

August Monthly Current Affairs



International
Affairs

National
Affairs

Business

Awards

Important
Days

Sports

Banking

Ranking

Obituary

Sports



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IMPORTANT DAYS**NATIONAL IMPORTANT DAYS**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Theme</u>
August 01	Muslim Women's Rights Day	-
August 07	9th National Handloom Day	Handlooms for Sustainable Fashion
August 07	National Javelin Day	-
August 08	Quit India Day	-
August 13	Manipur observed Patriots' Day	-
August 15	India celebrates its 77th Independence Day	-
August 20	Sadbahavana Diwas/Harmony Day	-
August 29	National Sports Day/Rashtriya Khel Divas	Sports are an enabler to an inclusive and fit society
August 30	National Small Industry Day	-

International Wise

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Theme</u>
August 01 to 07	World Breastfeeding Week	Theme: "Enabling Breastfeeding: Making a difference for working parents" by WABA (World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action).

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Theme</u>
		Theme: "Let's make breastfeeding and work, work!" by WHO.
August 01	World Lung Cancer Day	-
	World Wide Web Day	-
	World Fintech Day	-
August 02	Earth Overshoot Day	-
August 06	76th Hiroshima Day	-
August 09	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples/World Tribal Day	Indigenous Youth as Agents of Change for Self-determination
	78th anniversary of Nagasaki Day	-
August 10	World Lion Day	-
	World Biofuel Day	-
August 11	1st edition of the UN's World Steelpan Day	-
August 12	International Youth Day	Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World
	World Elephant Day	Ending the Illegal Wildlife Trade
August 13	International Lefthanders Day	Left-Handers in Sports

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Theme</u>
August 13	World Organ Donation Day	Step up to volunteer; need more organ donors to fill the lacunae
August 19	World Photography Day	LANDSCAPES
	World Humanitarian Day	'No matter what
August 20	World Mosquito Day	-
August 21	World Senior Citizen Day	-
	6th International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism	Legacy: Finding Hope and Building a Peaceful Future
Last week of August	World Water Week	Seeds of Change: Innovative Solutions for a Water-Wise World
August 22	5th International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief	-
August 23	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition	Fighting slavery's legacy of racism through transformative education
August 26	Women's Equality Day	Embrace Equity
	International Dog Day	-
August 29	International Day Against Nuclear Tests	-
August 30	International Whale Shark Day	The Future of Shark: Guardians of Our Seas



<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Theme</u>
August 30	International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearance	-
August 31	World Sanskrit Day/International Sanskrit Day/Sanskrit Diwas/Vishwa Samskrita Dinam	-

SPORTS

Cricket

- England National Cricket Team all-rounder Moeen Ali - retirement from Test cricket after the conclusion of the Ashes 2023 series
- England batsman Alex Hales - retirement from international cricket
- Nepali National Cricket Team Captain Gyanendra Malla - retirement from National as well as International Cricket
- Steven Finn - England bowler announced his retires from all forms of cricket
- Wanindu Hasaranga - Sri Lankan allrounder announced his retirement from Test cricket
- ICC Players of the Month for July 2023 - Men's Player of the Month: Chris Woakes (England). Women's Player of the Month: Ashleigh Gardner (Australia).
- Wahab Riaz - Pakistan fast bowler announced his retirement from international cricket
- International Cricket Council (ICC) + Mastercard signed a global partnership - For the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 to be held in India between October 5 and November 19.
- Alex Hartley - England's left-arm spinner announced her retirement from professional cricket announced at the ongoing Hundred tournament
- 7th edition of the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) World Games 2023 - The visually challenged Indian Women's Cricket Team has won the gold medal in the finals by defeating Australia by 9 wickets.

Badminton

- 33rd edition of Australian Open 2023 - Officially known as the Sathio Group Australian Open 2023, which took place at the State Sports Centre in Sydney, Australia.

Category	Winner	Runner
Men's Singles	Weng Hongyang (China)	Prannoy H.S (India)
Women's Singles	Beiwen Zhang (USA)	Kim Ga-eun (South Korea)
Men's Doubles	Kang Min-hyuk & Seo Seung-jae (South Korea)	Takuro Hoki & Yugo Kobayashi (Japan)
Women's Doubles	Kim So-yeong & Kong Hee-yong (South Korea)	Liu Shengshu & Tan Ning (China)
Mixed Doubles	Feng Yanzhe & Huang Dongping (China)	Hiroki Midorikawa (Japan) & Natsu Saito (Japan)

- 28th edition of the BWF World Championships 2023 - Held in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Category	Winner	Runner
Men's Singles	Kunlavut Vitidsarn (Thailand)	Kodai Naraoka (Japan)
Women's Singles	An Se Young (South Korea)	Carolina Marin (Spain)
Men's Doubles	Kang Min Hyuk and Seo Seung Jae (South Korea)	Kim Astrup and Anders Skaarup Rasmussen (Denmark)
Women's Doubles	Chen Qing Chen and Jia Yi Fan (China)	Apriyani Rahayu and Silva Ramadhanti (Indonesia)
Mixed Doubles	Seo Seung Jae and Chae Yu Jung (South Korea)	Zheng Si Wei and Huang Ya Qiong (China)



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Football

- 48th edition of UEFA Super Cup 2023 - Manchester City has won the title by defeating Sevilla in the UEFA finals.
- 9th edition of FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 - Spain Women's football team (La Roja) won their 1st Federation Internationale de football Association (FIFA) Women's World Cup 2023 by defeating England in the finals at Stadium Australia in Sydney, Australia.

Hockey

- 7th edition of the Asian Men Champions Trophy 2023 - Held at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium, Chennai, Tamil Nadu. The Indian Men's hockey team clinched its 4th Hero Asian Champions Trophy 2023 by defeating Malaysia in the finals.
- Asian Champions Trophy Hockey Tournament 2023 for women - The tournament was held in Ranchi, Jharkhand from October 27 to November 05.

Chess

- Teen chess champion GM Gukesh D overtakes idol Viswanathan Anand - became India's highest FIDE rankings
- 10th FIDE Chess World Cup 2023-Men - Norwegian Grandmaster Magnus Carlsen won his 1st World Cup title by defeating India's GM Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa in the finals.
- 1st edition FIDE World Rapid Team World Championship - Held in: Dusseldorf, Germany.

Category	Winner
Gold	WR Chess team with 22 Matching Points
Silver	Team Freedom with 20 Matching Points
Bronze	MGD1 with 18 Matching Points

Wrestling

- U23 and U17 Asian Wrestling Championships 2023 held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan - India concluded with a total of 44 medals-13 gold, 13 silver and 18 bronze.
- World Under-20 Wrestling Championships 2023 - India secured the 14 medals-four gold, three silver and seven bronze. Held at the Amman International Stadium in Amman, Jordan from August 14 to 20.

- The United World Wrestling (UWW) -indefinitely suspended the membership of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) due to the federation's failure to conduct the required elections.

Grandprix Dutch Grand Prix 2023

- Held in the Circuit Zandvoort in the Netherlands.

Rank	Winner	Country
1	Max Verstappen (Red Bull)	Netherlands
2	Fernando Alonso (Aston Martin)	Spain
3	Pierre Gasly (Alpine)	France

Events

- 52nd edition of Hyundai World Archery Championships 2023 held in Berlin, Germany - India topped with the medal tally of 4 medals (3 gold and 1 bronze) in World Archery Championships 2023.
- 132nd edition of Durand Cup held in Kokrajhar, Assam - The tournament was organised by the Armed Forces and supported by the Government of Assam.
- 31st Federation Internationale du Sport Universitaire (FISU) World University Games 2023 - Held in Chengdu, Sichuan province, China.

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total Medal
1	China	103	40	35	178
2	Japan	21	29	43	93
3	Republic of Korea	17	18	23	58
7	India	11	5	10	26

- 3rd edition of Khelo India Junior's Women's Hockey League - The event was scheduled to be held at the Major Dhyan Chand stadium in New Delhi.
- U-17 Asian Junior Squash Individual Championships 2023 - India's Anahat Singh clinched the gold medal by defeating Hong Kong's Ena Kwong in the finals.

- 19th edition of World Athletics Championships 2023 - Neeraj Chopra clinched the gold medal in the men's javelin throw at 88.17 m in the event held at the World Athletics Championships held in Budapest, Hungary.

Others

- NADA (National Anti-Doping Agency) has launched an Anti-Doping helpline number 1800-119-919 - For the athletes and athlete support personnel to provide information about Anti-Doping rules and guidelines.
- Lima - the host city for Under-20 Athletics World Championships 2024 from August 26-31, 2024, having withdrawn in April due to political instability, social unrest and natural disasters in Peru.
- National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) - banned India's fastest Woman Athlete Dutee Chand for 4 years for failing dope test
- Bangalore-based financial services company, Groww - powered by the sponsor for the Asia Cup 2023, will be held in Multan from 30th of August to 17th of September.

