

# NOVEMBER

## Monthly

## Current

## Affairs



International  
Affairs

National  
Affairs

Business

Awards

Important  
Days

Sports

Banking

Obituary

Ranking

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**Current Affairs**

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**IMPORTANT DAYS****NATIONAL IMPORTANT DAYS**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Theme</u>
	EPFO celebrates its 71st Foundation Day	-
November 01	8 Indian States & 2 UTs celebrated their formation day - The states of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Tamil Nadu besides the UTs of Lakshadweep and Puducherry.	-
November 07	National Cancer Awareness Day	-
November 09	Uttarakhand Day / Uttarakhand Divas is celebrated as the foundation day of Uttarakhand	-
November 09	29 <sup>th</sup> National Legal Services Day	Access to Justice for All: Empowering the Marginalised through Legal Awareness'
November 10	8th National Ayurveda Day/Dhanwantari Jayanti/Dhanteras	-
November 11	National Education Day	Embracing Innovation

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Theme</u>
November 12	Public Service Broadcasting Day/Jan prasaran Diwas	-
November 14	Children's Day/Bal Divas	-
November 16	National Press Day	Media in the Era of Artificial Intelligence
November 17	National Epilepsy Day	-
November 18	6 <sup>th</sup> National Naturopathy Day	Naturopathy for Holistic Health.
November 25	Uttar Pradesh declared as 'No non-veg day'	-
November 26	Constitution Day/Samvidhan Divas	-
	National Milk Day	-
November 27	National Cadet Corps (NCC) has celebrate its 75th anniversary	-
November 15 to 21	National Newborn Care Week	Safety, Quality and Nurturing care – Birth Right of Every Newborn

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## INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANT DAYS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Theme</u>
November 01	World Vegan Day	Celebrating for a Good Cause
November 02	UN International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists (IDEI)	-
November 03	International Day for Biosphere Reserves	-
November 05	World Tsunami Awareness Day	Fighting Inequality for a Resilient Future
November 06	UN's International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict	-
November 08	World Radiography Day/International Day of Radiology	Celebrating Patient Safety
November 08	World Urbanism Day/World Town Planning Day	Learn Globally, Apply locally
November 10	International Accounting Day	
November 12	World Pneumonia Day	Every Breath Counts: Stop Pneumonia in Its Track
November 13	World Kindness Day	Be Kind Wherever Possible
November 14	United Nations (UN)'s World Diabetes Day	Access to Diabetes Care

NOVEMBER MONTHLY ONE LINERS



<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Theme</u>
November 15	World Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)	Breathing is Life-Act Earlier
November 16	UN International Day for Tolerance	Tolerance: A Path to Peace and Reconciliation
November 17	International Students' Day	-
	Guinness World Records Day	Super Skills
	World Prematurity Day	Small actions, big impact: Immediate skin-to-skin care for every baby everywhere
November 18	World Day for the Prevention of and Healing from Child Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Violence	-
November 19	International Men's Day	Zero Male Suicide
November 21	World Fisheries Day	Celebrating the Wealth of Fisheries and Aquaculture
November 25	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women	"UNITE! Invest to prevent violence against women and girls".
November 26	1st-ever UN World Sustainable Transport Day	-
November 29	International Day of Solidarity with Palestinian People	-



<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Theme</u>
November 30	International Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare	-
November 06 to 10	World Quality Week	Quality: realising your competitive potential
3rd Thursday of November (November 16, 2023)	UNESCO's World Philosophy Day	Philosophical Reflection in a Multicultural World
November 19 to 25	World Heritage Week	-

## SPORTS

### Cricket

- England Seamer David Willey - announced his retirement from all forms of International Cricket at the age of 33
- West Indies Spinner Sunil Narine has announced his retirement from International Cricket - Narine played 122 international matches for the West Indies in total, which included 6 Tests, 65 ODIs and 51 T20Is.
- Australian Women's Captain Meg Lanning has announced her retirement from International Cricket - She won seven World Cup titles during her 241-match career, led Australia to four Twenty20 World Cup titles, one 50-over World Cup triumph and a Commonwealth Games gold.
- ICC Player of Month October 2023 - Men's Player of the Month: Rachin Ravindra (New Zealand). Women's Player of the Month: Hayley Matthews (West Indies Captain).
- International Cricket Council (ICC) Board has suspended Sri Lanka Cricket's (SLC) Membership of the ICC with immediate effect
- ICC announced the Inclusion of 3 Cricket Maestros in the ICC's Hall of Fame - Former Indian cricketer Virender Sehwag and former Indian women's cricket team captain Diana Fram Edulji along with Sri Lanka's Aravinda de Silva, were inducted into the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Hall of Fame for the year 2023.
- 13th edition of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Men's ODI World Cup 2023 - Australian Men's cricket team led by Pat Cummins defeated Indian Men's team led by

Rohit Sharma, by 6 wickets and clinches the sixth World Cup title in the final at Ahmedabad's Narendra Modi Stadium.

- International Cricket Council (ICC) on banned transgender cricketers from participating in Women's Cricket at the highest level - This decision is taken by ICC to protect the integrity of international women's game and the safety of players.
- Pakistan All-Rounder Syed Imad Wasim Haider has announced his retirement from International Cricket - He played 55 ODIs and 66 T20Is for Pakistan as a left-arm spinner and lower-order batter.

### Badminton

- BWF China Masters 2023 - Held in Shenzhen Bay Gymnasium, Shenzhen, China.

Category	Winner	Runner
Men's Singles	Kodai Naraoka (Japan)	Kenta Nishimoto (Japan)
Women's Singles	Chen Yu Fei (China)	Han Yue (China)
Men's Doubles	Liang Wei Keng & Wang Chang (China)	Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty (India)
Women's Doubles	Nami Matsuyama & Chiharu Shida (Japan)	Yuki Fukushima & Sayaka Hirota (Japan)
Mixed Doubles	Zheng Si Wei & Huang Ya Qiong (China)	Seo Seung-jae & Chae Yoo-jung (South Korea)

- India won 18 medals in the Japan-Para Badminton International Tournament - Pramod Bhagat bagged the gold medal in the SL3 Singles category at the Hulic Daihatsu Japan Para Badminton International Tournament in Tokyo.

### Football

- Saudi Arabia will host the 2034 FIFA World Cup - FIFA also confirmed that the hosting of 2030 World Cup in Morocco, Portugal and Spain with Uruguay, Argentina and Paraguay.
- All India Football Federation (AIFF) + International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) signed a MoU - For the establishment of Talent Academy at Kalinga stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

### Hockey

- The 3rd Hockey India Senior Women Inter Department National Championship 2023 and the Tournament Trophy at Shivaji Stadium - Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of



Petroleum and Natural Gas & Housing and Urban Affairs has inaugurated the tournament at the Shivaji Stadium in New Delhi.

### Tennis

- 54th edition of Association Tennis Professionals (ATP) Finals 2023 - The Men's Tennis Tournament was held at the Pala Alpitour in Turin, Italy.
- 111th edition of the Davis Cup 2023 - Italian tennis team headed by Filippo Volandri won the Davis Cup 2023 by defeating Australian team headed by Lleyton Hewitt in the finals for the 2nd time, Italy won the 1st Davis Cup title in 1976.

### Chess

- 3rd edition of the Federation Internationale des Echecs (FIDE) Grand Swiss 2023 - This event was held at the Villa Marina, Douglas, Isle of Man.

