

# **Current Affairs of October 2023**

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## National

### Jammu And Kashmir's Renowned Pashmina Craft Receives GI Tag

- **Basohli Pashmina**, an age-old traditional craft originating from the picturesque district of **Kathua** in **Jammu and Kashmir**, has recently earned the prestigious **Geographical Indication (GI)** tag.
- Basohli Pashmina is renowned for its **exceptional softness, fineness, and feather-like weight**. Crafted by skilled artisans using traditional hand-spinning techniques, this exquisite fabric has been a symbol of luxury and elegance for over a century. Its hallmark is its remarkable ability to provide warmth without adding bulk, making it an ideal choice for cold climates and discerning fashion enthusiasts.
- The **Department of Industries and Commerce**, in collaboration with **NABARD Jammu and Human Welfare Association, Varanasi**, played a pivotal role in securing the GI tag for Basohli Pashmina. This achievement was the result of concerted efforts to preserve and promote this craft, recognizing its cultural significance and economic potential.

### Bihar Caste Census Reveals Demographic Insights

- The Bihar government recently released the results of its caste survey, shedding light on the state's demographic composition. The survey provides valuable data on caste distribution in Bihar.
- **Here are the key findings from the Bihar caste survey:** Extremely Backward Class (EBC) comprises 36.01% of the population. Other Backward Class (OBC) constitutes 27.13% of the population.
- Scheduled Caste (SC) population stands at 19.65%. Scheduled Tribe (ST) population is 1.68%. General Caste population is 15.52%. Yadavs represent 14% of the population. Hindus make up 82% of the population. Muslims account for 17.71%.

### Glacial Lake Burst In Sikkim Causes Devastation

- At least seven people have lost their lives, and a significant number remain injured or missing in the wake of flash floods that struck Sikkim on October 4. These devastating floods were triggered when a glacial

lake, formed by the gradual melting of a Himalayan glacier, unexpectedly overflowed, leading to the inundation of the Teesta river basin.

- The floods originated from the sudden overflow of the South Lhonaklake, located at an altitude of approximately 5,200 meters above sea level. This catastrophic event resulted in the destruction of the Chungthang dam, a critical component of Sikkim's largest hydroelectric project, and caused extensive damage to highways, villages, and towns.
- The Chungthang dam, a concrete-rock structure, was breached at its center due to the force and speed of the surging water, estimated at nearly 54 kilometers per hour. The suddenness of the event left little time for warnings or preventive measures.

### Coca-Cola India Rolls Out 100% Recycled PET Bottles For Small Packs

- Beverage company **Coca-Cola India** made a significant announcement on Wednesday, unveiling its latest sustainability initiative with the launch of **fully recycled PET bottles** for its flagship Coca-Cola brand.
- These bottles are available in pack sizes of **250 ml** and **750 ml**, and they are set to be distributed across various markets in the country. The move comes as part of Coca-Cola's global commitment to reducing its environmental footprint.
- This initiative is part of the company's broader sustainable packaging platform, which also includes a commitment to collect and recycle the equivalent of one bottle or can for every one sold globally by 2030. Furthermore, Coca-Cola aims to make **100% of its packaging recyclable by 2025**.

### Sarakka Central Tribal University Approved For Telangana

- On **October 4th**, the Union Cabinet approved the establishment of a tribal university in **Telangana**, named **The Sarakka Central Tribal University**. This university, with a budget of **Rs 889 crore**, will be located in **Mulugu district**.
- The initiative was a commitment made by the Central government as a part of the **Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014**, which aimed to support

both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in establishing tribal universities.

- **Sammakka-Sarakka**, a mother-daughter duo, holds a special place in the local **tribal folklore**. Sammakka, married to PagididdaRaju, a Kakatiya dynasty chief, played a pivotal role in protesting against oppressive taxes imposed by local rulers. Sarakka, one of her daughters, lost her life in the battle, and Sammakka disappeared into the hills, believed to have transformed into a vermillion casket.

### PMModi Inaugurated The Country's First High-Tech Sports Training Center

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the country's first high-tech sports training centre for Divyangjan, named after former **Prime Minister**



**Shri AtalBihari Vajpayee, in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.**

- This initiative aims to provide equal opportunities in sports, enhance talent, and encourage participation in various sports disciplines. Divyangjan from all over the country can practice and train in the **AtalBihari Training Center for Divyang Sports**.
- The AtalBihari Training Centre for Disability Sports is a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to training and nurturing athletes with disabilities. It houses world-class infrastructure and coaching staff to provide the best possible training environment for differently-abled athletes.

### Centre Extends SBI Chairman Dinesh Khara's Tenure Until August 2024

- Centre has decided to extend the tenure of **Mr. Dinesh Khara** as the **Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI)**, the nation's largest lender, until **August** of the following year. Mr. Khara's tenure, which began on **October 7, 2020**, for a three-year term, is now set to continue until he reaches the age of **63**.



- Mr. Khara has been the **Managing Director and CEO of SBI Mutual Fund** from November 2013 to August 2016. In August 2016, Mr. Khara was appointed as the **Managing Director (MD)** of the **State Bank of India**. Beyond his academic qualifications, Mr. Khara is also a **Certified Associate of the Indian Institute of Bankers (CAIIB)**.
- Dinesh Khara has a remarkable career trajectory within the State Bank of India. He embarked on his journey with the bank as a probationary officer in **1984**. He has played a pivotal role in overseeing the merger of **five associates and the BhartiyaMahila Bank with SBI**.

### Nokia Opens 6G Lab Facility In Bengaluru

- Telecom giant **Nokia** has made a significant stride towards the future of wireless technology with the establishment of its state-of-the-art **6G lab** at the company's global R&D center in **Bengaluru, India**.
- This "**first-of-its-kind**" project is set to revolutionize the way we perceive and interact with the digital and physical worlds. The primary objective is to **accelerate the development of fundamental technologies** and innovative use cases that will shape the future of wireless communication.
- One aspect of Nokia's 6G lab is its research into "**network as a sensor**" technology which enables wireless networks to act as sensors, capable of perceiving objects, people, and movement without the need for traditional on-board sensors. Nokia's 6G lab aims to **fully integrate sensing capabilities** into the wireless network infrastructure.

### Rajasthan To Have Three New Districts: CM Ashok Gehlot

- **Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot** recently revealed plans to establish three new districts in the state: **Malpura, Sujangarh, and Kuchman City**.
- This development comes ahead of the upcoming Assembly election, bringing the total number of **districts in Rajasthan to 53**.
- The state government had previously created 17 new districts in August of the same year. This move is part of the government's efforts to address public demands



and align with recommendations from a high-level committee.

### India To Host World's Largest Textiles Event, Bharat Tex 2024

- India is set to host the upcoming **Bharat Tex 2024 Expo**, scheduled to take place from **February 26-29**, next year. The event will showcase India's capabilities as a reliable supplier of textile products, spanning the entire value chain, all under one roof.
- With an exhibition area spread across **2,00,000 square meters**, Bharat Tex 2024 Expo has been conceived as the **largest textile fair in the world** in terms of exhibition area
- Minister Goyal emphasized that it would provide a platform for **weavers, craftsmen**, and the **handloom sector** to showcase their skills and what's possible on a global stage. He also asserted that this event will not just set the benchmark for future endeavors but also highlight India's true capabilities and strengths as a global player.



### NCERT To Replace 'India' With 'Bharat' In Upcoming Books

- In a significant move, the **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** has given its approval to replace the term "**India**" with "**Bharat**" in all textbooks across the country.
- One of the most talked-about proposals is to replace the name '**India**' with '**Bharat**' in textbooks. This change is expected to reflect the traditional and indigenous name for the country. The idea behind this recommendation is to emphasize the historical and cultural significance of the name 'Bharat' while acknowledging the nation's rich heritage.
- The committee has also suggested a shift from '**ancient history**' to '**classical history**' in the **curriculum**. This change aims to provide a more nuanced and comprehensive understanding of India's historical evolution. It could entail a focus on specific periods or aspects of India's history that are considered classical, offering a deeper exploration of the nation's past.

### Lay's Announces Mahendra Singh Dhoni As Brand Ambassador

- Lay's announces cricketer **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** as its brand ambassador, starring in a campaign – '**No Lay's, No Game.**' Lay's is set to introduce the 'No Lay's No Game' campaign to the Indian audience, globally acclaimed for its association with sports tournaments.
- As Dhoni knocks on different doors, he receives a series of reactions, ranging from astonishment to exhilaration and even searches for Lay's. The TVC encapsulates the blend of the sports-watching experience, Lay's, and fan enjoyment, culminating in the resounding message, '**No Lay's, No Game.**'

### Mumbai Second Most Polluted Major Global City As Air Quality Worsens

- India is grappling with severe air pollution issues, with **Mumbai** ranking as the second most polluted city according to **IQAir**, a leading air quality measurement company. **Delhi**, the capital, also faces significant air quality challenges, ranking sixth globally. **The air quality index (AQI)** measures pollution levels, indicating the health risks associated with breathing the air
- Mumbai's AQI reached 160**, far surpassing the safe limit, with fine particulate matter (PM2.5) concentration being **14.7 times** higher than the **World Health Organization's** guidelines. **Delhi**, too, experienced dangerous pollution levels, exceeding the guidelines by 9.8 times.
- A study published in **The Lancet** revealed that around **1.6 million** deaths in India in 2019 were attributed to air pollution. The economic toll was staggering, amounting to billions of dollars in losses, with premature deaths accounting for **\$28.8 billion** and morbidity adding **\$8 billion** to the burden.

### Skyroot Aerospace Unveils Vikram-1 Rocket, Scheduled For Full Launch Next Year

- Dr. Jitendra Singh, the Union Minister of Science and Technology, unveiled **Skyroot's Vikram-1 orbital rocket** in **Hyderabad** on Tuesday, October 24th. Dr. Singh also inaugurated Skyroot Aerospace's new global headquarters in **Hyderabad**, named **MAX-Q**.
- Skyroot's Vikram-1 is described as a "**technologically advanced**, multi-stage launch vehicle with a payload capacity of approximately **300 Kg** to Low Earth Orbit.



It is an all-carbon-fiber-bodied rocket equipped with 3D printed liquid engines.

- **MAX-Q** is described as “the country’s largest private rocket development facility under a single roof.” MAX-Q is equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure, encompassing integrated design, manufacturing, and testing facilities for space launch vehicles.

### PM Modi To Attend The Installation Of Lord Ram’s Idol At Ayodhya Temple On January 22

- The **Shri Ram Janambhoomi Trust** extended a significant invitation to **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, asking him to attend the installation of **Lord Ram’s idol** in the ‘**Garbhagriha**’ of the Ram Mandir at the Ayodhya temple, which Prime Minister Modi politely accepted.



- With the ground-level construction of the three-story Ram temple now completed, the temple trust has chosen **Makar Sankranti**, January 14, as the date for the commencement of Ram Lalla’s consecration.
- This occasion is set to be an incredible milestone in the history of Ayodhya and India, symbolizing a fulfillment of a long-cherished dream for millions of people. As Prime Minister Modi graces the occasion on **January 22**, the nation will witness the culmination of a decades-long journey towards the realization of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.

### Govt Gives Nod To Jamrani Dam Multipurpose Project In Uttarakhand

- The Indian central government has given the green light to include the **Jamrani Dam Multipurpose Project** in Uttarakhand under the **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana-Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (PMKSY-AIBP)**.
- The **Jamrani Dam** project involves the construction of a dam near **Jamrani village**, which is situated on the **Gola River**, a tributary of the **Ram Ganga River** in the **Nainital** district of **Uttarakhand**.
- The Central government will provide **Rs 1,557 crore** to Uttarakhand for the completion of the Jamrani Dam project. The entire project is estimated to cost **Rs**

**2,584 crore** and is expected to be finished by **March 2028**.

### PM Modi Inaugurated 37th Edition Of National Games In Panaji, Goa

- The **37th National Games** were officially inaugurated by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** in a ceremony held in **Panaji, Goa**. The event witnessed a massive gathering of sports enthusiasts and supporters, who eagerly awaited the commencement of this sporting spectacle.
- The 37th edition of the National Games has marked a historic moment as it is being held in Goa for the very **first time**. The Games, a prestigious sporting event in India, commenced on October 26 and will run until **November 9**, bringing together more than 10,000 athletes from across the country.
- The **Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium** at Fatorda in South Goa serves as the primary venue for these games, providing a platform for athletes to showcase their skills and talents. Prime Minister Modi also mentioned his representation of India’s aspirations to host the **Youth Olympics in 2030** and the **Olympics in 2036**, reinforcing the country’s dedication to the global sporting community.



### PM Modi Inaugurated The 7th Edition Of Indian Mobile Congress (IMC) In New Delhi

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **7th Edition** of the **India Mobile Congress** at **Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi**. This prestigious event brought together leading figures from the **telecommunications industry** to showcase cutting-edge technologies, discuss vital issues, and promote innovation.
- During the event, **Akash Ambani** introduced **Reliance Jio’s** groundbreaking initiative – **Space Fibre**, India’s **first** satellite-based giga fibre service capable of delivering internet speeds of up to **1 Gbps**. Furthermore, the **Jio Bharat device**, offering 4G services, was on display at the Jio pavilion.



- At the Mobile Congress, **Bharti Enterprises** showcased the “**future of innovation**” with technologies like **5G Plus**, **AI-enabled tech**, and other digital infrastructure solutions. These advancements are set to revolutionize the telecommunications landscape in India.

### What Is The Digital India Act 2023?

- The recent introduction of the **Digital India Act 2023 (DIA)** led by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY)**, demonstrates a proactive stance in governing and molding India’s digital future.
- The **Digital India Act 2023** aims to harmonize and consolidate digital laws in India, working alongside other key legislation like the **Digital Personal Data Protection Act**, **National Data Governance Policy** and **Indian Penal Code amendments for cybercrime**. Together, these laws create a framework to govern India’s digital realm.
- The Digital India Act 2023 is a forward-looking legal framework designed to cater to India’s burgeoning digital economy. The act provides an easily accessible adjudicatory mechanism for addressing online civil and criminal offenses, delivering timely remedies and enforcing the rule of law on the internet.

### Solar And Lunar Eclipse In October 2023

- October 2023** is set to be a remarkable month for astronomy enthusiasts and stargazers around the world. It will mark a rare celestial event when both **Solar and Lunar eclipses** will grace the night skies.
- On **October 14, 2023**, stargazers can witness an **annular solar eclipse**, where the sun forms a mesmerizing “**ring of fire**” around the moon. The spectacle will grace the night sky, **commencing at 11:29 PM and concluding at 11:34 PM (New Delhi Time)**.
- On **28<sup>th</sup> October 2023**, the moon will gracefully traverse through Earth’s shadow, creating a **partial lunar eclipse**. This captivating lunar spectacle will unfold **between 01:06 and 02:23 IST**. Stargazers in various regions, including **Asia, America, Europe and Africa**, will be treated to this celestial spectacle. In New Delhi, the lunar eclipse will **commence at 11:31 PM and conclude at 03:36 AM**.