BANKING AND FINANCE

RBI

- RBI has imposed a late submission fee (LSF) of Rs.2,000 crore on 4 firms named, - ONGC Videsh, Indian Oil Corp, GAIL (India) and Oil India for delayed reporting of their overseas investments.
- RBI's 3rd Bi-monthly Monetary Policy of FY 2023-24 of August 2023

Category	Percentage
Policy Repo Rate	6.50%
Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%
Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)	6.25%
Bank Rate	6.75%
Marginal Standing Facility (MSF)	6.75%
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	4.50%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	18%

- RBI - approved the amalgamation of Navanirman Co-operative Urban Bank, Hyderabad with Rajadhani Co-operative Urban Bank, Hyderabad
- RBI has imposed a monetary penalties on 4 co-operative banks-1 from Bihar and 3 from Maharashtra for deficiencies in regulatory compliance - A monetary penalty of Rs.1 lakh on Tapindu Urban Co-operative Bank, Patna for non-compliance with the directions issued by RBI on 'Exposure Norms and Statutory/Other Restrictions-UCBs'.
- RBI has selected global consultancy firms McKinsey and Company India LLP and Accenture Solutions Pvt Ltd India - To develop systems using Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) for enhancing regulatory supervision.
- RBI has imposed a monetary penalties on four co-operative banks for deficiencies in regulatory compliance - A penalty of Rs.5.00 lakh on Baroda Gujarat Gramin Bank, Vadodara (Gujarat) for contravention of directions issued by NABARD on 'Frauds-Guidelines for Classification, reporting and Monitoring of Frauds'.
- RBI - a Centralised Web Portal UDGAM (Unclaimed Deposits- Gateway to Access inforMation)
- RBI imposed monetary penalty on four co-operative banks for deficiencies in regulatory compliance - A monetary penalty of Rs.3 lakh on Ordnance Equipment Factory Prarambhik Sahkari Bank, Kanpur for non-compliance with specific directions issued by RBI under Supervisory Action Framework (SAF).
- RBI - approved the amalgamation of Twin Cities Co-operative Urban Bank with Kranti Co-operative Urban Bank
- RBI - increased the upper limit of offline payment transactions from Rs.200 to Rs.500
- RBI - Bandhan Bank as an authorised pension disbursement bank on behalf of the Central Pension Accounting Office (CPAO) for civil pensioners
- RBI - the merger of Akola Merchant Co-operative Bank in Akola, Maharashtra with the Jalgaon Peoples Co-operative Bank in Jalgaon, Maharashtra as per Sub-Section (4) of Section 44A in conjunction with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

Public Sector Banks

SBI

- State Bank of India has raised Rs.10,000 crore at a coupon rate of 7.54% through its 3rd infrastructure bond issuance - The coupon rate of the bond issuance represents a spread of 13 basis points over the corresponding FBIL G-Sec par curve.
- SBI Card + National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) - Jointly announced the linking of SBI credit cards on the RuPay platform with the Unified Payments Interface (UPI).



- SBI Foundation has pledged a grant of Rs.22.5 crore - To establish a banking data and analytics hub at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay.
- SBI - a facility to allow customers to enrol in social security schemes by providing Aadhaar Card identification document

Canara Bank

- Canara Bank - "Canara Jeevan Dhara" a specialized savings bank account designed for pensioners and potential pensioners
- Canara Bank - the UPI Interoperable Digital Rupee mobile application - Launched as a part of RBI's Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) pilot project.

Indian Bank

- Indian Bank - set up 10 startup cells across different centres in the country to serve its specialised banking requirements
- Indian Bank - extended the execution of online locker agreements through DDE (Data Destruction and Erasure) platform of NeSL

Punjab National Bank (PNB)

- PNB + Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation, Amul - To offer financial services to federation's supply network pan-India under the MUDRA scheme.
- Punjab National Bank (PNB) has launched a mobile application based on the GST Sahay scheme - PNB has become the 1st public sector bank to facilitate frictionless credit flow to MSMEs using GST invoices.

Bank of Baoda

- Bank of Baroda launched 'Video Re-KYC' for individual resident customers - It is an alternative way to complete the periodic updation of their 'know your customer' (KYC) documents without having to physically visit the branch.



Private Sector Banks

Axis Bank

- Axis Bank + Fintech, Kiwi to provide lifetime free Rupay credit cards digitally - The credit card named 'Axis Bank KWIK credit card' was provided through its app.
- Altigreen, India's top commercial EV maker + Axis Bank to offer tailored financial solutions - This collaboration provides customized retail financing alternatives to its customers.
- Axis Bank + RBI Innovation Hub to expand its lending services = Axis Bank launched two lending products Kisan Credit Cards and MSME loans powered by the Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit (PTPFC).
- Competition Commission of India (CCI) has imposed a penalty of Rs.40 lakh on Axis Bank - For failing to notify the regulator about its acquisition of a stake in CSC e-Governance.
- Axis Bank introduced a 'Infinity Savings Account' that offers zero domestic transaction fees - o cater to digitally savvy customers who are frequent adopters of subscription-based models, Monthly and Annually.

South Indian Bank

- South Indian Bank has launched the SIB EXIM Current Account - This account is specially designed for customers who involved in the import and export business.

IndusInd Bank

- IndusInd Bank + Tiger Fintech, a Bajaj Capital Group company - To launch IndusInd Bank Tiger Credit Card, a co-branded credit card powered by Visa.
- IndusInd Bank + British Airways Executive Club + Qatar Airways Privilege Club - Jointly launched a first-of-its-kind multi-branded credit card 'IndusInd Bank Avios Visa Infinite Credit Card' for all customers.

HDFC Bank

- HDFC Bank has inaugurated more than 100 Banking Correspondent Centres (BCC) across India - The centres will function as a mini branch, with Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) assisting customers to avail banking products digitally.
- HDFC group launched its life insurance and asset management services in Gujarat's GIFT City's International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) - To provide services to NRIs and the worldwide Indian diaspora.
- HDFC Bank + Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation - a contactless pre-paid card 'One Pune' for Pune Metro Rail Project

- HDFC Bank + Marriott International to launch India's 1st co-branded hotel credit card - The card named 'Marriott Bonvoy HDFC Bank Credit Card' aims to become one of the most rewarding travel cards in India.

Yes Bank

- Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi (IIIT-Delhi) Innovation and Incubation Centre (IIITD-IC) + Yes Bank signed a MoU - This collaboration aims to enable IIITD-IC to strengthen its mentoring initiatives for startups, gain access to experts across the industry, as well as identify newer investment and funding opportunities that can benefit startups.
- YES Bank launched its state-of-the-art mobile banking application 'iris by YES Bank' - The app designed to cater to both existing and new customers by offering access over 100 features and services on a single platform.
- Yes Bank + spend management platform Zaggle launched a co-branded Corporate Credit Card - To empower businesses to reimagine their payment processes, streamline reconciliation and efficiently manage company expenditures.

IDFC First Bank

- IDFC First Bank has secured the title sponsorship rights for all BCCI matches - For Domestic and International Cricket for the next 3 years for Rs.4.2 crore per match.

Payments Bank

- Airtel Payments Bank has become the 1st Indian Bank to launched an eco-friendly debit card - For its existing customers with a savings bank account.
- Airtel Payments Bank + Mastercard Center + Frontier Markets have launched an initiative named "She Leads Bharat: Udyam" - To elevate 1,00,000 women-owned small businesses with resources, tools and opportunities to grow and diversify their incomes.

Small Finance Bank

- Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance + ESAF Small Finance Bank to offer life insurance to customers
- AU Small Finance Bank - India's first 24x7 Video Banking Service

Insurance News

- LIC Mutual Fund - the completion of the takeover of schemes of IDBI Mutual Fund



- IndiaFirst Life Insurance has launched a non-linked and non-participating product 'Guarantee of Life Dreams (G.O.L.D.) Plan' - The insurance plan offers the policyholders with a regular long-term income option.
- LIC has launched a "Jeevan Kiran", a return-of-premium term life insurance policy - The Jeevan Kiran policy is a new non-linked, non-participating life insurance policy that 'returns' the premiums paid by policyholders at maturity
- Star Health and Allied Insurance (Star Health) - entered into a strategic corporate alliance with Standard Chartered Bank (SCB)
- Bajaj Finance + ICICI Lombard General Insurance - To provide car and two-wheeler insurance plans on the platform Bajaj Finance Insurance Mall.
- Postal Life Insurance (PLI) has launched a Digital Incentive Disbursement System - For its sales force, aims to transform the incentive disbursement process.
- Reliance General Insurance Company has been awarded the contract - For the implementation of Meghalaya's health insurance for citizens scheme and the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)-Phase 6 in Meghalaya
- Tata AIA Life Insurance (Tata AIA) - a digital payments via WhatsApp and Unified Payment Interfaces (UPI)
- Go Digit General Insurance + Vetina Healthcare LLP, an animal healthcare solutions provider to extend pet insurance coverage for dogs
- SBI Life Insurance has become the first Indian private life insurer to establish a 24X7 inbound contact centre - To address before and after purchase queries related to comprehensive insurance solutions provided by the company.
- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) - acquired 6.66% shareholding in Jio Financial Services through the demerger of the non-banking financial entity.
- LIC + Saraswat Cooperative Bank signed a bancassurance agreement - Under which the bank will sell the insurance major's products to increase penetration of life insurance through the bancassurance channel.
- ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has launched an innovative income plan, ICICI Pru GIFT Pro - It provides customers the option to receive either a year-on-year increasing income or a constant regular income.

SEBI

- SEBI + Association of Portfolio Managers in India (APMI) joined hands - To setup standards for performance audit of portfolio management services (PMS) players, with effect from October 1, 2023.
- Singapore-based Helios Capital - SEBI's approval to launch a Mutual Fund business





- Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has collaboration with SEBI - To enable the NPS subscribers to view their pension fund corpus along with their demat securities and MF holdings under a single Consolidated Account Statement (CAS).
- Zerodha has received final approval from SEBI to set up an asset management company - Vishal Jain has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer(CEO) of Zerodha Fund House.
- SEBI has reconstituted its alternative investment policy advisory committee - To advise on issues related to the development of the AIF (Alternative Investment Fund) space.

SIDBI

- SIDBI + Centre for Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship (CIIE.CO), Indian Institutes of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad, Gujarat have signed a MoU - To establish a a SIDBI Accelerator fund to provide support and extend seed investment to early-stage enterprises, especially for deep technologies start-ups in India

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- ADB has approved USD 40.5 million loan for integrated early childhood development (ECD) and maternal mental health programme in Meghalaya - The state government contributes USD 15.27 million to the project.
- ADB + Fourth Partner Energy Pvt Ltd signed a long-term loan agreement of up to 1.2 billion INR (about USD14.7 million) - To construct and operate a 25-megawatt solar photovoltaic-based power plant to increase clean and low-cost energy supply to commercial and industrial customers.
- India and Asian Development Bank have jointly set up a climate change and health hub in Delhi - India had bagged the first WHO Centre for Global Traditional Medicine to be set up in Jamnagar, Gujarat.
- ADB has granted Rs.3.32 crore to the team of technology experts - The team includes, BITS Hyderabad, IIT Bombay and IIT Kharagpur for passenger safety projects in Hyderabad

World Bank

- Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) + World Bank - To prepare a roadmap for hydrogen blending in natural gas and their transmission through gas pipelines in the country.



