

# September Monthly Current Affairs



## Content

Title	Page Number
Important days	<a href="#">03</a>
Sports	<a href="#">07</a>
Banking and Finance	<a href="#">11</a>
Science and Technology	<a href="#">22</a>
International Affairs	<a href="#">25</a>
National Affairs	<a href="#">28</a>
Business and Economy	<a href="#">45</a>
Ranking	<a href="#">47</a>
Awards and Honors	<a href="#">51</a>
Appointments	<a href="#">54</a>
Books and Authors	<a href="#">57</a>
Obituary	<a href="#">58</a>
Defence	<a href="#">58</a>

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## IMPORTANT DAYS

### NATIONAL IMPORTANT DAYS

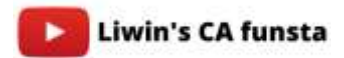
<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Theme</u>
September 05	National Teachers' Day	-
September 11	National Forest Martyrs Day	-
September 14	Hindi Diwas (Hindi Day) / National Hindi Diwas	-
September 15	National Engineer's Day	'Engineering for a sustainable future'
September 25	Antyodaya Diwas	-
September 1 to 8	Literacy Week	-
September 1 to 7	National Nutrition Week	"Suposhit Bharat, Sakshar Bharat, Sashakt Bharat" (Nutrition-rich India, Educated India, Empowered India).
September Month	The Government of India's flagship initiative, POSHAN Abhiyaan Maah	-

### INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANT DAYS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Theme</u>
September 02	World Coconut Day	"Sustaining Coconut Sector for the Present and Future Generation".
September 05	UN International Day of Charity	-



SEPTEMBER MONTHLY ONE LINERS



<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Theme</u>
September 07	4th UN International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies/World Clean Air Day	"Together for clean air".
	UN International Day of Police Cooperation	-
September 08	UNESCO's International Literacy Day	Promoting literacy for a world in transition: Building the foundation for sustainable and peaceful societies Promoting literacy for a world in transition: Building the foundation for sustainable and peaceful societies
	World Physical Therapy (PT) Day/World Physiotherapy Day	Arthritis and the Role of Physiotherapists
September 09	4th UN International Day to Protect Education from Attack	
	World EV Day	
September 10	World Suicide Prevention Day	Creating Hope Through Action
September 12	UN Day for South-South Cooperation	Solidarity, Equity and Partnership: Unlocking South-South Cooperation to Achieve the SDGs
September 12	UN Day for South-South Cooperation	Solidarity, Equity and Partnership: Unlocking



<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Theme</u>
		South-South Cooperation to Achieve the SDGs
September 15	UN International Day of Democracy	Empowering the next generation
	World Lymphoma Awareness Day	We Can't Wait to Focus on Our Feelings
September 16	UN World Ozone Day/International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer	Montreal Protocol: fixing the ozone layer and reducing climate change
September 17	World Patient Safety Day	Engaging patients for patient safety
September 18	4th UN International Equal Pay Day	-
	World Bamboo Day	-
	World Water Monitoring Day	-
September 21	World Alzheimer's Day	Never too early, never too late".
	UN International Day of Peace/World Peace Day	"Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for the #GlobalGoals".
September 22	World Rhino Day	-
	World Rose Day/Day for Welfare of Cancer Patients	-

SEPTEMBER MONTHLY ONE LINERS



<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Theme</u>
September 23	UN International Day of Sign Languages	"A World Where Deaf People Can Sign Anywhere".
September 25	13th World Pharmacist Day	"Pharmacy Strengthening Health Systems".
September 26	World Environmental Health Day	"Global Environmental Public Health: Standing up to protect everyone's Health each and every day".
	UN International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons	-
	17th World Contraception Day	"The Power of Options".
September 27	43rd World Tourism Day	Tourism and green investment
September 28	17th World Rabies Day	All for 1, One Health for All
	4th International Day for Universal Access to Information	"The importance of the online space for access to information".`
September 29	International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction	Reducing Food Loss and Waste: Taking Action to Transform Food Systems
	World Heart Day	'Use Heart, Know Heart'
September 30	International Translation Day	'Translation unveils the many faces of humanity.'



<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Theme</u>
Third Saturday of every September (September 16, 2023)	International Red Panda Day	-
4th Sunday of September (September 24, 2023)	World Rivers Day	-
The last Sunday of September (September 24, 2023)	World Day of Deaf	-
Last Thursday of September (September 28, 2023)	46th UN World Maritime Day	MARPOL at 50-Our commitment continues"
September 18 to 24	International Week of the Deaf	"A World Where Deaf People Everywhere Can Sign Anywhere!".

## **SPORTS**

### **Cricket**

- Street 20, a World Cup Cricket for Street Children will be held in Chennai for the first time from 22nd September to October 1st - Street children from 15 countries including the United Kingdom, Brazil, Hungary, Mexico, South Africa, Srilanka and Rwanda will participate in the tournament.
- International Cricket Council announced 3 major USA cities, Dallas, Florida and New York as the venue for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 - The 9th edition of the T20 World Cup will be organised by the ICC and to be hosted by West Indies and United States from 4th June to 30th June, 2024.
- SBI Life + Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) have signed a 3-year deal - For SBI Life as one of the official partners for the BCCI Domestic and International Season 2023-2026.

**Badminton**

- Indonesia Masters 2023 - Held in Medan, Indonesia.

Category	Winner	Runner
Men's Singles	Kiran George (India)	Koo Takahashi (Japan)
Women's Singles	Ester Nurumi Tri Wardoyo (Indonesia)	Chiu Pin-Chian (Chinese Taipei)
Men's Doubles	Sabar Karyaman Gutama and Muhammad Reza Pahlevi Isfahani (Indonesia)	Kakeru Kumagai and Kota Ogawa (Japan)
Women's Doubles	Lanny Tria Mayasari and Ribka Sugiarto (Indonesia)	Chang Ching Hui and Yang Ching Tun (Chinese Taipei)
Mixed Doubles	Roy King Yap and Valeree Siow (Malaysia)	Hiroki Nishi and Akari Sato (Japan)

**Football**

- 132nd edition of Durand Cup 2023 Football Tournament - Mohun Bagan clinched the Durand Cup 2023 trophy by defeating East Bengal at the Salt Lake Stadium (Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan) in Kolkata.
- South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) U-16 Championship 2023 - Indian Under 16 men's football team won its 5th the SAFF U-16 Championship 2023 title by defeating Bangladesh.

**Hockey**

- 1st edition of Hockey5s Asia Cup 2023 - Indian Men's Hockey Team won the Hockey5s Asia Cup by defeating Pakistan in the finals held in Salalah, Oman.
- 94th All India MCC-Murugappa Gold Cup Hockey Tournament 2023 - Indian Railways won the 94th All India MCC-Murugappa Gold Cup Hockey Tournament 2023 by defeating Karnataka in the final.

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### Tennis

- 143rd edition of Tennis' US Open - Held in: USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York.

Category	Winner	Runner
Men's Singles	Novak Djokovic(Serbia)	Daniil Medvedev (Russia)
Women's Singles	Coco Gauff(USA)	Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus)
Men's Doubles	Rajeev Ram (US) and Joe Salisbury (England)	Rohan Bopanna(India) and Matthew Ebden (Australia)
Women's Doubles	Gabriela Dabrowski (Canada) and Erin Routcliffe (New Zealand)	Vera Zvonareva(Russia) and Laura Siegemund (Germany)
Mixed Doubles	Harri Heliövaara (Finland) and Anna Dalinina (Kazakhstan)	Jessica Pegula (USA)and Austin Krajicek (USA)

### Chess

- 5th Tata Steel Chess India Women's Rapid Champion 2023 - India's Divya Deshmukh from Nagpur, Maharashtra crowned as the Women's Rapid Champion with the score of 7 points.
- 5th edition of Tata Steel Chess India Rapid and Blitz 2023 - The event was held at the National Library of India, Kolkata, West Bengal.

Category	Rank	Rapid	Blitz
Men's	1	Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (France)	Alexander Grischuk
	2	Teimour Radjabov (Azerbaijan)	Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzbekistan)
Women's	1	Divya Deshmukh (India)	Ju Wenjun (China)
	2	Ju Wenjun (China)	Koneru Humpy (India)

**Grandprix**

- Italian Grand Prix 2023 - The Formula 1 (F1) Pirelli Gran Premio D'italia 2023 held in Monza Circuit in Italy.

Rank	Winner	Country
1	Max Verstappen (Red Bull)	Netherlands
2	Sergio Perez (Red Bull)	Mexico
3	Carlos Sainz Jr (Ferrari)	Spain

- MotoGP Bharat has roped in Indian Oil as the title sponsor for India's first-ever MotoGP Grand Prix - Held at the Buddh International Circuit in Greater Noida from September 22-24.

Rank	Winner	Team
1	Marco Bezzecchi (Italy)	Mooney VR46 Racing
2	Jorge Martin (Spain)	Prima Pramac Racing
3	Fabio Quartararo (France)	Monster Energy Yamaha

- Singapore Grand Prix 2023 in Formula 1 - Held at the Marina Bay, Singapore.

Rank	Winner	Country
1	Carlos Sainz Jr (Ferrari)	Spain
2	Lando Norris (McLaren)	Belgia
3	Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes)	United Kingdom

- F1 Japanese Grand Prix - Held at the Suzuka International Racing Course in Suzuka, Japan.

Rank	Winner	Country
1	Max Verstappen (Red Bull)	Netherlands
2	Lando Norris (McLaren)	UK
3	Oscar Piastri (McLaren)	Australia



### Shooting

#### ISSF Rifle/Pistol World Cup 2023

- India finished 5th place in the medal tally with 2 medals (1 Gold and 1 Silver) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

### Events

- Amul is the official sponsor of the Indian contingent at the 19th edition of Asian Games 2022 - The event is to be held in Hangzhou, China from September 23 to October 8, 2023.
- 62nd edition of Subroto Cup 2023 - The oldest national school football tournament in India, will be held for the first time outside the National Capital Region (NCR), in Bengaluru alongside Delhi and Gurugram.
- 14th edition of Diamond League 2023 - Olympic and world champion javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra finished second place in the men's javelin throw event at the Diamond League 2023 with a best throw of 83.80m.
- 16th edition of Asia Cup 2023 - India won the Asia Cup 2023 finals for the 8th time by defeating Sri Lanka. Asia Cup 2023 final was held in R Premadasa Stadium, Colombo, Sri Lanka.
- Wales and Israel have been selected to hosts 2026 and 2027 editions of the UEFA European Under-19 Championship - The 2026/27 finals in Israel will be the first edition played under a new three-stage qualifying format with the qualifying round starting in 2026.
- On the final day of the 3rd Khelo India Junior Women's Hockey League 2023 (Final) in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh, SAI Shakti defeated SAI BAL 2-0 to be crowned Champions of the competition

### Others

- Lokesh Suji was elected to the International Esports Federation Membership Committee for a term of 3-years - It marks the 1st time that an Indian has become a part of the membership committee of the International Esports Federation.

## **BANKING AND FINANCE**

### RBI

- RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has been rated 'A+' in the Global Finance Central Banker Report Cards 2023 - The Central Banker Report Cards was published annually by Global Finance since 1994, grade the central bank governors of 101 key countries.

- RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das launched a new UPI features developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) at the Global Fintech Fest 2023 - The product offerings Credit Line on UPI, UPI Lite X, Tap& Pay, Hello! UPI and BillPay Connect.
- 4th Edition of Global Fintech Fest (GFF) 2023 - Organised by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the Payments Council of India (PCI), and the Fintech Convergence Council (FCC) at the Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai.
- RBI - imposed monetary penalties on 4 co-operative banks for deficiencies in regulatory compliance
- Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)/e-rupee worth Rs.16.39 crore is in circulation as of March 2023 - As per the data released on the RBI's Handbook of Statistics on the Indian Economy for FY23.
- RBI announced the names of 15 NBFCs placed under the upper layer as per scale-based regulation (SBR) for 2023-24 - The Upper 15 squad-These 15 NBFCs have been identified by RBI in the upper tier for 2023-24:
- RBI introduced Basel-III Capital Framework for All India Financial Institutions (AIFI) - RBI introduced a norms on the Basel III capital framework, fund raising, exposure guidelines and norms on classification and valuation of investment portfolios for All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs), which will come into effect from April 2024.
- RBI sanctioned the Scheme of Amalgamation of Mumbai-based Sahebrao Deshmukh Co-operative Bank with Pune-based Cosmos Co-operative Bank - The Scheme has been sanctioned in exercise of the powers conferred under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- RBI has cancelled the licence of Mumbai-based Kapol Co-operative Bank - Every depositor of the bank would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Rs.5 lakh from Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) subject to the provisions of DICGC Act, 1961.
- RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs.1.3 crore on State Bank of India, Rs.1.62 crore on Indian Bank and Rs.1 crore on Punjab & Sind Bank - For non-compliance with guidelines on 'Loans and Advances-Statutory and Other Restrictions'.
- RBI imposed a penalty of Rs.8.8 lakh on Fedbank Financial Services, the NBFC arm of Federal Bank as the company reported a fraud to RBI with delay.
- The Government of India - maintain the interest rates on various small savings schemes for the third quarter of the financial year 2023-24, starting from October 1, unchanged.

Instrument	Rates of interest from July 1 to Sep 30	Rates of interest from October 1 to December 31
Savings Deposit	4.0	4.0
1 year time deposit	6.9	6.9
2 year time deposit	7.0	7.0
3 year time deposit	7.0	7.0
5 year time deposit	7.5	7.5
Senior Citizen Savings Scheme	8.2	8.2
Monthly Income Account Scheme	7.4	7.4
National Savings Certificate	7.7	7.7
Public Provident Fund Scheme	7.1	7.1
Kisan Vikas Patra	7.5 (will mature in 115 months)	7.5 (will mature in 115 months)
Sukanya Samriddhi Account Scheme	8.0	8.0
5 year recurring deposit	6.5	6.7

**Public Sector Banks  
Indian Bank**

- Indian Bank has partnered with OneCard - To introduce a state-of-the-art, mobile-first, contactless, metal co-branded credit cards.
- Maruti Suzuki India + Indian Bank signed a MoU - To provide financing solutions to its dealers with a comprehensive inventory funding options for their working capital requirements.
- Indian Bank has introduced a 'IB SAATHI (Sustainable Access and Aligning Technology for Holistic Inclusion)' - To provide basic banking services at all centres for a minimum of four hours per day in fixed outlets through the business correspondent (BC) route.

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### SBI

- SBI - a UPI interoperability in its Digital Rupee (e-rupee), also known as the Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) - This feature is accessible through the 'e-rupee by SBI' application and allows SBI CBDC users to scan merchant UPI QR codes for transactions to enabling interoperability with UPI.
- Andhra Pradesh Food Processing Society (APFPS) + SBI have entered into an agreement - To upgrade and support the establishment of at least 7,500 micro food processing units in the state.
- SBI Card has launched a 'SimplySAVE Merchant SBI Card' - For micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to offer interest-free short-term credit options and other exclusive benefits.
- SBI launched the Nation's First Transit Card named "RuPay NCMC (National Common Mobility Card) Prepaid Card" - The card is designed to facilitate easy digital ticketing fare payments in metro, buses, water ferries, parking, etc. through a single card.
- SBI introduced a digital facility of NRE/NRO Account for NRIs - To effortlessly open NRE and NRO accounts (both savings and current accounts) through its mobile app YONO.

### Union Bank of India

- Union Bank of India and Bank of Baroda signed a MoU with Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) - For jointly work in loan syndication and co-lending for a variety of renewable energy projects involving both established and cutting-edge renewable energy technology.
- Union Bank of India + NPCI - To introduced a two new Debit Card variants, HNI Emperio RuPay Metal Debit Card and the RuPay Empower Her Debit Card.

### Indian Bank

- Indian Bank + Nasdaq-listed IBM - To deploy future ready infrastructure to enhance scalability and agility to facilitate the deployment of innovative front-end banking applications.

### Punjab National Bank (PNB)

- PNB launched a Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) with UPI interoperability feature in its digital rupee mobile application - PNB customers can now use the PNB digital rupee app to scan the UPI QR code for payment to their merchants or complete a transaction at a merchant outlet.

### Bank of Baroda

- Bank of Baroda has enabled UPI ATM facility to allow QR-based cash withdrawals, at its over 6,000 ATMs across the country - BoB is the first public sector bank to launch UPI ATMs, in coordination with the NPCI and powered by NCR Corporation.
- Bank of Baroda has launched a festival campaign will run up to 31st December, 2023 - It has cut home and car loan interest rates by 20 basis points (bps) and up to 10 bps respectively.

### Bank of India

- Bank of India - unveiled an Universal App "BOI Mobile-Omni Neo Bank" during its celebration of 118th Foundation day

### Bank of Maharashtra

- Bank of Maharashtra + Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) signed a MoU - to promote and facilitate co-lending and loan syndication for renewable energy projects.

### Punjab National Bank (PNB)

- REC Limited has signed a MoU with Punjab National Bank - To explore the possibility of funding projects in the Power Sector and Infrastructure & Logistics Sector under a consortium arrangement.

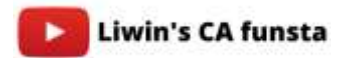
### Private Sector Banks

#### Yes Bank

- Yes Bank - live with UPI interoperability on RBI Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) app -
- Juspay has partnered with Yes Bank to launch HyperUPI - HyperUPI is a plug-in Software Development Toolkit (SDK) developed by the NPCI to empowers in-app UPI payments for merchant apps.
- Cross-border payments' fintech company BriskPe + Yes Bank - To introduce BriskPe Account-to-Account (A2A), a suite of solutions designed to empower exporters and importers.

### IDFC First Bank

- IDFC First Bank - the integration of UPI QR codes with its Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) app aimed at enhancing the adoption of digital rupee and boost its utilisation.



- Kamats Restaurants + IDFC First Bank - For easy registration and recharge of FASTag at its outlets along the highways in Maharashtra and Gujarat.

#### **Federal Bank**

- Federal Bank - a WhatsApp lending platform for customers to apply for pre-approved personal loans

#### **IndusInd Bank**

- IndusInd Bank has agreed a multi-year sponsorship deal with the International Cricket Council (ICC) - This deal is setup to be valued at USD 20-24 million (approx. Rs.160-200 crore).
- IndusInd Bank Collaboration with Visa and Juspay to launch the 'Virtual Commercial Card' - To redefine cross-border transactions for corporates and travel agents and was built on the Visa Payables Automation platform.

#### **Axis Bank**

- Kinetic Green Energy and Power Solutions Ltd + Axis Bank signed a MoU - To offer accessible and cost-effective financing options to its two-wheeler electric vehicle (EV) customers.
- Cleartrip, a Flipkart company + Axis Bank - To introduce travel benefits in both the existing and the new Axis Bank credit cardholders while booking through the online travel aggregator's platform.
- Axis Bank has launched a product called "NEO for Business" - For MSMEs to cater to their real, current, and emerging transaction banking requirements.

#### **ICICI Bank**

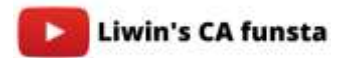
- ICICI Bank has received RBI's approval for making I-Process Services (India) Pvt Ltd (I-Process) as wholly owned subsidiary - I-Process was set up to provide staffing solutions services for some of India's top financial institutions.

#### **HDFC Bank**

- HDFC Bank has signed a co-lending agreement with technology-driven NBFC Credit Wise Capital - For two-wheeler financing in tier-2, 3 and 4 towns to the un-served/under-served sectors and robust due diligence and Credit Wise Capital's strong and easy loan processing tech platform for assessing potential borrowers.







- TruCap Finance Limited and HDFC Bank - Jointly initiated a co-lending partnership for MSME Business Loans and Gold Loans to borrowers pre-dominantly in non-urban locations.

#### **Karnataka Bank**

- Karnataka Bank + SahiBandhu - Jointly launched a Door-Step Gold Loan facility named "KBL-SwarnaBandhu" for its customers.

#### **Small Finance Bank**

- Shivalik Small Finance Bank + fintech infrastructure company Falcon - To offer virtual products like digital fixed deposits for its consumers.
- AU Small Finance Bank has introduced the Zenith+Super Premium Metal Credit Card, expanding its range of banking solutions - This credit card includes features like premium lounge access, personalised concierge services and a welcome with Premium Brand vouchers or Reward Points worth Rs.5000.
- AU Small Finance Bank + Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance - This collaboration will empower the bank's customers to gain access to Bajaj Allianz Life's comprehensive suite of life insurance products by addressing their imperative need for financial security.
- AU Small Finance Bank has signed a two distribution partnerships with Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance and Star Health and Allied Insurance - The bank will distribute the insurance products of these two companies through its network of 1,038 touchpoints and its digital channels.
- Ujjivan SFB introduced the Maxima Savings Account and Business Maxima Current Account targeting premium customer segments - It aims to improve the banking experience for both new and existing customers by providing a variety of services and benefits.
- Suryoday Small Finance Bank + OTO, a digital two-wheeler commerce and two-wheeler financing platform - To focus on two-wheeler financing for the underserved customer segments.
- Utkarsh Small Finance Bank launched Interoperable Cardless Cash Withdrawal (ICCW) - ICCW service empowers bank customers who are active on UPI to conveniently withdraw cash from Utkarsh Small Finance Bank ATMs designated for UPI-ATM - ICCW transactions, all without the need for a physical debit card



### Insurance News

- Manipal Cigna Health Insurance has been appointed as the lead health insurer for Karnataka - Under the State Insurance Awareness Plan in the state by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) to expand insurance coverage and create health insurance awareness across the state.
- Bajaj Allianz Life - a unique fund Bajaj Allianz Life Dynamic Asset Allocation Fund - It was offering in the ULIP (Unit Linked Insurance Plan) segment to provides customers with the flexibility to dynamically allocates their investments between equity and debt.
- Bajaj Allianz Life has introduced a new savings plan named 'Bajaj Allianz Life ACE' - The plan is set to revolutionize the way customers approach their financial goals with its unique and innovative features.
- Max Life Insurance has ventured into the health and wellness segment with the launch of a new plan, SEWA (Secure Earnings & Wellness Advantage) - It allows the insured to fulfill the healthcare needs of their family while simultaneously ensuring a financial backup for future expenses.
- IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company has introduced a novel offering, IndiaFirst Life Guaranteed Single Premium Plan - This unique plan is designed to provide individuals with a seamless blend of financial protection and savings.
- Star Health and Allied Insurance launched a dynamic UPI QR code-based payment option for policy purchases and renewals - This initiative was enabled by the NPCI, represents a paradigm shift in the adoption of modern technology driven payment solutions.
- LIC has sold 2% of its holding in Sun Pharma for Rs.4,699 crore via open market sale.
- SBI Life Insurance - signed a bancassurance pact with the State Bank of Sikkim (SBS) at the bank's headquarters in Gangtok, Sikkim.
- Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance has entered into a strategic partnership with South Indian Bank.