#### FIDE Grand Swiss-3rd edition Winners

Medal	Winner	Country
Gold	Vidit Santosh Gujrathi	India
Silver	Hikaru Nakamura	United States
Bronze	Andrey Esipenko	Played under FIDE flag

#### FIDE Women's Grand Swiss-2nd edition Winners

Medal	Winner	Country
Gold	Vaishali Rameshbabu	India
Silver	Anna Muzychuk	Ukraine
Bronze	Tan Zhongyi	China

#### Brazilian Grand Prix 2023

Rank	Winner	Country
1	Max Verstappen (Red Bull)	The Netherlands
2	Lando Norris (McLaren)	United Kingdom
3	Fernando Alonso (Aston Martin)	Spain

- 15th edition of the Formula 1 (F1) Etihad Airways Abu Dhabi Grandprix 2023

Rank	Winner	Country
1	Max Verstappen (Red Bull)	The Netherlands
2	Charles Lecrec (Ferrari)	Monaco
3	George Russell (Mercedes)	United Kingdom (UK)

### Events

- Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2023B - Indian women's hockey team defeats Japan to crown the Asian Champions Trophy.
- 1<sup>st</sup> edition of Asian Half Marathon Championship - The Indian Men's Team won gold medal while the Women's Team clinched a bronze in the inaugural Asian Half Marathon Championship held in Dubai.
- 42<sup>nd</sup> World Medicine and Health Games in Colombia - Lt Col Sanjeev Malik, an Army Medical Corps Officer, created history by winning 5 gold medals in the World Medicine and Health Games in Colombia.
- 16<sup>th</sup> edition of the World Wushu Championships 2023 - India won 3 medals (1 silver and 2 bronze) in the 16th edition of the World Wushu Championships was held in Fort Worth, Texas, USA.
- International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup 2023 held in Doha, Qatar - Indian shooter Anish Bhanwala won the bronze medal in the men's 25m rapid fire pistol event.
- Asian Para Archery Championship 2023 - Indian Para Archery team has topped in the medal tally with a total of 9 medals (4 gold, 4 silve, 1 bronze) at the 2023 Asian Para Archery Championships held in Bangkok, Thailand.
- IBSF 6-Red Snooker World Championship - Veteran Cueist Vidya Pillai won the IBSF 6-Red Snooker World Championship by defeating fellow countryman Anupama Ramachandran.
- 37th edition of the National Games 2023 - Maharashtra finished the top in the medal tally with 228 medals (80 gold, 69 silver, and 79 bronze) in the 37th edition of the National Games held in Goa.

### Others

- Colin Jackson has been announced as the International Event Ambassador for the Tata Steel Kolkata 25K in December 2023
- Pankaj Advani clinched the IBSF World Billiards Championship title for record 26th time in Doha
- Anurag Singh Thakur announced the first-ever Khelo India Para Games which will be held in New Delhi from 10th-17th December

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## **BANKING AND FINANCE**

### **RBI**

- RBI imposed monetary penalties on Punjab National Bank, Federal Bank, Kosamattam Finance and Mercedes-Benz Financial Services India for rule violations - RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs.72 lakh on Punjab National Bank, Rs.30 lakh on Federal Bank, Rs.13.38 lakh on Kosamattam Finance, and Rs.10 lakh on Mercedes-Benz Financial Services for rule violations.
- RBI imposed a monetary penalties on 4 co-operative banks and a NBFCs for deficiencies in regulatory compliance - These 4 co-operative banks are, Shree Lodra Nagarik Sahakari Bank, Malpur Nagarik Sahakari Bank, Jolarpet Co-operative Urban Bank, Limbasi Urban Co-operative Bank and the NBFC is Early Salary Services Private Ltd.
- RBI returned Instamojo's application for a payment aggregator (PA) licence - It was due to the eligibility criteria related to the net worth of the company.
- RBI imposed a monetary penalty aggregating Rs.10.34 crore on three banks Citibank, Bank of Baroda and Indian Overseas Bank for non-compliance with some of its Directions

### **Public Sector Banks State Bank of India**

- M&M Financial Services has entered into a co-lending partnership with the State Bank of India - To offer affordable solutions to the NBFC's customers.

### **Punjab National bank**

- Punjab National Bank (PNB) has introduced two loan scheme - These two schemes have been named PNB Gold Loan for the retail segment and PNB Swarnim for the agriculture segment.

### **Private Sector Banks Axis Bank**

- Axis Bank + Mahindra Lifespace Developers, the real estate and infrastructure development arm of the Mahindra Group - To provide cheaper loans for green homes.
- Axis Bank + Institute of Rural Management Anand (IRMA) signed a MoU - To promote financial inclusion and literacy in India during the observance of National Education Day on November 11.
- RBI imposed a monetary penalty of Rs.90.92 lakh on Axis Bank - For non-compliance with certain directions issued by the apex bank on 'Reserve Bank of India KYC Directions, 2016', 'Loans and Advances-Statutory and Other Restrictions', 'Guidelines



on Managing Risks and Code of Conduct in Outsourcing of Financial Services by banks' and 'Code of Conduct for Opening and Operating Current Accounts'.

### **ICICI Bank**

- ICICI Bank has introduced a feature allowing transactions to merchant QR codes through Digital Rupee App - The bank will enable its customers for a seamless digital payment experience as it has made Unified Payments Interface (UPI) interoperable.
- ICICI Bank received the RBI approval for making ICICI Securities as its wholly-owned subsidiary - The decision to delist comes 5 years after the broking firm made its debut on the bourses.

### **IndusInd Bank**

- IndusInd Bank launched the "NRI Homecoming" festival - To mark the homecoming of non-resident Indians (NRIs) reuniting with their families.
- IndusInd Bank + National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) - Jointly introduces the 'IndusInd Bank Platinum RuPay Credit Card' by enabling customers to make payments through the RuPay network using PoS devices and e-commerce websites.
- IndusInd Bank + Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) - This collaboration enables the customers at select IGL stations in Delhi NCR to make payments using the digital rupee (e₹), fostering the use and acceptance of India's own digital currency.

### **HDFC Bank**

- National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management in Kundli + HDFC Bank signed a statement of intent - To foster innovation and entrepreneurship in food processing and allied sectors.

### **Federal Bank**

- Federal Bank introduced a UPI Lite for effortless small-value digital payments in India - NPCI introduced UPI Lite a simplified version of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) system to cater to the growing demand for faster and more efficient small-value payments.
- Federal Bank collaborates with India's Top Seeded Shuttle, H.S. Prannoy as an exclusive banking partner - H.S. Prannoy is current world number eight and a recipient of the men's singles bronze medal in the recent Asian Games.
- Federal Bank + NCDEX e-Markets Limited (NeML) - To strengthen the integration of an advanced e-procurement solution and streamline e-procurement and e-auction systems for Central and State Government organizations.

### **Karnataka Bank**

- Karnataka Bank's shares were up by 0.05% after the bank entered into a corporate partnership with Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance to distribute life insurance products to its customer base.

### **Small Finance Bank**

- AU Small Finance Bank and ixigo have jointly launched a premium Co-branded Credit Card for modern travellers - The co-branded credit card provides a range of exclusive benefits designed to cater the requirements of both frequent and occasional travellers.

### **Insurance News**

- India First Life Insurance has become the 1st to obtain International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) Registration at Gujarat International Finance Tec (GIFT) City - The registration will enable India First Life to expand its reach globally.
- Star Health and Allied Insurance + Finconvenio Services (Finequs) - To enhance the health insurance accessibility throughout India.
- Ageas Federal Life Insurance has launched the 'Ageas Federal Life Insurance Super Cash Plan' - It is a non-linked, participating savings plan for retail customers.
- IRDAI has formed a taskforce to review the existing bancassurance channel, including mis-selling/forced selling of insurance policies - This task force was headed under the Chairmanship of Meena Kumari, Executive Director (Life) of IRDAI.
- National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has accepted the 1st insurance surety bond as bid security for Toll Operate Transfer (TOT) Bundle 14 - This will be the first time this innovative instrument is being utilized as a Bank Guarantee (BG) in the road infrastructure sector for monetization of bids.
- Star Health and Allied Insurance introduced a Smart Health Pro, a digital-exclusive health insurance policy
- TATA AIG General Insurance Company has introduced a "Health Supercharge"
- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has constituted an 11-member taskforce under the chairmanship of Randip Singh Jagpal - Randip Singh Jagpal is the Executive Director (Non-Life) at IRDAI, to examine the implications of the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act 2023 on the sector.

