

Weekly Current Affairs PDF October 01 to October 07, 2023

Current Affairs PDF- October 07, 2023

INTERNATIONAL

Instant View: US job growth smashes expectations, raising prospects for rate hikes

- In a surprising turn of events, the U.S. job market experienced substantial growth in September, bolstering the case for potential interest rate hikes by the Federal Reserve later this year.
- While wage growth is exhibiting signs of moderation, the latest employment report from the Labor Department suggests that the labor market remains robust.
- Nonfarm payrolls, a key indicator of employment trends, saw a remarkable increase of 336,000 jobs in September. Even more encouraging, the August data was revised upward, indicating the addition of 227,000 jobs, as opposed to the previously reported 187,000.

SPORTS

Ojas Deotale is Nagpur's First Asian Games Gold Medalist, eyes hat-trick at Hangzhou Asian Games

- In the final of 19th Asian Games 2023, on Saturday at the Fuyang Yinhu Sports Centre, Indian archer Ojas Deotale from Nagpur won gold medal in the men's individual compound archery event. This victory marks Ojas Deotale third gold medal in the Asian Games 2023.
- Ojas Deotale's third gold medal in this edition of the Asian Games 2023, making him the joint most successful Indian sportsperson in this Asian Games.
- Ojas Deotale's success can be attributed to his exceptional precision and determination in the archery field. Deotale missed the 10-point circle only once in the centre of the target only once as he compiled a score of 140 out of a possible 150 in the final in which each archer shoots five rounds (called End in archery) with three arrows in each round.

Indian Women's Kabaddi Team Clinches Gold Medal to beat China at Asian Games 2023

- In a heart-pounding final showdown at the Xiaoshan Guali Sports Centre in Hangzhou, the Indian women's kabaddi team emerged victorious against a determined Chinese Taipei, securing the gold medal in the Asian Games 2023.
- In a fiercely contested match, the Indian women's kabaddi team clinched the gold medal by defeating Chinese Taipei with a nail-biting score of 26-25. This triumph marks their third gold medal in Asian Games history.
- The Indian women's kabaddi team previously secured gold at Guangzhou 2010. They defended their title at Incheon 2014. In Jakarta 2018, they finished as runners-up.
- Chinese Taipei showcased their growth in kabaddi by upgrading their bronze medal from Jakarta 2018 to silver in the Asian Games 2023.

Asian Games 2023: Jyothi Surekha Vennam wins gold medal in women's individual compound archery, achieves rare treble

- India's Jyothi Surekha Vennam won gold medal in the women's individual compound archery event at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, on Saturday. Jyothi defeated So Chaewon of

South Korea 149-145 in the final to complete a hat-trick of gold medals, having already won titles in the women's and mixed team events.

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- Jyothi Surekha Vennam clinched her third Gold in the ongoing 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou as archers began the final day of games events on Saturday, October 7 on a high.
- It was a slightly off start for Jyothi with an 8-pointer but she slowly came back with 10-pointers in a row as she was leading 89-87 after three rounds.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Cotton Day 2023: 7 October

- World Cotton Day, observed on October 7 each year, emphasises cotton's importance in generating jobs and supporting economies, especially in less developed countries. The initiative of World Cotton Day was born in 2019, when four cotton producers in sub-Saharan Africa—Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali, known as the Cotton Four—proposed the World Trade Organization a World Cotton Day celebration on October 7.
- The theme for World Cotton Day 2023, 'Making cotton fair and sustainable for all, from farm to fashion,' is championed by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

SUMMITS AND MOU'S

PM Modi to inaugurate Vibrant Gujarat Summit on Jan 10

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate the 10th edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Summit on January 10, 2024. Gujarat's Chief Minister, Bhupendra Patel, has emphasized the state's status as an attractive investment destination.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 10th edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Summit on January 10, 2024. This event holds significance as it aligns with the Prime Minister's vision of "Viksit Bharat @2047," emphasizing India's growth and development.

APPOINTMENT & RESIGNATION

Mukesh Ambani's JioMart ropes MS Dhoni as brand ambassador

- Reliance Retail's JioMart has signed up Mahendra Singh Dhoni, India's most iconic cricketer, as its brand ambassador. Dhoni's association comes alongside the rebranding of their festive campaign JioMart to "JioUtsav, Celebrations Of India," which is scheduled to launch on October 8, 2023.
- Whether it's electronics, groceries, fashion, or home essentials, JioMart aims to provide a wide array of choices to cater to every customer's needs. Currently, the platform collaborates with over 1000 artisans and offers a diverse range of 150,000 unique products.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Jailed Iranian activist Narges Mohammadi wins Nobel Peace Prize

- Narges Mohammadi "for her fight against the oppression of women in Iran and her fight to promote human rights and freedom for all". The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided to award the Nobel Peace Prize for 2023 to Narges Mohammadi for her fight against the oppression of women in Iran and her fight to promote human rights and freedom for all. Her brave struggle has come with tremendous personal costs. Altogether, the regime has arrested

her 13 times, convicted her five times, and sentenced her to a total of 31 years in prison and 154 lashes.