### World Bank

- World Bank has allocated USD 100 million to support the inclusive growth of Sikkim - The Sikkim Integrated Service Provision And Innovation For Reviving Economies (INSPIRES) programme is tied to the State Planning & Development Department to boost the economic inclusion of women and youth by promoting non-farm sectors.

### ADB

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) assured India to provide concessional loans under the Green Financing facility - To help in India's efforts to achieve its environmental and sustainable development goals.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) - capital management reforms that would unlock \$100 billion in its new funding capacity over the next decade to address the region's overlapping, simultaneous crises.

### SEBI

- SEBI has proposed to create an independent body "Performance Validation Agency (PVA)" - To validate the claims and performance related to investment advice and buy/sell/hold recommendations by SEBI registered intermediaries such as investment advisers, research analysts, portfolio managers, asset managers and stock brokers.
- SEBI renewed the licences of NSE Clearing and Indian Clearing Corporation for 3 years valid till October 2, 2026 - NSE Clearing and ICCL are responsible for clearing and settlement of all trades executed on NSE and BSE respectively, as well as carry out deposit and collateral management and risk management functions.
- Online broking firm Groww has received a approval from SEBI to launch its first index fund - Groww launched the 'Groww Nifty Total Markets Index Fund' through a new fund offering (NFO).
- SEBI implemented a online payment mechanism for its Investor Protection and Education Fund (IPEF) - The purpose of this move is to streamline the payment process and improve accessibility for all contributors to the fund.
- Old Bridge Capital Management - the final approval from SEBI to commence its mutual fund operations under Old Bridge Mutual Fund

### SIDBI

- Tata Power Solar Systems Ltd and SIDBI signed a MoU - To provide accessible financing options to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to adopt solar solutions.
- Euler Motors + SIDBI - For the visionary of "Mission 50K-EV4ECO" program aimed at catalysing the entire Electric Vehicle (EV) value chain.
- SIDBI + Digital Lenders Association of India (DLAI) signed a MoU to boost the country's fintech sector - The MoU aims to develop standard protocols to expedite the adoption of digital lending partnerships including alliances between banks and Lending Service Providers (LSPs), co-lending collaborations among others.

### Others

- Mastercard - an ALT ID solution for guest checkout transactions
- NPCI - a blockchain-backed open-source project named 'Falcon' to simplify the management and use of blockchain
- Savart - a flagship Portfolio Management Service (PMS) "The Ad Astra Fund" in Hyderabad
- Bajaj Auto Consumer Finance has received a Certificate of Registration from the RBI - To start the business of the non-banking finance company (NBFC).
- Digital payments provider Pine Labs - Mini, a cheaper variant of its point of sale (PoS) device
- One97 Communications, the brand Paytm launched its latest innovation Card Soundbox - The card intended to empower merchants to accept both mobile and card payments across Visa, Mastercard, American Express and RuPay networks.
- Mastercard + KredX, a supply chain finance platform - This collaboration aims at revolutionising B2B digital payments, ensuring benefits for both enterprises and vendors.
- Hitachi Payment Services + National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) launched a India's 1st-ever UPI-ATM as a white label ATM (WLA) - The UPI-ATM is known as "Hitachi Money Spot UPI ATM" to offer a secure cardless cash withdrawals.
- REC Ltd, a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise + EXIM Bank signed a foreign currency term loan agreement of USD 100 million - This is the first term loan being extended by EXIM Bank to REC, has been tied up for a 5-year tenure and is benchmarked to SOFR (Secured Overnight Financing Rate), which is the benchmark rate for loans denominated in USD.
- Forex services company Thomas Cook (India) + National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) - Jointly launched India's 1st RuPay prepaid forex card for Indians travelling to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- HSBC India has launched a "ONDC in a box" and become the 1st Foreign Bank in India to launch ONDC proposition - It is a one-stop-shop proposition for corporates towards seamless enablement on ONDC.
- Cashfree Payments has launched 'AutoPay on QR' in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) - The 'AutoPay on QR' helps in the customer onboarding process through a two-step workflow of scanning the QR code and approving an e-mandate via UPI apps within 30 seconds.
- NPCI + LivQuik launched India's 1st contactless payment wearable ring "OTG Ring" - The "OTG Ring" is tailored for National Common Mobility Card (NCMC)

customers, opening up a world of possibilities for convenient and secure transactions.

- Aditya Birla Capital Digital Ltd has introduced an omnichannel, Payment Lounge - A multi-mode collections platform will enable merchants to provide a unified, secure and faster transaction experience to their customers for making digital payments.
- Paytm have approved the appointment of a new statutory auditor, S.R. Batliboi & Associates LLP for five years - Price Waterhouse Chartered Accountants LLP on August 7 had announced its resignation as auditor of Paytm Payments Services Limited.
- Cashfree Payments launched a one-step UPI payment solution for mobile-first businesses - To collect UPI payments from customers without the need for them to exit the application.
- Financial Inclusion (FI) Index in India surges to 60.1 in March 2023 - RBI released report has shown significant improvement in the FI index as compared to 56.4 in March 2022 with growth witnessed across all sub-indices.
- Global tech-enabled services firm BLS International + PSB Alliance - To provide an advanced doorstep banking services (DSB).
- IDBI Bank has extended the validity for special fixed deposit scheme Amrit Mahotsav FD - IDBI introduced a special FD scheme in July 2023 for a tenure of 375 and 444 Days days.
- ACKO launched a health insurance product ACKO Platinum Health Plan - To launch its Health Insurance product, ACKO has brought back two characters of Munna Bhai and Circuit in its campaign titled 'Health Insurance ki Subahho Gayi Mamu'.
- PhonePe launched the Indus Appstore Developer Platform - It invites Android app developers to register and upload their apps to the "Made-in-India" Indus appstore.
- Cashfree Payments + Shopify - To launch onsite payments with cards for Indian merchants.
- Poonawalla Fincorp Ltd approval from RBI to issue a co-branded credit card in partnership with IndusInd Bank - This partnership paves ways for Poonawalla Fincorp to enter credit card segment and the entire process of credit card will be 100% digital.
- HDFC Securities launched a discount broking all-in-one mobile app HDFC SKY - To support investors and traders of all experience levels to participate seamlessly in the financial markets and achieve their financial goals.
- NABARD has issued India's 1st 'AAA' rated Indian Rupee denominated Social Bonds aggregating Rs.1,040.50 crore at a coupon rate of 7.63% - The bonds of 5-

years tenor were issued privately to eligible institutional investors and are set to be listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).

- Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company Ltd, in collaboration with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), has launched the 'Seekho Paiso ki Bhasha' investor education and awareness initiative.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted approval to the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to acquire a 9.7 per cent stake in Federal Bank.
- International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has formed a 15-member committee of experts - To lay a long-term plan for the orderly growth and development of the fund management industry.

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **IIT News**

- IIT Kanpur + ICICI Bank signed a MoU - To support the startup ecosystem at provide the Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC) IIT Kanpur.
- United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) + IIT Bombay signed a MoU - For contributing towards improving food security, nutrition, climate resilience and livelihoods
- Indian Navy + Indian institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru signed a MoU for technical collaboration and joint research& development - The MoU promote academic cooperation in the varied field on Engineering, enhance scientific understanding of technologies related to defence sector and undertake new development.

### **Space News**

- ISRO launched its first solar mission, Aditya-L1 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota - India's 1st observatory-class space-based solar mission was launched by PSLV-C57 (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle) rocket from the Second Launch Pad in Sriharikota.
- SpaceX launched a new batch of Starlink internet satellites to low-Earth orbit - SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket with 23 satellites lifted off from Launch Complex 39A (LC-39A) at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.
- Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) + Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Limited (MHI) launched the H-IIA rocket carrying Moon lander – Launch Vehicle No.47 (H-IIA F47) carried an X-ray telescope called the X-Ray Imaging and Spectroscopy Mission (XRISM), which will study the origins of the universe and Lunar lander Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM).

- US military launched an unarmed ballistic missile to display the readiness and effectiveness of its nuclear weapon system - The Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) was test-launched from the Air Force base in California.
- North Korea has launched its first operational tactical nuclear attack submarine "Hero Kim Kun Ok" - This submarine is an older model that has been redesigned to carry nuclear-tipped ball
- SpaceX launched 22 Starlink internet satellites to low-Earth orbit - It will mark the company's 65th launch of the year 2023 3 and the 49th from Florida's Space Coast launch station..
- Russian spacecraft blasted off from Kazakhstan's Baikonur cosmodrome carrying two Russian cosmonauts and a US astronaut - Soyuz MS-24 spacecraft carrying the International Space Station (ISS) Expedition 70-71 crew blasts off to the ISS from the Moscow-leased Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan.
- China launched a new remote sensing satellite Yaogan-39 - China launched a satellite from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwest China's Sichuan Province
- ISRO conducted the CE20 E13 engine hot test marking a pivotal moment in the Gaganyaan mission programme - The engine was developed by the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre, Valiamala at ISRO Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri.
- Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has launched a 3rd military imaging satellite Nour 3 into orbit - The satellite was launched from the Shahroud spaceport of Iran.
- China launched a remote-sensing satellite 'Yaogan-33-04/Yaogan 33D' - The satellite was carried off by a Long March-4C carrier rocket from the Jiuquan satellite launch center in northwest China.
- Taiwan launched 1st homegrown defense submarine, the Indigenous Defense Submarine (IDS) Narwhal/Hai Kun - The submarine was launched at the submarine's shipyard in its southern Kaohsiung city, Taiwan.

### **India in Science & Technology**

- India's drone manufacturer Marut Drones - the 1st player to have DGCA-type certification in small and medium category battery operated drones
- Hyderabad's Grene Robotics + Bharat Electronics Ltd launched India's 1st AI Enabled Counter Drone 'Indrajaal' - It is the world's only autonomous wide area, counter-unmanned aircraft system (C-UAS) that can defend against all classifications and all levels of autonomous drones.

- ITI Limited under the Ministry of Communication has introduced its own branded Laptop and Micro PC named 'SMAASH' - These products, developed in collaboration with Intel Corporation, have already been deployed in the market.
- Amazon Web Services (AWS) India signed a MoU with ISRO and Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) - To support space-tech innovations through cloud computing.
- Geological Survey of India Training Institute (GSITI) in Hyderabad has inked a 5-year MoU with the ISRO - The MoU was part of the National Natural Resources Management System (NNRMS) program.