Others

- Paytm has launched two types of portable soundboxes for Indian users - The new devices named 'Paytm Pocket Soundbox' and 'Paytm Music Soundbox' are equipped with 4G capabilities, providing enhanced convenience for on-the-go merchants..
- Fintech firm CRED + NPCI - a RuPay credit card-based Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments for its members
- Mastercard - the of cardholder verification code (CVC) free online transactions
- Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA) joined hands to improve audit quality - This collaboration has approved a plan to develop and jointly control a common balance confirmation portal which promises high efficiency and reliability.
- Swiss impact investor responsAbility Investments AG signed a USD 15 million funding deal with Pune-based NBFC Electronica Finance - To promote green financing in India in line with its sustainability goal.
- Public Sector Banks (PSBs) have more than double profit of Rs.34,774 crore for the Q1 of FY 2023-24
- RBI has imposed a monetary penalties on 4 co-operative banks for deficiencies in regulatory compliance
- US-based payments major PayPal launched a new stablecoin, PayPal USD (PYUSD) - PYUSD will be issued by Paxos Trust Co. to PayPal customers in the United States.
- Protean eGov Technologies Ltd + PayNearby - To enhance credit services accessibility in India through the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).
- Indian Banks' Association - the Sectoral Committee for member banks operating within Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) in Gandhinagar
- Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM) - subsidiary India-EXIM Finserve IFSC Pvt Ltd (EXIM Finserve) at the GIFT City
- PayU + CSC Academy - Collaborated to provide the financial education to underprivileged segments of society, particularly SC-ST, BPL and women.
- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched the 3rd edition of the UPI Safety Awareness Campaign "UPI Chalega" - NPCI has launched in collaboration with key players in the payments ecosystem.
- Chakr Innovation has secured a substantial funding of INR 18 crore from the Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank) - The funds were sanctioned under EXIM Bank's Ubharte Sitare Programme (USP), reflecting the institution's commitment to fostering domestic growth and addressing international demands
- Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank - WhatsApp banking services

- IIFL Home Finance - secured a debt-funding of up to USD 100 million from International Finance Corporation
- Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) has reconstituted the Advisory Board on Banking and Financial Frauds (ABBFF) - The reconstituted ABBFF will be chaired by Suresh N Patel, former Central Vigilance Commissioner.
- DBS Bank India + 5 Indian top badminton stars Lakshya Sen, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, Chirag Shetty, Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand - To enhance its brand presence in the country and connect with its diverse audience.
- Agri-tech company Lawrenceedale Agro Processing India (LEAF) + Andhra Pradesh State Co-operative Bank - promote sustainable livelihoods for marginalised farmers in Andhra Pradesh.
- Light Microfinance + Fintech firm IppoPay - power digital lending to MSMEs in rural and semi-urban micro-markets of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka.
- Muthoot Fincorp launched a digital platform by offering various financial services to its customers through a single application - The 'Muthoot FinCorp ONE' is the All-In-One financial platform that provides an extensive range of services.
- Proxgy, an innovative IoT solutions company has launched Kadi, a UPI watch - For hawkers and street vendors who work in less formal settings, often without electricity or even shelf space.
- DBS + Commodities Trader Maptrusco - To complete the first electronic Bill of Lading (eBL) transaction between India and Singapore for shipments.
- PhonePe has entered into the stock broking business with the launch of a new mobile application called 'Share.Market' - This platform is being launched under its subsidiary PhonePe Wealth Broking Pvt Ltd.
- Agrim Housing Finance + Vastu Housing Finance Corporation -entered into a co-lending partnership for affordable housing projects to strengthen the non-banking financial companies.
- Ashok Leyland + CSB Bank - a MoU to offer customised financial solutions to the automaker's customers.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

IIT News

- Ministry of Railways + Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) has signed a MoU - To establish the India 5G testbed at the Indian Railway Institute of Signal Engineering and Telecommunications (IRISET) in Secunderabad, the facility would be dedicated to the testing and development of 5G use cases for Indian Railways.
- IIT-Madras based space tech startup, Agnikul Cosmos will soon launch its small satellite rocket - Agnikul commenced the integration process of its launch vehicle, AgnibaanSOrTeD (SubOrbital Technological Demonstrator), with its private launchpad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, SHAR in Sriharikota.
- IIT-Madras incubated space-tech start-up, GalaxEye launched the high-resolution aerial drone-based synthetic aperture radar (SAR) system - To perform detailed and high-resolution all-weather imaging even in rainy or cloudy conditions.
- IIT Madras + Technip Energies signed a MoU - To explore opportunities under various domains of energy research

Space News

- SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket launched the Intelsat Galaxy 37/Horizons-4 Telecommunications satellite to a Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) - To provide advanced television broadcasting services over North America.
- NASA has signed a agreement with US-based Axiom Space for a private mission to the International Space Station (ISS) - The mission named Axiom Mission 4/Ax-4, is set to launch in 2024 and will see four astronauts spend up to 14 days in the space station.
- Alpha Design Technologies has received the transfer of Indian Mini Satellite-1 (IMS-1) bus technology from ISRO's NewSpace India Ltd - IMS-1 is a low-cost microsatellite imaging mission of ISRO, y is being transferred to the private sector with the aim of bolstering India's industrial growth in the space sector and fostering technological self-reliance.
- SpaceX launched a new batch of 22 Starlink satellites to low-Earth orbit - The Falcon 9 launch vehicle carrying 22 Starlink internet satellites lifted off from Space Launch Complex 40 (SLC-40) at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida.
- Russian space agency, Roscomos -the Luna-25 moon lander aboard a Soyuz 2.1b rocket at the Vostochny Cosmodrome
- China has launched the disaster monitoring satellite L-SAR4 01, the world's 1st high-orbit synthetic aperture radar (SAR) satellite on a Long March-3B carrier rocket - The launch was took place from the Xichang spaceport in Sichuan Province in southwestern China.



- NASA - selected Rocket Lab USA Inc to provide the launch service for the agency's PREFIRE (Polar Radiant Energy in the Far-InfraRed Experiment) mission
- E-commerce platform, Shiprocket + SaaS-based drone delivery solution provider, Skye Air to deliver shipments via drones
- ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) has conducted a series of drogue parachute deployment tests - The test was conducted as part of the preparations for Gaganyaan at the Rail Track Rocket Sled (RTRS) facility of the Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory, Chandigarh.
- China launched a new earth observation satellite into space - The satellite Gaofen-12 04, was launched by a Long March-4C carrier rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in northwest China.
- Iran unveiled its new domestically build attack drone (unmanned combat aerial vehicle-UCAV) dubbed Mohajer-10 - Mohajer-10 is the upgraded version of Mohajer-6 drone and resembles the MQ-9 Reaper drone of the USA.
- NASA and SpaceX Launched the International Crew-7 Astronaut Mission to the International Space Station (ISS) - It was launched at Complex 39A in NASA's Kennedy Space Centre, Florida, USA.
- India became the 1st country to land near the south pole of the Moon with its Chandrayaan-3 lander - This also makes it the 1st country to land on the Moon since China in 2020.
- SpaceX launched its second Falcon 9 mission by sending 22 2nd-generation Starlink satellites into orbit - SpaceX has now launched a total of 5,005 Starlinks since 2019.

Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)

- Bharat Dynamics Ltd - handed over the 1st Radio Frequency (RF) Seeker of Akash-Next Generation Weapon System to the DRDO

India in Science & Technology

- Godrej Security Solutions - secured a project to provide an advanced Key Management System to ISRO's Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR (SDSC-SHAR)
- NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) has collaborated with Tata Play and launched GSAT-24 satellite in New Delhi
- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, in collaboration with Indian Space Research Organisation and Navars Edutech - To launch the National Space Innovation Challenge 2023 (NSIC 2023) for students of Class 5-12.



- ISRO Space Applications Centre (Ahmedabad) has developed a device 'Nabhmitra' for the safety of fishermen was tested at Neendakara - The satellite-based communication system enables two-way messaging services from and to the sea.

Environment & Energy

- National Hydroelectric Power Commission (NHPC) + Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) signed a MoU - The MoU was signed under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative of the NHPC for the distribution of aids and assistive devices to around 1,000 Divyangjans (Persons with Disabilities) in the vicinity of NHPC Projects located in North and North Eastern states.
- Oil India and ONGC Videsh - upgraded to 'Maharatna' and 'Navratna' categories of CPSEs respectively, approved by the Finance Ministry
-
- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has signed a term contract agreement with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) - For the sale of crude oil from the Mumbai region, cementing the strong partnership between the two esteemed companies.
- RITES (Rail India Technical and Economic Service) + National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) signed a MoU - For the construction of railway siding at Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh for the 2,880 MW Dibang multi-purpose project.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Australia

- Central Board of Indirect taxes and Customs (CBIC), Government of India + Department of Home Affairs incorporating the Australian Border Force signed a Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA)

Indonesia

- UNDP Indonesia + India's eGov Foundation signed an MoU - To tackle the critical challenge of infectious medical waste management in Indonesia.

Iraq

- Iraq - 18th country recognised by the World Health Organization (WHO) for eliminating trachoma as a public health problem

Israel

- Israeli Navy and the Israel-based Defense Company Elbit Systems have completed a sea trials for a new Electronic Warfare System - The system named DESEAVAR MK 4,

is the 4th generation of electronic warfare dispensing systems, which is fully integrated with other ship combat systems.