### Kerala Becomes First State With Hallmarking Centers In Every District

- Kerala**, the southern state of India, has achieved a remarkable milestone by inaugurating a hallmarking centre in **Idukki**. This achievement has solidified Kerala’s position as the **first state** in India to establish **hallmarking centres** in all of its **14 districts**.
- The **Bureau of Indian Standards** mandated the practice of hallmarking with the primary goal of protecting consumers, especially those who might not be well-versed with the intricacies of the gold market, from potential exploitation by unscrupulous jewelers.
- Hallmarking serves as a vital tool in ensuring the accurate determination and official recording of the proportionate content of precious metal in jewelry, artifacts, bullion, and coins.



### Mukesh Ambani Surpasses Gautam Adani As India’s Richest On Hurun List

- According to the **360 ONE Wealth Hurun India Rich List for 2023** released recently, Reliance Industries chairman **Mukesh Ambani** has surged ahead of Adani Group’s **Gautam Adani** to claim the title of the **richest Indian**.
- Mukesh Ambani**, the chairman of Reliance Industries, saw his wealth grow by a modest 2 percent, reaching a staggering **Rs 8.08 lakh crore**. This significant wealth increment has solidified his position as the wealthiest individual in India.
- Cyrus Poonawalla**, the Managing Director and Chairman of Serum Institute of India (SII), retained his position as the **third wealthiest individual in India**. His fortune experienced an impressive 36 percent jump, reaching **Rs 2.78 lakh crore**.
- Shiv Nadar**, the founder and chairman of HCL Technologies, maintained his position as the **fourth richest Indian**. His wealth increased by 23 percent to reach **Rs 2.28 lakh crore**.

### Operation Ajay Set To Evacuate Indian Nationals From Israel





- **India** has launched **Operation Ajay**, a dedicated initiative to facilitate the safe return of its citizens from **Israel** amidst the ongoing developments in the region. External Affairs Minister **Dr S Jaishankar** announced this operation, emphasizing the government's commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of Indian nationals abroad.
- Special charter flights and other arrangements are being organized to bring back Indian citizens from Israel. The Indian Embassy in Israel has initiated contact with registered Indian citizens, starting with the first group, for the special flight. Subsequent flights will follow, and communication will be made accordingly.
- A 24-hour Control Room has been established to monitor the situation and assist Indian nationals. Indian nationals in the region are urged to stay calm, vigilant, and follow security advisories issued by the authorities.

### Udaipur Set To Become India's First Wetland City

- The **Rajasthan government**, in collaboration with the **Environment and Forest Department**, is making concerted efforts to elevate **Udaipur**, also known as the 'City of Lakes,' to international prominence by aiming to become **India's first wetland city**.
- Udaipur, with its striking natural beauty and ecological significance, is poised to fulfill all the requirements stipulated by the Ramsar Convention. Covering an area of **37 square kilometers**, the city is graced by five major lakes – **Pichola, Fateh Sagar, Rang Sagar, Swaroop Sagar, and Doodh Talai**.
- The Ramsar Convention, officially known as the **Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat**, is a global treaty designed to protect and sustainably utilize wetlands of international importance.



### RITES Ltd Granted 'Navratna' Status: India's 16th Central Public Sector Enterprise

- **RITES Ltd**, a prominent **Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)** under the Ministry of Railways, has achieved the prestigious '**Navratna**' status, becoming the **16th CPSE** in India to be granted this distinction.
- RITES Ltd is known for providing transport infrastructure consultancy, railway inspection, rolling stock leasing and maintenance, and various related services. The achievement of Navratna status acknowledges its contribution to the nation's growth and development.
- To achieve Navratna status, a PSU must also meet specific financial benchmarks, including:
  - A net profit of over **Rs 5,000 crore** for three consecutive years.
  - An average annual turnover of **Rs 25,000 crore** for three years.
  - An average annual net worth exceeding **Rs 15,000 crore** for three years.

### Ninth G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20) and Parliamentary Forum

- The **Ninth P20 Summit**, in collaboration with the **International Parliamentary Union (IPU)**, is hosted by the **Parliament of India**. This significant event will take place in New Delhi on **13-14 October 2023**, with a Pre-Summit Parliamentary Forum scheduled for **12 October 2023**.
- The summit's theme, "**Parliaments for One Earth, One Family, One Future**," derives its essence from the ancient **Indian philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**, emphasizing the interconnectedness of the world as one family.
- Addressing global challenges by focusing on strategies and collaborations to accelerate the achievement of **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** outlined by the United Nations. This session also aims to empower women, promote gender equality, and create opportunities for their active participation in shaping sustainable economies.



### Global Hunger Index 2023: India's Decline to 111th Place

- In the latest **Global Hunger Index (GHI)** for 2023, India has been ranked 111 out of 125 countries, marking a decline from its 107th position in 2022. The GHI is an annual assessment of hunger levels globally, published by **Irish NGO Concern Worldwide** and **German NGO Welt Hunger Hilfe**.



- Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Chile, China and Croatia** are the top five countries in GHI 2023. **Chad, Niger, Lesotho, Congo, Yemen, Madagascar, and Central African Republic** are the countries ranked at the bottom of the index.
- In comparison to neighboring countries, India's GHI ranking appears stark:
  - India: 111th
  - Pakistan: 102nd
  - Bangladesh: 81st
  - Nepal: 69th
  - Sri Lanka: 60th

### CM Hemant Soren Unveils 'Juhi' Mascot For Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2023

- In a vibrant ceremony at Project Bhawan in Dhurva, Ranchi, Jharkhand, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Jharkhand, **Hemant Soren**, unveiled the mascot for the upcoming **Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2023**. '**Juhi**,' the mascot, takes inspiration from the beloved elephant at Betla National Park.
- The event also marked the initiation of the Trophy Tour for the Jharkhand Women's Asian Champions Trophy Ranchi 2023. The magnificent trophy will embark on a tour across all districts of the state, commencing on October 13, 2023. The Trophy Tour will conclude on October 25, 2023, with the trophy returning to Ranchi, setting the stage for the tournament's commencement.
- The unveiling of the mascot 'Juhi' and the launch of the Trophy Tour mark the exciting countdown to the Women's Asian Champions Trophy Ranchi 2023. With a rich cultural symbol and the support of



esteemed dignitaries, the tournament promises to be a celebration of athleticism, heritage, and unity.

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

- The prominent Indian food tech company, **Zomato**, has introduced a hyperlocal delivery service called '**Xtreme**'. This service aims to leverage the extensive fleet of over 3 lakh two-wheeler delivery executives that Zomato has at its disposal.
- Xtreme offers a versatile solution for businesses and individual users by allowing them to **ship small parcels of items** that encompass a wide spectrum of products, including documents, medicines, food, groceries, apparel, cosmetics, and more. These parcels can weigh **up to 10 kg**, making it a flexible option for a variety of delivery needs.
- Xtreme is designed to cater to the needs of both **small and large businesses** for the intracity delivery of small packages. The service has already been rolled out in nearly 750-800 cities where Zomato provides food delivery and is accessible via a separate app.

### PM Modi To Inaugurate 141st IOC Session In Mumbai

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** is set to inaugurate the 141st International Olympic Committee (IOC) session at the **Jio World Centre** in Mumbai on October 14.
- This marks India's second time hosting the IOC session, following a gap of nearly four decades since the **86th IOC session** was held in New Delhi in 1983. The previous event in New Delhi laid the groundwork for the growth of sports in India.
- The IOC session serves as a pivotal platform for making critical decisions concerning the future of the Olympic Games and facilitates interaction and knowledge exchange among stakeholders in the world of sports. The event fosters collaboration and knowledge sharing among various stakeholders in the sports world.

### Mumbai Secures 19th Spot, Bengaluru 22nd And New Delhi 25th In The Knight Frank Index





- London-based property consultant, **Knight Frank**, has recently unveiled its Global Prime Residential Index, providing insight into the performance of various cities across the world in the residential real estate market.
- With an astonishing annual percentage change of six percent, **Mumbai** has ascended 76 places to secure the **19th position** on the index, a significant improvement from its **95th position in Q2 2022**.
- Bengaluru, known as India's Silicon Valley, stands as the **second-highest ranked Indian city** on the index. The city has moved up to the **22nd position** from the 77th spot in Q2 2022, showcasing the strong growth it has witnessed.
- New Delhi, the national capital of India, secured the **25th position** on the Global Prime Residential Index. Chennai and Kolkata, two other major Indian cities, have been ranked 4th and 5th, respectively, among Indian cities and globally stood at the **39th and 40th positions**.

#### One Nation One Student ID Card – APAAR ID

- The Ministry of Education and Government of India has initiated the **APAAR ID**, known as the “**One Nation One Student ID Card**.” This groundbreaking program aims to digitally centralize academic data, including degrees, scholarships, rewards, and other credits for students.
- The One Nation One Student ID Card, APAAR ID, is a significant step towards a more organized and accessible academic experience for students in India. By registering and downloading your APAAR ID, one can unlock various benefits and conveniently store his/her academic records.

#### SC Refers Electoral Bond Case To 5-Judge Constitution Bench

- The **Supreme Court** decided to refer a group of petitions challenging the **electoral bond scheme** for political party funding to a five-judge **Constitution bench**. The bench, led by Chief Justice **D Y Chandrachud**, received an urgent application requesting a conclusive judgment. The matter is set to be heard on October 30.
- Electoral bonds are introduced as an alternative to providing cash donations to political parties. This change aims to make political funding more transparent and accountable.

- There are four **Public Interest Litigations (PILs)** pending on this issue, indicating the public interest and concern regarding the electoral bond scheme. One of the PIL petitioners had stated in March that a substantial amount, totaling **Rs 12,000 crore**, had been paid to political parties through electoral bonds.

#### Supreme Court Dismisses Appeal To Legalise Same-Sex Marriage

- India's **Supreme Court** recently made a significant decision, **declining an appeal to legalize same-sex marriages** in the country, dealing a blow to LGBTQ rights in one of the world's most populous nations.



- Chief Justice **Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud** emphasized that issues like same-sex marriage should be **within the domain of the parliament**, highlighting the court's commitment to steering clear of policy matters.
- Chandrachud also called for measures to prevent discrimination against LGBTQ individuals. This includes the **establishment of hotlines and safe houses for vulnerable members** of the LGBTQ community.

#### Jharkhand First State To Take Steps To Ensure Minimum Wages For Workers

- **Jharkhand** is making history by becoming the first state in India to take steps towards including gig workers, such as **Swiggy, Zomato, Ola, Uber, and Rapido employees**, under the ambit of minimum wages. This initiative is a significant move towards ensuring fair compensation for those in the gig economy.
- Jharkhand's groundbreaking move to consider minimum wages for gig workers and review minimum wage standards for other laborers is a significant step toward ensuring fair compensation for workers in various sectors. A committee has been formed by the Jharkhand State Minimum Wage Advisory Council, under the state's labor department, to address this issue.

- The primary objective of this committee is to study the working conditions of gig workers, including those in the delivery and ride-hailing services. Based on their findings, the committee will make recommendations regarding minimum wages for these workers.

### India And UK Hold First 2+2 Foreign And Defence Dialogue In New Delhi

- The inaugural **India-UK '2+2' foreign and defence dialogue** was held in New Delhi. The dialogue saw both sides focusing on ways to enhance cooperation in **various critical areas** such as trade and investment, defense, critical technologies, civil aviation, health, and energy.
- In addition to bilateral cooperation, the dialogue also delved into international developments, with particular attention to the **Indo-Pacific region**. Both countries share a vision for peace, stability, and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific, emphasizing the importance of a free, open, and inclusive region.
- The dialogue explored the possibility of enhancing collaboration in areas such as **counterterrorism, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), and maritime security**. These discussions reflect the commitment of both nations to working together to address global challenges and ensure the safety and security of the region.



### 'Gadkari': The Biopic Of 'Expressway Man Of India'

- A biographical film about **Nitin Gadkari**, who serves as the Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, is scheduled for release on **October 27th**. Titled '**Gadkari**,' the movie will explore different facets of his life.
- Actor **Rahul Chopda** has been cast to portray the role of Nitin Gadkari in this biopic. The Marathi movie, presented by **Abhijit Majumdar**, is produced



by **Akshay Anant Deshmukh** and directed by **Anurag Ranjan Bhusari**.

- The film celebrates his inspiring journey, from a common political worker to becoming a distinguished Cabinet Minister. From his humble beginnings as an ordinary **Jan Sangh activist**, he has risen to become a prominent leader in the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and a driving force in India's infrastructure development.

### India's First Semi-High-Speed Regional Rail Service 'Namo Bharat'

- Previously known as **RapidX**, country's **first** semi-high-speed regional rail service, **Namo Bharat** marks the introduction of the Regional Rapid Train Service (RRTS) in India. These trains are designed with the utmost passenger convenience and safety in mind. Moreover, these trains offer features such as **overhead luggage racks, Wi-Fi connectivity, and mobile and laptop charging outlets** at every seat.
- Fare structures for Namo Bharat have been meticulously designed, taking into account the distance or stations covered. The minimum fare for the premium coach is set at **Rs 40**, with a maximum fare of **Rs 100**. For the five standard coaches operating on the priority section, fares range from a minimum of Rs 20 to a maximum of Rs 50.



### Gaganyaan TV-D1 Mission Takes A Historic Leap

- In a historic moment for India's ambitious human space mission, the **Test Vehicle-D1 (TV-D1)**, designed for the **ISRO's** **Gaganyaan program**, successfully took flight. The launch marked a significant milestone in India's space endeavors.
- The TV-D1 launch aimed to achieve several critical mission objectives. These are: **1. Flight Demonstration and Evaluation of Test Vehicle**



### Subsystems. 2. Crew Escape System Evaluation. 3. Crew Module Characteristics Assessment and 4. Deceleration System Demonstration at Higher Altitudes.

- The successful TV-D1 launch not only signifies a remarkable achievement for India's space program but also reaffirms the nation's commitment to exploring the possibilities of human space travel. As India moves closer to its goal of launching astronauts into space, this mission paves the way for a brighter future in space exploration.

