

Weekly Current Affairs PDF November 12 to November 18, 2023

Current Affairs PDF- November 18, 2023

INTERNATIONAL

Pedro Sanchez Re-Elected As Spanish Prime Minister

- Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez has secured a second term.
- He assumed office as Prime Minister in June 2018.

About Spain:

Capital: Madrid

King: Felipe VI of Spain

Official language: Spanish

Continent: Europe, Africa

NATIONAL

Kochi in Condé Nast List of Best Places to Visit In 2024

- Kochi, a vibrant city in the Indian state of Kerala, has earned a prestigious spot on Conde Nast Traveller's list of the best places to visit in Asia in 2024.
- Kochi International Airport (CIAL) stands out as the world's first airport to operate solely on solar energy.

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

- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal announced that the Indian patent office has achieved an unprecedented milestone by granting a record-breaking 41,010 patents in the current fiscal year, up until November 15.
- He hailed the accomplishment as the "highest ever number of patents granted so far in 2023-24."

OBITURY

Renowned Art Historian BN Goswamy Passed Away At 90

- GOI honored him with the civilian Padma Shri award in 1998.
- Furthermore, in 2008, Goswamy received another notable accolade as he was once again featured in the Republic Day Honours list, this time for the esteemed Padma Bhushan, the third-highest civilian honor.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Kotak Mahindra Bank Appoints Ashok Vaswani as MD & CEO

About kotak mahindra bank:

Founder: Uday Kotak

Founded: 21 November 1985

Headquarters: Mumbai

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Prematurity Day 2023: Date, Theme, Significance

- In 2008, European Parent organizations united to establish this international awareness day for preterm birth.
- The global theme for this year's World Prematurity Day is "Small actions, big impact: Immediate skin-to-skin care for every baby everywhere."

World Day for the Prevention of and Healing from Child Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Violence 2023

- The United Nations has designated November 18 as the "World Day for the Prevention of and Healing from Child Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Violence."

RANKING

India Ranks Third In Global Unicorn Rankings with 72 Unicorns

- The cumulative valuation of these unicorns stands at a staggering \$195.75 billion.
- The first Indian company to make a mark on the global stage is BYJU's, securing the 36th position with a noteworthy valuation of \$11.50 billion.
- China holds the second-highest number of unicorn companies, boasting a total of 172 with a combined valuation of \$641.67 billion.

BofA Survey Japan and India as Preferred Markets in Asia Pacific

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

BANKING AND ECONOMY

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

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

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NATIONAL

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

- The ninth edition of the Joint Military exercise, known as "Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-2023," kicked off in Aundh (Pune). Running from November 16th to 29th, 2023.

'Hello Naariyal' Call Centre Launched By CDB

- The Coconut Development Board (CDB) has recently launched the "Hello Naariyal" Friends of Coconut Trees (FoCT) call centre facility.
- This initiative is expected to benefit farmers not only in Kerala but also in traditional coconut-growing states like Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka

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

- India's naval capabilities was achieved as 'Amini,' the fourth of the Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW SWC) Project, was successfully launched at M/s L&T Shipbuilding in Kattupalli.

Assam Government Approves Merger of SEBA and AHSEC

- Assam Cabinet has given its nod for the merger of the Secondary Education Board of Assam (SEBA) and the Assam Higher Secondary Education Council (AHSEC).
- The amalgamated entity will now be known as the 'Assam State School Education Board' (ASSEB).

SPORTS

Shami Becomes First Indian Bowler to Claim Seven Wickets in a Single ODI Cricket Match

- Mohammed Shami etched his name in cricketing history by becoming the first Indian bowler to pick seven wickets in a One Day International (ODI).
- This remarkable achievement surpassed the previous best by Stuart Binny, who held the record with figures of 6/4.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Biden Appoints Indian American Shakuntla Bhaya to the Administrative Conference of US

- Bhaya has been appointed as a member of the Council of the Administrative Conference of the United States.
- Shakuntla L Bhaya is a co-owner of the Law Offices of Doroshow, Pasquale, Krawitz & Bhaya

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

International Conference on Plant Health Management 2023, in Hyderabad

- The International Conference on Plant Health Management (ICPHM) 2023 is set to take place in Hyderabad, India, from 15th to 18th November.
- The Plant Protection Association of India (PPAI), established in 1972.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

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

- Aurn Maheshwar, CEO and Joint MD of JSW Infrastructure, expressed the company's commitment to developing Keni Port as an integral part of Karnataka's maritime infrastructure and trade gateway.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

IndusInd Bank Launches 'IndusInd Bank Platinum RuPay Credit Card' on UPI

- This collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) marks a pivotal moment.
- IndusInd Bank Limited, established in 1994.

