

Weekly Current Affairs PDF September 03 to September 09, 2023

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INTERNATIONAL

UK rejoins EU science research scheme Horizon

- After a two-year post-Brexit standoff regarding science funding, the United Kingdom has decided to rejoin the European Union's Horizon science research programme. This move is seen as a significant development in bilateral relations between the UK and the EU, following the resolution of a trade dispute seven months prior.
- The UK's decision to rejoin the Horizon science research programme marks a positive step forward in its relationship with the EU. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's office announced that they have successfully negotiated "improved financial terms of association" with the Horizon project, which is a flagship EU initiative for funding scientific research.
- In addition to rejoining Horizon, the UK has also chosen to associate with the European earth observation programme, Copernicus. However, the UK will not participate in the EU's Euratom nuclear research scheme. Instead, the UK has decided to pursue a domestic fusion energy strategy.

NATIONAL

First-of-its-kind underground transformer inaugurated in Bengaluru's Malleswaram

- In a groundbreaking moment for the city of Bengaluru, Energy Minister KJ George inaugurated the country's inaugural underground transformer center, a significant step towards modernizing the city's power distribution infrastructure. This monumental achievement reflects Bengaluru's commitment to safety, reliability, and aesthetic enhancement of its urban landscape.
- Located at 15th Avenue, Malleswaram, the underground transformer center is a collaborative effort between the Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM) and the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). With a budget of Rs 1.98 crore, this pioneering project boasts a 500 KVA capacity transformer. Historically, underground power transformer stations have primarily been found in Western countries, where governments prioritize public convenience and safety.
- To ensure the safety and convenience of Bengaluru's residents, the underground center features a specially constructed chamber beneath the earth's surface. This chamber is reinforced with a 30 mm cement block, providing a stable foundation for the electrical transformers. At a depth of 10 feet below the road's surface, this innovative center sets new standards in power distribution. While BESCOM handles the electrical aspects, BBMP is responsible for the civil works. The station includes a 500 KVA capacity oil-free transformer, an 8-way solid-state ring main unit, a 5-way LT distribution box, UPS, a water pump, and an air control system. BBMP contributed Rs 64 lakh to fund the civil works, and the entire project was completed in just 365 days.

GI Tag Status Awarded To Salem Sago

- Salem district in the state of Tamil Nadu has gained acclaim for its sago production, which is widely recognized as Sabudana. Salem Sago, locally known as Javvarisi, is derived from the wet

starch powder extracted from tapioca roots. Indian tapioca roots are known to contain approximately 30-35% starch content.

- Sago production has been a cornerstone of Salem's economic development since 1967. Currently, over 80% of sago in India is produced in the Salem region, with a significant portion marketed through Sagoserve.
- The request for a Geographical Indication (GI) tag for Salem Sago (Javvarisi) was filed by the Salem Starch and Sago Manufacturers Service Industrial Co-operative Society Limited, commonly known as Sagoserve.
- The GI tag can significantly boost business for farmers in the Salem region and the over-400 sago and starch units in areas like Salem, Erode, Nammakal, and Dharmapuri. These regions have a long-standing tradition of sago production.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

INS Sumedha participates in 'Exercise Bright Star-23' in Egypt

- Indian Navy's INS Sumedha arrived at Port Alexandria, Egypt to participate in 'Exercise BRIGHT STAR- 23'. This edition of the multinational Tri-Services military exercise will see participation from 34 countries. It is the largest ever joint military exercise in the Middle East and North Africa region. This joint military exercise, hosted in Egypt, marks a historic milestone for the Indian Navy and strengthens India's diplomatic and strategic ties with partner nations.
- The Harbour Phase involves wide-ranging activities such as cross-deck visits, professional exchanges, sports fixtures and interactions for planning and conduct of the Sea Phase. This Phase of the Exercise BRIGHT STAR-23 is a crucial starting point where participating nations engage in a variety of activities to foster cooperation and understanding. Cross-deck visits and professional exchanges allow naval personnel to learn from one another, sharing expertise and best practices. Additionally, sports fixtures and interactions promote camaraderie among the servicemen and women.
- The Sea Phase will include complex and high-intensity exercises encompassing cross-deck flying, anti-surface and anti-air exercises, including live weapon firing drills. The Sea Phase is the heart of the exercise, where naval forces from multiple countries engage in complex and challenging exercises. Cross-deck flying exercises test the ability to operate aircraft from different carriers, enhancing interoperability among nations. Anti-surface and anti-air exercises ensure that participating navies are well-prepared for diverse maritime threats. Live weapon firing drills demonstrate the proficiency of naval forces in combat scenarios.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Day to Protect Education from Attack 2023:9th September

- The International Day to Protect Education from Attack is an international observance established by the United Nations General Assembly on September 9 every year. It was established in response to the growing number of attacks on schools and educational institutions around the world. These attacks can take many forms, including shelling, bombing, and occupation. They can also include the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict.
- The International Day to Protect Education from Attack is an important day to raise awareness of the issue of attacks on education and to call for action to protect the right to education for all children.

- It is a reminder that education is a fundamental human right. The right to education is enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international treaties. However, this right is often violated in armed conflict.
- It is a call to action to protect schools and educational institutions from attack. Attacks on education can have a devastating impact on children's lives. They can disrupt education, leading to learning loss and increased dropout rates. They can also lead to physical and psychological harm and even death.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

Airbus signs MoU with Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya to develop aerospace human capital in India

- Indian Railways' Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV) Vadodara and Airbus, a global aviation giant, have recently embarked on a strategic collaboration aimed at fortifying the Indian aviation sector. This partnership, sealed through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed at Rail Bhawan, New Delhi, signifies a significant milestone in fostering industry-academia alliances to propel India's aviation industry to new heights.
- The MoU was signed in the presence of Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of Railways, Communications, Electronics, and IT, who also serves as the First Chancellor of Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya. Accompanying him were Ms. Jaya Varma Sinha, the Chairperson and CEO of the Railway Board, and other senior officials. This collaboration follows Airbus' recent partnership with Tata to establish a C295 aircraft manufacturing facility in Vadodara, Gujarat, marking a renewed commitment to bolstering India's aerospace sector.
- Airbus stands as the world's largest manufacturer of commercial aircraft and a leading producer of helicopters, defense equipment, and space technology. Over the years, Airbus has developed a symbiotic relationship with India, recognizing it as a pivotal driver of global aviation and a vital source of talent and resources. Airbus is committed to nurturing all the necessary elements for building a fully integrated aerospace ecosystem in India, with "Make in India" at the core of its business strategy.

What is Bharat Mandapam, the venue of G20 summit in New Delhi

- The G20 Summit, scheduled for this weekend in the national capital, is a highly anticipated event featuring top world leaders, including US President Joe Biden and UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak. The summit will be held at the International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC) complex, also known as Bharat Mandapam, in New Delhi's Pragati Maidan. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated this complex on July 26 this year. It boasts state-of-the-art facilities, including a convention centre, exhibition halls, and an amphitheatre.
- During the G20 Summit, Bharat Mandapam, referred to as the "culture corridor" will showcase diverse traditions from 29 countries, including India and the special invitees to the G20. This display will encompass physical and virtual exhibitions, creating an immersive experience for visitors.
- On Tuesday, a 27-ft-tall bronze statue of Nataraja, made of Ashtadhatu and weighing about 18 tons, was installed at Bharat Mandapam. Renowned sculptor Radhakrishnan Sthapaty from Swami Malai in Tamil Nadu and his team completed this sculpture in a record seven months.