### Tata To Become India's First iPhone Manufacturer As Wistron Approves Factory Sale

- The **Tata Group** has taken a significant step towards manufacturing and assembling **Apple iPhones** in India for both domestic and international markets by acquiring **Wistron's operations in India**.
- Union Minister **Rajeev Chandrasekhar** announced this major venture, which highlights the Tata Group's ambition to establish itself as a key player in the global electronics industry.
- The Tata Group has set an ambitious timeline to commence iPhone production within just two and a half years. This endeavor is expected to bolster India's position as a prominent hub for smartphone manufacturing and exports.
- Wistron, a significant player in the global electronics manufacturing sector, has granted approval for the sale of its operations in India to the Tata Group. This approval is a pivotal step in the process of Tata Group's entry into iPhone manufacturing.



### JioSpaceFiber: India's First Satellite-Based Gigabit Broadband Service

- **Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd**, India's leading telecommunications provider has introduced '**JioSpaceFiber**' satellite broadband service. This groundbreaking initiative was officially unveiled at the **India Mobile Congress** and represents the nation's **first** satellite-driven giga fiber service.
- The primary goal of this satellite broadband service is to **extend high-speed internet access** to previously

underserved and remote regions in India. By enabling this connectivity, Jio aims to bring millions of homes and businesses in India online, many of which are experiencing broadband internet for the first time.

- Akash Ambani, the chairman of Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd, stated that JioSpaceFiber aspires to provide every Indian with the opportunity to fully participate in a booming digital society. The service **offers gigabit-level access** to a wide array of governmental, educational, health, and entertainment services online.

## International

**Indonesia Launches 'Whoosh,' Southeast Asia's First High-Speed Railway**



- Indonesian President **Joko Widodo** officially inaugurated Southeast Asia's first high-speed railway on Monday, marking a significant milestone for the nation's infrastructure development.
- The ambitious project, known as the "**Whoosh**" high-speed railway, is a key component of **China's Belt and Road Initiative** and is poised to dramatically reduce travel times between two vital Indonesian cities: **Jakarta & Bandung**
- "**Whoosh**," which stands for '**Waktu Hemat, Operasi Optimal, Sistem Handal**' in the Indonesian language, translates to 'timesaving, optimal operation, reliable system.' This name reflects the project's commitment to efficiency and reliability.



### Tallest Statue Of B.R. Ambedkar To Be Unveiled In North America On October 14

- The tallest statue of the 'Architect of the Indian Constitution,' **B.R. Ambedkar**, known as the '**Statue of Equality**,' is set to be unveiled in Maryland on October 14. The memorial symbolizes the **enduring ideals of equality and human rights**, reflecting the core principles that Dr. B.R. Ambedkar stood for throughout his life.
- Standing at a towering height of **19 feet**, the 'Statue of Equality' is a testament to the enduring impact of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's work. This monumental sculpture is poised to become the **largest statue of Babasaheb** outside of India.
- The 'Statue of Equality' is the creation of the distinguished artist and sculptor **Ram Sutar**. Mr. Sutar is renowned for his exceptional craftsmanship and previously sculpted the iconic 'Statue of Unity' dedicated to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

### Burevestnik Missile: Russia's Nuclear Missiles Can Now Reach Targets In US

- Russian President **Vladimir Putin** recently announced the successful testing of a new nuclear-powered missile called "**Burevestnik**" during a speech that covered various topics, including nuclear weapons and international relations.
- The **Burevestnik** is a ground-launched, **low-flying cruise missile** with the capability to carry a nuclear warhead. What sets it apart is its nuclear propulsion,

which allows it to remain airborne for an extended period and cover vast distances.

- The International Institute for Strategic Studies suggested in 2021 that the Burevestnik missile could have a theoretical range of up to **20,000 kilometers**, making it capable of striking targets in the **United States** from various locations in **Russia**. Additionally, the missile operates at a low altitude (**50-100 meters**), making it challenging for air-defense radar systems to detect.

### Russia Delivers Uranium For Bangladesh's Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant

- **Bangladesh** recently received its first shipment of **uranium from Russia**, which will be used to fuel the country's **Rooppur nuclear power plant**. The plant, financed and constructed by **Russia's Rosatom**, is a significant project aimed at enhancing Bangladesh's electrical grid and supporting its growing economy.



- The **Rooppur** power plant, located in **Ishwardi, Bangladesh**, will generate **2,400 megawatts** of electricity when both units are fully operational. This capacity will provide electricity to approximately **15 million** households in Bangladesh, making a substantial contribution to the nation's energy needs.
- Russia has funded the construction of the Rooppur power plant with an **\$11.38 billion** loan. Bangladesh will begin repaying this loan over a period of two decades, starting in **2027**. Once the Rooppur plant begins production, Bangladesh will join the ranks of over 30 countries with operational nuclear power reactors.

### Escalation Of Israel-Palestine Conflict: "Operation Al-Aqsa Flood" Unleashed By Hamas Sparks Widespread Violence

- The Israel-Palestine conflict has escalated dramatically as Hamas, the armed Palestinian group, initiated "**Operation Al-Aqsa Flood**," firing over

5,000 rockets into Israel. The situation quickly escalated into a full-scale war, resulting in significant casualties and widespread fear among civilians.

- Israeli Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu** declared a state of war, emphasizing the seriousness of the situation. He asserted that this was not a mere operation but a full-blown war. Netanyahu vowed that Hamas would face an unparalleled retaliation.
- The conflict between **Israel and Palestinian militants**, particularly Hamas, dates back to 2007. The latest escalation followed heightened tensions, exacerbated by Israel's closure of borders to Gazan workers. The conflict's toll included both combatants and civilians, with a significant number of casualties reported on both sides.

### **Biden Orders US Ships, Warplanes To Move Closer To Israel**

- Amidst a recent attack by the **Palestinian terrorist organization Hamas**, President **Joe Biden** has promptly demonstrated solidarity with **Israel**. Given its role as a key arms provider to Israel, the United States is dispatching military reinforcements and aid to strengthen Israel's defense capabilities.
- The Pentagon's move to send the aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford and accompanying warships to the eastern Mediterranean, strengthening fighter aircraft squadrons in the region to bolster Israel's defense.
- The rapid provision of additional equipment and resources, including munitions, to the **Israel Defense Forces**, reaffirms the United States' unwavering support for Israel and its people.

### **Israel Imposes Total Siege On Gaza**

- **Hamas** launched a surprise offensive, leading to **Israeli airstrikes on Gaza**. Dozens of Palestinians killed and wounded, with over **570 casualties** reported. More than **123,000 people** displaced in Gaza due to the conflict.
- **Israel** imposed a total siege on the **Gaza Strip** and cut off water supply following a surprise offensive by **Hamas**. The conflict has escalated, causing civilian casualties and displacement.
- Israeli Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu** vowed a strong response, threatening to turn Hamas sites to rubble. Israel imposed a complete siege on Gaza,

impacting **2.3 million people**: no electricity, food, water, or gas.

### **Sri Lanka To Take Over As Chair Of Indian Ocean Rim Association**

- **Sri Lanka** to take over as **Chair of IORA** for the next two years. Foreign Ministers of 16 countries will attend IORA meeting in Colombo including Foreign Ministers of **India, Bangladesh, Mauritius, Iran, Malaysia, and South Africa**.
- The **IORA Council of Ministers** meeting is the highest decision-making body of the Association. It is held annually to discuss and decide on IORA priorities.
- The **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)** is an intergovernmental organisation of **23 member states** and **11 dialogue partners** from **Africa, West Asia, South Asia, South-East Asia, and Oceania**. It was established in **1997** to promote regional cooperation and development.



### **What Is Hamas, The Palestinian Militant Group?**

- In **October 2023**, **Hamas**, an **Islamist militant group** governing the **Gaza Strip**, launched a massive surprise attack on **southern Israel**, killing hundreds of civilians and soldiers and taking dozens as hostages.
- **Hamas**, short for **Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiya (Islamic Resistance Movement)**, was founded in **1987** by **Sheikh Ahmed Yassin**, a Palestinian cleric with ties to the Muslim Brotherhood.
- It emerged during the first intifada as the political arm of the Brotherhood in Gaza. It gained popularity for the social services it provided and as a rejection of **Fatah's** perceived corruption.
- Since Israel's withdrawal from Gaza in **2005**, **Hamas** has been the de facto authority in the territory. It won a majority in the PA's legislature in **2006** and established its government.

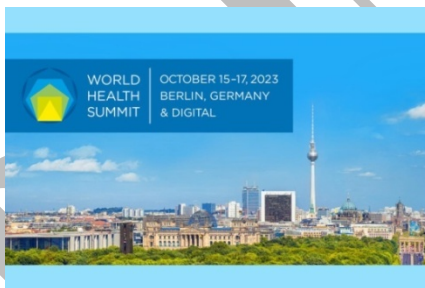
### **Putin In Kyrgystan For First Trip Abroad Since ICC Arrest Warrant**

- Russian President **Vladimir Putin** embarked on his first foreign trip since the **International Criminal Court (ICC)** issued an arrest warrant for him in March, raising international attention and scrutiny. The visit took place in **Kyrgyzstan**, a **Central Asian nation** historically tied to **Moscow**.
- During his meeting with **Kyrgyz President Sadyr Japarov**, Putin emphasized Russia's significance as Kyrgyzstan's top trade partner and largest investor, reaffirming their commitment to mutual cooperation.
- As part of his visit, Putin participated in a ceremony marking the **20th anniversary of Russia's Kant military airbase**, strategically located outside **Bishkek**. This outpost serves as a crucial tool for Moscow to project power in the region, underscoring Russia's geopolitical interests in Central Asia.



### World Health Summit 2023

- The **2023 World Health Summit** took place from October 15 to October 17 under the theme "**A Defining Year for Global Health Action**" in Berlin, Germany, and online.
- This summit fosters international collaboration and open discourse rooted in scientific insights, placing global health at the forefront of political agendas and advancing the global health conversation in alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Non-communicable diseases (NCDs)** have emerged as a significant **global health challenge**, demanding immediate attention and a multi-faceted approach this year.



### PM To Inaugurate Global Maritime India Summit 2023 In Mumbai

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will virtually inaugurate the **third edition of the Global Maritime India Summit 2023 (GMIS 2023)**, set to be held from 17th to 19th October at MMRDA Grounds in **Mumbai**.
- This prestigious maritime event is organized by the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways** and promises to be a significant gathering for the global maritime community.
- **GMIS 2023** provides the ideal platform for unveiling '**Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**,' a comprehensive 25-year roadmap for India's maritime blue economy. This visionary plan outlines strategic initiatives aimed at enhancing port facilities, promoting sustainable practices, and fostering international collaboration.
- One of the most prominent projects is the **Tuna Tekra all-weather deep draft terminal**, which will be constructed at a cost exceeding 4,500 crore rupees at the Deendayal Port Authority in Gujarat. This terminal will play a pivotal role as a gateway for Indian trade within the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor.

### Biden's Visit To Israel Amid Ongoing Conflict

- United States President **Joe Biden** is set to visit **Israel** amid an ongoing conflict with **Hamas fighters**. The trip was confirmed by US Secretary of State **Anthony Blinken**, and the **White House** released an official statement emphasizing strong support for Israel.
- **Biden's** visit comes after **Hamas fighters** breached Israel's heavily fortified Gaza border, initiating a surprise attack. Israel's Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu** declared war on **Hamas**, resulting in significant casualties and destruction.
- President **Biden** will meet with Israel's Prime Minister **Netanyahu** in **Tel Aviv**. He will then travel to Jordan's capital, Amman, for discussions about increasing humanitarian aid to Gaza. In **Amman**, he will meet with Jordan's King Abdullah, Egyptian President **Abdel Fattah el-Sisi**, and the Palestinian

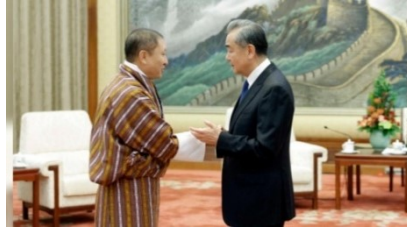




Authority President **Mahmoud Abbas**, who opposes Hamas and governs the **West Bank**.

### Bhutan And China Make Progress In Border Talks

- **China and Bhutan** are working towards resolving their longstanding border disputes. Bhutan's foreign minister visited **Beijing** for talks with his Chinese counterpart, indicating progress in the negotiation process.



- China has disputes with only two of its 14 neighboring countries – **India and Bhutan**. Bhutan and China have ongoing border disputes since the 1980s, specifically in areas like **Jakarlung, Pasamlung, and Doklam**.
- Bhutan maintains that discussions about tri-junction points (involving **India, China, and Bhutan**) can only happen after India and China resolve their border issues. Bhutan is observing how India and China settle their disputes before initiating comprehensive talks regarding tri-junction points.

### Understanding The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) And Its Significance

- **The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)** recently convened its Council of Ministers meeting in **Colombo on October 11**, drawing interest from countries worldwide. Its genesis can be traced back to a speech by former South African President **Nelson Mandela** during a visit to **India in 1995**.
- With **23 member nations** and **11 dialogue partners**, IORA plays a crucial role in fostering regional cooperation around the **Indian Ocean**. These countries include **African, West Asian, South Asian, South East Asian, Australian, and Indian Ocean littoral states**.
- **The Indian Ocean Region** holds immense importance due to its geographical, economic, and strategic relevance. Approximately one-third of the world's population, totaling **2.6 billion people**, resides in this region.

**India To Surpass Japan In 2030 To Become 2nd Largest Economy Of Asia, Says S&P Global**

- **By 2030, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP)** is predicted to reach a whopping **\$7.3 trillion**, making it the **second-largest economy in the Asia-Pacific region**, just after **China**.



- India's GDP, when measured in United States dollars (USD), is predicted to jump from **\$3.5 trillion in 2022** to **\$7.3 trillion by 2030**. This rapid expansion will make India's economy second only to China in the Asia-Pacific region.
- In 2021 and 2022, India experienced rapid economic growth. In 2023, the strong growth trend continued, with the GDP expanding by **7.8% year-on-year** from April to June. This growth remains impressive despite the high comparison base established by the GDP growth of **13.1%** in the same quarter in 2022.

### India Partially Resumes Visa Services For Canadians

- India has now decided to resume visa services for Canadians in four categories: **entry, business, medical reasons, and conferences**. **Emergency cases** will continue to be considered.
- **The India-Canada relationship** faced difficulties due to a dispute over the killing of a **Sikh separatist in British Columbia**. As a result of the strained ties, India suspended visa services for Canadians worldwide.
- The **High Commission of India in Ottawa** and Indian consulates in **Toronto and Vancouver** temporarily halted these services, citing **"safety and security considerations."**



**Dr S. Jaishankar Reaches Bishkek For 22nd SCO Council Of Heads Of Government Meeting**

- Indian External Affairs Minister **S. Jaishankar** recently visited **Kyrgyzstan** for a two-day trip. This visit also includes Jaishankar's participation in a meeting of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)**.