RBI Approves New Directors of Jio Financial Services

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given its approval for the appointment of key individuals as directors of Jio Financial Services.

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INTERNATIONAL

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

- Pakistan-based cleantech startup She-Guard emerged victorious at the 'ClimateLaunchpad Asia-Pacific' finals.
- She-Guard faced stiff competition with 172 other teams from six countries in the Asia-Pacific in the finals.
- The event hosted by national partner Centre4 Creativity & Sustainability, and funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland (Irish Aid).
- Mehreen Raza is the founder and CEO of She-Guard.

NATIONAL

9th India International Science Festival to be Held in Faridabad in January 2024

- The 9th edition of the Indian International Science Festival (IISF) is set to be held at the Campus of Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) and the Regional Centre for Biotechnology (RCB) in Faridabad, Haryana from 17th January to 20th January 2024.
- The theme of the present edition of the science fair is 'Science and Technology Public Outreach in Amrit Kaal'.

SPORTS

Petroleum Minister Inaugurated 3rd Hockey India Women's Championship

- Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas & Housing and Urban Affairs, inaugurated the 3rd Hockey India Senior Women Inter Department National Championship 2023 at Shivaji Stadium.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Popular Video Chat Service Omegle Shuts Down After 14 Years

- Omegle, a once-popular online chat service founded in 2009 by Leif K-Brooks, has recently announced its shutdown after more than 14 years.
- The platform reported a staggering 600,000 incidents of child sexual abuse in 2022, contributing to its reputation as a dangerous online space.

OBITUARY

Freedom Fighter and Communist Leader N Sankaraiah Passed Away At the Age Of 102

- N Sankaraiah, one of the oldest communist leaders in the country, passed away in Chennai.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas 2023: 15th November

- PM Modi marked the celebration of 'Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas' at Birsa College, Khunti, Jharkhand, on 15th November 2023.
- Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas, also known as Tribal Pride Day, is celebrated to honor the birth anniversary of the revered tribal freedom fighter, Birsa Munda.
- This occasion also witnessed the release of the 15th instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme.
- PM Modi launched the 'Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra' from Ulihatu Village in Jharkhand.

National Press Day 2023: 16 November

- National Press Day traces its roots to the establishment of the Press Council of India in 1966.

About Press Council of India:

Headquarters: New Delhi;

Founder: Parliament of India;

Founded: 4 July 1966, India.

Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai is chairman of the council.

International Day for Tolerance 2023 Observed on 16th November

- This day, instituted by UNESCO.
- In 2023, the theme is "Tolerance: A Path to Peace and Reconciliation,"

About UNESCO:

Headquarters: Paris, France;

Founded: 16 November 1945, London, United Kingdom;

Head: Audrey Azoulay; (Director-General).

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

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

- World-renowned author Salman Rushdie, celebrated for groundbreaking works like 'The Satanic Verses,' received the inaugural 'Lifetime Disturbing the Peace Award' from the Vaclav Havel Center.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

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

- Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL), the country's leading gas firm, has successfully executed the world's first ship-to-ship liquefied natural gas (LNG) transfer.
- GAIL has secured contracts for 5.8 million tonnes per annum of LNG from the United States.

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NATIONAL

India's Strategic Move: Auctioning 20 Critical Mineral Blocks for Economic and Energy Transition

- The Indian government is set to invite bids for 20 critical mineral blocks, including lithium and graphite, within the next two weeks.

- Rajnath Singh to Participate in 10th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus in Jakarta.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is set to attend the 10th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM Plus) in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Govt Introduces PM Kisan Bhai to Break Traders' Monopoly

- The Indian government, through the Ministry of Agriculture Introduces PM Kisan Bhai to Break Traders' Monopoly.
- The scheme is set to undergo a pilot phase in seven states, namely Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh.

Ministry of Power presents initiatives of power sector at IITF 2023, Union Power and NRE Minister R. K. Singh inaugurates Power Pavilion

- The Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy Shri R. K. Singh today inaugurated a Power Pavilion set up by the Ministry of Power, Government of India at the ongoing India International Trade Fair 2023, at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

AATMANIRBHAR AIR ARM OF INDIAN NAVY SEMINAR-2023

- The Southern Naval Command, Kochi, is hosting a two day seminar, themed 'AatmaNirbhar Air Arm of the Indian Navy 2023', from 13-14 Nov 23. The event is being conducted under the aegis of Headquarters Naval Aviation. Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff presided over the seminar as Chief Guest.

SPORTS

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

- Virat Kohli, the former Indian cricket captain, achieved a remarkable feat by becoming the first batter in the world to score 50 One Day International (ODI) centuries.
- He surpassed the iconic Sachin Tendulkar's record of 49 centuries.

