, for this annual event.
- The exercise, scheduled from **24th November to 7th December 2023**, alternates between the two countries, underscoring their commitment to mutual cooperation.
- The primary aim of SURYA KIRAN is to enhance interoperability in specific military domains. The exercise will particularly focus on jungle warfare, counter-terrorism operations in mountainous terrain, and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations.
- Notably, the troops will engage in activities involving the deployment of drones and counter-drone measures, medical training, aviation aspects, and environmental conservation.



India-Sri Lanka Joint Military Exercise Culminates At Southern Command In Pune

- The **Mitrashakti 2023** joint military exercise, a collaborative effort between the **Indian Army** and the **Sri Lankan Army**, concluded at **Pune's southern command** foreign training node. The **12-day exercise** aimed at fostering a deeper understanding of each other's operational strategies and tactics.

Appointments or Resign/Retired

Saima Wazed Elected as WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia

- **Bangladesh's Saima Wazed**, daughter of Prime Minister **Sheikh Hasina**, emerged victorious in the election for the next **World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Director for South-East Asia**.
- **Saima Wazed** currently serves as the chairperson of **Bangladesh's National Advisory Committee on Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders**. Her experience in promoting autism awareness and engagement in healthcare initiatives qualifies her for this crucial regional position
- **The SEARO** is one of the six regions within the **World Health Organization**, with its headquarters located in **New Delhi**. This regional body plays a crucial role in addressing public health challenges and promoting healthcare initiatives in the **South-East Asian countries**.



Heeralal Samariya Appointed As The New Chief Information Commissioner

- In an official announcement dated November 6, 2023, **Shri Heeralal Samariya** was appointed as the Chief Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission. He formally assumed his new role on the same day.
- A swearing-in ceremony was held in the **Central Information Commission** to mark the assumption of office by the new appointees. During the ceremony, **Shri Heeralal Samariya** administered the oath of office to the newly appointed Information Commissioners.
- Before joining the Central Information Commission as an Information Commissioner, **Smt. Anandi Ramalingam** held the position of Chairman & Managing Director at **Bharat Electronics Ltd.** under the Ministry of Defence, Government of India. She has a Bachelor's degree with Honors in Electronics & Communication Engineering.



Hitesh Kumar S Makwana appointed Surveyor General of India

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



- **Rupinder Brar**, an Indian Revenue Service (IRS) official, takes on the position of Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Coal, contributing to the development and management of India's coal resources.

Supreme Court Welcomes Three New Judges To Tackle Pending Cases

- The **Supreme Court of India** has expanded its judicial strength by welcoming three new judges.
- Delhi High Court Chief Justice **Justice Satish Chandra Sharma**, and Rajasthan and Gauhati Chief Justices **Augustine George Masih** and **Sandeep Mehta** were sworn in as **Supreme Court judges** within three days of the apex court Collegium recommending them.
- The recent induction of three judges has taken the Supreme Court's judicial strength to its **sanctioned capacity of 34**. This is crucial for ensuring that the court has the necessary manpower to handle the multitude of cases that come its way.



Former PM David Cameron Appointed As The UK Foreign Secretary

- **Rishi Sunak** resurrected the political career of **former U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron**, by appointing him to the role of **Foreign Secretary**.
- Cameron brings a wealth of experience, having served as the **country's leader from 2010 to 2016**.
- Beyond the headline-grabbing changes, Prime Minister Sunak also appointed former Financial Secretary **Victoria Atkins** as the new **Health Secretary**.
- This move comes as part of a broader reshuffle, with **Steve Barclay** replacing **Thérèse Coffey** as the **Environment Secretary**.



Mika, The AI-Powered Robot, Takes The Helm As CEO Of Dictador

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



Pedro Sanchez Re-Elected As Spanish Prime Minister

- **Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez** has secured a **second term**, navigating the political landscape with a razor-thin majority.
- Born on **February 29, 1972**, Pedro Sánchez Pérez-Castejón has been a prominent figure in Spanish politics.
- He assumed office as **Prime Minister in June 2018** and has been the Secretary-General of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) since June 2017.
- With **179 votes of confidence out of a total of 350 lawmakers**, Sanchez, a socialist(A member of Spanish Socialist Workers' Party), managed to **avoid a national election** that could have jeopardized his position as public opinion fluctuates.



RBI Approves New Directors Of Jio Financial Services

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has given its approval for the appointment of key individuals as directors of **Jio Financial Services**.
- **Isha Ambani**, a prominent figure in the business world and a key player in the success of Reliance Retail, has been appointed as one of the directors.
- Another noteworthy addition to the board is **Anshuman Thakur**, a graduate in Economics and an MBA from IIM-Ahmedabad.
- The appointment of **Hitesh Kumar Sethia** as **Managing Director and CEO of RSIL** (presumably Reliance Strategic Investments Limited) adds further strength to the leadership team.



Biden Appoints Indian American Shakuntla Bhaya To The Administrative Conference Of US

- US President **Joe Biden** has recently announced several key appointments, including the notable selection of **Indian American Shakuntla L Bhaya** as a **member of the Council of the Administrative Conference of the United States**.
- Shakuntla L Bhaya, a **co-owner of the Law Offices of Doroshow, Pasquale, Krawitz & Bhaya**, a statewide Delaware law firm, brings a wealth of legal experience to her new role..
- The **Administrative Conference of the United States (ACUS)** is a self-governing agency within the U.S. government, founded in 1964 under the Administrative Conference Act.
- Its primary objective is to **advance enhancements in the effectiveness, sufficiency, and equity of procedures employed by federal agencies** in regulating programs, managing grants and benefits, and carrying out associated governmental duties.