- Jaishankar engaged in discussions with Kyrgyz President **Sadyr Zhaparov** to explore opportunities for enhancing cooperation in **banking, defense, and energy sectors**. They discussed a wide range of areas such as banking, energy, health, pharmaceuticals, defense, agriculture, and investments.
- Jaishankar will participate in the SCO Council of **Heads of Government (CHG)** meeting hosted by **Kyrgyzstan**. This meeting will include key figures like the Russian Foreign Minister **Sergey Lavrov** and the Chinese Foreign Minister **Wang Yi**.
- This visit reflects India's commitment to maintaining and strengthening diplomatic ties within the SCO framework. It aims to promote regional cooperation and meaningful dialogue among member states.

### Republican Mike Johnson Elected New US House Speaker

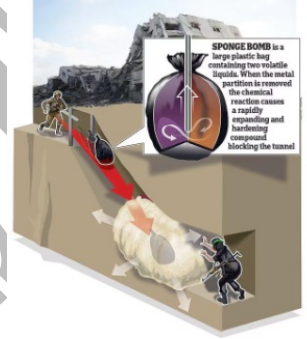
- Mike Johnson**, a relatively lesser-known Republican from Louisiana, has taken the elected as the new speaker of the **US House of Representatives**. He is the first Louisianan to become speaker and the first southerner to serve as speaker since Republican Newt Gingrich of Georgia in the 1990s.
- Johnson was elected to the Louisiana statehouse in 2015 and ran for Congress successfully in 2016. He now represents Louisiana's fourth congressional district. He describes himself as a "Christian, a husband, a father, a life-long conservative, constitutional law attorney and a small business owner".
- The United States House of Representatives, commonly referred to as the House, is one of the two chambers of the United States Congress, the other



being the Senate. It plays a crucial role in the legislative process of the United States and is a fundamental component of the country's federal government.

### Sponge Bombs: Israel's Secret Weapon Against Hamas

- As the conflict between Israel and Hamas escalates, Israeli forces are planning to use an innovative type of bomb referred to as "**sponge bombs**." These sponge bombs have the capability to **seal off the intricate network of tunnels** beneath Gaza without causing explosions.
- Gaza is riddled with an underground infrastructure that reaches **depths of 40-50 meters**. This extensive network includes bunkers, headquarters, storage facilities, and is connected to over a thousand rocket launch sites. These tunnels come in diverse forms, with some stretching for **hundreds of kilometers** and descending as deep as 80 meters below the 360-square-kilometer coastal strip and its surrounding borders.
- "**Sponge bombs**" are explosive devices designed to produce a sudden release of expanding foam that subsequently hardens. The devices are typically encased in protective plastic, with a **metal barrier separating two distinct liquids**. Upon activation, these liquids mix and move towards their intended target. In 2021, during exercises conducted in a simulated tunnel system near the Gaza border, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) were observed using these devices.



### CCI Becomes A Member Of International Competition Network Committee

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has achieved a significant milestone by becoming a part of the prestigious **18-member steering committee** of the **International Competition Network (ICN)**.
- The ICN, which comprises **140 competition agencies** from around the world, is a unique global body dedicated exclusively to competition law enforcement. Its primary purpose is to provide antitrust

authorities with a specialized and informal platform for **maintaining regular contacts and addressing practical competition concerns**.

- The Competition Commission of India's inclusion in the ICN's steering committee is a testament to the regulator's consistent efforts in the field of competition law enforcement. **India's commitment to promoting fair competition** and its proactive engagement in international dialogues have earned it a place among the select few competition authorities that guide the ICN's global initiatives.

### Turkish Republic's 100th Anniversary Celebration

- Turkish Republic celebrated its **100th anniversary**, marking a century since its establishment as a modern, secular state following the collapse of the Ottoman Empire.
- Turkey is a transcontinental country located mainly on the Anatolian Peninsula in Western Asia, with a smaller portion in southeastern Europe. It is bordered by eight countries, including Greece, Bulgaria, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iran, Iraq, and Syria.
- **Ankara** is the capital of Turkey, while **Istanbul** is its largest city and economic hub **Turkish** is the official language of Turkey. The currency of Turkey is the **Turkish Lira (TRY)**.



### EU Report Recommends 2% Global Wealth Tax On Billionaires To Curb Evasion

- The European Union Tax Observatory has published the '**Global Tax Evasion Report 2024**,' calling for a **2% global wealth tax** on billionaires. The report emphasizes the urgent need to combat tax evasion, which enables some billionaires to effectively pay between 0% to 0.5% of their wealth in taxes.
- The report advocates for the implementation of a global minimum tax on billionaires, set at 2% of their



wealth. This measure is expected to address tax evasion and generate approximately **\$250 billion from fewer than 3,000 individuals**.

### India Ranks Third In Fintech Unicorns, With United States At The Top

- According to global research firm **Statista**, India has secured the **third position** in the global fintech landscape with **17 fintech unicorns**. India's top profitable companies include **Zerodha, Billdesk, Paytm, and Paytm**.
- The **United States** and the **United Kingdom** maintain their supremacy in terms of both quantity and value. The US is home to an impressive **134 fintech unicorns**, producing the highest value in the industry. Meanwhile, the **UK ranks second** with **27 fintech unicorns**, making a substantial mark on the global fintech stage.
- China, despite having only eight fintech unicorns, has secured the **fourth position**. Giants like **Tencent** and **Ant Financial** have played a pivotal role in elevating China's overall financial market capitalization to \$338.92 billion.

## Defence



## Indian Air Force Unveils New Ensign On Its 91st Anniversary

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** celebrated its **91st anniversary** at the Bamrauli Air Force Station in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. The occasion was marked by the unveiling of the **new IAF ensign** by Air Chief Marshal **V.R. Chaudhari**.
- This significant event witnessed several historic firsts, including the inclusion of the Air Force crest and the first-ever woman officer to command the Air Force Day Parade. Group Captain Shaliza Dhami made history as the **first woman officer to command the Air Force Day Parade**.
- One of the notable features of the celebration was the introduction of the new IAF ensign. The key change is the **addition of the Air Force crest**, which now graces the top right corner of the ensign, towards the fly side. This symbolic addition reinforces the IAF's commitment to its identity and heritage.



## Indian Air Force Set To Induct Astra BVR Air-To-Air Missile

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** is making significant strides towards enhancing its air defense capabilities with the impending induction of indigenous **Astra Beyond Visual Range (BVR) Air-to-Air Missiles**. The IAF has entered into contracts with **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)** for these advanced missiles, marking a crucial step towards reducing import dependency and bolstering national security.
- The first batch of **Astra-MK1 missiles**, developed by the **Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL)** and Research Centre Imarat (RCI) among other DRDO laboratories, is slated for induction by the end of 2023. BDL has already received Bulk Production Clearance for Astra-MK1 missiles, signifying a significant milestone in indigenous missile production.



## IAF To Stop Flying MiG-21 By 2025: Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari

- Amidst its ongoing efforts to modernize and replace its aging **Russian-origin aircraft**, the Indian Air Force (IAF) has announced plans to retire its iconic **MiG-21 fighter jets** and replace them with the indigenous **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mark 1A**.
- The Air Chief Marshal confirmed that the MiG-21 fighter aircraft would **cease operations by 2025**, with the LCA Mark 1A being the replacement of choice. The MiG-21 has been a stalwart of the Indian Air Force for over **six decades**.
- During the press conference, it was announced that the legendary MiG-21 would participate in what might be its final flypast anywhere in the world. The aircraft has played a pivotal role in safeguarding India's airspace and has been instrumental in various missions and operations.

## India And Bangladesh Annual Joint Military Exercise "SAMPRITI" Begins

- India and Bangladesh** commenced the **11th edition** of their annual joint military exercise, **SAMPRITI**, in **Umroi, Meghalaya**. SAMPRITI-XI involves the participation of 170 personnel from the Bangladesh contingent, led by Brigadier General **Mohammed Mafizul Islam Rashed**, Commander of the 52 Bangladesh Infantry Brigade.
- Since its inception in Jorhat, Assam, in 2009, SAMPRITI has successfully conducted ten editions until 2022. SAMPRITI-XI, spanning 14 days, engages approximately 350 personnel from both sides, emphasizing the significance of enhancing interoperability, sharing tactical drills, and promoting best practices.
- The history of **SAMPRITI dates back to 2009**, when it was first established as a platform for joint military exercises between India and Bangladesh. Over the past decade, this initiative has witnessed substantial growth, becoming a symbol of the strong defence ties between the two nations.



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

- The **Siachen Glacier**, known as the world's highest battlefield, has witnessed a groundbreaking development with the installation of a mobile tower. The **Fire and Fury Corps** of the Indian Army, in collaboration with **Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)**, achieved this remarkable feat, bringing enhanced mobile communication to soldiers deployed at elevations exceeding **15,500 feet**.
- The "**Siachen Warriors**" in partnership with BSNL erected the first-ever **BSNL Base Transceiver Station (BTS)** at forward posts in the Siachen Glacier region. This strategic installation promises to **bridge the communication gap** for the soldiers stationed in one of the harshest terrains on Earth. The aim is to enhance the well-being of the courageous soldiers who protect the nation in this perilous setting.



### Indian Army Clinched Gold Medal In 2023 Cambrian Patrol Military Exercise Held In UK

- The **Indian Army** showcased its exceptional military prowess on the international stage by securing a **gold medal** at the prestigious **Cambrian Patrol Competition in 2023**. The event, held in **Wales, UK**, witnessed the participation of an elite team from the **3/5 Gorkha Rifles (Frontier Force)**, marking a significant achievement for the Indian Army.
- The **Cambrian Patrol Competition 2023** is renowned as a **grueling test of endurance and teamwork**, often referred to as the "**Olympics of Military Patrolling**." The Indian Army team competed against a total of **111 teams**, including 38 international teams representing special forces and esteemed regiments from across the globe.
- The **Cambrian Patrol Competition**, **organized by the UK Army**, challenges participants to navigate a demanding **60 km course** in the rugged terrains of **Wales, UK**. This course includes troublesome



mountains and swamplands. The teams are tasked with completing this formidable course in **less than 48 hours**, all while executing tactical missions, making it one of the **most challenging military exercises** in the world.

### Indian Navy Gets Third Guided Missile Destroyer Imphal

- In a significant development for the **Indian Navy**, the state-of-the-art stealth guided missile destroyer, **Yard 12706 (Imphal)**, has been officially transferred to **Indian Navy on October 20, 2023**.
- Imphal** is the **third vessel of Project 15B** that was built at **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)**. The Project is a **follow-on of the Kolkata class (Project 15A) destroyers** commissioned in the last decade.
- With a displacement of **7,400 tons** and an overall **length of 164 meters**, this guided missile destroyer boasts advanced weaponry and cutting-edge sensors, including surface-to-air missiles and torpedoes.
- Imphal** which is **designed by the Indian Navy's Warship Design Bureau (WDB)** and **constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders** stands as a symbol of India's prowess in indigenous shipbuilding.

### Iron Sting Weapon Israel

- Israeli forces** have introduced the cutting-edge "**Iron Sting**" system, designed to neutralize rocket launchers with remarkable accuracy, marking the first-ever use of this technology.
- The **Magellan unit**, in collaboration with the **Air Force**, has successfully thwarted dozens of terrorists using various weapons, including the innovative and highly precise mortar bomb known as "**Steel Sting**."
- This deployment is expected to revolutionize ground warfare by providing military units with organic, effective firepower while minimizing collateral damage and civilian casualties.



**EU And India**

### Conduct Maiden Joint Naval Exercise In The Gulf Of Guinea

- In a significant display of international cooperation, **India and the European Union (EU)** recently carried out their **first** joint naval exercise in the **Gulf of Guinea**, aimed at strengthening maritime security in the region.
- On October 24, 2023, the Indian Navy's INS Sumedha, an Offshore Patrol Vessel, joined forces with ships from three EU member states in the Gulf of Guinea. The participating EU ships included the Italian Navy Ship ITS Foscari, French Navy Ship FS Ventôse, and Spanish Navy Ship Tornado.
- Together, these four vessels engaged in a series of tactical maneuvers conducted in international waters off the coast of Ghana. The exercises included boarding operations, flying exercises employing helicopters stationed on the French Ship Ventôse and Indian Naval Ship Sumedha, and personnel transfers between ships.
- These collaborative activities underscored the mutual commitment of India and the EU to assist coastal states and uphold maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea. They highlighted the extensive and dynamic nature of EU-India cooperation in the realm of maritime security.

### Indian Army And Air Force Contingent Set Off For 'Exercise KAZIND-2023'

- A contingent from the Indian Army and Indian Air Force, comprising 120 personnel, embarked on a mission to Kazakhstan today. Their objective is to participate in the **7th edition** of the Joint Military 'Exercise **KAZIND-2023.**' This collaborative endeavor will take place in Otar, Kazakhstan, spanning from **30th October to 11th November 2023.**
- The Indian Army contingent, led by a Battalion from the **DOGRA Regiment**, consists of 90 personnel. Alongside them, 30 Air Force personnel from both sides will also actively partake in this year's Exercise.
- This annual joint exercise, originally named 'Exercise PRABAL DOSTYK' when established in 2016, has



come a long way. After its second edition, the exercise was elevated to a company-level exercise and subsequently renamed as 'Exercise KAZIND.' This year, it has reached a new milestone by evolving into a bi-service exercise, including the Air Force component.

## Appointments or Resign/Retired



### Vice Admiral TarunSobti Assumes Charge As Deputy Chief Of The Naval Staff

- Vice Admiral TarunSobti, AVSM, VSM, took over as the **Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff**, marking a significant transition in the leadership of the Indian Navy. With a distinguished career spanning over 35 years, Vice Admiral TarunSobti brings a wealth of experience and expertise to his new role.
- Vice Admiral TarunSobti was commissioned into the **Indian Navy on July 1, 1988**, embarking on a journey that would see him become a distinguished leader in the maritime domain. He specialized in Navigation and Direction, a critical aspect of naval operations.
- Vice Admiral TarunSobti's tenure as a Flag Officer included commanding several crucial naval assets, including: **INS Nishank (Missile Boat)**, **INSKora (Missile Corvette)** and **INS Kolkata (Guided Missile Destroyer)**.