**SEBI**

- SEBI reduced half of the minimum issue size (from 1 Crore to 50 Lakh) for Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs) on the Social Stock Exchange (SSE)

**SIDBI**

- SIDBI + Jocata, an innovative products and services firm to launch MSME Economic Activity Index 'Sumpoorn' - This index aims to provide a real-time snapshot of India's vital MSME sector and contributes more than a quarter of India's overall Gross Value Added (GVA) and more than 40% of India's total exports.
- Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu + Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) - To offers a specialised 1-year-long Skill to Enterprise Module (STEM) programme for students in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

**Asian Development Bank (ADB)**

- India signed a USD 400 million policy-based loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) - To create high-quality urban infrastructure, improve service delivery and promote efficient governance systems.
- ADB and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) have announced the establishment of Natural Capital Fund (NCF)
- ADB has approved a USD 100 million loan for improving urban services and tourism facilities in Tripura - This project will support the state as a gateway to the northeast region by developing tourist destinations along with the national highways and by improving urban governance and financial sustainability.
- Asian Development Bank (ADB) + Greenway Grameen Infra Pvt Ltd signed a USD 6.5 million Senior Secured Loan - To manufacture and distribute 1 million improved cookstoves to rural households in Madhya Pradesh and Odisha.
- ADB has given the nod to a USD 170 million loan at modernizing water supply services in Kochi, Kerala - To improve urban living, ensure clean water access, bolster climate resilience.

**World Bank**

- World Bank have signed a USD 200 million project with Himachal Pradesh - To support Himachal Pradesh's 'Green State' vision and aimed at advancing power sector reforms in Himachal Pradesh.
- World Bank + Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria signed a MoU - To fortify health systems in the global south against the effects of climate change and also strengthen the regional production and procurement of health supplies, including drugs and medical devices.



### Others

- HSBC India has launched the Electronic Bank Guarantee (E-BG) Services in India for its corporate clients (including MSMEs) - HSBC has become the 1st foreign bank in India to offer this facility.
- Zurich Insurance Company - invest Rs.4,051 crore to acquire a 51% stake in Kotak General Insurance through a combination of fresh growth capital and share purchase.
- Larsen & Toubro (L&T) - sold its 100% stake in L&T Infrastructure Engineering Limited to STUP Consultants Pvt Ltd, a subsidiary of Assystem SA of France for Rs.60 crore.
- Canara HSBC Life Insurance has launched a new guaranteed income plan 'Guaranteed Assured Income' (GAIN) - For the customers of Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) to ensures guaranteed benefits and income for life.
- Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of AXA's 49% shareholding in Bharti AXA Life Insurance Company by Bharti Life Ventures Pvt Ltd (BLVPL).
- A cross-border payments provider, PayGlocal has received the in-principle approval from RBI for Payment Aggregator (PA) license - This will enable PayGlocal to onboard merchants onto its platform for online payment processing.
- Mirae Asset Mutual Fund launched the UPI AutoPay Mandate for SIP registrations - This initiative was jointly developed by the Mirae Asset Mutual Fund, KFinTech and BillDesk to help investors of Mirae Asset Mutual Fund to register SIP mandate using UPI AutoPay feature.
- RBI has directed Bajaj Finance to stop disbursing loans through two of its lending products "eCOM" and "Insta EMI Card" with immediate effect - The order has been issued due to "non-adherence" to the extant provisions of RBI's digital lending guidelines of RBI.
- IDBI Bank has extended the validity of special fixed deposit (FD) scheme named "Amrit Mahotsav FD" - IDBI introduced a special FD scheme Amrit Mahotsav FD for a tenure of 375 and 444 Days in July this year.
- Paytm partnered with Amadeus - To revolutionize the travel experience using Artificial Intelligence with more seamless and efficient booking experience for the next three years.
- RBI imposed a monetary penalties on Manappuram Finance and Anand Rathi Global Finance for deficiencies in regulatory compliance - A monetary penalty of Rs.42.78 lakh on Manappuram Finance, Thrissur for failed to comply with the RBI's directions on payment to certain borrowers the surplus amounts realised by auction of gold

articles pledged by those borrowers during the period from April 2021 to September 2022.

- RBI directed Bajaj Finance to stop sanction and disbursement of loans under its two lending products , eCOM and Insta EMI Card with immediate effect - Due to the non-adherence of the company to the extant provisions of digital lending guidelines of RBI particularly non-issuance of Key Fact Statements to the borrowers under these two lending products and the deficiencies in the Key Fact Statements issued in respect of other digital loans sanctioned by the company.
- RBI imposed a monetary penalty of Rs.25,000 on The Pudukkottai Co-operative Town Bank, Pudukkottai, Tamil Nadu - This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers conferred on RBI under the provisions of Section 47A (1) (c) read with Sections 46 (4) (i) and 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (AACSB),
- Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of AXA's 49% shareholding in Bharti AXA Life Insurance Company by Bharti Life Ventures Pvt Ltd (BLVPL).
- The government cancelled the bid process for the appointment of an asset valuer for strategic sale-bound IDBI Bank on low bidder interest
- HSBC India and UK Export Finance (UKEF) has tied up to 100 million pound - To support Indian Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and corporates for financing their imports from Britain.
- NPCI directed banks and third party apps to stop the UPI services for accounts that have remained inactive for more than a year by December 31, 2023

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **IIT News**

- IIT Madras has become the 1st IIT to set up an international campus on Zanzibar Island in Tanzania - India and the East African Nation had signed a MoU, ushering in a new era of global education and cooperation.
- IIT Kanpur has established a Center of Excellence (CoE) named ATMAN (Advanced Technologies for Monitoring Air-quality iNdicators) - This CoE is focusing on building indigenous low-cost sensor manufacturing and Artificial Intelligence (AI)/Machine Learning (ML) capabilities to enhance air quality across the urban and rural areas of the country.
- IIT Madras faculty members, students and alumni have developed a mobile application 'OptRoute' - To enable easier and efficient transportation of goods within cities.



- Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) Kanpur has signed a MoUs with IIT Kanpur + Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) + Dassault Aircraft Services India (DASI) - To empower and prepare the local youth for the aerospace and defence sector to support the Defence Industrial Corridor in Uttar Pradesh.

### Space News

- Guangzhou-based Ehang has received the world's first airworthiness "type certificate" for its EH216-S AAV - It is a fully autonomous drone designed to carry two passengers.
- NASA and SpaceX jointly launched Dragon's 29th cargo mission to the International Space Station (ISS) - Dragon's 29th Commercial Resupply Services mission (CRS-29) was successfully lifted off from the Iconic Pad 39 at the Kennedy Space Center (KSC) in Florida.

### DRDO

- DRDO and the Indian Navy conducted the 2nd trial for its indigenously designed Guided Naval Anti-Ship Missile Short Range (NASM-SR) - It was launched from the Indian Navy's Sea King 42B helicopter.

### India in Science & Technology

- India test-fired its surface-to-surface short-range ballistic missile (SRBM) 'Pralay' from the Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha Coast - The missile has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in view of the country's defence requirements along its borders with neighbouring China and Pakistan
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has signed an agreement with Airbus - For the establishment of Civil Aircraft Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility for A-320 family aircraft at Nashik.
- Aerospace Components Maker, Aequs has signed a contract with Airbus for 10 years - To produce critical components for A320, A330 neo and A350 passenger aircraft.
- Google has rolled out its AI Chatbot "Bard" for teenagers to create a protected and immersive learning experience for younger users - While 13 is the minimum age for a user to manage their own Google Account, some countries have slightly higher benchmarks.
- ISRO launched Robotics Challenge For Aspirants Interested In Space Missions With Cash Prize of Rs.5 Lakh

- Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) granted authorisation to Eutelsat OneWeb's satellite constellation for provisioning its capacity in India
- IndiGo has partnered with Microsoft to develop and launch an AI chatbot, 6Eskai
- Garuda Aerospace has secured the second type certificate for medium category drones from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)
- India and US launched the joint Microwave Remote Sensing Satellite for Earth Observation named NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar)
- Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) + Satellogic Inc - For establishing and developing local space technology capabilities in India.