BOOKS & AUTHOR

'Ajay to Yogi Adityanath' creates history with 67 launches in eight states

- The recently launched graphic novel, 'Ajay to Yogi Adityanath,' has made history by achieving the highest number of book launches, earning it a place in the Asia Book of Records. This remarkable novel, penned by renowned author Shantanu Gupta, delves into the life of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, tracing his journey from humble beginnings to the pinnacle of political leadership.
- 'Ajay to Yogi Adityanath' is not just a graphic novel; it's a historical record of a remarkable journey. Yogi Adityanath's life story, as vividly depicted by Shantanu Gupta, serves as an inspiration for countless individuals striving to overcome obstacles and make a significant impact on society. This graphic novel not only breaks records but also sheds light on the incredible journey of a man who rose from the hinterlands of Uttarakhand to lead India's most populous state, Uttar Pradesh.
- Shantanu Gupta is a famous writer who has penned two bestseller novels. His latest graphic novel based on the life of Yogi Adityanath has so far been launched in eight states, namely, UP, Delhi, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Uttarakhand, Andhra Pradesh and Assam.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

SBI launched 'Nation First Transit Card' for digital fare payments

- State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest lender, has taken a significant step in enhancing the commuting experience and promoting digital payment adoption with the launch of the 'Nation First Transit Card.' This innovative card is designed to facilitate seamless and convenient customer commuting experiences, offering easy digital ticketing fare payments across various modes of transportation, such as metro, buses, water ferries, parking, and more, all through a single card.
- Additionally, the card can also be used for making retail and e-commerce payments.
- Dinesh Kumar Khara, Chairman of SBI, emphasized that the Nation First Transit Card, powered by RuPay and National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) technology, has the potential to revolutionize the commuting experience for millions of Indians. The card is not just a financial tool but also a symbol of SBI's commitment to the growth and development of the nation.
- The NCMC feature allows SBI's customers to utilize their Debit Cards as travel cards for convenient use on Metro Rail and Buses wherever this service is accessible.
- The concept of NCMC was proposed by the Nandan Nilekani committee, which was commissioned by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

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NATIONAL

West Bengal Assembly passes resolution declaring Rabindranath Tagore composition as state anthem

- The West Bengal assembly made a significant decision by passing a resolution to officially observe Bengali New Year's Day, known as Poila Baisakh, as the state's foundation day on April 15th.

- This decision comes amid controversy and disagreements over the date chosen for this celebration. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has been a strong advocate for this change, emphasizing that the day will be observed irrespective of the approval of the state's governor.
- The resolution, put forth under Rule 169, proposes the observance of Poila Baisakh as 'Bangla Diwas' and seeks to declare Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore's masterpiece, 'Banglar Mati, Banglar Jol' (Bengal's soil, Bengal's water), as the official state song. This historic decision was passed with a majority vote of 167 members in favor out of a total of 294 members in the House. However, not everyone in the assembly was in agreement.

India's Kerala To Host Inaugural Zayed Charity Marathon in 2024

- The Higher Organising Committee of the Zayed Charity Marathon has announced a groundbreaking development for India – the inaugural edition of the renowned marathon is set to take place in the vibrant state of Kerala in 2024. This event marks a significant collaboration between Kerala State authorities and the Indian community residing in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), strengthening the cultural and economic ties between the two regions.
- The Zayed Charity Marathon is not just a sporting event; it's a beacon of hope for charitable causes. Since its inception in 2001 in Abu Dhabi, this marathon has been a platform for raising funds and spreading humanitarian and charitable messages that echo the legacy of the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Former President of the United Arab Emirates. Sheikh Zayed's philanthropic impact extended across the globe, including charitable and humanitarian institutions in the United States and Egypt, and now, it's set to reach India.

SPORTS

Indian armwrestlers win 11 medals at World Armwrestling Championship 2023

- In a remarkable display, the Indian contingent which went to compete in the 44th World Armwrestling Championship 2023 and 25th PARA Armwrestling Championship, which was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, won a total of 11 Medals (3 Gold, 6 Silver and 2 Bronze Medals). The Championship was held from August 24 till September 3. Indian Arm wrestlers dominate at World Armwrestling Championship 2023.
- The 43-member strong (39 athletes and 4 officials) Indian squad was competing under the banner of People's Armwrestling Federation of India led by President Ms. Preeti Jhangiani, General Secretary and Head coach Laxman Singh Bhandari and Team Manager Junestar Kharbuli.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Mylswamy Annadurai Joins SS Innovations Board

- SS Innovations, India's renowned surgical robotic firm, has made a groundbreaking announcement by appointing Padmashri Dr. Mylswamy Annadurai, famously known as the Moon Man of India, as a Director on its Board of Directors. This appointment encompasses both the Indian entity, SS Innovations Private Limited, and the global entity, SS Innovations International. This strategic move aims to further strengthen

the company's position in the field of surgical robotics and cutting-edge technologies.

- In his capacity as a Director on the Board of SS Innovations, Padmashri Dr. Annadurai, renowned for leading multiple space missions, brings invaluable leadership and guidance. Notably, he is poised to lead not just a team of scientists but, more significantly, guide a team of engineers responsible for the creation of the world-class surgical robotic system incorporating the latest technologies and products.
- Annadurai's role extends beyond steering SS Innovations internally; he is well-positioned to guide the company towards potential collaborations with indigenous Indian companies. These collaborations could lead to the development and production of components currently used in the SSI MANTRA System. Such partnerships would not only reduce technology costs but also promote high-tech Indian companies on a global stage.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Literacy Day 2023: 8th September

- International Literacy Day is celebrated on September 8 every year to promote the importance of literacy for dignity and human rights, and a literate and sustainable society. The day is celebrated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) at the global, regional, country, and local levels across the world.
- The theme 'Promoting literacy for a world in transition: Building the foundation for sustainable and peaceful societies'. Under this theme, Literacy Day 2023 will be celebrated at the global, regional, country, and local levels across the world. At the global level, a conference will be organized in person and online on Friday, 8 September 2023, in Paris, France. This global celebration will include the award ceremony of the UNESCO International Literacy Prizes to announce this year's outstanding prizewinning programmes.

