

Weekly Current Affairs PDF October 08 to October 14, 2023

Current Affairs PDF- October 14, 2023

NATIONAL

CM of Jharkhand Hemant Soren Unveils 'Juhi' Mascot for Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2023

- 'Juhi,' the mascot, takes inspiration from the beloved elephant at Betla National Park.
- Savita will lead the Indian Women's Hockey Team as Captain, with Deep Grace Ekka serving as her deputy.

About Jharkhand:

Capital: Ranchi;

Chief Minister: Hemant Soren;

Governor: C.P. Radhakrishnan;

First Ever Mobile Tower Installed At Siachen Glacier By The Indian Army

- The Siachen Glacier, known as the world's highest battlefield, has witnessed a groundbreaking development with the installation of a mobile tower.

About Siachen Glacier:

Location: Karakoram, Ladakh (controlled by India, claimed by Pakistan)

Parent range: Karakoram

SPORTS

IOC has accepted the recommendation to include T20 cricket into the 2028 Olympics

- The acceptance of cricket's inclusion in the 2028 Los Angeles Summer Olympics represents a pivotal moment in the sport's history.
- IOC president Thomas Bach expressed his endorsement for the inclusion of these five sports in the Olympics.
- In 2022, cricket made its return to the Commonwealth Games, with women's T20 matches being played at Edgbaston in Birmingham.

About IOC:

Headquarters: Lausanne, Switzerland

Founded: 23 June 1894, Paris, France

Director General: Christophe De Kepper

Founders: Pierre de Coubertin, D. Bikélas

Alastair Cook a Former England captain announced his retirement from cricket

- Cook has chosen not to renew his contract with Essex, effectively bringing an end to his association with the county team.
- Cook had previously retired from international cricket in 2018, leaving behind an illustrious legacy.
- He amassed an astonishing 12,472 Test runs during his international career, making him the highest-scoring English batter and the fifth-highest run-scorer in Test history.
- The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) hailed Cook as a "titan of the game,"

SUMMITS AND MOU'S

PM Modi to Inaugurate 141st IOC Session in Mumbai

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate the 141st International Olympic Committee (IOC) session at the Jio World Centre in Mumbai on October 14.
- India's second time hosting the IOC session, following a gap of nearly four decades since the 86th IOC session was held in New Delhi in 1983.
- International Olympic Committee President: Thomas Bach
- India's second time hosting the event after a gap of nearly 40 years.
- India last hosted the IOC session in 1983.

17th CII Annual Tourism Summit

- India's G20 Presidency presents a unique opportunity to attract tourists worldwide.
- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is organizing the 17th CII Tourism Summit on October 13, 2023, in Mumbai.
- Ms. V Vidyavathi, Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, addresses inaugural session of 17th CII Annual Tourism Summit

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Michael Douglas to be conferred Satyajit Ray Excellence in Film Lifetime Award

- Hollywood actor Michael Douglas is set to receive the prestigious Satyajit Ray Excellence in Film Lifetime Award at the 54th International Film Festival to be held in Goa.
- The upcoming 54th International Film Festival of India promises to be a star-studded event with the presence of Hollywood veteran Michael Douglas, Catherine Zeta Jones, and their son.
- The Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award, instituted in the IFFI in 1999.

NTPC Becomes The Only Indian PSU To Feature In Forbes "World's Best Employers 2023" List

- India's largest integrated energy conglomerate, NTPC Limited, has achieved a remarkable distinction by being named one of the "World's Best Employers 2023" in the Forbes World's Best Employers list, which was officially unveiled on October 10, 2023.
- This prestigious recognition places NTPC at the 261st position among the top 700 companies globally.
- NTPC's inclusion on the Forbes World's Best Employers List 2023 underscores the company's commitment to a progressive "People before PLF" (Plant Load Factor) approach.

About NTPC:

Founded: 7 November 1975

Headquarters: New Delhi, India

Owner: Government of India

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Zomato Introduces Parcel Delivery Service, 'Xtreme' With Primary Focus On Merchants

- Zomato charges an initial fee of Rs 25 for the first kilometer of delivery.
- It's important to note that these prices do not include the Goods and Services Tax (GST) component.