Madhuri Dixit Receives Award At 54th IFFI

- Legendary actress **Madhuri Dixit** has been honored with the ‘**Special Recognition for Contribution to Bharatiya Cinema**’ award at the **54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI)** in **Panaji, Goa**.
- Spanning **four remarkable decades**, Dixit’s illustrious career stands as a testament to her enduring impact on the silver screen.
- This honor acknowledges not only her on-screen brilliance but also her impact on the cultural landscape of Indian cinema.



Colin Jackson Appointed Intl Ambassador For 2023 Tata Steel Kolkata 25KS

- The former 110m hurdles world record holder, **Colin Jackson**, has been announced as the **International Event Ambassador** for the upcoming edition of **Tata Steel Kolkata 25K** event scheduled on Sunday, 17th December 2023.
- Instituted in **2014**, the TSK 25K has been a catalyst for a running revolution in eastern India. It has not only become a celebration of Kolkata’s vibrant sporting spirit but has also achieved the **status of a World Athletics Elite Label Road Race**.
- **Jackson**’s illustrious career includes notable achievements such as **winning a silver medal at the Commonwealth Games in 1986** and claiming **gold at the Stuttgart World Championships in 1993**, setting a **world record in the 110m hurdles** with a remarkable time of **12.91 seconds**.



Mamata Banerjee Names Sourav Ganguly As The ‘Brand Ambassador Of Bengal’

- Chief Minister **Mamata Banerjee** declared former cricketer and ex-president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), **Sourav Ganguly**, as the “**Brand Ambassador of Bengal**.”
- Expressing her rationale for choosing Sourav Ganguly as the Brand Ambassador, Banerjee stated, “Sourav Ganguly is a very popular figure, and he can work for the young generation in a very good manner.”
- Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, in her inaugural address at the **Bengal Global Business Summit 2023**, unveiled a series of ambitious policies aimed at transforming the economic landscape of the state.



Anish Shah To Assume Presidency Of FICCI

- The **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)**, the country’s oldest and largest industry body, is set to welcome **Anish Shah** as its **President-Elect**.
- Holding a Ph.D. from Carnegie Mellon’s Tepper School of Business and a Post-Graduate Diploma in Management from the prestigious Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, Shah brings a wealth of academic and professional expertise to his new role.
- His remarkable 14-year career at GE included holding various leadership positions at GE Capital’s US and global units.

- Beyond his tenure at GE, Shah led the Bank of America's US Debit Products business and contributed his strategic insights at Bain & Company in Boston and Citibank in Mumbai.

Mizoram Governor Appoints Air Force Officer As India's First Woman Aide De Camp

- **Governor Dr Hari Babu Kambhampati** has appointed **Squadron Leader Manisha Padhi**, a distinguished officer from the **2015 batch of the Indian Air Force**, as **India's first Woman Aide-De-Camp (ADC)** from the Indian Armed Forces.
- **Squadron Leader Manisha Padhi**, having formally assumed her duties, reported to the Governor this forenoon. With a distinguished career in the **Indian Air Force**, she brings a wealth of experience to her new role.
- Prior to this historic appointment, she served in various capacities at **Air Force Station, Bidar, Air Force Station, Pune and Air Force Station, Bhatinda**. Her journey through these postings reflects not only her dedication to her profession but also her ability to excel in diverse and challenging environments.



Honours/ Awards

Social Worker Deenanath Rajput From Bastar Wins RohiniNayyar Prize

- **Deenanath Rajput**, an engineer-turned-social worker, was awarded the Second **RohiniNayyar Prize** for his outstanding contribution to rural development. The award was presented in memory of the late economist-administrator Dr.RohiniNayyar, and it came with a trophy, a citation, and a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh.
- Deenanath Rajput's commendable work focuses on **empowering tribal women** in Bastar, Chhattisgarh, a region known for its challenges, including Naxalite activities. His efforts have been instrumental in positively transforming the lives of over 6,000 tribal women in the area.
- At the heart of Rajput's initiative is the establishment of a **Farmers Producers Organisation (FPO)**. The FPO was founded in **2018** with an initial membership of 337 women from Jagdalpur in Bastar. Since then, it has grown to encompass over 6,000 members across four districts in the region.



Renowned Filmmaker ShekharKapur To Chair International Jury Panel At IFFI

- The prestigious **International Film Festival of India (IFFI)**, an annual cinematic extravaganza, is gearing up for its 54th edition, set to unfold in the picturesque state of **Goa** from **November 20 to November 28, 2023**.
- In a recent announcement, IFFI unveiled the distinguished members of its international jury panel, with acclaimed filmmaker **ShekharKapur** leading the team. **ShekharKapur** is widely recognized for his cinematic masterpieces, including 'Bandit Queen,' 'Mr. India,' and 'Masoom.' He has earned multiple awards, including two National Film Awards, four Filmfare Awards, and a BAFTA Award.
- The international jury's verdicts will not only determine the Best Film Award recipient, which includes the coveted Golden Peacock, but also recognize winners in categories such as Best Director, Best Actor (Male), Best Actor (Female), and the Special Jury Prize.



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

- The British Academy Book Prize for Global Cultural Understanding, a prestigious international non-fiction award has been claimed by India-born author **Nandini Das** for her debut book, '**Courting India: England, Mughal India, and the Origins of Empire.**'
- This book delves into the historical account of the arrival of the first English ambassador in India, **Sir Thomas Roe**, during the early 17th century. In doing so, Das provides a unique lens through which to examine the intricate interactions between England and Mughal India, laying the groundwork for the empire that would eventually come into being.
- The British Academy Book Prize for Global Cultural Understanding, previously known as the Nayef Al-Rodhan Prize, was established in 2013. Its mission is to recognize and celebrate exceptional works of non-fiction that exemplify academic rigor and originality.