### Environment & Energy

- A leading manufacturer of fertilizers and chemicals, Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers, a public sector enterprise (PSE) has been granted the Navratna status by the government of India.
- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) + India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL) signed a MoU - To co-finance renewable energy projects and will utilize the expertise of IREDA in Green financing and IIFCL's in Infrastructure financing.
- US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) board has approved up to USD 425 million to TP Solar - For its upcoming greenfield 4.3 GW solar cell and module manufacturing plant at Tirunelveli (Tamil Nadu).
- NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL) + Nayara Energy signed a MoU - To explore opportunities in the Green Hydrogen and Green Energy space.
- India's top oil firm Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) unveiled the nation's st green hydrogen-powered bus - It emits just water as it takes the lead in bring out unrivaled tools to replace fossil fuels.
- Shyama Prasad Mukherjee (Kolkata) NTPC Green Energy Ltd (NGEL) signed a MoU - For the development of a Green Hydrogen hub in the city
- Google is rolling out its earthquake alert system for Android in India for Android phones.
- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) NTPC Green Energy signed a MoU - To explore setting up of green hydrogen and offshore wind projects.



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## **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

### **Armenia**

- India and Armenia signed a MoU - Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology of India and the Ministry of High-Tech Industry of the Republic of Armenia signed an agreement on Cooperation in the field of sharing successful Digital Solutions implemented at Population Scale for Digital Transformation.

### **Indonesia**

- Indonesia hosted the first joint military drills by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) bloc on Batam Island - This 5-day ASEAN Solidarity Exercise-01 Natuna (ASEX-01N) exercise will be held at Indonesia's Natuna Islands near the South China Sea.

### **Maldives**

- CA Institute, the world's largest professional accounting body + Institute of Chartered Accountants of the Maldives (CA Maldives) signed a MoU - To establish cooperation for the advancement of Accounting Knowledge, Professional and Intellectual Development, advancing the interests of their respective members.

### **Nepal**

- 2nd edition of Surya Nepal Kathmandu Kalinga Literary Festival was held in Kathmandu, Nepal - The 3-day long Kathmandu-Kalinga Literary Festival was inaugurated by the Minister for Foreign Affairs NP Saud of Nepal in Lalitpur, Nepal.

### **Netherlands**

- Netherlands and India signed a 27 MoUs - For collaboration in areas of sustainable food, key technologies, and medical advancements.

### **Russia**

- India and Russia signed an agreement - To train Indian seafarers in polar and arctic waters in this far eastern Russian port.

### **Saudi Arabia**

- India and Saudi Arabia have signed a MoU on cooperation in the field of energy - The MoU will develop a stronger partnership between India and Saudi Arabia in the field of energy.

### United States

- Governor Brian Kemp of the US state of Georgia has officially declared the month of October as the "Hindu Heritage Month" within the state - To acknowledge the contributions of the vibrant Hindu-American community in the state.

### United Kingdom

- 12th Round of Ministerial India-UK Economic and Financial Dialogue was held in New Delhi - India-UK have launched an infrastructure financing bridge to plan and implement major infrastructure projects during the meeting.

### Summit/Event

- 20th ASEAN-India Summit and the 18th East Asia Summit (EAS) was held in Jakarta, Indonesia - Prime Minister Modi attended the summit during his visit to Jakarta.
- India hosted the inaugural United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) South Asia conference in New Delhi - The conference was jointly organised by the Ministry of External Affairs, UNCITRAL and the organisation's national coordination committee for India.
- The 59th Governing Board meeting of the Asian Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI) was held in Busan, Republic of Korea - Girish Chandra Murmu, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India and a permanent member of the ASOSAI Governing Board attended the meeting.

### Exercise

- Multinational Tri-Services Military Exercise 'BRIGHT STAR-23' - An Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent has marking a first-ever participation in Exercise 'BRIGHT STAR-23'.
- Indian Navy and Sri Lankan Navy conducted a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) off the coast of Colombo, Sri Lanka - Participants: INS Delhi and SLN ship Vijayabahu.
- Phase II of the 21st edition of Varuna (Varuna-23) bilateral exercise between Indian Navy and French Navy was conducted in the Arabian Sea - This edition will witness participation of indigenous guided missile stealth destroyer INS Chennai, guided missile frigate INS Teg, maritime patrol aircraft P-8I and Dornier, integral helicopters and MiG29K fighter aircraft.
- Indian Coast Guard's Ship 'Samudra Prahari' conducted a Pollution Response Table-Top exercise at Khlong Toei Port of Bangkok, Thailand - The initiative was

part of the Puneet Sagar Abhiyan, a nationwide flagship campaign of NCC to clean sea shores of plastic and other waste material.

- 30th edition of the Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) - the South China Sea off the coast of Singapore
- INS Sahyadri - the 1st India-Indonesia-Australia Trilateral Maritime Partnership Exercise in Indo-Pacific
- 19th Edition of India-US Joint Military Training Exercise 'YUDH ABHYAS' conducted in the Fort Wainwright of Alaska, USA - An annual exercise will be jointly conducted by the Indian Army and the United States Army.
- ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting Plus Expert Working Group (EWG) on Counter Terrorism Field Training Exercise 2023 is conducted in Russia - It is a multinational joint military exercise being hosted by Russia as a co-chair of the EWG along with Myanmar.
- India-US 2 plus 2 Intersessional Dialogue was held in Washington - The Indian delegation was led by Additional Secretary in External Affairs Ministry Vani Rao and Joint Secretary in the Defence Ministry Vishwesh Negi.

#### Others

- India has signed a 8 MoUs with 8 countries - These countries including, Armenia, Sierra Leone, Suriname, Antigua, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Papua New Guinea and Mauritius.
- World Health Organization (WHO) has released the outcome document of the 1st WHO Gujarat Traditional Medicine Global Summit 2023 - WHO released in the form of the 'Gujarat Declaration'.
- India extended support to Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member countries to enhance legal and judicial capabilities - The decision was taken during the 10th meeting of the Ministers of Law and Justice of SCO countries was held via video conferencing.
- Britain is rejoining the European Union's USD 100 billion science-sharing program Horizon Europe - Britain is also rejoining Copernicus, the EU space program's Earth observation component.
- 15 countries including China, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and Switzerland have signed the UN Convention on the International Effects of Judicial Sales of Ships - To promote legal certainty and predictability at the international level by creating a uniform regime for the international effects of 'judicial' sales of ships.

- India became the 13th country to issue Internationally Accepted OIML (International Organization of Legal Metrology) Certificates - For selling weights & measures anywhere in the world.
- I2U2 Group consisting of India, the US, Israel and the UAE has launched a Website and a Private Enterprise Partnership - To increase awareness of its initiative in business communities and support projects and to enhance cooperation between the member countries and partnerships across the globe.
- I2U2 group announced a new joint space venture to create a "unique space-based tool" for policymakers, institutions and entrepreneurs - I2U2 is aimed to encourage joint investments in six mutually identified areas such as water, energy, transportation, space, health and food security.
- India and the United Nations have jointly launched a "India-UN Capacity Building Initiative" - A capacity-building initiative will operationalise the development relevant deliverables of India's G20 Presidency and aims to share the country's best practices with partner countries in the Global South.

## **NATIONAL AFFAIRS**

### **President Droupadi Murmu News**

- President Droupadi Murmu's visit to Gujarat - President Murmu launched the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA), a Digital House project and addressed the Gujarat legislative assembly in Gandhinagar.
- Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the 1st Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show at Greater Noida - The event was organized by the UP Government and India Exposition Mart Limited (IEML).

### **Prime Minister, Minister of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, All important policy issues, All other portfolios not allocated to any Minister : Shri Narendra Modi**

- PM Modi dedicated Rs.5,400 crore Phase 1 of the International Convention and Expo Centre (IICC) 'Yashobhoomi' at Dwarka - IICC is India's largest convention and exhibition centre built across more than 73,000 square metres.
- PM Narendra Modi launched a Rs.13,000 crore PM Vishwakarma scheme - It aims to help artisans and craftsmen with collateral-free loans and other financial incentives and training for upskilling.
- PM Narendra Modi flagged off 9 Vande Bharat Express trains across 11 states via video conferencing

- PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of an International Cricket Stadium in Varanasi - This will be Uttar Pradesh's 3rd international cricket stadium after Kanpur and Lucknow, will be constructed at an investment of Rs.330 crore.
- PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation Stone for Akashvani Dahod FM Relay Station Project in Gujarat - It will be set up at an estimated cost of Rs.11 Crore.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for several developmental projects and inaugurated other finished structures, in total worth more than Rs 13,500 crore via videoconferencing in Mahabubnagar district in Telangana.

### Ministry News

#### Ministry of Defence: Shri Rajnath Singh

- MoS for Defence Ajay Bhatt - the 2nd edition of the Naval Commanders Conference 2023 in New Delhi
- Defence Ministry cleared the procurement of Dhruvastra short range air-to-surface missile and 12 Su-30 MKI fighter jets at a cost of Rs.45,000 crore - A total of nine procurement proposals were approved by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) and it will be sourced from indigenous vendors under Buy Indian-Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured (IDDM) category
- MoD has cleared the proposal to buy a regiment of Pralay tactical ballistic missiles for the Indian Army with a range of 150-500 km - 'Pralay' is a quasi-ballistic surface-to-surface missile and was developed by DRDO..
- Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Bharat Drone Shakti-2023 exhibition at the Hindon Air Base in Ghaziabad - The mega drone show is being hosted by the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Drone Federation of India (DFI).

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

- Amit Shah inaugurated the e-resource web portal of Inter State Council Secretariat - He was inaugurated at the 26th meeting of the Western Zonal Council at Gandhinagar, Gujarat to enable the functions of the zonal councils.

#### Ministry of Finance & Corporate Affairs: Smt Nirmala Sitharaman

- Central Board Of Indirect Taxes and Customs(CBIC) launched an invoice incentive scheme called 'Mera Bill Mera Adhikar' - To encourage consumers to insist on invoices from the seller when making business-to-consumer (B2C) purchases of goods or services.

- Corporate Affairs Ministry has offer an amnesty programme for non-compliant Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs) - To update critical statutory forms without extra fees for late submissions.
- Ministry of Corporate Affairs has extended the tenure of the Company Law Committee by 1 year, until September 16th 2024 - The tenure of the panel was set up by the Corporate Affairs Ministry in September 2019 was extended last year.
- Ministry of Finance approved a series of welfare measures for the benefit of LIC agents and employees - The welfare measures are related to the amendments to LIC (Agents) Regulations, 2017, Enhancement of Gratuity Limit, and Uniform Rate of Family Pension among others.
- Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoAFW) jointly inaugurated the, - Kisan Rin Portal (KRP), Weather Information Network Data Systems (WINDS) Manual and Door-To-Door Kisan Credit Card (KCC) campaign focused on agri-credit (KCC& Modified Interest Subvention Scheme) and crop insurance (Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme).
- Finance Ministry has notified a final valuation rules for foreign and domestic investors into shares of unlisted companies - Such as start-ups-under the new angel tax mechanism proposed in the Finance Act 2023.

**Ministry of Agriculture& Farmers Welfare: Shri Narendra Singh Tomar**

- Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) + global biotech and agri-major Bayer signed a MoU - For resource-efficient technology development and enhancing farmers' income through regenerative agriculture.
- Manoj Ahuja, Secretary of Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare launched the, - Mobile application and the web portal for GCES (General Crop Estimation Survey) to transform agricultural practices across the nation and will be rollout by 3rd week of October 2023.
- MoS for A&FW launched AI Chatbot for the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme named "Kisan e-Mitra" - The chatbot aimed at empowering farmers with a user-friendly and accessible platform.