About Zomato:

Founders: Deepinder Goyal, Akriti Chopra, Gunjan Patidar, Pankaj Chaddah

Founded: July 2008; 15 years ago

Headquarters: Gurugram, Haryana, India

ICICI Bank Introduces 'iFinance,' A One-Stop Solution for Multi-Bank Account Access

- Siddhartha Mishra, the Head of Digital Channels at ICICI Bank.

About ICICI bank:

Headquarters: Mumbai

CEO: Sandeep Bakhshi (15 Oct 2018–)

Founded: 1994, Vadodara

Founder: Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India

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NATIONAL

'Miniature Eastern Ghats' To Become A Key Tourist Destination In Visakhapatnam Soon

- Miniature Eastern Ghats' (MEG) forest arena, scheduled to become a prominent tourist destination in Visakhapatnam from November 2023.
- The MEG is a splendid initiative set to take shape in approximately 30 acres of reserved land, which belongs to the Andhra Pradesh Forest Department.
- Within the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) limits.

Udaipur Set To Become India's First Wetland City

- The Rajasthan government, in collaboration with the Environment and Forest Department, is making concerted efforts to elevate Udaipur, also known as the 'City of Lakes

About Rajasthan:

- Chief Minister: Ashok Gehlot
- Governor: Kalraj Mishra

54th International Film Festival of India To Take Place From November 20 To 28

- Scheduled to take place from November 20 to 28 in the beautiful coastal state of Goa.
- Established in 1952, the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) has firmly established itself as a leading film festival in Asia.

SPORTS

Gold medalist Neeraj Chopra appointed Laureus Ambassador

- Neeraj's association with Laureus began in 2022 when he was shortlisted for the Breakthrough of the Year award at the Laureus World Sports Awards.
- He joins esteemed figures in Indian sports, such as Kapil Dev, Rahul Dravid, and Sachin Tendulkar, who have been associated with the organization.

- His winning throw in Tokyo on August 7 is now celebrated as National Javelin Day in India

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

South Indian Bank appoints VJ Kurian as its new chairman

- VJ Kurian has been appointed as the non-executive part-time chairman of the South Indian Bank, based in Thrissur
- This development follows regulatory approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and comes as Salim Gangadharan.
- South Indian Bank Headquarters: Thrissur, Kerala;
- South Indian Bank Founded: 25 January 1929.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2023: 13th October

- The theme of UN International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2023 is "Fighting inequality for a resilient future."
- The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction was started in 1989.
- In 2015 at the Third UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan.

SUMMITS AND MOU'S

India, France Defence Ministers hold fifth dialogue

- Shri Rajnath Singh, the Indian Defence Minister, concluded his two-nation European tour with a significant meeting in Paris with the French Minister of Armed Forces, Mr. Sebastien Lecornu.

About France:

Capital: Paris

PM: Élisabeth Borne

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

UP wins award for using telecommunication technology in mental health and counselling

- On October 10th, Uttar Pradesh was awarded the third prize for its outstanding efforts in operationalizing Telemanas.
- The award was presented by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

RBI Cancels Registration Certificate Of Ind Bank Housing Ltd

- Ind Bank Housing Ltd, established in 1991, has been facing financial challenges, as evidenced by its widening net loss and negative capital adequacy ratio.
- The RBI has directed that the company is not permitted to transact the business of a Housing Finance Institution or a Non-Banking Financial Institution as defined in the National Housing Bank Act, 1987, and the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, respectively.

About RBI:

Governor: Shaktikanta Das

Founded: 1 April 1935, Kolkata

Founder: British Raj

Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

RITES Ltd, a prominent Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Ministry of Railways.

- It has achieved the prestigious 'Navratna' status, becoming the 16th CPSE in India.

List of Other 15 Navratna PSUs:

1. Bharat Electronics Limited,
2. Container Corporation of India Limited,
3. Engineers India Limited,
4. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited,
5. Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited,
6. National Aluminium Company Limited,
7. National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited,
8. Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited,
9. NMDC Limited,
10. Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited,
11. Shipping Corporation of India Limited,
12. Rail Vikas Nigam Limited,
13. ONGC Videsh Ltd,
14. Rashtriya Chemicals & Fertilizers Limited, and
15. IRCON.