Eminent Writer T. Padmanabhan Receives Prestigious Kerala Jyothi Award

- Kerala government has selected renowned writer **T. Padmanabhan** as the recipient of the prestigious **Kerala Jyothi award**. This highest civilian honor in the state was awarded to Padmanabhan in recognition of his exceptional contributions to Malayalam literature.
- The Kerala government has also announced several other accolades, known as the ‘**Kerala Puraskarngals**,’ which are bestowed upon individuals who have made remarkable contributions to various aspects of social life. Among the notable awardees are **Justice (Retired) M. FathimaBeevi** and Nataraja Krishnamurthy, also known as Soorya Krishnamurthy.
- The Kerala government has implemented a system of awarding the ‘Kerala Jyothi’ award to one individual each year, the ‘Kerala Prabha’ award to two individuals, and the ‘Kerala Shree’ award to five individuals, all in recognition of their exceptional contributions to various fields.

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

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

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

- **Pakistan-based cleantech startup She-Guard** emerged victorious at the ‘ClimateLaunchpad Asia-Pacific’ finals, showcasing their innovative biodegradable and plastic-free sanitary product.
- The startup’s mission is to transform banana crop waste into affordable, eco-friendly sanitary napkins, addressing the interconnected challenges of climate change, public health and solid waste management in Pakistan.
- **Vietnamese startup Alterno** secured the **runner-up position** with its low-cost thermal energy storage solution for renewable energy, designed for the drying of agricultural products like tea, coffee and rice.
- **Japanese startup Aonbarr** claimed the **third spot** with an innovative idea using seawater to generate hydrogen as a green energy source.

Salman Rushdie Honored With First ‘Lifetime Disturbing The Peace Award’

- World-renowned author **Salman Rushdie**, received the inaugural '**Lifetime Disturbing the Peace Award**' from the Vaclav Havel Center.
- Having recently received the **Peace Prize of the German Book Trade**, Rushdie humorously pondered on which side of "the fence" this new accolade placed him.
- The Vaclav Havel Center also bestowed the '**Disturbing the Peace Award to a Courageous Writer at Risk**' upon Egyptian activist **Alaa Abdel-Fattah**.



Suresh Wadkar Named For Maharashtra's 'Lata Mangeshkar Award 2023'

- The **Maharashtra government** has chosen the esteemed playback singer and National Award winner, **Suresh Ishwar Wadkar**, as the recipient of the prestigious '**Gansamragini Lata Mangeshkar Award**' for 2023.
- Suresh Wadkar, a Sangeet Natak Akademi laureate in 2018, aged 68, has been an influential figure in the music industry. Wadkar gained recognition by winning a singing competition in 1976, leading to his first playback singing opportunity in 1977 with the late music director Ravindra Jain.
- Wadkar's early hits, including "Sona Kare jhilmil jhilmil" (from the film 'Paheli') and "Seene Me Jalan" ('Gaman'), drew attention, with Lata Mangeshkar recommending him to other renowned music composers.

96th Oscars: Jimmy Kimmel To Host Academy Awards For The Fourth Time

- The **Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences** has announced that **Jimmy Kimmel** will return as the host for the **96th Academy Awards in 2024**, marking his second consecutive year and fourth overall.
- Jimmy Kimmel, known for his wit and humor, previously **hosted the Oscars in 2017 and 2018**. With the **upcoming 96th Academy Awards**, Kimmel is inching up in the record books, expressing his dream of hosting the Oscars exactly four times.
- Jimmy Kimmel's return as the host places him in the esteemed company of those who have hosted the **Oscars four times**. The exclusive club includes names like **Whoopi Goldberg and the late Jack Lemmon**.

Indira Gandhi Peace Prize For 2022 Presented To COVID-19 Warriors

- The prestigious **Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for the year 2022** was jointly awarded to the **Indian Medical Association (IMA) and Trained Nurses Association of India**.
- The award ceremony took place on **November 19**, where former Vice-President Hamid Ansari presented the honor to **Dr. Sharad Kumar Agarwal**, President of the IMA and Professor (Dr.) **Roy K. George**, President of the Trained Nurses Association of India.
- This recognition extends to every doctor, nurse, paramedic and support staff for their selfless service, dedication and perseverance in the face of the unprecedented challenges posed by the pandemic.

Four Indian Women Shine In BBC 100 Women 2023 List

- The **British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)** recently unveiled its 11th edition of the **BBC 100 Women list for 2023**, featuring inspiring and influential women from various fields around the world.
- The BBC 100 Women 2023 list not only recognizes the achievements of these four Indian women but also highlights their significant contributions in diverse fields, inspiring others around the globe.
- BBC 100 Women 2023 includes four Indian women viz. **Actress Dia Mirza, Cricketer Harmanpreet Kaur, Photographer Arati Kumar Rao, and Tibetan Buddhist nun Jetsunma Tenzin Palmo.**



Irish Author Paul Lynch Wins 2023 Booker Prize

- **Paul Lynch** who is an Irish author won the **2023 Booker prize** for his fifth novel ‘**Prophet Song**’ beating London-based Indian-origin author Chetna Maroo’s debut novel “**Western Lane**”, at a ceremony in London last night.
- The author receives £50,000 and was presented with his trophy. The storyline of the book is set in imagined future Ireland that descends into oppressive rule. The story suggests that civil war leads to families’ fleeing Ireland.
- Last year, **Shehan Karunatilaka** won the Booker prize for ‘**The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida,**’ whose story centres on Sri Lankan civil war.

Abdullahi Mire Wins 2023 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award

- **Abdullahi Mire**, a Somali refugee, has been named the **2023 UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award Global Laureate** for his work championing the right to education for displaced children.
- Mire, who grew up in the Dadaab refugee camps in Kenya, has put over 100,000 books in the hands of displaced children and youth in the country. He will be presented with the award at a ceremony in Geneva, Switzerland, on December 13, 2023.
- The UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award was established in 1954. The award is presented annually to an individual or organization for outstanding service to refugees.
- The **UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award** consists of a commemorative medal and a monetary prize of **USD 100,000**. The global laureate is expected to reinvest the prize in the humanitarian initiatives they are being recognized for.