World physiotherapy day 2023: 8th September

- World Physical Therapy Day recognises and celebrates the significant contributions of physical therapists and physiotherapists in promoting health and well-being. It serves as an opportunity to raise awareness about the crucial role these professionals play in helping people recover from injuries, manage chronic conditions, and improve their overall physical function and quality of life. This day also highlights the importance of physical therapy in healthcare systems worldwide and encourages further research and development in this field.
- World Physical Therapy Day is celebrated on September 8 every year.
- Theme of World Physical Therapy Day 2023: "Arthritis" is the theme for World Physical Therapy Day 2023. Rheumatoid arthritis and axial spondylarthritis are two types of inflammatory arthritis that will be highlighted on this day. The theme of last year's World Physical Therapy Day was osteoarthritis.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

Supreme Court of India and Singapore sign MoU for judicial cooperation

- India and Singapore on Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on judicial cooperation in the island city-state.
- Chief Justice of India Dhananjaya Yashwant Chandrachud, during his official visit to Singapore, met Chief Justice of Singapore Sundaresh Menon. They witnessed signing of an MoU between the Supreme Court of India and the Supreme Court of Singapore for judicial cooperation.
- On February 3, Justice Menon had visited India and even sat on the Supreme Court of India bench.
- Justice Menon, who has been serving as the fourth chief justice of Singapore since 2012, had attended a function to mark the 73rd anniversary of the establishment of the Supreme Court.

PM Modi's participation in 20th ASEAN-India Summit and 18th East Asia Summit

- Prime Minister Modi participated in the 20th ASEAN-India Summit and engaged in comprehensive discussions with ASEAN partners to reinforce the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. He reaffirmed the central role of ASEAN in the Indo-Pacific and highlighted the alignment between India's Indo-Pacific Ocean's Initiative (IPOI) and ASEAN's Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP). Emphasis was placed on the timely review of ASEAN-India FTA (AITIGA).
1. Proposal for a South-East Asia-India-West Asia-Europe economic corridor.
 2. India offered its Digital Public Infrastructure Stack to ASEAN nations.
 3. Announcement of an ASEAN-India fund for Digital Future, focusing on digital transformation and financial connectivity.
 4. Renewed support for the Economic and Research Institute of ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) as a knowledge partner.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

SBI Card adds new features to AURUM super premium credit card

- SBI Card, India's largest credit card issuer, launched new features of its super-premium card 'AURUM', targeted at the premium section of society, such as high-net-worth individuals. With the enhancements, AURUM cardholders will be able to avail benefits worth up to Rs 2 lakh annually, based on their spending. The card offers unlimited international lounge access to cardholders, as well as four international lounge visits for accompanying guests. In addition, the card also offers a one-year Club Marriott membership as a welcome gift.
- AURUM has been tailored to meet the discerning taste and lifestyle of the globetrotting and high-flying executives who pursue excellence in every aspect of their life. It has become one of the most coveted cards in the super-premium segment. Looking at the admiration it has garnered so far, we decided to take the cardholders' experience a notch higher.
- All in all, AURUM cardholders can expect a more rewarding, richer, and more luxurious experience. The joining and annual membership fee for this by-invitation-

only card is Rs 9,999, an amount that will be reversed once the cardholder achieves a milestone of Rs 12 lakh spending in the card membership year.

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INTERNATIONAL

UNGA President Formulates Priorities for 78th Session

- The 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly commenced with Dennis Francis taking on the role of General Assembly President. In his opening remarks, he emphasized the importance of addressing the numerous global challenges currently confronting the world.
- The 78th session of the General Assembly, themed 'Rebuilding trust and reigniting global solidarity: Accelerating action on the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals towards peace, prosperity, progress, and sustainability for all,' focuses on several critical areas.
- Challenges to Peace: The session acknowledges the challenges posed by climate change, conflict, and poverty to achieving global peace.
- Geopolitical Divides: Geopolitical divisions have made it challenging for many countries to pursue positive societal changes. The session welcomes initiatives aimed at greater transparency and accountability, including the UNGA's Security Council veto initiative.
- Prosperity and Development: Ensuring prosperity, particularly in regions with development deficits, is a priority. This involves enhanced financing, technology, debt sustainability, and capacity building.
- Key Workstreams: The session identifies critical workstreams, including the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) and the Doha Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries (LDCs). It also highlights forthcoming events like the SIDS4 conference in 2024 and the Third UN Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) in Rwanda in 2024.

Tabreed to set up Asia's largest district cooling project in Hyderabad

- In a significant development for sustainable infrastructure and environmental responsibility, Tabreed, an Abu Dhabi-based cooling-as-a-service provider, has unveiled plans for a massive \$200 million investment. This investment is directed towards the development of a cutting-edge cooling infrastructure with a capacity of 125,000 refrigeration tons (RT) for Hyderabad Pharma City, a burgeoning hub for the pharmaceutical industry in India.
- Tabreed's leadership, represented by its India head Sudheer Perla, engaged in discussions with a state government delegation led by Telangana IT and Industries Minister K T Rama Rao and Jayesh Ranjan, Secretary of IT and Industries for the Government of Telangana, to solidify their commitment to this transformative initiative. This endeavor marks a milestone in public-private cooperation, particularly in the domain of cooling services, with the goal of offering a groundbreaking model to multiple customers within a single campus.

NATIONAL

Govt OK's Rs 3,760 crore for 4,000 mwh battery energy storage system

- The Union Cabinet has given its nod to a groundbreaking scheme aimed at bolstering India's renewable energy sector by supporting the development of a 4 gigawatt battery energy storage system by 2030-31. This scheme will provide viability gap funding to make battery storage more economically viable, with a focus on enhancing the integration of solar and wind energy into the grid.
- The V.G.F. scheme for B.E.S.S. projects boasts an initial outlay of Rs 9,400 crore. It includes a budgetary grant of Rs 3,700 crore, showcasing a substantial government commitment to advancing energy storage technology.
- The V.G.F. will be disbursed in five tranches, strategically linked to the various stages of B.E.S.S. project implementation.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

IAF & Drone Federation of India to co-host Bharat Drone Shakti - 2023 at IAF airbase in Hindan Ghaziabad

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) is collaborating with the Drone Federation of India to co-host 'Bharat Drone Shakti 2023.' This upcoming event, scheduled for the 25th and 26th of September 2023, will take place at the IAF's airbase in Hindan (Ghaziabad). It is anticipated to be a pioneering exhibition highlighting the prowess of the Indian drone industry, with more than 50 live aerial demonstrations.
- 'Bharat Drone Shakti 2023' is set to impress attendees with a diverse array of live aerial demonstrations. The event will encompass a wide range of drone applications, including survey drones, agriculture drones, fire suppression drones, tactical surveillance drones, heavy-lift logistics drones, loitering munition systems, drone swarms, and counter-drone solutions. This comprehensive exhibition will underscore the versatility and innovation present within the Indian drone sector.
- Anticipated to attract approximately 5,000 attendees, 'Bharat Drone Shakti 2023' will bring together a diverse audience. This includes representatives from central government bodies, state departments, public and private industries, armed forces, paramilitary forces, as well as delegates from friendly nations. The event will also be a platform for academicians, students, and drone enthusiasts to engage with cutting-edge developments in the field.

One Week One Lab programme of CSIR to be organised from 11th to 16th September 2023

- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is all set to host its annual "One Week One Lab" programme, an exciting event where each of its 37 cutting-edge laboratories situated across the nation will unveil their remarkable research outcomes and accomplishments.
- The Science and Technology Ministry is extending a warm invitation to the public, providing them with a unique opportunity to explore the inner workings of CSIR's various departments and experience firsthand its exceptional academic and research initiatives.