### Pro-China Leader Mohamed Muizzu Wins Maldives Presidential Election

- **Mohamed Muizzu**, the candidate from the Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM), emerged victorious in the presidential polls after a runoff vote. This victory came after a first round of polling failed to produce a clear winner.
- Muizzu secured more than 53 percent of the vote in the runoff, defeating the incumbent president, **Ibrahim Solih**. President Ibrahim Solih gracefully conceded defeat and congratulated Muizzu on his victory.
- Muizzu, currently serving as the mayor of the capital city, Male, is a well-educated leader with a doctorate in civil engineering from the University of Leeds in the United Kingdom. He previously held the position of Minister of Housing in former President Abdulla Yameen's cabinet.



### Reliance's JioMart Ropes In MS Dhoni As Brand Ambassador

- Reliance Retail's **JioMart** has signed up **Mahendra Singh Dhoni**, India's most iconic cricketer, as its brand ambassador. Dhoni's association comes

alongside the rebranding of their festive campaign JioMart to "**JioUtsav, Celebrations Of India**," which is scheduled to launch on October 8, 2023.

- The **JioUtsav campaign** is designed to celebrate India's vibrant culture, its people, and the various festivals that mark the country's calendar. This campaign takes inspiration from Dhoni's life, recognizing that he has given the nation numerous reasons to celebrate through his incredible cricketing achievements.
- JioMart has been steadily expanding its presence in the Indian e-commerce market. Whether it's electronics, groceries, fashion, or home essentials, JioMart aims to provide a **wide array of choices** to cater to every customer's needs. Currently, the platform collaborates with over 1000 artisans and offers a diverse range of **150,000 unique products**.

### Poland Pro-EU Opposition Tipped To Win Parliament Polls

- **Poland's** recent parliamentary elections marked a significant turning point, ending eight years of populist rule by the **Law and Justice (PiS) party**. The liberal opposition, led by former EU **chief Donald Tusk**, emerged victorious, promising a fresh era for the nation.
- One of the pivotal issues in the elections was women's rights, especially concerning Poland's strict abortion laws. Tusk's promise to liberalize these laws mobilized a significant number of women voters. For the first time, more women than men turned out to vote, with a remarkable **73.7%** of women participating.
- **Tusk's Civic Coalition**, along with potential allies **Third Way** and **Left**, is set to secure a majority in the **460-seat parliament**. This outcome signifies a potential shift towards more liberal policies, including improved relations with the **European Union** and a promise to unblock frozen **EU funds**.



### Malaysia picks ruler of Johor state as country's new king

- In a historic move, **Malaysia's** royal families have elected **Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar of Johor state** as the country's new king. This decision, made within Malaysia's distinctive rotating monarchy system, marks a significant transition for the nation.



- At the age of **64**, **Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar**, the influential ruler of southern **Johor state**, has been elected as **Malaysia's new king**. This decision follows a predetermined rotation order among the country's nine state rulers. His ascension to the throne is scheduled for January 31, commencing his five-year term.
- Since gaining independence from **Britain in 1957**, **Malaysia** has upheld a distinctive monarchy system where nine ethnic Malay state rulers take turns serving as the king for five-year terms. This unique tradition provides stability to the nation and showcases Malaysia's cultural richness.

#### **Justice Siddharth Mridul Appointed As The Chief Justice Of Manipur High Court**

- Justice **Siddharth Mridul** was appointed as the chief justice of **Manipur High Court** three months after the Supreme Court Collegium recommendation. On October 9, the Centre had notified the Supreme Court that the appointment of a new chief justice of Manipur High Court will be issued 'shortly', stating that the file has been cleared and the rest of the process will follow soon.
- The bench led by Justice SK Kaul told Attorney General for India R Venkataramani that the proposal for appointment of Chief Justice of a "sensitive" High Court (alluding to the Manipur High Court) is also among the pending resolutions.
- In a related development, the Supreme Court collegium last week recommended the transfer of Justice MV Muralidaran, who is presently the Acting Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court, to Calcutta High Court.

#### **Arindam Bagchi Appointed As India's Ambassador To UN In Geneva**

- Arindam Bagchi**, currently serving as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, has been appointed as **India's next Ambassador/Permanent Representative** to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva.
- Arindam Bagchi is set to succeed the incumbent Indian envoy to the UN in Geneva, **Indra Mani Pandey**, who assumed the role in July 2020. After a three-year tenure, Pandey is now scheduled to return to New Delhi, paving the way for Bagchi to take the helm.
- Arindam Bagchi, a seasoned Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer from the 1995 batch. He has served as a director in the Prime Minister's Office, where he was involved in managing significant national and international affairs. Additionally, Bagchi has worked at India's permanent mission at the United Nations in New York, gaining valuable experience in international diplomacy.

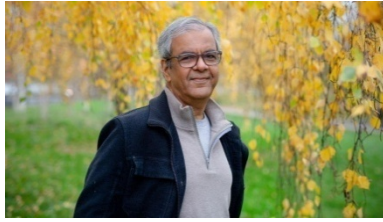
#### **Sanjay Kumar Jain Selected As CMD, IRCTC**

- In a significant development for the **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)**, **Sanjay Kumar Jain**, an officer of the Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) of the 1990 batch, has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD).
- His appointment comes after a vacancy in the position since the retirement of Mahendra Pratap Maal in January 2021. The recommendation for his appointment was made by the Search-Cum-Selection Committee (SCSC) and subsequently approved.
- Mr. Sanjay Kumar Jain is a seasoned officer with a remarkable track record. Before his elevation to the role of CMD, he served as the Principal Chief Commercial Manager in the Northern Railway. His diverse experience within the Indian Railways has allowed him to gain valuable insights into the functioning of the organization.



### Ashok Vaswani To Succeed Uday Kotak As New CEO Of Kotak Mahindra Bank

- **Ashok Vaswani**, a seasoned international banker with a remarkable career, is set to take the chair as the **Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Kotak Mahindra Bank**. This transition comes following Uday Kotak's surprise departure from his role. The appointment has received approval from the **Reserve Bank of India**.
- With a career spanning several decades, **Ashok Vaswani** has held pivotal roles in prominent financial institutions. Prior to joining Kotak Mahindra Bank, Vaswani was serving as the **President of Pagaya Technologies**, an Israel-based fintech company. At Pagaya Technologies, he was responsible for the development of real-time customer credit enhancement solutions.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank's announcement regarding Ashok Vaswani's appointment as the MD & CEO coincided with the release of the bank's financial results for the second quarter. The positive financial performance, along with the RBI's approval of Vaswani's appointment, bodes well for the bank's future prospects.



### Air Marshal Sadhna Saxena Nair Takes Charge As DG Hospital Services

- Air Marshal **Sadhna S Nair** has taken on the distinguished role of Director General **Hospital Services (Armed Forces)**, marking a significant milestone in the Indian military. Notably, she is the first woman to hold this esteemed position upon her promotion to the rank of Air Marshal.
- Before her historic appointment, Air Marshal Sadhna S Nair held the vital position of Principal Medical Officer (PMO) at HQ Training Command (Air Force), situated in Bangalore.
- A graduate from the Armed Forces Medical College in Pune, she was commissioned into the Indian Air Force in December 1985. Her dedication to education and professional growth is evident in her possession of a Post Graduate degree in Family Medicine, a testament to her commitment to providing high-quality medical care.

### US House Of Representative Elected Its New Speaker

- Republican Congressman **Mike Johnson** from **Louisiana** has been elected as the **Speaker of the House of Representatives**, marking the end of three weeks of political uncertainty in the **United States**.
- **Mike Johnson** won the election by a vote of **220 to 209** in a divided Congress. Mike Johnson, a 51-year-old lawyer, is a four-term Congressman from Louisiana's Fourth Congressional District.
- The Speaker of the House of Representatives is one of the most powerful political positions in the country. It's the **third-highest** in the line of succession after the **U.S. President**.



### EC To Appoint Actor Rajkummar Rao As Its 'National Icon'

- Actor **Rajkummar Rao**, celebrated for his portrayal of a principled government clerk in the Hindi film "Newton," tasked with conducting elections in the Naxal-affected areas of Chhattisgarh, is set to be inducted as a **National Icon** by the **Election Commission (EC)**.
- Rajkummar Rao's portrayal in "Newton" resonated with audiences and critics alike. He essayed the character of an **upright government official**, undeterred by the adversities he faced while striving to conduct a free and impartial election in the **Naxal-affected regions of Chhattisgarh**.
- The formal induction of Rajkummar Rao as a National Icon of the EC is scheduled for October 26 (Today). Chief Election Commissioner **Rajiv Kumar** will bestow this honor upon the actor, acknowledging his outstanding contribution in promoting the significance of free and fair elections in India.





### Amol Muzumdar Appoints India Women Head Coach

- **Amol Muzumdar**, the former Mumbai batsman, has been named as the head coach of the India women's national team. The position of the head coach had been vacant since December 2022 when **Ramesh Powar** was abruptly removed from his post as part of the BCCI's "restructuring module."
- **Amol's** illustrious career included amassing 11,167 runs from 171 first-class matches, which included an impressive tally of 30 centuries. Although he never had the opportunity to represent the Indian national team, Muzumdar's association with Mumbai was instrumental in securing eight Ranji Trophy titles for the team.
- In the post-playing phase of his career, Muzumdar embraced coaching, making a significant impact. He worked with age-group teams at the BCCI's National Cricket Academy and was at the helm for Mumbai. He also contributed to the coaching staff at Rajasthan Royals in the Indian Premier League (IPL) and assisted South Africa during their tour of India in 2019.

### Swiss Watchmaker 'Rado' Appoints Katrina Kaif As Global Brand Ambassador

- Luxury Swiss watch brand, **Rado**, a brand known for its excellence in watchmaking has welcomed none other than Bollywood sensation **Katrina Kaif** as its **Global Brand Ambassador**.
- Rado, founded in **1917**, has long been a pioneer in the world of Swiss watchmaking. The brand is known for its innovative use of materials, including **high-tech ceramic**, and its commitment to creating watches that combine cutting-edge technology with exceptional design.
- With Katrina Kaif stepping into her role as Global Brand Ambassador, Rado is poised to **expand its global reach** and solidify its position as a brand that celebrates timeless elegance. This collaboration aims to redefine luxury and celebrate the enduring allure of both the brand and its new ambassador.



### SBI Ropes In Cricket Icon MS Dhoni As Brand Ambassador

- The **State Bank of India (SBI)**, the nation's largest lender, has appointed the legendary cricketer **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** as its official **Brand Ambassador**. He will assume a crucial role in various marketing and promotional campaigns for SBI.
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni, a former Indian cricket captain, is a revered figure in Indian cricket. Beyond his association with SBI, Dhoni has also taken up the role of brand ambassador for Reliance Industries Limited's JioMart. His list of brand endorsements for 2023 includes well-known companies and products such as Oreo, India Cements, Dream11, and Reebok.
- The association between MS Dhoni and State Bank of India marks an exciting chapter in the bank's branding journey, as it seeks to resonate with a younger and more diverse audience, leveraging the charisma of one of India's most beloved sports figures.

## Honours/ Awards

### Nobel Prize In Physics 2023 Awarded To Pierre Agostini, FerencKrausz And Anne L'Huillier

- This year Nobel Laureates in Physics 2023, **Pierre Agostini, FerencKrausz and Anne L'Huillier** were recognised “for experimental methods that generate attosecond pulses of light for the study of electron dynamics in matter”.
- Pierre Agostini, FerencKrausz and Anne L'Huillier have demonstrated a way to create extremely short pulses of light that can be used to measure the rapid processes in which electrons move or change energy.
- The Nobel Prize in Physics is awarded by the **Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, Sweden**. The Nobel Prize in Physics has been awarded **116 times to 222 Nobel Prize laureates between 1901 and 2022**. John Bardeen is the only laureate who has been awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics twice, in **1956 and 1972**. This means that a total of 221 individuals have received the **Nobel Prize in Physics**. Click on the links to get more information.

### Shreya Ghoshal Won 5th National Awards 2023

- Renowned playback singer **Shreya Ghoshal** has added another feather to her cap, receiving the prestigious **Best Female Playback Singer award at the 69th National Film Awards**. The award was presented to her by the Hon'ble President of India, Droupadi Murmu, in a grand ceremony held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- Shreya Ghoshal's remarkable journey in the Indian film industry has been adorned with accolades, and this recent win marks her fifth National Film Award. Her first National Award was in 2003 for the soul-stirring rendition of “**Bairi Piya**” in the iconic movie ‘Devdas.’
- Established in 1954, the National Film Awards stand as a pinnacle of recognition for excellence in Indian cinema. This annual event is eagerly anticipated by filmmakers, artists, and cinema enthusiasts, as it showcases the best of Indian cinema.

### SudhaMurty, The First Woman To Get Global Indian Award

- Renowned author, philanthropist and the wife of Infosys co-founder **N.R. Narayana Murthy, Sudha Murthy**, was honored with the prestigious Global Indian Award by the **Canada India Foundation (CIF)** at a grand **Indo-Canadian gala in Toronto**.
- The award, which carries a **value of \$50,000**, is presented annually to an outstanding Indian personality who has left an indelible mark in their respective field. SudhaMurty's exceptional contributions to literature, philanthropy and her dedication to giving back to society made her a fitting recipient for this esteemed award.
- In a touching and generous gesture, **Sudha Murthy donated \$50,000 award money to The Field Institute at the University of Toronto**. The institute is renowned internationally for its efforts in strengthening collaborations, innovation and learning in mathematics and various other disciplines.

### Nobel Prize In Chemistry 2023 Awarded To Mounji G. Bawendi, Louis E. Brus AndAlexei I. Ekimov

- **Mounji G. Bawendi, Louis E. Brus and Alexei I. Ekimov** were awarded **Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2023** “for the discovery and synthesis of **quantum dots**”.
- Quantum dots now illuminate computer monitors and television screens based on QLED technology. They also add nuance to the light of some LED lamps, and biochemists and doctors use them to map biological tissue.
- The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2023 rewards the discovery and development of quantum dots, nanoparticles so tiny that their size determines their properties. The Nobel Prize amount for 2023 is set at Swedish kronor (SEK) 11.0 million per full Nobel Prize.

### Nobel Prize In Literature 2023 Awarded To Jon Fosse

- **The Nobel Prize in Literature 2023** was awarded to **Norwegian author Jon Fosse or Jon Olav Fosse**, “for his innovative plays and prose which give voice to the unsayable”.
- The Nobel Prize in Literature is awarded by the Swedish Academy, Stockholm, Sweden. The Nobel

Prize amount for 2023 is set at Swedish kronor (SEK) 11.0 million per full Nobel Prize.