Sports

Saudi Arabia To Host 2034 FIFA World Cup

- **Saudi Arabia** is ready to host the **2034 Men's FIFA World Cup**. This development right after Australia unexpectedly pulled out from the bid race just hours before the deadline.
- The Football Australia federation stated that after careful consideration, they had decided not to bid for the 2034 competition. Instead, Australia has opted to focus on bidding for the **Women's Asian Cup in 2026** and the **FIFA Club World Cup in 2029**.
- **Spain, Portugal, and Morocco** are already slated to co-host the 2030 tournament, while Uruguay, Paraguay, and Argentina will commemorate the **100th anniversary** of the first World Cup by staging opening matches.



Cricketer Sachin Tendulkar's statue unveiled at Wankhede Stadium

- The iconic Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai is set to witness a momentous occasion as a statue of cricket legend **Sachin Tendulkar** will be unveiled, coinciding with the World Cup match between India and Sri Lanka.
- The statue, capturing the legendary batsman in the midst of a cricket stroke, finds its place adjacent to the Sachin Tendulkar stand, paying tribute to the 'Little Master.' This remarkable sculpture is the creation of artist **Pramod Kamble**, a painter and sculptor from Ahmednagar.
- Earlier this year, on **Sachin Tendulkar's 50th birthday** in April, the decision to place a statue at Wankhede Stadium was announced, making this unveiling an extraordinary tribute to the cricketing icon. Sachin Tendulkar himself will grace the unveiling ceremony.



Mohammed Shami Becomes India's Leading Wicket Taker In World Cup History

- In the **India and Sri Lanka match during the 2023 ODI World Cup**, Shami's exceptional performance in the match made him India's highest wicket-taker in ODI World Cups, surpassing the legendary **Zaheer Khan and Javagal Srinath**.
- With his remarkable five-wicket haul against the Sri Lankans, Shami's tally of ODI World Cup wickets now stands at an **impressive 45**. This feat catapulted him past Zaheer Khan and Javagal Srinath, both of whom had previously held the record with 44 wickets each in World Cups representing India.
- **Most wickets for India in ODI World Cup**

Player	Wickets	Matches
Mohammed Shami	45	14
Zaheer Khan	44	23
Javagal Srinath	44	34
Jasprit Bumrah	33	16
Anil Kumble	31	18

Sri Lanka's Angelo Mathews Becomes First Cricketer To Get 'Timed Out'

- In a dramatic turn of events during the **Cricket World Cup 2023** match between **Bangladesh and Sri Lanka**, former Sri Lanka captain **Angelo Mathews** became the first player to be timed out in an international cricket match.
- The International Cricket Council (ICC) had set forth clear rules regarding timed out dismissals in the Cricket World Cup 2023. Specifically, section **40.1.1** of the playing conditions states: "After the fall of a wicket or the retirement of a batter, the incoming batter must, unless Time has been called, be ready to receive the ball, or for the other batter to be ready to receive the next ball within **2 minutes** of the dismissal or retirement.
- If this requirement is not met, the incoming batter will be out, Timed out." Mathews failed to meet the requirement of being ready within the stipulated two minutes due to the issues with his helmet and the subsequent request for a replacement. As a result, he became the first player in international cricket to be dismissed through a timed out rule.

Sultan Of Johor Cup 2023: Indian Hockey Team Wins Bronze Medal

- The **Indian junior men's hockey team** added another feather to their cap by securing the **bronze medal in a heart-stopping match at the Sultan of Johor Cup 2023, in Johar, Malaysia.**
- This victory marked **India's third title in the Sultan of Johor Cup.** The junior men's hockey team had previously won the prestigious **Johor Bahru Cup twice in 2013 and 2014.** They reached the final in the **2019 edition** but narrowly **lost 2-1 to Great Britain.**
- In the final match, **Germany** emerged as the champion of the 11th Sultan of Johor Cup, **securing the gold medal by defeating Australia 3-1 in a penalty shootout.** India has to face a tough defeat at the hands Germany in the semi-finals, but they bounced back to seize the bronze, making their presence felt on the international stage.

Max Verstappen Wins Brazilian Grand Prix 2023

- **Brazilian Grand Prix**, three-time champion **Max Verstappen** wins **Brazilian Grand Prix 2023** securing a well-deserved victory. The race, held at the Interlagos Circuit in São Paulo, provided a spectacular spectacle for Formula 1 fans around the world.
- Max Verstappen, representing Red Bull Racing, displayed exceptional control and skill as he led the race right from the beginning. His flawless performance on the track solidified his status as one of the sport's elite drivers.
- Max Verstappen's teammate, **Sergio Perez**, also of Red Bull Racing, delivered an impressive performance, securing the **fourth position.** This finish allowed Perez to create some distance between himself and Mercedes' **Lewis Hamilton** in the ongoing competition for the **runner-up position** in the championship.

Australian Cricketer Meg Lanning Announces Retirement From International Cricket

- **Australia** women's national team captain **Meg Lanning**, a stalwart of the cricketing world, has officially announced her retirement from international cricket. Her remarkable career spanned **241 matches** which included **seven World Cup titles.**
- Meg Lanning, in her **13-year international career**, played six Tests, **103 one-day internationals** (ODIs), and 132 Twenty20 internationals (T20Is).

- Meg Lanning leaves behind an impressive statistical record, amassing **8,352 runs** in international cricket since her debut in **2010**. This total includes an outstanding **17 centuries** and **38 half-centuries**.
- Notably, in just her second ODI, Lanning became the **youngest Australian** to score an international century, a record she still holds today.