### Environment & Energy

- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) has launched a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) portal - For enhancing transparency in its CSR initiatives and disposal of CSR requests from various organizations and institutions.
- REC Limited has signed a MoU with RailTel - To extend the financial assistance upto Rs.30000 crore for Infrastructure Projects to be executed by RailTel in next 5 years.
- Ashok Leyland has commenced the delivery of India's first liquefied natural gas-powered haulage truck, AVTR 1922 to Mahanagar Gas in Hosur
- ReNew has commissioned its 1st interstate transmission project, the Koppal Transmission Scheme
- National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) + The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) signed a MoU on Disaster Risk Reduction
- Government mandates blending of compressed biogas in the Compressed Natural Gas (transport) and Piped Natural Gas (domestic) segments of the City Gas Distribution sector



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## **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

### **Bangladesh**

- PM Modi and his Bangladesh Counterpart Sheikh Hasina jointly inaugurated three Indian-assisted development projects - These 3 projects are the Akhaura-Agartala Cross-Border Rail Link, Khulna-Mongla Port Rail Line and Unit-II of the Maitree Super Thermal Power Plant.

### **France**

- M/o Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, India + M/o Public Sector Transformation & Civil Service, France signed a Letter of Intent - For Cooperation in the field of Public Administration and Administrative Reforms for 3 years.

### **Italy**

- India and Italy signed the Mobility and Migration Partnership Agreement and Cultural Exchange Programme - To enable seamless movement of workers, students and professionals while also addressing the challenges associated with illegal migration.

### **Netherlands**

- India and Netherlands have signed a Memorandum of Intent (MoI) - To cooperate on medical product regulation and enhance the quality of medical products and healthcare services for both countries at the Hague, Netherlands.

### **Mauritius**

- India and Netherlands have signed a Memorandum of Intent (MoI) - To cooperate on medical product regulation and enhance the quality of medical products and healthcare services for both countries at the Hague, Netherlands.

### **Russia**

- Russia signed a contract to supply Igla-S hand-held anti-aircraft missiles to India and allowed the production of the Igla under license - The Igla-S is a man-portable air defense system (MANPADS) that can be fired by an individual or crew to bring down an enemy aircraft.
- Russia formally withdrawn from Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces (CFE) in Europe -Russia signed a landmark arms control agreement in 1990 that sought to limit the deployment of conventional weapons in Europe.

### **Sri Lanka**

- India and Sri Lanka held the 12th round of negotiations on the Economic and Technology Cooperation Agreement (ETCA) in Colombo, Sri Lanka
- India has allocated a "landmark" grant of USD 15 million to Sri Lanka - To bolster the long-standing Buddhist connections between the two nations.

### **Seychelles**

- India has extended an offer of technological cooperation to Seychelles on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) - Seychelles has been an important political and military ally for India in the Indian Ocean since gaining independence from Britain.

### **United States**

- India and the US have signed an MoU agreement - promote innovation through increasing cooperation among startups, address regulatory hurdles and share best practices on fundraising by entrepreneurs.
- India has signed a MoU with the US - To boost its startup ecosystem through greater cooperation in critical technologies

### **UAE**

- United Arab Emirates has inaugurated the World's Largest Single-Site Solar Power Plant

### **Uzbekistan**

- Samarkand Institute of Economics and Services, Uzbekistan has signed a MoU with University of Delhi - The MoU aims to unlock a range of prospects for students, faculty and researchers hailing from Samarkand and Delhi.

### **Summit/Event**

- United Kingdom hosts the World's 1st Global Artificial Intelligence (AI) Safety Summit in Buckingham - Union Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar is addressed the 2-day summit emphasized India's commitment to AI with a focus on Safety, Trust and Accountability.
- 15th India-Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue was held in New Delhi - To review the existing defence cooperation between the countries and agreed to enhance collaboration in Service-to-Service interactions and bilateral exercises.
- PM Modi has inaugurated the 2nd edition of the Mega food event 'World Food India 2023' at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan in New Delhi - To strengthen the Self

Help Groups, the Prime Minister disbursed Seed Capital Assistance for over one lakh SHG members.

- India will host the World Telecommunication Standardisation Assembly (WTSA) in 2024 - It was held every 4 years, the World Telecommunication Standardisation Assembly is the governing conference of the ITU Standardisation Sector (ITU-T).
- The maiden INDUS-X Investors Meet at New Delhi as a pre-cursor to the 2+2 Indo-US Ministerial Dialogue
- 6th High-Level Meeting of the India-OPEC Energy Dialogue took place at the OPEC Secretariat in Vienna, Austria
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh visited Jakarta, Indonesia for 2-days to attend the 10th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus)
- The 9th edition of the India International Science Festival (IISF) 2023 will be held at Faridabad in Haryana from January 17 to 20 2024
- The 1st Australia India Education and Skill Council Meeting (AIESC) with Australian Counterparts in Gandhinagar
- The inaugural COP28 Business Philanthropy Climate Forum is hosted by the COP28 Presidency at the Expo City Dubai
- ASEAN-India Millet Festival 2023 is held in Indonesia
- 42nd edition of the India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2023 - The Indian Ministry of Power has been awarded the Special Appreciation Medal for Excellence in Display at India International Trade Fair 2023 held at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- 4th edition of the annual ASEAN India Grassroots Innovation Forum (AIGIF) was launched in Langkawi, Malaysia
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change/COP28 is held in UAE

#### Exercise

- 4th edition of Bilateral Exercise between Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy, BONGOSAGAR-23 and the 5th edition of Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) was conducted in the Northern Bay of Bengal
- The 5th India-US 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue has begun in New Delhi
- 9th Edition of India-Sri Lanka Joint Military Exercise "MITRA SHAKTI-2023" has commenced in Aundh, Pune
- 14th Indo-US Joint Special Forces Exercise Ex Vajra Prahar 2023 is commenced at Umroi in Meghalaya
- 2nd edition of Joint Military Exercise AUSTRALIND-23 is took place in Perth, Australia

- 17th edition of India-Nepal Joint Military Training Exercise is conducted in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand

#### Others

- Collins Dictionary has named "AI" as its word of the year - Defining it as an abbreviation for artificial intelligence is the modelling of human mental functions by computer programs.
- Chile has joined the 95th member of International Solar Alliance (ISA) - A move that strengthens the global partnership aimed at promoting solar energy.
- World Health Organisation (WHO) has announced a new 'Commission on Social Connection (2024-2026)'
- India becomes the Chair of International Sugar Organisation (ISO) for 2024
- America's Oldest Dictionary, Merriam-Webster has announced that the 'Authentic' is the word of the year 2023
- Angkor Wat of Cambodia has become the Eighth Wonder of the World
- Virgin Atlantic Passenger Jet is powered by 100% Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) is successfully completed a London-to-New York jaunt

### **NATIONAL AFFAIRS**

**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**

- On the occasion of the National Unity Day PM Modi launched the 'Mera Yuva Bharat MY Bharat' platform for the youth of the country -PM the initiative while participating in the programme marking the culmination of the Meri Maati Mera Desh campaign's Amrit Kalash Yatra at Kartavya Path in New Delhi.

#### Ministry News

##### **Ministry of Defence: Shri Rajnath Singh**

- Rajnath Singh inaugurated the 6th edition of 3-day 'India Manufacturing Show' in Bengaluru, Karnataka
- Ministry of Defence (MoD) distributed Rs.932 crore to beneficiaries from the armed forces - This grant was distributed under the MoD's Kendriya Sainik Board (KSB) to over 3.7 lakh beneficiaries of Army, Navy and Air Force in the last 5 years to meet their expenses on education, for daughters' marriage and treatment of serious diseases.

- Ministry of Defence has signed a contract with M/s Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) - For the procurement of 16 Upgraded Super Rapid Gun Mount (SRGM) along with associated equipment/accessories for Indian Navy under Buy (Indian) category at a total cost of Rs.2956.89 crore.
- MoD has unveiled the crest of Yard 12706 (Imphal), the third amongst the four Project 15B stealth guided missile destroyers
- MoD has granted approval for Acceptance of Necessity for diverse Capital Acquisition Proposals, worth Rs 2.23 lakh crore - To enhance the operational capabilities of the Armed Forces.

