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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Poland chooses US to build its first nuclear power plant

- Poland has chosen the U.S. government and Westinghouse to build the central European country's first nuclear power plant, part of an effort to burn less coal and gain greater energy independence.
- Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki said late Friday on Twitter that Poland would use the "reliable, safe technology" of the Westinghouse Electric Company for the plant in Pomerania province near the Baltic Sea coast. The exact location remains to be identified.
- Protests by residents and environmentalists, the 1986 disaster at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine and budget shortages led to the scrapping of the project.
- Russia's invasion of Ukraine this year and its use of energy to put economic and political pressure on European nations have added urgency to Poland's search for alternative energy sources.

A check over of the U.S.'s much anticipated National Security Strategy

- The United States has launched its much anticipated National Security Strategy (NSS). All U.S. Presidents are mandated by the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986 to bring out their NSS, to communicate the executive's vision of national security to the legislative. As a comprehensive document, the NSS reflects certainty about how the government of the day views the national security agenda.
- The Biden administration's NSS primarily focuses on the current decade as a 'decisive' one in which the U.S. seeks to sustain U.S. leadership, improve the U.S. economy, build on a vast network of alliances and partnerships; counter China as its strategic competitor and Russia as a disruptor, and boost U.S. competitiveness and defend democracy. The document portrays the ambitious agenda of the Biden administration to cover a comprehensive set of transnational challenges tying the domestic with the international.

WHO releases first-ever list of health-threatening fungi

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) released the first-ever list of fungal infections — "priority pathogens". The fungal priority pathogens list (FPPL) includes 19 fungi that represent the greatest threat to human health. The UN body warned that some strains are increasingly drug-resistant and are growing at an alarming rate.
- The WHO said that fungal infections are becoming increasingly resistant to treatment and can be dangerous to mankind due to a lack of focus, lack of surveillance, treatments and diagnostics. "Emerging from the shadows of the bacterial antimicrobial resistance pandemic, fungal infections are growing, and are ever more resistant to treatments, becoming a public health concern worldwide," said Dr Hanan Balkhy, WHO Assistant Director-General, Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR).
- The high priority group includes a number of other fungi from the Candida family as well as others such as Mucorales, a group containing "black fungus", an infection which rose rapidly in seriously ill people, particularly in India, during Covid-19. The medium priority group lists a number of other fungi, including Coccidioides spp and Cryptococcus gattii.

In a first, UNSC's Counter Terrorism Committee to meet in India this week

- The United Nation Security Council's (UNSC) two-day meeting in India on counter-terrorism will focus on dealing with use of internet, new payment mechanism and drones by terrorists. The meetings will be hosted in Mumbai and Delhi on 28 and 29 October, respectively.
- Ministry of external affairs secretary Sanjay Verma said the overarching theme of the meeting would be 'countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes'. "It'll begin with tribute to victims of terrorism," he added.
- Ruchira Kamboj, India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Counter-Terrorism Committee Chair, said that over the past two decades, member states have made tangible progress in countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism. Yet, terrorist threat persists and despite our best efforts has evolved. Mindful of addressing this issue while also recognising potential of technologies to increase effectiveness of counterterrorism efforts, the Committee has come together in India to hold its special meeting on countering use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes, Kamboj said.

International Forum on Peace and Security in Africa opens in Dakar

- Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan participated at the opening session of 'Dakar International Forum on Peace and Security in Africa' in Senegal. The event was inaugurated by President of Senegal, Macky Sall in Dakar yesterday. Presidents of Angola and Cabo Verde, several Ministers and high level dignitaries were present on the occasion.
- In a tweet, Mr Muraleedharan said the Forum has become an important place for policy discussions on sovereignty and security aspects of Africa. He said India strongly supports the development priorities of Africa guided by 10 principles laid down by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Ugandan Parliament in 2018. This is the first time that India is participating in the forum at a Ministerial level.
- The Dakar International Forum has become a key event for decision-makers involved in Africa. The participation of Mr Muraleedharan in the Dakar Forum underscores the importance that India attaches to the peace, security and developmental issues concerning Africa. The visit is also in line with India's policy to intensify and deepen its engagement with Africa.

Actress Anna May Wong Becomes First Asian-American To Feature On US Currency

- Anna May Wong was born with the name Wong Liu-Tsong. Wong began her film career at the age of 14 as an extra in The Red Lantern. Anna May Wong was born in Los Angeles to second-generation Chinese immigrants (1919).
- Anna May Wong, only three years later, in one of the earliest Technicolor movies, The Toll of the Sea (1922), in which she starred, received critical praise.
- Anna May Wong was also The Gallery of Madame Liu-first Tsong's Asian American lead actor on television (1951).
- The four-year American Women Quarters Program honours the achievements and contributions made by women to the growth and history of the United States of America.

- Up to five new reverse designs will be released by the U.S. Mint each year starting in 2022 and continuing through 2025.

Cyclone Sitrang slammed into densely-populated, low-lying Bangladesh late Monday

- Cyclone Sitrang ploughed into heavily populated, low-lying parts of Bangladesh on night, killing at least nine people. The districts of Barguna, Narail, Sirajganj, and the island district of Bhol all reported death. Officials warned that as more casualties are reported from other districts, the death toll could rise.
- Cyclone Sitrang quickly degraded into a deep depression after crossing Bangladesh, and as of Tuesday morning, it had further degraded into a low pressure region.
- Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Tripura may experience widespread moderate to heavy rainfall on Tuesday due to the system, which is now moving towards northeastern areas of India.
- In West Bengal's coastal districts of South 24 Parganas, North 24 Parganas, and East Midnapore, the cyclone caused moderate to heavy rain between 9.30 p.m. and 11.30 p.m. on Monday, dampening Diwali and Kali Puja celebrations.

Rishi Sunak declares candidature for UK PM, leads with backing of over 131 MPs

- Rishi Sunak, the son-in-law of Infosys founder N R Narayana Murthy, formally entered the race to succeed Liz Truss as leader of the Conservative party and the next prime minister of the United Kingdom on the day of Diwali. About 131 to 153 MPs have reportedly supported Sunak so far, compared to Penny Mordaunt and Boris Johnson, who served as Truss' predecessors, who received 56 to 76 and 22 to 28 MPs, respectively.
- Only candidates who have received nominations from 100 or more MPs will advance to the first round.
- Rishi Sunak will automatically become the prime minister of the UK on Diwali if he is the only person to cross the finish line.
- Ben Wallace, the defence minister, offered that the three candidates establish a tripartite government to prevent political squabbling at a time when risks to UK national security were so high.

Pakistan is out of FATF 'grey list' on terror funding

- Pakistan has been removed from the grey list of the Financial Action Task Force(FATF), the Paris-based global watchdog on money laundering and terrorist financing. Pakistan was placed in the grey list in 2018 for failing to keep a check on money laundering and terrorist financing.
- Besides Pakistan, Nicaragua was removed from the FATF's 'grey list' while Democratic Republic of the Congo, Tanzania and Mozambique were added to the list. Myanmar was added to the FATF's 'black list'.
- In a statement, the FATF said Pakistan made significant progress in checking money laundering and combating financing of terrorism. "They have (Pakistan) been removed from the grey list, however, there's still work to be done on their part," FATF president T Raja Kumar said.

- In a statement, FATF welcomed Pakistan's significant progress in improving its anti-money laundering and combating financial terrorism (AML/CFT) regime.
- This development comes more than four years after the FATF put Pakistan on its grey list for the country's failure to check the risk of money laundering, leading to corruption and terror financing.

Xi Jinping secures historic third term in power

- Chinese President Xi Jinping has created history, becoming the first leader of the ruling Communist Party after party founder Mao Zedong to get re-elected for an unprecedented third term in power with the prospect of ruling China for life. He was elected as General Secretary of the Communist Party for 3rd five-year tenure by the new seven-member Standing Committee packed with his supporters who appeared before the local and foreign media here to herald the new era, widely termed 'Xi era'.
- Xi's "election" for the third term in power formally ends the over three decades of rule followed by his predecessors, barring Mao, of retiring after a 10-year tenure. Xi was first elected in 2012 and will be completing his 10-year term this year.
- With moderates like Premier Li Keqiang, who was ranked number two, eased out in the election to over 300-member Central Committee by the once-in-a-five-year Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), the Committee which met on Sunday elected a 25-member Political Bureau.

Liz Truss resigns as U.K. Prime Minister

- Liz Truss, the British prime minister will step down from her position after only six weeks in office due to an economic plan that angered many members of her own party and rattled financial markets. Suella Braverman, Indian origin British interior minister, also resigned making her the second senior cabinet official to do so in the past week after finance minister Kwasi Kwarteng. Suella Braverman said that she left the Liz Truss administration due to a "technical" violation of government regulations and expressed her reservations about the government's course while also criticising the premier. Grant Shapps, the country's new interior minister, has taken Suella Braverman's seat.
- The Conservatives have a sizable majority in parliament and do not need to schedule a general election for another two years.
- Rishi Sunak, a former finance minister, is most likely to face Penny Mordaunt in that race.

Japan seeks Geographical Indication tag for nihonshu, an alcoholic beverage

- This is the first time a product from Japan has filed for a tag at the Geographical Indication Registry in Chennai. The Embassy of Japan, New Delhi, has filed an application seeking a Geographical Indication (GI) tag for Nihonshu/Japanese sake, an alcoholic beverage. It is learnt that this is the first time a product from Japan has filed for a tag at the Geographical Indication Registry here.
- Nihonshu is regarded as a special and valuable beverage made from fermenting rice. People traditionally drink nihonshu on special occasions, such as festivals, weddings or funerals, but it is also consumed on a daily basis. Thus, it is an integral part of the lifestyle and culture in Japan.

- The sake market (almost all are nihonshu) is the second largest brewed liquor (such as beer) market in Japan. For making nihonshu three main raw materials – rice, koji-kin (a type of fungal spore) and water – are required.

Sweden's parliament elects PM backed for first time by far right

- Sweden's parliament elected Moderates leader Ulf Kristersson as the country's new prime minister. A total of 176 members of the Riksdag voted in favor of Kristersson, while 173 members voted against him.
- The Sweden Democrats were the big winners in the closely fought September 11 general election. They emerged as the second-largest party with a record 20.5 percent of votes, trailing only the Social Democrats, who have dominated Swedish politics since the 1930s. The right-wing bloc now has 176 seats in parliament, to their left-wing rivals' 173. Kristersson's four-party alliance unveiled a 62-page roadmap heavily influenced by the far-right agenda. It promises major crackdowns on crime and immigration and the construction of new nuclear reactors.
- Sweden Democrat leader Jimmie Akesson told parliament that while his party would have preferred to be in government and holding cabinet posts, the policies the coalition pursued were most important. "It is what the government does that is important, not what the government looks like," he said.
- The socialists are in power in only four of the fifteen European Union (EU) member state governments (Germany, Great Britain, Greece, and Sweden).

EAM Jaishankar begins two-day Egypt visit, meets eminent foreign policy thinkers

- External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar has reached Cairo in Egypt on his two-day official visit. On the first day of his visit, he met with eminent personalities in the field of foreign policy. During his visit, Dr Jaishankar have discuss a range of bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest with Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry.
- India and Egypt traditionally enjoy warm and friendly relations underpinned by historical and cultural linkages. Both countries are celebrating 75 years of establishment of diplomatic relations this year. Egypt has been invited as a 'Guest Country' during India's Presidency of G-20 in 2022-23.
- Egypt has been one of India's largest trading partners in Africa and the promotion of bilateral trade, commerce and investments will be one of the focus areas during the visit. India-Egypt bilateral trade has touched a record high of 7.26 billion US dollars during the last financial year. Indian investment in Egypt is worth 3.15 billion US dollars. Over 50 Indian companies are actively present in Egypt in a range of sectors like manufacturing, chemicals, energy, infrastructure and retail.
- EAM's visit to Egypt will provide an opportunity to review the entire gamut of our bilateral and multilateral relations and to exchange views with the Egyptian leadership covering whole range of issues of mutual interest.

Japan set to scrap remarriage restrictions on pregnant women

- Japanese cabinet ministers on Oct 14 approved the scrapping of a law that stipulates women pregnant at the time of a divorce must wait 100 days before marrying again. The

law, in place for more than a century, does not apply to men and was originally intended as a way to aid the identification of the father who is financially responsible for a newborn baby.

- Japan consistently ranks low in the World Economic Forum's annual Global Gender Gap report, which takes political empowerment into account as well as health, education and economic participation. In 2022, the country was placed 116th out of 146 ranked.
- The striking demographic feature in post-World War II Japan was the decline of birth and death rates, the result of families having fewer children and of health conditions improving markedly. Japan's rate of population increase slowed dramatically at the end of the 20th century and became essentially stagnant in the first decade of the 21st century.

US resolution calls for recognition of Pak actions as 'genocide' in 1971 war

- Two American congressmen have introduced a resolution in the House of Representatives urging the Biden administration to recognise the Pakistan Army's atrocities against ethnic minorities during the 1971 Liberation War of Bangladesh.
- The legislation was brought by Congressmen Ro Khanna and Steve Chabot on October 14, calling on the Pakistan government, among other things, to apologise to the people of Bangladesh for its role in the genocide of ethnic Bengalis and Hindus during the war.
- The resolution "condemns the atrocities committed by the Armed Forces of Pakistan against the people of Bangladesh from March 1971 to December 1971; recognises that such atrocities against ethnic Bengalis and Hindus constitute crimes against humanity, war crimes, and genocide; calls on the President of the United States to recognise the atrocities committed against ethnic Bengalis and Hindus by the Armed Forces of Pakistan during 1971 as crimes against humanity war crimes, and genocide."
- Chabot, a Republican Party member, confirmed of bringing in such a resolution jointly with another Congressman Khanna, a Democrat and the US Representative from California's 17th congressional district, to commemorate the 1971 Bengali Genocide.

53rd Capacity Building programme in Field Administration for Civil Servants of Bangladesh inaugurate

- 53rd Capacity Building Programme in the Field Administration for the Civil Servants of Bangladesh was inaugurated at National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) at Mussoorie. This institute is the only institute that has trained 1,727 field-level officers of Bangladesh Civil Service such as Assistant Commissioners, SDMs, and Additional Deputy Commissioners.
- In 2014, the National Center for Good Governance was established by the Government of India.
- The center focuses on good governance, policy reforms, training, capacity building, and working as a think tank.
- The center has taken up capacity building of civil servants of several foreign countries in partnership with MEA.

EU passes single charger reform for electronic devices

- According to a new law passed by the European Union parliament, all new smartphones, tablets and cameras will have a single standard charger from late 2024. The law was

adopted with a vote of 602 in favour, and 13 against. It mandates smartphone, laptop and camera manufacturing companies to adopt a standard charger, at least in Europe. Makers of laptops will have extra time, from early 2026, to also follow suit.

- EU policymakers say the single charger rule will simplify the life of Europeans, reduce the mountain of obsolete chargers and reduce costs for consumers. It is expected to save at least 200 million euros (\$195 million) per year and cut more than a thousand tonnes of EU electronic waste every year.
- The European Union's 27 countries are home to 450 million people who count among the world's wealthiest consumers. Regulatory changes in the bloc often set global industry norms in what is known as the Brussels Effect. The EU move is expected to ripple around the world.

About European Union:

Founded: 1 November 1993, Maastricht, Netherlands;

Founders: Germany, France, Italy, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg.

US, India Partner to Accelerate Sustainable Energy Transition

- India and US announced the launch of a new energy task force to support the large-scale integration of renewable energy needed to support the clean energy transition. The announcement will strengthen the India-US partnership in the critical energy sector to new levels. There was also a bilateral meeting between Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri and US Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm, after which the announcement was made.
- During the bilateral meeting, the two leaders underscored the critical importance of clean energy engagement to strengthen energy security.
- The two leaders underscored the importance of ensuring reliable energy supplies to ensure balanced energy markets including India's support for the US initiative to release crude oil from the strategic petroleum reserves.

China more self-reliant in defence production, outranks India by massive margin, says study

- India stands at fourth position among 12 countries of the Indo-Pacific in self-reliant defence production, says a study by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) that assessed self-reliance in arms production. China dominated the list leaving others behind by a long margin.
- "China dominates the ranking, reaching a self-reliance score more than two and a half times higher than Japan's," the study by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), a think tank on global security issues says. The study covered Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam. Vietnam could not be included in the final ranking due to a lack of data.
- Despite the long-term efforts, India remains one of the largest importers of major arms globally.

Ibrahim Traore officially named Burkina Faso President after military coup

- President of Burkina Faso: Following Burkina Faso's second coup in less than nine months, Captain Ibrahim Traore was named president, according to an official announcement. At the

weekend, newly-emerging competitor Captain Ibrahim Traore, who was heading a band of unhappy junior officers, overthrew Lieutenant-Colonel Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba, who had seized control in January, sending the poor Sahel nation into fresh upheaval.

- It was the most recent coup to occur in the Sahel, a region that, like Burkina Faso, is grappling with an escalating Islamist insurgency.
- Following the two-day standoff, which was resolved by community and religious leaders, Damiba escaped to Togo.
- A seven-year-old jihadist campaign in Burkina Faso has resulted in thousands of deaths, over two million house evacuations, and the loss of government authority over more than a third of the nation.
- Damiba's January coup against the elected president was brought about by growing resentment among the military forces.

With record sugar production, India emerges as the world's largest producer, consumer of sugar

- India has emerged as the largest producer and consumer of sugar in the world and the second largest exporter. During the sugar season in India, over 5,000 lakh metric tons (LMT) of sugarcane was produced out of which about 3,574 LMT was crushed by Sugar Mills to produce about 349 LMT of Sugar. 35 LMT of Sugar is diverted to ethanol production and 359 LMT of sugar was produced in sugar mills.
- During this season all records of sugarcane production, sugar production, sugar export, cane to produce, cane dues paid and ethanol production were made.
- In 2020-21, India made records with the highest exports of about 109.8 LMT with no financial assistance.
- The sugar exports from India earned foreign currency of about Rs 40,000 crore for the country.
- This achievement of the sugar industry was possible with the help of the Central and State Governments, Farmers, Sugar Mills, etc.

Saudi Arabia to host 2029 asian winter games in desert megacity that doesn't yet exist

- Saudi Arabia has won the bid to host the 2029 Asian Winter Games at a planned Mountain Resort in the Gulf Arab State. The Asian Games will be held at a \$500 billion futuristic megacity in the desert that will feature a year-round winter sports complex. The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) said that the deserts and mountains of Saudi Arabia will be turned into a playground for winter sports. The bid by Saudi Arabia was approved without any opposition. The Megacity known as NEOM will be the first West Asian City to host the event.
- The Asian winter games will take place in Trojena, an area of NEOM. During winter temperature drop below zero and generally is 10 degrees cooler than the rest of the region in Trojena.

Stunning! Dubai's majestic Hindu temple opens to public on Dussehra

- A majestic new Hindu Temple has been inaugurated in Jebel Ali Village, Dubai. The temple combines both Indian and Arabic architectural designs and gives a powerful message of tolerance, peace, and harmony. The temple is located in a neighborhood that is generally known as the 'Worship Village' of UAE.

- The temple was inaugurated by the Minister of Tolerance and Coexistence Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan and Ambassador Sunjay Sudhir.
- Sunjay Sudhir thanked the UAE Government for their support to the 3.5 million Indian population in UAE.
- The 'Worship Village' of UAE now has nine religious' shrines, including seven churches, the Guru Nanak Darbar Sikh Gurudwara, and the new Hindu House of Worship.
- The inaugural ceremony was facilitated by the CEO of the Social Regulatory and Licensing agency for the Community Development Authority (CDA) Dr. Omar Al Muthanna, trustee of the Hindu Temple Dubai Raju Shroff, and Director General of the Community Development Authority Ahmed Abdul Karim Julfar.

Oil rises to 3-week highs as OPEC+ agrees to deep cuts, U.S. stockpiles fall

- Oil prices rose to three-week highs, as OPEC+ agreed to its deepest cuts to production since the 2020 COVID pandemic, despite a tight market and opposition to cuts from the United States and others. Prices also rose on U.S. government data that showed crude and fuel inventories fell last week. Brent crude rose \$1.57, or 1.7%, to settle at \$93.37 a barrel. Brent reached a session high of \$93.96 per barrel, its highest since Sept. 15.
- The 2 million-barrel-per-day (bpd) cut from OPEC+ could spur a recovery in oil prices that have dropped to about \$90 from \$120 three months ago on fears of a global economic recession, rising U.S. interest rates and a stronger dollar. U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude rose \$1.24, or 1.4%, to settle at \$87.76 a barrel. It reached \$88.42 per barrel during the session, the highest since Sept. 15. Both Brent and WTI rose sharply in the last two days.

Tesla CEO Elon Musk unveils prototype humanoid Optimus robot

- Elon Musk, the CEO of Tesla, unveiled a model of the humanoid "Optimus" robot, which uses some of the same Artificial Intelligence (AI) software and sensors as the Autopilot driving assistance system in Tesla vehicles. At Tesla AI Day 2022, which was held to show off how far the company's research into autonomous robots and vehicles had progressed, Optimus was unveiled.
- Optimus was initially seen during the event pacing around the stage, along with updates on new self-driving software and a first look at the Dojo hardware that powers Tesla's AI research, according to media sources.
- Elon Musk claims that this humanoid prototype is capable of more than what was demonstrated in real life.
- But at the Tesla AI Day celebration, it was used for the first time without a tether.

About Tesla:

CEO: Elon Musk (Oct 2008–)

Founded: 1 July 2003, San Carlos, California, United States

Headquarters: Austin, Texas, United States

Putin announces Russian annexation of four Ukrainian regions

- Vladimir Putin has declared the Annexation of 4 Ukrainian regions by Russia. The West has denounced the annexation of occupied Ukrainian territory by Russia as an illegitimate land grab after Russian President Vladimir Putin signed treaties.

- The president of Ukraine, Zelenskyy responded by unexpectedly submitting an application to join the NATO armed alliance. Vladimir Putin 's action and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy 's signature of what he called a expedited NATO membership application sent the two leaders hurtling toward each other, raising the possibility of a full-scale battle between Russia and the West.

About Russia:

President: Vladimir Putin

Capital: Moscow

Currency: Russian ruble

Prime minister: Mikhail Mishustin

About North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) :

Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium

Founded: 4 April 1949, Washington, D.C., United States

Founders: United States, United Kingdom, France, Italy, Norway.....

2nd round of Foreign office consultations between India & Nigeria held

- The second round of Foreign Office Consultations between India and Nigeria was held in New Delhi on Thursday. Both sides reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations covering political, economic and commercial investment, defence and security, development partnership, capacity building, cultural and consular matters. They also discussed ways to further strengthen the close bilateral ties between India and Nigeria. The two sides also exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest and agreed to enhance their cooperation in the multilateral fora.
- Relations between India and Nigeria have traditionally been warm and are based on shared historical ties, values of democracy and vision. There have been regular visits taking place from both sides. Defence cooperation between the two countries has been nurtured over the years. India had helped Nigeria in setting up their Defence Academy. As part of capacity building under ITEC, India offers over 250 slots annually which are being utilised optimally. Under this framework, several Nigerian senior military officers were trained in India, including two former Presidents and the present incumbent President Mohammadu Buhari.

About Nigeria:

President: Muhammadu Buhari

Capital: Abuja

Currency: Nigerian naira

Euro zone inflation hits record high 10%, raising pressure on ECB

- Inflation in the 19-member eurozone reached 10% in September, the highest it has ever been in the history of the common European currency, according to the latest flash estimate from Eurostat, the EU statistics agency. This is up from the 9.1% seen in August. Just one year ago, inflation was 3.2%.
- The high inflation figure comes as the region experiences soaring electricity and natural gas prices, and also comes amid forecasts of a looming recession. The price of energy has risen 40.8% when compared to last year's prices, while the cost of food, alcohol and tobacco rose 11.8% in September, up from the 10.6% recorded in August. The inflation figure in Estonia

for September was pegged at a whopping 24.2%, a little lower than the 25.2% seen in August, but also the highest in the eurozone.

- Lithuania, Latvia and Netherlands follow closely with their rates of inflation sitting at 22.5%, 22.4% and 17.1%, respectively. According to Eurostat, German inflation is sitting at 10.9%. Berlin presented a new €200 billion (\$196 billion) relief plan in a bid to counter soaring energy prices.
- Inflation was being spurred on by rising energy prices which have soared since the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

NATIONAL NEWS

Rajnath unveils 75 infra projects in Ladakh

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched 75 new projects including the virtual launch of two helipads, one in Hanle and one in Thakung in Eastern Ladakh. These helipads are aimed to enhance the operational capabilities of the Indian Air Force in the region. Several other key infra projects were also unveiled which include bridges, roads, and helipads projects in Jammu and Kashmir border areas.
- Union minister dedicated the projects worth Rs 2,180 crore spread across six states and two Union Territories at a function held at eastern Ladakh's strategic Darbuk-Shyok-Daulat Beg Oldi (DS-DBO) road that provides connectivity to India's northernmost outpost of Daulat Bege Oldi.
- In the event, there was an onsite unveiling of 120-meter-long 'Class-70 Shyok Setu' on the DS-DBO road at an altitude of 14,000 feet and a virtual inauguration of two helipads.
- The 75 projects implemented by the Border Roads Organization (BRO) included 45 bridges, 27 roads, two helipads, and one 'Carbon Neutral Habitat'.

India pledges to Contribute \$500,000 to UN Trust Fund For Counter-Terrorism

- India is going to contribute half a million dollars to the United Nations' efforts to counter global terrorism at a time when new and emerging technologies used by terror groups are posing fresh threats to governments around the world, the foreign minister said. The announcement was made during the plenary session of the UN Security Council special meeting of the Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) in New Delhi.
- "India will be making a voluntary contribution of half a million dollars to the UN Trust Fund for Counter Terrorism this year to augment the efforts of Office of Counter-Terrorism in providing capacity-building support to member states in preventing and countering the threat of terrorism," the minister said.
- Jaishankar warned about the threat posed by the misuse of new and emerging technologies for terror activities, stressing the need for the international community to adopt measures to combat the threats.

India Takes Part in Maiden Trilateral Maritime Exercise With Mozambique And Tanzania

- The Defence Ministry has informed that the first edition of the India-Mozambique-Tanzania Trilateral Exercise commenced at Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania on 27th October 2022. The Indian Navy has participated in the Maiden Trilateral Exercise with Mozambique and Tanzania.

Indian Navy is represented by the guided missile frigate, INS Tarkash, a Chetak Helicopter, and MARCOS.

- The exercise has three main objectives including capability development to address common threats through training and sharing of best practices, Enhancing interoperability, and strengthening maritime cooperation.
- The exercise has been held till 29th October 2022 which also includes the Harbour and sea phases.
- In the harbor phase, various capacity-building activities are involved which include visit, board, search, and seizure.
- Small arms training, joint diving operations, damage control and fire fighting exercises, and cross-deck visits are scheduled in the capacity building activities.

Mawmluh Cave In Meghalaya Is One Of The First 100 Geoheritage Sites Listed By UNESCO

- The International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS), one of the largest scientific organisations of UNESCO, has recognised the Mawmluh Cave, located in the East Khasi Hills district of Meghalaya, as one of the first 100 IUGS geological heritage sites. The full list will be presented at the IUGS's 60th-anniversary event, which will take place in Zumaia, Spain. The announcement of the 100 geological heritage sites is expected to kick start an endeavour to designate geological sites from around the world that are iconic, and recognised by all geoscience communities for their impact in understanding the Earth and its history.
- The Society of Earth Scientists had submitted the proposal to recognise Mawmluh Cave for consideration under the first 100 Global Geoheritage sites. More than 200 specialists from almost 40 nations and 10 international organisations helped identify and shortlist the sites.

New elephant reserve, India's 33rd, to come up in Uttar Pradesh

- The Centre has approved the setting up of the Terai Elephant Reserve (TER) at Dudhwa-Pilibhit in Uttar Pradesh. The Terai Elephant Reserve is the 3rd Elephant Reserve in India which is spread over 3,049 sq km. The Terai Elephant Reserve includes protected areas, forest areas, and corridors for the conservation of wild elephants.
- The Terai Elephant Reserve will be developed in the joint forest areas of Dudhwa and Pilibhit tiger reserve. This will cover the conservation of four wild species including tiger, Asian elephant, swamp deer, and one-horned rhinoceros.
- The Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav said that the move will help conserve transboundary migratory elephant populations.
- The reserve through implementing human-elephant conflict mitigation strategies will protect the villagers living in the Indo-Nepal border area of Uttar Pradesh.

Jal Jeevan Mission: UP ranks at the bottom, Gujarat achieve 100 percent household tap water supply

- Gujarat has been declared as a 100 percent 'Har Ghar Jal' state. In Gujarat, households in rural areas have access to safe drinking water through taps under the 'Har Ghar Jal' mission. About 91,73,378 houses in the state have water connections according to the government

record. Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated the state and people of Gujarat who has shown their enthusiasm for the Jal Shakti mission.

- Gujarat has achieved this milestone on the occasion of the Gujarati New year. The 'Har Ghar Jal' was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2019.
- The 'Har Ghar Jal' aims to make available 55 liters of water per person every day to each rural household through household tap connections by 2024.

Every state to have an National Investigation Agency office by 2024: Home minister Amit Shah

- Amit Shah, the Union Minister of Housing and Cooperation, spoke today at the start of a two-day "Chintan Shivir" in Surajkund, Haryana. The Chintan Shivir is being attended by Chief Ministers of the States, Home Ministers of States, Lieutenant Governors, and Administrators of Union Territories. Utilizing all internal security resources to their fullest potential is necessary in order to combat the issues facing the country.
- In his speech, Shri Amit Shah stated that this Chintan Shivir, inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is being held to give the nation a unified platform to fight threats like cybercrime, the proliferation of drugs, and cross-border terrorism jointly.
- Because crimes are evolving and growing more international in scope nowadays, all States will need to come up with a coordinated approach to combat them.

Odisha CM launches first common agricultural credit portal for farmers

- Odisha Chief Minister, Naveen Patnaik has launched a common credit portal SAFAL' (Simplified Application for Agricultural Loans) for the welfare of farmers. SAFAL is an abridged application for agricultural loans that will enable farmers and agri-entrepreneurs to access over 300 term loan products from more than 40 partner banks. It has also been integrated with Krushak Odisha and will have access to 70-plus model project reports. The application can revolutionise credit provisions for farmers and agri-entrepreneurs.
- The application is a one-stop solution for farmers and agri-entrepreneurs to avail formal sector credit from public and private sector banks, Regional Rural Banks, State Cooperative Banks, and Small Finance Banks.
- The portal will ease the loan application process benefiting both the farmers and banks significantly, the chief minister said. It will also reduce information asymmetry by sending farmers real-time notifications at every stage of their loan application.

About Odisha

Capital: Bhubaneswar

Chief Minister: Naveen Patnaik

Governor: Ganeshi Lal

Delhi L-G Vinai Kumar Saxena rolls out 1-time amnesty scheme for properties in city

- Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena has launched a one-time property tax amnesty scheme "SAMRIDDHI 2022-23", which will provide a major relief to lakhs of residential and commercial property owners in the city. SAMRIDDHI, an acronym for Strengthening and Augmentation of Municipal Revenue for Infrastructure Development in Delhi, will start on October 26 and end on March 31, 2023, with no further extensions.

- The scheme aims at solving thousands of pending court cases since the unit area method for property tax calculation came into existence from 2004.
- The scheme will benefit both the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and the city's residents.
- Under this scheme, the residential properties will have to pay tax for 1+5 years (the ongoing financial year and last five years), while the commercial properties will be able to pay taxes for 1+6 years (current year + last 6 years).