OBITUARY

Arun Kumar Sinha, Director of SPG Responsible For PM's Protection, Passes Away

- Arun Kumar Sinha, who served as the Director of the Special Protection Group (SPG), has passed away at the age of 61 while undergoing treatment at a hospital in Gurugram, where he had been receiving medical care for some time. Sinha held a pivotal role in the security apparatus of the country, as he was responsible for providing proximate security to the Prime Minister of India. This significant duty underscores the magnitude of his contributions to the nation's security.
- Arun Kumar Sinha, an Indian Police Service (IPS) officer from the 1987 Kerala cadre, had a distinguished career spanning multiple decades. His journey in the Special Protection Group (SPG) began in March 2016, when he assumed the role of its 12th director. His appointment was made on a contractual basis, lasting until May 31, 2024, at the rank and compensation level of director general of police. On May 31, he was granted a one-year extension in service, underscoring his unwavering commitment to his responsibilities. This tenure allowed him to lead the SPG with utmost dedication and professionalism.

Malini Rajurkar, Hindustani vocalist whose 'tappa' renditions were epic, passes away at 82

- Noted Hindustani classical vocalist Malini Rajurkar, who epitomised simplicity and depth, passed away in a Hyderabad hospital. She was 82 and had been suffering from age-related ailments. She has performed in major music festivals in India, including Gunidas Sammelan (Mumbai), Tansen Samaroh (Gwalior), Sawai Gandharva Festival (Pune), and Shankar Lal Festival (Delhi). She is noted especially for her command over the Tappa and the Tarana genre. She has also sung lighter music. Her renditions of Marathi natyageete, pandu-nrupati janak jaya, naravar krishnasamaan, ya bhavanatil geet purane have been particularly popular.
- Malini Rajurkar was born in Ajmer in Rajasthan in 1941. She studied music from the Ajmer Music College, under the guidance of Govindrao Rajurkar and his nephew Vasantrao Rajurkar, who was to become her future husband. She was an exponent of Gwalior gharana and one of the foremost proponents of 'khyal' and 'tappa' genre.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

Global Fintech Fest 2023

- In a remarkable comeback, the Global Fintech Fest (GFF) is set to reclaim its title as the world's largest fintech conference in 2023. This year's event promises to be a spectacular showcase of innovation and collaboration in the fintech industry. Let's delve into the highlights of GFF 2023.
- The conference commenced with a prestigious inauguration ceremony graced by Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, the Minister of Finance, Government of India. Her remarks emphasized the transformative role of fintech in India's financial landscape.
- GFF 2023 revolves around a central theme that embodies the fintech industry's aspirations and responsibilities. Theme: 'Global Collaboration for a Responsible Financial Ecosystem: Inclusive | Resilient | Sustainable'

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Indian-American physician-author Siddhartha Mukherjee on UK non-fiction prize list

- A book by Indian-American cancer physician and researcher Dr Siddhartha Mukherjee has been longlisted for the prestigious 50,000 pound Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-Fiction in London. 'The Song of the Cell: An Exploration of Medicine and the New Human', which is among the 13-book longlist announced, highlights how cellular research has revolutionised medicine, enabling the treatment of life-altering diseases including Alzheimer's and AIDS.
- The judging panel described the 53-year-old Rhodes scholar's work as his "most spectacular book yet".
- His other works include, 'The Gene: An Intimate History', which was a #1 New York Times bestseller, and 'The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer', which won the 2011 Pulitzer Prize in general nonfiction. An Associate Professor of medicine at Columbia University, Mukherjee graduated from Stanford University, University of Oxford, and Harvard Medical School. He has published articles in many journals, including Nature, The New England Journal of Medicine, Cell, The New York Times and The New Yorker.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

SBI Card Launched 'SimplySAVE Merchant SBI Card' for MSME Segment

- SBI Card, India's largest pure-play credit card issuer, has introduced the 'SimplySAVE Merchant SBI Card', a specialized credit card tailored for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). This new card is designed to address the short-term credit needs of MSME merchants while providing them with a range of exclusive benefits. The official unveiling of the SimplySAVE Merchant SBI Card took place at the Global Fintech Fest in Mumbai, with Mr. Dinesh Khara, Chairman of State Bank of India, doing the honors.
- The launch of the SimplySAVE Merchant SBI Card serves to empower the broader MSME sector by offering them interest-free short-term credit. Considering the significant role played by MSMEs in fostering economic growth and job creation, it becomes imperative to streamline their access to formal credit in a more convenient and prompt fashion.
- The SimplySAVE Merchant SBI Card offers several key features and benefits tailored to meet the unique needs of MSMEs:

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INTERNATIONAL

Vanuatu parliament elects Sato Kilman as prime minister amid China-US rivalry in Pacific Islands

- Vanuatu's parliament elected Sato Kilman as the nation's new prime minister after a court upheld a vote of no-confidence in his predecessor, who had sought closer ties with US allies amid China-US rivalry in the Pacific Islands. Kilman, a former prime

minister and leader of the People's Progressive Party, was elected prime minister 27/23 in a secret ballot by lawmakers. Kilman received a total of 27 votes, while Kalsakau got 23 votes. Kilman, 65, was the deputy PM in Kalsakau's government before being removed in May. At the time Kalsakau had stated that Kilman's dismissal was for "stability of the coalition government".

- Vanuatu is an archipelago of 83 islands, of which 16 are inhabited. The largest islands are Espiritu Santo, Malakula, Efate, Erromango, Ambrym, Tanna, Pentecost, Epi, Ambae or Aoba, Gaua, Vanua Lava, Maewo, Malo and Aneityum or Anatom.
- The capital of Vanuatu is Port Vila, which is located on the island of Efate. Other major towns include Luganville on Espiritu Santo and Isangel on Tanna.

NATIONAL

Jal Jeevan Mission Achieves Milestone: 13 Crore Rural Households now have Tap Connections

- In a significant achievement, the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) has provided tap water connections to an impressive 13 crore rural households, marking a remarkable journey since its launch on India's 73rd Independence Day, August 15, 2019. This mission, guided by the principles of speed and scale, has rapidly expanded access to clean water in rural areas, progressing from 3.23 crore households in August 2019 to the current milestone in just four years.
- Several states and union territories, including Goa, Telangana, Haryana, Gujarat, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Puducherry, Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, and the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, have achieved 100% tap water coverage.
- Bihar and Mizoram are making substantial progress, nearing full coverage at 96.39% and 92.12%, respectively, with all households and public institutions receiving consistent and safe water supply.
- Across the nation, 145 districts and 1,86,818 villages report 100% coverage, underscoring the mission's wide-reaching impact.

Indian Scientists Unveil the World's First Rapid-Response Disaster Hospital: Aarogya Maitri

- India has unveiled the world's first portable disaster hospital, a groundbreaking facility that can be airlifted and consists of 72 cubes. This extraordinary endeavor is a component of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious "Project BHISHM" (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri), unveiled in February 2022. The project was officially inaugurated during the MedTech Expo in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- The heart of this innovative disaster hospital lies in its 72 cubes, each containing an array of essential equipment and supplies. Among these are an operation theatre, a mini-ICU, ventilators, blood test equipment, an X-ray machine, a cooking station, food, water, shelter, a power generator, and more. These cubes are ingeniously designed to provide critical medical care and humanitarian aid in the wake of natural disasters and humanitarian crises.
- One of the most remarkable features of the Aarogya Maitri Cube is its ability to handle a wide range of severe injuries, including 40 bullet injuries, 25 major burns, around 10 head injuries, long limb fractures, spinal injuries, chest injuries, and spinal

fractures. This versatile disaster hospital is engineered to address the diverse medical needs of survivors in challenging conditions.