SCIENCE & TEHNOLOGY

NASA, ISRO complete key tests ahead of NISAR's launch early next year

- NASA has handed over the NISAR satellite to ISRO, a US Airforce C-17 aircraft transported the payload from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California to Bengaluru.

OBITURY

Sahara Group Founder Subrata Roy Passes Away at 75 after Prolonged Illness

- Sahara Group's visionary founder and chairman, Subrata Roy, passed away at the age of 75.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Former Indian defence secretary joins as advisor to USISPF Board

- Former Indian Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar has joined as an advisor to the Board at the US-India Strategic and Partnership Forum, a media announcement said.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Jharkhand Foundation Day 2023

- Jharkhand is the 28th state of India. It was formed on November 15, 2000 after a long-standing tribal movement for statehood.
- Jharkhand was earlier a part of Bihar, more precisely it was then South Bihar.
- 15th November is the birth anniversary of tribal leader Birsa Munda who was a part of the tribal movement against the British in the 1870s.

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

- India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation rate continued its downward trend, reaching a three-month low of -0.52% in October.

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NATIONAL

'Aaina Dashboard for Cities' portal launched

- The 'Aaina Dashboard for Cities' portal www.aaina.gov.in has been made live by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) on 13th November 2023.
- The Dashboard will present the data submitted by the ULBs on the basis of indicators across five broad pillars namely, (i) Political & Administrative Structure, (ii) Finance, (iii) Planning, (iv) Citizen Centric Governance and (v) Delivery of Basic Services.

PM Modi to Launch PM-PVTG Mission and Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra on Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas

- On November 15, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to launch the PM-PVTG Development Mission.
- The launch ceremony is strategically planned to take place in Jharkhand's Khunti district, specifically after a visit to Ulihatu village, the birthplace of Birsa Munda.

33rd Conference of the WOA Regional Commission for Asia and Pacific in New Delhi

- India is playing host to the 33rd Conference of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific. The event, slated from November 13 to 16, 2023, is unfolding in the city of New Delhi.
- Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying, Shri Parshottam Rupala, will lead the inauguration and conclusion ceremonies.

Hon'ble MoS Rajeev Chandrasekhar Joins India's Most Impactful Tech Event

- There has been growing anticipation surrounding Trescon's Digital Acceleration & Transformation Expo (DATE) as Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Hon'ble Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology, has confirmed his participation at the event. The event will take place on 23-24 November 2023 at the newly inaugurated Yashobhoomi (IICC Dwarka).

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Diabetes Day 2023: 14th November

- According to reports, 1 in 10 adults worldwide is grappling with diabetes, with over 90% diagnosed with type 2 diabetes.
- The theme for World Diabetes Day 2023, "Access to Diabetes Care,"
- The significance of November 14 lies in the celebration of the birthday of Sir Frederick Banting, the co-discoverer of insulin alongside Charles Herbert Best in 1922.
- Established in 1991 by the International Diabetes Foundation (IDF) and the World Health Organization (WHO), World Diabetes Day gained official recognition by the United Nations in 2006.

Children's Day 2023: 14th November

- Children's Day in India is a special occasion celebrated every year on November 14th.
- Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, a leader who deeply cherished children and believed in their potential to shape the nation's future.
- The theme of this year's Children's Day, 'For every child, every right'.
- The journey of Children's Day dates back to November 5, 1948, initially observed as "Flower Day."

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

42nd India International Trade Fair 2023 Inauguration at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi

- The 42nd edition of the India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2023 kicks off at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi. The esteemed event will be inaugurated by Anupriya Patel, the Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry.
- Running until the 27th of this month, the fourteen-day fair centers around the theme of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam."

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

The Institution of Engineering and Technology Announces Winners of the 3rd Edition of the IET India Awards

- The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) successfully concludes the third edition of the IET India Awards and announces winners across seven categories.
- A key highlight of the event was the felicitation of Kris Gopalakrishnan, Co-Founder of Infosys with the IET India Lifetime Achievement Award.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

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

- In its recently released "2024 India Economics Outlook," Morgan Stanley Research predicts that India's economy will experience substantial growth, hovering around 6.5% for both FY2024 and FY2025.
- Moody's Investor Service maintains India's growth at 6.7% for 2023, applauding the country's resilience.

Jio and OneWeb Secure Licenses for Satellite Internet Services

- The Department of Telecom (DoT) has granted Internet Service Provider (ISP) licenses to Jio Satellite Communications and OneWeb.

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INTERNATIONAL

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

- The 6th High-Level Meeting of the India-OPEC Energy Dialogue took place on 9 November 2023.
- At the OPEC Secretariat in Vienna, Austria. The co-chairs of the meeting were HE Haitham Al Ghais, Secretary General of OPEC.
- And Hardeep Singh Puri, Honourable Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs of the Republic of India.

