

# Current Affairs of September 2023

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## National

### India's Largest Home-Built Nuclear Plant Starts Operations

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the **700 MW nuclear power plant** located in **Kakrapar, Gujarat**, has commenced its operations at maximum capacity.

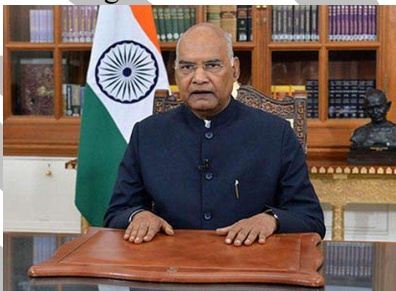


- The **Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP)** had initiated its commercial operations on **June 30, 2023**, but initially operated at only 90 percent of its capacity. On **August 31, 2023**, the plant finally achieved its full operational potential.

- Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL)** is responsible for constructing **two 700 MW** pressurized heavy water reactors (PHWRs) at Kakrapar, Gujarat. Kakrapar is already home to two 220 MW power plants, and with the new 700 MW unit coming online, it strengthens India's nuclear power generation capacity.

### India Forms Committee To Explore Possibility Of 'One Nation, One Election': Report

- On 1st September, the Indian government announced the formation of a committee led by former President of India, **Ram Nath Kovind**, to delve into the feasibility of **'One Nation, One Election.'**



- 'One Nation, One Election' is a concept aimed at **synchronizing elections for the Lok Sabha** (the lower house of India's Parliament) and all state assemblies. The central idea is to hold these elections simultaneously, either on a single day or within a specific time frame.
- This proposal has garnered strong support from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, reflecting the government's seriousness as a series of elections loom on the

horizon. Notably, assembly polls in **five states** are scheduled for November or December this year, followed by the expected Lok Sabha elections in **May-June 2024**.

### CCI Clears Air India-Vistara Merger

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has recently given the green light to the merger of **Tata SIA Airlines**, which operates under the **Vistara brand**, with **Air India**, a subsidiary of **Tata Sons Pvt. Ltd.**
- This landmark merger also involves **Singapore Airlines (SIA)** and entails the acquisition of shares in the merged entity, Air India, subject to certain voluntary commitments. **TSAL (Tata SIA Airlines Limited)** is a joint venture between the Tata Group and the Singapore Airlines with the former holding **51%** and the latter **49%**.

### India's August GST Collection Surges to ₹1.59 Trillion

- In August, India witnessed a notable surge in **Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection**, amounting to ₹1.59 trillion, signifying an 11% increase compared to the same period last year. This impressive growth can be attributed to enhanced compliance and anti-evasion measures put in place.
- The moderation in collection is primarily attributed to subdued growth in **integrated GST (IGST)** and the cess on imports, which increased by only 3% in August. Importantly, both imports and IGST collections have experienced fluctuations in recent months.
- Several major states reported robust growth rates in GST collection. Maharashtra recorded a remarkable 23% increase at ₹23,282 crore, Karnataka's collection surged by 16% to ₹11,116 crore, and Gujarat's collection increased by 12% to ₹9,765 crore, as per official data.

### Vicom 18 Secures BCCI TV and Digital Media Rights in a 5-Year Deal Worth Rs 5,963 Crore

- Vicom 18**, a Reliance-owned media outlet, has emerged victorious in the auction for media rights, encompassing both digital and TV broadcasting, of India's domestic matches and BCCI-hosted domestic tournaments for the next five years.
- For the 88 matches scheduled between 2023 and 2028, the BCCI set a base price of **Rs 20 crore per**

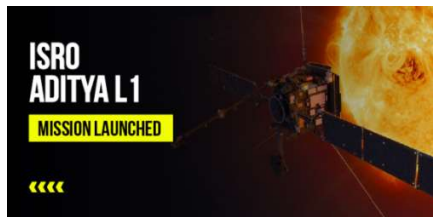
**match for TV rights and Rs 25 crore per match for digital rights**, totaling Rs 3,960 crore.