India suffered income loss of 5.4 pc of GDP due to heatwave

- India suffered an income loss of 5.4% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the highest among the G20 nations in 2021, according to the new report of Climate Transparency. The report highlighted that India witnessed a record heatwave that greatly affected workers, labour migrants, low-income households, and the homeless, and reduced the yields of wheat crops.
- Despite the fact that India is responsible for 3% of global emissions, the report mentioned that around 142 million people in India may be exposed (10% of the population) to summer heatwaves at 1.5 Degrees Celsius.
- The higher temperature resulted in the reduction of working hours, which further led to substantial income losses in services, manufacturing, agriculture, and construction.
- Talking about global emissions, the USA ranked first, as America contributes 25% of it, followed by the European Union with 22%. "G20 members account for around 85% of global GDP, 75% of international trade, and two-thirds of the world's population, and are responsible for around three-quarters of global emissions," the report reads.

Ladakh MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal launches "Main Bhi Subhash" campaign from Leh

- Ladakh MP Jamyang Tsering Namgyal launched the 'Main Bhi Subhash' campaign from Leh. The 'Main Bhi Subhash' campaign is a series of events which is organized by the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose INA Trust in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture. The 'Main Bhi Subhash' campaign is going to be organized on the occasion of the 125th Birth Anniversary of Netaji on 23rd January next year. The 'Main Bhi Subhash' campaign begins in Mumbai and Kolkata.
- Mr. Namgyal inaugurated an exhibition on Netaji at Boys Higher Secondary school in Leh.
- The 'Main Bhi Subhash' campaign aims to create awareness of Netaji's contribution to the freedom fight.

Country's first Migrant Monitoring System launched for information on migrant women –

- India's first 'Migration Monitoring Systems' was inaugurated by the Maharashtra Women and Children Development Minister Mangalprabhat Lodha in Mumbai. The website-based Migration Tracking System will track the movement of vulnerable seasonal migrant beneficiaries. The Migration Monitoring Systems aims to provide information about migrant pregnant women, lactating women, and children.
- The system provides updated information about migrant pregnant women, lactating women, and children in a single system.
- Maharashtra Women and Children Development Minister Mangalprabhat Lodha launched the 'Migration Monitoring Systems'.

- The state department has created website-based Migration Tracking System (MTS) to track the movements of vulnerable seasonal migrant beneficiaries through individual unique identification numbers.
- The information about seasonal migrant women and children will be available on a single platform with the 'Migration Monitoring Systems'.

In Kerala, 'honesty shops' on school campuses help inculcate virtues among children

- Honesty Shops have been opened in 15 schools in the Ernakulam district of Kerala. The Honesty Shops are a part of the Student Police Cadet (SPC) project which aims to provide valuable lessons on truth, and integrity for students. In these honesty shops there is no salesman at the counters and students can drop the money for each item in the collection box kept in the shop.
- The honesty shops have been launched under the Student Police Cadet (SPC). The SPC project was conceived to inculcate better civic sense among students and mold them as responsible youth.
- The objective of the Honesty shops is to provide students a chance to experience the virtue of honesty. The schools have switched off the CCTV facilities towards the shop to instill confidence among the students.

Hon'ble Prime Minister launches the first phase of "Rozgar Mela"

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on October 22 launched the Rozgar Mela recruitment drive to hire 10 lakh personnel. In the first tranche, 75,000 new appointees will be given jobs. The new recruits, selected from across the country, will join 38 government ministries and departments. They will be appointed across various levels viz. Group A, Group B (Gazetted), Group B (Non-Gazetted) and Group C.
- The Prime Minister's Office said this will be a significant step of the government towards providing job opportunities for the youth and ensuring the welfare of the citizens. It said that as directed by the prime minister, all ministries and department are working towards filling up existing vacancies against sanctioned posts. The recruitment will take place across central armed forces personnel, sub-inspectors, constables, LDCs, Stenos, PAs, income tax inspectors, MTS among others.

Punjab govt. announces restoration of old pension scheme

- The Punjab Government decided to restore the old pension scheme for its employees. Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann announced that the government has decided to implement the old pension scheme as a Diwali gift for its employees. The decision was taken as an in-principle decision to the effect of the cabinet meeting. The decision aims to benefit lakhs of employees.
- Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema said that the employees will be given the option to join the old pension scheme.
- The government was considering restoring the scheme for government employees for a month.
- Restoration of the old pension scheme was discontinued in 2004 and it has been one of the major demands of state government employees.

Uttar Pradesh: Ayodhya all set to celebrate Diwali with spectacular arrangements, PM Narendra Modi to be the chief guest

- Lord Rama, an avatar of the almighty Vishnu, is a popular Hindu deity. Lord Rama was born at Ayodhya, according to the ancient Indian epic, the Ramayana. Ayodhya Ram Mandir Diwali 2022 is very special as it is going to be celebrated as Ayodhya Deepotsav. Prime Minister Narendra Modi also took part in the Ayodhya Deepotsav.
- The Babri Masjid, a mosque built by the Mughals in the sixteenth century, is thought to be located near the Ram Janmabhoomi, the reputed birthplace of Rama. In the 1850s, a fierce disagreement developed.
- The remains of a Hindu temple were discovered during archaeological excavations conducted by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) between 1978 and 2003.

PM Modi launches recruitment drive 'Rozgar Mela' for 10 lakh personnel

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a mega recruitment drive, Rozgar Mela, for ten lakh personnel today. On this occasion, appointment letters for various posts of Central Government were handed over to 75 thousand of newly inducted appointees in the first tranche.
- While addressing the new appointees through video conferencing, the Prime Minister said, this is another step to provide employment opportunities to youth. He said, several steps have been taken by the government to provide employment and self employment opportunities in the last eight years. He said, India is marching towards becoming self-reliant in every sector and the target of becoming a developed nation can be achieved with the contribution of everyone. He said, India is the fifth biggest economy now and this feat has been achieved due to the reforms undertaken in the last eight years. He said, the government has set a target to spend 100 lakh crore rupees on infrastructure development in the country. He said, works for creating robust infrastructure in the country are creating several employment opportunities for the people.

14th Tribal Youth Exchange Programme Held In New Delhi

- Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports in collaboration with Ministry of Home Affairs today organised 14th Tribal Youth Exchange Programme for the development of Tribal Youth in New Delhi.
- The aim of the programme is to sensitize tribal youth to rich cultural heritage of the country and to enable them to appreciate the concept of unity in diversity.
- Its objective is also to expose them to development activities and industrial advancement and help the tribal youth to develop emotional linkages with their peer groups in other parts of the country and enhance their self-esteem.
- 220 selected youth in the age group of 18 to 22 years are participating in the programme from Left Wing Extremism-affected districts of Sukma and Rajnandgaon of Chhattisgarh, Balaghat district of Madhya Pradesh and Jamui of Bihar.
- The duration of each Tribal Youth exchange Programme is of 7 days.

PM Modi launches Mission LiFE movement at Kevadiya in Gujarat

- Mission LIFE movement is launched by PM Modi in order to protect the environment. Prime Minister Narendra Modi issued a stern warning. After the global launch of Mission LiFE at the Statue of Unity in Gujarat in the presence of UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, the PM addressed the crowd and asserted that lifestyle changes can help to mitigate climate change.
- The PM noted, reiterating India's commitment to combating the threat of climate change, that a circular economy and reduce, reuse, recycle principles have been ingrained in Indian culture for thousands of years.
- India is the best example of economic progress and environmental protection.
- The PM referred to Mahatma Gandhi's idea of trusteeship and said that the Mission LiFE invites us to be environmental trustees.
- PM Modi praised Gujarat's initiatives in the fields of environmental preservation and renewable energy.

Windergy 2023 to be Held in Chennai in Next Year

- The 5th edition of India's only comprehensive International Trade Fair and Conference, Windergy India 2023 will be held from 4th October to 6th October 2023. The Windergy India 2023 will be organized by the Indian Wind Turbine Manufacturers Association (IWTMA) and PDA Ventures Pvt Ltd, the three-day trade fairs and conference will provide a vibrant platform to meet and interact with policymakers, regulatory authority, international and domestic technology, solution and services providers from the wind power industries.
- Indian Wind Turbine Manufacturers Association (IWTMA) was established in 1998 and is the apex business association and voice of the Indian wind Industry. IWTMA has been at the forefront of the policy framework and regulatory intervention with proactive engagement with Central and State policymakers, Investors, and Stakeholders.

Indian, US militaries conduct "Tiger Triumph" humanitarian assistance exercise

- The Indian and US militaries carried out a three-day joint humanitarian assistance exercise in Vishakhapatnam in line with the growing strategic cooperation between the two countries. The Tiger Triumph exercise was the second collaboration between the Indian and US Militaries to coordinate disaster relief in the region.
- The first exercise took place over the course of nine days in November 2019 and featured more than 500 US Marines and sailors. The first exercise included 1200 Indian sailors, soldiers, and Airmen.
- This year, the military exercise involved fifty combined participants, and it focused on staff planning, with an emphasis on processes for streamlining diplomatic, operational, and logistical coordination.
- Tiger Triumph marked the third time in 2022 that Indian and US militaries have worked together in Vishakhapatnam.

'Diye jalao, patake nahin': Delhi govt kicks off campaign for green Diwali

- Delhi government has launched the 'Diye Jalao, Patake Nahin' (light up lamps, not firecrackers) campaign at Central Park in New Delhi. The Delhi government on Friday lit

51,000 diyas at Central Park in Connaught Place here to mark the launch of its campaign for a pollution-free Diwali. The campaign aims at promoting a quieter and pollution-free Diwali.

- Volunteers take part in the Delhi government's campaign for a pollution-free Diwali. Diwali is one of the biggest festivals in India. People across the country mark the festival in special ways by making rangolis, organising Diwali parties and preparing delicious dishes and sweets. However, air and noise pollution have been a cause of concern on this auspicious occasion. Bursting crackers is a major cause for pollution.

India successfully testfires new-gen nuclear-capable 'Agni Prime' ballistic missile off Odisha Coast

- The Agni Prime New Generation Ballistic Missile was successfully tested by India on October 21 off the coast of Odisha. Around 9.45 this morning, a test launch of the ballistic missile took place. The missile successfully completed the test, covering its full range, and all of its test goals were achieved.
- The Agni Prime, also known as "Agni-P," is a two-stage canisterized missile from the Agni class that is nuclear-capable and has a maximum range of 2,000 kilometres.
- The Agni Prime missile has updated guidance and propulsion technologies and weighs 50% less than the Agni 3 missile.
- This test has demonstrated the system's accuracy and dependability.
- Agni Prime underwent its first test on June 28, 2021, and it underwent its second test on December 18, 2021.

India, France re-elected as President, Co-President of International Solar Alliance

- In the third assembly of ISA, Union Power and New and Renewable Energy Minister R K Singh has been re-elected as the President of International Solar Alliance. France Minister of State for Development Chrysoula Zacharopoulou has been re-elected as Co-President.
- The Third Assembly of the International Solar Alliance has been attended by 34 ISA Members ministers. 53 Member countries and 5 Signatory and Prospective Member countries participated to the Assembly.
- India and France were re-elected as the President and Co- President of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) for a term of two years at the virtual meeting of the Third Assembly held on 14 October. Four new Vice-Presidents were also chosen to represent the four regions of ISA. The representatives of Fiji & Nauru for Asia Pacific Region; Mauritius & Niger for Africa Region; UK & Netherlands for Europe and others Region, and Cuba and Guyana for Latin America and Caribbean Region assumed the vice presidency.

PM Modi lays foundation stone of new strategic air base in Gujarat's Deesa

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for Indian Air Force (IAF)'s new airbase at Deesa in Banaskantha district of Gujarat and described it as an effective center of India's security. He said the Deesa air base, mere 130 kilometers from the Indo-Pak border, will be able to give a better response to any threat coming from the western side.
- Although the land for Deesa airbase was allotted an in-principle approval given to Indian Air Force (IAF) by the Vajpayee government way back in 2000, the project was put on a back burner by the UPA government for the next 14 years. Although the project was revived

when Narendra Modi took over as PM, it was the 2017 massive floods in Banaskantha that really kick-started the project.

- It was then Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman who got the airbase approved by the government along with the ₹1,000 crore funding.
- While PM Modi said the Deesa airbase will provide faster offensive capability to the IAF in this sector, the new airfield will also plug a crucial tactical gap between forward air bases at Naliya, Bhuj in Gujarat, and Phalodi in Rajasthan.
- The Deesa air base will be the fire wall between enemy aircraft taking off from Mirpur Khas, Hyderabad, Shahbaz F-16 airbase in Jacobabad in Pakistan with Gujarat's more than a trillion dollar industrial complex in and around Ahmedabad, Bhavnagar and Vadodara as target to economically hit India in the worst-case scenario. Deesa will also make Pakistani cities of Hyderabad, Karachi, and Sukkur vulnerable with its deep penetration strike aircraft.

World Cup hosts Qatar set to host 2023 AFC Asian Cup

- The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Executive Committee has confirmed the Qatar Football Association (QFA) as the host association for the AFC Asian Cup 2023. The 11th AFC Executive Committee meeting was chaired by AFC President Shaikh Bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa.
- He congratulated the QFA on their successful bid and also conveyed the appreciation of the Asian Football Family to the Football Association of Indonesia (PSSI) and the Korea Football Association (KFA) for their proposals.
- Qatar is the reigning AFC Asian Cup Champions and will be hosting the most prestigious men's tournament for the third time.
- The AFC Executive Committee also deliberated upon the bidding proposals for the AFC Asian Cup 2027.

India Gate, the flagship brand of KRBL, has been recognized as the world's Number one

- India Gate, the flagship brand of KRBL, has been recognized as the world's No. 1 Basmati Rice Brand in a market study conducted by a leading global research company. The quantitative study by Mordor Intelligence covers research of White and Brown Basmati Rice Category across continents like the Americas, Europe, Asia-Pacific, and Middle East & Africa. The research has been done using methodologies like Primary & Secondary Research, Data Triangulation, and Insight Generation.
- Mordor Intelligence, a leading global research company founded in 2014 has been conducting studies providing insights to 4000+ enterprises across 100+ countries across multiple industries.
- Since its introduction in 1998, India Gate Basmati Rice has been working continuously to deliver its purpose of enriching lives through Basmati Rice, a nutritional wonder of nature.
- Over the years, India Gate has developed a successful global consumer franchise, as evidenced by the fact that it is exported to over 90 countries and sells 8+ cr. packs annually.
- The grains of India Gate Basmati Rice is aged to perfection, which makes them longer, fluffier, non-sticky, and full of beautiful aroma, setting them apart from the others.

PM inaugurates PM Kisan Samman Sammelan 2022 at Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi

- The PM Kisan Samman Sammelan 2022 will be launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute in New Delhi. More than 13,500 farmers from all around the country and about 1,500 agri entrepreneurs are expected to attend the two-day event.
- The Prime Minister will officially open 600 Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samruddhi Kendras (PMKSK) under the ministry of chemicals and fertilisers.
- PMKSK will provide agri-inputs like fertilisers, seeds, and implements; testing facilities for soil, seeds, and fertilisers; awareness-raising activities for farmers; details on various government programmes; and regular capacity building for retailers at block/district level outlets.
- During the occasion, the PM will also introduce the One Nation One Fertilizer initiative, Bhartiya Jan Urvarak Pariyojana.

India registered defence exports worth Rs 8,000 cr in six months of FY 2022-23

- India registered defence exports worth Rs 8,000 crore in six months of the current financial year and aims to achieve the annual export target of Rs 35,000 crore by 2025, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said. He was speaking at the curtain raiser event of DefExpo, scheduled to be held from October 18 to 22, in Gandhinagar.
- Singh said India's defence sector registered exports worth Rs 30,000 crore after 2014 when the Narendra Modi government came to power at the Centre. He said India is progressing speedily on the path to achieving global standards of design, development and manufacturing at the international level.
- "Before 2014, we used to achieve (defence) exports of Rs 900-1,300 crore. After all these years, we have achieved exports worth more than Rs 30,000 crore to date. We can add another Rs 8,000-9,000 crore of the export target (this year)," Singh said. "We target to achieve (annual defence) exports worth Rs 35,000 crore by the end of FY 2025. We have achieved exports worth Rs 8,000 crore in six months (of FY 2022-23)," Singh said.

India stands third in the world in terms of fish production: MoS Dr. L Murugan

- Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Dr. L Murugan has recently said that India stands third in the world in terms of fish production. India is the 3rd largest fish producing and 2nd largest aquaculture nation in the world after China.
- He said, India stands third in the world in terms of fish production. Making specific reference to Karnataka, the Union Minister said that 734.77 crore rupees was allocated to the state under the flagship scheme of Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) from 2020-21 till date for the development of infrastructure facilities.
- The vision is to bring about Blue Revolution through sustainable and responsible development of fisheries sector.
- The main motto of PMMSY is 'Reform, Perform and Transform' in the fisheries sector.
- Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying is the implementing agency.

Centre approves India's 1st cable-cum-suspension bridge across Krishna river

- The central government has approved the construction of an iconic cable stayed-cum-suspension bridge across the Krishna river connecting Telangana and Andhra Pradesh and passing through the Nallamala forest range. The decision was announced by the union minister for road transport and national highways Nitin Gadkari. Gadkari said the iconic bridge will have several unique features like the longest glass pedestrian walkway across a river, gopuram-like pylons, signature lighting and a large navigational span.
- The two-storeyed cable bridge with a four-lane carriageway across the Krishna river was approved last week by the standing committee on finance for the union ministry of road transport and national highways.
- The bridge begins at Somasila at Kollapur in Telangana's Nagarkurnool district and Atmakur in Andhra Pradesh's Kurnool district.
- At present, the people from Telangana are forced to travel for a long distance via Kurnool to reach pilgrim centres like Mahanandi, Ahobilam, Tirupati.

Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurates India's First Aluminum Freight Rake

- Union Minister for Railways, Communications and Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated India's First Aluminum Freight Rake - 61 BOBRNALHSM1 at Bhubaneswar Railway Station today. The rake's destination is Bilaspur.
- This is a dedicated effort for Make in India program as it has been fully designed and developed indigenously in collaboration with RDSO, HINDALCO and Besco Wagon.
- The tare is 3.25 tons lower than normal steel rakes, 180 ton extra carrying capacity resulting in higher throughput per wagon.
- The reduced tare will reduce carbon footprint as lower consumption of fuel in empty direction and more transport of freight in loaded condition. A single rake can save over 14,500 tonnes of CO2 over its lifetime.
- Iron industry consumes a lot of Nickel and Cadmium which comes from import. So, proliferation of Aluminum wagons will result in less import. At the same time, this is good for local aluminum industry.

India to host 90th General Assembly of INTERPOL from 18th to 21st Oct

- India is hosting the 90th General Assembly of the International Criminal Police Organization, INTERPOL from 18th to 21st of October in New Delhi.
- The General Assembly is INTERPOL's supreme governing body, comprising representatives from each of 195 member countries. It meets once a year.
- India is one of the oldest members of Interpol and joined the organization in 1949. All member countries of INTERPOL have agreed to ensure and promote the widest possible assistance between all criminal police authorities in the prevention and suppression of ordinary law crimes.
- The role of INTERPOL is to enable police around the world to work together to make the world a safer place.

Gwalior: Shah inaugurates 'Gatha Swaraj Ki' gallery in Scindia Museum

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah has inaugurated a gallery-cum-exhibition depicting the history of prominent Maratha commanders at the sprawling Jai Vilas Mahal of Scindias, the erstwhile rulers of Gwalior. Shah was in Gwalior to lay the foundation for the terminal building and expansion of the Rajmata Vijayaraje Scindia Airport.
- Shah visited the museum in the palace and inaugurated the 'Gatha Swaraj ki-Maratha Gallery' depicting the history of the main Maratha rulers including the Scindias, Gaikwads, Holkars, Nevalkars, Bhosales and the Pawar.
- As per the booklet about the gallery, the word "Swaraj" was first used by Sakharam Ganesh Deoskar in a Bangla book- "Shivajir Mahatva" on the life of Chatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in 1902. The word "Swaraj" was used by Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Mahatma Gandhi, Veer Savarkar, the Bhartiya Jan Sangh and Indian National Congress among others. Union civil aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, the royal descendant, his wife Priyadarshini Raje and their son Mahanaryaman welcomed Shah in the palace.

Kurdish politician Abdul Latif Rashid elected as new president of Iraq

- The Iraqi Parliament chose Kurdish politician, Abdul Latif Rashid to lead the country. Rashid won more than 160 votes against 99 for the incumbent Saleh. Rashid, 78, is a British-educated engineer and was the Iraqi minister of water resources from 2003-2010. Outgoing President Saleh reportedly walked out of the parliament building as the votes were tallied.
- Rashid was born in 1944 in the northeastern Sulaymaniyah region of Iraq. He graduated as a civil engineer from the University of Liverpool in 1968. He went on to complete his engineering doctorate in 1976 from the University of Manchester.
- Rashid has a long history in Iraqi politics. He served as the minister of water resources from 2003 to 2010 and then as the senior adviser to the President. He can speak speaks Kurdish, Arabic and English.
- Rashid is a member of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) party. He was also the former spokesperson for the PUK in Britain.

About Iraq:

Capital: Baghdad

Currency: Dinar

President: Abdul Latif Rashid

Prime Minister: Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani

5th edition of Megha Kayak festival begins in Ri Bhoi

- Meghalaya is all set to host the four-day long mega global adventure sports spectacle, 'Megha Kayak Festival, 2022' starting October 13 at the picturesque Umtrew River at Umtham Village. The 2022 edition of the festival will witness over 100 participants from close to 20 countries across the globe, featuring some of the best-known athletes. The festival will include white water kayaking events in three competition categories – Downriver Time Trial, Extreme Slalom and Downriver Freestyle for professionals as well as intermediate and amateur racers.

- 'Megha Kayak Festival' is receiving an overwhelming response with participation assured from leading adventure water sports nations like New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, and Canada to name a few.

About Meghalaya:

Capital: Shillong;

Chief Minister: Conrad Kongkal Sangma;

Governor: D. Mishra (additional charge).

PM Modi flags off 4th Vande Bharat Express train in Himachal's Una

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the fourth Vande Bharat Express Train of India. He also launched a slew of development projects in Himachal Pradesh. PM Modi flagged off the inaugural run of the new Vande Bharat Express Train from Amb Andaura to New Delhi. He also laid the foundation stone of Bulk Drug Park.
- In Chamba district, he laid the foundation stone of two hydropower projects and launched the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III in Himachal Pradesh.
- Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh Jai Ram Thakur highlighted the ninth visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Himachal Pradesh in five years.
- The Vande Bharat Express Train launched in Himachal Pradesh is much lighter and capable of reaching higher speeds in a shorter duration.

Rajnath Singh launches website for citizens to contribute to Armed Forces fund

- Defence Minister of India, Rajnath Singh will be launching the 'Maa Bharati Ke Sapoot' (MBKS) website for the Armed Forces Battle Casualties Welfare Fund (AFBCWF) during a function at the National War Memorial Complex in New Delhi. The AFBCWF is a Tri-service fund utilised to grant immediate financial assistance of ex-gratia to the next of kin and dependents of Battle Casualties. Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan to be the 'Goodwill Ambassador'.
- The Chief of Defence Staff, all three Service Chiefs, Param Vir Chakra (PVC) awardees and other prominent officials of the MoD, corporate heads, chairman & managing directors of banks, personnel from the sports field and celebrities are expected to attend the function. On occasion, the ten of kins of fallen heroes and soldiers disabled in active military operations will also be felicitated. Parents and relatives of many war-decorated soldiers have also been invited.

Eastern Naval Command conducts offshore security exercise 'Prasthan'

- 'Prasthan' an Offshore Security Exercise was conducted by the Eastern Naval Command in the Offshore Development Area (ODA) off Kakinada. 'Prasthan' is a half-yearly exercise that was conducted in the KG basin to validate SOPs, address various contingencies and strengthen the command and control organization toward Maritime security.
- It aims to integrate the efforts of all maritime stakeholders involved in offshore defense.
- The exercise aims to refine the standard operating procedures (SOPs) and response actions to several contingencies in the Offshore Defence Area.
- The Prasthan exercise is conducted every six months and it is an important element of ensuring offshore security as per the Defence Ministry.

- The exercise was conducted onboard Drill rigs Platinum Explorer and DDKG of ONGC and RIL located about 40 nm south of Kakinada.

Google launches Play Points in India

- Google is set to launch Play Points, a global rewards Programme for users in India. Users will earn points when they purchase with Google Play, including in-app items, apps, games, and subscriptions. The reward program has four levels known as platinum, gold, silver, and bronze. The levels will provide members with perks and prizes. The levels and tiers are based on the number of points they have collected.
- Google has partnered with developers of popular apps and games across the world to help users to redeem their points on special in-app items.
- Google Play in partnership with more than 30 titles that include games from global studios like Miniclip, in India.
- This will help them to engage their user, drive discovery, and acquire users across markets that have Google Play Points.
- More than 2.5 billion people in over 190 countries use Google Play every month to discover apps, games, and digital content.

Union Minister Anurag Thakur inaugurates Water Sports Center in Himachal Pradesh

- Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurated a Water Sports Center in the Koldam Barmana, Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh. The Water Sports Centre, the very first of its kind in Himachal Pradesh, has been jointly initiated by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) and National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC). The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also exchanged between SAI and NTPC during the event. The centre will be dedicated to training athletes in water sports like Rowing, Canoeing and Kayaking.
- Anurag Thakur said that this water sports centre at NTPC Koldam would be a big sports facility for the children of Himachal Pradesh in future. He said that this water sports center has a straight range of 3 km, which is found in some places. Many of our water sports athletes will come here to learn. Good coaches have also been arranged. There are very good facilities here.

About Himachal Pradesh:

Capital: Shimla (Summer), Dharamshala (Winter);

Chief Minister: Jai Ram Thakur

Governor: Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

Ethanol subsidy scheme extended till March 2023

- The Centre has extended the timeline for disbursement of loans up to March 31 under the ethanol blending programme interest subsidy scheme, notified first in 2018, to facilitate entrepreneurs to complete their projects while availing of government support.
- The Food Ministry issued a notification on October 6 stating the applicants who have submitted their applications to DFPD after the date of notification of the scheme but within the cut-off date prescribed in the notification. Loans were disbursed to them prior to the in-principle approval of DFPD, will also be eligible for interest subvention under the scheme.

The applicants have been asked to complete their projects within two and half years after receiving their first instalment, said the notification.

- Immense benefits can accrue to the country by 20% ethanol blending by 2025, such as saving Rs 30,000 crore of foreign exchange per year, energy security, lower carbon emissions, better air quality, self-reliance, use of damaged foodgrains, increasing farmers' incomes, employment generation, and greater investment opportunities.

Pakistan to join closing ceremony of SCO anti-terror exercise hosted by India

- Pakistan has confirmed that it will attend the Shanghai cooperation organisation's anti-terror exercises in India. Pakistan, which is a part of SCO will take part in counter-terror drills in Haryana's Manesar in October. These exercises will be conducted under the ambit of the SCO regional anti-terrorism structure (RATS).
- A three-member Pakistani delegation will take part in the meeting in Delhi. While the SCO as a grouping came into existence in 2001, India and Pakistan became members of it in 2017.
- India will be hosting the SCO RATS council meeting on October 14th this year in Delhi. New Delhi has also proposed holding a SCO joint anti-terrorist exercise (JATE) in Manesar this year.
- 37th meeting of the Council of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO RATS) took place in Tashkent under the chairmanship of India.

India's space economy expected to be worth USD 12.8 billion by 2025

- India's space economy is likely to be worth nearly \$13 billion by 2025, with the satellite launch services segment set to witness the fastest growth due to increasing private participation, according to a report released.
- India's space economy was pegged at \$9.6 billion in 2020 and is expected to touch \$12.8 billion by 2025, according to the report titled 'Developing the Space Ecosystem in India: Focusing on Inclusive Growth'. In dollar terms, the satellite services and applications segment would be the largest with a turnover of \$4.6 billion by 2025, followed by ground segment at \$4 billion. The satellite manufacturing stands at \$3.2 billion and launch services at \$1 billion.
- The growing demand for smaller satellites is set to boost satellite manufacturing in the country. It will attract global start-ups in the sector to help incubate space tech companies here, said the report released by the Indian Space Association (ISpA) and Ernst and Young.

PM Modi declares Gujarat's Modhera as India's first 24x7 solar-powered village

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday declared Modhera village in poll-bound Gujarat as the country's first 24x7 solar-powered village. Modhera, which is famous for a centuries-old Sun temple built during the Chalukya, will also be known as a "solar-powered village", Modi said.
- Addressing a rally, Modi said, "We shall no longer pay for electricity, but will instead sell it and earn from it. Earlier, the government supplied power to residents; now, with the installation of solar panels, citizens will now produce their own electricity."

- The Modhera village is located 25 km from the Mehsana district of Gujarat, and about 100 km from the state capital of Gandhinagar. The village has a ground-mounted solar power plant, and over 1,300 rooftop solar systems with 1kW capacity have been installed on houses to generate electricity.

First seminar of Agni Tattva campaign under LiFE mission held in Leh

- Power Foundation of India in association with Vijnana Bharati (VIBHA) is currently running a campaign to create awareness on Agni Tattva under LiFE - Lifestyle for environment. This campaign includes conferences, seminars, events, and exhibitions across the country involving educational institutions, communities, and relevant organisations to create awareness of the core concept of Agni Tattva, an element that is synonymous with energy and is amongst the five elements of Panchmahabhoot.
- The first conference of the Agni campaign was organised in Leh yesterday, on the theme of 'Sustainability and Culture'. It witnessed participation from key stakeholders working in the areas of energy, culture, and sustainability, from diverse fields such as administration, policymakers, academics, and start-ups.
- The conference was inaugurated by Shri R K Mathur, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh. Speaking on the occasion, he said that Ladakh always had a sustainable lifestyle, however, increased modernisation is leading to an imbalance in the ecosystem of the region, and this not only adversely impacts the region but could also alter the monsoon cycle of the entire country since it is inter-linked with the Himalayan ecosystem. He further added that the UT administration of Ladakh has laid out a clear roadmap to reverse this imbalance and move toward sustainable development. He emphasised several key areas.

To boost traditional sports, CM Baghel inaugurated 'Chhattisgarhiya Olympics'

- Chhattisgarh chief minister Bhupesh Baghel has inaugurated the state's own Olympics. The aim is to provide a centerstage to the village level sports so that a feeling of pride for the culture is inculcated. Secondly, to channelise the energy of the local youths which is very important for our society, Baghel inaugurated the grand multi-sport event at Balbir Singh Juneja Indoor Stadium in Raipur, claiming to revive the age-old-tradition of traditional games namely 'langdi', 'bhaura', 'bati' (kancha), and 'pitthul'. The event will continue till January 6, 2023 and as many as 14 types of traditional sports have been included in the team and individual categories of separate age groups.
- The traditional sports competition of Chhattisgarh will be held in group and singles categories. A total 14 types of traditional sports have been included in the Chhattisgarh Olympics 2022-23.

About Chhattisgarh:

Capital: Raipur

Chief Minister: Bhupesh Baghel

Centre sets up 9-member taskforce for monitoring cheetahs in Kuno National Park

- The Center has established a Task Force to oversee the introduction of cheetahs in Madhya Pradesh's Kuno National Park and other suitably specified places. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) would support the Cheetah Task Force's operations and

provide all essential assistance. Principal Secretaries of Madhya Pradesh's Forests and Tourism, as well as Dr. Amit Mallick, Inspector General of the NTCA in New Delhi, will be among the task force's nine members.

- The Task Force will be active for two years, according to a statement from the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change.
- Additionally, the Task Force for Cheetah Introduction Project Monitoring will keep an eye on the cheetahs' adaption to the Kuno National Park ecosystem and their hunting prowess.
- Additionally, it will advocate for the construction of tourism-related infrastructure in the surroundings of Kuno National Park and adjacent Protected Areas.