NATIONAL

Ayodhya Sets Guinness Record by Lighting 22 Lakh Diyas

- More than 22 lakh 'dijas' illuminated the banks of the Saryu river in Ayodhya during the seventh edition of the Deepotsav, setting a new world record.
- In 2017, the event saw the lighting of 1.71 lakh lamps, and the numbers have been consistently increasing since then.

Uttarakhand's Unique Products Gets Geographical Indication Tags

- The Geographical Indications (GI) Registry has bestowed the coveted GI tags upon more than 15 products from the state.

OBITURY

Lala Kedarnath Aggarwal, Founder and Chairman of Bikanervala, Passes Away at 86

- Lala Kedarnath Aggarwal, the visionary entrepreneur and founder of the renowned sweets and snacks brand Bikanervala passed away.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Supreme Court Welcomes Three New Judges to Tackle Pending Cases

- The Supreme Court of India has expanded its judicial strength by welcoming three new judges.
- The recent induction of three judges has taken the Supreme Court's judicial strength to its sanctioned capacity of 34.
- The Three new Judges are Justice Satish Chandra Sharma, Justices Augustine George Masih & Justice Sandeep Mehta.

Rear Admiral Rajesh Dhankhar Assumes Command of the Eastern Fleet

- Rear Admiral Rajesh Dhankhar assumed command of the Eastern Fleet, a significant and prestigious position within the Eastern Naval Command.
- Took place at the Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Kindness Day: "Be Kind Wherever Possible"

- World Kindness Day 2023 is observed on November 13, with this year's theme being "Be Kind Wherever Possible."
- In 2005, the UK initiated its Kindness Movement, followed by Singapore in 2009. The World Kindness Movement, which started in the UK in 2010

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

India and ADB Ink \$400 Million Deal for Urban Infrastructure Development

- The agreement, aimed at improving service delivery and promoting efficient governance systems.
- The first sub-programme, approved in 2021 with a financing of \$350 million.

RANKING

SIDBI Introduces 'Sumpoorn' MSME Economic Activity Index in Collaboration with Jocata

- The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has partnered with Jocata, a digital lending transformation platform, to launch a groundbreaking initiative named 'Sumpoorn'—a unique MSME Economic Activity Index.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

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

- The Association of Asia-Pacific Airlines (AAPA) has announced a groundbreaking target for its 14 member airlines, including newly inducted Air India, to achieved 5% sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) usage by 2030.
- India has witnessed SAF demonstration flights, including one by Spice Jet in 2018 and Air Asia India in May 2023.

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INTERNATIONAL

Former PM David Cameron Appointed As the UK Foreign Secretary

- Rishi Sunak appointed David Cameron as Foreign Secretary, Victoria Atkins as the new Health Secretary, and Steve Barclay for the role of the Environment Secretary.

NATIONAL

Uttarakhand to Become the First State to Adopt the Uniform Civil Code (UCC)

- Uttarakhand is on the brink of making history as it prepares to become the first state in India to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC).
- The Uniform Civil Code falls under Article 44 of the Constitution, advocating for a uniform civil code across the country's territory.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's Five-Day Visit to the United Kingdom

- External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar embarks on a five-day official visit to the United Kingdom.

- This strategic alliance is further underlined by the joint commitment outlined in the India-UK Roadmap 2030.

SPORTS

ICC Suspends Sri Lanka Cricket's Membership over Government Interference

- The situation escalated when the Sri Lankan parliament unanimously passed a resolution demanding the removal of the SLC.
- The suspension follows a tumultuous World Cup campaign by the Sri Lankan cricket team, currently ranked ninth in the 10-team standings after a disappointing performance of winnings only two out of nine matches.

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

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) recently announced the induction of three cricketing maestros into the coveted ICC Cricket Hall of Fame.
- Include the explosive opener Virender Sehwag, Indian trailblazer Diana Edulji, and Sri Lankan superstar Aravinda de Silva.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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

- Dictador, a Polish beverage company, appointed Mika, an AI-powered humanoid robot, as its experimental CEO in August of the previous year.
- It is version of the well-known AI robot Sophia.

OBITUARY

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

- Acharya was appointed Governor of Nagaland on July 14, 2014, after President Pranab Mukherjee accepted the resignation of Tripura Governor Vakkom Purushothaman.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

Islamic Arab Summit

- The Joint Arab-Islamic Extraordinary Summit, which took place in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on Saturday, November 11, 2023.
- Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, opened the summit.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Retail Inflation Drops to 4-Month Low of 4.87% in October

- India's retail inflation, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), witnessed a 4-month low in October, settling at 4.87%.

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

- Pablo Picasso's famous painting "Femme à la montre" ("Woman with a Watch") sold for a record-breaking \$139 million at a Sotheby's auction in New York on November 8, 2023.