**Ministry of Tribal Affairs: Shri Arjun Munda**

- National Education Society for Tribal Students launched the Phase II of the 'Amazon Future Engineer Programme' in 54 Eklavya Model Residential Schools - These schools spread across Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Telangana.

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

- Ministry of Education and Meta signed a 3-year partnership - To take digital skills to the grassroots, thus building talent pool capacities and seamlessly connecting students, youth, and micro-entrepreneurs across the country.
- National Council of Educational Research and Training has been granted deemed-to-be-university status - Ranted by the Ministry of Education on the 63rd Foundation Day of the apex decision-making body.
- Dharmendra Pradhan launched the Malaviya Mission-Teachers Training Programme by the University Grants Commission - It aims to provide tailored training programmes for teachers and will work for the capacity building of faculty members in higher educational institutions.
- Ministry of Education and Adobe signed a MoU - To provide schools with Adobe Express-based curriculum and training, with an aim to reach 2 crore students and 5 lakh educators across India by 2027.
- Ministry of Education and the CM of Uttarakhand, Pushkar Singh Dhami jointly inaugurated the Vidya Samiksha Kendra in Dehradun - They also laid the Foundation Stone of 141 PM Shri Schools and the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Residential School in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
- Dharmendra Pradhan + National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and IndusInd Bank launched 'Skills on Wheels' initiative - Under the partnership, 60,000 youth will be empowered over a period of five years with the objective of improving livelihood of rural households by providing relevant skills training to its youth population.
- Microsoft + Ministry of Education, Government of India + All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) - To create skilling and job readiness for students via a wide array of learning paths, technical and role-based certifications and experiences in areas of AI, cloud, data science, data analytics and security.

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**Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy (AYUSH): Shri Sarbananda Sonowal**

- Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the Vizag International Cruise Terminal (VICT) - Also inaugurated the several projects worth Rs.333 crore at Visakhapatnam Port, covered a storage shed, world-class truck parking terminal and a revamped berth (OR-1 berth).

**Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment: Dr. Virendra Kumar**

- Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India + Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities - To empower 3000 Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), including 1500 technology driven and 1500 general enterprises.

**Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Steel: Jyotiraditya Scindia**

- Jyotiraditya inaugurated the integrated office complex 'Udaan Bhawan' for aviation regulators at Safdarjung Airport in Delhi - 'Udaan Bhawan' in the national capital will house DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation), BCAS (Bureau of Civil Aviation Security), AERA (Airports Economic Regulatory Authority), AAIB (Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau) and AAI (Airports Authority of India).
- Civil Aviation Minister inaugurated the newly upgraded Tezu airport in Arunachal Pradesh's Lohit district - The domestic airport has undergone a transformation with the implementation of infrastructure upgrades worth Rs.170 crore.
- The Ministry of Civil Aviation - budget carrier Akasa Air's request to fly international flights to destinations in South Asia, South-East Asia and the Middle East.

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

- Ministry of Railways has launched the Swachhata Pakhwada 2023 - Swachhata Pakhwada 2023 was inaugurated by Jaya Varma Sinha, Chairperson & CEO of Railway Board by administering Swachhata Pledge in Rail Bhawan.

**Ministry of Jal Shakti: Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**

- The Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation (DDWS), Ministry of Jal Shakti has introduced a Unified Registration Portal for GOBARdhan (gobardhan.co.in) to streamline the registration of Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) and biogas plants nationwide.



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

- MoNRE has extended the Domestic Content Requirement (DCR) norms for solar cells under Component C of the PM KUSUM scheme till 31st March 2024 - The Ministry waived off domestic requirement norms for projects awarded on or before June 20, 2023.

**Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate change, Ministry of Labour and Employment:  
Shri Bhupender Yadav**

- MoEF&CC has set up a new permanent Central Empowered Committee (CEC) - By replacing an ad hoc expert panel with the same name which assisted the Supreme Court (SC) in matters of forest and environment issues.
- Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE) + Private Job Portals, Companies/Employers and Skill Providers signed a MoU - To integrate with National Career Service (NCS) portal of the Ministry with an objective to enhance employment opportunities and services for jobseekers on NCS portal.

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

- National Health Authority (NHA), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare organised a 'Arogya Manthan' - To celebrate 5 years of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) and 2 years of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).
- Mandaviya launched the National Policy on Research & Development and Innovation in Pharma-MedTech Sector and Promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma MedTech Sector (PRIP) scheme - The scheme focus on transforming India into a high-volume, high-value player in the global market of pharmaceuticals, meeting the quality, accessibility and affordability goals.

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

- Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying + World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) - Organized a multi-sectoral workshop "Risk-based management of spill over events in wildlife in India" at the Radisson Hyderabad Hitec City, Hyderabad.
- Parshottam Rupala inaugurated the 2nd edition of ICAR-CIBA Shrimp Farmers Conclave-2023 - The ICAR-Central Institute of Brackish water Aquaculture Conclave was held at the Navsari Agricultural University Campus in Gujarat.

- Parshottam Rupala and Member of Parliament of Rajya Sabha GVL. Narasimha Rao - Jointly inaugurated the newly renovated Marine Museum at Fishery Survey of India, Visakhapatnam.

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

- Mastercard in collaboration with Invest India and Ministry of Tourism to enhanced priceless.com - To introduce an enhanced version of its global priceless program in India which offers personalised travel and hospitality experiences in more than 40 countries around the world.
- Ministry of Tourism has selected the Best Tourism Village of India 2023 - Biswanath Ghat (or Gupta Kashi) of Sonitpur district of Assam as the Best Tourism Village of India 2023
- The Minister for Development of North East Region, Tourism, and Culture, Shri G. Kishan Reddy launched India's first 5G training labs and 5G applications in health sector in all the eight North Eastern States.

**Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology: Dr. Jitendra Singh**

- Jitendra Singh launched the dedicated web-portal for Swachhata Special Campaign 3.0 for monitoring of the Swachhata campaign - The portal is designed, developed & hosted by the National Informatics Centre and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY).
- Jitendra Singh flagged off the SMVD Narayana Healthcare TB Mukh Express (Chalo Chale TB Ko Harane) - He also announced that the Public private partnership (PPP) with integrated strategy is essential to achieve 'TB Mukh Bharat' which is inspired by PM Narendra Modi's commitment of 'TB Mukh Bharat' by 2025.
- Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, launched the IGMS 2.0 Public Grievance portal and Automated Analysis in Tree Dashboard portal of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).

**Ministry of State (Independent Charge) for Law and Justice: Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal**

- Arjun Ram Meghwal launched Tele-Law 2.0 for Legal Advice - Tele-Law 2.0 is an initiative of the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice.

### State News

#### Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra Pradesh Governor S Abdul Nazeer has released the special postal covers dedicated to the freedom fighter Alluri Sitarama Raju - He has released 6 special covers on "Manyam Viplava Saradhi Alluri Sitarama Raju" in honour of unsung heroes through the medium of philately.
- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy virtually launched Jagananna Aarogya Suraksha programme from the Camp Office.

#### Arunachal Pradesh

- The Bugun (Khowa) community of West Kameng district in Arunachal Pradesh has celebrated the Pham-Kho Sowai Festival - The annual harvesting festival is celebrated as a tribute to Pham (mountains) and Kho (water), which are considered vital components for human survival.
- Arunachal Pradesh has become the 2nd state after Nagaland in the Northeast region of India - To introduce Aadhaar-linked birth registration for children up to the age of 5.
- Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu Mukhya Mantri Shramik Kalyan Yojana for the welfare of the labour force of the state - MMSKY is a revised list of incentives for workers registered with the Arunachal Pradesh Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board (APB&OCWWB).
- Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu has announced the creation of its 27th new district, Keyi Panyor by bifurcating the existing Lower Subansiri district.

#### Assam

- Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport in Guwahati received the ISO 10002:2018 certification - This recognition comes after a comprehensive evaluation of the airport's Quality Management System, Operational Management, and Airport Development processes.
- Assam Governor Gulab Chand Kataria has launched the 'Sarpanch Samvad' mobile app - The app has been developed by the Quality Council of India (QCI).
- Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma launched a CM's Atmanirbhar Asom Abhijan scheme to help youths set up their own ventures - Under this programme, financial aid will be given to the youths for creating a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem.

### Gujarat

- Gujarat's Ahmedabad has become the 2nd city in the country to implement an emission trading scheme (ETS) after Surat - For particulate pollution that will help in regulating industrial emissions and reduce the state's pollution levels.

### Goa

- Goa Governor P.S. Sreedharan Pillai launched 'Mashaal' for 37th National Games - Governor also launched the anthem (theme song) of the 37th National Games.
- Goa CM Pramod Sawant launched "Goa Taxi App" for people who can book a cab online to travel anywhere within the coastal state - "Goa Taxi App" has been operational at the Manohar International Airport.

### Haryana

- Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar launched the new e-Bhoomi portal - To further ease the process of purchasing land for government projects with the land owners' consent.

### Himachal Pradesh

- Himachal Pradesh CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu launched the Mukhya Mantri Sporting Abilities, Rebuilding Aspirations and Livelihood Scheme (SABAL) - SABAL Yojana aims to improve the lives of specially-abled children in the state and focuses on providing essential facilities and opportunities for them.
- Himachal Pradesh CM Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu launched the integrated electricity consumer portal of Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board Ltd - It will allow the consumers to pay their bills online.
- Himachal Pradesh Agriculture Department launched a 'Mobile Van Program' under the 'Prakritik Kheti Khushhal Kisan Yojana' in Shimla - To promote organic and chemical-free farming practices aimed at delivering fresh, organic produce directly to consumers' doorsteps.
- Himachal Pradesh CM unveiled the official website and promotional materials for the upcoming Pre-World Cup Paragliding Competition - The Competition will be held at the Bir-Billing in Kangra district.
- Drugmaker Cipla + Skye Air Mobility - Jointly launched a drone-based deliveries of its critical medicines for hospitals in Himachal Pradesh.

### Jharkhand

- Jharkhand Cabinet has approved a monthly social security pension of Rs.1000 for the Transgender Community - The inclusion of transgender community under its universal pension scheme 'Mukhyamantri Rajya Samajik Suraksha Pension Yojana'.

### Karnataka

- Bengaluru established the India's 1st 500 kVA Underground Power Transformer Station at Malleshwaram - Bangalore Electricity Supply Company along with Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike inaugurated a 500 KV underground distribution transformer at a cost of Rs.1.9 crore.
- Karnataka CM Siddaramaiah implemented a insurance cover 'Karnataka State Gig Workers Insurance Scheme' - At worth Rs.4 lakh to each gig worker in Karnataka.