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INTERNATIONAL

India, China hold 20th round of military talks In Ladakh

- India and China held their 20th corps commander-level meeting at the Chushul-Moldo border in Ladakh.
- The recent round of talks built on the progress made during previous Corps Commander meetings held on August 13 and 14.
- In 2019, the Indian government revoked the special autonomy of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcated it into two union territories – Jammu & Kashmir, and Ladakh.
- China is the world's most populous country, with over 1.4 billion people.
- The capital of China is Beijing.

NATIONAL

UP Declares Gangetic Dolphin as State Aquatic Animal

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has made Gangetic Dolphin as state Aquatic animal.
- CM yogi also launched the "Meri Ganga Meri Dolphin 2023" campaign.

Union Cabinet approves setting up of 'Mera Yuva Bharat' autonomous body for youth development

- The Union Cabinet, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the establishment of an autonomous body named "Mera Yuva Bharat" (my Bharat).
- This initiative aligns with the National Youth Policy and targets individuals between the ages of 15-29.
- Mera Yuva Bharat will be officially launched on 31st October, 2023, which coincides with National Unity Day.

Operation Ajay set to evacuate Indian nationals from Israel

- External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar announced this operation, emphasizing the government's commitment.

About Israel:

- Capital: Jerusalem
- Official language: Hebrew
- Continent: Asia
- Prime minister: Benjamin Netanyahu
- Founded: 14 May 1948

Dr. Jitendra Singh launches the Intelligent Grievance Monitoring System 2.0 Public Grievance portal and Automated Analysis in Tree Dashboard

- This campaign, themed "Digital Darpg," aimed at enhancing service delivery, utilizing emerging technologies, and ensuring efficient management within government offices. Collaborating with 27 Senior Officials, including Right to Service Commissioners from States/UTs, darpg identified 164 services for pan-India e-service delivery, in addition to the 56 mandatory e-services.

SPORTS

Manikanta H Hoblidhar Sets New National Record in 100m Sprint

- The 62nd National Open Athletics Championships 2023 kicked off with a bang in Bengaluru.
- Manikanta Hoblidhar from Services etched his name in the record books by smashing a new national record in the men's 100m category.
- He powered his way to victory, crossing the finish line in first place with a remarkable timing of 10.23 seconds.
- He made a remarkable turnaround in the Services meet, clinching the gold with a time of 10.31 seconds.

11th Sultan of Johor Cup to Be Held In Johor, Malaysia In November 2023

- This prestigious tournament is set to take place from October 27 to November 4. Notably.
- This year's edition will feature eight teams, expanding from the customary six.

SUMMITS AND MOU'S

IGNOU & ICAI ink MoU for academic collaboration

- Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) has recently renewed and restructured its Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI).
- Nageshwar Rao, is the Vice Chancellor of IGNOU, and CA Aniket Sunil Talati is the President of ICAI.
- The MoU was officially signed by CA Jai Kumar Batra, Secretary of ICAI, and Dr. Alok Chaube, Registrar of IGNOU.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

MRPL Secured 'Best Innovation in Refinery' Award For 2022-23

- mrpl bestowed by the Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas at the 26th Energy Technology Meet 2023.

About Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd (MRPL):

- Parent organization: Oil and Natural Gas Corporation
- Headquarters: Mangaluru
- Founded: 7 March 1988
- Key people: Subhash Kumar, (Chairman); M. Venkatesh; (md)

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Vivek Agnihotri launches his latest book "The Book of Life: My Dance with Buddha for Success"

- Vivek Agnihotri, director of The Kashmir Files, has launched his latest book, "The Book of Life: My Dance with Buddha for Success" in Lucknow.
- He also directed a medical drama film 'The Vaccine War' in 2023. Balram Bhargava is the writer of the book on which the movie is based.
- Bhargava's book, 'Going Viral – Making of Covaxin: The Inside Story', documents his experiences.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Bharti Group to Acquire French Insurer AXA's 49% Stake in Bharti AXA Life Insurance Co.

- For almost twenty years, Bharti axa Life Insurance co was a joint venture between Bharti Group and axa.
- The acquisition by Bharti Group, conducted through its Bharti Life Ventures arm, is expected to conclude by December this year.
- Founder and Chairman of Bharti Enterprises: Sunil Bharti Mittal

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NATIONAL

Petroleum Minister Inaugurates 26th Energy Technology Meet At Bharat Mandapam

- Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, the Hon'ble Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Housing and Urban Affairs inaugurated the 26th Energy Technology Meet at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi during the 26th Energy Technology Meet.
- Furthermore, the ambitious target of 20 percent biofuel blending, originally set for 2030, has now been advanced to 2025.