ICC Suspends Sri Lanka Cricket's Membership Over Government Interference

- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has taken a significant step by **suspending Sri Lanka Cricket's membership**, citing serious breaches of its autonomy and government interference. The move comes in the wake of the Sri Lankan government's decision to sack the cricket board due to the national team's disappointing performance in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023.
- The suspension follows a tumultuous World Cup campaign by the **Sri Lankan cricket team**, currently ranked **ninth in the 10-team standings** after a disappointing performance of winnings only two out of nine matches. The struggles were further exacerbated by conflicts within the **Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) management**.

ICC Announced The Inclusion Of Three Cricket Maestros In The ICC Hall Of Fame

- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** recently announced the induction of **three** cricketing maestros into the coveted ICC Cricket Hall of Fame.
- The latest additions to this prestigious list include the explosive opener **VirenderSehwag**, Indian trailblazer **Diana Edulji**, and Sri Lankan superstar **Aravinda de Silva**.
- Each of these cricketing icons has left an indelible mark on the game, making them worthy recipients of this esteemed honor.



Rohit Sharma Now First Batsman To Hit 50 Sixes In World Cup

- Indian captain **Rohit Sharma** has left an indelible mark on cricket history by becoming the first player to hit **50 sixes in the World Cup**.
- Achieving this remarkable feat during the semifinal clash against New Zealand in Mumbai, the 36-year-old scored an impressive 47 runs from 29 balls, surpassing **Chris Gayle's record of 49 sixes in World Cups** with a powerful pull shot off fast bowler Trent Boult.
- Beyond eclipsing Gayle's overall record, Sharma set a new benchmark for the most sixes in a single edition of the World Cup, reaching his 27th six. This accomplishment surpassed Gayle's 2019 record of 26 sixes.
- Following Sharma, **Glenn Maxwell holds the second position** as the second-most prolific six-hitter in the current World Cup **with 22 sixes**.

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

- **Mohammed Shami** etched his name in cricketing history by becoming the **first Indian bowler** to pick seven wickets in a One Day International (ODI). This extraordinary feat

unfolded during India's World Cup semifinal clash against New Zealand in Mumbai on Wednesday.

- Shami's stellar performance saw him conclude with figures of **7/57**, a display of bowling excellence that played a pivotal role in India's triumph over New Zealand.
- This remarkable achievement surpassed the previous best by **Stuart Binny**, who held the record with figures of 6/4.

Virat Kohli's Wax Statue To Be Installed In Jaipur Wax Museum

- **Virat Kohli's wax statue** immortalizing the star cricketer is poised to join the distinguished ensemble at the **Wax Museum within Jaipur's Nahargarh Fort**.
- Over the course of the next month, skilled artisans will meticulously craft the complete wax statue, ensuring an accurate and lifelike representation.
- With Virat Kohli's statue soon to be added, the Jaipur Wax Museum proudly houses a total of 43 wax statues.

Virat Kohli Earns The "Player Of The Tournament" Title In The Cricket World Cup 2023

- The **ICC World Cup 2023** witnessed a spectacular display of cricketing prowess, with Indian batting maestro **Virat Kohli earning the "Player of the Tournament" title** for his exceptional performance.
- Kohli's stellar performance in the tournament set new records, with the **total score of 765 runs in 11 innings**, the highest-ever runs scored by a batter in a single edition of the World Cup.
- The **35-year-old cricket icon** added another feather to his cap by surpassing the legendary **Sachin Tendulkar's record, achieving his 50th One-Day International (ODI) century**.
- Tendulkar's longstanding **record of 49 ODI centuries was eclipsed by Kohli**, making this World Cup edition particularly special for the prolific batsman.

Australia's Travis Head Got The 'Man Of The Match' Title In Cricket World Cup 2023

- In a thrilling **2023 ODI World Cup final clash** between Australia and India in Ahmedabad, **Travis Head emerged as the standout performer**, earning the well-deserved title of **Man of the Match**.
- The Australian opener's remarkable innings played a pivotal role in his team's successful pursuit of a challenging **241-run target set by India**.
- The match-winning knock by Travis Head was adorned with a spectacular array of shots, including **15 fours and six sixes**.
- Head's ability to balance aggression with precision proved to be the **X-factor in Australia's successful pursuit**, making him the focal point of the **team's triumph in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023**.

Novak Djokovic Wins Record Seventh ATP Finals Title

- **Novak Djokovic** made history on **November 19**, by securing his **seventh ATP Finals title in Turin, Italy**.

- The world number one defeated local favorite **Jannik Sinner** in a commanding fashion with a **6-3, 6-3 victory**.
- This triumph places Djokovic ahead of the retired Roger Federer in ATP Finals victories, capping off a remarkable season that included three Grand Slam wins, bringing his total to a record-breaking 24 and claiming his **40th Masters 1000 titles**.

ICC Moves Men's U-19 World Cup From Sri Lanka To South Africa

- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** Board has made a decisive move by relocating the upcoming men's **Under-19 World Cup** from **Sri Lanka to South Africa**.
- This decision comes in the wake of the ICC's provisional suspension of **Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC)**, prompted by concerns of government interference in the administration of cricket in the island nation
- An ICC Board member revealed that the decision to shift the **U19 World Cup** to South Africa was formally approved at a recent ICC Board meeting in Ahmedabad.



ICC Bans Transgender Players From International Women's Cricket

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

ICC To Introduce Stop Clock To Regulate Pace Of Play

- Cricket's governing body, the International Cricket Council (ICC), is set to implement **shot clocks in men's One Day International (ODIs) and T20 International (T20Is)** as part of its ongoing efforts to regulate and enhance the pace of play.
- The trial, scheduled to run from **December to April**, involved imposing penalty runs on the bowling side if they fail to commence a new over within 60 seconds on three occasions during a match.
- From **December 2023 to April 2024**, the stop clock rule will be in effect. Bowlers will face penalties if they fail to commence a new over within **60 seconds** on three occasions during a match.
- This innovative approach is a part of the ICC's broader efforts to make the game more dynamic and engaging for fans.