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

- Amit Shah addressed the National Symposium on 'Promotion of Organic Products through Cooperatives' - Organized by the National Cooperative Organics Limited (NCOL) in New Delhi.

**Ministry of Road Transport and Highways: Shri Nitin Jairam Gadkari**

- Gadkari inaugurated the 8th Edition of the India Water Impact Summit (IWIS) at the Dr Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi
- Nitin Gadkari virtually inaugurated the luxury vessel 'Classic Imperial', the biggest of its kind tourist vessel in Kerala

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

- Corporate Affairs Ministry has extended the term of 16-member Committee on Digital Competition Law up to December 31, 2023
- Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) has signed a MoU with Lean Campus Startups (Trust) and WEICI India - To empower both corporate and women entrepreneurs, augmenting their knowledge, skills and competencies in the effective establishment and management of a diverse workforce.
- The Government released limited technical details about the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the 16th Finance Commission - The Commission is slated to submit its comprehensive report by October 31, 2025 and will be implemented from April 1, 2026 for 5 years from the year 2026-27 to 2030-31.

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

- Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare + Wadhvani Institute for Artificial Intelligence developed Krishi 24/7

**Ministry of Women & Child Development, Ministry of Minority Affairs: Smt Smriti Zubin Irani**

- India's leading Hindi General Entertainment Channel (GEC) Channel, COLORS + Ministry of Women and Child Development - To support the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' initiative to address the issue of girl child abandonment, through the launch of its new fiction show Doree.
- Smriti launched the Anganwadi Protocol for Divyang (disabled) Children - The protocol provides guideline for Anganwadi workers to track and help children with disabilities upto the age of 6.

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

- Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), M/o Commerce + Lulu Hypermarket LLC signed a MoU - To boost exports of agricultural products to the Gulf Cooperation Countries (GCCs) and aimed at promoting Brand India globally.
- The Department of Consumer Affairs (DoCA) under the Consumer Affairs Ministry has set up a committee to draft "Safety Pledge" - To prevent the sale of hazardous goods on e-commerce platforms.

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

- Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and his UAE counterpart Ahmad Al Falasi signed an MoU - strengthen the existing educational cooperation between the two countries.
- Election Commission of India (ECI) signed a MoU with the Ministry of Education - For the development of an institutional framework that seeks to embed electoral literacy in schools and colleges.

**Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Mines: Shri Prahlad Joshi**

- Ministry of Coal has amended the SHAKTI Policy (Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala (Coal) Transparently in India) Policy

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

- Sonowal launched the domestic sailing of the 1st International Cruise Liner 'COSTA SERENA' in India at Mumbai
- The Ministry of Ayush + WHO have signed a Traditional and Complementary Medicine 'Project Collaboration Agreement' in Geneva



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

- Dharmendra Pradhan launched the 37 PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalayas and 26 PM SHRI Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas in Odisha

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

- Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) + Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) signed a MoU for 2 years

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

- MeitY Secretary S Krishnan launched the LEAP AHEAD initiative - LEAP AHEAD initiative is the joint collaboration of Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) and The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) Delhi-NCR at the LEAP AHEAD summit.

**Ministry of Petroleum& Natural Gas, Ministry of Housing& Urban Affairs:  
Shri Hardeep Singh Puri**

- MoHUA has unveiled the progressive initiative "Women for Water, Water for Women" awareness campaign
- MoHUA has launched the 'AINA Dashboard for Cities' portal - To create a database of the key performance metrics of Urban Local Bodies (ULB) across the country.
- MoHUA has inaugurated the Varanasi 2nd floating Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Mobile Refueling Unit (MRU) station at Ravidas Ghat

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

- 5th Edition of the Indian Chemical Council (ICC) Sustainability Conclave - The Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers and Indian Chemical Council (ICC) has organized the 2-day Conclave with the theme of "Integrating Sustainability& Business Strategy for the Chemical Industry- Addressing Challenges and Opportunities".

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

- 33rd Conference of the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH) Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific is held at New Delhi
- The Department of Fisheries and the Ministry of Fisheries hosted the Global Fisheries Conference India 2023 in Ahmedabad, Gujarat

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

- 11th edition of International Tourism Mart is held at Shillong, Meghalaya

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

- Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has approved the Digital Advertisement Policy, 2023 - To enable and empower the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC) to undertake campaigns in the digital media space.

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

- Jitendra Singh launched the Software Application "Dashboard" for Department of Science and Technology (DST) - For real-time, prompt and effective Parliament business including Parliament Questions, Acts of Parliament and Gazette Notifications of Govt. of India as well as Cabinet Notes.

**State News**

**Assam**

- Rangiya and Mariani Railway Stations of Northeast Frontier Railway in Assam have been awarded the 'Eat Right Station' certification
- International Crop Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) + Government of Assam - To collaborate on climate-resilient and nutritionally enhanced food systems through the Assam Millet Mission.
- Assam Government has approved the merger of the Board of Secondary Education (SEBA) and the Assam Higher Secondary Education Council (AHSEC)
- The District Education Department in Barpeta, Assam has developed a AI apps to simplify lesson planning for teachers

**Gujarat**

- Gujarat Government has named the "Ghol" species as the State Fish of Gujarat

**Himachal Pradesh**

- Himachal Pradesh Govt has launched the Rajiv Gandhi Self Employment Startup Yojana

**Jharkhand**

- Jharkhand Cabinet has approved the 'Abua Awas Yojna (AAY)' - A housing scheme for the poor to provide 8 lakhs pucca houses to the homeless in the state and has a total budget of Rs 16,320 crore.

- Jharkhand Cabinet has approved the Rs.1,485 crore electrification scheme - new scheme named Mukhya Mantri Ujjwal Jharkhand Yojana, which aims to provide electricity facilities to un-electrified rural hamlets and households, as well as leftover urban areas.

#### **Karnataka**

- ICAR-National Institute of Animal Nutrition and Physiology signed a MoU with Karnataka Poultry Farmers and Breeders Association (KPFBA) - For promoting an Inter-Organizational knowledge exchange and facilities sharing in the areas of common interest.

#### **Kerala**

- Kerala launched two digital facilities for investors Invest Kerala Web Portal and Kerala Responsible Industry Incentive Scheme portal - To streamline investment processes and promote responsible industrial practices.
- Kerala Financial Corporation (KFC) has launched a Kerala MSME Bill Discounting Platform - To ensure liquidity to MSMEs by discounting their outstanding bills.

#### **Madhya Pradesh**

- The Central government has approved a proposal to merge the two wildlife sanctuaries in Madhya Pradesh - To create the largest tiger reserve in the country spanning 2,300 square kilometers.

#### **Maharashtra**

- Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde has unveiled the grand statue of cricketer Sachin Tendulkar at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai

#### **Manipur**

- Manipur celebrates the festival of Mera Hou Chongba, a festival of oneness at the Palace Compound in Imphal

#### **Meghalaya**

- Meghalaya CM Conrad K Sangma launched the "Water Smart Kids Meghalaya" School campaign

#### **Odisha**

- Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launched a flagship scheme of the state government in 3 more districts

- Odisha signed 3 MoUs with India Electronic and Semiconductor Association (IESA) + Global Semiconductor Giant Synopsys + Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) - To build an ecosystem for the manufacturing of semiconductors.
- Odisha + Arcelor Mittal Nippon Steel (AM/NS) India signed an MoU - To establish a high-performance centre at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar and to promote Kho Kho talents.
- Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik launched the 'Ama Bank' -For providing banking services through customer service point (CSP) Plus banking outlets in all unbanked Gram Panchayats (GPs) of Odisha.

#### **Punjab**

- Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann approved the One Time Settlement Scheme for setting up the pre-GST arrears of the traders

#### **Uttar Pradesh**

- Uttar Pradesh Govt has linked the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) as its knowledge partners
- Uttar Pradesh government has announced to build India's first Telecom Centre of Excellence in IIT Roorkee

#### **Uttarakhand**

- CtrlS Datacenters Ltd has signed an MoU with the Uttarakhand Government for investing Rs.250 crore

#### **West Bengal**

- "Mission Kala Kranti" is an initiative launched by the Raj Bhavan in Kolkata to promote the art and culture of West Bengal and India

#### **Union Territory News**

##### **Chandigarh**

- Chandigarh Smart City has launched an AI-driven chatbot "BIRBAL" - To provide efficient and user-friendly citizen services provided by the UT administration and municipal corporation into one seamless platform.