3000 Crore has been approved by Assam for economic corridor project

- Assam cabinet has unveiled an ambitious plan to establish a 1000-km long economic corridor, significant investment of Rs 3000 crore.
- State Minister Jayanta Malla Baruah informed the press about the project under the Asom Mala Scheme.
- Funding for these projects will be sourced through a loan from NABARD.

First Talkie Movie in India, Know the Name of Movie

- On March 14, 1931, a historic moment unfolded in the annals of Indian cinema as the first talkie movie in India, "Alam Ara," was released.
- Directed and produced by Ardeshir Irani
- No film copy of "Alam Ara" exists in the National Film Archives of India.
- Ardeshir Irani's inspiration for "Alam Ara" came after watching the American talkie film "Show Boat" in 1929.

Govt Introduces Shreshta Scheme For Quality Education Of Scheduled Caste Students

- The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has unveiled the 'Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas' (SHRESHTA).
- The first category includes top CBSE/State Board-affiliated private residential schools known as SHRESHTA institutions.
- The second implementation approach relates to existing NGO/VO-operated schools and hostels.
- National Testing Agency (NTA) will conduct the National Entrance Test for SHRESHTA (NETS).

Bihar Caste Census Report 2023 PDF

- Extremely Backward Class (EBC) comprises 36.01% of the population.
- Other Backward Class (OBC) constitutes 27.13% of the population.
- Scheduled Caste (SC) population stands at 19.65%.
- Scheduled Tribe (ST) population is 1.68%.
- General Caste population is 15.52%.
- Hindus make up 82% of the population.
- Muslims account for 17.71%.

SPORTS

National Games 2023 to be held in Goa from Oct. 26 to Nov. 9

- The 37th edition of the National Games, scheduled for 2023
- The National Games, formerly known as the Indian Olympic Games, made its debut in Lahore, undivided India, in 1924.
- Goa was originally awarded the hosting rights for the 36th edition of the National Games, slated for 2016.
- The National Games 2023 will feature an impressive 43 sports, including both Olympic and indigenous disciplines, a significant increase from the 36 sports in the previous edition.

IOC and Reliance Foundation Join Forces to Promote Olympic Values in India

- New cooperation was agreed upon by IOC President Thomas Bach and Nita Ambani, IOC Member in India and Reliance Foundation Founder Chairperson in Mumbai.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ISRO to Conduct Maiden Test Flight of Gaganyaan Mission On October 21

- Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for Space, Science, and Technology, officially announced that, on October 21.
- ISRO is poised to make history as it prepares to conduct the first in a series of critical test flights in anticipation of the much-anticipated Gaganyaan mission.
- Test flight will be executed at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota

APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

Navneet Munot Elected Chairman of the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)

- AMFI has recently elected Navneet Munot, the Managing Director and CEO of HDFC Asset Management, as the Chairman.
- He will succeed A Balasubramanian, Managing Director of Aditya Birla Sun Life Asset Management Company.
- A Balasubramanian, the outgoing Chairman of AMFI, has played a pivotal role in the organization.
- Board of AMFI has also elected Anthony Heredia, MD and CEO of Mahindra Manulife Mutual Fund, as the Vice-Chairman.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Post Day 2023: 9th October

- WPD is celebrated each year on October 9th to commemorate the creation of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in 1874.
- Theme for the 2023 is "Together for Trust: Collaborating for a safe and connected future."
- National Postal Day also celebrated on October 10.
- It was Lord Dalhousie who established India Post for the first time in 1854.

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INTERNATIONAL

India, Switzerland celebrate 75 yrs of friendship at Kumaon village

- India and Switzerland recently celebrated 75 years of their enduring friendship and fruitful collaboration in a beautiful Kumaon village nestled in the Uttarakhand region of India.
- The three-day event, aptly named 'Swiss Himalayan Bounty,' unfolded last week at a charming homestay in Satoli village, positioned at an altitude of 6,000 feet near Mukteshwar in the Nainital district.
- A significant focus of the celebration was the showcase of the remarkable achievements of rural women in the Champawat district who have reaped the benefits of projects supported by the Switzerland-based organization, Swiss Himalayan Amity (SHA).
- SHA's involvement in the region revolves around four distinct programs: Aarohi, Arogya, Alaap, and Cankids.