Mauritius

- India + Moldova signed a MoU for cooperation in the field of agriculture sector

Nepal

- India + Nepal - a 4 MoUs to undertake the developmental projects, built under the grant assistance of India

New Zealand

- India + New Zealand signed a MoU - To boost cooperation in civil aviation, will cover an array of aspects within the aviation sector, ranging from the new routes, code share services, traffic rights and capacity entitlement.

Philippines

- Indian Coast Guard + Philippines Coast Guard has signed a MoU - To enhance maritime cooperation for ensuring safe, secure and clean seas in the region.

Sri Lanka

- India has handed over an advance aid of INR 450 million to Sri Lanka - To fund its digital identity project 'Sri Lanka Unique Digital Identity (SL-UDI) project', a significant step in its digitalisation programme being implemented through the Indian grant assistance
- India handed over the maritime surveillance Dornier aircraft to Sri Lanka = India presented the Indian Navy's Dornier-228 maritime surveillance aircraft to the Sri Lanka Air Force (SALF) at a ceremony held at the Sri Lanka Air Force Base in Katunayake.

Suriname

- India has extended support amounting to USD 246,852.71 in Suriname - For project aimed at bolstering early flood warning services to communities in Suriname.
- Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) signed a MoU with Government of the Republic of Suriname - For Recognition of Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) in Suriname.

Tuvalu

- India commits USD 700,000 in funding support from its UN Development Partnership (UNDP) funds to Tuvalu - For clean water initiatives and community development in schools of the Pacific island nation of Tuvalu.



Exercise

- INS Chennai Mission Deployed in the Red Sea Undertook Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with Royal Saudi Naval Ship HMS Al Jubail - The Indian Navy's indigenously designed and constructed guided missile destroyer INS Chennai is Mission Deployed in the Red Sea.
- INS Visakhapatnam and INS Trikand - a bilateral naval maritime partnership exercise 'Zayed Talwar' with the UAE Navy
- Royal Australian Navy hosted the 27th edition of MALABAR exercise - Frigate INS Sahyadri, INS Kolkata and P8I Maritime Patrol Aircrat will participate in this Exercise.
- 15th Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa (BRICS) Summit held at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg - Theme: "BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism".
- 5th edition of the biennial AUSINDEX Maritime Exercise - The maritime exercise between Indian Navy and Royal Australian Navy (RAN) was conducted at Sydney, Australia.

Others

- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Species Survival Commission (SSC) + Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) signed a MoU - To setup 1st-ever regional Center for Species Survival (CSS) in South Asia has been established in India.
- India, Nepal and Bangladesh are working on a tripartite power trade deal - Under which Nepal will supply up to 500 MW of hydropower to Bangladesh using India's transmission line, a move that can further boost cross-border electricity trading in South Asia.
- India and Trinidad and Tobago - signed a MoU on sharing INDIA STACK
- BRICS nations are planned to launch a New University Ranking System - It aims to take a significant step toward bringing excellence in higher education, encouraging cross-border academic collaborations, and advancing the collective educational objectives of these nations.
- Leaders of the BRICS group have decided to invite 6 more countries to join their alliance - These countries are, including, Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.
- 3rd International Conference on Structural Integrity (ICONS 2023) was inaugurated at Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu - Organized by the Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research, Kalpakkam and the Society for Failure Analysis, IIT Madras, Indian Society



for Non-destructive Testing, Kalpakkam Chapter, Indian Institute of Metals Kalpakkam Chapter and Indian Structural Integrity Society.

- Financial Software and Systems has launched BLAZE, a payments technology platform solution to serve banks - BLAZE has been designed to meet the growing need for scalability and security among financial institutions.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi

- PM Modi laid the foundation stone to revamp the 508 railway stations across the country via video conferencing under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) - The redevelopment will cost Rs.24,470 crore, to provide modern passenger amenities along with ensuring well-designed traffic circulation, inter-modal integration and well-designed signage for guidance of passengers.
- PM Modi - the e-portal of 'Bhartiya Vastraevam Shilp Kosh' during the celebration of 9th National Handloom Day in New Delhi
- PM Modi announced the mega scheme, Vishwakarma Yojana with an outlay of Rs.13,000 to Rs.15,000 crore - To boost livelihood opportunities for people engaged in traditional skills, including carpenters, masons goldsmiths, laundry workers, and barbers.
- Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) completed a 9 years of implementation - The initiative was launched by PM Narendra Modi on August 28, 2014.

President Droupadi Murmu News

- Murmu launched Advanced Naval stealth frigate 'Vindhyagiri' at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers facility on the banks of Hooghly river - Vindhyagiri has been named after the mountain range in Karnataka.
- Murmu released a postage stamp in memory of Dadi Prakashmani, former chief of Brahma Kumaris at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre - This stamp was released under the 'My Stamp' initiative of the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications to mark the 16th death anniversary of Dadi Prakashmani.

Ministry News

Ministry of Defence: Shri Rajnath Singh

- Defence Ministry has decided to replace Microsoft Operating System with Maya, an Ubuntu-based OS - The new OS is currently being rolled out in the Defence Ministry computers.

- Defence Ministry signed a contract with Hindustan Shipyard,, Visakhapatnam - For the acquisition of 5 fleet support ships (FSS) for the Indian Navy at an approximate cost of Rs.19,000 crore.
- Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane laid the keel of four fast patrol vessels (FPVs) for the Coast Guard at Goa Shipyard - A medium-range, weapon-fitted surface vessel with a length of 51.43 m and a breadth of 8m.
- Directorate General Resettlement (DGR) under Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare, Ministry of Defence + M/s Genpact India signed a MoU - To bring the corporate companies and Ex-Servicemen on a common platform to generate employment opportunities for the esteemed Ex-Servicemen of the Defence Services.

Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Cooperation: Shri Amit Shah

- Amit Shah launched a new category of Ayush Visa for foreign nationals - For treatment under Ayush systems/Indian systems of medicine.
- Amit Shah - the digital portal of the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS) office in Pune, Maharashtra
- Amit Shah - the foundation stone of IFFCO Nano DAP (Di-ammonium Phosphate) (Liquid) Plant at Gandhidham, Gujarat
- Home Ministry has renewed the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) licence of foreign policy think tank Observer Research Foundation (ORF) for 5 years - It has been granted licence from October 1, 2023 to September 20, 2028.

Ministry of Road Transport and Highways: Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari

- National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has introduced 'Rajmargyatra,' a unified mobile application - To enhance highway user experience and aimed at providing a comprehensive information and efficient complaint redressal for national highway users.
- Nitin Gadkari launched the Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (BNCAP) - To enhance road safety measures by raising the safety standards in motor vehicles
- Nitin Gadkari launched the world's first prototype of the BS-6 (Bharat stage) Stage-II 'Electrified Flex Fuel Vehicle' - The innovative vehicle is based on the Innova Hycross and is engineered to adhere to India's stricter emission standards..

Ministry of Finance & Corporate Affairs: Smt Nirmala Sitharaman

- 51st GST Council meeting under the Chairpersonship of Nirmala Sitharaman is held via video conferencing in New Delhi

- Department of Expenditure under the Ministry of Finance has launched the "Vivad se Vishwas 2 (Contractual Disputes)" scheme - To provide a much-needed impetus to the resolution of contractual disputes involving the government and government undertakings.
- Nirmala - the foundation stone for the 'Iconic Site Museum' at Adichanallur archaeological site in Tamil Nadu
- Nirmala launched HSBC India's partnerships aimed at innovation in Green Hydrogen with total grant support of Rs.15 crore - It include partnerships with IIT Bombay and Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation to pursue technological advancements to make green hydrogen more efficient, cost-effective and scalable.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs: Shri Arjun Munda

- Arjun Munda inaugurated the 'Awareness Campaign and Training of Trainers' initiative - To educate grassroots workers and enable them to raise awareness about sickle cell anaemia in tribal regions.

Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Ministry of Textiles: Shri Piyush Goyal

- Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) + Villgro - Announced the selected incubators for the National Incubator Capacity Development Program as part of the Start-up India campaign.

Ministry of Education, Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship: Shri Dharmendra Pradhan

- Dharmendra Pradhan + External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar jointly launched Study in India Portal (SII) in New Delhi - SII was launched in line with PM Narendra Modi's vision of re-establishing India as a global hub of education.
- MoE - Oracle Cloud Infrastructure to modernise the national education technology platform Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA)
- Dharmendra Pradhan + Ministry of Culture G.Kishan Reddy and MoS Rajeev Chandrasekhar - Jointly launched a special initiative-Transforming Lives, Building Futures: Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in North-East in New Delhi.
- Dharmendra Pradhan launched the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) - To encourage the participation of both industries and young individuals in apprenticeship training in India.

- Dharmendra Pradhan + Ministry of Culture G.Kishan Reddy and MoS Rajeev Chandrasekhar - Jointly launched a special initiative-Transforming Lives, Building Futures: Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in North-East in New Delhi.
- Dharmendra Pradhan launched the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) - To encourage the participation of both industries and young individuals in apprenticeship training in India.
- Dharmendra Pradhan launched the 1st 'State of Elementary Education in Rural India' report - As per the report, 78% of parents of girls in rural areas want to educate their children to graduation and above and 82% of parents of boys in rural areas want to educate their children.
- Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell + NITI Aayog + All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) - To organize the 6th edition of the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2023.
- Dharmendra Pradhan launched a novel comic book "Let's Move Forward" - This comic book is a collaborative effort between the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) and UNESCO New Delhi.

Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Ministry of AYUSH: Shri Sarbananda Sonowal

- Deendayal Port Authority, a leading Major Port on the West Coast of India in Gujarat signed a concession agreement with MoPSW - For developing the best infrastructure at the ports for increasing the economic growth of the country.