- Viacom 18 secured digital rights for approximately Rs 3,101 crore. TV rights were acquired for approximately Rs 2,862 crore. The combined deal amounts to approximately Rs 5,963 crore.

### ISRO Aditya L1 Mission Launched

- **ISRO Aditya L1 mission** was launched successfully on **September 2, 2023 at 11:50 AM IST** from the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre** in Sriharikota, India.

The mission is India's first dedicated solar mission and will study the Sun's atmosphere, including the chromosphere and corona. It will also study the solar wind and its interaction with the Earth's atmosphere.



- The Aditya L1 spacecraft is a **1.5-ton satellite** that is equipped with seven payloads. The payloads will study the Sun's atmosphere using a variety of methods, including remote sensing and in-situ measurements. The spacecraft will be placed in a halo orbit around the Sun-Earth Lagrange Point 1 (L1), which is located about **1.5 million kilometers from Earth**.
- The Aditya L1 mission is expected to last for five years. During this time, it will collect valuable data about the Sun that will help scientists to better understand its behavior and its impact on Earth.

### Law Minister launches Tele-Law 2.0

- In a significant stride towards achieving this goal, the Union Minister of Law and Justice recently launched **Tele-Law 2.0**, a revamped version of the **Tele-Law program**.
- This initiative, operating under the **DISHA Scheme** by the **Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice**, aims to provide free legal aid to the rural and marginalized sections of society through video conferencing.
- Tele-Law is an initiative launched by the Government of India to provide legal assistance and advice to



citizens, especially those residing in rural and remote areas, who have limited access to legal services. The initiative utilizes technology to bridge the gap between citizens and legal professionals, making legal aid accessible to all.

### NCERT Gets Deemed University Status: Education Minister

- Union Education Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan** announced on **September 1** that **The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** has been conferred with the status of a deemed university.
- This momentous announcement was made during an event commemorating the **63rd** foundation day of **NCERT** in the national capital.
- The decision to grant **NCERT** the esteemed status of a deemed university marks a watershed moment in the evolution of educational institutions in India. This move recognizes the exceptional contributions of **NCERT** to the field of education and underscores its commitment to excellence.



### Telangana Grabs India's First Gorilla Glass Factory

- **Corning Inc.** is gearing up to establish its **cutting-edge Gorilla Glass manufacturing facility** in **Telangana**. The proposed manufacturing unit will specialize in producing cover glass for leading players in the smartphone market.
- The ambitious project is set to become a reality with a proposed investment of **Rs. 934 crore**. Moreover, it promises to create **employment opportunities for over 800 individuals**, thereby contributing significantly to the local economy.
- Headquartered in **New York**, **Corning Inc.** is a **Fortune 500** materials science company with a rich



legacy spanning over 172 years. The company has been at the forefront of innovation, with expertise in **glass science, ceramics science, and optical physics.**

### G20 Summit 2023 in Delhi

- The G20 Summit 2023 is scheduled to take place on September 9th and 10th, spanning two days in the capital city, Delhi. The



summit will be held at the prestigious '**Bharat Mandappam**,' which is located within the ITPO Convention Centre in **New Delhi's Pragati Maidan.**

- The theme for the G20 Summit 2023 is "**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**," which translates to "**One Earth, One Family, One Future.**" This theme emphasizes global unity and interconnectedness and highlights the importance of environmentally sustainable choices.
- The summit has a comprehensive schedule that includes various meetings leading up to and during the event. These meetings aim to foster cooperation and understanding among participating nations.

### India's first UPI ATM: How will it be different from cardless cash withdrawals

- India's first UPI-ATM, a **White Label ATM (WLA)** by **Hitachi Payment Services** in collaboration with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, was introduced to enable seamless cash withdrawals without the need for physical ATM cards.
- This innovation allows customers of certain banks to enjoy QR-based cashless withdrawals. The **UPI-ATM**, also known as **Interoperable Cardless Cash Withdrawal (ICCW)**, offers a simple process for users of participating banks who use UPI to withdraw cash from compatible ATMs.
- Some Key Features of UPI-ATM are:** 1)Compatible with various systems. 2)No physical card required for transactions. 3)Transaction limit of up to **₹10,000 per transaction**, aligned with existing UPI daily limits and issuer bank's UPI-ATM transaction limits. 4)Convenient cash withdrawals without the need for an ATM card. 5)Allows cash withdrawals from multiple accounts via the UPI app.