- Jon Fosse, born in 1959, is widely considered one of the most important writers of our time. For almost forty years he has written novels, plays, poems, stories, essays, and children's books. His award-winning work has been translated into more than fifty languages, and his plays have been staged over a thousand times all over the world.
- The Nobel Prize in Literature has been awarded 115 times to 119 Nobel Prize laureates between 1901 and 2022. The Nobel medal in literature was designed by Swedish sculptor and engraver Erik Lindberg and represents a young man sitting under a laurel tree who, enchanted, listens to and writes down the song of the Muse.

### Nobel Peace Prize 2023 Awarded To Narges Mohammadi

- The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided to award the Nobel Peace Prize for 2023 to **Narges Mohammadi** for her fight against the oppression of women in Iran and her fight to promote human rights and freedom for all.
- However, her brave struggle has come with tremendous personal costs. Altogether, the regime has arrested her 13 times, convicted her five times, and sentenced her to a total of 31 years in prison and 154 lashes.
- This year's peace prize also recognises the hundreds of thousands of people who, in the preceding year, have demonstrated against Iran's theocratic regime's policies of discrimination and oppression targeting women. The motto adopted by the demonstrators – **"Woman – Life – Freedom"** – suitably expresses the dedication and work of Narges Mohammadi.

### Nobel Prize 2023 In Economic Sciences Awarded To Claudia Goldin

- The **SverigesRiksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel 2023** was awarded to **Claudia Goldin** "for having advanced our understanding of women's labour market outcomes".
- This year's Laureate in the Economic Sciences, Claudia Goldin, provided the first comprehensive account of women's earnings and labour market participation through the centuries. Her research reveals the causes of change, as well as the main sources of the remaining gender gap.

- **Claudia Goldin** was born in 1946 in New York, NY, USA. She has done PhD from University of Chicago, IL, USA in 1972. She was Professor at Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA.

### Tamil Writer Sivasankari Presented With Saraswati Samman 2022

- Tamil writer **Sivasankari** was honored with the prestigious **'Saraswati Samman'** in 2022 for her memoirs, **"Surya Vamsam."** The award, presented by the K.K. Birla Foundation, was given to her by former Union Minister M. Veerappa Moily, along with a citation, a plaque, and a prize of ₹15 lakh.
- **Surya Vamsam**, a two-volume work, offers a profound glimpse into the life of an innocent child who evolved into an acclaimed author. Additionally, the book beautifully reflects the societal transformations that have occurred over the past seven decades.
- The Saraswati Samman is one of India's most prestigious literary awards, recognizing outstanding literary works by Indian citizens. To date, **32 Saraswati Samman awards** have been presented to deserving authors, with Sivasankari's memoir, **Surya Vamsam**, adding to the illustrious list.



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

- India's largest integrated energy conglomerate, **NTPC Limited**, has achieved a remarkable distinction by being named one of the **"World's Best Employers 2023"** in the **Forbes World's Best Employers list**, which was officially unveiled on October 10, 2023.
- This prestigious recognition places NTPC at the **261st position** among the top 700 companies globally and highlights its exceptional commitment to fostering a positive work environment and employee-centric practices. Notably, NTPC Limited is the sole Indian Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) to secure a place on this distinguished list.
- NTPC's inclusion on the Forbes World's Best Employers List 2023 underscores the company's commitment to a progressive **"People before PLF"** (Plant Load Factor) **approach** which revolves around placing employee well-being and development at the



forefront of its operations, ensuring that the needs of its workforce are paramount.

### Jina Mahsa Amini Wins EU's Sakharov Prize 2023

- The European Parliament President, **Roberta Metsola**, announced the laureate of the **2023 Sakharov Prize** in the Strasbourg plenary chamber. Jina Mahsa Amini and the Iranian "**Woman, Life, Freedom**" movement were awarded this prestigious prize, joining the ranks of remarkable past recipients like Malala Yousafzai and Nelson Mandela.
- Mahsa Amini, a young woman of only 22, passed away on September 16, 2022, while in the custody of Iran's religious police. Her alleged offense was a breach of the Islamic republic's strict dress code for women. Her untimely death galvanized global attention and support for the "Woman, Life, Freedom" movement.
- The Sakharov Prize is accompanied by a €50,000 endowment and holds a prominent place in recognizing individuals and movements that champion human rights and freedom. It serves as a powerful reminder of the ongoing struggle for justice and equality on a global scale.

### Michael Douglas To Be Conferred Satyajit Ray Excellence In Film Lifetime Award

- Renowned Hollywood actor **Michael Douglas** is set to receive the prestigious **Satyajit Ray Excellence in Film Lifetime Award** at the **54th International Film Festival to be held in Goa**.
- Michael Douglas's illustrious career boasts numerous awards and iconic film roles. He has an impressive list of accolades, including two Academy Awards, five Golden Globe Awards, a Primetime Emmy Award, the Cecil B. DeMille Award, and the AFI Life Achievement Award. These honors underscore his remarkable acting prowess and contributions to the film industry.
- The 54th edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) is scheduled to take place from November 20 to 28 in the picturesque state of Goa. IFFI is a platform that celebrates the art of filmmaking, providing a global stage for showcasing the best of international and Indian cinema.

### Nawanpind Sardaran Village In Punjab Receives Best Tourism Village Award

- The beautiful **Nawanpind Sardaran** village, located just **five kilometers south of National Highway-54** in **Gurdaspur, Punjab**, was recently awarded the title of "**Best Tourism Village of India 2023**" by the Union Ministry of Tourism.
- This recognition was a testament to the remarkable efforts of the **Sangha sisters**, who have passionately dedicated themselves to preserving their ancestral homes, **Kothi** and **Pipal Haveli**, and promoting sustainable tourism in their village.
- The Sangha family's efforts extended beyond just promoting tourism. With the support of the Gurdaspur district administration, they involved the local community and **created employment opportunities**.



### 69th National Film Awards 2023 Conferred By President Droupadi Murmu

- On 17 October, President **Droupadi Murmu** will confer the **69th National Film Awards 2023** at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. These awards, initially delayed due to the pandemic, are finally set to honor outstanding achievements in Indian cinema.
- **Allu Arjun** secured the Best Actor award for his role in the film "Pushpa: The Rise," showcasing his exceptional talent and performance. **Alia Bhatt** and **Kriti Sanon** shared the spotlight as they were jointly awarded the Best Actress title for their outstanding performances in "Gangubai Kathiawadi" and "Mimi," respectively.
- The film "**Rocketry: The Nambi Effect**" received the prestigious award for Best Feature Film, recognizing its excellence in storytelling and production. A significant win went to "**The Kashmir Files**," which was honored with the **Nargis Dutt Award for Best Film** on National Integration, highlighting its contribution to the cinematic portrayal of India's social fabric.



### Ashutosh Sharma Breaks Yuvraj Singh's Fastest Fifty Record

- **Ashutosh Sharma**, a middle-order batter for the Railways cricket team, broke **Yuvraj Singh's** record for the fastest fifty by an Indian. Ashutosh achieved this milestone during a **Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy** Group C clash in Ranchi against **Arunachal Pradesh**.
- Ashutosh took the crease at the score of 131 for 4 with just five overs to go. He then went on to smash 53 off 12 studded with eight sixes and just one four, which came through the covers. Ashutosh fell the next ball after reaching his record-breaking half-century and walked back with a stunning strike rate of 441.66.
- Yuvraj Singh, a cricketing legend, had held the record for the fastest fifty by an Indian for 16 years, with his fifty coming off 12 balls during the inaugural T20 World Cup in 2007 against England. However, Ashutosh Sharma changed the narrative with an astonishing performance.

### CJI Chandrachud Honored With "Award For Global Leadership" By Harvard Law School

- Chief Justice of India (CJI) **DY Chandrachud**, an distinguished alumnus of Harvard Law School, was bestowed with the prestigious 'Award for Global Leadership' by his institution.
- Chief Justice DY Chandrachud's association with Harvard Law School goes back several decades. He had pursued his **Master of Laws (LLM)** from 1982 to 1983 and later embarked on his **Doctor of Juridical Science (SJD)** journey from 1983 to 1986 from Harvard.
- The occasion also coincided with the celebration of the **100th anniversary** of Harvard Law School's Graduate Law Program, highlighting the enduring commitment of the institution to legal education and innovation.



### India's Represent His Contingent For The Asian Para Games

- India is set to be well-represented at the **fourth Asian Para Games** scheduled to take place in Hangzhou, China, from October 22 to 28. The nation is sending a

robust contingent of **446 members, including 303 athletes**, demonstrating a commitment to para sports.

- The Sports Ministry of India has played a pivotal role in this endeavor by sanctioning the participation of **303 sportspersons**, comprising 191 male and 112 female athletes. This support underscores India's dedication to promoting para sports and creating opportunities for athletes with disabilities.
- This year's Asian Para Games will witness India fielding its largest-ever contingent. In the previous edition held in Jakarta, India was represented by 190 athletes across 13 sporting events. This dedicated group returned with a remarkable tally of 72 medals, which included an impressive 15 gold medals.

### US President Biden Honors Indian-American Scientists With National Medal For Technology & Innovation

- US President **Joe Biden** recently awarded the prestigious **White House National Medal for Technology and Innovation** and the **National Medal of Science** to **Ashok Gadgil** and **Subra Suresh**, respectively, in recognition of their groundbreaking work that has not only advanced scientific knowledge but also improved the quality of life for countless individuals.
- **Ashok Gadgil**, a Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Civil and Environmental Engineering at UC Berkeley, was honored with the **White House National Medal for Technology and Innovation**. Gadgil has dedicated his career to developing cost-effective solutions to some of the world's most persistent problems, particularly in developing regions.
- **Subra Suresh**, a professor at large at Brown University's School of Engineering, was awarded the **National Medal of Science**, the highest honor bestowed upon scientists in the United States. Suresh's illustrious career has been marked by pioneering research across various domains, including engineering, physical sciences, and life sciences.



### West Bengal Teacher Deep Narayan Nayak Named Finalist For Global Teacher Prize 2023

- **Deep Narayan Nayak**, a dedicated teacher from **West Bengal**, has achieved recognition as one of the **top 10 finalists** for the prestigious **Global Teacher Prize 2023**.



- This esteemed award, organized annually by the UK-based Varkey Foundation in collaboration with UNESCO and Dubai Cares, a UAE-based philanthropic organization, celebrates exceptional educators from across the globe.
- The Global Teacher Prize holds significant value, with a cash prize of **USD 1 million**. Its primary objective is to honor and celebrate exceptional teachers who have made substantial contributions to the field of education.

### Nita Ambani Receives USISPF Global Leadership Award For Philanthropy And Corporate Social Responsibility

- **Nita Ambani**, Founder and Chair of Reliance Foundation, was honored with the **2023 USISPF Global Leadership Award for Philanthropy and Corporate Social Responsibility**.
- **Nita Ambani**, an acclaimed philanthropist and businesswoman, has impacted millions of lives in India through **Reliance Foundation's** initiatives in **education, arts, sports, and healthcare**. She champions women's and children's causes, contributing significantly to bridging the gender divide and enhancing women's roles in India's economy.
- USISPF is an independent not-for-profit institution dedicated to strengthening the US-India partnership, serving as a trusted partner for businesses, non-profit organizations, the diaspora, and both Indian and US governments. The forum fosters powerful collaborations between the US and India, promoting dialogue and cooperation in various sectors.

### Tata Motors Wins ₹766 Crore Arbitration Award In Singur Plant Dispute

- **Tata Motors** has secured a significant **₹766 crore** arbitration award from the **West Bengal Industrial Development Corp. Ltd (WBIDC)**, concluding a prolonged dispute stemming from the closure of its Singur plant in 2008. This plant

was intended for manufacturing the Nano, the world's most affordable car.

- WBIDC is to pay an 11% interest rate on this amount from September 2016 until full recovery. Tata Motors is also entitled to recover ₹1 crore towards the cost of the proceedings.
- **Tata Motors** initially invested in the **Singur project** to create the "people's car" at an affordable **₹1 lakh price** tag. The company moved its manufacturing unit to **Sanand, Gujarat**, after abandoning the Singur project in 2008. The Sanand facility still operates for other Tata Motors passenger vehicles after the **Nano project** was discontinued in **2018**.



## Sports

### Indian Men's Football Team Wins SAFF Under-19 Championship

- **India** won the **South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Under-19 Championship** after defeating **Pakistan 3-0** in a dominating display in the finals at the DashrathRangasala Stadium in **Kathmandu, Nepal**. It was India's eighth youth title in the SAFF championships, a clear testimony of their regional supremacy.
- **Most Valuable Player** was ManglenthangKipgen (IND). **Best Goalkeeper** was Lionel Daryl Rymmei (IND). **Top Scorers of the Tournament (all 3 goals) are:**
  1. GwgmwsarGoyary (IND)
  2. JigmeNamgyal (BHU)
  3. Samir Tamang (NEP)

### AjayJadeja Appointed As Mentor For Afghanistan Cricket Team In ICC Cricket World Cup 2023

- On Monday, the **Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB)** appointed former India captain **Ajay Jadeja** as the team mentor for the upcoming ODI World Cup, scheduled to be held in India from October 5 to November 19.
- **Ajay Jadeja**, a former Indian captain and middle-order batter, has a distinguished cricketing career to his name. He played 15 Test matches for India from 1992 to 2000, amassing 576 runs at an impressive average of 26.18, with four half-centuries to his name, and a highest score of 96. He has been an integral part of **111 First-Class matches and 291 List A games**, showcasing his versatility and proficiency across different formats of the game
- Ajay Jadeja's new role as the mentor of the Afghanistan National Cricket Team for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 signifies the trust and expectations placed upon him by the team management. His extensive experience, both as a player and as a coach, makes him a valuable addition to the Afghan cricket setup.



### ParulChaudhary Wins 5000m Gold

- **ParulChaudhary** has become the third **Indian track and field athlete** to win gold at the 2023 Asian Games, winning the **women's 5000m**.
- Parul hanged back for much of the race before breaking away from the rest of the pack with Japan's RirikaHironaka ahead of her. Parul has added to the silver medal she won in the 3000m women's steeplechase. Parul on Tuesday registered a time of 15:14.75.
- Parul's gold is India's third from track and field at the 2023 Asian Games, adding to the medals won by shotputterTajinderpal Singh Toor and men's 3000m steeplechase winner Avinash Sable. This was India's 14th gold at the Games. The Indian athlete overtook Japan's RirikaHironaka in the last 20-25 metres of the race to claim the yellow metal.