- This year's peace prize also recognises the hundreds of thousands of people who, in the preceding year, have demonstrated against Iran's theocratic regime's policies of discrimination and oppression targeting women. The motto adopted by the demonstrators – "Woman – Life – Freedom" – suitably expresses the dedication and work of Narges Mohammadi.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

RBI says to continue to focus on inflation, liquidity in banking system

- In a recent announcement, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) underscored the significance of addressing high inflation to maintain macroeconomic stability and sustainable growth. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das emphasized the central bank's commitment to achieving a durable 4% inflation target while keeping benchmark interest rates unchanged for the fourth consecutive meeting.
- RBI Governor Das highlighted that the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) is steadfastly dedicated to realigning inflation with the 4% target.

REC launches its 54EC Bonds Mobile App

- REC Limited, a prominent Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) specializing in Power Sector Financing and Development, announced the launch of its latest digital innovation, the 'SUGAM REC' mobile application. This exclusive app has been specifically designed to cater to the needs of investors interested in REC's 54EC Capital Gain Tax Exemption Bonds.
- Section 54EC Bonds: These bonds are a type of fixed-income financial instrument that offers tax exemption on capital gains to investors, as per Section 54EC of the Income Tax Act.

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INTERNATIONAL

Bangladesh gets first uranium shipment from Russia for nuclear power plant

- Bangladesh recently received its first shipment of uranium from Russia, which will be used to fuel the country's Rooppur nuclear power plant. The plant, financed and constructed by Russia's Rosatom.
- The Rooppur power plant, located in Ishwardi, Bangladesh, will generate 2,400 megawatts of electricity when both units are fully operational.
- This capacity will provide electricity to approximately 15 million households in Bangladesh, making a substantial contribution to the nation's energy needs.
- Russia has funded the construction of the Rooppur power plant with an \$11.38 billion loan.
- Bangladesh will begin repaying this loan over a period of two decades, starting in 2027.
- Once the Rooppur plant begins production, Bangladesh will join the ranks of over 30 countries with operational nuclear power reactors.

NATIONAL

First ever yak milk product, Arunachal Pradesh Yak Churpi, gets GI tag

- Slightly sour and salty churpi, a naturally fermented cheese prepared from the milk of Arunachali yak, nurtured in the high-altitude areas of Arunachal Pradesh, has recently received the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Churpi, rich in protein, has been a lifeline for tribal yak herders in the harsh, vegetation-starved, cold, and hilly mountainous regions of the state.
- Churpi, a traditional cheese made from yak milk, has been a staple food for tribal communities in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The yak herders, belonging mainly to the Brokpa and Monpa tribes in West Kameng and Tawang districts, rely on churpi as a substitute for vegetables in their diet.

Poll-bound Madhya Pradesh notifies 35% quota for women in govt jobs

- In an important development towards gender equality and women's empowerment, the Madhya Pradesh government has announced a groundbreaking policy to reserve 35% of all state government job positions for women, excluding the Forest Department. This progressive amendment to the Madhya Pradesh Civil Services (Special Provision for Appointment of Women) Rules, 1997.
- The notification states, "Notwithstanding anything contained in any service rules, there shall be reserved 35% of all posts in the service under the state (except Forest Department) in favor of women at the stage of direct recruitment, and the said reservation shall be horizontal and compartment-wise."

Telangana to get Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University in Mulugu

- On October 4th, the Union Cabinet approved the establishment of a tribal university in Telangana, named The Sarakka Central Tribal University. This university, with a budget of Rs 889 crore, will be located in Mulugu district.
- The initiative was a commitment made by the Central government as a part of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, which aimed to support both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in establishing tribal universities.
- The Telangana tribal university project faced significant challenges, primarily related to land allocation. Securing 500-600 acres of land for the university proved to be a time-consuming process.

Nokia CEO Lauds India's 5G Rollout, Launches 6G Lab in Bengaluru

- Telecom giant Nokia has made a significant stride towards the future of wireless technology with the establishment of its state-of-the-art 6G lab at the company's global R&D center in Bengaluru, India. This "first-of-its-kind" project is set to revolutionize the way we perceive and interact with the digital and physical worlds.
- Nokia's 6G lab in Bengaluru is more than just a research facility; it's a hub for innovation and collaboration among industry stakeholders. The lab offers a platform for various stakeholders to come together and test groundbreaking solutions, assessing their potential for commercialization.