### World's tallest Nataraja statue installed at G20 summit venue

- At the venue of the G20 Summit, world leaders will be greeted by a breathtaking **27-foot-tall statue of Nataraja, Lord Shiva** in his cosmic dance. This magnificent sculpture, made from an eight-metal alloy known as **ashtadhatu**, weighs a staggering 18 tonnes, requiring a trailer with 36 tires for transportation to Delhi.
- This masterpiece seamlessly blends tradition with modernity, drawing inspiration from ancient Natarajaidols. The primary sculptors behind this masterpiece are 61-year-old **Srikanda Sthapathy**, along with his brothers **Radhakrishna Sthapathy** and **Swaminatha Sthapathy.**



### GST rules for casinos, e-games notified

- The Ministry of Finance has recently issued a significant notification outlining amendments to the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** rules pertaining to online gaming and casinos. These amendments aim to address taxation methodologies employed by online gaming companies and casinos.
- One of the key changes introduced by these amendments is that individuals visiting a casino are now required to **pay GST on the full value** of the chips they initially purchase. This means that the GST will be levied on the entire amount spent on chips at the time of purchase.
- Two new clauses, **31B and 31C**, have been introduced in the GST rules to specify the valuation of the supply. Under these changes, any claims made by players are to be included in the total amount paid or payable, ensuring a comprehensive taxation approach.

### Prime Minister Modi Participated in the 20th ASEAN-India Summit and 18th East Asia Summit (EAS)

- Prime Minister Modi participated in the **20th ASEAN-India Summit** and engaged in comprehensive discussions with ASEAN partners to reinforce the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.



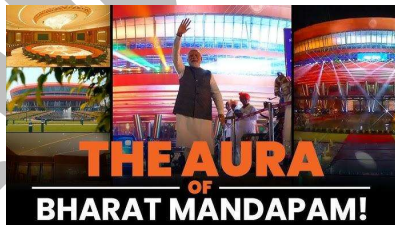
- At the 18th East Asia Summit, Prime Minister emphasized the importance of the EAS mechanism and India's commitment to its strengthening. He reaffirmed India's support for ASEAN centrality and advocated for a free, open, and rules-based Indo-Pacific.
- Prime Minister called for a cooperative approach to address global challenges, including terrorism, climate change, resilient supply chains for essential items, and energy security. He showcased India's initiatives in climate change, such as ISA, CDRI, LiFE, and OSOWOG.

### What is G20?

- The **Group of Twenty**, commonly referred to as the G20, is an international forum of major economies that plays a crucial role in addressing global economic challenges.
- The G20 is a group of twenty major economies, both developed and developing, that come together to discuss and coordinate international economic policy. It was established in 1999 in the wake of the Asian financial crisis to foster dialogue and cooperation among its member states.
- The G20 serves as a platform for member countries to discuss and coordinate economic policies. This coordination helps prevent currency wars, trade protectionism, and other actions that could destabilize the global economy.

### Bharat Mandapam

- Situated within New Delhi's Pragati Maidan, **Bharat Mandapam** stands as a symbol of India's hosting of the G20 Summit. This remarkable venue will serve as the backdrop for pivotal discussions among world leaders, including Joe Biden, Rishi Sunak, and Emmanuel Macron. Moreover, it will host the 'working lunch' hosted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for these esteemed global leaders.
- Covering an expansive area of **123 acres**, Bharat Mandapam is developed as India's largest MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions)



destination. Its world-class facilities and vast campus position it among the top exhibition and convention complexes globally.

- Built at an investment of approximately **Rs 2,700 crores**, Bharat Mandapam is equipped with numerous meeting rooms, auditoriums, lounges, an amphitheater, and a fully-equipped business center, making it suitable for a wide range of events.