Justice Dinesh Sharma to head UAPA tribunal related to the ban on PFI

- The government of India has appointed Justice Dinesh Kumar Sharma of the Delhi High Court as the presiding officer of the tribunal for the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA), related to the ban on the Popular Front of India (PFI) and its associates. Once an organisation is banned under the provisions of UAPA, a tribunal is set up by the government to adjudicate whether there are sufficient grounds for the decision.
- The office memorandum, issued by the Department of Justice in the Law Ministry on October 3, mentioned that Justice Sharma's time as head of the UAPA tribunal will count as "actual service". Chief Justice S.C. Sharma of the Delhi High Court appointed Justice Sharma to head the tribunal that will examine the ban.

Governor: Anusuiya Uikey

First green tech based incubation centre of India to come up at NIT Srinagar

- At the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, a technology company incubator centred on green technology (Green Technology incubation facility) called the "Greenovator Incubation Foundation" will soon open. The Department of Science and Technology (DST) is supporting a three-year initiative known as Inclusive TBI (i-TBI) for educational institutions, idea generators, innovators, and entrepreneurs to support innovative ideas, startup initiatives, and promote self-employment and job creation through incubation.
- All of the money required to establish the Green Technology incubation facility centre will be provided by the Department of Science and Technology. Startups will have access to the co-working space, which includes conference spaces, a prototype lab, and other amenities.
- In addition to office space, financial support in the form of seed money would be provided on an individual basis with equity in accordance with DST criteria.
- Saad Parvez, the center's CEO, described the forthcoming centre as the first of its type in the area and claimed that it would foster ideas that would lead to entrepreneurship and self-employment.

ECLGS: Finance Ministry increases loan limit to Rs 1,500 cr for aviation sector

- The Union Finance Minister allowed airlines to avail of up to Rs 1,500 crore loan under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS). The ECLGS will help them to recover their cash flow problems. Earlier, an airline could only avail of a loan of not more than Rs 400 crore under the ECLGS. In 2020, the Centre started to provide collateral-free and government-guaranteed loans to businesses affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

- The Finance Minister's decision will likely benefit the financially affected airlines. It is a positive approach for the airlines to secure their working capital and funds for operation.
- The Department of Financial Services has informed that it has enhanced the maximum loan amount eligibility for airlines under the ECLGS to 100 percent of their total credit outstanding. The modification in the policy aims to give necessary collateral-free liquidity at reasonable interest rates.

HM Amit Shah announces Scheduled Tribe status for Pahari community in J&K

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah announces that Pahari Community in Jammu and Kashmir will get a Scheduled Tribe (ST) status and political reservations before Assembly elections. The abolition of Articles 370 and 35A in August 2019 paved the way for providing reservations to deprived sections of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The ST quota in J&K carries 7% spots in government jobs and educational institutions. The Gujjars and Bakerwals community were getting ST benefits since 1991.
- The Paharis were given a 4 percent quota in the OBC category from January 2020. The Centre formed the Justice Sharma Commission in March 2020, however it seemed to upset the Gujjars and Bakerwals.

Ahead of festive season, KVIC to organize a mela of traditional handloom and handicraft products at Delhi's Dilli Haat from 1-15 Oct

- Khadi and Village Industry Commission (KVIC), a statutory body under the Ministry of MSME, is organizing a Scheme of Fund for the Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) Mela at Dilli Haat, New Delhi. The SFURTI Mela will be organized from 1st October 2022 to 15th October 2022.
- The national-level exhibition of Traditional products from SFURTI clusters is being organized for the first time to promote Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. SFURTI is initiated by MSME Ministry to promote cluster development.
- Under the SFURTI Mela, traditional artisans are organized into clusters for manufacturing value-added traditional products to enhance their income.
- The clusters will cover traditional sectors including handloom, handicrafts, khadi, coir, agro-products, etc.
- Till now, SFURTI has supported 498 clusters across the country directly benefiting around three lakh artisans.

Telangana govt introduces 'Aasara' pension as social safety net to poor

- The Telangana government has introduced 'Aasara' pensions as a part of the state's welfare measures and social safety net strategy. The 'Aasara' pensions aim to secure life for all the poor. It is a welfare scheme for the older section of the state, widows, physically disabled, and beedi workers to avail pension facilities. Under the Asif Nagar Mandal jurisdiction 10,000 new Aasara pensions have been sanctioned.
- The Aasara pension scheme was launched on 8th November 2014 by the Government of Telangana.
- The scheme provides pensions to old people, widows, patients suffering from elephantiasis or AIDS, physically disabled persons, beedi workers, and single women.

- On 7th March 2022, the Finance Minister of Telangana allocated Rs. 11,728 crores to the Aasara Pension scheme.

About Telangana:

Founded: 2 June 2014

Capital: Hyderabad

Governor: Tamilisai Soundararajan

Chief Minister: K. Chandrashekar Rao

Kiren Rijiju, Anurag Singh Thakur launch Fit India Freedom Run 3.0 on Gandhi Jayanti at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, New Delhi

- In honour of Gandhi Jayanti, Fit India Freedom Run 3.0 was officially introduced at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi. The third edition of Fit India Plog Run, one of the largest national activities initiated by the Government of India at the height of the Covid-19 epidemic in 2020, was jointly introduced by Union Ministers of Law and Justice Shri Kiren Rijiju and Shri Anurag Singh Thakur.
- October 2, marked the beginning of the third iteration of the Fit India Freedom Run, which will last until October 31.
- Along with a sizable number of participants, the event also included the former health minister of India, Shri Harshvardhan Goel, the secretary of sports, Smt. Sujata Chaturvedi, the director general of the Sports Authority of India, Shri Sandip Pradhan, and the ambassador for Fit India, Ripu Daman Bevl.

About Delhi:

Chief Minister: Arvind Kejriwal

Capital: New Delhi

L. Governor: Vinai Kumar Saxena

Education Ministry launches PM Modi's young authors mentoring scheme YUVA 2.0

- The Prime Minister's Scheme for Mentoring Young Authors, known as YUVA 2.0 (Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors), was launched by the Department of Higher Education of the Ministry of Education on October 2. In order to promote India and Indian literature abroad, it is an author mentoring programme for young and aspiring writers (under 30 years old).
- YUVA 2.0 aims to artistically and ingeniously emphasise the viewpoints of the younger generation of authors on the issue of "Democracy (institutions, events, people, constitutional ideals – past, present, future)" as part of the India@75 Project (Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav).
- In light of the last edition's enormous effect, which includes broad participation from young and aspiring authors in 22 more Indian languages in addition to English, YUVA 2.0 is now being produced.

Centre Extends AFSPA In Districts Of Arunachal Pradesh & Nagaland For Six Months

- AFSPA in Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh: The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, or AFSPA, has been applied to 12 districts in Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh for an additional six months, according to the federal government. In order to aid the military forces in

carrying out the anti-insurgency operations, it has also been expanded in some areas of five more districts of the two northeastern states.

- The AFSPA will be extended for six months starting in nine districts of Nagaland: Dimapur, Niuland, Chumoukedima, Mon, Kiphire, Noklak, Phek, and Zunheboto.
- The AFSPA will be also extended for six months starting in 16 police station areas in four additional districts: Kohima, Mokokchung, Longleng, and Wokha. This was announced in a notification by the Home Ministry.

About Nagaland:

Founded: 30 November 1963

Capital: Kohima (Executive Branch)

Chief Minister: Neiphiu Rio

Governor: Prof Jagdish Mukhi

About Arunachal Pradesh:

Capital: Itanagar (Executive Branch)

Chief Minister: Pema Khandu

Governor: B. D. Mishra.

25 Per Cent Extra Seats To Be Created For Foreign Students In Universities, HEIs: UGC's New Guidelines

- UGC Guidelines for International Students: The University Grants Commission (UGC guidelines) said that higher education institutions (HEIs) nationwide would now be able to add up to 25% extra seats for international students and must have a transparent admissions procedure for them. Last month, the draught of "Guidelines for Admission and Supernumerary Seats of International Students in Undergraduate and Postgraduate Programmes in Higher Educational Institutions in India" was made available to the public for comment.
- Over and beyond their overall sanctioned enrolment for undergraduate and graduate programmes, HEIs may generate up to 25 percent of supernumerary seats for overseas students.
- The choice on additional seats must be made by the relevant higher education institutions in accordance with the detailed directives and laws issued by the regulatory agencies, taking into account the infrastructure, faculty, and other criteria.

About University Grants Commission (UGC):

Founded: 1956

Sector: Higher education

First executive: Shanti Swaroop Bhatnagar

Headquarters: New Delhi

Agency executive: D. P. Singh (Chairperson)

Telangana govt enhances ST reservation from 6% to 10% with immediate effect

- The Telangana government issued an order to increase the reservation for the Scheduled Tribe communities from 6 percent to 10 percent. The order issued by the Tribal Welfare Department informed that the enhanced reservations would apply in the educational institutions and to services under the state government with immediate effect.

- In 2017, the Telangana Assembly passed a bill enhancing the reservation of the ST population to 10 percent.
- The latest order has increased the reservation for various sections in the state up to 54 percent.
- Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao has announced the increase of the ST Quota to 10 percent.
- The reservation report, highlights the fact that the ST population has risen more compared to others since 1986 when 6 percent reservation was announced.

About Telangana:

Founded: 2 June 2014

Capital: Hyderabad

Governor: Tamilisai Soundararajan

Chief Minister: K. Chandrashekar Rao

CBI launches 'Operation Garuda' against illicit drug trafficking

- The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has launched a multi-phase 'Operation Garuda'. Operation Garuda will help to disrupt, degrade, and dismantle networks with international linkages through the rapid exchange of criminal intelligence on drug trafficking and coordinated law enforcement action across international jurisdictions through Interpol.
- Operation Garuda is a Global Operation that was initiated in close coordination with Interpol and Narcotics Control Bureau.
- Operation Garuda was initiated to combat the smuggling of illicit drugs and psychotropic substances, with a special focus on the Indian Ocean Region.
- In this operation apart from CBI and NCB, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, and Manipur also participated in Operation Garuda.
- During this special operation, 6600 suspects were checked, 127 new cases were registered, and 175 persons including six absconder's offenders were arrested.

About Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI):

Headquarters: New Delhi

Founded: 1 April 1963

Founder: Government of India

Gurugram To Get "World's Largest Safari", Park To Cover Over 10,000 Acres

- World's largest jungle safari park to be developed in Haryana. The World's largest jungle safari park is spread across an area of 10000 acres in the Aravalli Mountain Range of Gurugram and Nuh District. This project will be the largest such project in the world. The proposed area to build the World's largest jungle safari park is Aravalli hills.
- The park will also include a large herbarium, an aviary, four zones for big cats, a large area for herbivores, an area for exotic animal/birds, an underwater world, natural trails, visitors, tourism zones, botanical garden, biomes, equatorial, tropical, coastal, desert, etc.
- For the making of the World's largest jungle safari park an Aravalli Foundation will be set up which will manage the project. The design and operation will be managed by an international EOI, and two more companies with international experience.

About Haryana:

Capital: Chandigarh
Governor: Bandaru Dattatreya
Chief Minister: Manohar Lal Khattar

SPORTS

India beat Australia 5-4 in shootout, claim 3rd Sultan of Johor Cup crown

- Indian junior men's hockey team defeated Australia to win the Sultan of Johor Cup 2022 in a shootout 5-4 after a 1-1 draw at the Taman Daya Hockey Stadium in Johor Bahru, Malaysia. This is the third time India has won the Sultan of Johor Cup. India scored the first goal with Sudeep Chirmako's field goal in the 14th minute. However, Australia came back in the second quarter as Jack Holland equalised with India.
- In the shootout, both teams ended with 3-3 scoreline, forcing the match into sudden death. Uttam Singh scored twice in the shootout, including in sudden death, while Vishnukant Singh, Ankit Pal, Sudeep Chirmako also sounded the board for India. For Australia, Burns Cooper, Foster Brodee, Brooks Joshua and Hart Liam entered their names on the scoresheet.
- The Indians have won the age group tournament twice in 2013 and 2014 and finished second best four times in 2012, 2015, 2018 and the last edition of the event in 2019. The tournament was not held in 2020 and 2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Akanksha Vyavahare creates Weightlifting National Records in 40kg category at Khelo India tournament

- Akanksha Vyavahare, who is a Maharashtra-based weightlifter has created three new national records in the 40kg weight category at the Khelo India National Ranking Women's Weightlifting Tournament. Akanksha Vyavahare was also a part of the Target Olympics Podium Scheme and created records in snatch, clean and jerk, and total.
- Akanksha has improved her existing snatch national record by lifting 60kg. She recorded 71 kg in the clean jerk and the process registered a total lift of 131 kg.
- The opening ceremony of the Khelo India National Ranking Women's Weightlifting Tournament was felicitated by Tokyo Olympics Silver medalist Mirabai Chanu.
- Mirabai Chanu won the gold medal in Phase 1 of the Khelo India Weightlifting Tournament in Himachal Pradesh.

BCCI offer equal pay to men & women cricketers

- In a historic decision, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced a "pay equity policy", saying that its centrally-contracted men and women players would get the same match fees. BCCI secretary Jay Shah took to Twitter to announce the significant development.
- This means the women players will now get Rs 15 lakh per Test match, Rs 6 lakh for a One-Day International (ODI), and Rs 3 lakh for a T20 International. Till now, they were paid Rs 1 lakh for a white-ball match, and Rs 4 lakh for a Test.
- Rs 50 lakh for Grade A, Rs 30 lakh for Grade B and Rs 10 lakh for Grade C. The men, who play more games, are paid Rs 1-7 crore, depending on their grade.
- The decision was taken at the BCCI Apex Council emergent meeting. "I am pleased to announce @ BCCI's first step towards tackling discrimination. We are implementing a pay

equity policy for our contracted @BCCIWomen cricketers. The match fees for both men and women cricketers will be the same as we move into a new era of gender equality in cricket,” BCCI Secretary Jay Shah tweeted.

ISSF World Championship: India wins Silver medal in Women's 25m Pistol Team event; Bronze in Men's Rifle 3 Positions

- In shooting, India won Silver medal in the Women's 25m Pistol Team event and Bronze medal in Men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions (3P) at the ISSF World Championship in Cairo, Egypt yesterday. With this win, India ended their Paris 2024 Olympics quota quest at two from the championship. Their tally now stands at 12 gold, nine silver, and 13 bronze medals. The Women's 25m Pistol team comprising Rhythm Sangwan, Manu Bhaker, and Abhidnya Ashok Patil first qualified for the top eight stages with a sixth-place finish in stage one of qualification where they totaled 873.
- Ukraine topped the stage with 880. They then came second with a combined effort of 443 in stage two with China topping with 444, setting up a gold medal clash with the Indians.
- In Men's 3P, Aishwary Tomar, Swapnil Kusale, and Niraj Kumar topped stage one of qualification with a combined score of 1324. In stage two though, they finished fourth with a total of 873 and were drawn against the USA in a bronze medal shoot-out. They edged that 17-15 in their favour. Norway won gold and France silver.

Max Verstappen wins action-packed US Grand Prix 2022

- Belgium's Max Verstappen of Red Bull Racing won the 2022 Formula 1 Aramco United States Grand Prix 2022 which was held at the Circuit of the Americas in Austin, Texas, United States (US). With this, he equalled Germany's Sebastian Vettel and Michael Schumacher's record of 13 wins in a Formula 1 season. He defeated the UK's Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes. Hamilton had to settle for second place, with Mercedes' wait for a 2022 victory continuing, while Leclerc salvaged a podium finish for Ferrari as the Italian team mathematically dropped out of contention for the constructors' crown.
- Sebastian Vettel won 13 races in the 2013 season with Red Bull while Michael Schumacher achieved the feat in 2004. This win also handed the 2022 Constructors Championship to Red Bull Racing. The US Grand Prix 2022 was the 19th round of the 2022 Formula One World Championship.

Indian shooter Swapnil Kusale wins India's 3rd Paris 2024 Olympics quota

- Indian shooter Swapnil Kusale won India's third Paris 2024 Olympics quota place at the ongoing ISSF World Championship in Cairo, Egypt yesterday. It was Kusale's fourth-place finish in the men's 50 meter rifle 3 positions event that earned him the quota. Kusale, who shot a qualification score of 593 to qualify for the eight-shooter final at the second spot, was in contention for the gold-medal match too but a low 8.2 in his final shot in the eighth series in the final denied him a medal. He is also an ISSF World Cup gold medalist.
- Rhythm Sangwan missed a quota place narrowly in the women's 25 meter pistol as India also picked up two more medals on the day with a 1-2 finish in the 10 meter air pistol mixed team junior competition. India's tally from the World Championship now stands at 32

medals, including 12 gold, eight silver and 12 bronze medals and they remain firmly in second place behind China in the standings.

India included in 12 top chess-playing nations for Men's 2022 World Team Chess Championship

- In Chess, teams from 12 top chess-playing nations including India, China, United States, and the Netherlands have been included in the lineup for the 2022 Men's World Team Chess Championship in Jerusalem, Israel next month. The list for the competition, which begins on November 20, was completed after South Africa confirmed over the weekend that they would participate, the Israel Chess Federation (ICF) said.
- The other participating countries are China, the United States, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, India, Spain, France, Ukraine, the Netherlands, Poland, and the host Israel. Ahead of the competition, organized by the International Chess Federation (FIDE), the 12 teams will be divided into two pools of about the same strength, sorted by the average ratings of their players. After five rounds, the first four teams in each pool will advance to the quarterfinals. The final match will be played on November 25.

ISSF World Championship: Sagar Dangi bags two medals in Junior Men's 10m Air Pistol team and individual events

- In ISSF World Championship, Sagar Dangi bagged Gold and Silver in the Junior Men's 10m Air Pistol team and individual events in Cairo, Egypt yesterday. India picked up four more medals, including one gold, at the end of day nine of the competition. Sagar Dangi, Varun Tomar, and Samrat Rana won gold in the men's 10m Air Pistol Junior team event. Sagar Dangi bagged silver and Varun Tomar won bronze in the junior men's 10m Air Pistol event. Nancy and Sri Karthik Sabari Raj Ravishankar won bronze in the 10m Air Rifle Junior Mixed team event.
- India now have a tally of 30 medals including 11 gold, 7 silver, and 12 bronze, and sits in second place in the standings.

Western Air Command of IAF wins Air Force Lawn Tennis Championship

- Western Air Command, Indian Air Force (IAF) won the Air Force Lawn Tennis Championship 2022-23 held at Head Quarter MC, Vayusena Nagar, Nagpur. The final match of team Championship was played between Western Air Command and Training Command in which Western Air Command emerged as the winner. The final of the open singles was played between Corporal Pradeep of Training Command and Sergeant Manolin of Western Air Command and Corporal Pradeep emerged as the winner.
- The Championship was inaugurated by Air Marshal Vibhas Pande, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, HQ MC on 17 October 2022. A total of eight teams comprising of 48 players from the seven Commands of Indian Air Force, participated in the Championship. The Championship was held in two events namely, Team Championship and Open Singles.
- During the closing ceremony of the Championship on 21 October 2022, Air Marshal Vibhas Pande, Air Officer Commanding in Chief of Headquarters Maintenance Command was the Chief Guest. After the prize distribution ceremony during his closing address, he congratulated the winners and appreciated all the participants, official of the Air Force

Sports Control Board (AFSCB) and the Commanding Officer of HQ MC (U) who was instrumental in organizing the event.

Fifth Khelo India Youth Games-2022 to be held in Madhya Pradesh in January-February next year

- The 5th edition of the Khelo India Youth Games will be held in Madhya Pradesh from 31st January to 11th February 2023. The event was felicitated by Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur, and Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chouhan.
- Indigenous games will be a part of the upcoming Khelo India Youth Games. Madhya Pradesh has made the sport of Mallakhamb their state sport for supporting the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to support Olympics sports and indigenous sports in the same manner.
- Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur announced that the 5th edition of the Khelo India Youth Games will be held in Madhya Pradesh. Khelo India Youth Games will be held in eight locations.
- More than 8500 athletes and sportspersons are expected that participate in the KIYG 2023. Khelo India Youth Games started in 2016 and since then, it has provided an effective platform for the youth of India to showcase their talents in sports.

Sajan Bhanwal becomes first-ever Indian Greco-Roman wrestler to win medal at U-23 World Championship

- Sajan Bhanwal became the first-ever Indian Greco-Roman wrestler to win a medal at the Under-23 World Championship defeating Ukraine's Dmytro Vasetskyi in the 77 kg bronze medal play-off at Pontevedra, Spain.
- The bout ended at 10-10 but since the Indian had scored the last point he was declared the winner on criteria.
- Six Greco-Roman wrestlers are participating in the championship along with two women and one free-style wrestler.

Bernard Dunne is Indian boxing's new high performance director

- Former Irish professional boxer Bernard Dunne has been named the high-performance director (HPD) for Indian boxing. Dunne, who had a five-year (2017-2022) stint with the Irish Athletic Boxing Association, replaces Santiago Nieva. During Dunne's tenure with the Ireland team, Kellie Harrington emerged as World (2018, Delhi) and Olympic (2021, Tokyo) champion, while Amy Broadhurst and Lisa O'Rourke won golds at this year's World Championships in Istanbul and Aidan Walsh secured a bronze at the Tokyo Olympics.
- The 42-year-old Dunne, who has bagged 13 national titles, has joined the Indian boxing elite programme at Patiala. He has won the WBA World Championship (2009) and the European Championship (2007), will take over the position which was left vacant after Santiago Nieva's departure.

ISSF world championship Men's air rifle team clinched Gold Medal

- Winning the Olympic quota spot and finishing in the top two already assured Rudranksh Balasaheb Patil a special day in Cairo at the ISSF World Championship Rifle/Pistol on Friday.

But the teenager added a icing to the cake by becoming world champion as well in thrilling manner.

- With a stunning comeback in the gold medal match at the Egypt International Olympic City (EIOC) shooting range, 18-year-old Patil became the senior men's 10m air rifle world champion. Patil also earned India's second Paris 2024 Olympic Games quota spot.
- The Thane teenager also becomes the second Indian man after Abhinav Bindra in 2006 to be crowned the 10m air rifle world champion.
- Four quota spots are available in Olympic events at the World Championship this year. India had earned their first quota at the Shotgun World Championship in Croatia recently, thanks to Bhowneesh Mendiratta in men's trap event.

Asia Cup 2022: Indian women rout Sri Lanka to win title

- The Indian women's team won the Asia Cup 2022 defeating Sri Lanka by eight wickets in the final. Opener Smriti Mandhana struck a brilliant 25 ball-51 not out as India clinched the T20 Women's Asia Cup, routing Sri Lanka by eight wickets in the final on Saturday.
- Sri Lanka's decision to bat first backfired as it put up 65-9 with just two batters reaching double digits.
- Mandhana's aggressive batting made the target easier as she confirmed the victory with a six over long-on to help India reach 71-2 in just 8.3 overs.
- She hit six fours and three sixes in her knock to help India clinch its seventh Asia Cup title.

Rudranksh Patil wins 10m air rifle gold at Worlds, secures Paris Olympics quota

- Rudranksh Patil won gold in men's 10m air rifle event in the ISSF World Championship in Cairo on Friday. He is only the second Indian to achieve the feat after Olympic champion Abhinav Bindra, who had won gold in this event in 2006 in Zagreb, Croatia. This was Rudranksh's maiden appearance at a World Championship.
- Patil also secured a 2024 Paris Olympics quota for the country in the process. This was India's second Olympic quota. India had earned their first quota at the Shotgun World Championship in Croatia recently through Bhowneesh Mendiratta in the men's trap event.
- The 18-year-old Rudranksh beat Italy's Danilo Dennis Sollazzo 17-13 in the gold medal match after a brilliant come-from-behind effort that saw him overcome a 4-10 deficit in the gold medal match. The Italian shooter had maintained the lead for the majority of the final and had looked in control till Rudranksh's late comeback.
- The new format sees a ranking round consisting of the eight best shooters from the qualification round, after which the top two then compete in the gold medal match. Rudranksh had earlier topped the qualification with a score of 633.9 and was assured of the quota after he entered the gold medal match in second place in the ranking round with a score of 261.9.

Taylor Fritz wins 2022 Japan Open men's singles title

- America's Taylor Fritz registered a 7-6(3), 7-6(2) victory against countryman Frances Tiafoe in the final to clinch the Japan Open Tennis Championships men's singles title, on Sunday.
- Immediately following seven days in hotel quarantine in Seoul, Fritz completed a perfect five-day stretch in Tokyo to claim his third title of a career-defining year. With this, the third

seed became the 10th different American singles champion at the ATP 500 event and the first since Pete Sampras in 1996.

- "It is crazy, I don't even think it's set in just how fast the last four or five days have been," said Fritz after the match.
- "It's so crazy, and I couldn't have written it any better. It's exactly what I needed for the Race To Turin, for my ranking, to kind of put me in a good position for the end of the year, so it's amazing," he added.

Indian Olympic Association names Goa as host of 37th National Games

- The Indian Olympic Association has confirmed that Goa will host the 37th edition of the National Games in October next year. The state government of Goa also conveyed its in-principle approval to IOA to host the National Games in 2023. The Goa delegation may receive the IOA flag at the Closing Ceremony of the 36th National Games on 12th October 2022 in Surat, Gujarat.
- The 37th National Games will be decided to keep in view of the dates of the 19th Asian Games, which will be held from 23rd September to 8th October 2022 in Hangzhou, China.
- Goa got the rights to host the National Games in 2008 but hasn't been able to host the games for a number of reasons. Goa was set to host the 36th edition of the National Games but the IOA had to shift the venue to Gujarat, who agreed to conduct the event in a short span of time.

About Goa:

Capital: Panaji

Goa Chief Minister: Pramod Sawant

Goa Governor: S. Sreedharan Pillai

Pooja Patel becomes first athlete to win gold in Yogasana at 36th National Games in Gujarat

- At the 36th National Games, Pooja Patel of Gujarat has become the first athlete to win gold in Yogasana. Yogasana is one of the five sports to be played at the National Games this year for the first time. This Indian indigenous sport made its debut at the Khelo India University Games earlier this year.
- As far as the medal table of the 36th National Games is concerned, Services Sports Control Board is leading the chart with a total of 113 medals, including 51 gold, 33 silver, and 29 bronze. Haryana is second on the table with 95 medals (31 gold, 29 silver, 35 bronze), followed by Maharashtra (119), Karnataka (84), and Tamil Nadu (67). Maharashtra has fewer gold medals than Haryana, which is why it has been placed third on the table.

Harmanpreet Kaur, Mohammed Rizwan win ICC Player of the month crowns in September

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the winners of the ICC Player of the Month awards for September 2022. India's inspirational captain Harmanpreet Kaur is named the recipient of the ICC Women's Player of the Month award, While Pakistan ace Mohammad Rizwan claims the ICC Men's Player of the Month award.
- Harmanpreet Kaur becomes India's first winner of the ICC Women's Player of the Month. The India skipper was at her brilliant best during the ODI series, scoring 221 runs across the three matches, maintaining a strike rate of 103.47 and only being dismissed once.

- Mohammad Rizwan secures his first-ever ICC Men's Player of the Month crown after a remarkable spell of scoring throughout September and sees him overcome fellow nominees Cameron Green (Australia) and Axar Patel (India) to the prize.
- The Pakistan star amassed a mammoth 553 runs from ten T20Is, covering performances in the Men's Asia Cup and the subsequent home T20I series against a touring England side.

About ICC:

Founded: 15 June 1909

Chairman: Greg Barclay

CEO: Geoff Allardice

Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Cristiano Ronaldo scripts yet another incredible record, nets 700th club goal of his career

- Cristiano Ronaldo reached another historic landmark in his extraordinary career by scoring his 700th club goal to seal Manchester United's comeback win over Everton. The 37-year-old Portuguese forward becomes the first and only player in this present generation to score seven times a hundred goals in football history. His 700th club goal extends his tally over Lionel Messi with Argentina forward scoring 691 goals for Fc Barcelona and Paris Saint Germain.
- Having started his career in 2002, 700 goals means Ronaldo has averaged 35 goals a season. Cristiano Ronaldo's 700th club goal comes 20 years and two days after his first goal for Sporting Lisbon.
- The five-time Ballon d'Or winner scored his first professional goal on October 7, 2002, at the age of 17 years, 8 months, and 3 days. He scored a brace in Sporting Lisbon's 3-0 win against Moreirense.

Verstappen wins Japanese GP, clinches second F1 world championship title

- Red Bull's Max Verstappen won his second Formula One world championship amid scenes of confusion on Sunday after closest rival Charles Leclerc was handed a five-second post-race penalty.
- Red Bull's Verstappen crossed the line first and was then awarded the title when Ferrari's Charles Leclerc who had emerged second was pushed back to third after receiving the penalty. Leclerc's drop meant Verstappen's compatriot Sergio Perez finished second.
- According to FIA rules, the staggered points only come in "if a race is suspended in accordance with Article 57, and "cannot be resumed". The race was resumed, so the FIA said full points were awarded for Verstappen after a brief twist.

Harshada Garud wins bronze medal in women's 45kg category at Asian Weightlifting C'ship 2022

- Indian weightlifter Harshada Garud, a reigning junior world champion, won a bronze medal in the women's 45kg category at the Asian Weightlifting Championships 2022 in Manama, Bahrain yesterday. Harshada Garud lifted 68kg in snatch and followed it up with the best effort of 84kg in clean and jerk for a combined total of 152kg.
- The 18-year-old Indian weightlifter was tied with the Philippines' Rose Ramos on 152kg but won the medal as she had a better snatch lift of 68kg, for which she was awarded a bronze in the section. Vietnam's Khong My Phuong took the gold with a total lift of 166kg and S

Nafisatul Hariroh of Indonesia won silver with 162kg. The Asian Weightlifting Championships 2022 will conclude on October 16.

Billiards World Championship: Pankaj Advani wins world title number 25

- Indian cueist, Pankaj Advani defended his World Billiards Championships (150-up) title for the 5th time, beating compatriot Sourav Kothari in the best-of-7 frames final at the High End Snooker Club in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for a record 25th title at the global level. Pankaj's last world title came over 12 months ago in Qatar where he won the IBSF Six-Red Snooker World Cup.
- In the first frame, Advani made his intentions clear that this title was his from word go. He opened the proceedings without any delay to secure the first frame with a 149 break while his opponent, who is still seeking his maiden IBSF World title, had yet to score a point in the 150-up format.

Hockey: Indian star Harmanpreet Singh named men's FIH Player of the Year 2021-22

- India men's hockey team defender and vice-captain Harmanpreet Singh has been voted the FIH Player of the Year for the second year running. The 26-year-old became just the fourth player to win the Player of the Year award (men's category) in consecutive years, joining an elite list that includes Teun De Nooijer (Netherlands), Jamie Dwyer (Australia) and Arthur van Doren (Belgium). The India vice-captain has scored an incredible 18 goals from 16 games, with two hat-tricks, in the FIH Hockey Pro League 2021-22.
- With those 18 goals, he ended the season as the top scorer for India and now holds the record for most goals scored by a player in a single season of the Pro League. Harmanpreet was also in terrific form at the Asian Champions Trophy last year in Dhaka, where he scored 8 goals in 6 games, scoring in every single game as India finished on the podium. His performances were also crucial to the Indian team that won a silver medal at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.

Irani Cup: Rest of India thwarts Saurashtra comeback to win title by eight wickets

- The Rest of India's side won the Irani Cup title after beating the Ranji Trophy Champion of 2019-2020 Saurashtra by eight wickets in Rajkot. Rest of India (ROI) chased down the 105-run target, with Abhimanyu Easwaran remaining undefeated on 63 runs while adding 81 runs and Kona Bharat not out at 27.
- Irani Trophy is also known as Mastercard Irani Trophy. It is a test match format cricket tournament in India. It is played annually between the incumbent Ranji Trophy winners and the Rest of the India Cricket Team. It is organized by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

Sergio Perez keeps Singapore Grand Prix win after stewards investigation

- Red Bull's driver, Sergio Perez has won the Singapore Formula 1 Grand Prix 2022. Perez finished 7.5 sec ahead of Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, who came at the second position. Ferrari's Carlos Sainz grabbed the third position. Perez's teammate & Italian GP 2022 winner Max Verstappen finished seventh in the race. Hamilton secured ninth. Verstappen needed a

win, and other results to go his way, to become world champion for the second successive time.