OBITUARY

Veteran Trade Union Leader Anathalavattom Anandan Dies

- Veteran CPI(M) leader and former legislator Anathalavattom Anandan, who played a key role in building the trade union base for the party in the state, passed away at a hospital on Thursday. He was 86 years old.
- Anathalavattom Anandan was born in Varkala, Thiruvananthapuram district, in 1937. His journey in the world of politics began in 1954 when he actively participated in an agitation advocating for higher wages for coir workers in his village.
- In 1956, Anandan became a member of the undivided Communist Party of India (CPI) and remained steadfast even after the party split in 1964.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

Government Extends tenure of SBI Chairman Dinesh Khara Until August 2024

- In a significant development, Centre has decided to extend the tenure of Mr. Dinesh Khara as the Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI), the nation's largest lender, until August of the following year.
- It is began on October 7, 2020, for a three-year term, is now set to continue until he reaches the age of 63.
- Dinesh Khara, the man at the helm of India's largest commercial bank, has a remarkable career trajectory within the State Bank of India. He embarked on his journey with the bank as a probationary officer in 1984, marking the beginning of a distinguished service record spanning almost four decades.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Nobel Peace Prize awarded to jailed Iranian activist Narges Mohammadi

- Narges Mohammadi "for her fight against the oppression of women in Iran and her fight to promote human rights and freedom for all". The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided to award the Nobel Peace Prize for 2023 to to Narges Mohammadi for her fight against the oppression of women in Iran and her fight to promote human rights and freedom for all. The regime has arrested her 13 times, convicted her five times, and sentenced her to a total of 31 years in prison and 154 lashes.
- The motto adopted by the demonstrators – "Woman – Life – Freedom" – suitably expresses the dedication and work of Narges Mohammadi.

Bal Sahitya Puraskar in Manipuri language for Dilip Nongmaithem

- The Sahitya Akademi, India's premier literary institution, has once again recognized and celebrated outstanding literary contributions with the prestigious 'Bal Sahitya Puraskar' for the year 2023. This time, the honor has been conferred upon Dilip Nongmaithem, an accomplished author in the Manipuri language, for his remarkable work titled "Ibemmas Amasung Ngabemma."
- In this instance, a panel of distinguished literary experts comprising three members, namely Dr. Hamom Nabachandra Singha, Dr. Khundongbam Gokulchandra Singh, and

Prof. Naorem Bidyasagar Singha, played a pivotal role in evaluating the nominated works.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

SBI launches 'Mobile Handheld Device' for its financial inclusion customers

- In a groundbreaking move aimed at enhancing accessibility and convenience in availing banking services, the State Bank of India (SBI) has introduced the 'Mobile Handheld Device' for its Financial Inclusion (FI) customers. This pioneering initiative, unveiled by the Chairman of SBI, Shri Dinesh Khara, seeks to empower financial inclusion and extend essential banking services to the masses.
- Financial inclusion, often referred to as inclusive finance, is the endeavor to ensure that financial products and services are within reach and reasonably priced for everyone, whether they are individuals or businesses, regardless of their personal wealth or the size of their company.

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INTERNATIONAL

Euro zone economy likely contracted in Q3

- Recent data and surveys suggest that the eurozone economy likely contracted in the third quarter of the year. Demand in the region saw a significant decline in September, marking the fastest pace of decrease in nearly three years.
- The final Composite Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), compiled by S&P Global and considered a reliable indicator of overall economic health, inched up to 47.2 in September.
- Compared to August's 46.7. However, this figure remained below the critical 50-mark, indicating a fourth consecutive month of economic contraction. While it slightly exceeded a preliminary estimate of 47.1, it still points to economic challenges.

NATIONAL

Government of India notifies constitution of National Turmeric Board

- The Union government of India has notified the constitution of the national turmeric board, which will focus on the development and growth of turmeric and turmeric products in the country. Turmeric is majorly cultivated in Tamil Nadu, Telangana state, Karnataka, MP, Odisha, Bengal and Gujarat.
- India is the largest producer, consumer and exporter of turmeric in the world. It enjoys 62 per cent share in the global turmeric market. During 2022-23, 1.534 lakh tonnes of turmeric and products to the tune of \$207.45 million were exported to Bangladesh, UAE, the USA and Malaysia. With the focused activities of the board, it is expected that turmeric exports will reach ` one billion by 2030.

HAL hands over first LCA trainer to IAF, 7 more to come by March 2024

- State-run aircraft manufacturer Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) recently delivered the first trainer version of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas to the Indian Air Force (IAF). This milestone is significant, as the twin-seater Tejas trainer will play a crucial role in training IAF pilots and can also serve as a fighter aircraft when needed.
- The Tejas trainer aircraft is part of an earlier order for 40 Mk-1 jets, which includes both the Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) and the more advanced Final Operational Clearance (FOC) configurations. Out of these 40 aircraft, the IAF has already inducted 32 single-seater jets and established two LCA squadrons. The remaining eight aircraft are trainers. HAL has committed to delivering seven more twin-seater aircraft to the IAF by March 2024.