NATIONAL

India's first solar roof cycling track thrown open in Hyderabad

- In a remarkable stride towards promoting eco-friendly and active mobility, Hyderabad, India, proudly inaugurated its first solar roof cycling track, Healthway.
- This innovative track, which is a pioneering initiative in the country, was officially opened by K Tarakarama Rao, the state Municipal Administration and Urban Development Minister.
- Situated on the bustling Outer Ring Road (ORR) between the main carriageway and the service road, this track is designed to be accessible 24/7. Its inauguration marks a significant step towards transforming Hyderabad into the active mobility capital of India.

Country's oldest think tank USI to hold first Indian Military Heritage Festival

- The United Service Institution of India (USI), the nation's oldest think tank, is set to host the first-ever Indian Military Heritage Festival (IMHF), scheduled for October 21 and 22.
- The pursuit of self-reliance in military capabilities through the Atmanirbhar Bharat programs.
- The IMHF seeks to deepen our understanding of India's extensive military heritage and traditions.
- Through insightful discussions, the festival aims to enlighten attendees from all walks of life about the multifaceted dimensions of India's military history.

UP CM yogi Adityanath unveils freedom fighter Raja Rao stature in Unnao

- Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath on Monday inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of development projects worth Rs 804 crore on Monday and unveiled the

equestrian statue of freedom fighter Raja Rao Rambaksh Singh in Daundiyakheda village of UP's Unnao district.

SPORTS

Kenyan Kiptum breaks Kipchoge's world record to win Chicago Marathon men's title

- Kenya's Kelvin Kiptum left the running world in awe as he shattered the men's world record, clocking a time of just two hours and 35 seconds, to claim victory at the Chicago Marathon on Sunday.
- He broke the previous record set by Eliud Kipchoge in the 2022 Berlin Marathon.
- Kelvin Kiptum's journey to the pinnacle of marathon running has been nothing short of extraordinary.
- The young Kenyan had previously secured victories in his first two marathon appearances, first triumphing in Valencia and then repeating his success in the London Marathon. However, Kiptum's record-breaking performance in Chicago surpassed all expectations.
- Kiptum's victory marked the third time a men's world record had been established on the streets of Chicago, but it was the first time since Morocco's Khalid Khannouchi achieved the feat in 1999.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Mental Health Day 2023: 10th October

- World Mental Health Day on October 10th is a global initiative that brings organizations and individuals together to commemorate the importance of mental well-being.
- This occasion serves to enhance knowledge, raise awareness, and drive actions that promote and protect the mental health of all individuals as a fundamental human right.
- World Mental Health Day 2023 provides a platform for individuals and communities to unite under the theme "Mental health is a universal human right."
- The theme of World Mental Health Day 2023 serves as a catalyst for individuals and communities to address mental health challenges.

SUMMITS AND MOU'S

India and Tanzania Set to Ink 15 Agreements, Aiming for USD 10 Billion Trade

- India and Tanzania are set to boost their bilateral cooperation as Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan visits India after an eight-year gap.
- The visit aims to elevate their relations to a strategic partnership and enhance trade and investment ties. Tanzanian Foreign Minister January Yusuf Makamba anticipates the signing of 15 agreements covering various areas of cooperation.
- Expectations of 15 agreements spanning government-to-government and private sector collaborations.
- Tanzanian President to address a business forum in New Delhi.
- Objective: Enhance trade volumes and expand bilateral trade to USD 10 billion in the next three years.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Ahead of Bima Vistaar rollout, IRDAI issues guidelines on Bima Vahaks

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has announced its ambitious plan to deploy 'Bima Vahaks' in every Gram Panchayat across the country by December 31, 2024.
- IRDAI has introduced the 'Bima Vahaks (BV)' initiative to expand insurance coverage and accessibility.
- The objective of this initiative remains women-centric, with the aim of creating a dedicated distribution channel that ensures the availability of insurance services in every corner of India.
- These guidelines distinguish between two categories of Bima Vahaks: individual and corporate.
- Both these categories play a crucial role in the distribution of insurance services.