About Singapore:

Currency: Singapore dollar

President: Halimah Yacob

Capital: Singapore city

Rohit Sharma becomes first Indian to complete 400 T20 appearances during 2nd India-South Africa T20I

- Indian Skipper, Rohit Sharma has achieved yet another milestone in his T20 career and has become the first-ever Indian to play 400 T20s. The India captain has achieved the milestone in the 2nd T20I of the series against South Africa in Guwahati. The first Indian to hit a century in T20 cricket, Rohit had made his shortest format debut for Mumbai against Baroda in April 2007. Among Indians, Rohit is followed by Dinesh Karthik, who has played 368 T20s. MS Dhoni sits at the 3rd spot with 361 caps. Virat Kohli is playing his 354th T20.
- Rohit made it to the national team few months later and was part of the MS Dhoni-led side which won the 2007 T20 World Cup. Although he was in and out of the ODI team, Rohit kept his spot in T20Is and is the only Indian to feature in all 7 editions of T20 World Cup. Apart from India, Rohit has played T20 cricket for Mumbai Indians, Deccan Charters, India A and Indians. The highest run-scorer in T20I format, Rohit has 10544* runs in all of T20s.

USA wins 11th world title at FIBA Women's Basketball World Cup

- The United States defeated China (83-61) to win the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) Women's Basketball World Cup at the Sydney Superdome, Australia. The Americans bagged their fourth title in a row and 11th in total and have also sealed a spot at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. A'Ja Wilson and Chelsea Gray were the star performers for the US. Wilson contributed 19 points and five rebounds while compatriot Gray got 10 points and an impressive eight assists.
- For the Chinese, Yueru Li was the standout performer, with 19 points and 12 rebounds, only to finish on the losing end. In the other game, Canada 95-65 in the third-place game. Australia's legend Lauren Jackson scored a stellar 30 points that helped the hosts past Canada 95-65 in the bronze medal match.

About International Basketball Federation:

Founded: 18 June 1932

Headquarters: Mies, Switzerland

President: Hamane Niang

Secretary General: Andreas Zagklis

About USA:

Attorney general: Merrick Garland

Capital: Washington, D.C.

President: Joe Biden

Currency: United States Dollar

36th National games Mirabai Chanu wins gold in weightlifting

- Manipur's Saikhom Mirabai Chanu won the gold medal at the 36th National Games, Gujarat on Friday in the Weightlifting event. Her compatriot from the state of Manipur Kh. Sanjita Chanu won the silver whereas Odisha's Sneha Soren settled with a bronze.
- Chanu successfully lifted 191 kg in her 49kg event category with a 81kg lift on first attempt. She continued her brilliant run of form in the event. The star weightlifter who came as an assured medal winner at the National Games, won the first gold medal for India at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games, held in July-August in Birmingham this year.
- She had previously won a silver medal at the Tokyo Olympics held last year after the postponement of the Games in 2020 due to COVID-19 outbreak.

About Manipur:

Capital: Imphal (Executive Branch)

Chief Minister: N. Biren Singh

Governor: La. Ganesan

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

IIT Madras And NASA JPL Researchers Study Microbial Interactions On ISS To Devise Disinfection Strategies

- The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT) and NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory researchers studied the interactions between microbes in the International Space Station (ISS). The study aims to help devise strategies for the disinfection of space stations to minimize any potential impact of microbes on the health of astronauts.
- The collaboration was under Dr. Karthik Raman, Associate Professor at the Bhupat and Jyoti Mehta, School of Biosciences and a core member of the Robert Bosch Centre of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (RBCDSAI), IIT Madras, along with Dr. Kasthuri Venkateshwaran, the senior research scientist at JPL.
- Studying the microbes inhabiting the space station will help to understand the risks associated with short-term and long-term space travel on the health of astronauts.
- The study was motivated by earlier observations of the dominance of *Klebsiella pneumonia* on the surface of the ISS.

India successfully test fires medium-range ballistic missile

- The Agni Prime New Generation Ballistic Missile was successfully tested by India on October 21 off the coast of Odisha. Around 9.45 this morning, a test launch of the ballistic missile took place. The missile successfully completed the test, covering its full range, and all of its test goals were achieved.
- This was the missile Agni Prime's third straight successful flight test. This test has demonstrated the system's accuracy and dependability.
- Agni Prime underwent its first test on June 28, 2021, and it underwent its second test on December 18, 2021.
- The Agni Prime, also known as "Agni-P," is a two-stage canisterized missile from the Agni class that is nuclear-capable and has a maximum range of 2,000 kilometres.

ISRO's heaviest rocket successfully places 36 satellites in orbit

- OneWeb's 36 satellites were successfully orbited by the biggest rocket ever launched by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), the Launch Vehicle Mark 3 (LVM3 or GSLV Mark 3), which lifted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota. With this 14th launch, OneWeb will have 462 satellites in its constellation. This launch represents more than 70% of the 648 Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites that are expected to be deployed globally to provide high-speed, low-latency connectivity.
- 36 satellites totaling 5,796 kg, or approximately 5.7 tonne, were carried by the 43.5-meter LVM3, which was around 644 tonnes in weight.
- OneWeb is still on target to activate global coverage in 2023 with just four more launches, and its connectivity solutions are now operational in areas north of 50 degrees latitude.

Chandrayaan-3 pushed to 2023, launch to Moon likely in June

- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) plans to launch its third lunar mission in the month of June 2023. The more capable lunar rover that will be carried by Chandrayaan-3, which is essential for future interplanetary explorations, according to S. Somnath, Chairman of the Indian Space Agency, ISRO.
- According to S Somnath, the Geosynchronous Launch Vehicle Mark-III (GSLV Mk-III) will launch Chandrayaan-3 (C-3) in June of next year.
- ISRO is also working on the Gaganyaan mission, and the first abort test is scheduled for the new year.
- The mission will rely on the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter, which is already circling the Moon; the Chandrayaan-3 rover is not a clone of its predecessor, according to the head of ISRO. "C-3 is now prepared.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi unveils indigenous trainer aircraft HTT-40, designed & developed by HAL, during DefExpo 2022

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi unveiled HTT-40, an indigenous trainer aircraft designed and developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), at the India Pavilion during 12th DefExpo in Gandhinagar, Gujarat on October 19, 2022. Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh, Chief Minister of Gujarat Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel were among those present on the occasion. The aircraft has state-of-the-art contemporary systems and has been designed with pilot-friendly features. With over 60 per cent in-house parts and collaboration of private industry, it is a shining example of the vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.
- The HTT-40 would be used for basic flight training, aerobatics, instrument flying and close formation flights whereas its secondary roles would include navigation and night flying. It is a testament to the cutting-edge technology designed to meet primary training requirements of the Indian defence services.
- Built around a meticulously-tested turbo-prop engine, the aircraft is equipped with the latest avionics, an air-conditioned cabin and ejection seats. It boasts of unique features like running change-over of pilots, hot-refuelling and short-turnaround time. All the tests required for certification were completed in record six years from the first flight.

CERT-In and Power-CSIRTs jointly conduct Cyber Security Exercise “PowerEX-2022”

- 193 invited Power Sector Utilities to participate in the Cyber Security Exercise “PowerEX” that was successfully designed and carried out by the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-IN) and Power-CSIRTs. On the exercise day, the CERT-In team collaborated with the Power-CSIRT authorities’ Exercise Planner Team as Exercise Coordinators.
- “Recognize, Analyze & Respond to Cyber Incidents in IT & OT Systems” was the exercise’s stated goal.
- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology of the Government of India houses the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-IN or ICERT). It is the central organisation for handling risks to cyber security like phishing and hacking. It strengthens the Indian Internet domain’s security-related defence.

INS Arihant carries out successful launch of submarine launched ballistic missile

- INS Arihant carried out a successful launch of a Submarine Launched Ballistic Missile (SLBM) on October 14, 2022. The missile was tested to a predetermined range and impacted the target area in the Bay of Bengal with very high accuracy. All operational and technological parameters of the weapon system have been validated.
- The successful user training launch of the SLBM by INS Arihant is significant to prove crew competency and validate the SSBN programme, a key element of India’s nuclear deterrence capability. A robust, survivable and assured retaliatory capability is in keeping with India’s policy to have ‘Credible Minimum Deterrence’ that underpins its ‘No First Use’ commitment.

In a first, Chandrayaan-2 maps abundance of sodium on Moon

- Chandrayaan-2 Orbiter’s X-ray spectrometer ‘CLASS’ has mapped an abundance of sodium on the moon for the first time, as per the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). As Chandrayaan-1’s X-ray Fluorescence Spectrometer (C1XS) detected sodium from its characteristic line in X-rays, this opened up the possibility of mapping the amount of sodium on the Moon.
- The abundance of sodium was mapped in a recent work published in ‘The Astrophysical Journal Letters’ for the first time using CLASS (Chandrayaan-2 Large Area Soft X-ray Spectrometer), the national space agency. Built at the U R Rao Satellite Centre of ISRO in Bengaluru, CLASS provides clean signatures of the sodium line thanks to its high sensitivity and performance.”

About ISRO:

Chairman: S. Somanath

Foundation Date: 15th August, 1969

Founder: Dr. Vikram Sarabhai

SpaceX launches Crew-5 mission for NASA, carrying astronauts to space station

- A SpaceX rocket soared into orbit from Florida carrying the next long-term International Space Station crew, with a Russian cosmonaut, two Americans and a Japanese astronaut flying together in a demonstration of US-Russian teamwork in space despite Ukraine war tensions.

- SpaceX Crew5 astronauts, Russian cosmonaut Anna Kikina, NASA astronaut Josh Cassada, NASA astronaut Nicole Mann and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency astronaut Koichi Wakata pose for a photo as they leave the Operations and Checkout building before heading to Launch Pad 39-A at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, for a mission to the International Space Station.
- The mission, designated Crew-5, marks the fifth full-fledged ISS crew NASA has flown aboard a SpaceX vehicle since the private rocket venture founded by Tesla CEO Elon Musk began sending US astronauts aloft in May 2020. The SpaceX launch vehicle, consisting of a Falcon 9 rocket topped with a Crew Dragon capsule dubbed Endurance, lifted off into clear skies at noon from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral. The two-stage, 23-story-tall Falcon 9 ascended from the launch tower as its nine Merlin engines roared to life in billowing clouds of vapor and a reddish-orange fireball.

OBITUARY

Veteran Assamese actor Nipon Goswami passes away at 80 after prolonged illness

- Veteran Assamese actor, Nipon Goswami passed away recently. He was born in Assam's Tezpur town. He was an alumnus of the prestigious Film and Television Institute of India. He debuted in the Assamese cinema as a child artist in 1957. The octogenarian worked in a number of Assamese films and was a very popular face. Besides the silver screen, Goswami was also active in mobile theatres, advertisement commercials, and TV soaps.
- Sangram was Nipon Goswami's first Assamese film and first success as a lead actor in an Assamese film. During the years that followed, he appeared in several films, including Dr. Bezbaruah, released in 1969. As a character actor, he appeared in several Hindi films. Goswami has acted in 50 Assamese films including 'Mukuta', 'Sandhya Raag', etc. He had acted in seven Hindi films including Kalpana Lajmi's 'Daman', Bhabendranath Saikia's 'Kaal Sandhya' and Rajkumar Kohli's 'Virodhi' among others.

'World's Dirtiest Man' dies at 94 shortly after first bath in 60 years

- Amou Haji, an Iranian man dubbed the "dirtiest man in the world," died at the age of 94 in the village of Dejjah, in the southern province of Fars. He was so-called because he had not washed for almost 70 years and he believed that staying dirty kept him alive for so long. Owing to his unique record, a short documentary titled 'The Strange Life of Amou Haji' was made in 2013, describing his life.
- A report published in Tehran Times also claimed that Haji would eat roadkill, smoke a pipe filled with animal excrement, and believed that cleanliness would make him ill. Haji used to live in an open brick hut and he had faced some "emotional setbacks in his youth" that made him stern about not taking a bath with water or soap.

Red Bull co-owner Dietrich Mateschitz dies, aged 78, after long-term illness

- Austrian billionaire Dietrich Mateschitz, the co-founder of energy drink company Red Bull and founder and owner of the Red Bull Formula One racing team, has died. He was 78. Officials with the Red Bull racing team at the United States Grand Prix in Austin, Texas, announced Mateschitz's death. The Red Bull Racing team has enjoyed success in Formula 1, winning the constructors' championship in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013.

- Mateschitz was born on 20 May 1944, in Sankt Marein im Mürztal, Styria, Nazi Germany (now in Austria). Mateschitz was co-founder of the Wings for Life foundation which supports spinal cord research together with Heinz Kinigadner. Since 2014, the foundation has organised the Wings for Life World Run to raise funds. He also initiated the World Stunt Awards, an annual fundraiser to benefit his Taurus Foundation, which, according to its website, helps injured stunt professionals.

SP Founder Mulayam Singh Yadav Passes Away

- Samajwadi Party founder Mulayam Singh Yadav died at Medanta Hospital in Gurugram at 8:16 am on Monday morning due to multiple organ failure, according to people familiar with the matter.
- Yadav is one of the most prominent leaders of Uttar Pradesh. He has served as the chief minister of the state thrice and has also served in the Union government as the minister of defence. He has been elected 10 times as MLA and 7 times as Lok Sabha MP.

Suzlon Energy founder Tulsi Tanti passes away due to cardiac arrest at the age of 64

- Tulsi Tanti, founder and chairman of wind turbine maker Suzlon Energy Ltd passed away. He was 64. He was born in Gujarat and studied commerce and mechanical engineering. Tanti set up Suzlon in 1995 and spearheaded growth in the Indian wind energy sector by championing affordable and sustainable energy policies.
- Tanti started a textiles business and invested in two wind turbines in 1990 because of inadequate power supply in his area, according to a profile note by the UNEP, which named him one of its “Champions of the Earth” in 2009.
- He was also named a “Hero of the Environment” in 2007 by Time magazine. Tanti was also the chairman of the Indian Wind Turbine Manufacturers Association.

About Tulsi Tanti:

Born: 2 February 1958, Rajkot

Died: 1 October 2022

Children: Nidhi Tanti, Pranav Tanti

Organization founded: Suzlon

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

Mata Amritanandamayi appointed as Chair of C20

- The Government of India has appointed Mata Amritanandamayi as the Chair of Civil 20 (C20), an official engagement group of the G20. The G20 members consist of 19 countries plus the European Union and C20 is its platform for civil-society organisations (CSOs) to bring forth non-government and non-business voices to the G20 leaders. India will assume the Presidency of the G20 for one year from December 1, 2022 to November 30, 2023 and the G20 Leaders’ Summit will take place in New Delhi. Mata Amritanandamayi said she was grateful to the Indian government for arranging such a high-level representation of the voices of the common people.
- In the initial C20 online meeting the Mata said poverty in rural areas was a key issue to address while moving ahead as a society. “Hunger, conflict, extinction of species, and environmental destruction are the most important issues facing the world today. We should

put in sincere effort to develop solutions. If scientists of all fields—computer science, mathematics, physics, engineering and so on—would all work together, then we would be able to create more innovative methods of predicting environmental catastrophes, and thereby we would be able to save many lives. Often, we see a lack of multidisciplinary and integrated effort. This is the need of the hour,” she said.

Samsung’s de facto leader, Jay Y. Lee, formally takes the top job

- Samsung Electronics Co. officially appointed Lee Jae-yong as its executive chairman, formalizing the all-encompassing leadership role he has long played at South Korea’s largest business. The 54-year-old, Lee has been vice chairman of Samsung Electronics, the crown jewel of South Korea’s biggest business conglomerate, since 2012. He takes over a position previously held by his father, Lee Kun-hee, who died two years ago after being incapacitated by a 2014 heart attack.
- The appointment comes as Samsung, the world’s biggest maker of memory chips and smartphones, faces mounting business headwinds amid a sharp downturn in worldwide tech demand, caused by soaring inflation, interest rates and a gloomy economic outlook. Samsung reported a 31% drop in third-quarter profit and said geopolitical uncertainties were likely to dampen demand until early 2023, as the global economic downturn slashed appetite for electronic devices.

About Samsung

Founded: 13 January 1969

Founder: Lee Byung-chul

Headquarters: Suwon-si, South Korea

Yuvraj Singh becomes the brand ambassador for 3rd T20 World Cricket Cup for the Blind

- The Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI) has announced former India cricketer Yuvraj Singh as their brand ambassador for the 3rd T20 World Cup for the Blind to be held in India in December. Ajay Kumar Reddy B2 (Andhra Pradesh) will lead the Indian team while Venkateswara Rao Dunna – B2 (Andhra Pradesh) will be the vice-captain.
- The World Cup matches will be held from December 6 to 17. The participating countries for the 3rd T20 World Cup for the Blind are India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Australia, South Africa, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The opening match will be played between defending champions India and Nepal on December 6 in Faridabad.
- Samarthanam’s sports wing, Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI), was established in 2010 to foster the cricketing dreams of visually impaired cricket players and to provide a platform to portray their unbound talent in the game of blind Cricket. CABI is affiliated with World Blind Cricket Council (WBC).

Shri Jaxay Shah nominated as the new Chairman of Quality Council of India

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has appointed Jaxay Shah, founder chairman of Savvy Group and former chairman of CREDAI as the chairman of the Quality Council of India (QCI) for three years, effective 21 October, the Ministry of Commerce & Industry. He will succeed former McKinsey India chief Adil Zainulbhai, who served as the chairman of QCI through three terms for eight years from 2014 to 2022.

- Jaxay Shah has been appointed based on his vast industry experience which shall contribute to further propelling the wheels of Quality, a legacy established by the former Chairpersons of QCI. In addition, he also holds the position of the chairman of the Assocham Western Region Development Council and serves as the Advisor at the PharmEasy Accelerator Program, which offers 1 lakh+ medicine and health products.

Dalit woman scholar from Karnataka appointed UNHRC Special Rapporteur

- K.P. Ashwini, a Dalit scholar whose roots are in Kurabarahalli in Kolar district, has been appointed Special Rapporteur for United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNHRC). She is the first Indian and Asian woman to be appointed to this post.
- The Geneva-based 47-member UN human rights body has endorsed Dr. Ashwini's appointment.
- An Ambedkarite and a PhD scholar from Jawaharlal Nehru University, Ms. Ashwini is planning to address issues such as racism and casteism, now also increasingly on social media platforms.

ISRO designates Dr Sankarasubramanian as the Principal Scientist of the Aditya-L1 mission

- The Indian Space Research Organisation has designated Dr. Sankarasubramanian K as the Principal Scientist of the Aditya-L1 mission. Aditya-L1 is the first observatory-class space-based solar mission from India. Sankarasubramanian has contributed to AstroSat, Chandrayaan-1 and Chandrayaan-2 missions of ISRO in several capacities.
- Aditya-L1 is the first observatory-class space-based solar mission from India. The spacecraft will be placed in a halo orbit around the first Lagrange point, L1, of the Sun-Earth system.
- A satellite around the L1 point has the major advantage of continuously viewing the Sun without occultation/eclipses. This position provides a greater advantage of observing solar activities continuously.
- Dr Sankarasubramanian K. is a senior solar scientist at the U R Rao Satellite Centre (URSC), Bengaluru. He obtained his PhD in Physics from Bangalore University through the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru.

About ISRO:

Chairman: S. Somanath

Foundation Date: 15th August, 1969

Founder: Dr. Vikram Sarabhai

Pradeep Singh Kharola appointed CMD of India Trade Promotion Organization

- Former Civil Aviation Secretary Pradeep Singh Kharola was named Chairman and Managing Director of India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO) on Wednesday, according to a Personnel Ministry order.
- Kharola, a Karnataka cadre Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from the 1985 batch, retired as civil aviation secretary in September last year. In March of this year, he was appointed chairman of the National Recruitment Agency (NRA), which is responsible for conducting computer-based Common Eligibility Tests for government job recruitment.

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has accepted Kharola's appointment as Chairman and Managing Director, ITPO, on a contract basis for two years from the date of assumption of charge of the post, it said.

Mallikarjun Kharge Elected As The New Congress President

- Veteran Karnataka leader Mallikarjun Kharge defeated his rival Shashi Tharoor to become the first non-Gandhi Congress president in 24 years, and the first Scheduled Caste chief of the grand old organization in four decades. Kharge polled 7897 of the 9385 votes cast while Tharoor garnered a meagre 1072. Sources said 416 votes were invalid.
- He is the first non-Gandhi to head the Congress in 24 years, after Sitaram Kesri was unceremoniously ousted in 1988 through a Congress Working Committee resolution that invited Sonia Gandhi to become the party chief. Sonia had become a primary member of the Congress only a year ago at the AICC Kolkata plenary in 1997.
- Kharge is also the only Congress chief who has been leader of opposition in a state assembly (Karnataka); leader of the party in Lok Sabha and who is now the leader of opposition in Rajya Sabha.
- This was the first election for the post of Congress president in 22 years and only the fifth major contest in the party's 137 year history.

Yubi appoints Atanu Chakraborty as Independent Chairman of its Board

- Atanu Chakraborty has been appointed as the Independent Chairman of the Yubi board, as told by the company itself.. In addition, Atanu Chakraborty serves as HDFC Bank's board chairman at the moment. Atanu Chakraborty served as the Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Finance and a member of the Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India, according to a press release from the Chennai-based debt marketplace.
- Atanu Chakraborty said that Since its establishment, Yubi has worked to provide reliable and effective digital infrastructure to the various players in the Indian financial system. It gives me great pleasure to serve as Chair of the Yubi Board and to support the organization's aim to invent and unleash the economic growth potential of India.

Cognizant hires former Infosys president Ravi Kumar to lead Americas market

- Former Infosys president Ravi Kumar S, who resigned from the Bengaluru-based IT company last week, is joining as president of Cognizant Americas. Kumar will take on the position from January 16, 2023, and will be reporting directly to Brian Humphries, chief executive officer (CEO) of Cognizant. Kumar succeeds Dharmendra Kumar Sinha who retired from Cognizant last year. At present, Sinha is the president of the public cloud business unit in Rackspace Technology. Surya Gummadi will continue to hold the post of interim president for Cognizant Americas till Kumar joins, after which he will move to lead Cognizant's \$5-billion health sciences business.
- In 2015, Kumar was one of the two presidents appointed by Infosys, and served in that position for almost seven years. He had been with Infosys for 20 years. Cognizant has also announced the appointment of former Bain executive Prasad Sankaran as head of the software and platform engineering (SPE) service line.

JP Morgan Elevates Kaustubh Kulkarni As India Head

- JP Morgan has announced the appointment of its new Country Head of India, Kaustubh Kulkarni. Madhav Kalyan the current country head of India will be serving in the Asia Pacific Payments Division from 1st November 2022. Kaustubh Kulkarni is currently serving as the head of investment banking in JP Morgan India and also as the Vice-chair of Asia Pacific for the bank and also as the co-head of investment banking for Southeast Asia.
- Kaustubh Kulkarni has been serving in JP Morgan for the past 24 years.
- Madhav Kalyan has been serving in JP Morgan since 2009 as head of corporate banking for India.
- Pierpont Morgan was an American financier and investment banker who dominated corporate finance on Wall Street during the Gilded Age. The firm is known as JP Morgan and Co.

DY Chandrachud appointed 50th Chief Justice of India, to take oath on Nov 9

- President Droupadi Murmu has appointed Dr Justice DY Chandrachud as the new Chief Justice of India. He will succeed the present Chief Justice of India Justice Uday Umesh Lalit. Justice Chandrachud's appointment will come into effect from the 9th of next month. Justice DY Chandrachud would be the 50th Chief Justice of India. While Justice Lalit has a tenure of 74 days, Justice Chandrachud will serve as the CJI for two years. Justice Chandrachud will demit office on November 10, 2024.
- Born in 1959, Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud earned his LLB from Delhi University. After earning the coveted Inlaks Scholarship, he went on to study at Harvard University. He earned his Masters in Law (LLM) and Doctorate in Juridical Sciences at Harvard (SJD).
- His father Justice Yeshwant Vishnu Chandrachud was the 16th Chief Justice of India, serving from February 22, 1978, till July 11, 1985. He was appointed to the Supreme Court of India on August 28, 1972. He was the longest-serving Chief Justice in India's history, having served for 7 years and 4 months.

Apoorva Srivastava Appointed as India's ambassador to Slovak republic

- Apoorva Srivastava, a diplomat in the Indian Foreign Service, has been appointed to serve as India's Ambassador to the Slovak Republic. An officer of the 2001 batch, she currently serves as Consul-General at the Consulate of India in Toronto. Prior to this, she served in various positions in the Ministry of External Affairs and has been posted in Kathmandu and Paris, among other locations.
- According to a release by the Ministry of External Affairs, India and Slovakia enjoy friendly bilateral ties untroubled by major tensions. Regular meetings take place between top-level political leaders. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and former External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, among other leaders, have interacted with senior political figures from Slovakia.
- Both countries also enjoy extensive political cooperations. They have concluded agreements ranging from defence and air services to economics and culture. India and Slovakia also routinely support each other's candidacies for top positions in multilateral organizations like the International Court of Justice and the United Nations.

Odisha MP Aparajita Sarangi elected Asia Pacific Group's Inter-Parliamentary Union panel member

- Lok Sabha member from Bhubaneswar, Aparajita Sarangi has been elected as a member to the executive committee of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). The Parliamentarian from Odisha bagged 12 out of the total of 18 available votes in the election to the post held at Kigali, Rwanda. Sarangi will represent India at the 15-member executive committee of the union.
- Notably, this will be the first time in 20 years, that India will have her representative in the international committee.
- The Indian Parliamentary Delegation is being led by Harivansh, Deputy Chairperson in Rajya Sabha. Aparajita Sarangi, Harivansh and Sasmit Patra attended a meeting called by the Governing Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Union following her nomination. The 145th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly is being held currently in Kigali, Rwanda.

About Inter-Parliamentary Union:

Founded: 1889;

Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

President: Saber Hossain Chowdhury

Secretary General: Martin Chungong

Roger Binny to replace Ganguly as BCCI president, Shah to remain secretary

- India's 1983 World Cup hero, Roger Binny is set to become the new BCCI president, replacing Sourav Ganguly. Binny will assume charge on October 18, when the BCCI annual general meeting will be held, in Mumbai. Jay Shah will continue as BCCI secretary, the most influential position in the board. Rajiv Shukla will also stay on as the board's vice president.
- Binny, 67, has a lot of experience in cricket administration. He has served in different positions at the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) over the years, and has been its president since 2019. Prior to that, Binny also was part of the KSCA administrations led by Patel and Anil Kumble (2010-12). The age-cap rule, which has led to end of Patel's run, will also restrict 1983 World Cup-winner Binny's tenure to one term of three years.

Ananth Narayan Gopalakrishnan assumes charge as whole-time member at Sebi

- Former banker Ananth Narayan Gopalakrishnan took charge as the fourth whole time member (WTM) in the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi). Narayan, who has been a member of various advisory committees of Sebi and RBI, has been appointed for an initial period of three years.
- Before assuming charge, Narayan was an associate professor at SP Jain Institute of Management & Research. He has over two and half decades of experience in the banking and financial markets, during which he held the position of Regional Head of Financial Markets for ASEAN and South Asia at Standard Chartered Bank.
- He has strong expertise in foreign currency, interest rates, derivatives and debt capital markets. Narayan has also worked with Deutsche Bank and Citibank.

About SEBI:

Founded: 12 April 1992

Sector: Securities market

Headquarters: Mumbai

Chairperson : Madhabi Puri Buch

Law Ministry notifies appointment of Chief Justices to Karnataka and J&K High Courts

- The central government announced the appointment of two judges as chief justices of the high courts in Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, and Karnataka. It also announced the transfer of the chief justice of the J&K high court to the Rajasthan high court.
- According to the Constitution's provisions, Justice Prasanna B. Varale has been named the Karnataka High Court's Chief Justice.
- Justice AM Magrey has been named the Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.
- Justice Pankaj Mithal has been appointed Chief Justice of the Rajasthan High Court, according to Kiran Rijju.

AMCs to freeze non-PAN card MF portfolios from April 2023, says AMFI

- A Balasubramanian has been re-elected as the chairman of the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI), and Radhika Gupta as the vice-chairperson of the industry body. As the chairman of AMFI, A Balasubramanian will also continue as the ex-officio chairman of the AMFI Financial Literacy Committee. The chairman and the vice-chairperson will hold office until the conclusion of the 28th AGM.
- At the recently conducted board meeting of AMFI, post the 27th annual general meeting (AGM) held in September, Vishal Kapoor (chief executive officer, IDFC Asset Management Co. Ltd.) has been re-elected as the chairman of the AMFI Committee of Certified Distributors, while Sundeep Sikka (ED & CEO, Nippon Life India Asset Management Ltd.) has been elected as chairman of AMFI ETF Committee.

About AMFI:

Founded: 22 August 1995

AMFI CEO: N.S.Venkatesh (23 Oct 2017–)

AMFI Headquarters: Mumbai

Gulf Oil ropes in Smriti Mandhana as brand ambassador

- Indian cricket star Smriti Mandhana has signed on as a brand ambassador of lubricant manufacturer Gulf Oil India. India women's vice-captain joins current men's cricket ace Hardik Pandya and former captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni as an ambassador for the company. Through the partnership, Gulf Oil stated that it aims to 'celebrate women power' and 'inspire female audience in the country', while also honouring the achievements of Indian women cricketers. With this association, Gulf Oil claims to have become the first company in the lubricant space to appoint a woman cricketer as ambassador to represent the organisation and its ethos.
- Gulf Oil recognises that the dynamics of the automotive segment has evolved with more women playing a pivotal role in the decision-making process of vehicular purchase and its further maintenance. With the addition of Smriti Mandhana to its group of ambassadors, the organisation claims to have taken cognizance of the changing consumer demographics and is determined to appeal and cater to the new developing customer landscape in the segment.

Bank of India Mutual Fund appoints Mohit Bhatia as CEO

- The appointment of Mohit Bhatia as CEO of Bank of India Investment Managers Private Ltd (Bank of India Mutual Funds) has been made public. In the fields of sales and distribution, team development, marketing & branding, and the creation of digital eco-systems, Bhatia has more than 26 years of professional expertise.
- Mohit Bhatia 's most recent position was head of sales and marketing at Canara Robeco Asset Management Company Ltd.
- The Bank of India Mutual Funds firm achieved 50,000 crores in assets under management (AUM) during his leadership.
- Bank of India's wholly-owned subsidiary, Bank of India Investment Managers Private Ltd (Bank of India Mutual Funds).

Ex-CJI named head of panel on SC status for Dalit converts

- The Union Government has appointed a three-member commission, headed by former Chief Justice of India K G Balakrishnan, to consider the possibility of granting SC status to "new persons who have historically belonged to the Scheduled Castes" but have converted to religions other than Hinduism, Buddhism and Sikhism.
- According to a notification issued by the Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the commission will also include retired IAS officer Dr Ravinder Kumar Jain and UGC member Prof (Dr) Sushma Yadav as members.
- The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, stipulates that no person professing a religion different from Hinduism, Sikhism or Buddhism can be deemed to be a member of a Scheduled Caste. The original order under which only Hindus were classified was later amended to include Sikhs and Buddhists.