Two-Day Literature Festival To Be Held in Bengaluru on 7 to 8 October

- The Neev Literature Festival 2023 is scheduled to take place on October 7th and 8th, 2023, at the Neev Academy in Yemalur, Bengaluru. This year, the theme of the event is 'What is childhood without stories?'. In the aftermath of the pandemic, children's lives have undergone a significant transformation. They now grapple with issues such as artificial intelligence, globalization, mental health challenges, shifting values, and numerous other factors. Consequently, the festival endeavors to address and respond to these changes.
- The Neev Literature Festival was initiated in 2017, followed by the introduction of the Neev Book Award in 2018. The goal was to discover and present exceptional children's books that center around Indian experiences and stories. Over the years, the festival has delved into thought-provoking themes such as 'Partition: Memory and Memorialization', 'Peripheries: Boundaries on the Edge, Boundaries Within', and 'Embracing Diversity'.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

RBI appointed Muneesh Kapur as its new executive director

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the appointment of Muneesh Kapur as an Executive Director (ED) starting from October 3, 2023.
- This significant appointment brings Mr. Kapur into a key leadership position within the central bank.
- Before his promotion to the role of Executive Director, Muneesh Kapur held the position of Adviser-in-Charge within the Monetary Policy Department.
- Additionally, he served as the Secretary to the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), where he played a crucial role in shaping the nation's monetary policy.
- In his new capacity as Executive Director, Muneesh Kapur will assume responsibility for overseeing the operations of the Department of Economic and Policy Research.

Former HDFC Bank chief Aditya Puri joins Deloitte as senior adviser

- Former managing director and CEO of HDFC Bank Aditya Puri joined Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP as senior adviser.

- Puri would leverage his expertise and experience to help drive a tech-enabled transformation in the financial services sector and champion initiatives aimed at boosting financial inclusion across India, Deloitte said in a statement.
- Puri was appointed CEO of HDFC Bank in 1994 and retired after 26 years of service. In June, Deloitte announced the appointment of Manoj Kohli, former CEO of Bharati Airtel and Softbank India, as senior adviser.

RANKING

Global infrastructure faces annual losses of over USD 300 bn amid worsening climate impacts: CDRI report

- The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) has released a biennial report highlighting the alarming annual losses in global infrastructure due to the worsening impacts of climate change and disasters.
- The global annual average loss (AAL) in principal infrastructure sectors due to disasters and climate change stands between USD 301 and USD 330 billion.
- When including health and education infrastructure, along with building stock, this range increases significantly to USD 732 to USD 845 billion. Approximately half of this contingent liability is held by LMICs.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

India's Sept diesel exports to Europe highest so far in '23

- In September 2023, India witnessed a remarkable surge in its diesel exports to Europe, reaching their highest levels for the year. This surge was driven by a combination of factors, including reduced supplies from West Asia and the United States (US) due to the autumn refinery maintenance season and robust demand in Europe.
- India's diesel exports to Europe in September reached approximately 333,000 barrels per day (bpd), marking a substantial increase of nearly 47 percent from August.
- This surge was even more impressive when compared to the same month the previous year, with a year-on-year increase of 57 percent, according to data provided by Vortexa.

Government Maintains GPF Rate at 7.1%

- In a recent announcement, the government has decided to keep the interest rate on General Provident Fund (GPF) savings unchanged at 7.1% for the October-December quarter. This marks the 15th successive quarter where the government has maintained the status quo, ensuring stability for government employees' retirement savings.
- The Finance Ministry officially notified the retention of the 7.1% interest rate.
- The last adjustment to the GPF rate occurred in the first quarter of 2020-21 when it was reduced from 7.9% to 7.1%.

UNCTAD expects global economic growth for 2023 to slow down to 2.4%

- The UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has revised India's economic growth forecast for 2023 upward to 6.6% from the earlier projection of

6%. However, the report also anticipates a slowdown in India's growth to 6.2% in 2024.

- Furthermore, the UNCTAD highlights concerns about the global economic outlook, with a deceleration to 2.4% in 2023, followed by a marginal improvement to 2.5% in 2024.
- UNCTAD revises India's 2023 economic growth forecast to 6.6%, up from the previous estimate of 6%.
- Predicts a slight decline in India's growth to 6.2% for the year 2024.

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INTERNATIONAL

Uganda Airlines to start direct flight to Mumbai thrice a week

- On 3 October, Uganda Airlines announced a significant milestone in its operations by commencing direct flight services between Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport and Entebbe International Airport in Uganda. The maiden flight for this route, UR 430, is scheduled to take off from Entebbe on 7 October, with the return flight, UR 431, departing from Mumbai on 8 October.
- Uganda Airlines has taken a significant step in expanding its international network by launching direct services between Mumbai and Entebbe. The commencement of this route, effective from 7 October, is set to strengthen the ties between the two nations in various domains, including trade, commerce, and tourism.

NATIONAL

Jammu and Kashmir's famed Pashmina gets geographical recognition with GI tag

- Basohli Pashmina, an age-old traditional craft originating from the picturesque district of Kathua in Jammu and Kashmir, has recently earned the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag. This recognition not only celebrates the exceptional craftsmanship of the artisans but also protects the authenticity and uniqueness of this artisanal heritage.
- Basohli Pashmina is renowned for its exceptional softness, fineness, and feather-like weight. Crafted by skilled artisans using traditional hand-spinning techniques, this exquisite fabric has been a symbol of luxury and elegance for over a century. Its hallmark is its remarkable ability to provide warmth without adding bulk, making it an ideal choice for cold climates and discerning fashion enthusiasts.