SPORTS

Thailand's Nattaya Boochatham becomes first bowler from associate nation to pick up 100 Wickets in WT20Is

- Thailand women's cricket team's star spinner Nattaya Boochatham created history with her three wickets against Kuwait in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup Asia Region Qualifier, September 4. Nattaya completed 100 wickets in T20Is to become the first-ever cricketer, male or female, to reach the 100-wicket mark in international cricket.
- The 36-year-old spin all-rounder now has taken 101 wickets in 73 ODI matches at an average of 9.96 and becomes the first-ever cricketer to take 100 wickets at a bowling average below 10. She becomes the only 11th cricketer in the world with 100 T20I wickets in women's cricket but possesses the best bowling average in the list. She will join the current world no.1 bowler Sophie Ecclestone's 102 wickets tally if she picks one wicket in Thailand's next game against Hong Kong on September 6.
- The veteran off-spinner pulled off a sensational spell with three wickets while conceding just three runs in three overs against Kuwait. However, the game was abandoned after nine-play rain interrupted the crucial qualifier fixture at Selangor Turf Club in Kuala Lumpur. Thailand still stand a chance to progress into the semi-final round.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

NTPC to host conference on 'Green Hydrogen Pilots in India'

- In the run-up to the highly anticipated G20 Summit, a pivotal conference centered around "green hydrogen pilots in India" took place in New Delhi on September 5. Hosted by NTPC Limited, a leading Indian public sector undertaking, this one-day event showcased a remarkable array of green hydrogen initiatives, combining the efforts of both public and private sector entities.
- The conference served as a platform for participants to witness pioneering pilot projects and gain invaluable insights into the future of clean energy in India. As the world increasingly recognizes the importance of transitioning to eco-friendly energy sources, these green hydrogen pilots offered a glimpse into the potential of this promising technology.
- A wide array of green hydrogen pilots was on display at the conference, each highlighting unique aspects of the clean energy landscape.

India extends support to SCO member countries to enhance legal, judicial capabilities: Law Ministry

- The 10th meeting of the Ministers of Law and Justice of SCO countries was convened via video conferencing, where several key initiatives and cooperative efforts were discussed. During this meeting, India reaffirmed its commitment to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) by extending support to member countries in enhancing their legal and judicial capabilities.

- The meeting commenced in a cordial atmosphere with a message from Chinese President Xi Jinping, who emphasized the importance of cooperation and understanding among SCO members. President Xi called for the realization of SCO's objectives and visions, aiming to optimize the organization's contribution to the holistic development of the region.
- Indian Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal reiterated India's commitment to the SCO charter, which is based on principles such as mutual trust, respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, and mutual benefit. He cited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of India as a "universal friend" and highlighted the importance of trust in government policies and practices.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

SBI announces introduction of UPI interoperability on CBDC

- The State Bank of India (SBI) has taken a significant leap in the world of digital currency by announcing the successful implementation of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) interoperability with its Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), also known as the Digital Rupee. This development is poised to revolutionize the way transactions are conducted, making digital currency more accessible and user-friendly.
- Accessible through the 'eRupee by SBI' application, this new feature allows SBI CBDC users to effortlessly scan any merchant UPI QR code, simplifying and expediting transactions.
- With this integration, the State Bank of India aims to bridge the gap between CBDC and the widely adopted UPI platform, bringing convenience and efficiency to the forefront of digital payments.
- SBI's journey towards CBDC integration began with its active participation in the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) retail digital e-rupee project, which commenced in December 2022.

RBI allows banks to enable UPI payments through pre-sanctioned credit line

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a significant expansion of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) System, allowing users to transact with pre-sanctioned credit lines issued by banks. This move marks a major development in India's digital payment landscape, enabling greater financial flexibility and convenience for consumers.
- The UPI System was primarily used for transactions involving deposited amounts. However, as of April 6, 2023, the RBI has proposed an expansion of the UPI System to include pre-sanctioned credit lines.
- This means that individuals can now make transactions using credit lines that have been pre-approved by scheduled commercial banks.
- The UPI System's scope has been expanded to include various types of accounts, including savings accounts, overdraft accounts, prepaid wallets, and credit cards.
- This comprehensive approach aims to provide users with more options and flexibility when conducting digital transactions.

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Launches Malaviya Mission - Teachers Training Programme

- Dharmendra Pradhan, the Union Minister for Education, introduced the Malaviya Mission – Teacher Training Program at Kaushal Bhawan in New Delhi as a crucial step in improving the standard of education in India. This ambitious project, spearheaded by the University Grants Commission (UGC) in partnership with the Ministry of Education, seeks to transform faculty capacity building and teacher preparation programs across the country's higher education institutions.
- One of the primary objectives of the Malaviya Mission is to provide specialized and tailored training programs for teachers.
- Recognizing that teaching methods and educational requirements have evolved, the program seeks to equip educators with the latest knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to excel in their roles.
- This emphasis on tailored training ensures that teachers can adapt to the changing dynamics of education effectively.
- In a symbolic gesture, Minister Pradhan announced the renaming of Human Resource Development Centres (HRDCs) as Madan Mohan Malaviya Teachers' Training Centres.
- This renaming not only pays tribute to the renowned educationist Madan Mohan Malaviya but also underscores the program's commitment to elevating the status of teacher training in India.

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INTERNATIONAL

Bangladesh witness highest dengue death rate in the world

- In Bangladesh, A total of 37 dengue patients died in the last two days, taking the death toll to 634 this year. On September 2, Bangladesh recorded 21 dengue-related deaths, the highest number in a single day this year.
- Now, Bangladesh ranks second globally in dengue-related cases as Brazil is in first position but when it comes to the death rate, the South American nation lags behind Bangladesh.
- A press release of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) said that a total of 8,845 dengue patients are undergoing treatment at different hospitals.
- The DGHS statement says that with the new cases, the total number of patients rose to 1,30,302. Among the total dengue positive cases, 49,495 are female and 80,807 are male and of the total deaths, 369 are female and 265 male.

Germany to provide 191 million euros for sustainable development of Bangladesh

- Germany will provide 191 million euros to Bangladesh for sustainable development projects and women empowerment, Dhaka Tribune reported. In this regard, Germany and Bangladesh signed two bilateral agreements on Sunday with the projects focused on Green and Just Energy Transition, Sustainable Urban Development, Sustainable Supply Chains, Biodiversity and Women Empowerment as well as the support for Host and Displaced Communities in Cox's Bazar.

- The German embassy stated that the total volume of the agreements is Euros 191 million of which Euros 55 million will be available for Technical Cooperation (TC) and Euros 136 million for Financial Cooperation (FC).