### ICC Names Sachin Tendulkar As 'Global Ambassador' For ODI World Cup 2023

- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has made an exciting announcement on Tuesday, designating the legendary cricketer **Sachin Tendulkar** as the **'Global Ambassador'** for the highly anticipated **Cricket World Cup 2023**. This prestigious event is scheduled to kick off tomorrow in the vibrant city of Ahmedabad, India.
- Sachin Tendulkar holds the record for participating in **six 50-over World Cups**. His association with this global cricketing spectacle goes back decades, from being a ball boy in 1987 to donning the Indian jersey in numerous editions. Sachin's legacy and his passion for the game make him the perfect choice to unveil the World Cup trophy before the inaugural match.
- The Cricket World Cup 2023 will officially commence with a grand ceremony before the **first match between England and New Zealand**. Sachin Tendulkar's presence on this occasion will undoubtedly add a touch of cricketing magic, marking the beginning of what promises to be a thrilling tournament.



### Asian Games 2023, Neeraj Chopra Wins Gold In Javelin Throw

- India celebrated a remarkable 1-2 finish in the **Men's Javelin Throw competition at the Asian Games 2023**, held at the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Park Main Stadium in the People's Republic of China. **Neeraj Chopra** secured the gold medal, while **Kishore Kumar Jena** clinched the silver, showcasing their exceptional talent on the grand continental stage.
- Neeraj Chopra, the reigning champion, delivered an outstanding performance by achieving a season's best throw of 88.88 meters. This remarkable feat not only secured the gold medal for him but also marked his second consecutive gold at the Asian Games, following his victory in Jakarta 2018.
- **Kishore Kumar Jena**, a rising star in Indian javelin throwing, led Neeraj Chopra and registered an impressive 87.54 meters with his fourth throw, Kishore Kumar Jena secured the silver medal in Hangzhou.

### INDIA GETS 100 MEDALS AT THE ASIAN Games 2023, First Time In History

- India made history on **October 7, 2023**, by winning its **100th medal at the Asian Games for the first time ever**. This is a remarkable achievement, and it is a testament to the hard work and dedication of Indian athletes and coaches.
- India's 100th medal was won by the women's kabaddi team, who defeated Chinese Taipei 26-25 in a thrilling final. This medal was fittingly won by a team that has been so dominant in kabaddi over the years.
- India's success at the Asian Games is a sign of the growing strength of Indian sport. India has consistently improved its performance at the Games over the years, and it is now one of the leading nations in Asian sport.



### Indian Men's Hockey Team Clinches Gold At Asian Games 2023

- In a historic moment at the **Gongshu Canal Sports Park Stadium in Hangzhou**, the **Indian men's hockey team** secured a remarkable victory

over **Japan**, winning the gold medal and earning a coveted spot at the **Paris 2024 Olympics**.

- In a highly anticipated showdown, India defeated Japan with a commanding scoreline of **5-1 in the Asian Games 2023 men's hockey final**. This victory not only clinched the gold medal but also ensured a place in the upcoming Olympics.
- This victory marks the Indian men's hockey team's fourth gold medal at the Asian Games, following triumphs in 1966, 1988, and 2014 editions. Their consistent excellence continues to shine on the international stage.

### Asian Games 2023, India Wins Gold In Men's Cricket

- In a historic debut at the **Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou, China**, the **Indian men's cricket team** secured the **gold medal in the T20 competition**.
- Their triumph came as a result of their higher T20 rankings, after the final against Afghanistan was postponed due to rain. This victory marked a significant moment in Indian cricket history, as they chose to skip previous editions of the Asian Games in 2010 and 2014.
- Afghanistan, ranked 10th in the ICC's T20 rankings, had to settle for silver after the final match against India was interrupted by rain. Rain halted the game when Afghanistan was **112 for five after 18.2 overs** in the first innings, leaving them powerless to change their fate. Earlier in the day, **Bangladesh defeated Pakistan** in a last-ball thriller to win the bronze medal.

### Kenyan Kiptum Breaks Marathon World Record

- Kenya's **Kelvin Kiptum** left the running world in awe as he shattered the men's world record, clocking a time of just **two hours and 35 seconds**, to claim victory at the Chicago Marathon on Sunday. He broke the previous record set by **Eliud Kipchoge** in the 2022 Berlin Marathon.
- Kelvin Kiptum's journey to the pinnacle of marathon running has been nothing short of extraordinary. The young Kenyan had previously secured victories in his first two marathon appearances, first triumphing in **Valencia** and then repeating his success in the **London Marathon**. However, Kiptum's record-



breaking performance in Chicago surpassed all expectations.

- Kiptum's victory marked the **third time** a men's world record had been established on the streets of Chicago, but it was the first time since Morocco's Khalid Khannouchi achieved the feat in 1999. The Kenyan runner's triumph sent shockwaves throughout the running community, igniting excitement and anticipation for future races.

### Closing Ceremony Marks The End Of The 19th Asian Games In Hangzhou

- **The 19th Asian Games 2023** concluded with a spectacular **closing ceremony held at the Hangzhou Olympics Stadium in China**. The event celebrated the love and unity between the participating countries, showcasing the cultural diversity and sporting excellence of the Asian nations.
- Renowned hockey player **P. R. Sreejesh** had the honor of being India's flag bearer during the closing ceremony, representing his country with pride on the international stage.
- The official handover of the Asian Games flag, the current flag, and the torch marked the beginning of a new chapter for the Asian Games. Raja Randhir Singh, the interim president of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), handed over these symbols to the Japanese delegation, signifying Nagoya, Japan, as the host city for the 20th Asian Games in 2026.

### Iran's Shadloui Becomes Costliest Player In Pro Kabaddi League Auction

- Iranian **Mohammadreza Shadloui Chiyaneh** became the most expensive overseas player at the auction and was brought by **Puneri Paltan** for **Rs 2.35 crore**.
- Shadloui's countryman **Fazel Atrachali** became the second-most expensive overseas player and was sold to the Gujarat Giants for **Rs 1.60 crore**.
- **Maninder Singh** stays with the Bengal Warriors, as they used their Final Bid Match (FBM) card to get their captain back for **Rs 2.12 crore**. He is the second-most expensive domestic player and third overall.



### National Games 2023 To Be Held In Goa From Oct. 26 To Nov. 9

- The **37th edition of the National Games, scheduled for 2023**, is set to take place in the picturesque **state of Goa**. After multiple delays and changes in hosting rights, the event is finally slated to run from October 26 to November 9, marking the first time Goa has hosted this prestigious competition.
- The National Games 2023 will feature an impressive 43 sports, including both Olympic and indigenous disciplines, a significant increase from the 36 sports in the previous edition. Several sports will make their National Games debut, such as Kho Kho, yogasana, and mallakhamb.
- With over 10,000 athletes expected to participate, the National Games 2023 promises to be a grand spectacle of Indian sports talent. The various sporting competitions will be spread across multiple venues throughout Goa. However, cycling and golf will be held in New Delhi.



### Rohit Sharma Smashes India's Fastest World Cup Century

- India captain **Rohit Sharma** smashed his **31st ODI century** and put India on course for a mammoth win against **Afghanistan in their World Cup 2023** tie at Delhi's Arun Jaitley Stadium.
- Rohit Sharma completed his hundred off **63 balls**, fetching him the record for the fastest century ever by an Indian in the history of World Cup. Before Rohit, the milestone belonged to **Kapil Dev off 72 balls** against Zimbabwe in 1983, the India captain bested the former all-rounder's accomplishment by nine balls as India dominated Afghanistan in their chase of 273 and won by 8 wickets.
- Earlier during his innings, Rohit knocked down two more impressive milestones. First, he completed 1000 runs in World Cup, becoming only the fourth Indian to the landmark after Tendulkar, Virat Kohli and Sourav Ganguly and then struck three sixes to become the leading six-hitter in international cricket, surpassing 'Universe Boss's Chris Gayle.



### Neeraj Chopra Nominated For 2023 World Athlete Of The Year Award

- World Athletics, the global governing body for athletics, has officially nominated **Neeraj Chopra** for the prestigious **Men's Athlete of the Year award for 2023**.
- A panel of international athletics experts, representing all six continental areas of World Athletics, diligently selected the **11 nominees** for this prestigious award. Among these nominees, Neeraj Chopra, the Olympic and world champion, is vying for the title of the world's best male athlete.
- The voting process for the 2023 World Athletes of the Year award has commenced. After a thorough three-way voting process, the finalists will be determined. The winners will be officially announced on December 11, 2023, through World Athletics' social media platforms.

### Former England Captain Alastair Cook Announced His Retirement From Cricket

- Former England captain **Alastair Cook**, a cricketing legend, has officially announced his retirement from the sport. This marks the end of a remarkable career, both internationally and at his long-time county team, Essex.
- Cook had previously retired from international cricket in 2018, leaving behind an illustrious legacy. He amassed an astonishing **12,472 Test runs** during his international career, making him the highest-scoring English batter and the fifth-highest run-scorer in Test history.
- His achievements and leadership on the field have left an indelible mark, making him one of the most respected and revered figures in the sport. Cook's legacy will be celebrated for generations to come, and his records will serve as a testament to his exceptional talent and dedication to the game.

### IOC Has Accepted The Recommendation To Include T20 Cricket Into The 2028 Olympics

- The **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** recently took a significant step towards embracing the world's most popular sport, **Cricket**, by accepting the **recommendation** to include T20 cricket for both men and women at the **2028 Los Angeles Summer Olympics**.

- The LA28 local organizing committee played a significant role in pushing for cricket's inclusion. It recommended the "**potential inclusion**" of not only cricket but also four other sports: **baseball/softball, flag football, lacrosse, and squash**. These recommendations align with the broader ethos of LA28, creating a diverse and dynamic sporting environment for the 2028 Los Angeles Games.
- India's performance at the **Hangzhou Asian Games**, where the country secured over 100 medals for the first time, was a key influencer in the IOC's decision-making process. Bach also noted that India ranks second on the IOC's social media handles, highlighting the tremendous interest of the young generation in the Olympics.

### PM Confirms India's Bid To Host 2036 Olympics

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** addressed the **141st International Olympic Committee (IOC) Session** at the **Jio World Centre in Mumbai**. The event



- marked a significant moment in India's sporting history, with PM Modi expressing India's eagerness to host the **Olympics** and **Youth Olympics** in the coming years.
- India's pride in hosting the **IOC Session** for the second time, after a gap of **40 years**, was underscored. The historical context was mentioned, with the previous session held in **New Delhi in 1983**. This event marked a significant milestone in India's sports diplomacy.
- In a proactive move, PM Modi extended an invitation to host the **2029 Youth Olympics**, showcasing India's readiness to contribute significantly to the global sports arena. He expressed confidence in India receiving constant support from the **IOC** for this endeavor.

### Karthikeyan Murali's Remarkable Victory Over Magnus Carlsen

- In a remarkable turn of events at the ongoing **Qatar Masters**, 24-year-old Indian chess grandmaster **Karthikeyan Murali** achieved a stunning feat by

defeating the world's number one player, **Magnus Carlsen**.

- Karthikeyan Murali's triumph over Magnus Carlsen in the Qatar Masters is a momentous occasion in the world of chess. It highlights the immense talent and potential of Indian chess players on the international stage.
- Karthikeyan's win not only secured a place in the annals of chess history but also positioned him among other leading players with an impressive score of 5.5 out of 7. This exclusive club of chess masters includes players like SL Narayan, Javokhir Sindarov, David Paravyan, Arjun Erigaisi, and Nodirbek Yakubboev.

### Mohammed Shami Make History To Claim 2nd 5-Wicket Haul In World Cups

- Mohammad Shami became the first Indian bowler to pick two five-wicket hauls in **ICC ODI World Cups**. He is now the ninth bowler overall to take two fivers in ODI World Cups.
- Additionally, Shami's achievement marked the seventh instance of an Indian bowler securing a fiver in ICC ODI World Cups. This accomplishment demonstrates the rich history of Indian bowling talent on the global stage.
- Mohammad Shami also surpassed the legendary spinner Anil Kumble's tally of 31 wickets in ODI World Cups. The list of Indian bowlers who have previously achieved this feat includes Shami himself (2019), Ashish Nehra (2003), Venkatesh Prasad (1999), Robin Singh (1999), Yuvraj Singh (2011), and Kapil Dev (1983).



Mohammed Shami make history to claim 2nd 5-wicket hauls in World Cups

### Asian Para Games 2023 Opening Ceremony

- The Asian Para Games, organized by the **Asian Paralympic Committee** and recognized by the International Paralympic Committee, commences on October 22, 2023. This marks the fourth edition of the Games, featuring 566 medal events across 22 sports and 24 disciplines.
- The event promises thrilling moments as athletes from across Asia gather to compete. India is sending



its **largest-ever contingent**, consisting of 313 athletes, to compete in various events at the Asian Para Games 2023.

- Renowned Para Shuttler Parul Parmar will proudly bear the Indian flag during the opening ceremony, symbolizing the spirit of Indian para-athletes. Para-club Thrower Amit Saroha joins Parul Parmar as the co-flag bearer, representing India with pride and determination.

### Shubman Gill Becomes Fastest Batter To Score 2000 Runs In ODIs

- **Shubman Gill**, the dynamic Indian opener, has created a significant mark in the world of **One Day International (ODI)** cricket by becoming the fastest player to reach 2000 runs in this format.
- Shubman Gill accomplished this remarkable feat during India's World Cup match against New Zealand. He reached the **2000-run milestone in just 38 innings**, setting a new world record.
- Hashim Amla, a legendary South African cricketer, had held the record for the fastest 2000 ODI runs before Gill's accomplishment. Amla achieved this milestone on January 21, 2011, during a match against India in St George's Park, Port Elizabeth.

### Paralympics Javelin Thrower, Sumit Antil Breaks World Record

- Reigning **Paralympics** champion **Sumit Antil** on Wednesday bettered his own javelin throw **F64 world record** with a stunning **73.29m effort** on the way to winning gold for India.
- The F64 category belongs to athletes with a **leg amputation** who participate in **standing position** events using prosthetics. The 25-year-old Antil broke his own previous world record of **70.83m**, which he had thrown while winning gold at the World Para Athletics Championships in **Paris** earlier this year.
- Other winners in paralympics include: **Ankur Dhama**, who made history by becoming the **first Indian to claim two gold medals in a single edition** of the Asian Para Games. **Sundar Singh Gurjar**, another Indian athlete who not only won



the **gold medal in the men's F46 javelin throw** but also set a new world record with a remarkable throw of **68.60 meters**.

### India Grabs 111 Medals At The 4th Asian Para Games

- Indian para-athletes achieved a historic milestone at the Asian Para Games in Hangzhou with India achieving their most impressive medal count to date, amassing a total of **111 medals: 29 gold, 31 silver, and 51 bronze**.
- **Dilip Mahadu Gavit**, an Indian para-athlete, secured 100th medal in the competition by claiming a gold medal in the **Men's 400m T47** event. Gavit's extraordinary performance was highlighted by his impressive run time of **49.48 seconds**.
- The 4th Asian Para Games in Hangzhou saw Indian para-athletes surpassing the 100-medal milestone for the first time. India's previous best performance at the **Asian Para Games occurred in 2018 in Jakarta** when the contingent secured a total of **72 medals**.