SPORTS

ICC names Sachin Tendulkar as Global Ambassador for ODI world cup

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Tuesday named legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar as the 'Global Ambassador' for the Cricket World Cup 2023, which begins tomorrow in Ahmedabad.
- Sachin, who has participated in a record six 50-over World Cups, will unveil the World Cup trophy before the inaugural match between England and New Zealand, thereby officially opening the tournament.

Rest of India win Irani cup 2023-24

- Defending Ranji Trophy champion Saurashtra was bundled out for 79 in a 175-run defeat by Rest of India in the Irani Cup at the Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Rajkot on Tuesday.
- Chasing a 255-run target, Jaydev Unadkat's men were skittled by a spin attack led by left-arm seamer Saurabh Kumar's six-wicket haul (6/43). Shams Mulani and off-spinner Pulkit Narang picked up the remaining wickets as RoI bagged the title.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti, AVSM, VSM assumed charge as Deputy Chief Of Naval Staff

- Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti, AVSM, VSM, took over as the Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff, marking a significant transition in the leadership of the Indian Navy. With a distinguished career spanning over 35 years, Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti brings a wealth of experience and expertise to his new role.
- Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti was commissioned into the Indian Navy on July 1, 1988, embarking on a journey that would see him become a distinguished leader in the maritime domain. He specialized in Navigation and Direction, a critical aspect of naval operations.

Centre extends Amit Agarwal's tenure as CEO of UIDAI for one year

- The central government has extended the tenure of senior IAS officer Amit Agrawal as CEO of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) for one year.
- As per an order issued by the Ministry of Personnel, Amit Agrawal, a 1993-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Chhattisgarh cadre, has been given in extension of his service as the CEO of UIDIA for a period of one year beyond November 2, 2023, to November 2, 2024, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Animal Welfare Day 2023: 4th October

- World Animal Day, also known as World Animal Welfare Day, is a global initiative celebrated annually on October 4th. This day serves as an International Day of Action, advocating for the rights and welfare of animals. The choice of this date coincides with the feast day of Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. This event unites animal lovers worldwide, raising awareness and fostering a sense of responsibility towards the well-being of animals.
- The theme for World Animal Day 2023, "Great or Small, Love Them All," emphasizes the importance of acknowledging animals as sentient beings. It underscores the need to elevate global animal care standards and advocates for animal rights universally.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

PMI manufacturing hits 5-month low at 57.5 in September

- In September, India's manufacturing sector saw a notable slowdown, reaching a five-month low, as reported by the seasonally adjusted S&P Global India Manufacturing

Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI). This index slipped to 57.5 from 58.6 in August, indicating a deceleration in activity. A PMI reading of 50 represents no change in activity levels.

- While input cost inflation reached its lowest point in over three years, firms raised their output charges at a pace higher than the long-run average. This decision may potentially impact future sales prospects. Firms attributed the price hikes to increased labor costs, optimistic business confidence, and robust demand observed in September.

World Bank retains India's FY24 GDP growth at 6.3%, cites inflation hurdle

- Despite substantial external challenges, India's economy remains robust, prompting the World Bank to maintain its growth forecast for the fiscal year 2023-24 at 6.3%. This decision reflects India's remarkable resilience within a demanding global environment.
- India's economic resilience is underpinned by key factors, including strong domestic demand, significant public infrastructure investments, and a strengthening financial sector. Notably, bank credit growth has surged to 15.8% in the first quarter of FY23/24, indicating a healthy financial environment.
- India does face challenges due to ongoing global headwinds, including sluggish demand, elevated interest rates, and geopolitical tensions. The World Bank anticipates these challenges to persist and potentially intensify due to factors such as high global interest rates, geopolitical conflicts, and subdued global demand. Consequently, global economic growth is expected to slow down over the medium term.

World bank research paper on karnataka Gram panchayat fund

- Though the Karnataka government has taken many legislative measures to decentralise powers to rural local bodies during the last three decades, fund allocations in gram panchayats (GPs) are most influenced by the elite, according to a research paper of the World Bank. Men and 'upper' caste individuals in GPs ensure that their preferences are represented better in allocation of funds, it said.
- "Funding is least representative of the needs of women and Scheduled Castes and this a clear indication of an elite bias in funding allocations in elected GPs of Karnataka," said the report.

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NATIONAL

'SHRAMDAAN EVENT' organised by the MINISTRY OF MSME

- The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) took a significant step towards realizing the vision of a "Garbage Free India." Aligning with the national initiative championed by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, a unique event titled 'Shramdaan' was organized by the Ministry. "Garbage Free India" The focal theme of 'Shramdaan' revolved around the concept of "Garbage Free India."

- Development Facilitation Office, Okhla, Phase-1, New Delhi The event unfolded at the Development Facilitation Office, Okhla, Phase-1, New Delhi.