YES BANK becomes the first bank to offer 'ONDC Network Gift Card'

- YES Bank, a prominent financial institution in India, has taken a significant leap forward in the digital commerce space by introducing the ONDC Network Gift Card. This move makes YES Bank the first bank in the country to issue such a card.
- The ONDC Network Gift Card is at the forefront of democratizing digital commerce. Unlike traditional gift cards that restrict usage to a specific brand or store, this concept empowers customers to utilize the gift card for purchasing products from any brand and any seller across a wide array of segments.

Urban unemployment falls to 6.6% in Q1 FY24

- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released its quarterly bulletin of the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), shedding light on the urban unemployment situation in India during the first quarter of the fiscal year.
- In the April-June quarter of this fiscal year, the urban unemployment rate in India dropped to 6.6%.
- This was the lowest level recorded since the PLFS bulletin was launched in 2018.
- For males above the age of 15, the urban unemployment rate decreased from 6.0% in the previous quarter to 5.9%.
- For females in the same age group, the unemployment rate decreased from 9.2% to 9.1% during the same period.

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NATIONAL

Indian Air Force marks 91st anniversary with grand celebrations, unveils new ensign

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) celebrated its 91st anniversary at the Bamrauli Air Force Station in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. The occasion was marked by the unveiling of the new IAF ensign by Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari.
- One of the notable features of the celebration was the introduction of the new IAF ensign. The key change is the addition of the Air Force crest.

- Group Captain Shaliza Dhami made history as the first woman officer to command the Air Force Day Parade. Her leadership and dedication not only shattered glass ceilings but also inspired a new generation of women to pursue careers in the IAF.

Largest Hindu temple outside Asia opens in New Jersey, built by 12,500 volunteers

- BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham, the largest Hindu temple in the United States, celebrated its grand opening on Sunday, October 8, in Robbinsville, New Jersey.
- The temple, set up in the picturesque city of Robbinsville, New Jersey, is a remarkable achievement. It stands as the largest Hindu temple outside India in the modern era.
- The construction of BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham is a testament to human creativity and resolution. The temple's front is crafted from four distinct varieties of marble sourced from Italy and limestone from Bulgaria. These precious materials embarked on an extraordinary journey, covering over 8,000 miles worldwide to reach their final destination in New Jersey.

SPORTS

IND vs AUS: David Warner becomes fastest to 1000 runs in ODI World Cup, beats Sachin Tendulkar's record

- Australia opener David Warner became the fastest batter to complete 1000 runs in ODI World Cup during his side's match against India in Chennai. Warner reached the milestone in 19 innings to break Sachin Tendulkar and AB de Villiers' joint record of 20 innings. Warner completed the feat within averaging 62 with three half-centuries and four tons since first being a part of the tournament back in 2011. Warner has struck three fifties and four hundreds in World Cups so far.
- Indian captain Rohit Sharma is also in the contention to get to the top of the list. Rohit has 978 runs in 17 innings and needs 22 more to pip Warner. Warner has won the Player of the Match award four times in the ODI World Cup, with the highest score of 178 against Afghanistan at home.

Asian Games 2023: Colourful closing ceremony brings curtains down on memorable Hangzhou Asian Games

- The 19th Asian Games 2023 concluded with a spectacular closing ceremony held at the Hangzhou Olympics Stadium in China. The event celebrated the love and unity between the participating countries, showcasing the cultural diversity and sporting excellence of the Asian nations.
- Renowned hockey player P. R. Sreejesh had the honor of being India's flag bearer during the closing ceremony, representing his country with pride on the international stage.
- The closing ceremony wowed spectators with a dazzling performance featuring more than 2000 performers. The show symbolized the harmonious spirit that unites the diverse nations of Asia in the pursuit of athletic excellence.

OBITUARY

Terence Davies: Screenwriter and film director dies aged 77

- British filmmaker Terence Davies, known for his thought-provoking and introspective films, has sadly passed away at the age of 77 at home after a short illness. He is recognized for his internationally acclaimed films, including 'Distant Voices, Still Lives' and 'The Long Day Closes'.
- Terence Davies was celebrated for his unique approach to cinema, which often delved into themes such as LGBT life, Catholicism, and other common aspects of human existence.