### Madhya Pradesh

- India's first Solar City to be inaugurated in the World Heritage Site Sanchi of Madhya Pradesh - This is in line with the PM Modi's vision of developing a solar city in every state by 2070.
- Madhya Pradesh cabinet has decided to implement Madhya Pradesh Mob Lynching Victim Compensation Scheme 2023 - For relief and rehabilitation of the victims of mob lynching and their dependents in the state.
- PM Narendra Modi laid the Foundation Stone for Rs.49,000 crore Petrochemicals project at BPCL's Bina Refinery in Madhya Pradesh - It will produce 1200 Kilo-Tonnes Per Annum (KTPA) of essential ethylene and propylene, reducing import reliance and aligning with the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' vision.
- Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan unveiled the 108-ft tall statue of Adi Shankaracharya, 'Statue of Oneness' - The statue of Adi Shankaracharya is based on Mandhata mountain in Omkareshwar.
- Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated 'Mukhyamantri Krishak Mitra Yojana' - To provide permanent agricultural pump connections to the farmers in the state.
- Magic Bus India Foundation + Madhya Pradesh - To introduce project 'Saksham', a life skills education programme in government schools
- Madhya Pradesh Government has officially established the "Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve" - It marks the 7th tiger reserve in the state and 54th in the country.

### Maharashtra

- Maharashtra + Marut Drones has introduced a Marut's AG365 drones to farmers of the Buldhana district of Maharashtra - Marut's AG365S is the first and only drone in Buldhana under the SMAM (Sub-mission On Agriculture Mechanisation) scheme.
- Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais released a commemorative postage stamp in honour of Dada JP Vaswani - The governor also released the books authored by Vaswani named Nark Se Swarg Tak, a translation of 'From Hell to Heaven' and 'Swatah Saksham Bana', a translation of Empower Yourself.
- Maharashtra government has published the gazette for renaming Aurangabad district to Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar district and Osmanabad district to Darashiv district.

### Nagaland

- Nagaland has become the first state in the Northeastern region of India to initiate a Aadhaar Linked Birth Registration (ALBR) - The initiative is anticipated to enable children's access to various social welfare schemes designed for their welfare.
- Maharashtra Governor Ramesh Bais released a commemorative postage stamp in honour of Dada JP Vaswani - The governor also released the books authored by Vaswani named Nark Se Swarg Tak, a translation of 'From Hell to Heaven' and 'Swatah Saksham Bana', a translation of Empower Yourself.

### Odisha

- Odisha's 'Koraput Kalajeera Rice' - the 'Prince of Rice' and Kapdaganda Shawls has secured a Geographical Indications (GI) status.
- Odisha government signed a MoU with 6 Public Sector Banks (SBI, PNB, BoB, Union Bank of India, UCO Bank and Bank of India) - For providing banking services in all unbanked Gram Panchayats (GP) of the state through Customer Service Point-plus (CSP plus) banking outlets.
- Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launched the 'Mukhyamantri Sampoorna Pushti Yojana' and 'Pada Pushti Yojana' in the state - For fulfilling the nutritional needs among the mothers, adolescent girls and children.
- Startup Odisha programme by the MSME Department of the Odisha government + SIDBI - Jointly launched a Rs.100 crore Odisha Startup Growth Fund (Fund of Funds).

### **Punjab**

- Punjab CM Bhagwant Singh Mann launched the National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) in the Vidhan Sabha during the NeVA conference - The digitisation of Vidhan Sabha will act as a cornerstone for enhancing the efficiency of MLAs.

### **Rajasthan**

- Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot launch the Mukhyamantri Nishulk Annapurna Food Packet Scheme - Under the 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.

### **Tamilnadu**

- Salem Starch and Sago Manufacturers Service Industrial Cooperative Society Ltd (known as SAGOSERVE) received the Geographical indication tag.
- Tamilnadu CM MK Stalin launched the 'Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thogai Thittam' - It is a scheme for women to get Rs.1000 monthly for women who are heads of eligible families.
- Chennai-based drone company Garuda Aerospace gets approval for the subsidy of the TN's Agricultural Mechanisation Scheme - The scheme was introduced to address labour shortages in agriculture and enhance crop production capabilities.

### **Telangana**

- UAE-based global leader in cooling utilities, Tabreed + Telangana signed a MoU - To develop cooling infrastructure for industrial and commercial parks.
- Telangana government has introduced the "CM breakfast scheme" as a Dusshera gift for school students from class 1 to 10 - The main objective of the scheme is to provide good and nutritious food to the students along with quality study.
- Telangana CM Chandrashekhar Rao inaugurated the mega Palamuru-Ranga Reddy Lift Irrigation Scheme - It was built on Krishna at a cost of Rs.35,000 crore.

### **Tripura**

- Tripura CM Manik Saha launched e-Cabinet and facilitated the introduction of e-office in various government departments - This launch was as part of the digital India mission of PM Narendra Modi to ensure paperless and transparent administration.

### Uttar Pradesh

- Prayagraj police launched a 'Savera' scheme - To offer services during health and other emergencies to senior citizens in seven districts of the Prayagraj zone.
- National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) + Flipkart - To provide opportunities to women self-help groups in Uttar Pradesh's Maharajganj to sell their products on the e-commerce platform.
- Uttar Pradesh Government launched a Instant birth certificates initiative for newborns at health facilities - Uttar Pradesh government health facilities will now give birth registration certificates immediately after delivery to eliminating the need for parents to apply separately.

### Uttarakhand

- Uttarakhand CM Pushkar Singh Dhami launched the logo and website of Uttarakhand Global Investors' Summit in Dehradun - The event took place in Dehradun on December 08-09 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.

### Union Territory News Delhi

- Delhi Metro Rail Corporation + Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) signed a MoU - To develop an indigenous communication-based train control (i-CBTC) system.
- Delhi government launched a mobile application DoE Nirikshan app - To enhance the academic experience for students and teachers and empower them to raise school-related concerns.

### Jammu and Kashmir

- Jammu and Kashmir Bank + Union Territory's Police of Jammu and Kashmir signed a MoU - provide enhanced preferential banking services to its personnel and families of martyrs.
- Lt. Governor of J&K Manoj Sinha - the 'Bangus Adventure Festival' in the Kupwara district of North Kashmir
- Udhampur railway station in Jammu and Kashmir has been renamed after Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan - Captain Tushar Mahajan is an officer of the 9 Para of special forces of army attained martyrdom during the terror attack on the J&K Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) Building in Pulwama district in February 2016.



### Union Cabinet News

- Union Cabinet has approved the scheme for Viability Gap Funding (VGF) for the development of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) - The scheme envisages development of 4,000 MWh of BESS projects by 2030-31, with a financial support of up to 40% of the capital cost as budgetary support in the form of VGF.
- Union Cabinet has approved Rs.1164.53 crore for Industrial Development Scheme, 2017 for Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand - Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade has proposed the allocation of additional funds under for Industrial Development Scheme 2017 for Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.
- Union Cabinet approved the extension of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) - For the release of 75 lakh LPG connections over 3 years from the FY 2023-24 to 2025-26 with an additional outlay of Rs.1,650 crore
- Union Cabinet approved the third phase of eCourts Project - A Central Sector Scheme spanning 4 years (starting from 2023) with financial outlay of Rs.7210 crore.
- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the FDI proposal for foreign investment in M/s Suven Pharmaceuticals Limited - M/s Berhyanda Ltd of Cyprus acquired 76.1% equity shares of Suven Pharmaceuticals Ltd for about Rs.9589 crore.

### NITI Aayog

- NITI Aayog Member, Professor Ramesh Chand officially launched the Unified Portal for Agricultural Statistics - This platform was designed to streamline and enhance data management in the agricultural domain, marks a significant step towards a more efficient and responsive agricultural policy framework.
- PM Modi inaugurated the 'International Lawyers' Conference 2023' at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi - The Conference is being organized by the Bar Council of India on the theme of 'Emerging Challenges in Justice Delivery System'.
- Department of Administrative Reforms& Public Grievances released the 6th edition of National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment-Way forward Monthly Report for States/UTs - This report provides a detailed overview of status of e-service delivery across States/UTs.

### G20 News

- 'G20 Tourism and SDG Dashboard' developed under India's presidency in partnership with UN World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), was unveiled - It showcases best practices, case studies and insights from G20 countries for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Delhi is set to host the 18th G20 Summit under India's Presidency - To showcase groundbreaking consensus on shaping the Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) of the future.
- G20 leaders launched the Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA) - It aimed at reducing the world's dependency on petrol and diesel fuels.
- The 4th meeting of the G20 Framework Working Group (FWG) is successfully concluded in Raipur, Chhattisgarh - The meeting delivered two G20 reports, which were referenced in the New Delhi Leaders Declaration: G20 Report on Macroeconomic Impacts of Food and Energy Insecurity and G20 Report on Macroeconomic Risks Stemming from Climate Change and Transition Pathways.

### Others

- Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) launched the 'Adopt a Heritage 2.0' programme and e-permission portal - The launch aims to collaborate with corporate stakeholders for the preservation of monuments by utilising their corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds.
- Department of Posts entered into an agreement with Bigfoot Retail Solution Pvt Ltd (Shiprocket) - To enhance e-commerce exports by leveraging India Post's extensive presence and reliable shipping solutions.
- Suzuki Motor Corporation has signed a tripartite agreement with Suzuki R&D Centre India + National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) + Banas Dairy - To set up biogas production plants and will make fuel for automobiles by refining methane from biogas.



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- Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya + Air Bus signed a MoU - develop a strong pipeline of the skilled workforce in the country to serve the fastest growing transport sector, including aviation.
- Central Government has notified the 3rd phase of mandatory hallmarking of gold jewellery and artefacts - It will cover an additional 55 districts, taking the total number of districts covered under mandatory hallmarking at 343 across the country.
- Indian Institute of Management Indore + National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) signed a MoU - To signifies a commitment to foster excellence and innovation in these critical domains.
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) + United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India signed a 5-year MoU - To co-create data-driven innovations in agriculture and food systems to support smallholder farmers.
- The Centre has approved the setting up of 100 new Sainik Schools across India - This initiative will be implemented in a graded manner, starting from class 6 onwards in partnership with NGOs, private schools and state governments.
- India is set to host the 17th International Congress on the Chemistry of Cement (ICCC) in 2027 in New Delhi - The bid was made the National Council for Cement and Building Materials (NCCBM) and IIT Delhi, during the ongoing 16th ICCC in Bangkok, Thailand.
- Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) + CSIR-National Physical laboratory (NPL) signed an agreement - For the Development of NavIC based Indian Standard Time (IST) traceable Primary Reference Time Clock (PRTC) for Telecom Sector.
- Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) launched the "ONDC Network Gift Card" - The ONDC Network Gift Cards can be loaded with a maximum amount of Rs.10,000 and are powered by Rupay Network.
- The 14th edition of the Global Skills Summit has held in Delhi - The Summit focuses on creating a road map for a high-quality industry-led skilling ecosystem in India.
- India has provided USD 30 million financial support to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestine Refugees in the Near East - India has enhanced its annual contribution to the agency from USD 1.25 million in 2018 to USD 5 million and has contributed close to USD 30 million over the last five years for the welfare of Palestine people.