NATIONAL

Himachal Pradesh plans policy to develop electric charging stations

- Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has announced the Himachal Pradesh Government's intention to implement a robust policy aimed at fostering the growth of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure across the state. This policy is designed to enhance accessibility, convenience, and employment prospects in the emerging e-mobility sector.
- During a meeting in Shimla, Chief Minister Sukhu underscored that the policy would provide substantial incentives, including a 50% subsidy, to private operators interested in establishing EV charging stations.
- He said, "The state administration is ready to introduce a comprehensive policy aimed at advancing the establishment of EV charging stations within the state. This policy will encompass various aspects, such as accessibility, convenience, and the creation of job opportunities. Private operators will be encouraged through a 50% subsidy for the establishment of EV charging stations."

Himachal Pradesh CM launches SAMBAL Yojana to empower divyang children

- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Monday launched the Mukhya Mantri Sporting Abilities, Rebuilding Aspirations and Livelihood Scheme (SABAL) from his home assembly segment Nadaun in this district.
- The chief minister also announced to set up a 'Rajya Chayan Aayog' in place of the now-dissolved Himachal Pradesh Staff Selection Commission in Hamirpur within the next two months to ensure fairness in the selection criteria of candidates.
- The SABAL scheme intends to take care of specially-abled children in around 400 schools across Hamirpur, Solan and Shimla districts.
- Sukhu said the Sabal Yojana is aimed at improving the lives of specially-abled children in the state. The initiative focuses on providing essential facilities and opportunities for them, a statement issued here said.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Teacher's Day 2023: September 5th

- National Teachers' Day in India is celebrated on September 5th every year. It is a day to honor and celebrate the contributions of teachers to society. The day is also observed as a tribute to the memory of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, the second President of India from 1962 to 1967. Dr. Radhakrishnan was a scholar, philosopher, and teacher. He was also a strong advocate for education and believed that teachers played a vital role in shaping the future of the nation. In 1962, when his students asked him to celebrate his birthday, he requested that they instead observe September 5th as Teachers' Day. This year Teacher's Day 2023 is celebrated on Monday.

- On National Teachers' Day, schools and educational institutions hold special events to honor teachers. Teachers are given gifts, flowers, and other tokens of appreciation. Students also perform cultural programs and give speeches to express their gratitude to their teachers. National Teachers' Day is a day to reflect on the importance of teachers in our lives. Teachers are the ones who help us learn and grow, and they deserve our respect and appreciation.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

BEL Inks MoU With IAI To Exploit Short-Range Air Defence Systems

- Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI), Israel's leading aerospace and defense company, have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at enhancing cooperation in addressing India's requirements in the domain of Short Range Air Defence Systems. The Memorandum of Understanding was officially signed in Bengaluru.
- The partnership between BEL and IAI is not a new development; these two entities share a long history of association. They have been engaged in various joint development, production, and product support programs for the Indian Defense forces. This MoU is yet another milestone in their collaboration, signaling their commitment to further solidify their synergy.
- The MoU between BEL and IAI aligns perfectly with the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' (Self-Reliant India) and 'Make in India' policies of the Government of India. These policies emphasize the importance of domestic manufacturing and self-sufficiency in defense capabilities. By pooling their strengths and expertise, BEL and IAI aim to contribute significantly to these national objectives.

Education ministry, Meta partner on digital skilling, entrepreneurship

- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, the Ministry of Education, and Meta (formerly known as Facebook) have teamed together in a three-year alliance in a significant move intended to strengthen India's digital capabilities. This ground-breaking program, titled "Education to Entrepreneurship: Empowering a Generation of Students, Educators, and Entrepreneurs," aims to provide aspiring and established business owners with crucial digital marketing knowledge. It is aimed at a mind-boggling 5 lakh people.
- At the core of this collaboration is the mission to democratize digital skills, making them accessible to every corner of the nation.
- By utilizing Meta's popular platforms such as Facebook, WhatsApp, and Instagram, the partnership will offer training in digital marketing skills in seven regional languages.
- This move aligns with India's vision of becoming a global leader in skill development and technology adoption.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Mumbai Professor Satyajit Majumdar honoured with Dr V G Patel Memorial Award 2023

- Mumbai Professor Satyajit Majumdar, dean of School of Management and Labour Studies from Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), has received the 'Dr V G Patel

Memorial Award-2023 for Entrepreneurship Trainer, Educator and Mentor' for his work in promoting and strengthening entrepreneurship in India. Patel is widely acknowledged as the Father of the Entrepreneurship Movement in India.

- Majumdar's name was chosen among 400 applicants from 26 states by a jury nominated by the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), Ahmedabad. Over the last two decades, Majumdar 63, has played an important role in the development of entrepreneurship, especially in the social sector. Along with his team, he has mentored more than 350 startups, including 40 in Jammu and Kashmir and group startups in Jhabua, West Bengal. Since joining TISS in 2010, Majumdar's main role has been to build an ecosystem for entrepreneurship. In 2012, TISS started a separate entrepreneurship cell under his leadership.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

India GDP forecast after Q1 data 'surprises positively': Morgan Stanley

- In light of a positive surprise in the April-June quarter data, Morgan Stanley, the multinational investment bank, has revised its economic growth forecast for India for the fiscal year 2024. The bank has raised its projection from an earlier estimate of 6.2 percent to a more optimistic 6.4 percent. This upward revision is attributed to the strong performance of the Indian economy, driven primarily by robust domestic demand.
- The GDP growth rate for India during the first quarter of fiscal year 2024 surpassed expectations, coming in at 7.8 percent, higher than Morgan Stanley's initial forecast of 7.4 percent. This positive surprise can be attributed to a more significant-than-anticipated growth in private consumption, as stated in a Morgan Stanley report.
- Morgan Stanley highlights the sustained momentum in domestic demand as a significant driver of India's economic growth. This momentum has led to GDP numbers exceeding expectations for two consecutive quarters. Factors contributing to this trend include strong Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections, credit growth, and a robust Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI).

Bad Bank Chairman Karnam Sekar reportedly quit over proposals to merge with IDRCL

- Karnam Sekar, Chairman of the National Asset Reconstruction Company of India (NARCL) tendered his resignation due to disagreements concerning the institution's structure and operations. This resignation follows a proposal for merging NARCL with India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL).
- The proposal to merge NARCL and IDRCL was initiated by IDRCL, which is headed by former State Bank of India managing director Diwakar Gupta. The suggestion was brought before the Finance Ministry with the aim of optimizing business opportunities and reducing costs through consolidation.
- Under the current structure, NARCL serves as the 'principal entity,' responsible for acquiring and aggregating bad loan accounts from banks. In contrast, IDRCL operates as a resolution agent, focusing on the loan resolution process. The merger would potentially reshape this division of responsibilities, leading to concerns and debates about the optimal structure of these entities.

- NARCL is registered with the Reserve Bank of India as an Asset Reconstruction Company under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002. NARCL's primary objective is to address and resolve stressed loan assets exceeding ₹500 crore each, with a total value of approximately ₹2 lakh crore.