Max Verstappen Won The Las Vegas Grand Prix 2023

- **Max Verstappen** emerged on top at the end of an action-packed **Las Vegas Grand Prix**, beating Ferrari rival Charles Leclerc and Red Bull teammate **Sergio Perez**.

- Max Emilian Verstappen is a Belgian and Dutch racing driver and the 2021, 2022, and 2023 Formula One World Champion.
- **Ferrari's Leclerc** passed **Sergio Perez** on the final lap to clinch second place, while British star Lando Norris ended up in hospital after a third-lap 180mph crash. Lewis Hamilton finished seventh.

Shubman Gill Takes The Helm As Gujarat Titans Captain For IPL 2024

- Gujarat Titans have named **Shubman Gill as the captain** for the upcoming Indian Premier League (IPL) 2024 season.
- This decision follows the departure of all-rounder Hardik Pandya, who was traded to Mumbai Indians.
- Shubman Gill, initially making his mark with the **Kolkata Knight Riders in 2018**, joined Gujarat Titans in 2021 for a substantial sum of Rs 7 crore.
- The young batter demonstrated his prowess in the 2023 IPL season by amassing an impressive 890 runs in 17 matches. Gill's remarkable contribution played a pivotal role in Gujarat Titans securing the IPL title in their inaugural season in 2022.



Anish Bhanwala Becomes First Indian Shooter To Win A Medal In 25m Rapid Fire At ISSF World Cup Final

- **Anish Bhanwala** etched his name in history by becoming the **first Indian shooter to clinch a medal in the men's 25m Rapid Fire event at the ISSF World Cup Final**.
- This accomplishment surpassed the efforts of past Indian shooters like Vijay Kumar in 2009 and Gurpreet Singh in 2015, who had reached the final but fell short of claiming a medal.
- He secured a remarkable **bronze medal** in the men's 25m Rapid Fire final at the ISSF World Cup final in Doha.

Max Verstappen Beats Leclerc To Victory In Abu Dhabi Grand Prix

- **Max Verstappen** concluded his exceptional season with a comfortable victory at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, securing his 19th win of the campaign and 54th overall. This accomplishment propels him to third place on the all-time list of Formula One champions.
- Verstappen finished ahead of Ferrari's Charles Leclerc and Mercedes driver George Russell, and also collected a bonus point for the fastest lap. His 54th career win moved him one ahead of former Red Bull great Sebastian Vettel, with only Michael Schumacher (91) and Lewis Hamilton (103) left ahead of him.



Vidya Pillai Clinches 6-Red Snooker World Title

- Seasoned cueist **Vidya Pillai** achieved a monumental milestone in her illustrious career as she secured the **IBSF 6-Red Snooker World Championship title** in Doha, Qatar, just days before her 46th birthday.



- The Bengalurean showcased a stellar performance, dominating her opponents throughout the championship, with a standout victory of **4-1 against compatriot Anupama Ramachandran in the title clash.**
- In the semifinal clash against **Bai Yulu, Vidya** showcased her expertise with a **notable run of 33 in the second frame** and an **impressive clearance of 63 in the fourth.**
- Notably, in 2017, she made history as the **first Indian woman to reach the finals of the WLBSA World Women's Snooker Championship.**

Italy Defeat Australia To Win Davis Cup For First Time Since 1976

- **Italy** fulfilled their potential as one of the most promising tennis nations in the world by defeating **Australia 2-0 to become Davis Cup champions** for the first time since **1976.**
- The world number four clinched victory in the second singles rubber after Matteo Arnaldi dug deep to beat Alexei Popyrin 7-5, 2-6, 6-4 in the opening clash.
- Italy had booked their place in the final of Davis Cup 2023 on Saturday after defeating Novak Djokovic's Serbia, and Matteo Arnaldi again showed the country's determination as he opened the final, which was held in the Spanish city of Malaga, with a tense 7-5, 2-6, 6-4 win over Alexei Popyrin, reports Xinhua.



Rahul Dravid To Continue As India's Head Coach

- **Rahul Dravid** has accepted the **Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI)** offer to extend his term as India's head coach, ensuring his continued leadership of the national team until at least the 2024 T20 World Cup in June.
- Dravid's initial two-year tenure concluded at the end of the 2023 ODI World Cup, but his impressive achievements and the team's growth under his guidance prompted the BCCI to seek his extension. His first assignment after the contract renewal will be the tour of South Africa.
- Dravid's extended tenure will commence with India's upcoming tour of South Africa, which begins with a series of three T20Is and three ODIs starting on December 10. This will be followed by two Test matches, to be held in Centurion from December 26 and Cape Town from January 3.

Obituaries

Renowned Musician And Scholar LeelaOmchery Passes Away At 94

- The world of Indian classical and folk music mourns the loss of **LeelaOmchery**, a distinguished classical musician and accomplished musicologist, who recently passed away at the age of 94.
- Born in Thiruvattar, Kanyakumari, in 1929, LeelaOmchery spent much of her life in Delhi. Her legacy is marked by her versatility in multiple music traditions, including Carnatic music, Hindustani music, SopanaSangeetham, and folk songs.
- In 2005, the nation recognized LeelaOmchery's invaluable contributions to the field of music by conferring upon her the Padma Shri, one of India's highest civilian honors. Her pioneering work and dedication to music and research made her a revered figure in the world of Indian classical arts.