- India's 1st Lighthouse Festival held at the Fort Aguada Lighthouse in Panjim, Goa - Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal has inaugurated the festival to promote Lighthouses as Tourist Destinations.
- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla approved the name of the Old Parliament building as 'Samvidhan Sadan' (Constitution House).
- Lt. governor VK Saxena - a unique Vigilance Complaint Information Management System (VCIMS) portal at Raj Niwas
- Remission of Duty and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) is being extended by nine months till June 30 2024 - RoDTEP scheme refunds embedded duties/taxes, such as VAT on fuel used in transportation, mandi tax and duty on electricity used during manufacturing, that are not rebated under other schemes.
- 13th Indo-Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference (IPACC) was held at the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi - This event was hosted by the Indian Army and the US Army Pacific, convened army chiefs from 30 nations in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The Government E-Marketplace (GeM) will launch GeM Sahay 2.0 for the sellers to provide easy access to loans up to Rs.10 lakh - GeM Sahay 2.0 is a mobile-based inclusive lending platform enabling sellers to avail loans on acceptance of an order on the GeM platform.
- A two-day National Conference on 'Millets for Military Ration and Specific Nutritional Requirements' was inaugurated by Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt in Mysuru, Karnataka Tourism Minister Satpal Maharaj inaugurated the Sir George Everest Museum and inaugurated the helipad at George Everest, Mussoorie
- Agencies of the ministries of education and skill development and entrepreneurship have signed eight agreements with IBM under which curated courses will be provided to empower youth in India with future-ready skills.
- Indian Army Contingent consisting of 32 personnel from a Battalion affiliated to the RAJPUTANA RIFLES departed for ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) Plus Expert Working Group (EWG) on Counter Terrorism Field Training Exercise (FTX) 2023 scheduled to be conducted from 25th to 30th September 2023 in Russia.
- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA), the largest pure-play green financing Non-Banking Finance Company in India, has now been upgraded from 'Schedule B' to the 'Schedule A' category of Central Public Sector Enterprises.
- International Cricket Council, Board of Control for Cricket in India, the Ministry of Education, Government of India and UNICEF with 1000 children launched CRIIO 4 GOOD, a new online, life skills learning modules, to promote gender equity among girls and boys



- The Indian Railways has inked a supply contract with the Indo-Russian joint venture (JV) Kinet Railway Solutions for manufacturing Vande Bharat trains.
- Department of Telecommunications (DoT) + National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) - Jointly conducting a comprehensive testing of the Cell Broadcast Alert System.

### **BUSINESS AND ECONOMY**

- InterGlobe Aviation, operates India's largest airline IndiGo, approved the creation of financial services arms with an initial investment of Rs.30 crore - The financial services arms will be setup in the Special Economic Zone at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City.
- Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions (ATIS)'s Next G Alliance and the Bharat 6G Alliance signed a MoU - To explore collaboration opportunities on 6G wireless technologies.
- Google Cloud + ONDC (Open Network for Digital Commerce) - To drive innovation across the e-commerce industry in India with generative AI.
- Google Cloud Platform + Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) under MeitY - To train government officials in the area of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Cybersecurity.
- World's largest aluminium rolling and recycling company, Hindalco Industries + Italy-based MetraSpA - For producing structured and value-added aluminium extrusions.
- Nvidia + Tata Group - To deliver computing infrastructure and platforms for developing artificial intelligence-based solutions.
- Air India has launched 'Project Abhinandan' in a bid to elevate the on-ground experience for its travellers - The initiative aims to provide a personalised and hassle-free airport experience to Air India ticket-holders across 16 major Indian airports.
- Tata Steel signed an agreement with the UK government - To invest in electric arc furnace steelmaking at the Port Talbot site in Wales with a capital cost of £1.25 billion, inclusive of a grant from the UK government of up to £500 million.
- National Highways Logistics Management signed an agreement with Bengaluru MMLP Pvt Ltd and Concessionaire SPV M/s. PATH Bengaluru Logistics Park - For the development of a multi-modal logistics park in Bengaluru at an estimated cost of Rs.1,770 crore.

- No Broker Hood + Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) - To improve the shopping experience for residents
- Infosys + NVIDIA - To build generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) applications and solutions for enterprises, a platform aimed at training 50,000 employees.
- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) + Norway's national payment and electronic identity systems, BankID BankAsept AS - To set up and manage an operations command center that will enhance the resilience, security and availability of Norway's financial infrastructure.
- Competition Commission of India (CCI) - the merger of Tata SIA Airlines which operates Vistara with the Tata group's Air India subject to the parties complying with certain voluntary commitments.
- Infosys + NVIDIA - To build generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) applications and solutions for enterprises, a platform aimed at training 50,000 employees.
- Nigeria's Guaranty Trust Bank (GT Bank) has selected Infosys Finacle's Finacle Digital Banking Suite for its multi-country digital transformation program - GTBank will leverage Finacle's suite of retail and corporate banking solutions to achieve a comprehensive transformation of its business across its home operations in Nigeria as well as in 10 other markets across Africa and Europe.
- HCLTech has extended its partnership with Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited (ANZ) - For a new digital transformation deal concerning workplace operations across 33 countries.
- Infosys + Microsoft - To jointly develop industry solutions that leverage Infosys Topaz, Azure OpenAI Service and Azure Cognitive Services.
- Eutelsat announced the completion of a merger with OneWeb - To create the world's first geostationary-low earth orbit (GEO-LEO) satellite space connectivity company.

**Current Affairs**

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## **RANKING**

### **National Ranking**

- Fortune India Rich List 2023
  - The maiden list, made in collaboration with the wealth management firm, Waterfield Advisors.

Rank	Name	USD Billion
1	Mukesh Ambani	99.7 billion
2	Gautam Adani	63.71 billion
3	Shapoorji Pallonji Group	34.6 billion
4	Poonawalla	32.9 billion
5	Radhakishan Damani	23.4 billion

### **International Ranking**

- 8th edition of U.S. News & World Report's Best Countries Rankings 2023

Rank	Name
1	Switzerland
2	Canada
3	Sweden
4	Australia
5	USA
30	India

- Financial Times Masters in Management Ranking 2023

Rank	Name
1	HEC Paris (France)
2	University of St Gallen (Switzerland)
3	London Business School (UK)
4	ESCP Business School (France)

5	Essec Business School (France)
<b>Indian Institutions in the Ranking</b>	
40	SP Jain Institute of Management & Research (SPJIMR)
43	Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad
60	Indian Institute of Management Calcutta
72	Indian Institute of Management Lucknow
77	Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode
83	NMIMS Mumbai, School of Business Management
84	International Management Institute New Delhi
85	XLRI-Xavier School of Management
88	Indian Institute of Management Udaipur
92	Institute of Management Technology, Ghaziabad
93	Management Development Institute Gurgaon

- Global Crypto Adoption Index 2023
  - India ranked first among 154 nations in grassroots crypto adoption, displaying remarkable resilience in the face of challenging regulatory conditions.

Rank	Name
1	India
2	Nigeria
3	Vietnam
4	United States
5	Ukraine

- USA based consulting firm Morning Consult released a “Global Leader Approval Rating Tracker” Survey



Rank	Prime Minister Name	Rating
1	Narendra Modi (India)	76%
2	Alain Berset (Switzerland)	64%
3	Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador (Mexico)	61%
4	Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva (Brazil)	49%
5	Anthony Albanese (Australia)	48%
6	Giorgia Meloni (Italy)	42%
7	Joe Biden (US)	40%
8	Pedro Sanchez (Spain)	39%
9	Leo Varadkar (Ireland)	38%
10	Justin Trudeau (Canada)	37%

- World Talent Ranking 2023
  - Released by the International Institute for Management Development (IMD).
  - Total Countries: 64.

Rank	Country Name
1	Switzerland
2	Luxembourg
3	Iceland
4	Belgium.
5	Netherlands
56	India

- Economic Freedom of the World (EFW) 2023 - An Annual Report released by the Canadian think tank Fraser Institute.

Rank	Country Name	Rating
1	Singapore	8.56
2	Hong Kong	8.55
3	Switzerland	8.47
4	New Zealand	8.43
5	United States of America (USA)	8.14
87	India	6.62

- Kantar BrandZ Top 75 Most Valuable Indian Brands Report 2023
  - This year marks the 10th edition of India's most valuable brands ranking by Kantar.

Rank	Name	Brand Valuation (USD Million)
1	Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)	42,869
2	HDFC Bank	33,612
3	Infosys	24,170
4	Airtel	22,517
5	State Bank of India	14,483

- Global Innovation Index 2023
  - 16th edition of the Index was released by the World Intellectual Property Organization.
  - Total Countries: 132.

Rank	Country Name
1	Switzerland (For the 13th consecutive time)

Rank	Country Name
2	Sweden
3	United States (US)
4	Singapore
40	India

- Times Higher Education’s (THE) World University Rankings 2024
  - 91 Indian institutes were included in the “THE World University Rankings 2024”.
  - Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore, which has secured the top spot for the first time since 2017.

Rank	University	Country
1	University of Oxford	UK
2	Stanford University	USA
3	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	USA
4	Harvard University	USA
5	University of Cambridge	UK
201-250	Indian Institute of Science Bangalore	India
501-600	Anna University JamiaMillialIslamia Mahatma Gandhi University Shoolini University of Biotechnology and Management Sciences	

## AWARDS

### National Awards

- Vijayawada Railway Station - achieved the "Platinum Rating" Certification as a Green Railway Station from the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)



- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) announced the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar awards for Science and Technology 2022 to 12 young scientists across India - Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar awards is an annual recognition announced on September 26 to mark CSIR's foundation day.
- A leading transport infrastructure consultancy and engineering company, RITES has been honoured with the 'Safety Innovation Award' - Under the 'Construction' category for implementing 'Innovative Safety Management Systems' in its operations.
- The Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) conferred the prestigious First Raj Bhasha Kirti Puraskar 2022-23 - This is the 2nd consecutive year wherein DoPPW has received the honor of being the best performing Department in the category of Ministries/Departments with less than 300 employees.
- Institute of Electronics & Telecommunication Engineers India has awarded its highest honor, 'Honorary Fellowship 2022-23' to the former chairman of DRDO G. Satheesh Reddy
- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar presented the one-time Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Awards to 84 artistes from varied fields of performing arts - The award honour Indian artistes aged above 75 years who have not been accorded any national honour in their career so far.
- Odisha Power Generation Corporation Ltd (OPGC) received the prestigious CII National Award for excellence in energy management - OPGC was recognized as "Excellent Energy Efficient Unit" under the Power Plant category by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in its 24th National Energy Awards event held in Hyderabad.
- Govt has launched a set of National Awards "Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar" (RVP) - To recognize remarkable contributions in the fields of Science, Technology and Innovation.
- National Medical Commission (NMC) has achieved prestigious recognition status from World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) for 10 years - This recognition is a testament to NMC's unwavering commitment to the highest standards in medical education and accreditation and enhance the quality of medical education in India by aligning them with the global best practices and benchmarks.
- Veteran Indian actor and Padma Awardee Waheeda Rehman will be honoured with 53rd Dada Saheb Phalke Award for the year 2021 - For her lifetime contribution to

Indian cinema and will be the 8th female artist to receive the dadasaheb phalke award.

- IIT Madras has been accorded the 'Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) Platinum Certification' - Recognized it as one of the country's largest and highest-rated green campuses to attain this honour.
- Multi-starrer survival Malayalam drama of 2018 Everyone is a Hero is India's official entry to the Academy Awards 2024 - The film was Directed by Jude Anthony Joseph, the film stars Tovino Thomas, KunchackoBoban, Asif Ali, VineethSreenivasan, Narain and Lal.