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment: Dr. Virendra Kumar

- Department of Social Justice and Empowerment - implements the "Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY)"
- MoSJ&E + National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) signed a MoU - For collaboration in the field of social justice and empowerment for the fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25

Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Panchayati Raj: Giriraj Singh

- DPIIT (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade) + Ministry of Rural Development - Jointly launched the 'One District One Product' Wall at the SARAS Ajeevika Store in New Delhi to promote indigenous crafts and artisans of India.

Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Steel: Jyotiraditya Scindia

- Jyotiraditya - the new logo of NMDC (National Mineral Development Corporation) at New Delhi

- Jyotiraditya M Scindia + Gen. Vijay Kumar Singh (Rtd.) MoS, Ministry of Civil Aviation - Jointly inaugurated the Utkela Airport and a direct flight between Utkela in kalahandi district and Bhubaneshwar in Odisha.

**Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Ministry of
Communcations: Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw**

- Ministry of Railways - granted an in-principle approval for the closure of Bastar Railway Private Ltd
- MeitY launched the Indian Web Browser Development Challenge (IWBCD) in India Habitat Centre, New Delhi - The Indian Web Browser Development Challenge is spearheaded by MeitY, CCA and C-DAC Bangalore.
- MeitY Secretary inaugurated the Renewable Energy Microgrid Power Plant to fulfill the electrical energy needs of rural communities - Developed by C-DAC, Thiruvananthapuram as part of National Mission on Power Electronics Technology Program, at Elephant Rehabilitation Centre in Kottoor, Thiruvananthapuram.
- MoS for Communications launched the indigenously developed cyber threat detection and resolution system TRINETRA - It has been developed by the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) and was launched on the 40th Foundation Day of C-DOT.

Ministry of Power, Minstry of New and Renewable Energy: Shri Raj Kumar Singh

- MoNRE has extended the self-certification period for solar PV inverters up to december 31, 2023 - To get valid International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) certificates and test reports from accredited laboratories of their solar inverters.
- MoNRE introduced standards for green hydrogen production in the country - The ministry defined green hydrogen as hydrogen derived from renewable energy sources, either via electrolysis or biomass conversion.
- International Solar Alliance (ISA) hosted its 5th regional meeting in Kigali, Rwanda - Supported by the Government of Rwanda with 36 countries and Ministers of 15 countries participating.

**Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizers:
Shri Mansukh L Mandaviya**

- MoHFW - all drugmakers with an annual turnover of over Rs.250 crore to adopt good manufacturing practices (GMP) within 6 months
- Mandaviya - e-CARe (e-clearance for after life remains) portal to facilitate fast transfer of mortal remains of Indian nationals who die abroad

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying: Shri Parshottam Rupala

- Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying has secured a USD 25 million grant from the G20 Pandemic Fund - This financial injection, aims at enhancing animal health security, as a part of India's commitment to the One Health approach recognizing the interconnectedness of human and animal health.

**Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region:
Shri G.Kishan Reddy**

- Droupadi Murmu - the 'Festival of Libraries' in New Delhi
- Ministry of Tourism has launched an ambitious Wedding Tourism Campaign - To harness the vast potential of India's wedding industry.
- Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region + UNDP signed a MoU - To offer assistance in accelerating progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports: Shri Anurag Singh Thakur

- Anurag Singh Thakur launched the National Sports Federations portal on the National Sports Day - He launched the 3rd edition of the Fit India Quiz, among other initiatives at an event held at the JLN Stadium.

Minister of State for Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space: Dr. Jitendra Singh

- Jitendra Singh - India's 1st Indigenously developed Next Generation Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Scanner in New Delhi
- Jitendra Singh announced that the, - Establishment of a new spaceport in Kulasekarapattinam, Tamil Nadu for carrying out the launch of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLV) developed by ISRO.
- Jitendra Singh unveiled the new variety "Lotus" flower - Developed by the Lucknow Institute CSIR-NBRI (National Botanical Research Institute) that has 108 petals.
- Jitendra Singh launched the e-tractor, CSIR Prima ET11 - It is to be the first indigenous e-tractor developed by the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI), Durgapur.

State News

Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corporation (APGENCO) + NHPC signed a MoU - For the implementation of Pumped Storage Hydropower Projects and other Renewable Energy Projects of total capacity 1,950 MW in Andhra Pradesh.

Arunachal Pradesh

- Department of Education of Arunachal Pradesh + Ministry of Education, GoI signed a MoU - for the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Uchcharat Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA) for higher education and Pradhan Mantri e-Vidya (PM e-Vidya) for school education in the state.
- Arunachal Pradesh has signed a MoA with 3 Central Government PSUs by in Itanagar by allotting 12 hydropower projects - The total operational capacity of these 12 projects will be 11,517 MW and will be implemented by 3 Central PSUs NHPC Ltd, SJVN Ltd and NEEPCO Ltd.

Assam

- Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma has launched two digital initiatives - CM launched the Department of Forest & Environment's Amrit Brikshya Andolan web portal/mobile app and the Wood-based Industry (WBI) registration web portal.
- Guwahati's Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport - the 1st airport in the northeast to get 'Digi Yatra' facility
- Assam launched a clean district ranking drive called MODI (Most Outstanding District Initiative) - To boost solid waste management and sanitation.
- Assam cabinet HAS decided to create 4 new districts along with 81 sub-districts, following delimitation - These four new districts were named Hojai, Biswanath, Tamulpur and Bajali to enhance decentralization of governance and better convergence of line departments.

Goa

- Indian School of Business's Bharti Institute of Public Policy + Goa Institute of Public Administration & Rural Development signed a MoU - To commence a knowledge partnership with a focus on evidence-based policy formulation and impact in the State.
- Goa government launched its flagship scheme "Gramin Mitra" - To provide doorstep delivery of government services across the state and promote digital empowerment in rural areas.

- Goa + CSC eGovernance Services India Ltd signed a MoU - To facilitate the implementation of various e-governance initiatives and services across rural areas of the coastal state.
- Goa CM Pramod Sawant released India's 1st village atlas, biodiversity atlas of Mayem village in North Goa - This atlas offers a comprehensive socio-cultural history that traces back to the 12th century, making it a remarkable repository of historical and ecological knowledge.

Gujarat

- Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel launched a mobile application for Lion Movement Tracking - To enhance the tracking of lion movement by the forest department on the occasion of World Lion Day.
- Gujarat CM launched an online platform for Panchayati Raj institutions - CM Bhupendra Patel launched the Panchayati Raj Accounting Information System Automation/PRAISA to make online payment compulsory for Panchayati Raj institutions at a state-level programme of 'Meri Mati MeraDesh' in Gandhinagar.

Haryana

- Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar launched the Shahri Vikas Yojana - For the development of basic amenities in unauthorised colonies at an initial fund of Rs.500 crore.

Jharkhand

- Jharkhand Police + State Bank of India (SBI) signed a MoU - to provide additional benefits to police personnel and officials as part of their salary package.
- Jharkhand + TCPL Green Energy Solution Pvt Ltd signed a MoU - To pave the way for the establishment of the country's 1t hydrogen fuel industry in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand.

Karnataka

- Karnataka + International Battery Company (IBC) has signed an investment pact worth Rs.8,000 crore (\$971.89 million) - To build a battery manufacturing facility to spread across 100 acres at the Information Technology Investment Region (ITIR) at Devanahalli in the Bengaluru Rural district.
- Karnataka Cabinet - the cyber security policy aimed at curbing cyber crimes in the state and promoting data privacy

- Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has signed a loan agreement with Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) - For JPY 1.85 billion/USD 1.28 million for a waste-to-energy project in Karnataka.
- Karnataka government has roll out the 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme with the substantial of Rs.32,000 crore - One among five poll promises made by the Congress during its election campaign.

Kerala

- Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan - launched the statewide membership card of Kerala Startup Mission's (KSUM) 'LEAP Coworks'
- Kerala's Responsible Tourism Mission (RT Mission) + UN Women India organised the 'Trainers of Trainer' programme - Under the state's Women-Friendly Tourism project in an effort towards gender inclusivity and empowerment in the tourism sector.
- Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the Rs.2400 crore Kerala Solid Waste Management Project (KSWMP) - It was launched as part of the second phase of 'Malinya Muktham Navakeralam' (garbage free) campaign.
- India has got its 1st-ever AI school in Kerala - Former President of India Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated a school at Santhigiri Vidyabhavan in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

Madhya Pradesh

- Madhya Pradesh government and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) - Jointly launched an Artificial Intelligence-enabled chatbot 'Just Ask/Khulke Poochho' to address the critical need for accurate and accessible information on social issues and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) among adolescents and young adults.

Maharashtra

- Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde launched a mobile application and WhatsApp helpline number - For the beneficiaries of the Chief Minister's Medical Assistance Fund.
- Maharashtra government has implemented the Bhagwan Birsa Munda Jodaraste Scheme - To connect all tribal villages in 17 districts of the state with main roads.
- Maharashtra + Germany's Professional Association Football League 'Bundesliga' signed a MoU - To build a football team for players under the age of 14.
- Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA) introduced an e-billing system - For the online payment of service charges to the tenants and residents of MHADA of all Divisional Circles of the state.

Meghalaya

- Meghalaya CM Conrad K Sangma launched Rs.500 crore CM's Solar Mission - Aimed at minimizing the power deficit in this north eastern hill state for the next five years.
- Meghalaya CM Conrad Sangma has inaugurated the bio-fertiliser unit - Thee plant was inaugurated at the Kyiem village in East Khasi Hills district.

Odisha

- Bandhan Bank + Odisha Government - To strengthen payment solutions for Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC).
- Odisha govt - the extension of its social security scheme for the elderly, widows and other vulnerable sections
- Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launched the "Mo Jungle Jami Yojana" (My Forest Land Scheme) for the development of tribal people - aid the development of forest-based livelihood for people on the occasion of the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

Punjab

- Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann launched a mobile application 'Traffic Hawks' - The app was developed by Ludhiana city police to bridge the gap between public and the uniformed force.
- Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann launched a 'mera bill' app under the 'bill liaoinaampao' (bring a bill, get reward) scheme - The scheme aims at enhancing the compliance under the goods and services tax (GST) payment made on invoices.