Former Karnataka Assembly Speaker D B Chandregowda Passes Away At 87

- The political landscape of India mourns the loss of veteran politician and former minister **D B Chandregowda**, who passed away at the age of 87.
- Mr.Gowda is most notably remembered for his selfless act of vacating his Lok Sabha seat in 1978, which paved the way for former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to make a remarkable political comeback post the Emergency.
- He served as a Member of Parliament in the Lok Sabha thrice and once in the Rajya Sabha. His electoral victories in the Chikkamagaluru Parliamentary Constituency on a Congress ticket in 1971 and 1977 showcased his political acumen.



LalaKedarnathAggarwal, Founder And Chairman Of Bikanervala, Passes Away At 86

- **LalaKedarnathAggarwal**, the visionary entrepreneur and founder of the renowned sweets and snacks brand **Bikanervala**, breathed his last at the age of 86.
- Hailing from Bikaner, a city with a rich culinary heritage, Aggarwal's family owned a modest sweet shop named Bikaner NamkeenBhandar since **1905**.
- **Bikanervala** rapidly gained popularity for its exquisite Moong Dal Halwa, BikaneriBhujia, KajuKatli, and a myriad of other delicacies.

Dhoom Director Sanjay Gadhvi Passed Away At 56

- On Sunday, November 19, the film industry lost a creative force with the sudden demise of renowned filmmaker **Sanjay Gadhvi**.
- Best known for directing the blockbuster films "**Dhoom**" (2004) and its sequel "**Dhoom 2**" (2006), Gadhvi's contribution to Indian cinema has left an indelible mark.



- Sanjay Gadhvi was born to **Manubhai Gadhvi**, a prominent figure in Gujarati folk literature. Gadhvi's directorial journey began in 2000 with "**Tere Liye.**"
- Over the years, he worked on diverse projects such as "Kidnap" (2008), "Ajab Gazabb Love" (2012), and "**Operation Parindey**" (2020), his final directorial venture.

Former RBI Governor S. Venkitaramanan Passed Away At 92

- **Former Governor** of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), **S. Venkitaramanan**, breathed his last at the age of 92 on November 18, succumbing to age-related issues at a private hospital in Chennai.
- Assuming the role of **RBI Governor in December 1990**, Venkitaramanan faced the daunting task of navigating a severe balance of payments crisis.
- His tenure coincided with rapid changes in the Central government, requiring him to exhibit determination and courage in the face of economic challenges.
- Venkitaramanan's **two-year tenure** witnessed the multi-crore securities scam and persistent calls for his resignation. He was succeeded by C. Rangarajan.



Rosalynn Carter, Former First Lady Of US Passed Away At 96

- **Former US First Lady Rosalynn Carter**, often referred to as the '**Steel Magnolia,**' passed away on Sunday at the age of 96.
- She was the wife of **President Jimmy Carter**. Rosalynn and Jimmy Carter made history as the **longest-married U.S. presidential couple**. Their union began in 1946 when he was 21 and she was 18.
- Rosalynn Carter was also a fervent **supporter of equal rights**, actively participating in the campaign to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.
- In 2001, Rosalynn Carter received the **National Women's Hall of Fame** in Seneca Falls, New York. This honor marked her as the **third First Lady** to join the esteemed ranks of the Hall of Fame, alongside Abigail Adams and Eleanor Roosevelt.



India's First Woman Supreme Court Judge Justice Fathima Beevi Passes Away

- **Justice Fathima Beevi**, the first female Supreme Court judge, passes away at the age of 96.
- **Born in 1927**, Justice Beevi embarked on her legal journey by earning her Bachelor of Law Degree from the prestigious Government Law College.
- She took her first step into the legal realm by enrolling as an advocate on **November 14, 1950, setting the stage for a trailblazing career.**
- Justice Beevi's contributions were not only recognized nationally but also globally. She was honored with the **Bharat Jyoti Award and the US-India Business Council (USIBC) Lifetime Achievement Award**, acknowledging her exceptional service to the legal fraternity.

Important Days with theme

World Vegan Day 2023

- **World Vegan Day** has been celebrated annually on **November 1** since its inception in 1994 when '**The Vegan Society**' was established in England. The day was initially created to mark the 50th anniversary of the Vegan Society. Over the years, it has evolved into a global platform for promoting the vegan lifestyle and its associated benefits.
- The day encourages individuals to adopt a vegan lifestyle by highlighting the ethical, environmental, and health benefits of this dietary choice. It provides a space for vegans and vegan organizations to showcase the positive impacts of veganism on various aspects of life.
- November is recognized as **Vegan Month**, during which vegan enthusiasts and organizations actively promote the vegan lifestyle and its many facets. The entire month serves as an extended celebration of World Vegan Day, allowing for a more extensive and comprehensive exploration of the benefits and practices associated with veganism.

International Day for Biosphere Reserve 2023 Celebrated on 3rd November

- On **November 3**, the world celebrates the **International Day for Biosphere Reserves**, a day established by **UNESCO** during its 41st General Conference in **2022**. This occasion provides an opportunity to understand and appreciate Biosphere Reserves (BR) and their significance in preserving the delicate balance between nature and culture.
- The UN General Assembly designated **November 5** as World Tsunami Awareness Day in **2015**, with the objective of raising tsunami awareness and sharing innovative approaches for risk reduction.

World Diabetes Day 2023

- World Diabetes Day is observed annually on **November 14** to draw attention to diabetes as a pressing global public health issue. The theme for World Diabetes Day 2023 is "**Access to Diabetes Care.**"
- The significance of November 14 lies in the celebration of the birthday of **Sir Frederick Banting**, the **co-discoverer of insulin** alongside Charles Herbert Best in 1922.
- Established in **1991** by the **International Diabetes Foundation (IDF)** and the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, World Diabetes Day gained official recognition by the United Nations in **2006**.



Children's Day 2023

- **Children's Day in India** is a special occasion celebrated every year on **November 14th**. This date was chosen to honor the birthday of India's first prime minister, **Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru**.
- The theme of this year's Children's Day, '**For every child, every right**', underscores the commitment to uphold the rights of every child worldwide.