‘Har Ghar Solar’ campaign in Lucknow, Varanasi from October 2

- The state government of Uttar Pradesh will launch a month-long 'Har Ghar Solar' campaign in Lucknow and Varanasi to promote the use of renewable energy through the installation of solar rooftops. The government aims to generate 6,000 MW of solar power through rooftops under the Solar Policy, 2022.
- The state government will be launching a month-long 'Har Ghar Solar' campaign in Lucknow and Varanasi from October 2 to promote use of renewable energy in the state, a government spokesman said here on Saturday.

SPORTS

Avinash sable wins gold in men's 3000m steeplechase

- India's Avinash Sable won the gold medal in men's 3000m steeplechase at the Hangzhou Asian Games on Sunday. He took top honours with a timing of 8:19:50s, breaking the Games record along the way.
- Sable's medal is India's 12th gold at this edition of the Asian Games and the first track and field gold in Hangzhou.
- Sable, a 2022 Commonwealth Games silver medallist, holds the national record of 8 minutes 11.20 seconds. His season's best time is 8:11.63, placing him in second position among Asians behind Miura Ryuji (SB: 8:09.91) of Japan.
- In Hangzhou, besides the 3000m steeplechase, his pet event, Sable will also compete in the 5000m race.

Asian Games 2023: Tajinderpal Singh Toor wins shot put gold

- Tajinderpal Singh Toor defends Asian Games crown
- Tajinderpal Singh Toor wins Gold in Shotput
- Tajinderpal registers best attempt of 20.36m
- India's Tajinderpal Singh Toor defended his Asian Games crown by clinching a gold medal in Shotput in the ongoing Hangzhou Games.
- Toor's journey to win was not a smooth one. Starting off impressively with a powerful first throw that nearly touched the 20m mark.

Indian origin Pereira wins Singapore first athletics Asian Games Gold

- Singapore is celebrating its first athletics gold win in 49 years at the Asian Games with its Indian-origin sprinter Shanti Pereira winning the women's 200m final in Hangzhou, China.
- Pereira clocked 23.03 seconds to finish the race on Monday at the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Centre Stadium. This is the first athletics gold medal for the city-state since 1974, when sprinter Chee Swee Lee had won the women's 400m race.
- China's Li Yuting took the silver with 23.28 seconds and Bahrain's Edidiong Ofonime Odiong came third at 23.48 seconds in the Monday race. Odiong's compatriot, Salwa Eid Naser, was disqualified for a false start.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Nature Day 2023: 3rd October

- World Nature Day, established by the World Nature Organization (WNO) on October 3, 2010, serves as a crucial platform to raise awareness.. In this article, we delve into the significance, celebration, and key facts about World Nature Day, highlighting its vital role in addressing the environmental issues that affect us all.
- World Nature Day is celebrated in various ways, involving people of all ages and backgrounds.

National zoological park begins celebration of 69th wildlife week

- National Zoological Park kick-started the celebration of 69th Wildlife Week with the theme "Partnerships for wildlife conservation", honoring the people who are making a difference, on the theme of UN World Wildlife Day 2023 and activities in context to wildlife conservation.
- The National Zoological Park will celebrate "Wildlife Week - 2023" from 02.10.2023 to 08.10.2023.
- The programme was started with floral tribute for animals died in the National Zoological Park. After this activities were inaugurated with lighting of lamp by the dignitaries Shri Bivash Ranjan, ADG (WL), MoEF&CC, Shri Sanjay Shukla, Member Secretary Central Zoo and Dr. Faiyaz A. Khudsar, Biodiversity Expert, University of Delhi. Awareness activities were organized like Nukkad Natak, expert talk on Biodiversity, video on mission LIFE and pledge.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Mathematician Ruixiang Zhang to receive 2023 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize

- Mathematician Ruixiang Zhang, an Assistant Professor at the University of California, Berkeley, USA, has been selected as the recipient of the prestigious 2023 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize.
- The prize, which includes a cash award of \$10,000, will be presented during an international conference in Number Theory, held in the hometown of the renowned mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan, at SASTRA University in Kumbakonam during the third week of December.
- In keeping with the legacy of Srinivasa Ramanujan, whose groundbreaking work was accomplished during his tragically brief life of 32 years, the SASTRA Ramanujan Prize maintains an age limit of 32 years for its recipients.

Katalin kariko drew weissman get nobel prize for medicine

- Katalin Karikó and Drew Weissman were jointly awarded the 2023 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine on Monday for their groundbreaking contributions to the development of highly effective mRNA vaccines against COVID-19.
- The prestigious recognition underscores the critical role of their discoveries related to nucleoside base modifications in enabling the rapid creation of these vaccines during the pandemic.

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NATIONAL

From K Sivan to Annadurai, Tamil Nadu govt fetes 9 ISRO scientists, announces award of ₹25 lakh for each scientist

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin recently celebrated the achievements of nine eminent space scientists from the state, including renowned figures like K Sivan and Mylswamy Annadurai, for their remarkable contributions to India's space program. In a special event held in Chennai on 2nd October 2023, Chief Minister Stalin announced cash awards of Rs.25 lakh for each of the scientists.