Arunachal governor BD Mishra assumes additional charge as Meghalaya governor

- At the Raj Bhavan in Shillong, Brigadier (Dr.) B.D. Mishra (Retd.), the governor of Arunachal Pradesh, assumed the role of governor of Meghalaya. After previous Governor Satya Pal Malik's term ended because he did not receive a term extension, he has been handed the extra responsibility. The oath was delivered by Justice Harman Singh Thangkhiew, acting chief justice of Meghalaya.
- Brig. B. D. Mishra recalled that he had previously visited Shillong during the conflict of 1971, therefore this was not his first time there.
- The swearing-in event included participation from Speaker Metbah Lyngdoh, Home Minister Lakhmen Rymbui, Cabinet Minister Banteidor Lyngdoh, Hamletson Dohling, and other authorities.

Indian-Origin Dr Vivek Murthy Is US Representative On WHO Executive Board

- Indian-origin Dr. Vivek Murthy has been nominated by US President Joe Biden to serve as the country's representative on the Executive Board of the World Health Organisation. Dr. Murthy will serve as the US Representative on WHO Executive Board and he will continue his duties as the US Surgeon General.

- On March 2021, Dr. Vivek Murthy was confirmed to serve as the 21st Surgeon General of the Country. Previously, he served as the 19th Surgeon General under the Presidency of Barack Obama.
- Dr. Murthy as the nation's doctor aims to draw attention to and work across Government to address several critical public health issues. Dr. Murthy is also the Vice Admiral of the US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps; he also commands a uniformed service of over 6000 dedicated public health officers.

Pankaj Tripathi Becomes 'National Icon' Of Election Commission Of India

- Election Commission of India (ECI) in creating awareness amongst voters, Actor Pankaj Tripathi has been declared as the 'National Icon' of ECI. The actor was chosen for the honour by Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar for keeping in view his commitment to the cause and wide appeal across the country. An event on the 'Voter Awareness Program', CEC Rajiv Kumar complimented ECI state icon, Pankaj Tripathi, for his association with ECI in creating voting awareness across citizens, and henceforth declared him as the National Icon for ECI.
- Interestingly: One of Pankaj's most acclaimed roles involved the electoral process in the 2017 film Newton, for which he won the National Award. He played the role of a CRPF officer, who was tasked with conducting elections in a conflict-ridden zone in the jungles of Chhattisgarh. National Award-winner Pankaj Tripathi has been active in the industry for almost two decades. Some of his critically-acclaimed films include Omkara, Dharm, and Aakrosh among others. Further, he has also worked in various web series and other Over Top Content.

Sanjeev Kishore takes over as Director General Ordnance

- A 1985 batch officer of the Indian Ordnance Factory Service (IOFS), Sanjeev Kishore has taken over as the Director General of the Indian Ordnance Factory with effect from 01-10-2022 upon the superannuation of M K Grag. Before taking over the charge of DGO (C &S), Kishore was the Additional Director of General Ordnance at the Directorate of Ordnance (Coordination & Services), Kolkata.
- Sanjeev Kishore has held many senior positions, including that of the first CMD of Armoured Vehicles Nigam Ltd (AVNL), one of the seven new DPSUs formed by the Government of India in 2021.
- He has ensured a smooth transition of the Armoured group of factories from a Government department to a corporation. AVNL recorded profit in its first six months of operation under his leadership.

Sandeep Kumar Gupta takes charge as CMD of GAIL

- Sandeep Kumar Gupta assumed charge as the chairman and managing director of GAIL (India) Limited. Gupta, who will replace Manoj Jain, has a wide experience of over 34 years in the oil and gas industry. Before joining GAIL, he was working with Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) since 2019. Gupta, 56, is a commerce graduate and a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. In June, the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) had selected him for the top role at GAIL after interviewing 10 candidates.

- GAIL Limited is a central public sector undertaking under the ownership of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India. It is headquartered in GAIL Bhawan, New Delhi. Its operations are overseen by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- GAIL is aligned with the government's vision of having a gas-based economy wherein the share of natural gas in the energy mix is to be taken to 15 per cent by the year 2030, Gupta said after assuming the role. Former CMD of the state-run company, Jain, had earlier said that GAIL plans to spend Rs 30,000 crore in next three years to focus more on petrochemicals and clean energy.

Ajay Bhadoo appointed Dy Election Commissioner, Akash Tripathi MyGovs CEO

- Senior bureaucrat, Ajay Bhadoo has been appointed as the Deputy Election Commissioner as part of a senior-level bureaucratic reshuffle effected on Sunday by the Centre. Bhadoo, a 1999 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Gujarat cadre, has been appointed to the post up to July 24, 2024. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the senior bureaucrat's candidature.
- His two-month extension as Joint Secretary in the President's Secretariat ended on September 25. He was appointed as Joint Secretary to former President Ram Nath Kovind in July 2020. Earlier, Bhadoo served as Gujarat's Vadodra Municipal Commissioner.

About Election commission of India:

Formed: 25 January 1950

Jurisdiction: Government of India

Headquarters: New Delhi

First executive: Sukumar Sen

Preceding executive: Sushil Chandra

Current executive: Rajiv Kumar

Sunil Barthwal assumes charge as commerce secretary

- Senior IAS officer, Sunil Barthwal assumed charge as the commerce secretary. Barthwal, a 1989-batch officer of the Bihar cadre, previously served as the labour and employment secretary. He replaced Subrahmanyam, a 1987-batch IAS officer of the Chhattisgarh cadre, who was appointed as chairman and managing director, of the India Trade Promotion Organisation on a contract basis for a period of two years following his superannuation.
- Barthwal did his Economics honours from St Stephen's College, Delhi and has a post-graduate economics degree from JNU. He has published articles in journals and other publications and has represented India in many international forums.

Sujoy Lal Thaosen, Anish Dayal Singh Appointed New DGs of CRPF, ITBP

- Senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officers Sujoy Lal Thaosen and Anish Dayal Singh have been appointed as the new director generals of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) respectively. Thaosen's scheduled retirement is in November this year, while Singh will superannuate in December 2024. The order for their appointment was issued by the Personnel Ministry after sanction from the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by the prime minister.

- Thaosen, a 1988-batch officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre, is currently working as the director general (DG) of the border guarding force Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and holding the additional charge of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police. The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) DG post fell vacant on Friday after IPS officer Kuldip Singh (1986-batch) retired.
- Anish Dayal Singh, a 1988-batch officer (Manipur cadre), is currently serving as a special director in the Intelligence Bureau.

About Central Reserve Police Force(CRPF):

Headquarters: New Delhi, India

Formed: 27 July 1939

Force Motto: Service and Loyalty

About Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP):

Founded: 24 October 1962

Headquarters: New Delhi, India

ISRO Scientist Elected As Vice President of International Astronautical Federation

- Senior Indian Space Research Organization scientist Anil Kumar has been appointed as the Vice-President of the International Astronautical Federation (IAF). Dr. Anil Kumar is currently serving as the Associate Director, of ISRO Telemetry, Tracking, and Command Network (ISTRAC).
- The International Astronautical Federation was founded in 1951. IAF is one of the world's top space advocacy bodies with 433 members in 72 nations. International Astronautical Federation Congress (IAC) is an annual space event and it is attended by more than 6000 participants, IAC is organized by the IAF. The International Astronautical Federation Congress includes networking events, talks, and a technical program on advances in science and exploration, applications, and operations, technology, infrastructure, and space and society.

About Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO):

Headquarters: Bengaluru

Founded: 15 August 1969

Founder: Vikram Sarabhai

Subsidiary: Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre

About International Astronautical Federation (IAF):

Membership: 397 members from 68 countries

Formation: 1951; 71 years ago

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Cities Day 2022: 31st October

- World Cities Day brings Urban October to an end on 31st October each year and was first celebrated in 2014. As with World Habitat Day, a global observance is held in a different city each year and the day focuses on a specific theme. A different city hosts the event each year. This year's global observance is planned in Shanghai, China under the theme "Act Local to Go Global."
- Urbanisation is a marker of national economic growth. Such development, however, faces social, economic, demographic and environmental challenges. Some of the most visible

challenges to rapid urbanisation are displacement of original inhabitants, felling of trees, animals losing their habitats, issues of healthcare, food supply and pollution. World Cities Day helps address these challenges by bringing together all stakeholders of local and global urban development.

World Thrift Day 2022: 31st October

- World Thrift Day is celebrated every year on October 31, across the world. World Thrift Day, also often called World Savings Day. However, India does this a day earlier, marking it on October 30 every year. The day is significant as it is an occasion to generate awareness about the concept of saving money in a bank (so as to enrich the money supply in the country) instead of keeping it locked away at home.
- This year, the theme of World Thrift Day is “Saving prepares you for the future”, closely linked with last year’s theme that focused on the importance of savings. The day is often observed by conducting informative campaigns and releasing schemes that promote savings. The focus of this theme will be to emphasise the importance of being financially prepared for a rainy day instead of impulsively spending all at once.

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas or National Unity Day 2022: 31st October

- The National Unity Day or Rashtriya Ekta Diwas is celebrated every year on October 31st to commemorate the birth anniversary of India’s first Home Minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. This year will mark the 147th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who is also known as the Iron Man of India.
- The Rashtriya Ekta Diwas provides an opportunity to reaffirm the inherent strength and resilience of our nation towards upholding the unity, integrity, and security of our country. In honour of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the government of India constructed the world’s tallest statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel near the Narmada River in Gujarat which symbolizes the strength of unity in India. The main objective of the celebration is to uplift the nation’s unity and spread awareness about Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel’s contribution to Indian history.

30 October 2022: 113th Birth anniversary of Homi Jehangir Bhabha

- 113th Birth anniversary of Indian nuclear physicist Homi Jehangir Bhabha who is also known as the father of the Indian nuclear program. He was born on 30 October 1909 in Bombay, Bombay Presidency, British India (now Mumbai, Maharashtra, India). His invaluable contributions to the field of science continue to inspire generations of young minds in the country. Homi J Bhabha was born into a prominent wealthy Parsi family.
- On 24 January 1966, Bhabha died when Air India Flight 101 crashed near Mont Blanc. The official reason for the crash-A misunderstanding between Geneva Airport and the pilot about the aircraft’s position near the mountain. However, there are assassination claims like the involvement of a foreign intelligence agency to paralyse India’s nuclear program.
- Homi J Bhabha was the founding director and professor of physics at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR).
- Homi J Bhabha was also the founding director of the Atomic Energy Establishment, Trombay (AEET). It is now named the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre in his honour.

International Internet Day 2022: 29th October

- International Internet Day is celebrated on October 29 every year across the world to celebrate the usage of the internet for the first time. The day marks the sending of the first electronic message which was transferred from one computer to another in 1969. At that time the Internet was known as ARPANET (Advanced Research Projects Agency Network). The Internet provides instant access to information.
- Search engines make this information easy to attain. Besides gaining knowledge, internet users have an endless supply of entertainment. The internet makes it possible to do banking and shopping from the comfort of your own home. The internet is also a great way to make donations and raise funds.
- The internet is defined as a remote connection between two computers. The first internet connection was made on October 29th, 1969. This was just two months after Neil Armstrong landed on the moon. To commemorate the event, International Internet Day was celebrated for the first time on October 29th, 2005. International Internet Day is promoted by the Association of Internet Users.

International Animation Day 2022: 28th October

- International Animation Day is celebrated on 28 October every year. It was in this year when the International Animated Film Association (ASIFA) declared International Animation Day (IAD) as a worldwide occasion to commend the speciality of animation. This day is celebrated in more than 50 distinct nations throughout the world. IAD was started by ASIFA, an individual from UNESCO.
- The day is celebrated to commemorate the first public animation performance, Theatre Optique at the Musée Grévin in Paris. The moving picture technology utilised in the animated performance was developed by Charles-Emile Reynaud. There are various animation styles, including traditional 2D animation, 3D animation, stop motion animation, and typographic animation.
- The International Film Association established International Animation Day in 2002, honouring the birth of animation, recognized as the first public performance of projected moving images at Emile Reynaud's Theatre Optique in Paris, on the 28th October 1892.

About International Animated Film Association (ASIFA):

President: Deanna Morse

Founder: John Halas

Founded: 1960, Annecy, France

Indian Army celebrates 76 infantry day today

- Indian Army Infantry Day is celebrated on October 27 every year to pay homage to the soldiers who fought for the country and laid down their lives in the line of duty. To celebrate the 76th Infantry Day this year on October 27, soldiers are organising four simultaneous bike rallies from all cardinal directions, Wellington (Tamil Nadu), Jammu (Jammu and Kashmir), Shillong (Meghalaya), and Ahmedabad (Gujarat). The rally started on October 16 and will cover the travel across the country, culminating at the National War Memorial on Infantry Day.

- Each group will have 10 bikers and will cover a cumulative journey of 8,000 km. The groups are spearheaded by the Maratha Light Infantry Regiment from Ahmedabad, Assam Regiment from Shillong, Madras Regiment from Wellington and Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry Regiment from Udhampur.

World Day for Audiovisual Heritage 2022: 27th October

- World Day for Audiovisual Heritage (WDAH) is celebrated on October 27 every year to highlight and promote the importance of such preservation. Audiovisual heritage refers to documents like film, sounds, radio, television programmes and other audio and video that are of socio-cultural importance and need preservation for posterity. Such documentations help us observe and understand the past, protects our memories and culture.
- “Enlisting documentary heritage to promote inclusive, just and peaceful societies” is the theme for WDAH this year. It refers to the importance of archiving visual and sonic information to preserve history for society’s benefit and progress.
- Audiovisual archives tell us stories about people’s lives and cultures from all over the world. They represent a priceless heritage which is an affirmation of our collective memory and a valuable source of knowledge since they reflect the cultural, social and linguistic diversity of our communities.

World Polio Day 2022: 24th October

- World Polio Day 2022 is observed every year on October 24 to raise awareness about the polio vaccination and eradication of polio from every corner of the world. The day is observed to commemorate the progress made by the world towards polio eradication. The day to raise awareness of the importance of polio vaccination to protect every child from this devastating disease, and to celebrate the many parents, professionals and volunteers whose contributions make polio eradication achievable.
- This year, the overarching theme of World Polio Day is “World Polio Day 2022 and Beyond: A healthier future for mothers and children”. The theme urges the world to acknowledge the progress made in the battle to eradicate polio in children and the work to provide a healthier future for mothers.
- On World Polio Day, global organisations such as Rotary International, WHO and others host several events to raise awareness about polio. Events range from rallies, walks, and webinars to organising competitions in schools and clubs. In the global fight to eradicate polio, no member is too small to contribute.
- To ensure a polio-free future for everyone, efforts must continue to maintain high immunization coverage, implement high-quality surveillance to detect any presence of the virus, and prepare to respond in the event of an outbreak.

United Nations Day 2022: 24th October

- United Nations Day, on 24 October, marks the anniversary of the entry into force in 1945 of the UN Charter. With the ratification of this founding document by the majority of its signatories, including the five permanent members of the Security Council, the United Nations officially came into being. In 1945, 50 governments gathered to draft the UN

Charter. They have struggled and accomplished great feats to uphold peace, protect human rights, and play a key role in bringing international justice.

- The United Nations is an international organization founded in 1945. At present, there are 193 Member States. The UN is guided by the purposes and principles contained in its founding Charter which was signed in 1945. The United Nations Day commemorates the signing of that charter. According to their official website, the United Nations is “One place where the world’s nations can gather together, discuss common problems, and find shared solutions.”
- The United Nations officially came into existence on 24 October 1945, when the Charter had been ratified by China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States and by a majority of other signatories. The name “United Nations” was coined by the United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt and first used in the Declaration by United Nations of 1 January 1942, during Second World War.

World Development Information Day 2022: 24th October

- Every year the United Nations marks October 24 as World Development Information Day. This day is observed to create awareness towards the problems surrounding development in different nations and how to overcome them. The United Nations (UN) believes that such information and communications technologies also have the potential to provide solutions to various development challenges and can also foster various crucial goals, especially in developing countries.
- With many countries being burdened with insufficient resources, infrastructure, education, capacity, investment, and connectivity, World Development Information Day aims to address these issues. Spreading awareness and mobilizing public opinion to draw people’s support is one to start addressing and resolving these global problems.

National Police Commemoration Day 2022: 21st October

- October 21 commemorates the sacrifices of ten CRPF personnel who lost their lives in the line of duty. On October 21, 1959, ten Indian policemen were killed during an attack by Chinese troops in the Hot Springs region close to Ladakh after an argument between the troops. Since that day, 21 October has been observed as National Police Commemoration Day in honour of the martyrs.
- This incident started on October 20, 1959, when the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) was in charge of patrolling the 2,600-mile border between India and Tibet. Three units of the CRPF’s 3rd Battalion were dispatched on separate patrols to a location known as Hot Springs to keep an eye on the Indo-China border in North Eastern Ladakh. However, one of the three contingents, which consisted of two police constables and a porter, did not return.

About Central Reserve Police Force

Headquarters: New Delhi

Formed: 27 July 1939

Director General, CRPF: Dr Sujoy Lal Thakur, IPS

World Statistics Day 2022 : 20th October

- World Statistics Day 2022 is celebrated annually on October 20th to recognize the importance of statistics in our daily lives. The United Nations Statistical Commission has been at the forefront of advocating for the use of statistics to track progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Good data and statistics are essential for effective planning, monitoring and evaluation of progress towards the SDGs.
- The theme of Statistics Day, 2022 is “Data for Sustainable Development”. On this occasion, MoSPI also recognizes the outstanding contribution through high-quality research in the field of applied and theoretical statistics benefiting the official statistical system through awards instituted for this purpose.
- The day celebrates the role of statistics and statisticians in improving the world we live in and marks the anniversary of the founding of the United Nations Statistical Commission in 1947.

World Osteoporosis Day 2022: 20th October

- World osteoporosis day is a global healthcare event observed every year on 20 October. The day is observed to promote the early diagnosis of osteoporosis, its treatment and preventive tips for strong bones. The campaigns are mainly focused on encouraging people to take preventative measures for their bone health to avoid any risk of osteoporosis and associated complications in the future.
- This year 2022, the World Osteoporosis Day theme is “Step Up For Bone Health”, intending to encourage people around the world to check for bone density and bone health status regularly (especially people above 50) and inculcate healthy lifestyle to strengthen the bone health. The theme “Step Up For Bone Health” appeals the global healthcare organizations and policymakers to create better opportunities and accessible facilities for everyone to avail of timely diagnosis and treatment to prevent torments of osteoporosis and its complications.

World Trauma Day 2022: 17th October

- Every year, October 17 is celebrated as World Trauma Day. The day is observed with a view to prevent the increasing rate of accidents and injuries causing death and disability across the world. The day was created in New Delhi, India, in 2011. This was a result of the high number of deaths caused by road accidents in the country, an estimate of over 400 people lost their lives each day to it. Road Traffic Accident (RTA) is the leading cause of trauma across the world.
- On World Trauma Day, people the world over come together to commemorate those that have died or become injured due to violence and trauma or accidents. Furthermore, the day emphasizes the importance of prevention and how everyone can contribute to making the world a safer place.

World Food Day 2022: 16th October

- Every year on October 16 in observance of the date the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations was established in 1945, World Food Day is marked. The main objectives are to combat world hunger and work toward its eradication. The World Food

Day 2022 will take place this year with more focus on moving forward together. Every UN member state, including India, observes the day.

- The 16th of October 2022, a Sunday, will once again serve as the day for World Food Day 2022 celebrations. The theme for World Food Day 2022 is Leave NO ONE behind.
- “Safe food now for a healthy tomorrow” was the theme of World Food Day in 2021.
- The day is celebrated with an emphasis on the production and consumption of secure food that will, in the long run, benefit the population, the economy, and the environment.

World Student's Day 2022: 15th October

- October 15 is celebrated as World Students' Day to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, a celebrated Aerospace scientist and former President of India. The day is marked to acknowledge his efforts toward students and education. Dr Kalam was born on October 15, 1931. He served as an inspiration to many students to achieve and do something remarkable. After his tenure as the President came to an end, he became a visiting faculty at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in Shillong, IIM-Indore and IIM-Ahmedabad.
- Dr APJ Abdul Kalam was a dedicated student with a deep passion to learn. Despite financial constraints, he completed his graduation in Physics and later studied Aerospace Engineering at the Madras Institute of Technology.
- He became India's most famous nuclear scientist and was known as the 'Missile Man of India'. He played a crucial role in the Pokhran-II nuclear tests in 1998.

Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Birth Anniversary:

- Avul Pakir Jainulabdeen Abdul Kalam born on 15th October 1931 was an Indian aerospace scientist and the 11th president of India. He served as the President of India from 2002 to 2007. He was known as the Missile Man of India for his works and development of ballistic missiles and launch vehicle technology.
- He has spent more than four decades serving as a scientist and science administrator at Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO). He was constantly involved in the civil space program of India and military missile development. He was also the recipient of several prestigious awards which includes Bharat Ratna.
- Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam was a man of many talents and has served the nation throughout his life. He has made efforts to improve and develop society. Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam's contribution has pushed society to achieve its progress. Here are a few significant contributions of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.

World Sight Day 2022: 13th October

- World Sight Day is observed every year on the second Thursday of October to raise awareness about vision impairment, vision care and other issues related to eyes. This year, the day is being observed today i.e. on 13 October. This day is observed to increase awareness about the importance of eye health and to honour ophthalmologists – medical professional who diagnoses and treats human eye and vision problems – who work tirelessly around the globe to combat the issue.

- Continuing the theme of last year, the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) confirmed that this year's theme will also be "Love Your Eyes". This comes following the success of last year's campaign. 3.5 million pledged to prioritize their eye health.

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- Millions of people around the world do not have access to basic healthcare facilities. While most of the causes of blindness are preventable, most cases end up with visually impaired because they do not have proper treatments. It is a day to raise awareness about getting regular eye checkups as a means to care for your eyes. The gift of sight is often taken for granted.

World Arthritis Day 2022:12th October

- World Arthritis day is observed on 12 October every year and it is a global health awareness event that helps create awareness about rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases. This day aims to bring people around the world on a single platform so that their voices are heard and more support is provided for better treatment options for the people affected with rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases (RMDs).
- The theme for World Arthritis day 2022 is "It's in your hands, take action". The theme aims to encourage people with arthritis, their caregivers, families, and the general public so that they don't feel that they are alone in this situation.
- World Arthritis day (WAD) plays a major role in encouraging people, medical organizations, and governments across the world to participate in the campaign to spread awareness.
- World arthritis day (WAD) was established by Arthritis and Rheumatism International (ARI). The first event for World Arthritis day was organized on 12 October 1996.

International Day of the Girl Child 2022: 11th October

- International Day of the Girl Child is observed on October 11 to raise awareness about the importance and potential girls hold as the future of our society. In 2022, we commemorate the 10th anniversary of the International Day of the Girl (IDG). The International Day of the Girl Child focuses attention on the need to address the challenges girls face and to promote girls' empowerment and the fulfilment of their human rights.
- This year's theme for the International Day of the Girl Child is "Our time is now—our rights, our future". The focus is on the multitude of challenges put in front of girls' path to reach their potential. This has been made worse by the ongoing crises of climate change, COVID-

19 and humanitarian conflict around the globe. Girls struggle with issues related to their education, their physical and mental wellness, and leading a life without violence.

World Mental Health Day 2022: 10th October

- World Mental Health Day is observed on October 10 every year. On this day, various programs are designed to draw attention to mental health issues and their effects on those affected and the lives of their caregivers. In India, World Mental Health Day is marked on the final day of the Mental Health Awareness Campaign Week campaign, launched last year by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- The theme or rather the slogan for 2022's celebration of World Mental health Day is "Make mental health & well-being for all a global priority." World Health Organisation (WHO) mentions that before the COVID-19 pandemic, about one in eight people worldwide suffered from mental issues. Proper infrastructural and economic support for mental health, however, was lacking. The global pandemic raised mental stress for people all over the world. Lives were left permanently altered by the virus. Recent armed conflicts between nations and religious violence have added to this stress.

World Post Day 2022: 9th October

- World Post Day is celebrated each year on 9 October, the anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union in 1874 in the Swiss Capital, Bern. This day celebrates the role of the post in people's and businesses' everyday lives. It was declared World Post Day by the UPU Congress held in Tokyo, Japan in 1969. Since then, countries across the world participate annually in the celebrations. The Posts in many countries use the event to introduce or promote new postal products and services.
- The theme for World Post Day 2022 is 'Post for Planet'. The Post is the world's largest logistics network. Every year, more than 150 countries celebrate World Post Day in a variety of ways. In certain countries, World Post Day is observed as a working holiday.

Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Day 2022: 9th October

- On 9 October 1946, the Indian government established the Indian Foreign Service for India's diplomatic, consular and commercial representation overseas. Indian Foreign Service (IFS) will grow from strength to strength in the coming years and will help advance India's interests globally, said External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar as he greeted the members of foreign service on the IFS Day 2022. The history of the Service and this day goes back to September 1946, when, on the eve of India's Independence, the Government of India decided to create a service called the Indian Foreign Service for India's diplomatic, consular and commercial representation overseas.
- According to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the origin of the Indian Foreign Service can be traced back to British rule when the Foreign Department was created to conduct business with the "Foreign European Powers". Subsequently known as the "Indian Foreign Department", it went ahead with the expansion of diplomatic representation, wherever necessary, to protect British interests, the MEA said.

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd Observed Cyber Jaagrukta Diwas

- To create cybersecurity awareness among all employees, Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) observed the “Cyber Jaagrukta Diwas”. On this occasion, Shri Alok Kumar, Information Security Consultant, AKS IT Services, shared his insights with IREDA employees on the practice of cyber hygiene.
- Cyber Jaagrukta Diwas is an initiative launched by the Ministry of Home Affairs that requires all government organizations to spread cybersecurity awareness. It is observed on first Wednesday of every month. The purpose is to create awareness and sensitize the Internet users on safeguarding against cyber frauds and cybercrimes.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has requested all offices/branches/sections, PSUs, etc., to observe Cyber Jagrookta (Awareness) Diwas on the first Wednesday of every month and prepare an Annual Action Plan in this regard.

World Migratory Bird Day 2022: 8th October

- Since its creation in 2006, World Migratory Bird Day has been commemorated twice a year. It is supposed to be celebrated on the second Saturday of May and the second Saturday of October. This year, it was previously celebrated on 14 May and for the second time, the world marks this day again today, 8 October. At least 4,000 different bird species travel long distances, making up about 40% of the world’s bird population. The purpose of World Migratory Bird Day is to increase public awareness on the issues migrating birds encounter, their ecological importance, and the need for global cooperation to safeguard them. They migrate in search of food. Twice a year, these birds spend the winter in warmer regions before coming home to reproduce.

Indian Air Force raising day 2022: 8th October

- Indian Air Force was raised on October 8, 1932, and it is completing 90 years today. The day and its observance is a matter of pride for Indians and inspire a patriotic zeal among the citizenry for the air arm of the Indian Armed Forces. The President of India is the Commander-in-chief of the IAF. This time Air Force Day flypast is scheduled to take place over Sukhna Lake in Chandigarh this afternoon.
- In a historic first, the parade and fly-past of Air Force day have been moved out of the national capital region by the Indian Air Force. President Draupadi Murmu and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will be present on this occasion. Indian Air Force was officially established on 8 October 1932 by the British Empire as the Royal Indian Air Force. The name was changed to Indian Air Force in 1950. This time 75 aircrafts will participate in the flypast, while 9 aircrafts will be kept on standby mode. The light combat helicopter LCH which were recently inducted in the IAF will also showcase its air capabilities in the sky at Sukhna lake. Tejas, Sukhoi, MIG -29, Jaguar, Rafale, and Hawk will also be part of fly past.

World Teachers’ Day 2022: 5th October

- World Teachers’ Day or International Teachers’ Day is observed every year on October 5. This is a day to celebrate, thank and honour teachers for their contributions to their students. On this day, many also come together and organise meetings, conferences and

such to identify problems being faced by teachers of the country as well as globally and find solutions to those issues.

- This year marks the 28th anniversary of World Teachers' Day and the theme is "The Transformation of Education Begins with Teachers".

Breast Cancer Awareness Month 2022: 01st to 31st October: Theme & History

- Every year Breast Cancer Awareness Month (BCAM) is observed in the month of October, from 01 to 31. The annual international health campaign aims to increase awareness of the disease and to raise funds for research into its cause, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and cure. The pink ribbon is an international symbol of breast cancer awareness.
- An annual campaign to raise awareness of this complex disease and fund research into its causes, treatment, and cure. Since 1985, individuals, businesses, and communities have come together every October to show their support for the many people affected by breast cancer. Breast Cancer Awareness Month can be a time to reflect, give back, or even celebrate.
- Breast Cancer Awareness Month, held in October every year, was created in 1985, and founded by the American Cancer Society and the Imperial Chemical Industries Pharmaceuticals (later part of AstraZeneca).

World Habitat Day 2022: 3rd October

- The United Nations observes the first Monday of October as World Habitat Day. This year, World Habitat Day will be observed on October 3. The day calls to reflect on our towns, cities, and the basic right of all to have adequate shelter. It serves as a reminder that we can shape the future of the place we live in.
- This year's theme is "Mind the Gap. Leave No One and Place Behind". The focus is on the growing inequalities and challenges in cities and human settlements. These are the problems that have been aggravated due to what the UN calls triple Cs: Coronavirus (COVID-19), Climate, and Crisis. These triple Cs have hampered the progress made against poverty. The UN calls tackling urban poverty and inequality an "urgent global priority". They have called for local actions toward Sustainable Development Goals.

About United Nations (UN):

Founded: 24 October 1945, San Francisco, California, United States

Headquarters: New York, United States

Secretary General: António Guterres

Swachh Bharat Diwas 2022 : 3rd October

- Department of Drinking water and sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti celebrated Swachh Bharat Diwas (SBD) on 2nd October 2022. The Swachh Bharat Diwas is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The Swachh Bharat Diwas is inspired by one of the quotes of the father of the nation, "Cleanliness is next to godliness".
- Swachh Bharat Mission draws its strength from the people who made it into a Jan Andolan ensuring Sampoorna Swachhta or complete sanitation.
- The Swachh Bharat Diwas was a day-long event which was organized by the Department at Vigyan Bhawan.

- The DDWA implemented two flagship central government programs, the Swacch Bharat Mission and the Jal Jeevan Mission.
- During the event, the President of India was presented with the Swacch Survekshan Grameen 2022 report by Union Kal Shakti Minister.
- The department also launched two campaigns, one was Retrofit to Twin Pit Abhiyan and the other one is Swacch Jal se Suraksha.

World Vegetarian Day 2022: 01st October

- World Vegetarian Day is celebrated on the first day of October. It also kickstarts Vegetarian Awareness Month. This global day of advocacy and awareness celebrates the benefits of vegetarianism and encourages people to reduce their consumption of animal products. The day is commemorated to create awareness about the benefits of vegetarianism like reducing the risks of heart diseases and other health complications.
- The primary aim of the day is to create awareness about the multiple advantages of vegetarianism and support networks for vegetarians across the world. Animal slaughter on large scale requires a lot of water and other limited resources. The process emits methane and other greenhouse gases which are a big burden on the degrading environmental situation.
- World Vegetarian Day was established in the year 1977 by the North American Vegetarian Society (NAVS) to highlight the surfeit of benefits of vegetarianism, including saving the lives of animals. Following this, in the year 1978, it was endorsed by the International Vegetarian Union. Since then, every year on October 1, people celebrate the day all across the world.

About International Vegetarian Union:

Founded: 1908, Dresden, Germany

Chair : Marly Winckler

SUMMITS AND MOU'S

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan signs MoU with FIFA and AIFF for implementing Football4Schools initiative in India

- Union Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, on behalf of the Ministry of Education signed an MoU in Mumbai today with FIFA and All India Football Federation for the 'Football4Schools' initiative in India. FIFA President, Mr. Gianni Infantino and President, All India Football Federation, Shri Kalyan Chaubey signed the MoU on behalf of respective organizations. Minister of State, Ministry of Home Affairs and Youth Affairs & Sports, Shri Nisith Pramanik; Minister for School Education and Marathi Language- Maharashtra Shri Deepak Kesarkar; Commissioner, Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti Shri Vinayak Garg & officials of All India Football Federation were also present on the occasion.
- Speaking on the occasion, Shri Pradhan said that sports has been given a place of pride in NEP 2020 and the Football 4 Schools program espouses the spirit of NEP2020. Sports has been given a place of pride in NEP 2020. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has laid emphasis on mainstreaming of sports with education and Football4Schools program is a step towards translating Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of making sports as a way of life as well as creating well-rounded citizens, he further added.