- The journey of Children’s Day dates back to **November 5, 1948**, initially observed as **“Flower Day.”** However, it wasn’t until 1954 that the day officially transitioned into Children’s Day, coinciding with Nehru’s birthday.

National Press Day 2023

- **National Press Day**, observed on **November 16** every year in India, commemorates the establishment of the **Press Council of India (PCI)**, which acts as a regulatory body for the news media in the country.
- National Press Day serves as a crucial occasion to reflect on the role of the press in a democratic society and to appreciate the efforts of journalists in upholding journalistic values.
- As India celebrates this day, it reaffirms the commitment to a free, responsible, and ethical press, emphasizing its integral role in preserving the democratic ethos of the nation.

NATIONAL PRESS DAY 2023



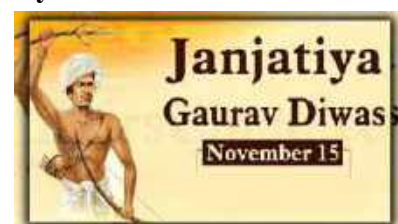
International Day For Tolerance 2023

- **International Day for Tolerance**, observed annually on **November 16th**, serves as a global platform to champion tolerance, respect, and understanding among people of diverse backgrounds and cultures.
- In 2023, the theme is **“Tolerance: A Path to Peace and Reconciliation,”** emphasizing the pivotal role of tolerance in building peaceful and inclusive societies.
- The roots of International Day for Tolerance trace back to 1995 when the United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 51/95, designating November 16th as the day to promote tolerance globally.



Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas 2023

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



International Students Day 2023

- **International Students’ Day 2023**, observed worldwide on Friday, **November 17**, is a special occasion that acknowledges the resilience and contributions of students globally.
- This celebration is particularly significant for those studying abroad, facing the challenges of navigating new cultures, languages, financial hurdles, and homesickness.
- This day holds historical importance as it commemorates the **Nazi invasion of a university in Prague in 1939.**

Women’s Entrepreneurship Day 2023

- **Women's Entrepreneurship Day (WED)** is recognized annually on **November 19th**. This day **fosters gender-inclusive entrepreneurship** and inspire the next generation of female leaders.
- It also serves as a platform to acknowledge the significant contributions of women in the business world. It is celebrated in **144 countries and 65 universities/colleges**.
- Founded by **Wendy Diamond** in **2014**, Women's Entrepreneurship Day emerged in response to the challenges and opportunities faced by women in the entrepreneurial space.



World Children's Day 2023

- **World Children's Day** is a yearly celebration held on **November 20**, commemorating the UN General Assembly's adoption of the Declaration of the Rights of the Child in **1959**.
- The theme for World Children's Day 2023 is **"For every child, every right,"** reinforcing the commitment to uphold the rights outlined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- World Children's Day serves as a platform for people across various professions to raise awareness about child rights and welfare. It encourages reflection on the small choices individuals can make to contribute positively to the younger generation.



World Television Day 2023

- World Television Day, observed globally on November 21, goes beyond seeing TV as just an electronic device. In 1996, the United Nations organized the **first World Television Forum** on November 21.
- According to the United Nations. World Television Day is a reminder of the power of visual media, its role in global communication, and the responsibility to deliver truthful information in a world where trust in media is crucial.

World Fisheries Day 2023

- **World Fisheries Day** is observed annually on **November 21st** to highlight the importance of sustainable fisheries management and to draw attention to the critical role of small-scale fishers in ensuring food security and livelihoods for millions around the world.
- This global event serves as a platform to raise awareness about the challenges facing fisheries, including overfishing, habitat destruction, and climate change.
- The roots of World Fisheries Day can be traced back to **1997** when the "World Forum of Fish Harvesters & Fish Workers" convened in New Delhi.
- The forum's founding declaration advocated for a global mandate of sustainable fishing practices and policies, paving the way for the establishment of World Fisheries Day.

National Cadet Corps Celebrates 75th Anniversary Day

- The **National Cadet Corps (NCC)**, the youth wing of the Indian Armed Forces, is set to celebrate its **75th anniversary on November 27, 2023**.
- NCC Day is observed annually to commemorate the core values encapsulated in the NCC motto, “Unity and Discipline.” These principles, emphasizing duty, loyalty, dedication, and self-sacrifice, reflect the ethos of the organization.
- The NCC’s primary objective is to develop the physical, intellectual, and moral dimensions of society. It aspires to mold individuals into well-rounded personalities with a strong sense of civic responsibility and commitment to community service.



Guru Nanak Jayanti 2023

- **This year, Guru Nanak Jayanti falls on Monday, November 27.** The festival is observed on the full moon date of Kartik month, also known as Kartik Purnima.
- **Guru Nanak Jayanti**, also known as **Gurpurab**, holds immense significance in the **Sikh community** as it marks the birth anniversary of **Guru Nanak Dev**, the revered founder of the Sikh religion.
- Guru Nanak Jayanti is a celebration that transcends borders, uniting Sikhs in a shared devotion to their first Guru. It serves as a reminder of the timeless teachings of Guru Nanak Dev, advocating for love, equality, and selfless service to humanity.



International Day Of Solidarity With The Palestinian People 2023

- Since 1978, **November 29th** has held a significant place on the global calendar as the **International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People**. Originating from a call by the United Nations General Assembly, this day symbolizes a collective commitment to champion the rights and aspirations of the Palestinian people.
- Turkey’s unwavering commitment to the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People is evident in its diplomatic efforts, financial support, and humanitarian aid. By advocating for a just resolution to the Israel-Palestine conflict and actively addressing the pressing needs in Gaza, Turkey remains a key player in the pursuit of a peaceful and sovereign Palestine.