Honored Scientists

1. ISRO Chairman K Sivan, Chandrayaan-1 and 2
2. Project Director, Mylswamy Annadurai
3. Director of Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre- ISRO V Narayanan
4. Director of Satish Dhawan Space Centre, A Rajarajan
5. Distinguished ISRO Scientist, M Sankaran
6. Chandrayaan-3 Project Director, P Veeramuthuvel
7. ISRO's M Vanitha
8. ISRO's Nigar Shaji
9. ISRO-Propulsion Complex Director, J Asir Packiaraj

SPORTS

Indian team (U-19) won the men's Championship

- India won the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Under-19 Championship after defeating Pakistan 3-0 in a dominating display in the finals at the Dashrath Rangasala Stadium in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- India U19: Lionel Daryl Rymmei, Ishaan Shishodia, Ricky Meetei Haobam, Manabir Basumatary (Surajkumar Singh Ngangbam 46th minute), Raja Harijan, Gwngwmsar Goyary, Naoba Meitei Pangambam (Kelvin Singh Taorem 81st minute), Sahil Khurshid, A Siba Prasad, Ebindas Yesudasan (Manglenthang Kipgen 46th minute), Thomas Kanamoottil Cherian.

Football for Schools (F4S) program organized by AIFF

- A two-day master training program for capacity-building within the F4S program was launched in Sambalpur, Odisha. This event saw the participation of 95 Physical Education Teachers/Trainees from various States/UTs, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS), and AIFF.
- Football for Schools (F4S) is an ambitious program spearheaded by the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). In collaboration with the Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, and the support of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and the Sports Authority of India (SAI).

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Indian Navy unveils cutting-edge autonomous weaponized boat swarms and underwater vessels at Swavlamban 2.0

- The Indian Navy is preparing to host the second edition of the Naval Innovation and Indigenization Seminar, known as Swavlamban, scheduled to take place on October 4th and 5th in the vibrant city of New Delhi. The Autonomous Weaponized Boat Swarms and the Autonomous Vessel Underwater (AUV).
- This initiative, championed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, aims to foster innovation and technology development within the Defense and Aerospace Sector, actively engaging Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), start-ups, and individual innovators to develop specialized technologies.
- The Indian Navy has entered into a significant agreement with Sagar Defence Engineering Pvt. Ltd for the development of Autonomous Weaponized Boat Swarms.

India: IAF to conduct Astra missiles by end of 2023

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) is making significant strides towards enhancing its air defense capabilities with the impending induction of indigenous Astra Beyond Visual Range (BVR) Air-to-Air Missiles. The IAF has entered into contracts with Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL).
- The first batch of Astra-MK1 missiles, developed by the Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL) and Research Centre Imarat (RCI) among other DRDO laboratories, is slated for induction by the end of 2023.
- Astra missiles have been successfully integrated onto the SU-30MKI aircraft, demonstrating their compatibility and effectiveness.
- The missile was test-fired from the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas off the coast of Goa, reaching an altitude of 20,000 ft.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

Cricket World Cup 2023: Ajay Jadeja named Afghanistan's team mentor for WC2023

- Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) appointed former India captain Ajay Jadeja as the team mentor for the upcoming ODI World Cup, scheduled to be held in India from October 5 to November 19.
- Ajay Jadeja, a former Indian captain and middle-order batter, has a distinguished cricketing career to his name. He played 15 Test matches for India from 1992 to 2000, amassing 576 runs at an impressive average of 26.18, with four half-centuries to his name.
- Ajay Jadeja's contributions extend beyond international cricket. He has been an integral part of 111 First-Class matches and 291 List A games, showcasing his versatility and proficiency across different formats of the game.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Trio win 2023 Nobel Prize in Physics for use of light to study electrons

- Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz and Anne L'Huillier “for experimental methods that generate attosecond pulses of light for the study of electron dynamics in matter”. This year Nobel Laureates in Physics 2023 are being recognised for their experiments, which have given humanity new tools for exploring the world of electrons inside atoms and molecules.
- Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz and Anne L'Huillier have demonstrated a way to create extremely short pulses of light that can be used to measure the rapid processes in which electrons move or change energy.

Sudha Murty Makes History As The First Female Recipient of Global Indian Award

- Renowned author, philanthropist and the wife of Infosys co-founder N.R. Narayana Murthy, Sudha Murthy, was honored with the prestigious Global Indian Award by the Canada India Foundation (CIF) at a grand Indo-Canadian gala in Toronto. The award, which carries a value of \$50,000, is presented annually to an outstanding Indian personality who has left an indelible mark in their respective field.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Agri-start-ups recommended for technical & financial

- In a significant boost to the agri-tech sector, experts have recommended 24 start-ups for technical and financial support from a dedicated fund of Rs 20 crore. This transformative initiative was announced during the ATMAN (Agri sTartup deMo And funding) 2023 program.
- ATMAN (Agri sTartup deMo And funding) 2023 program was organized by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) in collaboration with four Technology Innovation Hubs. These hubs, established under the National Mission on Inter-disciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS) at prominent Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

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INTERNATIONAL

Pakistan's inflation rises to 31.4% y/y amid high energy prices

- Pakistan's inflation rate surged to 31.4% year-on-year in September, driven by soaring fuel and energy prices. This alarming increase followed a high of 27.4% in August, highlighting the severe economic challenges faced by the nation.
- The International Monetary Fund's approval of a \$3 billion loan in July prevented a sovereign debt default but imposed stringent conditions. Reforms, such as easing import restrictions and removing subsidies, fueled annual inflation, reaching a record 38.0% in May.