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INTERNATIONAL

US State Georgia officially declares October as 'Hindu Heritage Month'

- In a significant move, Governor Brian Kemp of the U.S. state of Georgia has officially declared that the month of October will be celebrated as 'Hindu Heritage Month' within the state. This proclamation aligns Georgia with several other states across the United States that have taken similar steps to honor and commemorate Hindu heritage, culture, values, and traditions.
- Georgia joins a growing list of states that have recognized the importance of Hindu heritage and culture. These states include Texas, Ohio, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Florida, Minnesota, Virginia, and others. The declaration of 'Hindu Heritage Month' serves as a way to celebrate and acknowledge the contributions and significance of Hinduism in American society.
- The choice of October for this celebration holds special meaning. It is the birth month of Mahatma Gandhi, an iconic figure known for his principles of peace, non-violence, and civil rights. Additionally, October is a time when major Hindu festivals, such as Navratri and Diwali, are celebrated, making it an ideal month to honor Hindu heritage.

Sultan AlNeyadi sets historic milestone as he completes longest space mission in Arab history

- Emirati astronaut Sultan AlNeyadi succeeded in achieving qualitative and historical achievements, which consolidated the UAE's regional and global position as the first Arab country to complete the longest space mission in the history of the Arabs, which lasted for six months on the International Space Station (ISS), and included conducting pioneering scientific experiments that contribute to serving humanity and the scientific community.
- AlNeyadi became the first Arab astronaut to complete a spacewalk mission outside the ISS, as part of the 69th mission last April, which lasted about 7 hours, to carry out several basic tasks such as maintenance, in addition to completing the preparatory series for installing a number of solar panels on the station.
- This success consolidated the UAE's global leadership in the space sector, as the country ranked 10th globally in spacewalking missions outside the ISS, which reflects the efforts of the Mohammed bin Rashid Space Center (MBRSC) to continue space exploration. This historic achievement is also added to the record of the Arab world's contributions to outer space exploration.

- After AlNeyadi completed about 4,000 hours of work in space, the Emirati astronaut contributed to the development of scientific and technological advancement in the UAE, by conducting about 200 scientific experiments in various fields that took about 585 hours.

NATIONAL

NCERT gets Deemed-to-be-University status, says Education Minister

- In a significant development in the realm of education, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan announced on September 1 that The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has been conferred with the status of a deemed university. This momentous announcement was made during an event commemorating the 63rd foundation day of NCERT in the national capital.
- The decision to grant NCERT the esteemed status of a deemed university marks a watershed moment in the evolution of educational institutions in India.
- This move recognizes the exceptional contributions of NCERT to the field of education and underscores its commitment to excellence.
- In addition to the prestigious status conferred upon NCERT, Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan called for the integration of Bal Bhavans and Bal Vatika with NCERT.
- This visionary step aims to provide a holistic and comprehensive educational experience to children, fostering their overall development.

Gujarat Declaration focuses on global commitments towards indigenous knowledges & traditional medicine

- World Health Organization (WHO) has released the outcome document of first WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit 2023 in form of "Gujarat Declaration".
- It is worth noting that first global summit on Traditional Medicine was organised by the WHO and co-hosted by the Ministry of Ayush, from August 17-18, 2023, at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- The action points are based on the evidence, discussions and outcomes presented at the Summit. Deliberation were done on varied topics like Health and well-being of people and the planet, research and evidence, universal health coverage, primary health care and health systems, Data & routine information systems, digital health frontiers, biodiversity and sustainability, human rights, equity and ethics.

OBITURY

Piloo Reporter, the first among neutral umpires in Tests, dies at 84

- Piloo Reporter, a former international umpire, passed away on September 3 at a Thane hospital, Mumbai. He was 84 years old and had been dealing with cerebral contusions, leading to an extended period of bedridden illness.
- In his long and illustrious career spanning 28 years, Piloo Reporter known for his jovial nature and vigorous style of signaling boundaries, stood in 14 Tests and 22 ODIs. His unique way of signaling boundaries earned him the affectionate nickname "PD" in the cricketing fraternity.

- Reporter's remarkable skills as an umpire came into the spotlight when he stood in seven matches during the 1992 Cricket World Cup held in Australia and New Zealand. His contributions to the game were celebrated not only in India but on the international stage as well.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Lokesh Suji Elected To International Esports Federation Membership Committee For 3-Year Term

- The General Body of the International Esports Federation (IESF) has elected Lokesh Suji, Director of the Esports Federation of India (ESFI) and Vice-President of the Asian Esports Federation (AESF), to its esteemed Membership Committee on a three-year term. This election marks the first time that an Indian has become a part of the membership committee of the International Esports Federation. The IESF is a global Esports organization working towards promoting Esports as a true sport beyond language, race, and culture barriers.
- Its Membership Committee is instrumental in upholding consistency, fairness, and excellence among its members. They enforce the federation's rules, promote integrity, and nurture unity within the Esports community. The committee also carefully assesses new member applications to maintain high standards and advance the global Esports mission.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

G20 Summit 2023 in Delhi

- The G20 Summit in Delhi in 2023 is an important international event that brings together leaders from member nations and guest nations to discuss various global issues.
- The G20 Summit 2023 is scheduled to take place on September 9th and 10th, spanning two days.
- The summit will be held at the prestigious 'Bharat Mandappam,' which is located within the ITPO Convention Centre in New Delhi's Pragati Maidan.
- The Group of Twenty (G20) comprises 19 countries and the European Union. The member countries are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States. These countries collectively represent around 85% of the global GDP, over 75% of global trade, and about two-thirds of the world's population.

Second edition of Naval Commanders' Conference, 2023 to begin in New Delhi

- The second edition of Naval Commanders' Conference, 2023 will begin today in New Delhi. The conference is the apex-level biannual event facilitating interaction between the Naval Commanders for deliberation and formulation of important policy decisions. During the three-day Conference, being conducted in a Hybrid format, the senior leadership of the Indian Navy will review major operational, materiel, logistics, training, and administrative activities undertaken during the previous six months.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Bajaj Auto's Subsidiary Gains RBI Approval To Operate As An NBFC

- Bajaj Auto's subsidiary, Bajaj Auto Consumer Finance, has received regulatory approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to commence its non-banking financial institution (NBFC) operations. This significant development allows the company to expand its financial services without accepting public deposits. The certificate of registration from RBI, permitting Bajaj Auto Consumer Finance to operate as an NBFC, was issued on August 31, 2023, and marked a pivotal moment for the company.
- Bajaj Auto made the formal application to the Reserve Bank of India for an NBFC license on July 9 of the same year, seeking the regulatory green light to diversify its financial operations.

Paytm launches Card Soundbox that enables card payments

- One97 Communications, the parent company of fintech company Paytm, announced on Monday, September 4, the launch of Card Soundbox. "With this, the company empowers merchants to accept both mobile and card payments across all Visa, Mastercard, American Express and RuPay networks through its iconic Soundbox with 'tap and pay' that will help merchants scale their business," the company said in its press release.
- Post-announcement, the stock of One97 Communications ended 0.05 per cent lower at Rs 856.80 on the BSE.