Dehradun to host national meet on integration of traditional science with modern tech

- The “Akash for Life” a 3-day space conference will showcase the blending of traditional and modern knowledge through an extended integration of all schools of thought. The decision was taken by the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science and Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, and Dr. Jitendra Singh. The event is scheduled to be held at Dehradun from 5th November to 7th November 2022.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has called for the integration of science and technological development within society in a way that places science in a position to address the needs of the common citizen.
- The curtain raiser event was felicitated by Principal Scientific Advisor, Prof Ajay Kumar Sood, Chairman ISRO, S.Somnath, Secretary Science & Technology, Dr. S Chandrashekhkar, Secretary, Earth Sciences, Dr. M Ravichandran, Secretary Biotechnology, Dr. Rajesh S Gokhale and DG CSIR Dr. N. Kalaiselvi.

Zee-Sony merger: both parties agree on selling 3 Hindi channels to address anti-competition concerns

- Sony and Zee media groups have voluntarily agreed to sell their three Hindi Channels- Big Magic, Zee Action, and Zee Classic to address possible anti-competition concerns arising out of their proposed mega-merger deal. Sony and Zee have submitted their proposals to the Competition Commission of India (CCI). They have issued a 58-page long detailed order which informs that the two groups have agreed to divest Big Magic, which is a Hindi general entertainment channel, as well as Zee Action and Zee Classic.
- The two media groups, Sony and Zee, have voluntarily agreed to the modification to the proposed deals after CCI’s prima-facie opinion.
- Deals beyond a certain threshold compulsory require the approval of CCI, which seeks to ensure fair competition in the marketplace.

Tata steel's Dutch arm signs MOU to supply Ford with green steel

- Tata Steel’s Dutch arm plans to supply Ford plants in Europe with “green” steel after 2030, under a preliminary agreement reached by the two companies on Tuesday.
- Tata plans to start producing green steel — or steel made without using fossil fuels — in 2030 at its plant in IJmuiden, Netherlands.
- The Memorandum of Understanding signed between Tata and Ford of Europe does not oblige Ford to buy a specified amount of steel at a specified price.
- Separately, Ford said it had also signed supply MoUs with Tata, ThyssenKrupp and Salzgitter to supply “low carbon” steel for use in manufacturing the new electric crossover model it plans to start producing in Cologne next year.
- Ford said in a statement that the agreements would help it meet a target of having zero emissions at its European facilities, logistics and suppliers by 2035.

14th Edition of World Spice Congress to be held in Mumbai

- The 14th World Spice Congress will take place in the CIDCO Exhibition and Convention Centre in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra, from February 16 to 18, 2023. Spices Board India in conjunction with a number of trade and export forums is hosting the World Spice Congress during India's G20 presidency.
- The 14th edition of the World Spice Congress (WSC) is going to be all about and only about 'SPICES,' after announcing the subject. Vision 2030: SPICES (Sustainability- Productivity- Innovation- Collaboration- Excellence and Safety) has been selected as the subject for the current World Spice Congress (WSC).
- Over a thousand delegates from more than fifty nations are anticipated to attend the 14th WSC.
- Regulatory authorities from significant importing nations, ministers of trade, and industry associations from G20 member nations will all attend the event.
- The World Spice Congress (WSC) event will also host an expo showcasing the advantages and skills of the Indian spice sector in addition to the business workshops.

Bangladesh: Youth from 70 countries to take part in Global Youth Climate Summit

- Global Youth Leadership Center, an international non-profit organisation, is all set to embark on its journey from Bangladesh on October 20 with the inauguration of its first programme — the Global Youth Climate Summit. The three-day summit will be held at Ava Center in Khulna, one of Bangladesh's most climate vulnerable regions, bringing together 650 youths from 70 countries to explore how today's youth can lead the fight against climate change.
- Addressing the media in Dhaka, Ejaj Ahmad, the founder and chief executive officer of Global Youth Leadership Center, said, 'Climate change is the biggest crisis facing humanity today. To address a complex challenge like climate change, we will all have to work globally and at scale.'
- 'Our mission is to expand the youth's knowledge about climate science, equip them with leadership skills to take individual and collective action, and enable them to launch businesses that contribute to climate mitigation or adaptation,' he said. To empower the youth to take climate action, he said 10 delegates at the summit will receive a grant of 1,000 US dollars each to implement their climate mitigation or adaptation project.

UNDP partners Arya.ag, FWWB India to strengthen value chain in agriculture, allied sectors

- Project Excel is being implemented in the Gujarati districts of Jamnagar and Dwaraka Devbhumi by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with the integrated grain commerce platform Arya.ag and Friends of Women's World Banking India (FWWB India). It aims to increase the incomes of 10,000 farmer households through the promotion of small businesses, intervention in the agri-value chain, and skill development in the agricultural industry.
- By December 2023, the collaboration for Project Excel hopes to have assembled a team of community resource people who will support, encourage, and coach local business owners.
- A team of sourcing managers will be assembled as part of the project to undertake value chain interventions and create credit and market links through collectivization.

- Arya.ag will work to create farmer collectives for efficient post-harvest management and create the producer group's agriculture value chain.

ICC to promote gender equality in tie-up with UNICEF

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) and UNICEF have launched a global partnership to empower women and girls and promote inclusion and gender equality through cricket. The initiatives to drive greater gender equity along with advocacy campaigns involving some of the world's best players will form the basis of the partnership, which aims to mobilise the "power of cricket to driving positive social change".
- UNICEF and ICC will also launch 'Criio 4 Good', a cricket-for-development curriculum giving girls and boys the opportunity to have a fun first experience of the game whilst learning gender-based life-skills essential for gender equity.
- The Criio 4 Good programme will be an eight-week lesson plan on the fundamentals of batting, bowling and fielding. Each lesson plan has a life-skill module attached to teach participants core life skills that will promote greater gender equity.
- These skills include leadership, problem-solving, self-esteem, negotiation, empathy, decision-making, teamwork and goal-setting.

About ICC:

Founded: 15 June 1909;

Chairman: Greg Barclay

CEO: Geoff Allardice

Headquarters: Dubai, United Arab Emirates

About UNICEF:

Founded: 1946

Headquarters: New York City, USA

Director General: Catherine M. Russell

Membership: 192

Tata Power, 75F Smart Innovations partner for energy-efficiency solutions

- Tata Power Trading Company (TPTCL) has signed an agreement with 75F Smart Innovation India to jointly promote automation and energy efficiency solutions in the commercial building space. This will include industry verticals like IT/ITeS, BFSI hospitality, healthcare, education, government, and retail.
- The collaboration of TPTCL and 75F will offer solutions in the space of HVAC optimization and smart building automation powered by the finest technology like cloud, IoT, and AI.
- The solutions by a collaboration of TPTCL and 75F will help commercial buildings with centrally air-conditioned spaces attain assured savings in their HVAC energy consumption.
- TPTCL holds a category-I trading license and is engaged in the business of energy sourcing, trading, and energy efficiency services.

MWCD to organize National Conference on Skilling in Non- Traditional Livelihood for Girls "Betiyane Kushal"

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) is set to organize a National Conference on skilling in Non-traditional Livelihood (NTL) for girls. The program is named

“Betiyon Bane Kushal”, under the banner of Beti Bachao Beti Padhao on the occasion of the International Day of the Girl Child on 11th October 2022.

- The conference will emphasize convergence between ministries and departments to ensure that girls build their skills in a diverse set of platforms.
- The set of professions includes science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).
- The event will witness the signing of MoUs with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and the Ministry of Minority Affairs for the Skilling of young girls.

Aviation Minister inaugurates 4th Heli-India Summit 2022

- Minister of Civil Aviation Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia inaugurated the 4th Heli-India Summit 2022. The civil enclave will be built in Jammu for Rs 861 crore and Srinagar's present terminal will be expanded three times from 20,000 square meters to 60,000 square meters for Rs 1500 crores.
- The 4th Heli-India Summit 2022 is inaugurated with the theme of 'Helicopters for Last Mile Connectivity' at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre, Srinagar in the presence of Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir Major Singh.
- During the summit Scindia highlighted the decrease in VAT on Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) from 26.5 percent.
- The Jammu and Kashmir government has set a new project for air connectivity in the Union Territory with a 360 percent increase in refueling, increasing the air connectivity to Jammu and Kashmir.
- From 1947 to 2014, India had only 74 airports, but today there are 141 airports with 67 added in the last seven years according to the Civil Aviation Minister.

PM addresses United Nations World Geospatial International Congress

- Addressing the Second United Nations World Geospatial International Congress via video message, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that steps taken by India over the past few years has been of empowering the “last person at the last mile”, reflecting the theme of this year's conference — ‘Geo-Enabling the Global Village: No one should be left behind’.
- Welcoming the international delegates to India, the Prime Minister said, “We have been working on a vision of Antyodaya which means empowering the last person at the last mile, in a mission mode. 450-million unbanked people, a population greater than that of USA, were brought under banking net and 135-million people, about twice the population of France, were given insurance. Sanitation facilities were taken to 110-million families and tap water connections to over 60-million households. India is ensuring no one is left behind.”

India to host UNSC members for special meeting on counterterrorism on October 28, 29

- India will host diplomats of the United Nations Security Council along with other member states for a key meeting of counterterrorism Committee in Mumbai and New Delhi on October 28-29.
- India is currently the Chair of the UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee for the year 2022.

- During a press conference on Saturday in New York, India's Permanent Representative to the UN Ruchira Kamboj said that UN CTC members will pay homage to the victims of horrific 26/11 terror attacks in Mumbai.
- She also said that the special meeting of the UNSC CTC on "Countering the Use of New and Emerging Technologies for Terrorist Purposes" will be held on October 28 and in New Delhi on October 29.

India - New Zealand Navies sign White Shipping pact

- The Royal New Zealand navy and the Indian navy have signed a contract on the exchange of White Shipping Information Exchange. Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral R. Hari Kumar and New Zealand Navy Chief Rear Admiral David Proctor signed the contract. In order to encourage more openness in the Maritime Domain, the agreement was signed.
- From September 29 to October 1, 2022, CNS Admiral Hari Kumar was in New Zealand. According to the Ministry of Defence, "during the visit, an agreement on White Shipping Information Exchange was inked.
- The convergence viewpoints of both nations to encourage more openness in the maritime domain support closer collaboration for improving common maritime domain awareness.
- The communication of previous knowledge regarding the location and identification of commercial, non-military merchant boats is known as the White Shipping Information.

National Payments Corporation of India and Central Bank of Oman signed a historic MoU

- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Central Financial institution Of Oman signed a historic MoU to launch the Rupay debit card in Oman, paving the best way for a brand new period of monetary connectivity.
- Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan witnessed the signing of the MoU and met Tahir Al Amri, Govt President, Central Financial institution of Oman. MoS Muraleedharan arrived within the capital metropolis of Oman, Muscat for a two-day go to to deepen ties between each nations. Terming the MoU as a brand new milestone in bilateral relations, Minister of State for Exterior Affairs V. Muraleedharan tweeted, "Blissful to satisfy with H.E. Tahir Al Amri, Govt President, Central Financial institution of Oman & witness signing of the historic MOU between CBO and NPCI to launch the Rupay debit card in Oman, paving the best way for a brand new period of monetary connectivity."

India participates at 3rd G20 Sherpa meeting in Indonesia

- India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant led an official delegation to the third G20 Sherpa meeting held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia from 26th to 29th of September. During the deliberations, Mr Kant reaffirmed India's commitment and active support to Indonesian Presidency's efforts to finalize meaningful outcomes for the forthcoming G20 Bali Summit in November. He also emphasized the need for G20 to bring enhanced global focus on and strengthen international cooperation and efforts in key priority areas such as sustainable growth, accelerated progress on SDGs, and addressing climate change.
- On the sidelines of the G20 Sherpa meeting, Mr. Amitabh Kant also held bilateral interactions with his visiting Sherpa counterparts from Brazil, France, Germany, Japan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Spain, UK and US.

About Indonesia:

Currency: Indonesian rupiah

Capital: Jakarta

President: Joko Widodo

Minister of State for Culture Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal to attend UNESCO-MONDIACULT 2022 World Conference in Mexico

- The Indian delegation headed by the Minister of State for Culture Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal represented at UNESCO-MONDIACULT 2022 World Conference held at Mexico City during 28th-30th September, 2022. The Minister addressed the conference on burning issues and concerns of the Cultural sector policies. In the conference, Culture Ministers of more than 100 countries participated on this multilateral forum to decide on the global cultural discourse.
- The UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development-MONDIACULT 2022 is convened by UNESCO forty years after the first Mondiacult World Conference on Cultural Policies, held in Mexico City (Mexico) in 1982, and 24 years after the UNESCO World Conference on Cultural Policies for Development held in Stockholm (Sweden) in 1998. This is the third such conference.

About UNESCO:

Headquarters: Paris, France

Founded: 16 November 1945, London, United Kingdom

Parent organization: United Nations

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

SS Rajamouli's RRR wins Best International Film honour at Saturn Awards 2022

- The ace filmmaker SS Rajamouli's, which recently hit the screens in Japan, has won its first major international honour. The biggie won the 'Best International Film' honour at the Saturn Awards 2022, which were held in Los Angeles. RRR is a period drama which features Jr NTR and Ram Charan as the parallel leads. RRR, which grossed nearly Rs 1,200 crore at the worldwide box office, has bagged its first major international honour.
- SS Rajamouli's magnum opus bagged the award for 'Best International Film' at the Saturn Awards 2022. RRR beat titles like Downton Abbey: A New Era, Eiffel, I'm Your Man, Riders of Justice, and Silent Night to take home the award for the best international film at the 2022 awards.

NISA bags prestigious Union HM's Trophy

- National Industrial Security Academy (NISA), at Hakimpet, Hyderabad has bagged the Union Home Minister's Trophy for the "Best Police Training Institution for Training of Gazetted Officers for the year 2020-21". This extraordinary feat for this Academy was achieved during the serving period of the current Commissioner of Police (CP) Hyderabad, CV Anand, who was the previous Director of the Academy during the year under contention.
- Ministry of Home Affairs conducts a national-level screening of various central police training institutes and accordingly BPR&D conducts a survey for the best Police Training

Institution for the year. All central and state government police training academies of the country are in consideration in various categories.

- The National Industrial Security Academy of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) is a premier national-level central training institute imparting training in Industrial Security Management, Disaster Management, and Aviation Security to officers of the CISF, sister organizations of CAPFs, state police organizations, foreign police organizations, civil servants and officers of public sector undertaking.

The Ukrainian people awarded the European Parliament's 2022 Sakharov Prize

- The European Parliament has awarded the people of Ukraine its annual Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought to honour their fight against Russia's invasion. European Parliament President Roberta Metsola announced the 2022 laureate in the Strasbourg plenary chamber, following a decision by Parliament's Conference of Presidents (the President and political group leaders).
- The award comes with prize money of 50,000 euros (\$49,100), which will be distributed to representatives of Ukrainian civil society. The prize, named after the late Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov, has been awarded annually since 1988 to individuals and organizations defending human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- The Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought is awarded each year by the European Parliament. It was set up in 1988 to honour individuals and organisations defending human rights and fundamental freedoms. It is named in honour of Soviet physicist and political dissident Andrei Sakharov and the prize money is 50 000 euros.

Karnataka Bank wins digital transformation award

- Karnataka Bank has bagged the National Digital Transformation Awards, "DX 2022 Awards" instituted by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for best practices in digital transformation under the BFSI segment. The awards in recognition of the "Innovative Excellence" in 'KBL HR NxT – Employee Engagement', 'KBL Operations NxT – Operational Excellence' and 'KBL Customer NxT – Customer Experience' were presented to senior executives of the bank at New Delhi.
- KBL NxT concept was launched in 2021 under KBL Vikas 2.0 focusing on digitisation of its various verticals, including operations, human resources, customer experience, digital marketing etc.
- In 2017, KBL launched its Transformation Journey 'KBL Vikaas', partnering with the Boston Consulting Group (India) Private Ltd, (BCG) in Mangaluru, Karnataka.
- In 2021, KBL launched the 'KBL NxT' concept to emerge as the 'digital bank of the future'.

Hyderabad Haleem wins 'Most Popular GI' food award

- Telangana's Hyderabad Haleem has won the 'Most Popular GI' award after beating other food items including Rasgulla, Bikaneri Bhujia, and Ratlami Sev. In a rigid competition with more than 15 food items across the country with Geographical Indication (GI) status, the famous Hyderabad Haleem has bagged the 'Most Popular GI' award.
- GI tag is given to products to ensure that authorised users can only use the popular product name. For the first time, GI status was accorded to Hyderabad Haleem in 2010. It expired in

December 2019. However, later, the registrar of Geographical Indicator renewed the tag for the dish for 10 years.

- Other Telangana items that were accorded GI tag include Nirmal toys and crafts, Nirmal furniture, Nirmal Paintings, Gadwal sari, and Banaganapalle Mangoes.

Sri-Lankan author Shehan Karunatilaka bags Booker Prize 2022 for his magnum opus 'The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida'

- Sri Lankan author, Shehan Karunatilaka has won Britain's Booker Prize 2022 for fiction for his work "The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida", about a journalist murdered amid the country's sectarian strife. The judges praised the "ambition of its scope, and the hilarious audacity of its narrative techniques". Karunatilaka's second novel, The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida comes more than a decade after his debut, Chinaman, which was published in 2011.
- Neil MacGregor, chair of the judges for this year's prize, said the novel was chosen because "it's a book that takes the reader on a rollercoaster journey through life and death right to what the author describes as the dark heart of the world".
- Karunatilaka, 47, is the second Sri Lankan to win the award, following Michael Ondaatje's victory in 1992 for "The English Patient". Aside from the £50,000 (\$56,000) prize, winning the Booker can provide a career-changing boost in sales and public profile.

Hyderabad wins 'World Green City award' at South Korea

- The city of Hyderabad, Telangana, has been honoured as the Grand winner of the AIPH (International Association of Horticultural Producers) World Green City Awards 2022, the most prestigious award of the Inaugural AIPH World Green City awards (2022 edition), for its initiative titled "Green Garland to the State of Telangana". Hyderabad also won the award under the 'Living Green for Economic Recovery and Inclusive Growth' category.
- Hyderabad has been awarded for its initiatives relying on greater use of plants and nature to create better city environments and helps fulfil local aspirations for improved economic, social and environmental resilience.
- The award acknowledged Telangana's programme of 'Telangana Ku Haritha Haram's large-scale tree-planting program taken up from 2015--2016.
- The program aims to increase the tree cover of the state from 24% to 33% of total area of the state.
- AIPH World Green City awards (2022 edition) are the world's first Green City awards. AIPH announced the 6 Category Winners and the Grand Winner during the award ceremony that took place at the gala dinner at the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Leaders Forum in Jeju Province of the Republic of Korea(South Korea) on 14th October 2022.

Badminton legend Prakash Padukone presented with SJFI Medal

- The Sports Journalists' Federation of India medal (SJFI medal) for 2019 was presented to badminton legendary star Prakash Padukone during a cordial ceremony at the Karnataka State Cricket Association. Vijay Amritraj was the inaugural recipient of the award, which was established in 2018. The COVID-19 outbreak caused a delay in the 2019 award ceremony.

- In his remarks, Prakash Padukone discussed how badminton rose to become the “second most popular sport” in India. The award was created in 2018, and Vijay Amritraj was its first winner.
- The 2019 award presentation was postponed because to the COVID-19 epidemic.
- Cricket legend G.R. Viswanath was among those in attendance to honour the 1980 All England winner.

Winners of the YSR Lifetime Achievement Awards announced

- The State Formation Day, November 1, will mark the presentation of the YSR Lifetime Achievement and YSR Achievement-2022 Awards, according to the State government. Reporters in Guntur were informed on Friday that the High Power Steering Committee’s suggested awards had been authorised by the Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy.
- When describing the prizes, he added that the honorees were chosen with the highest priority for their ability to affect society and leave a lasting impression via their abilities and talents in a variety of sectors.
- The Dr. YSR Achievement Award comes with a cash award of Rs. 5 lakh, a souvenir, and a commendation letter, while the Dr. YSR Lifetime Achievement Award comes with a cash prize of Rs. 10 lakh, a bronze figurine of Dr. YSR, and these items.
- Mr. Krishna Mohan, who announced the winners, noted that all of the honorees were regular people who had made exceptional contributions to their respective fields, which included rural development, agriculture, culture, fine arts, and traditions.

Angela Merkel to receive UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award for protecting refugees at height of Syria crisis

- Former German chancellor Angela Merkel won the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) prestigious Nansen award for her “leadership, courage and compassion” in ensuring the protection of hundreds of thousands of desperate people at the height of the Syria crisis. Dr. Angela Merkel is the 2022 Nansen Award global laureate for her political courage, compassion and decisive action as Federal Chancellor of Germany to protect people forced to flee.
- The year 2022 marked a century (100 years) since Fridtjof Nansen was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1922. It is also 100 years since the creation of the Nansen passport, an identity document for refugees that enabled its holders to move across borders in search of work.
- The Nansen Award 2022 regional winner for Africa was given to The Mbera Fire Brigade, an all-volunteer firefighting group in Mauritania led by Ahmedou Ag Albohary.
- The award for the Americas went to Vicenta González, a women’s rights advocate and activist whose cacao cooperative in Costa Rica empowers local and asylum-seeking women.

Nobel Prize in Chemistry jointly awarded to one Danish and two American scientists

- The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2022 was awarded jointly to Carolyn R. Bertozzi, Morten Meldal and K. Barry Sharpless “for the development of click chemistry and bioorthogonal chemistry” at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in Stockholm. The three have been awarded for their work in ‘click chemistry’, in which molecules snap together fast and firmly,

without the need for a long, complicated process and too many unwanted byproducts. Their work has applications in the field of medical science, including the treatment of cancer. Bertozzi is based at Stanford University in California, Sharpless with Scripps Research, California, and Meldal is at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

- Notably: The Nobel prizes carry a cash award of 10 million Swedish kronor (nearly \$900,000) and will be handed out on December 10.

Pune IITM scientist Roxy Koll receives 2022 Devendra Lal Memorial Medal

- Roxy Mathew Koll, a scientist at the Pune-based Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), received the American Geophysical Union's (AGU) 2022 Devendra Lal Memorial Medal. Koll was selected for his outstanding research in Earth and space sciences. He will also be conferred as a Fellow of the AGU. AGU is a non-profit organisation that annually recognises a select number of individuals as part of its honours and recognition programme in Earth and space sciences.
- The medal is named in honour of professor Devendra Lal, a distinguished geophysicist whose work spanned diverse areas of the Earth and space sciences. He is best known for his role in founding and developing the field in which cosmic rays produced isotopes on Earth are used as tracers to investigate a wide range of Earth science problems.

Winners of the 'Valley of Words' Book Awards Announced

- Anees Salim's *The Odd Book of Baby Names* (English fiction) and Rudrangshu Mukherjee's *Tagore & Gandhi: Walking Alone, Walking Together* (English non-fiction) were among the eight that were adjudged the best books of the year at the 'Valley of Words Book Awards'. The PFC-VoW Book Awards, currently in its sixth edition, is considered one of the most comprehensive independent literary award programmes in India.

The total listing of the PFC-VoW E-book Award winners 2022-

1. English fiction: *The Odd E-book of Child Names* by Anees Salim (Penguin Random Home)
2. English non-fiction: *Tagore & Gandhi: Strolling Alone, Strolling Collectively* by Rudrangshu Mukherjee (Aleph E-book Firm)
3. Hindi fiction: *Khela* by Neelakshi Singh (Setu Publications)
4. Hindi non-fiction: *Jeete Ji Allahabad* by Mamta Kalia (Rajkamal Prakashan)
5. Writings for younger adults: *Savi and the Reminiscence Keeper* by Bijal Vachharajani (Hachette)
6. Writings/image books for kids: *Aai and I* by Mamta Nainy (Pickle Yolk Books)
7. Translation to Hindi: *Yaadon Ke Bikhre Moti: Batware ki Kahaniyan* by Aanchal Malhotra, translated by Brig Kamal Nayan Pandit (HarperCollins)
8. Translation to English: *Amader Shantiniketan* by Shivani, translated by Ira Pande (Penguin Random Home)

Swedish scientist Svante Paabo wins Nobel Prize in medicine

- The Nobel Prizes 2022 for medicine or physiology was awarded to Swedish geneticist Svante Pääbo. Svante Pääbo was given the award "for his discoveries concerning the genomes of extinct hominins and human evolution," the Nobel Prize committee. Considered the most

prestigious prize in the scientific world, it is awarded by the Nobel Assembly of Sweden's Karolinska Institute and is worth 10 million Swedish crowns (\$900,357).

- Through his pioneering research, Svante Pääbo accomplished something seemingly impossible: sequencing the genome of the Neanderthal, an extinct relative of present-day humans. He also made the sensational discovery of a previously unknown hominin, Denisova. Importantly, Pääbo also found that gene transfer had occurred from these now extinct hominins to Homo sapiens following the migration out of Africa around 70,000 years ago. This ancient flow of genes to present-day humans has physiological relevance today, for example affecting how our immune system reacts to infections.

About Nobel Prize:

Ceremony date: 10 December 2022

First awarded: 1901; 121 years ago

About Sweden:

Capital: Stockholm

Currency: Swedish krona

Prime Minister : Magdalena Andersson

Dr. Madhav Hada to be awarded 32nd Bihari Puraskar

- Writer Dr Madhav Hada will be awarded the 32nd Bihari Puraskar for his 2015 literary criticism book 'Pachrang Chola Pahar Sakhi Ri', the KK Birla Foundation announced. A literary critic and academic, Hada has written extensively on literature, media, culture and history. He has also been a member of the general council of the Sahitya Akademi and the Hindi Advisory Board. He has been a recipient of the Bhartendu Harishchandra Award for Media Studies and the Devraj Upadhyay Award for Literary Criticism.
- Hada's book 'Pachrang Chola Pahar Sakhi Ri' focuses on the life of medieval devotee poet Meera. In his book, Hada explores the processes of Meera's image formation.

RANKING

BPCL recognized as India's most sustainable Oil and Gas Company in the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices 2022

- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), 'Maharatna' and a Fortune Global 500 Company has once again achieved the No.1 rank in the Indian oil and gas sector for its sustainability performance in the 2022 edition of the S&P Dow Jones Sustainability Indices (DJSI) Corporate Sustainability Assessment (CSA) rankings. This is the 3rd consecutive year that BPCL is at the top of the DJSI Indices in India having achieved a score of 65 percentage points, against an industry average score of 31 which is far better than last year's score of 59 against an industry average score of 39 on DJSI platform.
- This benchmarking is a complete assessment of economic, environmental and social criteria with a strong focus on long-term shareholder value.
- BPCL is creating a vibrant ecosystem for green energy transition and realize its aspirations for achieving Net-Zero emissions.

About Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited

Chairman: Arun Kumar Singh;

Headquarters: Mumbai;

Founded: 1952.

Indian Bank rolls out a slew of digital initiatives

- PSU lender Indian Bank has launched several digital initiatives under “Project WAVE” in a bid to enhance the customer experience through integrated services on its digital platform. Six digital initiatives were launched by the SL Jain, MD and CEO, Indian Bank, along with Sharad Mathur, MD & CEO, of Universal Sampo General Insurance Co.
- Indian Bank along with Universal Sampo General Insurance will provide online vehicle and health insurance through its mobile banking app IndoASIS.
- This digital collaboration would enable the bank’s customers to access and buy general insurance products digitally, anytime, anywhere, thus augmenting the insurance inclusion in India, it said in a statement.
- Under the co-lending arrangement, Indian Bank has partnered with Rupeek Capital Pvt. Ltd, to offer jewel loans at customer doorsteps. The entire gold loan journey will be through digital platform and not require any physical visit to the bank branch by the customer.

About Indian Bank:

CEO: Shri Shanti Lal Jain

Founded: 15 August 1907

Headquarters: Chennai

NSO Released the Employment Outlook of the India

- The National Statistical Office (NSO), under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, released a press note on Employment Outlook of the country covering the period September, 2017 to June, 2022. This data is based on the administrative records available with selected government agencies to assess the progress in certain dimensions, the release stated.
- Since April, 2018 this ministry has been bringing out the employment related statistics in the formal sector covering the period September 2017 onwards, using information on the number of subscribers who have subscribed under three major schemes, namely the Employees’ Provident Fund (EPF) Scheme, the Employees’ State Insurance (ESI) Scheme and the National Pension Scheme (NPS).
- The numbers of subscribers are from various sources and there are elements of overlap. Therefore, the estimates from various sources are not additive. Detailed information is separately published on the respective organisational websites for the period September, 2017 to June, 2022.

In Charts: India ranks third in rise of super rich, set to overtake China by 2032

- With levels of poverty, inflation and hunger notwithstanding, India ranks third in the world’s first-ever global study on the rise of centi-millionaires — individuals with assets of more than Rs 830 crore (\$100 million), a new report has revealed.
- Out of the world’s 25,490 centi-millionaires, India has 1,132, beating countries like the UK, Russia and Switzerland, in a swift growing and powerful class of super-rich tech titans, financiers, multinational CEOs, and heirs. By 2032, India will overtake China (number 2) as the fastest growing market for centi-millionaires, with an anticipated 80 per cent growth

rate in individuals worth over \$100 million, the report released by international investment migration advisory firm Henley & Partners stated.

- “At around 57 per cent, the growth of centi-millionaires in Asia will be twice that of Europe and the US over the next decade. Concentrated primarily in China and India, the centi-millionaires in these countries are set to eclipse their European and American peers,” said Misha Glenn, a financial journalist and author.

India ranks 41st spot out of 44 in Mercer CFS Global Pension Index

- As compared to 40th out of 43 countries in 2021, India ranked 41 out of 44 countries in the Mercer CFS Global Pension Index. The MCGPI is a comprehensive study of 44 global pension systems, accounting for 65 percent of the world’s population. The survey pointed out that the country needs to strengthen its regulatory framework and boost the coverage under private pension arrangements.
- “In the absence of social security coverage in the country, the adequacy and sustainability sub-indices can be improved significantly by boosting coverage under private pension arrangements,” the report based on the survey said.
- In 2020, India ranked 34 out of 39 countries with a value of 45.7. In 2022, the index value was 44.4.
- The index measures the pension system in the country under three sub-heads, adequacy, sustainability and integrity. India’s score in these three measurements was 33.5, 41.8 and 61 respectively.
- Globally, Iceland had the highest overall index value (84.7), closely followed by the Netherlands (84.6) and Denmark (82.0). Thailand had the lowest index value (41.7).

Reliance Jio topples BSNL to become largest fixed-line service provider in August

- Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Jio became the largest landline service provider in the country for the first time, in August. With 7.35 million landline connections as on August 31, Reliance Jio beat state-owned telecom operator and hitherto market leader BSNL’s 7.13 million connections, according to the latest data released by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai). Third-placed MTNL provided 2.6 million connections.
- The development marks a watershed moment in India’s telecom history since fixed-line or landline connections formed the final segment where a state-owned operator was in the top spot. Reliance Jio had been looking to make inroads into the segment over the past few years and launched Jio Fibre in 2019, which included both landline and fibre-based broadband services.
- Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) had earlier pointed out the declining number of landline connections in the country as a cause for concern since the same network is also used to deliver fixed-line broadband services. Largely dominated by BSNL and MTNL, the number of landline connections declined from 36.76 million in 2010 to 20.58 million in 2020.

415 Million Lifted Out Of Poverty In Last 15 Years In India: UN Report

- The number of people living below the poverty line in India decreased by 415 million between 2005-06 and 2019-21, according to a new Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)

released jointly by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) at the University of Oxford.