### Jammu and Kashmir

- Saffron grown in Kishtwar area of J&K has received the GI tag from the Geographical Indications Registry

### Ladakh

- Geographical Indication Registry has granted GI tag to the Ladakh's 'Sea Buckthorn'

### Union Cabinet News

- Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved 7 multi-tracking projects of Indian Railways at an estimated cost of Rs.32,500 crore
- Cabinet approved the extension of free foodgrains scheme, Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) for the next 5 years
- Union Cabinet approved the Central Sector Scheme for providing Drones to the Women Self Help Groups (SHGs) from 2024-25 to 2025-26
- Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of Fast Track Special Court (FTSCs)
- Union Cabinet approved Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM JANMAN) with the total outlay of Rs.24,104 crore

### NITI Aayog

- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog launched a new accelerator named Rapid Innovation and Startup Expansion (RISE) - To support Australian and Indian circular economy startups.

### Others

- International Solar Alliance (ISA) has announced a capital contribution of \$35 million for its Global Solar Facility (GSF)
- Kozhikode and Gwalior have been declared as Creative Cities of Literature and Creative Cities of Music respectively by UNESCO
- CSIR-National Institute of Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (CSIR-NIIST) + Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd, Bengaluru signed a MoU - For strengthening the indigenisation and import substitution programme for the nation's aerospace and defence sectors as envisioned by the Atma Nirbhar Bharat initiative.
- PM Modi announced the extension of Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY), a free ration scheme for another 5 years
- The sale of the 29th tranche of electoral bonds started amidst assembly elections in 5 states-Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram

- The 10th edition of the Kalinga Literary Festival will be kick-started from February 9 in Bhubaneswar
- Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs + FSR Global at IICA Campus in Manesar, Gurugram signed a MoU - The primary focus of this partnership is to enhance operational capabilities within the regulatory landscape of the energy sector in India and Worldwide.
- India has joined the US and 12 other Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) partners signs supply chain resilience agreement
- Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has launched the Food Safety Compliance System (FoSCoS) Portal
- PM Modi launched the PM PVTG (Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups) Development Mission
- World Spice Organization (WSO) is set to host the 2nd National Spice Conference (NSC) in Hyderabad
- Delhi University Vice Chancellor Yogesh Singh inaugurated the three-day India Mushroom Summit 2023
- United Service Institution of India (USI) has organised its Annual UN Forum 2023 in New Delhi
- National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Visual Disabilities/(Divyangjan) (NIEPVD) signed a MoU with the National Book Trust
- National Mapping Agency Survey of India (SoI) + Genesys International - Jointly announced a tie-up for a three-dimensional (3D) digital twin-mapping programme in India.
- State Educational Achievement Survey by PARAKH was conducted - To understand the baseline performance in the development of the competencies at the end of the foundational, preparatory and middle stages with a primary focus on Language and Mathematics.
- Six States&UTs out of the total 34 have completed the Social Audit of Works under MGNREGS in more than 50% of grampanchayats
- National Academy of Customs, Indirect Taxes and Narcotics (NACIN) and the National Academy of Direct Taxes (NADT) signed a MoU -For sharing resources such as best practices, expert faculty, training materials and innovative technologies.
- BITS Pilani's Technology Business Incubator, Pilani Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Society has introduced the inaugural edition of its startup initiative, "Womenpreneur for Bharat 1.0"

- Central Depository Services (India) Ltd (CDSL) become the 1st Indian depository to hold 10 crore (100 million) active dematerialisation (demat) accounts
- PM Modi inaugurated the 10,000th Jan Aushadhi Kendra at AIIMS, Deoghar
- The 2nd edition of the Military Literature Festival 2024 will be held in Amritsar, Punjab

### **BUSINESS AND ECONOMY**

- Sweden's Saab has secured 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India's defense projects - To establish a new manufacturing facility in the country, marking a significant milestone as the first foreign company to receive 100% FDI in India's defense projects.
- Infosys has entered into a partnership with Amazon Web Services (AWS) for three years
- Mika is an AI-based robot that became the world's first robot CEO of Dictador
- Adani Group has secured a substantial USD 553 million investment from the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC)
- Jio Satellite Communications and Eutelsat OneWeb have granted the requisite licences to provide satellite internet services in India
- InCred Holdings, the parent of InCred Financial Services has turned a unicorn (valued at over USD1 billion)
- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has signed an agreement with Australia's Primary Securities Exchange, ASX
- Express logistics provider Blue Dart is in partnership with India Post to set up digital parcel locker service at post offices
- As per the Weekly Statistical Supplement published by the RBI, - Forex reserves of India have increased by \$5.077 billion, reaching a total of \$595.397 billion.
- Mastercard has partnered with U GRO Capital - To extend the financing solutions to small businesses in India that requires financial support to maintain and grow their operations.
- Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) has introduced a new guidelines for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) with effect from January 1, 2024
- WhiteOak Capital Mutual Fund launched the New Fund Offer (NFO)-'WhiteOak Capital Large & Mid Cap Fund
- India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI) in October reflected an inflation of -0.52% from -0.26% in September, WPI stood at 8.4% in October 2022.
- Accel Partners and Quona Capital are set to increase their stake in Shivalik Small Finance Bank to 9.99% each, presently both hold a 4.99% stake each in the bank.

- CCI approved the acquisition of an additional stake of 63% in Niva Bupa Health Insurance Company by Bupa Singapore Holdings Pte.
- Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway has sold its entire 2.46% stake in One97 Communications for Rs.1,371 crore in a bulk deal on the National Stock Exchange (NSE).

## **RANKING**

### **National Ranking**

- EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2023
  - According to the EdelGiveHurun India Philanthropy List 2023, a remarkable 119 Indians made donations exceeding Rs.5 crore during the year.

Rank	Name	Donation (INR Cr)	Change %	Primary Cause	Company
1	Shiv Nadar& Family	2,042	76%	Arts, Culture and Heritage	HCLTech
2	Azim Premji& Family	1,774	267%	Education	Wipro
3	MukeshAmbani& Family	376	-8%	Healthcare	Reliance Industries
4	Kumar Mangalam Birla& Family	287	18%	Education	Aditya Birla
5	Gautam Adani& Family	285	50%	Education	Adani
6	Bajaj Family	264	234%	Education	Bajaj
7	Anil Agarwal& Family	241	46%	Healthcare	Vedanta
8	Nandan Nilekani	189	19%	Ecosystem Building	Infosys
9	Cyrus S Poonawalla& Adar Poonawalla	179	60%	Healthcare	Serum Institute of India
10	Rohini Nilekani	170	41%	Ecosystem Building	Rohini Nilekani Philanthropies



- MSCI Global Standard Index will add 9 Indian Stocks - These 9 firms were APL Apollo Tubes, IndusInd Bank, Macrotech Developers, One 97 Communications (Paytm's parent firm), Persistent Systems, Polycab India, Suzlon Energy, Tata Communications and Tata Motors will be added to the MSCI India index.
- Bengaluru is placed 1st to 1,783 women-led startups, followed by Mumbai and Delhi at 1,480 and 1,195 - The data released by the startup data platform Tracxn.

### International Ranking

- Quacquarelli Symonds released the QS Asia University Rankings 2024

Rank	University Name	Score
1	Peking University, China	100
2	The University of Hong Kong	97.9
3	National University of Singapore	97.2
4	Nanyang Technological University	96.1
5	Tsinghua University	96.1

### Indian Institutes in Top 100:

Rank	University Name	Score
40	IIT Bombay	67.2
46	IIT Delhi	64
53	IIT Madras	56.8
58	IISc Bengaluru	54.8
59	IIT Kharagpur	54.5
63	IIT Kanpur	53.4
94	University of Delhi	45.6

- Global Survey on Employees' Well-being - The survey was conducted by McKinsey Health Institute, and is assessed employees' physical, mental, social and spiritual health before arriving at the conclusions.