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NATIONAL

Telangana to get India's first Gorilla Glass manufacturing facility

- In a significant development for India's electronics manufacturing sector, Corning Inc. is gearing up to establish its cutting-edge Gorilla Glass manufacturing facility in Telangana. The proposed manufacturing unit will specialize in producing cover glass for leading players in the smartphone market. The establishment of Corning Inc.'s Gorilla Glass manufacturing facility in Telangana is poised to revolutionize India's electronics manufacturing landscape.
- The ambitious project is set to become a reality with a proposed investment of Rs. 934 crore. Moreover, it promises to create employment opportunities for over 800 individuals, thereby contributing significantly to the local economy. This manufacturing facility holds the potential to be a pivotal force in propelling the smartphone manufacturing ecosystem in Telangana and the wider nation.
- Hyderabad, the capital of Telangana, is garnering the attention of numerous electronics manufacturing giants as their preferred hub. The state has already experienced substantial investments from industry leaders such as Foxconn earlier this year. With the substantial capital infusion by Corning Inc. into Telangana, the

nation is on the brink of a new era in smartphone manufacturing, one that will impact not only the state but also resonate across the entirety of India.

Tele-Law 2.0 unveiled by Law Minister

- Access to justice is a fundamental right that every citizen should enjoy, regardless of their geographical location or socio-economic status. In a significant stride towards achieving this goal, the Union Minister of Law and Justice recently launched Tele-Law 2.0, a revamped version of the Tele-Law program.
- This initiative, operating under the DISHA Scheme by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice, aims to provide free legal aid to the rural and marginalized sections of society through video conferencing.
- The Tele-Law program achieved a remarkable milestone by successfully delivering 5 million legal consultations. This achievement underscores the program's unwavering commitment to making justice accessible to every corner of the country, particularly in rural and remote areas.

12-Foot Mahatma Gandhi Statue Unveiled By President Murmu At Rajghat

- In a momentous event that pays homage to the father of the nation, President Droupadi Murmu will inaugurate a 12-foot statue of Mahatma Gandhi and a 'Gandhi Vatika' near Rajghat on September 4.
- This initiative, organized by the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, carries immense significance as it coincides with India's celebration of 75 years of independence and its tenure as the G20 presidency. Let's explore the details of this event and its symbolic importance.
- The statue of Mahatma Gandhi, towering at 12 feet, will be unveiled at the entrance of the 45-acre Gandhi Darshan complex.
- This complex is located near the memorial of Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat, where the revered leader was cremated.
- The statue serves as a poignant tribute to the Father of the Nation, who played a pivotal role in India's struggle for independence through non-violent means.

Uttarakhand: CM Pushkar Singh Dhami releases logo, website of Global Investors summit in Dehradun

- Pushkar Singh Dhami, the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, inaugurated the logo and website for the Investor Global Summit set to take place in Dehradun on December 8-9, 2023. This summit is poised to explore investment opportunities across a wide range of sectors and holds the potential to usher in a significant transformation in the state's economic landscape.
- Accompanying the logo unveiling was the launch of a dedicated website for the Investor Global Summit. This website serves as an information hub, offering insights into the state government's policies and detailing the various sectors ripe for investment. The website will play a pivotal role in attracting investors by providing them with comprehensive data and guidance on opportunities in Uttarakhand. It serves as a virtual gateway to the state's promising prospects, enticing potential investors to explore its untapped potential.

SPORTS

2023 F1 Italian GP results: Max Verstappen wins, sets record

- Max Verstappen has won the Italian Grand Prix and sets a new record for the most consecutive wins in Formula 1 history with 10. Sergio Perez made it a Red Bull 1-2 after he got ahead of Carlos Sainz following a fierce battle with the Ferrari driver in the closing stages. With Leclerc fourth, George Russell was fifth despite being issued a five-second time penalty for gaining an advantage off the track.
- Lewis Hamilton recovered to sixth place on the road and also overcame a five-second punishment for making contact with McLaren's Oscar Piastri. Alexander Albon was seventh, fending off Lando Norris who was stuck in the rear mirrors of the Williams driver for much of the Grand Prix. Fernando Alonso was ninth, while Valtteri Bottas took Alfa Romeo's first points since Canada.

Durand Cup finals: Mohun Bagan SG defeats East Bengal 1-0

- Mohun Bagan Super Giant beat East Bengal (1-0) to win the Durand Cup 2023 trophy at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata, West Bengal. With this victory, Mohun Bagan SG became the first team in Durand Cup history to win 17 titles.
- With 16 titles, East Bengal are the second-most successful team in the Durand Cup. With this victory, Mohun Bagan SG became the first team in Durand Cup history to win 17 titles. With 16 titles, East Bengal are the second-most successful team in the Durand Cup.

Indian Men's Hockey team beat Pakistan in thrilling final to win inaugural Men's Hockey 5s Asia Cup

- In Hockey, India beat Pakistan in penalty shootout in the final to win the inaugural Men's Hockey 5s Asia Cup 2023 in Salalah, Oman. The win also served as Asia's qualifying tournament for the FIH Men's Hockey5s World Cup Oman 2024. Subsequently, India qualified for the FIH Men's Hockey5s World Cup Oman 2024.
- This is the first time in three meetings that India have beaten Pakistan in the Hockey 5s format. From 2-4 down in the second half, India took the game to the shootout after two goals from Mohammed Raheel. In the shootout, Pakistan missed all their chances while Maninder Singh hit the hammer in the coffin to score India's second goal in the shootout. Earlier in the evening, India thrashed Malaysia 10-4 in the semifinals.

OBITURY

Heath Streak, former Zimbabwe cricket captain, dies aged 49

- Zimbabwe's former captain Heath Streak has passed away at the age of 49, following a long battle with colon and liver cancer. He was Born in Bulawayo, Streak, a cricketing legend, was particularly known for his prowess as a fast bowler. He held the distinction of being Zimbabwe's all-time leading wicket-taker in Test cricket, having taken 216 wickets at an average of 28.14.

- Additionally, he scored 1990 runs at an average of 22.35 in Test matches. In One Day Internationals (ODIs), Streak claimed 239 wickets at an average of 29.82 and scored 2,943 runs at 28.29.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Uday Kotak resigns as MD and CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank

- Uday Kotak has formally resigned from his position as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Kotak Mahindra Bank, with the change taking effect from September 1st, 2023. However, he will continue to play a vital role as a non-executive director within the organization until his tenure concludes on December 31, 2023.
- Dipak Gupta, the joint managing director of Kotak Mahindra Bank, will take on the responsibilities of the Managing Director and CEO on an interim basis. This transition is subject to approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the members of the bank. It reflects the bank's commitment to maintaining stability and continuity in its leadership.

Senior IIS officer Dr. Vasudha Gupta assumes charge as Principal DG of Akashvani and NSD

- Vasudha Gupta, a seasoned Senior Indian Information Service officer, has taken charge as the Principal Director General of Akashvani and News Services Division. This appointment comes after her commendable tenure as Director General at Akashvani, where she played a pivotal role in revitalizing the iconic broadcasting institution.
- With over 33 years of dedicated service in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, including her tenure as Director General of the Press Information Bureau (PIB), Dr. Vasudha Gupta brings a wealth of experience and expertise to her new role.