### Lionel Messi Wins Eighth Ballon D'Or 2023

- **Lionel Messi and Aitana Bonmati** have been honored as the **2023 Ballon d'Or recipients**. Messi secures his eighth Ballon d'Or, setting a new record, thanks to his pivotal role in leading Argentina to their first World Cup victory since 1986.
- This remarkable achievement places Messi three Ballons d'Or ahead of his rival Cristiano Ronaldo, who last won the award in 2017. Messi has now been a top-three finalist for this prestigious accolade a total of 14 times, with five instances as the runner-up.
- Messi, who secured his inaugural Ballon d'Or in 2009 and held a four-year consecutive streak until 2012, was the runner-up to Haaland at the UEFA awards back in August.



### Max Verstappen Dominates Mexico City Grand Prix, Sets New Season Victory Record

- **Max Verstappen**, the Red Bull racing sensation, showcased his exceptional skills at the **Formula One Mexico City Grand Prix**. Verstappen's incredible win marked his record-breaking 16th victory of the season, surpassing his own previous season's record.
- Max Verstappen's win at the **Mexico City Grand Prix** was his third consecutive victory at the **Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez**. With 51 career wins, he now shares the fourth position in Formula One history with Alain Prost.
- **Lewis Hamilton** secured the second position in the race, continuing his consistent performance. **Charles Leclerc**, who had started from pole position for the second consecutive race, finished third.



## Obituaries

### Former Chief Election Commissioner MS Gill Passed Away

- Former Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) **Manohar Singh Gill** passed away at a South Delhi hospital on Sunday, leaving behind a legacy of public service and dedication. He served as a significant figure in both the Indian bureaucracy and politics.
- Manohar Singh Gill, who recently passed away at the age of 86, began his career as a young bureaucrat. He assumed the role of **Chief Election Commissioner in December 1996** and held it until June 2001. During his tenure, Gill played a crucial role in shaping the electoral processes of the country.
- Moreover, he became the **first former CEC to join politics** when he entered the Rajya Sabha as a member of the Congress party. In **2008**, he was appointed as the **Union Sports Minister**, further highlighting his dedication to serving the nation in various capacities.



### Legendary Spinner And Former Indian Captain, Bishan Singh Bedi Passes Away At 77

- Bishan Singh Bedi**, one of India's most iconic cricketers, passed away at the **age of 77**. A left-arm spinner and former captain of the Indian cricket team, Bedi's contributions to the sport has left an indelible mark on the cricketing world.
- Bedi is widely regarded as one of the greatest left-arm spinners in the history of the game. Bishan Singh Bedi made his Test debut against Australia in the **1969-70 series**. His prowess as a spinner, leadership on the field, and contributions to Indian cricket as a mentor and selector will forever be celebrated.
- Bedi's influence extended beyond international cricket. He had a successful stint in County cricket, playing 102 First-Class games for Northamptonshire and picking 434 wickets from 1972 to 1977. In 1970, Bishan Singh Bedi was honored with the Padma Shri, one of India's highest civilian awards, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to cricket.

### First Black Action Hero, Richard Roundtree Passed Away At 81

- Richard Roundtree**, the iconic actor who redefined African American masculinity in the movies with his groundbreaking portrayal of the title role in **"Shaft,"** passed away on Tuesday at his Los Angeles home at the age of 81 due to pancreatic cancer. He was also recognized as the **"first black action hero."**
- Roundtree's name remains closely associated with the 1970s, but he continued to work actively for the next four decades, **appearing in numerous TV series and films**. He demonstrated his versatility as an actor in various roles, showcasing his talent and adaptability.
- In 2011, he secured the **African-American Film Critics Association award**, while in 1994, he claimed the **MTV Movie + TV Award** for his role in "Shaft." Additionally, he earned a nomination for the Golden Globe Awards in 1972 and was recognized at the Soap Opera Digest Awards, among other accolades.



### Former Chinese Premier Li Keqiang Passed Away At The Age Of 68

- Li Keqiang**, the former premier of China, passed away due to a sudden heart attack on October 27, 2023. Aged 68, he concluded his career in March, 2023 after completing two terms in office alongside Chinese President Xi Jinping.
- The leader of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, commonly referred to as the **Chinese premier**, holds the position of the **country's head of government** and also leads the State Council.
- This role represents the **second-highest authority** in China's political hierarchy, ranking below the general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party/president of China, and commands the highest position in the central government's civil service. The premier's term is five years in duration and can be renewed.



- Li resigned as a member of the **CCP Central Committee** in October 2022, and on **March 11, 2023**, he completed his term as China's premier, with **Li Qiang** taking over his role.

### **Matthew Perry, Renowned For His Role As Chandler In 'Friends,' Died At 54**

- "Friends" star **Matthew Perry** was found dead in a hot tub at his Los Angeles home. He was 54. The iconic actor was known for his portrayal of Chandler Bing in the legendary TV series "**Friends**."



- "Friends" revolved around the **lives of six single New Yorkers** as they navigated the challenges of adulthood, creating a connection with viewers worldwide. Perry's portrayal of Chandler, stood out in the ensemble cast.
- Matthew Perry's talent extended beyond the world of "Friends." He starred alongside big names like Julia Roberts in the 1997 romantic comedy "**Fools Rush In**" and Bruce Willis in the 2000 ensemble mob comedy "**The Whole Nine Yards**."

### **Bajnath Aggarwal, Trustee Of Geeta Press Gorakhpur, Passes Away**

- **Bajnath Agarwal**, the dedicated trustee of Gita Press Gorakhpur, passed away at the age of 90. He had been associated with Gita Press for an astounding 73 years, having joined in 1950.
- Founded in 1923, Gita Press stands as one of the world's largest publishers, with an impressive track record of publishing 41.7 crore books in 14 languages. Notably, their publications include a staggering 16.21 crore copies of the revered Shrimad Bhagavad Gita.
- Gita Press, Gorakhpur, was honored with the prestigious Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2021. The award, instituted by the Government of India in 1995, serves as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi's ideals and is open to individuals of all nationalities, races, languages, castes, creeds, and genders

## Important Days with theme

### World Nature Day 2023

- **World Nature Day**, established by the **World Nature Organization (WNO)** on **October 3, 2010**, serves as a crucial platform to raise awareness about the challenges our environment faces, particularly due to climate change.
- This annual celebration unites individuals, groups, and organizations worldwide in their commitment to spreading information about climate change and advocating for its mitigation.
- The initiative aims to combat ignorance about climate change, ensuring that people across the globe understand the urgency of the situation. It also encourages eco-friendly practices such as recycling, reducing plastic usage, and adopting sustainable lifestyles.

### World Animal Welfare Day 2023

- **World Animal Day**, also known as **World Animal Welfare Day**, is a global initiative celebrated annually on **October 4th**. This day serves as an International Day of Action, advocating for the rights and welfare of animals.
- The choice of this date coincides with the feast day of Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. This event unites animal lovers worldwide, raising awareness and fostering a sense of responsibility towards the well-being of animals.
- The theme for World Animal Day 2023, “**Great or Small, Love Them All**,” emphasizes the importance of acknowledging animals as sentient beings. It underscores the need to elevate global animal care standards and advocates for animal rights universally.



### World Teachers' Day 2023

- **World Teachers' Day**, observed annually on **October 5th**, is a global celebration dedicated to honoring the invaluable contributions of teachers to society. This day serves as an opportunity to recognize the vital role

teachers play in shaping the future and to address the challenges they face.

- World Teachers' Day is a momentous occasion to celebrate how teachers are catalysts for educational transformation. Teachers have the unique opportunity to make a lasting impact on the lives of their students, shaping sustainable futures and finding personal fulfillment in their vocation.
- World Teachers' Day was inaugurated on October 5, 1994, marking the 30th anniversary of the 1966 conference. Since then, it has grown into a globally recognized annual event that honors teachers and their contributions to education.

### Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Day 2023

- **Indian Foreign Service (IFS) Day** is an annual celebration held on **October 9th**. This special day honors the establishment of the Indian Foreign Service, a critical institution for India's diplomatic, consular, and commercial representation worldwide.
- The Day serves as a reminder of the invaluable contributions made by diplomats and foreign service officers in promoting India's interests and fostering global cooperation. This day not only honors the past but also looks forward to a future where diplomacy continues to play a vital role in shaping India's international relationships.
- The roots of IFS Day trace back to a significant moment in Indian history. **On October 9, 1946**, the Indian government formally established the Indian Foreign Service.

### World Post Day 2023

- **World Post Day** is celebrated each year on **October 9th** to commemorate the creation of the **Universal Postal Union (UPU)** in 1874.
- It's a day to recognize the crucial role that post offices play in connecting communities. Postal operators offer basic financial services to approximately 1.5 billion people worldwide, including payments, money transfers, and savings.
- The theme for World Post Day 2023, “**Together for Trust: Collaborating for a safe and connected future**,” underscores the importance of governments and postal services working together to develop a digital single postal territory.



### Indian Air Force Day 2023

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** celebrated its **91st Air Force day** on **8 October 2023**. This special day was displayed over the holy Sangam area of Prayagraj by the Indian Air Force flying its aircraft in the **luv Kush, Sugreev and a Bharat formation** along with others.
- The celebration of Air Force day marks the **participation of total number of 120 aircraft** in the air display in **Prayagraj**. The celebration of Indian Air Force Day marks the establishment of the Indian Air Force was officially established on 8 October 1932 and the first AC flight came into being on 1 April 1933.
- The **Indian Air Force day 2023's motto** is "**Nabham Sparsham Deeptham**" which means **touch the sky with glory**. According to some data, the Indian Air Force employs **over 1400 aircraft and 1,70,000 personnel**.



### International Day Of The Girl Child 2023

- The **International Day of the Girl**, observed every year on **October 11**, is a global initiative dedicated to raising awareness about gender inequality and advocating for the rights and empowerment of girls.
- The **International Day of the Girl** was **first celebrated in 2012**. This day was established to focus attention on the unique challenges girls face and to promote their empowerment and the fulfillment of their human rights. The day was born out of the recognition that girls, like boys, deserve equal opportunities and rights.
- The theme for the International Day of the Girl in 2023 is "**Invest in Girls' Rights: Our Leadership, Our Well-being**." This theme emphasizes the need to invest in girls, recognizing that their leadership and well-being are crucial for a fairer and more equal future.

### World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) 2023

- **World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) 2023** is a global event celebrated twice a year, each with a unique focus. This year, the fall celebration falls

on **October 14** and revolves around the theme "**Water: Sustaining Bird Life**."

- It's a day that highlights the importance of migratory birds and their conservation efforts. World Migratory Bird Day 2023 brings our attention to the remarkable journeys and vital role of water in the lives of migratory birds.
- In 1993, the United States initiated the idea of a day dedicated to migratory birds. It was a joint effort by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Their aim was to encourage bird festivals and educational programs nationwide. Later, in 2016, the first global World Migratory Bird Day was celebrated.

### World Food Day 2023

- **World Food Day** is an annual observance that takes place on **October 16**. It is a global initiative aimed at addressing the pressing issues of hunger, food security, and access to proper nutrition.
- The theme for World Food Day 2023 is "**Water is life, water is food. Leave no one behind**." This theme emphasizes the critical role of water in food production, nutrition, and livelihoods.
- The roots of World Food Day trace back to the establishment of the **United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)** in **1945**. However, it wasn't until **1979**, during the FAO Conference, that World Food Day was officially recognized as a global holiday. Over 150 countries came together to celebrate and promote the importance of food and nutrition.



### World Students Day 2023

- **World Students Day**, observed on **October 15** each year, is a day dedicated to commemorating the **birth anniversary of the late Indian President, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam**. In **2023**, **World Students Day** takes on special significance as we celebrate the **92<sup>nd</sup> birth anniversary of the A.P.J. Abdul Kalam**.

- This day is a tribute to his remarkable contributions to education and his unwavering commitment to the welfare of children and students across India and the world.
- The theme for World Students Day 2023 is **“FAIL: stands for First Attempt in Learning.”** This theme, introduced by the **Ministry of Education and the Government of India**, aims to motivate students to embrace failure as a learning experience and continue their educational journey.

### August 23 To Be Celebrated As National Space Day, Govt Issues Notification

- In a momentous announcement, the Indian government has designated **August 23rd** as **National Space Day**, a day to celebrate the remarkable success of the **Chandrayaan 3 mission**. This decision comes in recognition of India's significant achievement in space exploration, placing it among the world's leading spacefaring nations.
- On **August 23rd** of this year, the **Chandrayaan 3 mission** achieved a groundbreaking milestone by successfully landing on the **South Pole of the Moon**. This achievement is not only a point of pride for India but also a global first, solidifying India's position in the upper echelons of space exploration.
- National Space Day will serve as a source of inspiration for young minds, motivating them to pursue careers in STEM fields, ultimately bolstering India's prowess in the space sector.



### Accession Day 2023

- India's union territory of **Jammu and Kashmir** celebrates **October 26** as a public holiday to commemorate the historic signing of the **Instrument of Accession** in **1947**. This significant document marked



the accession of the princely state to India and set the stage for the region's integration into the Indian union.

- October 26 marks the day when **Maharaja Hari Singh** took the pivotal step of signing the Instrument of Accession, thereby securing the region's future within the Indian union. It stands as a symbol of unity and solidarity between the region and the rest of India.

### World Cities Day 2023

- **World Cities Day**, designated by the United Nations General Assembly, is an annual celebration observed on the **31st of October**. The theme of World Cities Day for 2023 is **“Financing sustainable urban future for all.”**
- This day provides a unique opportunity to spotlight the international community's interest in global urbanization, stimulate cooperation among nations to address urbanization challenges, and contribute to the pursuit of sustainable urban development worldwide.
- World Cities Day was first celebrated in **2014**, and it has been a growing global observance ever since. Similar to World Habitat Day, this annual event is marked by celebrations in different cities around the world each year.



### National Unity Day

- The Government of India declared **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's** birth anniversary on **October 31** as **National Unity Day or Rashtriya Ekta Diwas**. He was also known as **“Iron Man of India.”**
- National Unity Day, celebrated on October 31, is a momentous occasion that pays homage to the indomitable spirit of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and his unparalleled contributions to India's unity and integrity.
- **In 2014**, the Government of India made an official declaration to celebrate National Unity Day on October 31. This occasion serves as an opportunity to reaffirm the inherent strength and resilience of the nation, demonstrating its capacity to withstand both actual and potential threats to its unity, integrity, and security.