### Indore Tops SwachhVayuSarvekshan 2023 Clean Air Survey

- The recently released **SwachhVayuSarvekshan 2023** (Clean Air Survey) report, conducted by the **Central Pollution Control Board**, reveals that **Indore**,



**Amravati, and Parwanoo** boast the cleanest air in India.

- In cities with a population exceeding one million, **Indore** secured the top spot, followed by Agra and Thane. Bhopal, a notable performer, stood fifth, while the national capital, Delhi, claimed the ninth spot.
- However, **Madurai, Jammu, and Kohima** face significant challenges in terms of air quality. According to the report, these cities rank the lowest, highlighting the urgent need for targeted interventions to address their air pollution issues.

### PM Modi Launches Global Biofuels Alliance At G20 Summit

- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the formation of the **Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)** during the G20 Summit. The alliance includes more than 30 countries and international organizations, aimed at promoting the adoption of biofuels and expanding bioenergy access in emerging economies.
- The GBA consists of 19 countries and 12 international organizations. Key G20 member countries supporting the alliance include Argentina, Brazil, Canada, India, Italy, South Africa, and the US. Four G20 Invitee



countries supporting GBA are Bangladesh, Singapore, Mauritius, and the UAE.

### NPCI Introduces Innovative Contactless Payment Wearable Ring: 'OTG Ring'

- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has introduced a groundbreaking contactless payment wearable ring known as the '**OTG Ring**.' This innovative device has been developed in collaboration with the Indian fintech startup **LivQuik**.
- The '**OTG Ring**' represents a significant advancement in contactless payment technology. Designed and made in India, this wearable ring is set to transform the way people make payments and engage in various financial transactions.
- The '**OTG Ring**' is tailored for **National Common Mobility Card (NCMC)** customers, opening up a world of possibilities for convenient and secure transactions. NCMC is a critical component of India's digital payments ecosystem.



### iPhone 15 Series To Feature ISRO-Certified GPS Technology

- Apple's **iPhone 15 Pro** and **iPhone 15 Pro Max** are the company's latest flagship smartphones, and they come with a number of notable upgrades, including a new brushed titanium frame, a powerful **A16 Bionic chip**, and a more advanced camera system. However, one of the most significant changes under the hood is the integration of precision dual-frequency **GPS, including support for NavIC, the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS)**.
- NavIC is a regional navigation satellite system developed by the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**. It consists of seven satellites in geostationary and inclined geosynchronous orbits, providing coverage over India and a region extending 1,500 kilometers beyond its borders.
- The integration of NavIC into the iPhone 15 Pro series is a significant development for both Indian and global users. It offers a number of potential benefits, including improved accuracy and reliability, more accurate location-based services, increased resilience

to jamming and spoofing attacks, and greater independence from foreign GNSS systems.

### Nipah Virus In News

- India's southern state of **Kerala** has once again found itself grappling with the ominous threat of the **Nipah virus**, a rare and deadly brain-damaging viral disease. In response to the deaths of two individuals from this infection, the state government has taken swift action by shutting down schools and offices and declaring containment zones in certain areas.
- The Nipah virus, abbreviated as NiV, emerged onto the global stage in **1999** during an alarming epidemic in Malaysia and Singapore. This outbreak left a trail of devastation, with nearly 300 human cases and over 100 fatalities. Since the initial outbreak, Nipah virus cases have surfaced almost annually in various parts of Asia, primarily in Bangladesh and India. This virus is classified as **zoonotic**, which means it initially spreads between animals and humans. The primary animal host reservoir for NiV is the fruit bat, also known as the flying fox.



### Karnataka Rolls Out Rs 4 Lakh Insurance Cover To Gig Workers

- The **Karnataka government** unveiled a groundbreaking initiative that offers a comprehensive insurance package worth **Rs 4 lakh**, including **Rs 2 lakh in life insurance** and an additional **Rs 2 lakh in accidental insurance**. This monumental step is expected to benefit approximately 2.3 lakh gig workers of the state.
- Under the Karnataka State Gig Workers Insurance Scheme, gig workers can avail themselves of a range of benefits. **Hospital expenses of up to Rs 1 lakh** will be reimbursed in cases of accidents, whether they occur on or off duty.
- The newly introduced initiative, aptly named the '**Karnataka State Gig Workers Insurance Scheme**,' is set to be implemented with immediate effect through the Karnataka State Unorganised Workers' Social Security Board.