Rajasthan

- NABARD - Rs.1,974.07 crore to Rajasthan under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for 2023-24
- Rajasthan announced 17 new districts and 3 new divisions in the state - For improving governance and decentralizing administrative functions and was formed under the recommendations of a high-level committee chaired by retired IAS officer Ram Lubhaya
- Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot launched the Indira Gandhi Smartphone Yojana in Jaipur - This free smartphone scheme was announced in the Rajasthan Budget this year.
- Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot launched the Mukhyamantri Nishulk Annapurna Food Packet Scheme - Families covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) will get the Annapurna food packets every month from the fair price shops (FPS) for free.

- Sterlite Power has secured a green energy transmission order for Rajasthan Phase-III (20GW) - The project includes construction of 350 km 765 Kv electricity transmission corridor connecting the renewable energy zone of Fatehgarh III to the substation at Beawar, construction of a 3000 MVA 765/400kV Substation at Beawar and construction of two LILO lines.

Tamilnadu

- Tamil Nadu Health Minister Ma Subramanian - the intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 5.0 - To immunise pregnant women and children who aged below 5 years against life-threatening diseases.
- Tamil Nadu CM M K Stalin launched the state's Forest and Wildlife Crime Control Bureau - To combat forest and wildlife crimes such as poaching.
- Tamil Nadu CM MK Stalin unveiled the 'logo' for the State government's ambitious Global Investors Meet - It symbolises the Tamil word 'Tha' depicting mother tongue Tamil and also the state Tamil Nadu flourishing in all parameters.
- Tamilnadu launched India's and South Asia's first-ever Night Street Racing Circuit in Chennai - Tamilnadu has partnered with Racing Promotions Private Ltd (RRPL) for the project to host a night race.
- Tamilnadu CM inaugurated the commencement of construction for a Southeast Asia's largest desalination plant worth Rs.4,276 crore at Perur - A 400 MLD desalination plant to be executed by a joint venture led by Va Tech WABAG and Metito Overseas Ltd and Japan International Cooperation Agency.
- Tamilnadu CM launched the "Chief Minister's Green Fellowship Programme" - To spread awareness on climate change besides other aligned goals.
- Tamil Nadu CM M K Stalin launched the expansion of the state government's breakfast scheme at Thirukkuvalai in Nagapattinam - The expansion of the scheme is to 31,008 government primary schools, across rural and urban areas by benefiting 17 lakh students from classes I to V at a cost of Rs.404.41 crore.

Telangana

- World Economic Forum + IISc, Bengaluru +Telangana Government - Launched an Agriculture Data Exchange (ADeX) and Agriculture Data Management Framework (ADMF) to boost agricultural production, putting to use enormous data that stakeholders in the primary sector generate.
- Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TSRTC) launched "TSRTC Gamyam" mobile app - This bus tracking app will help passengers to know the exact timings of

buses at various stops across Telangana and nearby states where the services are available.

- Telangana government + UNESCO signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) - This collaboration focuses on promoting the ethical development and use of AI awareness raising, capacity building, and contributions to UNESCO's Global Observatory on AI Ethics.
- UNESCO + Information Technology, Electronics and Communications, Telangana signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) - To promote and implement the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Uttar Pradesh

- Mexican state Nuevo Leon + Uttar Pradesh government have signed a MoU - For investment in several sectors including tourism, infrastructure, pharmaceutical and agriculture.
- Uttar Pradesh Government launched the 'Manav Sampada Portal' to enhance transparency in employee activities - It aims to bring the "activities of officers and employees from various departments into the public domain through the portal".

West Bengal

- Kolkata is set to become the 3rd Indian city to get air quality early warning system (AQEWS) after Delhi and Pune - To compute and relay real-time and forecast data on pollution levels in the city, courtesy an initiative by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM).

Union Territory News

Delhi

- Delhi Forest Department launched a portal - To facilitate rapid response to threats and offences concerning trees, forests, and wildlife.
- Delhi Lt.Governor VK Saxena launched the BlockChain Technology in the Inter-Operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) - For the e-forensic application of the Delhi Forensic Science Laboratory and Delhi Police at Raj Niwas
- Delhi Environment and Forest Minister Gopal Rai launched a portal - To enhance public awareness about the forest and wildlife sanctuary areas that need protection.

Ladakh

- India's first hydrogen fuel cell bus service is starting in Leh, Ladakh - The project is being implemented by India's largest power producer NTPC, which is supplying five hydrogen fuel cell buses to the Leh administration for intra-city service in the city.

Union Cabinet News

- Union Cabinet has approved a last-mile broadband connectivity plan - For 6.4 lakh villages across the country under the BharatNet project with an outlay of Rs.1,39,579 crore.
- Union Cabinet amended laws to bring clarity related to the uniform 28% GST on online gaming, casinos and horse racing
- Union Cabinet approved the expansion of the Digital India programme with an outlay of Rs.14,903 crore - 6.25 lakh IT professionals will be re-skilled and up-skilled under the Future Skills Prime Programme.
- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved 7 projects of Ministry of Railways with estimated cost of around Rs.32,500 crore - The proposals of Multi-tracking will ease operations and reduce congestion, providing the much required infrastructural development on the busiest sections across Indian Railways.
- Cabinet has approved a bus scheme "PM-eBus Sewa" for augmenting city bus operation by 10,000 e-buses on PPP model for 10 years till 2037 - The Scheme would have an estimated cost of Rs.57,613 crore, out of which support of Rs.20,000 crore will be provided by the Central government.
- The Centre has rolled out a Rs.5,000 crore Research Linked Incentive (RLI) scheme for pharmaceuticals and med-tech sector - To strengthen the research infra in the country and promote more industry-academia linkages for research and development (R&D)
- Centre has formed a 9-member committee to review the functioning of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) - Headed by a former Principal Scientific Advisor K Vijay Raghavan to the government.
- Cabinet approved the National Policy on Research and Development and Innovation in the Pharma-MedTech Sector - The approval of the Scheme for Promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma-MedTech Sector with a substantial allocation of Rs.5,000 crore for a 5-year period spanning from FY24 to FY28.

G20 News

- 7th meeting of the Coordination Committee on India's G20 Presidency held at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi - Principal Secretary to Prime Minister, P.K. Mishra has chaired the meeting.
- WHO and the G20 India presidency announced a new Global Initiative on Digital Health (GIDH) at the Health Ministers Meeting of the G20 Summit - It was launched at the Mahatma Mandir convention centre, Gujarat.

- PM Modi addressed the B20 Summit India 2023 in New Delhi - B20 Summit India brings policymakers, business leaders and experts from across the world to deliberate and discuss the B20 India Communique.
- 2nd G20 Chief Scientific Advisers' Roundtable meeting held in Gandhinagar - Science advisors, Scientists, Researchers from G20 countries and are taking part in the meeting.

NITI Aayog

- NITI Aayog + UNDP signed a MoU for a period of 5 years - To accelerate the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Others

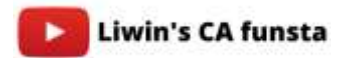
- Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) + Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT) signed MoU - To establish mechanism of technical and institutional cooperation in telecommunications.
- C-DoT, the premier Telecom R&D Centre of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has signed a consortium agreement with industry partners - The industry partners include, Lekha Wireless Solutions Pvt Ltd, Signaltron Systems Pvt Ltd, Sooktha Consulting Pvt Ltd and Resonous Technologies Pvt Ltd for 'Collaborative Development of Disaggregated 5G Radio Access Network Solution'.
- Twelve products from Rajasthan, Goa, Jammu and Kashmir, Tamilnadu & Uttar Pradesh get Geographical Indication tag

State/UT	Geographical Indications
Rajasthan	Udaipur Koftgari Metal Craft Bikaner Kashidakari Craft Bikaner Usta Kala Craft Jodhpur Bandhej Craft
Uttar Pradesh	Jalesar Metal Craft (Jalesar Dhatu Shilp)
Goa	Goan Bebinca Goa Mankur Mango (Malcorado or Mankurad)
Jammu and Kashmir	Rajouri Chikri Wood Craft Mushqbudji Rice of Anantnag district Bhaderwah Rajma (Red Kidney Beans) Ramban Sulai Honey
Tamilnadu	Matti banana from Kanniyakumari district

State/UT	Geographical Indications
Assam	Chokuwa Rice (Magic Rice)

- Executive Committee of National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has approved seven projects worth Rs.692 crore - The project was approved at the 50th meeting of the executive committee under the chairmanship of G.Asok Kumar, director general of NMCG.
- National Deep Tech Startup Policy (NDTSP) Consortium has announced the draft policy for public consultation - It seeks a public feedback till September 15, 2023.
- National Health Authority extended its Digital Health Incentives Scheme (DHIS) under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) till 31, December 2023
- Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) extended the deadline for Track and Trace system for pharmaceutical and drug exports until 1 February 2024
- The Project Tiger division has been merged with Project Elephant to formed a new division 'Project Tiger and Elephant Division'
- Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) signed a MoUs with 35 prestigious institutions across the country - For fostering collaboration in standardization and conformity assessment.
- National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has developed an application 'MASI-Monitoring App for Seamless Inspection' - For real time monitoring of the Child Care Institutions (CCIs) and their inspection mechanism across the country.
- Chief Justice of India Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud launched 'Su Swagatam' Portal for Online Registration and E-passes - A web-based application enables advocates, visitors, interns and others to register themselves online and get e-passes to enter the Supreme Court of India (SC).
- Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Academy joined the Interpol Global Academy Network as its 10th member
- Amazon India + Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII) + Cottage and Rural Industries Department, Gujarat signed a MoU - To help drive e-commerce exports from the state.
- Lt Governor Manoj Sinha -the 9th India International MSME Expo and Summit 2023 in New Delhi

- Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) + Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) signed a MoU - For providing a QR code-based DMRC tickets through the IRCTC platform.
- Central Railway - the New Amravati station as the 1st "Pink Station" on the Bhusaval Division and the 3rd station on Central Railway
- UNDP + World Bank have collaborated with India as its knowledge partner in Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) in the Digital Economy Working Group - The G20 India Presidency in partnership with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) launched two knowledge products on DPI to help countries advance their digital transformation journey.
- Nehru Memorial Museum and Library has officially been renamed as the Prime Ministers' Museum and Library Society with effect by the Centre - The decision was taken at a meeting of the Memorial Museum and Library Society which was presided over by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who is the Vice-President of the Society.
- Central Water Commission (CWC) Chairman Kushvinder Vohra launched the mobile application "Flood Watch" - The aim of using mobile phones to disseminate information related to the flood situation and forecasts up to 7 days on a real-time basis to the public.
- UK's SME-focused business financial platform, Tide + North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation signed a MoU - To support the small weavers and artisans of North East India.
- NHPC + Universal Health Foundation signed a MoU for setting up Gramin Gyan Jyoti Kendras under its CSR initiative - NHPC will provide basic infrastructure facilities to Universal Health Foundation for setting up of Gramin Gyan Jyoti Kendras in government schools in nine villages of Jodhpur district & one village of Nagore district of Rajasthan.
- India's first 3D printed post office was inaugurated at Cambridge Layout in east Bengaluru by Ashwini Vaishnaw - The building was constructed by Larsen and Toubro with the technical guidance from IIT Madras at a cost of Rs.23 lakh.
- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla inaugurated the 9th India Region Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in Udaipur Rajasthan - Theme: "Strengthening Democracy and Good Governance in the Digital Age".
- Police Commissionerate Ghaziabad launched the 'Savera Yojna' - To offer timely help to the senior citizens with emergency response number 112.
- National Health Authority (NHA) has launched the 1st ABDM Microsite as part of its 100 Microsites Project in Aizawl, Mizoram - Mizoram becomes the first state in India to operationalize an ABDM Microsite in its capital Aizawl.



- Numaligarh Refinery + Inland Waterways Authority of India signed a MoU agreement - To use National Waterways-2 (Brahmaputra) and Indo Bangladesh Protocol Route (IBPR) for export of petroleum products to Bangladesh and other southeast Asian countries.
- India got its 54th tiger reserve in Rajasthan's Karauli and Dholpur districts with the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) - This is Rajasthan's 5th tiger reserve Dholpur-Karauli tiger reserve after Ranthambore, Sariska, Mukundra Hills and Ramgarh Vishdhari.
- Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) launched a revamped National Website of the Income Tax Department - The revamped website was launched by Nitin Gupta, Chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) at the 'Chintan Shivir', organised by Directorate of Income Tax (Systems) at Udaipur.
- Indian government has extended the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for the automobile sector by another year till FY28 -Post extension, the 5-year scheme originally in place from 2022-23 to 2026-27, will be active until 2027-28.
- India - host 1st-ever Global India Artificial Intelligence Summit 2023 in October

BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

- Gross GST revenue in the Month of July is Rs 1,65,105 crore - Out of which CGST-Rs 29,773 crore, SGST-Rs 37,623 crore , IGST-Rs 85,930 crore, cess-Rs 11,779 crore.
- UPI processed a record of 9.96 billion transactions in July 2023 worth Rs 15.34 lakh crore
- Adani Energy Solutions - a USD 1 billion financing for the green High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) link project in Mumbai
- Multi Commodity Exchange of India (MCX) - empanelled Lex Carta Pvt as the primary Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) service provider
- Wholesale Price-based Inflation (WPI) remained in the negative territory for the 4th straight month in July at -1.36% from -4.12% in June.
- India's consumer price index (CPI) based inflation rose sharply to 7.44% in July from 4.87% in June according to data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
- Competition Commission of India (CCI) has imposed a penalty of Rs.1 crore on Bharti Airtel - For failing to comply with the provisions of Section 6(2) of the Competition Act, 2002.
- Antler Launched India's 1st ONDC-Centric Venture Platform Antler ONDC for Indian Start-up Founders - The venture capital firm has partnered with Infosys non-executive



chairman, Nandan Nilekani's Foundation for Interoperability in Digital Economy (formerly Beckn Foundation) and ONDC for this platform.

- Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) Network and PepsiCo India has joined in the realm of digital commerce - The partnership will enable discoverability of the company's extensive product portfolio by buyers and help in extending customer outreach through the diverse array of ONDC-affiliated seller applications.

RANKING

International Ranking

- Fortune Global 500 list of 2023

Rank	Company Name	Revenue (USD Million)
1	Walmart (USA)	611,289
2	Saudi Aramco (UAE)	603,651
3	State Grid (China)	530,009
4	Amazon (USA)	513,983
5	China National Petroleum	483,019
8 Indian Companies were featured in the 2023 Fortune Global 500 list		
88	Reliance Industries	109,523
94	Indian Oil	105,349
107	Life Insurance Corporation of India	98,535
158	Oil & Natural Gas	78,746
233	Bharat Petroleum	59,114
235	State Bank of India	58,951
237	Tata Motors	43,661
253	Rajesh Exports	42,306

- Internet Resilience Index (IRI) 2023 - Developed by Internet Society-South Asian region.

Rank	Country	Percentage
1	Bhutan	58 percent
2	Bangladesh	51 percent
3	Maldives	50 percent
4	Sri Lanka	47 percent
5	Nepal	43 percent
6	India	43 percent

AWARDS

National Awards

- PM Modi was conferred the Lokmanya Tilak National Award in Pune, Maharashtra - The Award was constituted by Tilak Smarak Mandir Trust in 1983 to honor the legacy of Lokmanya Tilak.
- Government of India's premier publishing house Publications Division - the silver medal for Excellence in Display at Delhi Book Fair 2023
- National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS) team of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) won Gold Award - Under the Excellence in Government Process Reengineering for Digital Transformation Category-1 of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
- Farmers Fresh Zone (Farmers FZ) - among the 12 agri-food start-ups by the Food and Agriculture Organization of UN for the SDG Agrifood accelerator programme
- President approved 76 Gallantry awards to Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces personnel on the occasion of Independence Day - The Gallantry Awards include 4 Kirti Chakra (posthumous) 11 Shaurya Chakras, including five posthumous, two Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry), 52 Sena Medals (Gallantry), three Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry) and four Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry).
- Myra Grover - the Women Icon Award as author on Mental Wellness by the House of Lords, UK Parliament
- 1st Maharashtra Industry Awards 2023 - Industrialist Ratan Tata was bestowed with the first ever 'Udyog Ratna' award established by the Maharashtra government.

- 69th National Film Awards - Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Anurag Thakur was presented the award to the winners, the event held at the National Media Centre, New Delhi.

Award for Best Book on Cinema:

<u>Sr. No.</u>	<u>Title of the Book</u>	<u>Language</u>	<u>Name of the Author</u>	<u>Name of the Publisher</u>	<u>Medal and Cash prize</u>
1.	MUSIC BY LAXMIKANT PYARELAL : THE INCREDIBLY MELODIOUS JOURNEY	English	Rajiv Vijayakar	Rupa Publications India Pvt. Ltd.	Swarna Kamal and Rs. 75,000/-

Award for Best Film Critic:

<u>S. No.</u>	<u>Name of Critic</u>	<u>Language</u>	<u>Medal and Cash Prize</u>
1.	Purushothama Charyulu	Telugu	Swarna Kamal and Rs. 75,000/-

Special Mention-Critic:

<u>S. No.</u>	<u>Name of Critic</u>	<u>Language</u>	<u>Prize</u>
1.	SubramanyaBadoor	Kannada	Certificate only

- 4th edition of the India Smart Cities Award Contest (ISAC) 2022 - The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has announced the India Smart Cities Award Contest (ISAC) under the Smart Cities Mission.

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Best City-wise</u>	<u>Best State-wise</u>
1	Indore	Madhya Pradesh
2	Surat	Tamil Nadu
3	Agra	Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh

Category	Winner
Built Environment Category	Coimbatore's project of model roads, restoration and renovation of lakes
Economy Category	Jabalpur's incubation centre project
Mobility and Governance Categories	Chandigarh's public bike sharing and e-governance services
Union Territory Category	Chandigarh

- Panchayati Raj Ministry's Scheme won National Award for e-Governance 2023 - SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas) Scheme of Ministry of Panchayati Raj has been conferred with the prestigious National Award for e-Governance 2023 (Gold) for Application of Emerging Technologies for Providing Citizen Centric Services at the 26th National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG).
- Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan 2023 - The Central Pollution Control Board released 'Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan 2023', an initiative by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to rank cities on the basis of air quality.

Rank	City	State
1	Indore	Madhya Pradesh
2	Agra	Uttar Pradesh
3	Thane	Maharashtra
4	Srinagar	Jammu& Kashmir
5	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh

- Rajasthan's Priyan Sain - the title of Miss Earth India 2023 during the Miss Divine Beauty 2023 national final held in New Delhi

International Awards

- Mohamed Reza Mia, an Indian-origin South African - the 2022/2023 National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF)-South32 Awards
- International Young Eco-Hero Award 2023 - Five youths from India have been selected among 17 teen environmental activists across the globe to receive the 2023 International Young Eco-Hero Award who have taken initiatives to tackle the world's most pressing environmental challenges.
- PM Narendra Modi was conferred with 'The Grand Cross of the Order of Honour' award by Greek President Katerina Sakellaropoulou - This is the 2nd highest civilian honour in Greece.