World Post Day 2023: 9th October

- World Post Day is celebrated each year on October 9th to commemorate the creation of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in 1874. It's a day to recognize the crucial role that post offices play in connecting communities, and in 2023, the theme is "Together for Trust: Collaborating for a safe and connected future."
- The history of postal services dates back centuries, with the first organized postal service said to have been established during the time of Augustus Caesar in Rome. Remarkably, the oldest functioning post office is in Sanquhar, Scotland, operating since 1712 AD.
- World Post Day was officially declared by the UPU Congress in Tokyo, Japan, in 1969. The UPU is an international organization that promotes and coordinates postal services worldwide. It currently has 151 member countries, all of which participate in this annual celebration.

Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Day 2023: 9th October

- Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Day is an annual celebration held on October 9th. This special day honors the establishment of the Indian Foreign Service, a critical institution for India's diplomatic, consular, and commercial representation worldwide.
- Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Day is a momentous occasion to celebrate the establishment and enduring legacy of the IFS. It serves as a reminder of the invaluable contributions made by diplomats and foreign service officers in promoting India's interests and fostering global cooperation.
- This day not only honors the past but also looks forward to a future where diplomacy continues to play a vital role in shaping India's international relationships.

India designates October 10th as Good Manufacturing Practice Day

- The Indian government, in collaboration with the Indian Drugs Manufacturers' Association (IDMA), is set to observe the first-ever National Current Good Manufacturing Practice Day (cGMP Day) on 10th October. This initiative aims to underscore the importance of adhering to cGMP guidelines in pharmaceutical manufacturing, with a focus on improving product quality and ensuring patient safety.

- Current Good Manufacturing Practices, commonly referred to as cGMP, are stringent quality standards mandated by the World Health Organization (WHO) for pharmaceutical manufacturing. These guidelines serve as the backbone of pharmaceutical operations, providing essential standards to enhance product quality by regulating various aspects of the manufacturing process, including materials, methods, machinery, processes, personnel, facilities, and environmental conditions.

SUMMITS AND MOU'S

India, Saudi Arabia tie up for electrical interconnections, green Hydrogen

- India and Saudi Arabia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on securing a green hydrogen supply chain and collaborating on power grid interconnection. This significant agreement was formalized in Riyadh during the MENA Climate Week 2023, with Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy, RK Singh, representing India and Saudi Minister of Energy, Abdulaziz bin Salman Al-Saud, representing Saudi Arabia .
- The Ministry of Power released a statement highlighting the key areas of cooperation outlined in the MoU. **These include:**
Electrical Interconnection:
Co-development of Projects:
Green/Clean Hydrogen and Renewable Energy:
Secure Supply Chains:
Building on Previous Agreements

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Indian Navy & SBI launches unique NAV-eCash card

- To support the Indian government's Digital India initiative, the State Bank of India (SBI) introduced a new card called NAV-eCash on the Indian Navy's aircraft carrier, INS Vikramaditya. The launch took place on October 1, 2021, at Karwar.

Key Points:

1. Digital Payment Advancement
2. Joint Unveiling
3. Unique Features
4. Collaborative Effort
5. Digital Transactions Anywhere

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INTERNATIONAL

"Operation Al-Aqsa Flood" Unleashed by Hamas Sparks Widespread Violence

- The Israel-Palestine conflict has escalated dramatically as Hamas, the armed Palestinian group, initiated "Operation Al-Aqsa Flood," firing over 5,000 rockets into Israel. The situation quickly escalated into a full-scale war, resulting in significant casualties and widespread fear among civilians.

- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared a state of war, emphasizing the seriousness of the situation. He asserted that this was not a mere operation but a full-blown war. Netanyahu vowed that Hamas would face an unparalleled retaliation.
- Hamas launched a massive rocket barrage with more than 5,000 rockets targeting Israel. The attacks were swift and intense, causing panic among Israeli citizens. Reports indicated the use of unconventional methods, such as paragliders, and attacks on civilians on roads.

US deploying ships closer to Israel, sends munitions

- Amidst a recent attack by the Palestinian terrorist organization Hamas, President Joe Biden has promptly demonstrated solidarity with Israel. Given its role as a key arms provider to Israel, the United States is dispatching military reinforcements and aid to strengthen Israel's defense capabilities.
- The Pentagon's move to send the aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford and accompanying warships to the eastern Mediterranean.
- Strengthening fighter aircraft squadrons in the region to bolster Israel's defense.
- The United States' historical role as a major supplier of arms to Israel.
- A swift and unwavering commitment to providing "rock solid" support.