### Infosys In TIME's 'The World's Best Companies Of 2023' List

- Infosys, the Bengaluru-headquartered IT services provider, has secured a coveted spot on TIME magazine's 'The World's Best Companies of 2023' list. Infosys stands out as the only Indian company to make it into the top 100 rankings, claiming the **64th position** with an impressive overall score of 88.38.
- The company has earned a 'very high' growth rate, a testament to its commitment to excellence. **On sustainability, Infosys ranked 135, and 103 for employee-satisfaction.**
- TIME, in collaboration with Statista, conducted a comprehensive evaluation of 750 firms from around the world to compile this prestigious list. The rankings were determined through a rigorous assessment that considered several key factors, including revenue growth, employee-satisfaction surveys, and extensive analysis of environmental, social, and corporate governance data.

### PM Modi Inaugurates Yashobhoomi Convention Centre

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked a historic moment as he unveiled Phase 1 of the India International Convention and Expo Centre (IICC), aptly named 'Yashobhoomi.' This state-of-the-art facility, constructed at a cost of **Rs 5,400 crore**, promises to redefine the landscape of **meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions (MICE)** on a global scale.
- **Yashobhoomi** stands as a testament to India's commitment to world-class event hosting, boasting an expansive project area of over 8.9 lakh square metres and a built-up area exceeding 1.8 lakh square metres.
- The convention centre spans more than 73,000 square metres and encompasses 15 convention rooms, including the main auditorium, the grand ballroom, and 13 meeting rooms. These facilities collectively offer a remarkable capacity, capable of accommodating up to 11,000 delegates.

### Hyderabad Liberation Day On 17 September

- Officially known as **Kalyana-Karnataka Liberation Day** (VimochanaDiwas), Hyderabad-Karnataka Liberation Day is an important annual observance celebrated across various districts of Karnataka, India. This event, held on the **17th of September** each year,

commemorates the integration of Hyderabad into India in 1948.

- The historical significance of this day dates back to **September 17, 1948**, when the formerly Nizam-ruled Hyderabad state became a part of the Indian union, marking a pivotal moment in India's post-independence history.
- In **2022**, the Government of Telangana made a decision to broaden the significance of this day by designating it as "Telangana National Integration Day" or "**TelanganaJathiyaSamaikyathaVajrotsavam.**" This move demonstrates a commitment to fostering unity and integration among the diverse communities in the state, emphasizing the importance of India's diverse cultural fabric.

### Maharashtra Issues Notification On Name Change Of Aurangabad, Osmanabad

- The **Maharashtra** government has issued an official notification regarding the renaming of Aurangabad and Osmanabad districts to **Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar** and **Dharashiv**, respectively. The decision to change these names at various levels, including sub-division, village, taluka, and district, has been finalized. This notification has been issued by the Revenue Department of the state.
- **Aurangabad**, a historic city in Maharashtra, derived its name from the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb. Similarly, **Osmanabad** was named after a 20th-century ruler of the princely state of Hyderabad. The decision to rename 'Aurangabad' as 'Sambhajnagar' carries historical and cultural significance.
- **ChhatrapatiSambhaji**, the eldest son of the renowned warrior king ChhatrapatiShivajiMaharaj, was the second ruler of the Maratha state established by his father. His execution on Aurangzeb's orders in 1689 remains a significant chapter in Maratha history.



### Prime Minister Modi Launches PM Vishwakarma Scheme To Empower Traditional Artisans

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled the '**PM Vishwakarma**' scheme on the auspicious occasion of 'VishwakarmaJayanti.' This initiative is designed to provide crucial support to traditional craftsmen and



artisans by offering them low-interest loans without requiring collateral.