**International Awards**

- 65th Ramon Magsaysay Awards 2023 - Philippines based Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation announced the 65th edition of the Ramon Magsaysay Award with the theme of "Transforming Asia, Inspiring the World".

Awardee Name	Country	Contribution
Korvi Rakshand	Bangladesh	Recognized for his efforts in advancing inclusive education for disadvantaged children in Bangladesh.
Eugenio Lemos	Timor-Leste	Acknowledged for his significant contributions in reshaping young Timorese perspectives on nature and the environment.
Miriam Coronel-Ferrer	Philippines	Celebrated for her unwavering commitment to employing non-violent strategies in promoting peace and resolving conflicts.
Dr. Ravi Kannan R	India	Honored for his steadfast dedication to the medical profession, emphasizing holistic and people-centric healthcare.

- Telangana's Chief Innovation Officer Shanta Thoutam has been honoured with the World Innovation Award - The event was held during the 1st BRICS Innovation Forum hosted at Moscow.



- Indian Fashion Designer Rahul Mishra honoured with the France's Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters)
- West Bengal's Santiniketan town and Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas in Karnataka have been included in the UNESCO World Heritage List
- Odia scientist Dr Swati Nayak has been named the 2023 recipient of the Norman E. Borlaug Award - For field research and application for her work in the field of food and nutrition.
- The Zagorochoia (or villages of Zagori), the picturesque village on Mount Pindos in Epirus added to the UNESCO's World Heritage List - Located in a remote rural landscape in northwestern Greece, small stone villages known as Zagorochoia extend along the western slopes of the northern part of the Pindus mountain range.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

### **National Appointments**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Designation</u></b>	<b><u>Succeeded by</u></b>
The deputation of Atul Verma has been extended	A the Director-General of CCI	-
V Raja Ram	Director (Production) of Bharat Dynamics Ltd (BDL)	-
Amarjeet Singh	Whole Time Member of SEBI	-
Actor R Madhavan	President and Chairman of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune	-
Rajesh Nambiar	Chairperson of the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM)	Anant Maheshwari
Dipak Gupta	Interim MD& CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank	Uday Kotak
Vinay M Tonse	Managing Director of State Bank of India (SBI)	Swaminathan Janakiraman

<u>Name</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Succeeded by</u>
Senior Indian Information Service Officer Dr.Vasudha Gupta	Principal Director General of Akashvani and News Services Division	-
RBI appointed Dipak Gupta	As the interim MD& CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank	-
RBI reappointed Sandeep Bakhshi	As the MD and CEO of ICICI Bank	-
TV Narendran	MD& CEO of of Tata Steel Limited	-
Sindhu Gangadharan	Vice Chairperson of NASSCOM	Rajesh Nambiar
Former Chairman of SBI, Rajnish Kumar	Non-Executive Chairman of MasterCard India	-
Srinivasan K Swamy	Chairman of Audit Bureau of Circulations	-
The Centre appointed Rahul Navin	As the Interim Director of the Enforcement Directorate	Sanjay Kumar Mishra
MD&CEO of Summit Digital Dhananjay Joshi	Chairman of Digital Infrastructure Providers Association (DIPA)	Akhil Gupta
RBI re-appointed Sashidhar Jagdishan	As the MD&CEO of HDFC Bank	-
Joint Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs, Atul Malhari Gotsurve	Appointed as the India's next Ambassador to Mongolia	MP Singh
Parag Ved	Chief Executive and a Director of Liberty General Insurance	-
ADB appointed Bhargav Dasgupta	As Vice-President (Market Solutions)	Ashok Lavasa

<u>Name</u>	<u>Designation</u>	<u>Succeeded by</u>
Kamlesh Chandra Varshney	Whole Time Member of SEBI	-
Sudhakar Rao Desai	Re-elected as the President of the IVPA (Indian Vegetable Oil Producers' Association)	-
Sanjeev Mantri	MD& CEO of ICICI Lombard General Insurance	Bhargav Dasgupta
Senior Nuclear Scientist Vivek Bhasin	14th director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)	Ajit Kumar Mohanty
Banmali Agrawala	Chairman of the Tata Advanced Systems Ltd	Vijay Singh
Reappointment of M.Rajeshwar Rao	As the Deputy Governor of the RBI	-
DP Singh	Joint CEO at SBI Mutual Fund	-
Gokul Subramaniam	President of Intel's India site	Nivruti Rai
Saugata Gupta	Chairman of the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI)	-
P R Seshadri	MD & CEO of South Indian Bank	Murali Ramakrishnan
Nitin Gupta	CBDT (Central Board of Direct Taxes) Chairman	-
Lt Gen Raghu Srinivasan	28th director general of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO)	-



**International Appointments**

Name	Designation	Succeeded by
Indian-origin Singapore economist Tharman Shanmugaratnam	9th President of Singapore	Halimah Yacob
Vanuatu's parliament elected Sato Kilman	As the Prime Minister of Vanuatu	Ishmael Kalsakau
Mahavir Lunawat	Chairman of Association of Investment Bankers of India (AIBI)	Anay P Khare

**Brand Ambassadors**

Name	Brand Ambassador	Key Points
Former India captain Sourav Ganguly	Brand Ambassador of Tripura Tourism	Tripura CM Manik Saha has announced this appointment.

**BOOKS AND AUTHORS**

Book Name	Author Name	Published by	Details
"Through the Broken Glass: An Autobiography"	Chief Election Commissioner, T N Seshan	Rupa Publications India	-
Apurva Chandra, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has unveiled an eBook "People's G20"	-	-	The book presents a complete journey of India's G20 Presidency and consists of three parts.
"Farooq of Kashmir"	Ashwini Bhatnagar and RC Ganjoo	Prakash Books Pvt. Ltd	The book is a Biography of former CM of J&K and National Conference President Farooq Abdullah.

## **OBITUARY**

- N.Valarmathi - The scientist and distinctive voice behind the ISRO launch countdowns
- Heath Streak - Former Zimbabwe Captain
- Dennis Austin - co-creator of PowerPoint
- Mircea Snegur - Moldova's 1st president
- Gita Mehta - Renowned Indian-American Writer-Filmmaker
- Giorgio Napolitano - Former Italian President
- Kulakkattil Geevarghese George - Veteran Malayalam Filmmaker and national award Winner
- Saroja Vaidyanathan - Bharatanatyam Dancer and Padma Bhushan Awardee
- Ashwin Suryakant Dani - co-founder of Asian Paints Ltd
- Mankombu Sambasivan Swaminathan - Padma Awardee, Father of India's Green Revolution

## **DEFENCE**

- Titagarh Rail systems formerly known as Titagarh Wagons has introduced its 1st Diving Support Craft (DSC) A 20 for the Indian Navy at TRSL Shipyard in West Bengal - TRSL is the first private shipbuilder in West Bengal to deliver complex sea vessels to the Indian Navy.
- Indian Navy's final stealth frigate 'Mahendragiri' was constructed under Project 17A, was launched at the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd facility in Mumbai - This project was the 7th Nilgiri-Class Stealth Frigate of Project 17A.
- Indian Air Force (IAF) + Drone Federation of India jointly co-host the 'Bharat Drone Shakti 2023' at the IAF's airbase in Hindan (Ghaziabad)
- Indian Army + HDFC Bank + CSE e-Governance India Limited signed an MoU for Project 'NAMAN', an ode to the veterans - 'Project Naman' will entail establishing facilitation and grievance redressal centres for veterans and the next of kin of personnel who have lost their lives.
- Indian Air Force conducted its annual mega training exercise 'Trishul' - This exercise is organised by the Western Air Command (WAC) and spans a vast geographical area from Leh in Kashmir to Nal in Rajasthan.
- Indian Armed Forces conducted tests on the indigenously developed Military Combat Parachute System - It was indigenously designed and developed by Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE), a Research & Development (R&D) lab of DRDO.

- Border Roads Organisation (BRO) will construct the World's highest fighter airfield in the Nyoma region of Ladakh - The airfield is part of the 90 infrastructure projects of BRO that Defence Minister Rajnath Singh dedicated to the nation at a dedicated amount of Rs.2,900 crore.
- Indian Army organized a Gulmarg Festival in collaboration with civil agencies at the Ice Skating Rink near Gondola Base in Gulmarg, J&K - The festival aims to boost tourism and promoting local talent.
- Indian Coast Guard (ICG) - the 19th Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting at Istanbul, Turkiye
- Indian Navy + Uber signed a MoU - To provide reliable, convenient, safe and economical mobility solutions for personal travel and commute of naval personnel and families across the country.
- Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders has inked a Master Ship Repair Agreement with the US government, represented by NAVSUP Fleet Logistics Center Yokosuka, Japan
- Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari received the first of the 56 C295 transport aircraft from Spain - Total cost of the deal is Rs.21,935 crore with Airbus Defence and Space to procure the jets.
- BAE Systems Inc + Larsen & Toubro Ltd (L&T) signed an agreement - To bring the world-leading Articulated All-Terrain Vehicle (AATV), the BvS10 for an Indian Armed Forces programme.
- Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL) has secured an order of Rs.2,118.57 crore from Cochin Shipyard - For the supply of various equipment consisting of sensors, weapon equipment, fire control systems, and communication equipment for six Next Generation Missile Vessels (NGMV), a class of anti-surface warfare corvettes for the Indian Navy.
- Indian Coast Guard conducted the coastal security drill known as 'Operation Sajag' along the west coast - The drill facilitates revalidation of the coastal security mechanism and bring awareness among the fishermen at sea.
- Indian Army has inducted 600 self-neutralizing anti-tank mines known as "Vibhav" - These mines are designed indigenously in collaboration with the DRDO and was and manufactured by Kalyani Group to offer enhanced mobility kill capabilities against enemy armoured vehicles.
- Indian Air Force (IAF) tested the indigenously developed 'Type V Heavy Drop System' from a cargo aircraft - The Type V Heavy Drop System would help with the transportation and dropping of arms, equipment and ammunition, weighing up to 20 tons, with the help of a parachute.

- Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE) has signed a MoU with Lloyd's Register - For the development of a hydrogen fuel cell ferry in line with India's commitment to advance innovative green energy technologies and promote sustainable, cost-effective alternative fuels.
- 3rd Missile Cum Ammunition (MCA) Barge, Yard 77 (LSAM 9) of the Indian Navy - It was launched by Cmde G Ravi, Warship Production Superintendent in Visakhapatnam at the Guttenadeevi, East Godavari in Andhra Pradesh.
- Anti-drone/counter-unmanned aircraft solutions firm, Indrajaal + Sigma Advanced Systems (SAS), defence technology manufacturer - To strengthen domestic production of anti-drone defence systems within the nation.
- The first C-295 medium tactical transport aircraft was inducted into the Indian Air Force (IAF)
- Defence Acquisition Council has approved the procurement of 12 SU-30MKI jets for the Indian Air Force (IAF) - It will be manufactured by the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) and costs around Rs.11,000 crore.
- Maruti Suzuki + Indian Navy - To create awareness about career opportunities amongst the Northeastern youth through the 'Khamree Mo Sikkim' outreach programme.
- IAF inducted the 1st of six new Dornier Do-228 aircraft manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) - These aircraft was equipped with new engines, composite propellers, upgraded ,combined with five-bladed composite propellers and a glass cockpit.



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