- The index has stated that India still has the world's highest number of poor at 228.9 million, followed by Nigeria (96.7 million projected in 2020). The report found that across 111 countries which were assessed using the most recent comparable data available, 1.2 billion people (19.1 per cent) live in acute poverty and almost half of these people (593 million) are children under the age of 18 years. The developing region with the largest number of poor people is Sub-Saharan Africa (nearly 579 million), followed by South Asia (385 million), the report highlighted.
- The MPI highlighted that the Covid-19 pandemic had set the global progress in reducing poverty back by 3–10 years. "Despite progress, India's population remains vulnerable to the mounting effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and to rising food and energy prices. Integrated policies tackling the ongoing nutritional and energy crises should be a priority," the report said.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS INDEX: Among 18 big states, Haryana best governed

- Haryana has bagged the top position in the category of big states in the Public Affairs Index-2022. The state has emerged at the forefront in social, economic and political justice themes. It has topped among the major states with a score of 0.6948, followed by Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Punjab and Karnataka among many other states.
- In PAI-2022, Sikkim has retained its position as the best-governed small state in India. The index, prepared by a Bengaluru-based non-profit think tank Public Affairs Centre (PAC), was released. In the report, economic justice was measured on indicators such as labour productivity, assurance of standard of living to wage workers, public expenditure on development, coverage of social safety net, and employment opportunities.

About International Association of Horticulture Producers (AIPH):

Secretary General: Tim Briercliffe;

Headquarters: Oxfordshire, United Kingdom (UK).

About Public Affairs Centre:

Headquarters: Bengaluru, Karnataka;

Founded: 1994.

15 states, UTs achievers in India's logistics performance index 2022

- Andhra Pradesh, Assam, and Gujarat are three of the 15 States and UTs that are categorised as achievers in the logistics index chart for 2022, according to a study released by the commerce and industry ministry. The logistics performance Index 2022 measures the effectiveness of the logistical services required to encourage exports and economic expansion.
- The other States listed in the ranking of the logistics performance index 2022 as rapid movers include Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Puducherry, Sikkim, and Tripura.
- Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Mizoram, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Ladakh, Nagaland, Jammu and Kashmir, and Arunachal Pradesh are among the 15 States and UTs rated in the aspirers category.

- Chandigarh, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand are among the other States and UTs in the achievers category.
- The logistics performance index 2022 report ranks the States according to their logistics ecosystem, highlights the major logistics-related challenges faced by the stakeholders, and includes suggestive recommendations, according to the fourth LEADS (Logistics Ease Across Different States) 2022 report, which was released by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal.

Several IITs boycott Times Higher Education World University Rankings, IISc only entry in top 300

- Times Higher Education Rankings 2023 has been announced. This year, the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore has secured the top place among Indian universities. Five Indian universities made it into the world's top 500 varsities. IISc has been placed under the 251-300 bracket. The complete list of the top 10 Indian Universities is enlisted below.
- In total, 22 Indian universities made it below rank 800 – three of which were debutant entries. DTU, Graphic Era University, IIT Indore, IIIT, Delhi, Jamia Hamdard University, JNU, Kalasalingam Academy of Research and Education, and KIIT University also have been put under the 601-800 bracket.

Check the top 10 Indian universities:

Bracket	Name of the Institute
1. 251-300	IISc
2. 351-400	JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research
3. 351-400	Shoolini University of Biotechnology and Management Sciences
4. 401-500	Alagappa University
5. 401-500	Mahatma Gandhi University
6. 501-600	IIT Ropar
7. 501-600	International Institute of Information Technology Hyderabad
8. 501-600	Jamia Millia Islamia
9. 501-600	Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences
10. 601-800	Banaras Hindu University (BHU)

Global Hunger Index 2022: India slips six places, ranked 107 of 121 countries

- India ranks 107 out of 121 countries on the Global Hunger Index in which it fares worse than all countries in South Asia barring war-torn Afghanistan. India's score of 29.1 places it in the 'serious' category. India also ranks below Sri Lanka (64), Nepal (81), Bangladesh (84), and Pakistan (99). Afghanistan (109) is the only country in South Asia that performs worse than India on the index.
- China is among the countries collectively ranked between 1 and 17 having a score of less than five. India's child wasting rate (low weight for height), at 19.3%, is worse than the levels recorded in 2014 (15.1%) and even 2000 (17.15%), and is the highest for any country in the world and drives up the region's average owing to India's large population.
- India's GHI score has decreased from a 2000 GHI score of 38.8 points, considered alarming, to a 2022 GHI score of 29.1, considered serious.

- India's proportion of undernourished in the population is considered to be at a medium level, and its under-five child mortality rate is considered low.

Rank in 2022	Country	Score
1-17	Belarus	<5
1-17	Bosnia & Herzegovina	<5
1-17	Chile	<5
1-17	China	<5
1-17	Croatia	<5
1-17	Estonia	<5
1-17	Hungary	<5
1-17	Kuwait	<5
1-17	Latvia	<5
1-17	Lithuania	<5

69% drop in wildlife population globally in 50 years: Living Planet Report 2022

- There has been a 69 per cent decline in the wildlife populations of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles and fish, across the globe in the last 50 years, according to the latest Living Planet Report by World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).
- Biodiversity loss and climate crisis should be dealt with as one instead of two different issues as they are intertwined, the international wildlife conservation organisation said in the report, highlighting the link between the two issues for the first time. The highest decline (94 per cent) was in the Latin America and the Caribbean region, the report released October 13, 2022 showed. Africa recorded a 66 per cent fall in its wildlife populations from 1970-2018 and the Asia Pacific 55 per cent, according to the WWF report. Freshwater species populations globally reduced by 83 per cent, confirming that the planet is experiencing a "biodiversity and climate crisis", the organisation found. Habitat loss and barriers to migration routes were responsible for about half of the threats to monitored migratory fish species, it noted.
- WWF identified six key threats to biodiversity — agriculture, hunting, logging, pollution, invasive species and climate change — to highlight 'threat hotspots' for terrestrial vertebrates.
- The Living Planet Index (LPI), featuring about 32,000 populations of 5,230 species across the world, showed that vertebrate wildlife populations are plummeting at a particularly staggering rate in tropical regions of the world. Mangroves continue to be lost to aquaculture, agriculture and coastal development at a rate of 0.13 per cent per year, according to the findings.

World Economic Forum Launches 'Education 4.0 India Report'

- Titled 'Education 4.0 Report', the report explains how technology can address learning gaps and make education accessible to all. The information was published under Education 4.0 India initiative, launched in May 2020 and has convened over 40 partners from the education technology, government, academic and start-up communities.

- Even as the Covid-19 pandemic has subsided in most parts of the world, the school-to-work transition process is still facing significant hurdles in India, a World Economic Forum (WEF) report stated.
- India is the second largest market for online education after the US. With conducive policies and initiatives of the government, such as the National Education Policy 2020 and over 5000 EdTech start-ups across the learning lifecycle, the current education environment is potent for digital transformation. But, a lack of coordinated efforts has resulted in an isolated skilling ecosystem that has not been able to achieve its maximum potential, the WEF report said.

Indore bags cleanest city award for sixth year, M.P ranks first among States

- Indore bagged the title of India's cleanest city for the sixth time in a row as the results of the Central government's annual cleanliness survey 'Swachh Survekshan Awards 2022' were announced. Madhya Pradesh secured the first position in the category of best performing states, followed by Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra.
- Surat is the second cleanest city and Navi Mumbai comes a close third in the category of cities with a population of more than a lakh.
- Tripura has bagged the top rank among the states having fewer than 100 urban local bodies.
- In the category of cities having a population of fewer than one lakh, Maharashtra's Panchgani was ranked number one, followed by Chhattisgarh's Patan (NP) and Maharashtra's Karhad.
- As part of Swachh Bharat Diwas celebrations on the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, President Droupadi Murmu will confer six awards – Swachh Survekshan Grameen (SSG) 2022, Swachhta Hi Sewa 2022, Sujlam 1.0 & 2.0, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) Functionality Assessment, Har Ghar Jal certification and Start-up Grand Challenge.

About Madhya Pradesh:

Capital: Bhopal (Executive Branch)

Chief Minister: Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Governor: Mangubhai C. Pate

Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra topped destinations for foreign tourists 2021

- As per a report by Union Tourism Ministry, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu had the highest numbers of foreign tourist visits, with 1.26 million and 1.23 million, respectively in 2021. The over 280-page report titled 'India Tourism Statistics 2022' was released by Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar on World Tourism Day at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. India received 677.63 million domestic tourist visits in 2021, an increase of 11.05 per cent from 610.22 million in 2020, the report said.
- The report said due to restrictions related to COVID-19, "the number of foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) in India during 2021 decreased to 1.52 million as compared to 2.74 million in 2020, registering a negative growth of 44.5 per cent".
- The total number of foreign visitors for 2021-22 was 3,18,673, declining 23.4 per cent on year from 4,15,859 in 2020-21, according to the data.
- Sharing data about the footfall at various sites under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), the report said the Taj Mahal was the most popular centrally-protected ticketed

monument for domestic visitors in 2021-22, while the Group of Monuments at Mamallapuram in Tamil Nadu was the most visited centrally-protected ticketed monument for foreign visitors during the same period.

About Tamil Nadu:

Governor: R. N. Ravi

Capital: Chennai

Chief Minister: M. K. Stalin

About Maharashtra :

Governor: Bhagat Singh Koshyari

Chief Minister: Eknath Shinde

Capital: Mumbai

Zerodha's Nikhil Kamath tops 'Hurun India 40 & under self-made rich list 2022'

- Nikhil Kamath, the cofounder of Zerodha, topped the 'IIFL Wealth Hurun India 40 & Under Self-Made Rich List 2022' with a net worth of Rs 17,500 crore. Bhavish Aggarwal, the founder of Ola, came in second place (Rs 11,700 crore), and Divyank Turakhia of Media.net in third place (Rs 11,200 crore).
- According to Hurun, this year the number of under-40 billionaires surged to 1,103, an increase of 96. The cumulative wealth of the entrants in 40 & Under Self-made List has increased by 11% in comparison to last year, currently standing at Rs 1,83,700 crore highlighting the increasing rate of entrepreneurship that exists in the ecosystem.
- A majority of young billionaires on the list live in India while some live abroad. The report said 47 of the 53 entrepreneurs reside in India. India's Silicon Valley Bengaluru has the highest number of billion residents.
- The IIFL Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2022 has been researched and compiled by the Hurun Research Institute for the tenth year running. The cut-off used was 31st August 2022 when the rate of exchange to the US dollar was INR 79.50.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

"Delhi University – Celebrating 100 Glorious Years" authored by Hardeep Singh Puri

- Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India(GOI), Hardeep Singh Puri has authored a new book titled "DELHI UNIVERSITY: Celebrating 100 Glorious Years". The Book is Published by Rupa Publications India. Amitabh Bachchan, Indian Actor, has written the foreword of the book. This Book Highlights the viewpoints of Universities most distinguished alumni and faculty of 15 contributors.
- Delhi University: Celebrating 100 Glorious Years is an eclectic collection of personal narratives and reflections of some of the University's most distinguished alumni and faculty—Amitabh Bachchan, Kiren Rijju, Dinesh Singh, Meenakshi Gopinath, Shashi Tharoor, Bibek Debroy, Imtiaz Ali, Raian Karanjawala, Sanjeev Sanyal, Arnab Goswami, Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud, Lakshmi Puri, Namita Gokhale and Vijay Shekhar Sharma.

Economist Dr Bimal Jalan authored the book “From dependence to Self-Reliance Mapping India’s Rise as a Global Superpower”

- Economist Dr Bimal Jalan authored the book “From dependence to Self-Reliance: Mapping India’s Rise as a Global Superpower”, a stocktaking of India’s growth trajectory, benefits from Bimal Jalan’s deep insights. The book is written lucidly, with the general reader in mind. Bimal Jalan breaks his book into 3 parts: 4 chapters on the economy, and 3 each on governance and politics. The primary focus shared by Bimal Jalan is to promote India’s national interests, irrespective of any party’s political agenda announced during elections.
- With a single-party majority in Parliament, the political profile of the government has undergone a major change. The government, elected with a full majority, is now in a position to launch political reforms on its own without relying on the discretionary powers of members belonging to other parties.
- From Dependence to Self-Reliance sheds light on some of the priorities that the government can implement at present, as well as in the future, in light of past experience.
- Written by the former governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), this book is based on extensive research and data, and provides a way forward to developing India as an economic stronghold.

New book “The Corbett Papers” compiled by Akshay Shah & Stephen

- Akshay Shah and Stephen Alter have compiled and edited a new book “The Corbett Papers: Biographical, Legal, & Contextual Material on the Life & Career of Jim Corbett of Kumaon” about Jim Corbett. It is published by Black Kite Publishing. Jim Corbett, the famous naturalist-hunter, has written a series of bestsellers about his experiences with wildlife in the jungles of North India. The Corbett Papers” also includes the unpublished reminiscences of Corbett by his sister Maggie and rare extracts from a forgotten work.
- Akshay Shah is an outdoor educator, a wilderness medicine instructor and a naturalist based in Ranikhet, Uttarakhand. He is currently the Director of the Hanifl Centre for Outdoor Education and Environmental Study in Uttarakhand. Stephen Alter is the author of more than 20 books, many of which focus on the natural history of the Himalayas. He has already written a novel “In the Jungles of the Night”, a reimagining of Jim Corbett’s life.

South Indian Bank enters World Book of Records for '101 Oonjals'

- South Indian Bank bagged a world record for staging and swinging the highest 101. The South Indian Bank has organized an event ‘Onnichirikkam Oonjaladam’ and was accoladed with the World Book of Records award for ‘staging and swinging 101 Oonjals’. The event ‘Onnichirikkam Oonjaladam’ saw people gathered in large numbers to celebrate unity and prosperity during the ongoing festival season. Swings were made using wood and rope in the traditional way.
- The World Book of Records team presented the Award to South Indian Bank officials. All 101 swings were staged and swung together by the people. There was happiness and togetherness during the event. Seeing everyone taking part in something together naturally brings happiness to all of us. An Oonjal is a sturdy rectangular plank suspended by iron link chains hooked to the ceiling of a hall or balcony. Oonjals are a part of a ritual at the

weddings of a section in Tamil Nadu. In Kerala, the swinging tradition forms an integral part of Onam festivities.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

RIL Becomes First Indian Company to Post Earnings Call On Metaverse

- Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) posted the proceedings of its Q2 FY 2022-23 earnings call on the metaverse. This is the first time in the history of corporate India that a company has used metaverse to engage with its stakeholders.
- The RIL metaverse was produced in partnership with GMetri, a no-code metaverse creation platform. One doesn't need to wear an AR/VR headgear to access it. Using it, analysts across the world tracking the company can toggle with slides and graphics placed on different screens as per the multiple buckets in the results presentation. They can also download the RIL Q2 22-23 media release and the transcript of the media and analyst call in PDF formats.
- The RIL metaverse also has a special section comprising quotations from RIL Chairman and Managing Director, Mukesh Ambani.
- Instead of sitting at the game console and watching the game unfold on the screen, what if you can participate as the player inside the game? What if you sitting in Delhi can take dinner with your family living in Mumbai at a restaurant table located in Kolkatta? Yes, the metaverse is a virtual world where people interact via their digital avatars.

Gi technology: RBI Revokes Authorisation Certificate of Chennai-Based GI Technology

- The Reserve Bank has revoked certificate of authorisation of Chennai-based GI Technology Private Limited over governance concerns in the company. The company is in business of issuance and operation of prepaid payment instruments.
- Governance concerns and non-compliance with regulatory requirements" are the reasons for revocation of Certificate of Authorisation (CoA), the central bank said in a statement. Following the revocation of the CoA, GI Technology cannot transact the business of issuance and operation of prepaid payment instruments, it said. Following the revocation of the CoA, GI Technology cannot transact the business of issuance and operation of prepaid payment instruments, it said. However, customers or merchants having a valid claim, if any, on the company as PSO, can approach the company for settlement of their claims, the Reserve Bank added.
- The Reserve Bank of India, in the exercise of the powers conferred on it under Section 8 of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, has revoked the Certificate of Authorisation (CoA) of the Chennai-based GI Technology Private Limited over governance concerns in the company.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) previously informed that it has cancelled the Certificate of Authorisation (CoA) of two Payment System Operators (PSOs): Muthoot Vehicle & Asset Finance, and Eko India Financial Services. The authorisation was cancelled for non-compliance with regulatory requirements.

Shiprocket goes live on government's e-commerce platform ONDC as its first inter-city logistics provider

- Shiprocket is the first inter-city logistics provider to plug into the ONDC network, enabling sellers from all segments to ship products to cities and towns across India. Shiprocket, a shipping and logistics solutions provider, has gone live on the government's Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) and made its first successful transaction on October 22.
- Shiprocket said it is the first inter-city logistics provider to plug into the ONDC network, enabling sellers from all segments to ship products to cities and towns across India. "We are really excited to partner with ONDC as the first inter-city logistics provider to enable sellers from all segments to ship products to cities and towns across India. With an increase in digitization in India, sellers from tier 2 & 3 cities are emerging and they need logistics support, hence we are creating an inclusive and open-access tech ecosystem for them to ease their business," said Saahil Goel, co-founder of Shiprocket.
- Shiprocket, which serves more than 100,000 customers, will enable sellers from 24,000 pin codes to select delivery partners to ship products across India, through both cash-on-delivery and pre-paid options.

Dabur India to acquire 51% stake in Badshah Masala for Rs 587.52 crore

- Dabur India to acquire 51 percent stake in Badshah Masala in a Rs 587.52 crore deal. Dabur India marks its entry into the fast-growing spices and seasoning category. The company signed definitive transaction agreements to acquire 51 percent shareholding of Badshah Masala Pvt Ltd.
- Badshah Masala Pvt Ltd is a firm engaged in manufacturing, marketing, and export of ground spices, blended spices, and seasoning. The acquisition is in line with the company's strategic intent of entering into new adjacent categories in the food space.
- Dabur acquires 51 percent equity shareholding at Rs 587.52 crore. The 49 percent of the equity will be acquired after a period of 5 years by Dabur.
- Dabur India aspires to expand its food business to Rs 500 crore in 3 years and expand into new adjacent categories.
- This initiative also marks the entry of Dabur into the over Rs 25,000 crore branded spices and seasoning market in India.
- Dabur Ltd is an Indian Multinational Consumer Goods company, founded by S.K. Burman. It manufactures Ayurvedic medicine and natural consumer products. It is one of the largest FMCG companies in India. Dabur was founded in Kolkata by Dr. S.K. Burman in 1884.

India's greenhouse gas emissions far below world average: UNEP

- At 2.4 tCO₂e (tonne carbon dioxide equivalent), India's per capita greenhouse gas emissions were far below the world average of 6.3 tCO₂e in 2020, according to a new report released by the United Nations Environment Programme October 27.
- The "Emissions Gap Report 2022: The Closing Window", released ahead of the UN Climate Change conference (COP27) in Egypt next month, also said the international community is still falling far short of the Paris goals, with no credible pathway to limiting global temperature rise to 1.5 degree Celsius in place. To address climate change, countries

adopted the Paris Agreement in 2015 to limit global temperature rise in this century to well below 2 degrees Celsius, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels.

- World average per capita GHG emissions (including land use, land-use change, and forestry) were 6.3 tCO₂e in 2020. The US remains far above this level at 14 tCO₂e, followed by 13 tCO₂e in the Russian Federation, 9.7 tCO₂e in China, about 7.5 tCO₂e in Brazil and Indonesia, and 7.2 tCO₂e in the European Union."

Xiaomi shuts financial services business in India

- Chinese smartphone maker Xiaomi Corp has shut down its financial services business in India, four years after its launch, a Xiaomi India spokesperson said on Friday.
- "As part of the annual strategic assessment activity and as a response to enhanced focus on our core business services, we closed the Mi Financial Services in March 2022," the company spokesperson said.
- The company's Mi Pay app, which allowed users to make bill payments and money transfers, is no longer listed among the recognized third-party Unified Payments Interface (UPI) apps on the National Payments Corporation of India's (NPCI) website.
- The NPCI — an industry body that oversees India's state-backed peer-to-peer payments network, popularly called UPI — declined to comment.
- Xiaomi recently pulled its Mi Credit, which connects smartphone users with lending firms for quick loans, and Mi Pay apps from the local Play Store and its own app store, TechCrunch reported earlier on Friday.

First Indian jewellery to import 25 kg gold to UAE under CEPA

- Retail jewellery major Malabar Gold and Diamonds has become the first jeweller in India to import 25 kg gold under the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) between India and the UAE. The gold has been imported through ICICI Bank with one percent duty rebate under the agreement.
- The group has effectively utilised the duty benefits of the agreement both in import and export for the first time in India. The Company has also been among the first few jewellers to receive the permission to export jewellery to the UAE with tax concessions under this agreement in May 2022.
- In May 2022, Malabar Gold and Diamonds became one of the first beneficiaries of India-UAE CEPA when it received the permission to export jewellery from India to the UAE with tax concessions.
- Under the agreement, the UAE government has waived the five percent import duty into the UAE. The CEPA between India and the UAE came into effect on May 1, 2022 after Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and UAE Minister of Economy Abdulla bin Touq Al Marri signed the agreement in Delhi in February 2022.

Sprite becomes billion dollar brand in India

- Coca-Cola, global soft drinks company announced that its lemon and lime-flavored soft drink 'Sprite' has become a billion-dollar brand in the Indian market. The company has recorded a "strong" volume growth in its India business in the third quarter of 2022.

- Trademark Coke delivered strong growth through effective execution and occasion-based marketing. Coke has done 2.5 billion transactions in India at affordable price points through the expansion of returnable glass bottles and single-serve PET packages.
- Coca-Cola continued to strengthen as it gained a share in sparkling offerings in the first half of 2022.
- Sprite has grown to become a billion-dollar brand in the market, driven by the success of locally adapted, occasion-based global marketing campaigns and screen time.

Apple to Decarbonize its Supply Chain by 2030

- APPLE said it would make fresh investments to set up solar and wind projects in Europe and called on its suppliers to decarbonise operations related to the production of iPhones and other products. The company in 2020 had pledged to remove carbon emissions from its entire business, including products and its sprawling supply chain – which spans from Vietnam to Brazil – by 2030.
- The iPhone maker will now require its supply partners to report on progress on carbon neutrality goals, specifically Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions reductions, related to the production of Apple products and will audit their progress annually.
- “We’re determined to be a ripple in the pond that creates a bigger change,” chief executive officer Tim Cook said. Apple has been carbon neutral for its global corporate operations since 2020.
- More than 200 suppliers, representing 70 per cent of Apple’s direct manufacturing spending and including Corning, Nitto Denko, SK Hynix, STMicroelectronics, TSMC and Yuto, have committed to using clean power such as wind or solar for all Apple production, Apple said. Apple had previously asked suppliers to commit to 100 per cent renewable energy for Apple’s production.

Jakson to invest Rs 22,400 cr for green hydrogen project in Rajasthan

- Jakson Green will set up a 3,65,000 tons per annum green hydrogen & green ammonia plant along with an integrated hybrid renewable power complex in a phased manner, it stated.
- The project is expected to generate over 32,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities across various phases of the scale-up, planned between 2023 and 2028, it claimed.
- The MoU was signed by Vish Iyer, Global Chief Commercial Officer, Jakson Green, and Bhaskar S Sawant, Principal Secretary of Energy to the government of Rajasthan.
- “This agreement with Jakson Green is further testimony to the state’s investor-centric policies,” Sawant said.
- The government of Rajasthan would facilitate Jakson Green in obtaining necessary registrations, approvals, clearances, and provide incentives, among others, it informed.

CCI Fines Google Rs 936 Crore For Anti-Competitive Play Store Policies

- The nation’s competition watchdog has fined Google, a subsidiary of Alphabet Inc., Rs 1,337 crore for engaging in anti-competitive behaviour with regard to Android mobile devices. Google was penalised by India’s Competition Commission (CCI) for “abusing its dominant position in numerous regions within the Android mobile device ecosystem.”

- The decision to fine Google for alleged anti-competitive practices was described as “a major setback for Indian consumers and businesses” by Google.
- Google Company said it would review the decision to determine its next course of action.
- The Android OS (operating system) is run and managed by Google, and the company also grants licences for its other proprietary programmes. In their mobile devices, OEMs (original equipment manufacturers) employ this OS and Google’s apps.
- The commission identified five relevant markets in the current case to serve this purpose. There was a market in India for licensable mobile operating systems for smart devices, an app store for Android mobile operating systems, general web search services, non-OS specific mobile web browsers, and an online video hosting platform (OVHP).

India suffered income loss of 5.4% of GDP due to heat wave: Report

- India suffered an income loss of 5.4% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the highest among the G20 nations in 2021, according to the new report of Climate Transparency.
- The report highlighted that India witnessed a record heatwave that greatly affected workers, labour migrants, low-income households, and the homeless, and reduced the yields of wheat crops.
- Despite the fact that India is responsible for 3% of global emissions, the report mentioned that around 142 million people in India may be exposed (10% of the population) to summer heatwaves at 1.5 Degrees Celsius.
- The higher temperature resulted in the reduction of working hours, which further led to substantial income losses in services, manufacturing, agriculture, and construction.
- The 'Climate Transparency Report 2022' was developed with experts from 16 partner organisations from the majority of the G20 (Group of 20) countries.

HDFC Securities Opens the First Women-Only Digital Centre In Karnataka

- Leading stock brokerage firm, HDFC Securities, announced the opening of the first-ever Women-Only Digital Centre (DC) in India. This pioneering centre, staffed with a team of women, will serve both male and female investors. This closely follows the company’s announcement regarding the opening of multiple DCs across India to ease access to services and promote digital adoption.
- “We are already in the process of hiring 600 relationship managers for our pan-India Digital Centres. We are very aware that the largest percentage of our customers consists of young Indians. So, our solutions need to cater to the unique needs and expectations of these digital natives. Also, the relationship managers at our DCs are aged less than 30 years, which gives them unique insights into the needs of our largest customer demographic.
- The Women-Only DC is another step in HDFC Securities’ aim to foster diversity within the organization, while also empowering its customers with technology that eases their journey to financial freedom. The company’s digital focus is also driven by the fact that India has among the largest populations of young adults in the world, with Gen Z making up 27% of them. This is why the company intends to hire women aged below 30 years for this revolutionary digital centre. HDFC Securities plans to hire more than 100+ relationship managers for the Women-Only DC in Bengaluru.

PhonePe launches green data center with Dell Technologies and NTT

- PhonePe, a homegrown fintech platform, announced the launch of its first green data centre in India, leveraging technologies and solutions from Dell Technologies and NTT. The facility opens up new opportunities in data management for PhonePe, with efficient data security, power efficiency, ease of operations, and cloud solutions. The centre will also help the company to build sustainable and efficient infrastructure to scale its operations across the country further seamlessly.
- This 4.8-megawatt facility, which occupies 13740 sqft at Mahape, Navi Mumbai, is built and designed with advanced alternative cooling technologies like Direct Contact Liquid Cooling (DCLC) and Liquid Immersion Cooling (LIC). The data centre's Dell PowerEdge servers will provide exceptional performance, simplified management, and intelligent automation while using less energy.
- Green data centres are the future of sustainable digital transformation. This deployment is an exciting showcase for the possibilities of new alternative cooling technologies that can help optimise power consumption in a data centre.

Buy ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Ltd For Target Rs.1450 - Motilal Oswal

- As OPEX expanded at 9% compared to an 11% growth in NEP, the underwriting loss for ICICIGI was INR1.5 billion in 2Q as opposed to INR1.9 billion in 1QFY23. Claims ratio increased to 72.8% in 2Q vs. 72.1% in 1QFY23 as higher claims in the Motor OD and the Health sector offset the advantages of lower loss ratios in Motor TP and Fire.
- ICICI Lombard report ratio increased by 300bps year over year. Due to greater rates, investment income, at INR8.7 billion, exceeded their projection of INR7.4 billion.
- The combined ratio was 105.1% as opposed to 105.3%/104.1% in the 2QFY22 and 1QFY23.
- In 1QFY23, the solvency ratio was 2.6x; today it is 2.5x. PAT was INR4.6b after adjusting for a tax reversal of INR1.3b (est. INR3.8b). The reported PAT was INR5.9b.

MoS Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar flags off first SemiconIndia FutureDesign Roadshow in Gandhinagar

- Rajeev Chandrasekhar, state minister for electronics and IT for the Union, officially kicked off the first SemiconIndia FutureDesign roadshow in Gujarat. Speaking at the event, Chandrasekhar stated that the roadshows were organised with the intention of encouraging startups, next-generation innovators, and business titans to invest in semiconductor design.
- As envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, it will contribute to the development of a strong semiconductor ecosystem in the nation.
- At the occasion, the minister also unveiled the ISRO-tested and approved NavIC Receiver Chipsets.
- They are prepared for commercial market deployment. The government wants to get as many young Indians interested in and involved in the Semicon India trip by bringing the programme to every student and every campus.

CCI imposes Rs 392.36 cr fine on MakeMyTrip, Goibibo, OYO for anti-competitive conduct

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) on Wednesday imposed monetary penalties of Rs 223.48 crore on MakeMyTrip-Goibibo (MMT-Go) and Rs 168.88 crore on OYO (Oravel Stays Limited) for indulging in unfair business practices in the hotel segment.
- The CCI, in a 131-page order, said that it has carried out an in-depth analysis for delineation of relevant market, laying special emphasis on such assessment in case of platform markets.
- The fair-trade regulator said that after examining the parity obligation vide which MMT-Go was imposing wide price parity as well as room availability parity obligations on its hotel partners, it has found that the deep discounts and parity conditions together has created an ecosystem that reinforces MMT-Go's dominant position in the relevant market.
- It added that these conditions help MMT-Go to retain and further increase its network of users, who are increasingly dependent on the platform for availing of the best deals.
- Secondly, it impedes the competitive process between OTAs by limiting the competitive levers/instruments at the disposal of other portals that, for instance, cannot get better prices from hotels by offering lower commission rates.

Karnataka Bank launches "KBL Centenary Deposit Scheme" @ 7.60% ROI

- Karnataka Bank has launched a term deposit scheme named the KBL Centenary Deposit Scheme with effect from October 17, 2022. In order to honour the amazing journey towards its Centenary and to thank its customers, the bank has created a special term deposit programme with a higher rate of interest.
- For a period of 555 days, the KBL Centenary Deposit Scheme will enjoy an interest rate of 7.20% p.a. Senior citizens will pay an interest rate of 7.60% annually.
- The Karnataka Bank will join the elite group of banks that are now providing the highest rate of interest on term deposits in the banking market by implementing this deposit programme.

RBL Bank and BookMyShow announce partnership to launch 'Play' credit card

- The launch of a new credit card called "Play" by RBL Bank and BookMyShow will significantly increase the entertainment value for Indian consumers. RBL Bank and BookMyShow collaborated to offer the Fun Plus credit card earlier in 2016. Customers will be able to follow the full procedure on BookMyShow, a first for any entertainment platform in India, from application to delivery of the "Play" credit card.
- Select BookMyShow customers will have access to the "Play" credit card, which will enable them to take advantage of lucrative offers on movie tickets, live entertainment purchases (both online and offline).
- The customers will also have access to binge-watching movies and TV shows on BookMyShow Stream by renting or buying a title, all while earning rewards with each purchase.

India's forex reserves rise by USD 204 million to USD 532.868 billion

- The Reserve Bank reported an increase in the value of gold assets caused India's foreign exchange reserves to climb by USD 204 million to USD 532.868 billion for the week ended

October 7. The total reserves decreased by USD 4.854 billion to USD 532.664 billion during the previous reporting week.