NATIONAL

Rajasthan cm announces three new districts

- Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on Friday announced the formation of three new districts – Malpura, Sujargarh and Kuchaman – ahead of the Assembly election, taking the total number of districts in the State to 53.
- The Congress government had created 19 new districts and three new divisions in the State in August this year

E-Cabinet System implemented in Tripura

- In a significant leap towards a more technologically advanced and environmentally responsible governance system, Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha recently introduced the state's e-cabinet system. This move positions Tripura as the fourth Indian state, and the second in the Northeast region, to adopt an e-cabinet system after Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Arunachal Pradesh. The introduction of this system signifies a commitment to paperless cabinet meetings, reducing the carbon footprint and promoting environmental sustainability through the use of digital tablets by ministers and bureaucrats.
- The launch of the e-cabinet system marks a substantial shift towards digital governance in Tripura. All future cabinet meetings in the state will be conducted in a paperless manner, aligning with global efforts to reduce environmental degradation.

India to begin ferry service to Sri Lanka from Nagapattinam Tamil Nadu

- The much-awaited resumption of high-speed passenger ferry service between Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu and Kankesanthurai in the Northern Province of Sri Lanka will begin on October 10 after a gap of nearly four decades.

- According to official sources, the High-Speed Craft (HSC) Cheriya Pani, owned by the Shipping Corporation of India, and a 14-member crew arrived at Nagapattinam on Saturday evening. The vessel commenced its trial run from Nagapattinam port on Sunday around 09.40 a.m. and took roughly three hours to reach Kankesanthurai, which is roughly 60 nautical miles away, sources said.

SPORTS

Pranav sign off with bronze in men's singles badminton

- HS Prannoy's terrific campaign at the 2023 Asian Games in Hangzhou came to a heartbreaking end on Friday after he went down in straight games against China's Li Shi Feng in badminton men's singles semifinal. After trailing by only a point going into the opening game interval, the world no. 1 roared through the contest, winning 21-16, 21-9 in just over 45 minutes, crushing all hopes for a gold-medal bid for the Indian.
- The loss implied that Prannoy had to be content with a bronze, but it was a historic feat for the star shuttler as he ended India's 41-year-long wait for a second medal at the Games in men's singles badminton. Syed Modi previously finished third in 1982 edition of the Asian Games.

Aman sehrawat won bronze medal in men's 57kg category

- Indian wrestler Aman Sehrawat on Friday displayed a power-packed performance to defeat China's Minghu Liu to claim a bronze medal in the men's freestyle 57Kg category bout in the ongoing 19th Asian Games on Friday.
- The Indian defeated Minghu to clinch an 11-0 victory by technical superiority.
- It is India's fifth wrestling medal, all bronze, in Hangzhou, following Sunil Kumar, Antim Panghal, Kiran and Sonam Malik.
- Aman was quick to get off the mark in fashion, executing a takedown first up. Liu was completely flabbergasted as Aman scored his second takedown.
- A passivity warning was given to the Chinese wrestler, who failed to get a point on a defensive Aman.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

The survivor wins best action film at Cannes world film festival

- Each year, over 100 films grace the screens, but it's only a handful among them that truly engraves an enduring and unforgettable impact on people. One such cinematic gem that has the global audience in sheer astonishment is multi-talented Rajath Rajanikath's 'The Survivor.' It has set new standards of excellence, leaving an indomitable legacy in its wake by garnering praise at numerous film festivals.
- Having the outmost passion & desire of being an actor Rajath learnt aspects of filmmaking to put himself on screen, playing the Lead Actor, writer, director & editor of the film.
- This Indian action featurette hooks the viewers to the edge of their seats with its hair-raising plot and amazing action sequences. Helmed on a meager budget by a group of film graduates from Bengaluru, The Survivor proves that some movies don't need extravagant margins to make a mark.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

GST council announces significant reduction in tax rates for millets

- The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council has taken a significant step towards promoting healthy eating by announcing a substantial reduction in GST rates for millet flour food preparations.
- The sources told the tax rate has been reduced from the current 18 percent to a more affordable 5 percent.
- Millet flour, known for its nutritional value and health benefits, has gained popularity among health-conscious consumers in India.
- By reducing the GST rate on millet flour food preparations, the government aims to make these nutritious food items more accessible to the public.