APPOINTMENT

National Appointments

<u>Name</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Succeeded by</u>
Udaya Kumar Hebbar	Chairperson of Microfinance Industry Network (MFIN)	Devesh Sachdev
Manoj Nambiar	Vice-Chairperson of Microfinance Industry Network (MFIN)	Vivek Tiwari
Vijay Kumar Saraswat	Chairman of Governing Board of Quantum Ecosystems Technology Council of India (QETCI)	-
Appointments Committee of Cabinet has extended the tenure of Shri Rajiv Gauba	As the Cabinet Secretary of India	-
Appointments Committee of Cabinet has extended the tenure of Ajay Kumar Bhalla for the 4th time	As the Home Secretary	-
Sanjay Kumar Agarwal	Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)	Vivek Johri

<u>Name</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Succeeded by</u>
Shrikant Madhav Vaidya 1-year post-retirement extension as	Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation	-
Amit Jhingran	MD&CEO of SBI Life Insurance	Mahesh Kumar Sharma
Raman Sukumar	Vice-chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)	-
R. Doraiswamy	MD of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)	Ipe Mini
Abhijit Chakravorty	MD& CEO of SBI Cards and Payment Services	Rama Mohan Rao Amara
Parminder Chopra	1st woman Chairman and MD of Power Finance Corporation (PFC)	-
Kamlesh Varshney and Amarjeet Singh	SEBI Whole-Time Members	S K Mohanty and Ananta Barua
Adille Sumariwalla	Vice President of World Athletics Executive Board	-
P. R. Seshadri	MD& CEO of the South Indian Bank	Murali Ramakrishnan
Neelkanth Mishra, Chief Economist of Axis Bank	Part-time Chairman of UIDAI	Nandan Nilekani
Justice Prakash Shrivastava	Chairperson of the National Green Tribunal (NGT)	Justice Sheo Kumar Singh as the acting chairperson after the retirement of Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel
Extended the tenure of Mohit Gupta	As the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of Central Bureau of Investigation	-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Succeeded by</u>
Cricketing legend Sachin Tendulkar	"National Icon" of the Election Commission	Actor Pankaj Tripathi
Umesh Revankar	Chairman of Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC)	-
Mukesh Ambani	Will continue as the Chairman and MD of Reliance Industries	-
Tata Steel's CEO and MD TV Narendran was appointed as the	New chairperson of the board of governors of IIT-Kharagpur	Rajendra Prasad
Jaya Verma Sinha	1st woman CEO and Chairperson of the Railway Board	Anil Kumar Lahoti

International Appointments

<u>Name</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Succeeded by</u>
Thuraiya Hamid Alhashmi	Member of the Board of Directors and a Constituency Director of BRICS' New Development Bank	-
Hun Manet	PM of Cambodia	-
Senator Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar	8th Caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan	Shehbaz Sharif
Bernardo Arvalo	President of Guatemala	Alejandro Giammattei
Srettha Thavisin	30th Prime Minister of Thailand	Prayut Chan-o-cha
Ketan Shivji Vikamsey, Mrugank Madhukar	Directors of State Bank of India (SBI)	B.Venugopal and Ganesh Natarajan

Paranjape, Rajesh Kumar Dubey, Dharmendra Singh Shekhawat		
Emmerson Mnangagwa	Re-elected as the President of Zimbabwe	-
Ali Bongo	President of Gabon	-
Former Chief Justice of India (CJI) NV Ramana	Member of the International Mediator Panel of Singapore International Mediation Centre (SIMC)	-
International Hockey Federation (FIH) President, Tayyabkram	IOC Olympic Solidarity Commission	-

Brand Ambassadors

Name	Brand Ambassador	Key Points
Head Coach of the Indian cricket team Rahul Dravid	Brand Ambassador of Bharat Petroleum	He will represent BPCL's 'Pure for Sure' initiative and range of MAK lubricants.
Women's Tennis World No.1 Iga Swiatek	Ambassador for the brand and Infosys' Digital Innovation	For developing an AI powered match analysis tool.
Cricketer Shubman Gill	Brand Ambassador for Tata Capital	This appointment was aligned with its brand promise "Count on Us".

Books and Authors

Book Name	Author Name	Published by
"Kargil: Ek Yatri Ki Jubani" (Hindi Edition)	Rishi Raj	Prabhat Prakashan
'How Prime Ministers Decide'	Veteran Journalist Neerja Chowdhury	-

"The Life, Vision and Songs of Kabir"	Vipul Rikhi	Harper Collins India
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OBITUARY

- Vakkom Purushothaman - Veteran Congress leader and former Governor
- Na Dho Mahanor - Marathi poet and lyricist Namdeo Dhondo Mahanor,
- Nagarajan Vittal - Former Telecom Secretary and Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC)
- William Friedkin - Renowned American film-maker
- Polali Jayarama Bhat - former Chairman and MD&CEO of Karnataka Bank
- Bikash Sinha - Renowned Nuclear Physicist
- Bindeshwar Pathak - Sulabh International founder, Padma Bhushan recipient and social worker
- Mohammed Habib - The legendary Indian football player and Former Indian captain
- Manchanahalli Rangaswamy Satyanarayana Rao - An eminent Indian Scientist also known as MRS Rao
- Vallampadugai Srinivasa Raghavan Arunachalam - Former director general of DRDO
- John Warnock - Adobe's co-founder
- Ron Cephas Jones - Emmy-winning actor
- Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao - Renowned Mathematician and Statistician
- Seema Deo - Veteran Hindi and Marathi Film Actress
- Jayanta Mahapatra - Legendary Author and Indian English Poet Padma Shree

DEFENCE

- Indian Air Force (IAF) - received Israeli Spike Non-Line of Sight (NLOS) anti-tank guided missiles from Israel - It was designed by the Israel-based Rafael Advanced Defense Systems.
- Goa Shipyard Ltd + Foundation for Science Innovation and Development (FSID) of IISc Bengaluru have signed a MoU - To revolutionize the shipbuilding and defence sectors through cutting-edge Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies.
- Coromandel International's subsidiary, Dhaksha Unmanned Systems - bagged an order from the Indian Army worth Rs.165 crore for defence and agri drones
- Indian Navy has planned to buy 12 Mine Counter-Measure Vessels (MCMVs) from Indian shipyards - The anticipated delivery timeline for the MCMVs is proposed between 2030 and 2037.



- India successfully concludes trials of Anti-Tank Guided Missiles - India's indigenously developed Nag Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) and the variant of 'HELINA' (Helicopter-launched NAG) Weapon System called 'DHRUVASTRA' are set to be inducted into the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- Tata Lockheed Martin Aerostructures Ltd (TLMAL) - a milestone with the recent delivery of the 200th C-130J Super Hercules Empennage
- USI, CSC-E-Governance, and PCTI - collaborated to facilitate Military Heritage Tourism
- Drone manufacturer Dhaksha Unmanned Systems - bagged an order to supply 200 medium-altitude logistics drones and accessories to Indian Army
- Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) launched India's 1st Indigenous lightweight Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) - A lightweight AUV named "Neerakshi" means "Eyes in the Water", used in mine countermeasure operations by armed forces launched at the Garden Reach Shipyard in Kolkata.
- India has deployed MiG-29 fighter aircraft in Srinagar by replacing MiG-21 fighter jets at the base - To tackle threats from both the Pakistani and Chinese front.
- Indian Air Force (IAF) has inducted its latest Heron Mark 2 drones - These drones can be equipped with long-range missiles and other weapons systems, have been deployed at a forward air base in the northern sector.
- India's 1st Unmanned Aerial Systems (Drone) Common Testing Centre under Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS) will be established in Tamil Nadu - This centre would be established at the SIPCOT Industrial Park, Vallam Vadagal near Sriperumbudur.
- Indian Air Force (IAF) will host 1st edition of Mega Multilateral Military Exercise 'Tarang Shakti' in the middle of 2024 - Air Forces of France, the UK, Australia, the US, Japan and India were expected to participate in the exercise with aerial assets.
- India has approved a Rs.20,000 crore deal for the production of Fleet Support Vessels (FSVs) for the Indian Navy - These will be manufactured by the Visakhapatnam-based Hindustan Shipyards Ltd (HSL).
- Country's 1st long-range side swing revolver, 'Prabal' with "twice the range of other revolvers" was launched for civilians and arms dealers - Manufactured by the Advanced Weapons and Equipment India (AWEIL) based in Kanpur, the Prabal revolver boasts of a firing range of up to 50 m.
- Indian Army has introduced Swathi Mark II radar system for mountain surveillance - Indian Army inducted the lighter and more compact version of the indigenously developed Weapon Locating Radar (WLR) called "Swathi Mountains".



- Tejas, Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) LSP-7 successfully fired the ASTRA indigenous Beyond Visual Range air to air missile off the coast of Goa - The missile release was carried out from the aircraft at an altitude of about 20,000 ft.
- Cmde G Ravi has launched the 2nd Missile Cum Ammunition (MCA) Barge, Yard 76 (LSAM 8) - It was launched at the launch site of M/s SECON Engineering Projects in Guttenadeevi, East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh.
- Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has approved proposals worth Rs.7800 crore - To strengthen the operational capabilities of the Indian Armed Forces.
- Indian Air Force (IAF) deployed five MiG-29 combat jets for a 21-day multilateral war game in Egypt - The biennial tri-services exercise, Bright-Star, is taking place at Cairo (West) Air Base and is being participated by militaries of the US, Saudi Arabia, Greece and Qatar.
- Indian Navy conducted the first test drop of Search and Rescue Kit (SARK) indigenous equipment - Dubbed as the Search and Rescue Kit (SARK), support equipment can be dropped from an aircraft with the help of parachutes and the equipment can rescue people in emergency situations.
- Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers + Kolkata-based premier warship builder and the DEMPO Group signed a MoU - To launch a collaboration model to build commercial vessels in three premier shipyards of DEMPO at Goa and Bhavnagar.
- Goa Shipyard + Kenya Shipyard signed a MoU - For capacity building and collaboration in ship design and constructio to boost defence cooperation.



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