- To curb inflation, Pakistan increased interest rates to a staggering 22%.

Maldives election: Pro-China candidate Muizzu wins presidency

- In a closely-watched election in the Maldives, Mohamed Muizzu, the candidate from the Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM), emerged victorious in the presidential polls after a runoff vote. Muizzu secured more than 53 percent of the vote in the runoff, defeating the incumbent president, Ibrahim Solih.
- In the first round of voting, Muizzu led with approximately 46 percent of the votes, while Ibrahim Solih trailed with 39 percent.
- The runoff election saw Muizzu consolidating his lead with over 53 percent of the votes, as reported by local media sources after tallying results from all 586 ballot boxes.
- President Ibrahim Solih gracefully conceded defeat and congratulated Muizzu on his victory.

Indonesia Starts Southeast Asia's First High-Speed Rail Operations

- Indonesian President Joko Widodo officially inaugurated Southeast Asia's first high-speed railway on Monday, marking a significant milestone for the nation's infrastructure development. The ambitious project, known as the "Whoosh" high-speed railway, is a key component of China's Belt and Road Initiative and is poised to dramatically reduce travel times between two vital Indonesian cities.
- With an estimated cost of \$7.3 billion, this monumental infrastructure project was predominantly funded by China. It was brought to fruition through the joint efforts of PT Kereta Cepat Indonesia-China (PT KCIC), a collaboration between an Indonesian consortium comprising four state-owned companies and China Railway International Co. Ltd.

NATIONAL

'Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign' Becomes 'Jan Andolan'

- The Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) campaign, which kicked off on September 15, reached its culmination on the eve of Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary. This nationwide initiative, also known as the 'Swachhata Hi Seva' campaign, was led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and garnered widespread participation from citizens across India. The campaign was not just a standalone effort but a precursor to the grand celebration of 'Swachh Bharat Diwas' or 'Swachhta Diwas,' observed on October 2 each year.
- India observed 'Swachh Bharat Diwas' on October 2, marking the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Swachh Bharat: All 6.6k Villages In J&k Declared Odf+ Model

- All 6,650 villages of Jammu and Kashmir have been declared Open Defecation-Free (ODF) Plus Model under the Swachh Bharat Mission.
- Achieving ODF Plus Model status is not an overnight endeavor but a journey that involves three stages: Aspiring, Rising, and Model.

- When a village demonstrates visual cleanliness with minimal litter, stagnant water, effective solid and liquid waste management, and sufficient information, education, and communication (IEC) activities, it is declared as an ODF Plus Model.

Launch of New KHADI INDIA OUTLET at IIT, DELHI

- In a bid to bridge the generational gap and ignite a renewed interest in the age-old fabric, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) inaugurated a revamped Khadi India outlet at the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Campus in Delhi on October 2.
- In addition to the outlet's inauguration, Shri Manoj Kumar, Chairman of KVIC and Shri Nagendra Raghuvanshi, Member, Commission KVIC, also unveiled an exciting new collection of apparel designed by the Centre of Excellence for Khadi (CoEK) in collaboration with various Khadi Institutions.

Bihar Caste Census Important Highlights

1. OBCs and EBCs Dominate:

Extremely Backward Class (EBC) comprises 36.01% of the population.

Other Backward Class (OBC) constitutes 27.13% of the population.

2. Scheduled Castes and Tribes:

Scheduled Caste (SC) population stands at 19.65%.

Scheduled Tribe (ST) population is 1.68%.

3. General Caste and Yadavs:

General Caste population is 15.52%.

Yadavs represent 14% of the population.

4. Religious Composition:

Hindus make up 82% of the population.

Muslims account for 17.71%.

SPORTS

India's squash team win gold medal

- India has won a gold medal in men's squash team event after beating Pakistan 2-1 at the Asian Games. In a tightly contested match, the team led by Abhav Singh outperformed their rivals in the final round.
- The best-of-three tie started with Mahesh M losing to Nasir Iqbal in straight games – 8-11, 3-11, 2-11. Saurav Ghosal, however, pulled the contest square with his 11-5, 11-1, 11-3 victory over Muhammad Asim.
- The decider between Abhay Singh and Noor Zaman stretched the full distance but the Indian eventually prevailed 11-7, 9-11, 7-11, 11-9, 12-10.

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

Lt General Raghu Srinivasan Takes Over As Border Roads Organisation Chief

- Lieutenant General Raghu Srinivasan assumed the role of the 28th Director General (DG) of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) on Saturday. This transition follows the superannuation of Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhry.

- Srinivasan is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy in Khadakwasla and the Indian Military Academy in Dehradun, where he was commissioned into the Corps of Engineers in 1987.