**Current Affairs**

**Bundle Xtreme 2023**

Monthly Magazine | One Liner | Static GK | Newspaper Magazine  
(Quiz)Daily | Weekly | Monthly | Newspaper | Static Gk | Banking Awareness



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- India is ranked 117th in the list of 129 countries in the world in the inclusiveness index

Rank	Country	Score
1	New Zealand	82.08
2	Portugal	77.66
3	Netherlands	76.98
4	Slovenia	76.29
5	Iceland	76.12
117	India	49.24

- India ranked 3rd in Global unicorn Rabkings with 72 Unicorns - India ranked third with 72 unicorn companies, with a total valuation of \$195.75 billion.

## **AWARDS**

### **National Awards**

- All India Football Federation (AIFF) was honoured with the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) President's Recognition Bronze Medal
- 
- Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI)'s initiative Sustainability Reporting Standards Board (SRSB) has been awarded the ISAR Honours 2023
- Apolinaris D'Souza honored with 19th 'Kalakar Puraskar' Award
- Maharashtra government has honoured Veteran Singer and Padma Shri Awardee Suresh Ishwar Wadkar for its prestigious 'Gansamragini Lata Mangeshkar Award' 2023
- GAIL clinched two prestigious awards at the Asian Oil and Gas Awards event held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia - Asian Power Magazine has presented the 19th Asian Power Awards, 3rd Asian Oil& Gas Awards and inaugural Asian Water Awards in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development 2022 was jointly awarded to the Indian Medical Association (IMA) and the Trained Nurses Association of India (TNAI)
- Tamil writer Perumal Murugan's novel 'Fire Bird', translated into English by Janani Kannan, won the 2023 JCB Prize for Literature
- National Metallurgist Award (NMA) 2022 - Faggan Singh Kulaste, MoS for Steel& Rural Development has conferred the five distinguished metallurgists for being coveted with the NMA 2022 in four categories.

- Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) Limited received the “Best Employer for Policies in Diversity & Inclusion” Award by ASSOCHAM
- The Greater Chennai Corporation’s (GCC)-ICCC Smart Governance Centre has been awarded the Platinum Certification under the IGBC (Indian Green Building Council) Green New Building Rating System (GNBRS)
- NHPC Ltd won the 2nd prize under the 'Annual Report' category of 'PRSI National Awards 2023'
- Vijayawada Railway Station from Andhra Pradesh was awarded a platinum certificate by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)
- 54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) was held in Goa

Category	Film	Name of Artists
Golden Peacock Award	Endless Borders	Directed by Abbas Amini from Iran
Silver Peacock Medal (Best Director)	Blaga’s Lessons	Directed by Stephen Komandarev (Bulgarian)
Silver Peacock Medal (Best Actor-Male)	Endless Borders	Pouria Rahimi Sam (Iranian)
Silver Peacock Medal (Best Actor-Female)	Party of Fools	Melanie Thierry (French)
Silver Peacock Medal (Best Debut Film)	When the Seedings Grow	Directed By Reger Azad Kaya (Arabic)
Special Jury Award	Kantara	Directed by Rishabh Shetty (Kannada)
ICFT UNESCO Gandhi Medal	Drift ( UK, France, Greek)	Directed by Anthony Chen
Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award	-	Micahel Douglas (American)
Indian Film Personality of the Year Award	-	Madhuri Dixit (Actor)

IFFI Best OTT Series Award

Panchayat 2

Directed by Deepak Kumar  
Mishra (India)

### International Awards

- 10-year-old Vihaan Talya Vikas from Bengaluru was awarded as the Best Photographer at the prestigious Wildlife Photographer of the Year (WPY)
- Social Worker Deenanath Rajput from Bastar was awarded the 2nd edition of Rohini Nayar Prize
- India-born Author Nandini Das has won the British Academy Book Prize 2023
- Global Responsible Tourism Award 2023
- Britain's Prince William's "Eco Oscars", the Earthshot Prize 2023 - South American forest protection initiative Accion Andina, Battery recycling project GRST from Hong Kong, Wild Aid Marine Program, S4S Technologies, and Boomitra are named 2023 Winners and will each receive a catalytic £1 million prize to support efforts to scale their innovative climate and environmental solutions.
- American Tennis Player Serena Williams has been named as the fashion icon by the Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA)
- The song 'Abundance in Millets' featuring PM Modi has been nominated in the Best Global Music Performance at the 2024 Grammy Awards
- Kerala Tourism's pavilion has won the best stand award at the World Travel Market (WTM) in London
- The 'Airgun Surrender Abhiyan' has received international recognition at the UNESCO's International Conference on Biosphere Reserves at Sabah in Malaysia
- Taekwondo Humanitarian Foundation (THF) has been honoured with the 2023 Olympic Cup by the International Olympic Committee (IOC)
- India's Bina Agarwal and Colombia's David Barkin has received the Kenneth Boulding Award in Ecological Economics
- Nicaragua's Sheynnis Palacios has been crowned the Miss Universe 2023
- Dr Sujit Roy, Co Founder of BrainAlive has received the NASA IMPACT Planet Award 2023
- Mohali-based Deepti Babuta has become the first woman to bagged the Dhahan Prize
- 51st International Emmy Awards 2023

**Winners of International Emmy Awards 2023**

Category	Winner
Arts Programming	Buffy Sainte-Marie: Carry It On(Canada)
Best Performance by an Actor	Martin Freeman In The Responder(United Kingdom)
Best Performance by an Actress	Karla Souza In La Caída [Dive](Mexico)
Comedy	Vir Das: Landing(India) And Derry Girls – Season 3 2023(United Kingdom)
Documentary	Mariupol: The People’s Story(United Kingdom)
Drama Series	The Empress(Germany)
Non-Scripted Entertainment	A Ponte – The Bridge Brasil(Brazil)
Short-Form Series	Des Gens Bien Ordinaires [A Very Ordinary World](France)
Sports Documentary	Harley & Katya(Australia)
Telenovela	Yargi [Family Secrets](Turkey)
TV Movie/Mini-Series	La Caída [Dive](Mexico)
<b>International Emmy Kids Awards</b>	
Animation	The Smeds and The Smoos, Magic Light Pictures (United Kingdom)
Factual & Entertainment	Built To Survive (Australia)
Live-Action	Heartbreak High (Australia)
<b>International Emmy News Awards</b>	
Current Affairs	Off The Grid – Ukraine Wartime Diaries
News	The Battle For Bucha & Irpin

- Kerala and Maharashtra as the two Indian states that has been recognised by the UNWTO for showcasing exemplary projects
- BBC released its 11th edition of BBC 100 Women List 2023 - Four Indian women, including Bollywood actress Dia Mirza, Captain of India's National Women's Cricket Team Harmanpreet Kaur, National Geographic Photographer Arati Kumar-Rao and Tibetan Buddhist nun Jetsunma Tenzin Palmo were featured in the BBC 100 Women List 2023.
- Renowned Hollywood Actor and Producer Michael Douglas was honoured with the prestigious Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award
- Somali refugee Abdullahi Mire named the winner of the UN refugee agency's prestigious Nansen Refugee Award

### **The 2023 Regional Winners of the UNHCR Nansen Refugee Award.**

- Elizabeth Moreno Barco from Colombia.
- Asia Al-Mashreqi from Yemen (Middle East & North Africa).
- Lena Grochowska and Władysław Grochowski from Poland (Europe).
- Abdullah Habib, Sahat Zia Hero, Salim Khan and Shahida Win (Asia-Pacific): four Rohingya storytellers documenting the experiences of stateless Rohingya refugees.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

### **National Appointments**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Succeeded by</b>
Amar Chintopanth, Shardchandra V Zaregaonkar, Moses Newling Harding John, Bhumika Batra and Arun Tiwari	As the Director of Reliance Capital Board	-
Appointments Committee of the Cabinet extended the tenure M V Rao	As the MD and CEO of Central Bank of India	-
Appointments Committee of the Cabinet extended the tenure of A S Rajeev	As the MD& CEO of Bank of Maharashtra	-