- The aggregate foreign reserves decreased to USD 532.664 billion from USD 4.854 billion the previous week ending September 30.
- The foreign reserves have been declining for several weeks as the central bank uses its funds to protect the rupee against pressures mostly brought on by international events.
- In the week ending October 7, Foreign Currency Assets (FCAs), a significant portion of total reserves, decreased by USD 1.311 billion to USD 471.496 billion, according to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Weekly Statistical Supplement.
- The FCAs, which are expressed in dollar terms, take into account the impact of appreciation or depreciation of non-US currencies held in foreign exchange reserves, such as the euro, pound, and yen.

India can attract \$475 billion in FDI in five years, says CII-EY report

- India has promising growth prospects for foreign direct investment (FDI) and has the potential to draw \$475 billion in FDI flows over the next five years, according to a CII-EY report. Despite the effects of the pandemic and geopolitical developments, foreign direct investment (FDI) in India has steadily increased over the past ten years, reaching \$84.8 billion in FY 2021–22.
- 71% of multinational corporations (MNCs) with operations in India view it as a key market for their international expansion. Prospects for the long run and the short term are what are fueling the optimism.
- According to the report titled "Vision – Developed India: Opportunities and Expectations of MNCs," the majority of MNCs believe that the Indian economy will perform significantly better in the next three to five years.
- India's potential is fueled by a number of factors, including the country's ranking as one of the largest and fastest-growing economies in the world, strong consumer patterns, digitization, and an expanding services industry.

India will achieve USD 2 trillion export target by 2030: Piyush Goyal

- Piyush Goyal, the minister of commerce and industry, expressed confidence that the nation will reach its goal of 2 trillion USD in products and services exported by 2030. The Union Commerce and Industry minister was addressing at the Chennai-based Exporters Conclave.
- Piyush Goyal stressed the need of maintaining the export momentum and expressed his confidence that Indian exports will be able to weather the global challenges and will far outpace export growth.
- Piyush Goyal predicted that the nation's economy will reach USD 30 trillion by 2047, with exports accounting for 25% of total output.
- He predicted that India's exports will reach USD 2 trillion by 2030. The government has promised to resolve the problems brought up by the industry participants.

India's WPI inflation drops further to 10.7% in September

- Inflation based on the Wholesale Price Index(WPI) decreased to 10.70% in September. According to official figures, the WPI-based inflation rate was 12.41% in August. High-speed

diesel (HSD) saw the highest inflation rate at 65.96%. (YoY). It was followed by price increases of 44.72 percent for crude oil and natural gas and 49.79 percent for potatoes.

- Only the category of fuel and power experienced an increase in inflation month over month (MoM). The prices fell in all the others. Inflation was also down in the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) Food Index.
- The index for this important group dropped from 178.6 (provisional) for the month of August 2022 to 176.2 (provisional) in September 2022, a (-1.34%) decrease.
- In September 2022 compared to August 2022, prices for non-food items dropped by 3.60 percent, crude oil and natural gas prices dropped by 6.38 percent, and the price of minerals dropped by 6.45 percent.

Sebi issues guidelines for inter-operable regulatory sandbox

- Financial products or service providers whose business models fall within the remit of more than one financial sector regulator such as Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Sebi, IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India), PFRDA (Pension Fund Regulatory & Development Authority) and IFSCA (International Financial Services Centres Authority) will be considered for the testing under Inter-operable Regulatory Sandbox (IoRS).
- “To obviate the need of innovators, to engage with different regulators regarding their hybrid product, a common window has been made available,” the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) said in a press release.
- IoRS has been prepared by the Inter-Regulatory Technical Group (IRTG) on FinTech. The group was constituted under the aegis of the Financial Stability and Development Council-Sub Committee (FSDC-SC). The group, in addition to the members from financial sector regulators, has representation from the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.

IIP witnesses contraction of 0.8% in August against growth of 2.4% in July

- India’s industrial production slipped to an 18-month low, contracting by 0.8 per cent in August, mainly due to a decline in output of the manufacturing and mining sectors, according to official data. The data showed that the previous low in industrial output growth was a contraction of 3.2 per cent in February 2021.
- Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is an index which details out the growth of various sectors in the economy. The Eight Core Industries comprise more than 40 percent of the weight of items included in IIP. These are Electricity, steel, refinery products, crude oil, coal, cement, natural gas and fertilisers.
- It is compiled and published monthly by the National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- The previous low in industrial output growth was a contraction of 3.2 per cent in February 2021. Factory output, measured in terms of the IIP, had expanded by 13 per cent in August 2021. The IIP grew by 2.2 per cent in July this year. The data released by the Statistics and Programme Implementation Ministry showed that for the month of August 2022.
- Capital goods output, which is a barometer of investments, rose five per cent in August 2022 compared to 20 per cent growth in the year-ago month.

Paytm Partners with Jana Small Finance Bank for Deployment of Card Devices, Aims to Further Drive Digitisation Among Merchants

- Paytm brand has partnered with Jana Small Finance Bank to deploy card machines to further drive digitisation among merchants across the country. This partnership will enable Jana Small Finance Bank to extend Paytm's All-in-one EDC machines to its existing and potential customers, providing a one-stop solution for all their digital payment needs. With over 4.5 million devices deployed, Paytm remains the market leader in offline payments. Paytm's EDC devices and All-in-One POS devices have revolutionised digital payments in India with their flexibility of accepting multiple payment methods.
- Paytm's card machines provide a feature-rich payments solution that has enabled a robust growth of businesses for our merchant partners. This partnership will help expand our reach and deploy card machines across India's small cities and towns.
- This partnership is in line with our vision to become the leading digitised bank of aspirational India to further financial inclusion in the country.
- MSME is a key priority for our Bank and we serve their needs in 150 cities. Our offerings are digital and this relationship with Paytm will further enhance our services to our customers.

RBI norms on unhedged Fx exposure unlikely to impact banks much

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) tweaked guidelines for banks on incremental capital and provisioning requirements in relation to unhedged foreign currency exposures, amid the weakness in the rupee vis-a-vis the US dollar. The rupee has depreciated about 10 per cent against the US dollar thus far in 2022, and as a result there has been greater scrutiny of firms' unhedged exposure through borrowings in foreign currencies.
- "Entities which do not hedge their foreign currency exposures can incur significant losses during the period of heightened volatility in foreign exchange rates. These losses may reduce their capacity to service the loans taken from the banking system and increase their probability of default thereby affecting the health of the banking system," the RBI said. The revised rules will come into force from January 1, 2023.
- The incremental provisioning requirement is in the range of 20 basis points (bps) to 80 bps. In cases where banks face a potential loss or hit to earnings before interest and depreciation (Ebid) of more than 15 per cent but up to 30 per cent, lenders will have to increase provisioning by 20 bps, the RBI said.

JSW Steel Joined UNGC Initiative

- JSW Steel has joined the United Nations Global Impact (UNGC) initiative. The UNGC encourages companies to conduct business responsibly by aligning their operations and strategies with the UN's 10 principles. JSW Foundation, the social arm of the JSW Group, is a member of UNGC and part of the India local network of UNGC.
- A majority of JSW's strategic focus areas and organizational goals have been formulated to align with the UN SDGs.
- The formal membership with JSW and UNGC will continue executing operations and practices sustainably.

- The initiative also commits companies to take actions to advance broader Social benefits through the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Retail inflation rises to 7.41% in September

- India's retail inflation accelerated to 7.41 per cent in September from a year ago on higher food and energy costs, the highest since April and above the upper end of the RBI's 2-6 per cent tolerance band in each month this year. Data released by the National Statistics Office showed consumer price index-based inflation (CPI) in September rising to 7.41 per cent from a year ago, compared to August's 7 per cent.
- The latest reading will pressure the RBI to accelerate policy tightening further, even at the cost of the economy, after raising its key repo rate to a three-year high of 5.9 per cent in four increments this year to tame surging prices. That suggests the central bank would need to act more aggressively and mirror the policy path of major central banks in the West — fight inflation at any cost, including a recession — despite RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das' statement that the policy was aimed to control inflation while minimising any impact on economic growth.

World Bank extends unconditional loan of \$250 million for SALT project in Andhra Pradesh

- The World Bank has extended an unconditional loan of \$250 million to the Supporting Andhra's Learning Transformation (SALT) project in appreciation of the path-breaking reforms implemented by the state government. The reforms initiated under the SALT project have brought about a paradigm shift in the way education was imparted and the outcomes had been encouraging according to Special Chief Secretary B. Rajasekhar (School Education).
- The SALT Project is the first project in the school education sector to be funded by the World Bank without any precondition.
- Approximately ₹53,000 crores has been spent on school education in the last three years.
- In the academic year 2022-2023, more than 40,31,239 children were studying in government schools.

IDBI Bank partners Vayana Network on supply chain finance

- IDBI Bank said that it has agreed to cooperate with Vayana Network as its first fintech partner to provide end-to-end digitization services. According to the bank, this alliance intends to help increase the penetration of supply chain finance in India, which now accounts for only 5% of total outstanding banking assets and less than 1% of the country's GDP.
- The adoption of end-to-end digitalization would allow IDBI Bank to offer comprehensive digital solutions to corporate banking and small business clients. The bank already has an established CMS and e-trade platform. This technology is meant to speed up customer experiences by cutting down on paperwork and transaction processing time.
- The supply chain finance market in India is currently valued at over 60,000 crore and is anticipated to expand by 17% annually, according to J Samuel Joseph, deputy managing director of IDBI Bank. "We sought out this relationship to take advantage of the opportunities present in the current SCF market. In order to add value for our corporate

banking and MSME clients, we are actively participating in a wide range of activities as part of our core strategy, according to Joseph.

Indians Can Soon Pay Through UPI In Europe

- Pay in Europe using UPI soon: NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) and European payment services provider Worldline established a corporation due to which Indians will soon be able to make payments through UPI (United Payments Interface) across Europe. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)'s international division is called NIPL.
- The aim of the collaboration between NIPL and Worldline is to increase the adoption of Indian payment methods in Europe.
- Worldline will increase convenience for Indian clients in the European markets as part of the cooperation by enabling point-of-sale (POS) systems at businesses to accept payments from UPI (United Payments Interface).
- The total number of UPI (United Payments Interface) transactions in 2021 was 38.74 billion, with a value of USD 954.58 billion.
- In terms of actual cards, NPCI has so far distributed 714 million locally manufactured RuPay cards.

India's optimism misplaced, says Nomura, sharply moderates GDP growth forecast to 5.2% in FY24

- Nomura predicts that India's growth will drastically slow down to 5.2% in 2023–24 (FY24) from 7% in the current fiscal year due to the spillover effects of the global downturn. The Japanese brokerage urged policy vigilance in the face of global challenges and emphasised that macro stability, not development, should be the first focus.
- In FY20, the economy grew at 4%, a multi-year low. It is anticipated that growth will decelerate in FY24, just before the following national elections.
- Nomura predicts that inflation would average 6.8% in FY23, slightly higher than the Reserve Bank of India's prediction of 6.7%, and then decline to 5.3% in FY24.

Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) holds National Workshop on 'Ease of Doing Business'

- In New Delhi, the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) held a national workshop on the topic of "Ease of Doing Business." Shri Parameswaran Iyer, CEO of Niti Aayog, gave the keynote speech at the workshop. Parameswaran Iyer emphasised the significance of India's ranking on international indexes. Parameswaran Iyer emphasised how the Ease of Doing Business programme, together with other initiatives, took centre stage as one of the most crucial pillars in the effort to make India a desirable investment location.
- The vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for ease of living and Ease of doing Business was also discussed by Shri Iyer.
- The panellists also offered insightful commentary on the subsequent wave of changes that will significantly improve the Ease of doing Business throughout the nation.
- Representatives of the governments of Maharashtra and the NCT of Delhi also gave presentations, stressing the changes they had carried out that had helped India's standing in the World Bank's Doing Business Report.

IFC Launches Financing Platform to Respond to Global Food Crisis and Build Resilient Food Systems

- The International Finance Corporation (IFC), the private sector investment arm of the World Bank, has introduced a new, \$6 billion funding facility to boost the private sector's capacity to respond to the Global Food crisis and aid in food production in response to mounting food insecurity. Rising levels of hunger and malnutrition (Global Food Crisis) have already been made worse by climate change and increasingly extreme weather events that are destroying harvests and lowering yields. The conflict in Ukraine and an unequal worldwide recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic have exacerbated to this trend.
- A significant portion of the funding of Financing Platform Launched by IFC (International Finance Corporation), which will be offered through the new Global Food Security Platform, will assist the delivery of food stocks to nations with food instability and sustainable production of those stocks.
- The Financing Platform Launched by IFC (International Finance Corporation) will add to the World Bank 's \$30 billion pledge to address the food crisis.

Gross direct tax collections rise 24% to Rs 8.9 lakh crore in FY23

- The gross direct tax collections has increased by over 23 per cent to eight lakh ninety eight thousand crore rupees in the current financial year as compared to last year. Finance Ministry said, the provisional figures of direct tax collections still continue to register steady growth.
- Direct Tax collection, net of refunds, stands at seven lakh forty five thousand crore rupees which is 16.3 per cent higher than the net collections for the corresponding period of last year. The Ministry said, this collection is over 52 per cent of the total budget estimates of direct taxes for the current fiscal. The refunds amounting to one lakh 53 thousand crore rupees have been issued during 1st April to 8th October this year, which are 81 per cent higher than refunds issued during the same period in the preceding year.

Issuance of Concept Note on Central Bank Digital Currency

- The Reserve Bank Of India(RBI) has released a concept note on the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC). The CBDC is a digital form of currency notes issued by a central bank. While most central banks across the globe are exploring the issuance of CBDC, the key motivations for its issuance are specific to each country's unique requirements.
- This Concept Note explains the objectives, choices, benefits and risks of issuing a CBDC in India, referred to as e-₹ (digital Rupee). The e-₹ will provide an additional option to the currently available forms of money. It is substantially not different from banknotes, but being digital it is likely to be easier, faster and cheaper. It also has all the transactional benefits of other forms of digital money.
- The purpose behind the issue of this Concept Note is to create awareness about CBDCs in general and the planned features of the digital Rupee, in particular. The Note also seeks to explain Reserve Bank's approach towards introduction of the digital Rupee.

Indian government kicks off IDBI Bank strategic disinvestment

- After facing challenges in the plan to privatise IDBI Bank, the government has asked the Reserve Bank of India to consider tweaking the promoter criteria that may bring a wider pool of bidders for public sector banks. There are currently 12 public sector banks.
- The bank privatisation has come a cropper because RBI's norms are clear that no existing bank can promote a new bank, and the same promoter cannot promote another bank, a source said. "This has limited the pool of possible bidders and the government wants RBI to take a relook.
- The Budget for 2021-22 (Apr-Mar) had proposed privatising two public sector banks and one general insurance company. Privatisation of public sector banks will require legislative amendments. The Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill 2021, which was listed for business in the Winter session last year, has not yet been introduced in Parliament due to protests by bank unions.
- Although the government has been insisting it will take forward the plans to privatise public sector banks, the fact that IDBI Bank's stake sale process is yet to find takers shows the bidding pool has been slim. The government has to also bring in a law that sets the stage for privatisation of public sector banks.

World Bank lowers India's FY23 growth forecast to 6.5%

- The World Bank cut its 2022-23 (FY23) real gross domestic product (GDP) growth forecast for India to 6.5%, from an earlier estimate of 7.5%, while warning that spillovers from Russia's invasion of Ukraine and global monetary tightening will weigh on the economic outlook.
- In its twice-a-year report on South Asia, the World Bank said, "Private investment growth is likely to be dampened by heightened uncertainty and higher financing costs." The international financial institution also noted that slowing global demand will impact the country's exports. This is the third time the World Bank has revised its GDP growth forecast for India in FY23. In June, it had slashed its FY23 GDP growth forecast for India to 7.5%. Earlier in April, it had trimmed the forecast from 8.7% to 8%.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently cut the economic growth projection for the current fiscal to 7% from 7.2% estimated earlier on account of extended geopolitical tensions and aggressive monetary policy tightening globally. The RBI in April had cut GDP growth estimate to 7.2% from its earlier forecast of 7.8%.

Indians Account for 80% of Those Who Became Poor Globally in 2020 Due to COVID-19: World Bank

- About 56 million Indians may have plunged into extreme poverty in 2020 as a result of the pandemic, increasing the global tally by 71 million and making it the worst year for poverty reduction since World War II, according to fresh estimates by the World Bank.
- "The global goal of ending extreme poverty by 2030 is likely to be missed: By then, about 600 million people will remain in abject poverty. A major course correction is needed," Indermit Gill, chief economist at the World Bank, tweeted. The World Bank in its latest "Poverty and Shared Prosperity" made fresh estimates of poverty using a new extreme

poverty line based on the purchasing power parity (PPP) of \$2.15, the earlier one being at \$1.9.

- For almost 25 years, the number of people living in extreme poverty — on less than \$2.15 per person per day — was steadily declining. But the trend was interrupted in 2020, when poverty rose due to the disruption caused by the COVID-19 crisis combined with the effects of conflict and climate change — which had already been slowing poverty reduction.

Reserve Bank issues directions for appointment of Internal Ombudsman for all Credit Information Companies

- To enhance the effectiveness of its grievance redressal systems, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has urged Credit Information Companies to designate an internal ombudsman (IO) by April 1, 2023. The Central Bank made the decision in August to include CICs in the scope of the RBI-Integrated Ombudsman Scheme 2021 in order to broaden its appeal.
- Only complaints that the CIC has already reviewed but rejected in whole or in part will be handled by the IO. Direct complaints from complainants or members of the public won't be handled by it, the RBI said in a circular. The RBI claimed that the action would give clients of regulated businesses a free alternative dispute resolution method for complaints regarding CICs. "Every CIC shall appoint the internal ombudsman for a fixed term of not less than three years, but not exceeding five years" the circular said.
- The IO position cannot at any moment be left unfilled, hence the CIC must make sure of that, the circular said. Furthermore, it stated that the IO will not be handling any complaints involving fraud and misappropriation, with the exception of those brought about by a CIC service failure.

RBI launches advanced supervisory monitoring system DAKSH

- The Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das launched a new 'SupTech' initiative DAKSH — the bank's Advanced Supervisory Monitoring System, which is expected to make the supervisory processes more robust.
- In a statement, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said it has been taking various initiatives in strengthening supervision, which among other initiatives include adoption of latest data and analytical tools as well as leveraging technology for implementing more efficient and automated work processes.
- DAKSH means 'efficient' & 'competent', reflecting the underlying capabilities of the application. DAKSH is a web-based end-to-end workflow application through which RBI shall monitor compliance requirements in a more focused manner with the objective of further improving the compliance culture in Supervised Entities (SEs) like Banks, NBFCs, etc.
- The Reserve Bank of India performs this function under the guidance of the Board for Financial Supervision (BFS). The Board is constituted by co-opting four Directors from the Central Board as members for a term of two years and is chaired by the Governor.

India services sector loses momentum in September, growth falls to 6-month low

- Growth in India's services industry eased to a six-month low in September, led by a cooling in demand amid high inflation, a private survey showed. The S&P Global India services

Purchasing Managers' Index fell to 54.3 in September from August's 57.2, lower than the Reuters poll expectation of 57.0.

- However, the September reading stayed above the 50-mark separating growth from contraction for the fourteenth straight month – the longest stretch of expansion since October 2016.
- Capacity pressures moderated in September, with services companies signalling the slowest increase in backlogs since February. Nevertheless, efforts to clear pending workloads and ongoing expansions in sales supported another round of job creation. Employment rose at a slower rate than in August, however," the survey said.
- Pollyanna De Lima, Economics Associate Director at S&P Global Market Intelligence, said: "The Indian service sector has overcome many adversities in recent months, with the latest PMI data continuing to show a strong performance despite some loss of growth momentum in September."
- But "an upturn in inflation could damage consumer spending, dampen business confidence and test the resilience of the Indian service sector in the coming months but, at least for September, service providers were strongly upbeat towards growth prospects," she said. "Currency instability poses renewed inflation worries as imported items become more costly, and undoubtedly means that the RBI will continue hiking interest rates to protect the rupee and contain price pressures," added De Lima.

No charges on using RuPay credit card for UPI transactions less than ₹2,000

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has said there will be no charge for RuPay credit card use on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for transactions up to ₹2,000. RuPay credit card has been operational for the last four years, and all major banks are enabled and are issuing incremental cards for both commercial and retail segments.
- RBI has approved linking of RuPay Credit Cards to UPI, which will provide a seamless, digitally enabled credit card lifecycle experience for the customers. Customers will benefit from the ease and the increased opportunity to use their credit cards. Merchants will benefit from the increase in consumption by being part of the credit ecosystem with acceptance of credit cards using asset lite QR codes. Credit cards can now be linked to a Virtual Payment Address (VPA) i.e., UPI ID (credit card number cannot be part of this), thus directly enabling safe, and secure payment transactions.

Aditya Birla Health Insurance launches Activ Fit for young & healthy adults

- Aditya Birla Health Insurance Co. Limited (ABHICL), the health insurance subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL), has launched 'Active Fit' which is a comprehensive health insurance plan for young and healthy adults. It is first-of-its-kind in the industry.
- The 'Active Fit' plan by Aditya Birla Health Insurance Co. Limited provides an upfront 10 percent good health discount basis an assessment done through a unique facial scan, up to 50 percent HealthReturns TM on being active and 100 percent binge refill to ensure that health insurance becomes an attractive proposition for the cohort.
- While purchasing the policy, customers get a Good Health Discount of 10 percent upfront.

- Customers below the age of 35 years, can avail of an Early Bird Discount at renewal, 5 percent from the 4th to 7th policy year and 10 percent from the 8th policy year for the lifetime of the policy.

Centre approves Rs. 26,000 crore for installation of 25,000 telecom towers

- The government has approved Rs 26,000 crore for the installation of 25,000 mobile towers in 500 days. According to the Telecom Ministry, the financial support for the project will be provided by the Universal Services Obligation Fund and it will be implemented by Bharat Broadband Network.
- The project was announced by Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnav at a three-day long 'Digital India Conference of State IT Ministers'.
- In the three-day long Digital India Conference of State IT Ministers, IT ministers from 12 states and UTs were present.

WTO slashes global 2023 trade growth forecast to 1% as recession looms

- World merchandise trade volume growth is likely to slow to 1 per cent in 2023, down from the previous forecast of 3 per cent made in April this year, per fresh estimates released by the WTO. This is due to multiple shocks including the Ukraine war, high energy prices, inflation, and monetary tightening, it said.
- While global trade in goods in 2022 is now predicted to grow at 3.5 per cent—better than the 3 per cent estimated in April—it is expected to lose momentum in the second half of 2023, the report pointed out. Slowdown in exports is expected in 2023 as import demand is likely to soften in major economies with growth slowing down for different reasons. "In Europe, high energy prices stemming from the Russia-Ukraine war will squeeze household spending and raise manufacturing costs.

India's economic growth likely to decline to 5.7% in 2022 from 8.2% a year ago, says UNCTAD

- India's economic growth is expected to decline to 5.7 per cent this year from 8.2 per cent in 2021, citing higher financing cost and weaker public expenditures, according to the forecast by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) Trade and Development Report 2022.
- The country's GDP will further decelerate to 4.7 per cent growth in 2023, the top UN agency projected. India experienced an expansion of 8.2 per cent in 2021, the strongest among G20 countries. As supply chain disruptions eased, rising domestic demand turned the current account surplus into a deficit, and growth decelerated, the report stated.
- The government has announced plans to increase capital expenditure, especially in the rail and road sector, but in a weakening global economy, policymakers will be under pressure to reduce fiscal imbalances, and this may lead to falling expenditures elsewhere. Under these conditions, the economy is expected to decelerate to 4.7 percent growth in 2023, the report forecasted.

Inflation likely to come down to 5.2% owing to normal rains, ease in supplies: RBI report

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is expecting retail inflation to come under control at 5.2 per cent in FY24, down from the 6.7 per cent forecast for FY23, revealed the banking regulator in its

‘Monetary Policy Report September 2022’. In addition to this, RBI has also cut India’s GDP growth forecast for FY23 to 7 per cent from its earlier projection of 7.2 per cent.

- The RBI, in its report, said, “For 2023-24, assuming a normal monsoon, a progressive normalisation of supply chains, and no further exogenous or policy shocks, structural model estimates indicate that inflation will average 5.2 per cent.” The central bank expects inflation to remain above the upper tolerance level of 6 per cent in the first three-quarters of FY23. RBI also expects inflation to come under control from January 2023 onwards. RBI projects the retail inflation to average 5.8 per cent in Q4 FY23 and further down to 5 per cent in Q1 FY24. In addition to this, RBI has also cut India’s GDP growth forecast for FY23 to 7 per cent from its earlier projection of 7.2 per cent.

About Reserve Bank of India (RBI):

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

Founder: British Raj

Ownership: Ministry of Finance, Government of India

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

Pegatron to boost Apple iPhone production in India

- With the opening of a factory in Mahindra World City in Chennai, Taiwan’s Pegatron became the third Apple supplier to establish a production facility in India. It will put about Rs 1,100 crore into the facility, which might lead to the creation of 14,000 employment. The other two Apple suppliers with facilities in India are the Taiwanese companies Foxconn and Wistron.
- The opening of Pegatron’s factory coincides with Apple’s anticipated relocation of at least a quarter of its manufacturing operations to India by 2025.
- Hosur, Coimbatore, and Sriperumbudur will be transformed into centres for the production of electronics by Tamil Nadu.
- 20% of the nation’s electronics are produced with help from the state. Among the state’s main investments are Samsung, Foxconn, Tata Electronics, and Dell. Stalin claimed that the government was improving the supply chain.

About Pegatron:

CEO: Liao Syh-jang (1 Jul 2016–)

Headquarters: Taipei City, Taipei, Taiwan

Founded: 1 January 2008

New rules for debit, credit cards begin with tokenisation

- The rules and regulations for online payments for debit and credit cards have been changed. The Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI) card-on-file (CoF) tokenization norms came into effect on 1st October 2022. RBI’s CoF tokenization aims to improve the payment experience of cardholders.
- The new rule released by RBI says that neither businesses nor payment aggregators can save customer card details on their platforms. The card details can only be saved by card networks or issuing banks.
- Tokenisation has replaced sensitive card information including card number, and card expiry with cryptographically-generated random strings.

- Once the card is Tokenised, the generated card token can be used for processing payments as a substitute for card details. The Tokenised card eliminates the risk of loss of sensitive card information.

About Reserve Bank of India's (RBI):

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

Founder: British Raj

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

Core infra sector growth hits 9-month low in August

- The output of eight core infrastructure sectors grew 3.3 per cent in August the lowest in nine months as against 12.2 per cent in the year-ago period, according to official data released. The previous low was in November 2021 at 3.2 per cent. It stood at 4.5 per cent in July.
- The production growth of eight infrastructure sectors — coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertiliser, steel, cement and electricity — was 9.8 per cent during April-August this fiscal, compared to 19.4 per cent a year ago. Crude oil and natural gas production contracted by 3.3 per cent and 0.9 per cent, respectively, during the month under review.
- In August, the fertiliser output rose by 11.9 per cent against a contraction of 3.1 per cent in the same month last year. The growth rates for coal, refinery products, steel, cement and electricity slowed to 7.6 per cent, 7 per cent, 2.2 per cent, 1.8 per cent and 0.9 per cent, respectively. Production of coal (weight: 10.33%) grew by 7.6% in August 2022 compared to August 2021. In comparison to the same time in 2022–2023, its cumulative index rose by 22.7% from April until August in FY23. Production of crude oil (weight: 8.98%) fell by 3.3% YoY in August 2022, and its cumulative index fell by 1.1% from April to August 2022–2023 compared to the same period in the previous year.

Current Account Deficit Widens To 2.8% Of GDP In Q1 Of FY23

- India's current account deficit (CAD), a key indicator of balance of payment of a country, has widened to \$23.9 billion, which is 2.8% of the GDP, in the first quarter of the current financial year 2022-23. This is up from \$13.4 billion (1.5% of the GDP in Q4 of FY2022) and a surplus of \$6.6 billion (0.9% of the GDP) a year ago period of Q1FY22, according to the data released by the RBI's Balance of Payments.
- The widening trade deficit, or the gap between the value of imports and exports, puts pressure on the balance of payments. India's trade deficit during the first five months of 2022-23 has widened to \$124.5 billion from \$54 billion in the previous corresponding period. In the entire fiscal 2021-22, the trade deficit was at \$189.5 billion. CAD is expected to remain within 3% of the GDP in 2022-23 as against 1.2% during the last fiscal, an article published in the RBI bulletin said earlier.

GST collections up 26% to over Rs 1.47 lakh crore in September

- The gross GST revenue collected in the month of September 2022 is ₹ 1,47,686 crore of which CGST is ₹ 25,271 crore, SGST is ₹ 31,813 crore, IGST is ₹ 80,464 crore (including ₹ 41,215 crore collected on import of goods) and Cess is ₹ 10,137 crore (including ₹ 856 crore collected on import of goods).

- The government has settled ₹ 31,880 crore to CGST and ₹ 27,403 crore to SGST from IGST as regular settlement. The total revenue of Centre and the States after regular settlements in the month of September 2022 is ₹ 57,151 crore for CGST and ₹ 59,216 crore for the SGST.
- The revenues for the month of September 2022 are 26% higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year. During the month, revenues from import of goods was 39% higher and the revenues from domestic transaction (including import of services) are 22% higher than the revenues from these sources during the same month last year.
- This month witnessed the second highest single day collection of Rs. 49,453 crore on 20th September with second highest number of 8.77 lakh challans filed, next only to Rs. 57,846 crore collected on 20th July 2022 through 9.58 lakh challans.

India's unemployment rate drops to 6.43% in September, shows CMIE

- India's unemployment rate has drastically dropped to 6.43 per cent in September due to an increase in labour participation in the rural and urban areas, according to data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE). During August, India's unemployment rate surged to a one-year high of 8.3 per cent as employment sequentially fell by 2 million to 394.6 million.
- "In September, the unemployment rate has fallen significantly with an increase in labour participation in both urban and rural areas," CMIE managing director Mahesh Vyas said.
- According to the CMIE data, the unemployment rate was the highest in Rajasthan at 23.8 per cent in September, followed by Jammu and Kashmir at 23.2 per cent, Haryana at 22.9 per cent, Tripura at 17 per cent, Jharkhand at 12.2 per cent and Bihar at 11.4 per cent. The unemployment was the lowest in Chhattisgarh at 0.1 per cent in September, followed by Assam at 0.4 per cent, Uttarakhand at 0.5 per cent, Madhya Pradesh at 0.9 per cent, Gujarat at 1.6 per cent, Meghalaya at 2.3 per cent and Odisha at 2.9 per cent, the data showed.

About Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE):

Headquarters: Mumbai, India

Founded: 13 April 1976; 46 years ago

Founder: Narottam Shah

In-use bank cards drop 2.3 million in August over new RBI norms

- The outstanding credit card base dropped to 77.99 million in August from over 80 million in July, mainly on account of the new norms of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) that warrant the deactivation of cards that are inactive for a year. While there was a 2.8 per cent decline in net card additions on a month-on-month (MoM) basis in August, a first in many months, credit card spends slipped 3 per cent on a high base. Still, spends topped the Rs 1-trillion mark for the sixth consecutive month.
- The banking system had been adding about 1-1.5 million cards a month for some time now. But in August, "credit cards outstanding for the industry declined by 2.3 million, largely as a result of sharp declines seen for HDFC Bank and Axis Bank. This is largely on account of the implementation of the new RBI norms requiring credit card companies to deactivate cards that are inactive for 365 days. This should impact other players, as well with a lag", stated Suresh Ganapathy and Param Subramanian in a report for Macquarie Research.

- SBI Card, on the other hand, added the most cards in the month under review (296,259), followed by ICICI Bank (211,520).

About Reserve Bank of India (RBI):

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

Ownership: Ministry of Finance, Government of India

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

Founder: British Raj