Name	Designation	Succeeded by
Ashok Vaswani	MD&CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank	Uday Kotak
B Kasiviswanathan	Chairperson of Cochin Port Authority	-
Bandhan Bank has approved the re-appointment of Chandra Shekhar Ghosh	As its Managing Director	-
Deepesh Nanda	President-Renewables and CEO& MD of Tata Power Renewable Energy	-
Ex-Twitch boss Emmett Shear	Interim CEO of OpenAI	Interim CEO Mira Murati
Former Chief Justice of Delhi High Court, Justice Rajendra Menon	Reappointed as the Chairman of the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT)	-
Former GAIL (India) Chairman Manoj Jain	Managing Director of City Gas Operator Torrent Gas	-
Former NABARD Chairman, Harsh Kumar Bhanwala	Additional Independent Director of HDFC	-
Goverdhan Singh Rawat and Ajay Kumar Sood	Deputy Managing Directors of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)	-
Hitesh Kumar S Makwana	Surveyor General of India	-
Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Alok Sharma	Director of the Special Protection Group	Arun Kumar Sinha
Information Commissioner Heeralal Samariya	Chief Information Commissioner in Central Information Commission	Y K Sinha
Isha Ambani, Anshuman Thakur,	As the Directors of Jio	-

Name	Designation	Succeeded by
and Hitesh Sethia	Financial Services	
Judge of Madras High Court Justice S Vaidyanathan	Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court	Justice Sanjib Banerjee
Koppu Sadashiv Murthy	Chairman& MD of the Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL)	-
Lakshmi Ramakrishna Srinivas	Additional Director at South Indian Bank	-
Mahindra Group's Anish Shah	President-Elect of FICCI for 2023-24	Subhrakant Panda
Manoranjan Mishra	Executive Director of Reserve Bank of India	-
National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has appointed Pankaj Tripathi	As its 'UPI Safety Ambassador'	-
Rajat Kumar Jain	Part-Time Chairman of Fino Payments Bank	-
Rajneesh Goel	40th Chief Secretary of Karnataka	Vandita Sharma
Sanjay Kallapur and Professor R.Narayanaswamy	As Part-time Members of the National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)	-
Santosh Kumar Jha	Chairman& MD of Konkan Railway Corporation Ltd	-
Venkat Nageswar Chalasani	Chief Executive of the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)	NS Venkatesh
Vinay M Tonse	MD of State Bank of India	Swaminathan Janakiraman



**International Appointments**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Succeeded by</b>
Bangladesh PM Hasinsa's daughter Saima Wazed	Regional Director for the WHO's South-East Asia Region	Poonam Khetrapal Singh
Senior Indian diplomat Surendra Adhana	Re-elected to serve on the 21 Members Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions at the UN	-
Cabinet Director Nadir Larbaoui	Prime Minister of Algeria	Aymen Ben Abderrahmane
Pedro Sanchez	Re-elected as the Prime Minister of Spain	-
Indian-American Shakuntla L Bhaya	As the member of Council of the Administrative Conference of the US	-
Luv Frieden	23rd Prime Minister of Luxembourg	Xavier Bettel
Javier Milei	President of Argentina	Alberto Fernández
Girish Chandra Murmu, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India	Vice-Chair of the United Nations (UN) Panel of External Auditors for 2024, which comprises Heads of 12 Supreme Audit Institutions globally	-
Robert Shetkintong	As the High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Mozambique	-
Andry Rajoelina	Reelected as the President of Madagascar	-

**Brand Ambassadors**

Name	Brand Ambassador
Chetan Bhagat	Brand Ambassador of Henry Harvin Education
Cricketer and Ex-President of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, Sourav Ganguly	Brand Ambassador of West Bengal

**BOOKS AND AUTHORS**

Book Name	Author Name	Published by
"Do Palkon Ki Chhavn Main"	Academician Dr Hema Joshi	-
"Thread by Thread: The S.Kumar's Story"	Sathya Saran	Penguin Random House
"Pranab, My Father: A Daughter Remembers"	Sharmishtha Mukherjee (Pranab Mukherjee's Daughter)	Rupa Publications
'Welcome to Paradise'	Twinkle Khanna	-

**OBITUARY**

- Eminent Singer, Musicologist and Writer Leela Omchery passed away in New Delhi at the age of 94
- Former Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI) Dhruva Narayan Ghosh
- Former US Astronaut Frank Borman passed away at the age of 95
- Senior BJP leader and Former Governor of Nagaland Padmanabha Acharya passed away in Mumbai
- Veteran Television Director Robert Butler passed away at the age of 95
- Founder and Chairman of Bikanervala, Lala Kedarnath Aggarwal passed away at the age of 86
- Chairman of the Emeritus of the Oberoi Group, Prithvi Raj Singh Oberoi passed away at the age of 94
- Sahara Group Chief Subrata Roy (popularly known as 'Sahasri') passed away at the age of 75 in Mumbai

- Freedom Fighter and Veteran Communist Movement and Senior CPI (M) leader N Sankaraiah died at the age of 101
- Renowned Art Historian and Critic Brijinder Nath Goswamy passed away in Chandigarh
- Booker-prize winning British novelist Antonia Susan Byatt, known as A.S. Byatt has passed away at the age of 87
- Former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, S. Venkitaramanan passed away
- Former first lady of US Rosalynn Carter passed away at the age of 96
- Malayalam Novelist and Short Story Writer P Valsala passed away at the age of 85
- Former Mr India Title Holder and Veteran Body Builder of Manipur, Nongthombam Maipak passed away at the age of 88
- India's 1st Woman Judge of Supreme Court, Justice Fathima Beevi passed away in Kollam at the age of 96
- Nobel Peace Prize Winner and former American Diplomat Henry Alfred Kissinger passed away at the age of 100
- Veteran Photojournalist Zaverilal Mehta passed away at the age of 97 in Ahmedabad, Gujarat

### **DEFENCE**

- Indian Navy has test-fired a BrahMos missile from its warship in the Bay of Bengal of the Eastern Command of the Indian Navy
- Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Ship Samar was decommissioned with full honours in a traditional armed forces ceremony held at Coast Guard Jetty
- Indian Army has added an addition of 6 heavy-duty Apache attack helicopters armed with Stinger air-to-air missiles, Hellfire Longbow air-to-ground missiles, guns and rockets
- Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel unveiled the Crest of Indian Navy's indigenous under-construction, guided missile destroyer of Project 15B 'Surat'
- Indian Army and the Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS) jointly organised Chanakya Defence Dialogue 2023
- Spear corps warriors of the Indian Army successfully fired the New Generation Rocket and Turret ammunition from Rudra, the 1st Indigenous Attack Helicopter
- Eastern Air Command of the Indian Air Force conducted the 'Poorvi Akash' a mega aerial exercise to test its major weapon systems
- Indian Navy Sailing Championship (INSC) 2023 was conducted at the Indian Naval Watermanship Training Center (INWTC) in Mumbai



- Bengaluru-based Flying Wedge Defense and Aerospace has become the 1st-ever entity to secure DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) Type Certification
- Indian Navy's 4th Anti-Submarine Warfare Craft 'Amini' launched - 'Amini' is an Arnala class of ship for the Indian Navy, launched at L&T Shipbuilding's facility in Kattupalli, Tamil Nadu, is designed to undertake anti-submarine operations in coastal waters and also low intensity maritime operations (LIMO) and mine laying operations.
- The Indian Navy launched the 'Missile Cum Ammunition Barge, LSAM 10 (Yard 78)'
- Indian Coast Guard's 9th National Level Pollution Response Exercise (NATPOLREX-IX) 2023 is held in Vadinar, Gujarat
- The Indian Coast Guard and the India Navy will acquire 15 C-295 transport aircraft in India for Maritime Surveillance
- The maiden edition of the high level virtual interaction MAHASAGAR was hosted by the Indian Navy
- Third Ammunition Cum Torpedo Cum Missile (ACTCM) Barge, LSAM 17 (Yard 127) has been Delivered to Indian Navy



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