- With a substantial financial allocation of **Rs 13,000 crore** over a five-year period, this scheme aims to benefit approximately **30 lakh families** of traditional artisans and craftsmen, including weavers, goldsmiths, blacksmiths, laundry workers, and barbers. The primary objective is to enhance the accessibility and quality of products and services provided by these skilled individuals.
- The scheme offers collateral-free enterprise development loans, including: **First tranche:** Rs 1 lakh with an 18-month repayment period. **Second tranche:** Rs 2 lakh with a 30-month repayment period. Beneficiaries will enjoy a concessional interest rate of 5%, with the Ministry of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises providing interest subvention capped at 8%.

#### Santiniketan On UNESCO World Heritage List

- **Santiniketan**, the cultural and educational hub founded by Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore, has earned a coveted spot on **UNESCO's World Heritage List**. The decision to include Santiniketan in the prestigious list was made during the 45th session of the **World Heritage Committee, held in Saudi Arabia**, reaffirming its importance on the global stage.
- Santiniketan, originally an ashram established by Rabindranath Tagore's father, Maharshi Debendranath Tagore, served as a spiritual retreat. It welcomed individuals, irrespective of their caste and creed, to meditate before the one Supreme God. This inclusive ethos laid the foundation for what would become a cultural and educational powerhouse.
- With this latest addition, India now ranks **sixth on the World Heritage List**, further highlighting the nation's commitment to safeguarding its cultural and natural treasures. The inclusion of Santiniketan reinforces India's status as a custodian of world heritage. Santiniketan now stands as **India's 41st World Heritage site**, solidifying its place in the nation's rich cultural heritage.



#### Hoysala Temples Now India's 42nd UNESCO's World Heritage Site

- The Sacred Ensembles of the **Hoysala, the famed Hoysala temples of Belur, Halebid and Somananthpura in Karnataka** have been added to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage

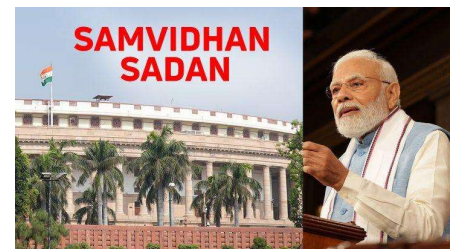


list. This inclusion marks the **42nd UNESCO World Heritage Site** in India and comes just a day after Rabindranath Tagore's Santiniketan also received this distinguished recognition.

- The sacred ensembles of the Hoysalas, constructed during the 12th and 13th centuries are represented here by the three components of Belur, Halebid, and Somnathapura. While the Hoysala temples maintain a fundamental Dravidian morphology, they exhibit substantial influences from the Bhumija style prevalent in Central India, the Nagara traditions of northern and western India, and the Karnataka Dravida modes favoured by the Kalyani Chalukyas.

#### Old Parliament Building To Be Called As 'Samvidhan Sadan'

- As the proceedings of the Indian Parliament shift to a new, state-of-the-art building, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the new name for the old Parliament building: "**Samvidhan Sadan**" or "Constitution House."
- This iconic structure, designed by British architects **Sir Edwin Lutyens** and **Herbert Baker** and completed in **1927**, has witnessed some of the most pivotal moments in Indian history, including the drafting and passing of India's constitution.
- In a poignant moment, Prime Minister Modi proposed the renaming of the old Parliament building during a special ceremony. He emphasized the **importance of preserving the legacy** and significance of this historic edifice. This renaming not only pays homage to the





past but also connects future generations to the great leaders who once convened here in the Constituent Assembly.

### Cabinet Approves Women Reservation Bill Granting 33% Seats To Women In Parliament

- The Union Cabinet took a historic step by approving the **Women Reservation Bill**, The Bill mandates that one-third of the seats in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies will be reserved for women candidates. This provision aims to promote gender equality and increase women's representation in India's legislative bodies.
- To ensure fairness and equitable distribution, the reserved seats will be rotated after each general election. This mechanism prevents the monopolization of reserved seats by specific political parties or individuals.
- The Bill also proposes sub-reservation within the 33 percent quota for Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and Anglo-Indians. This sub-reservation recognizes the importance of addressing intersectional inequalities and promoting diversity in political representation.

### PM Modi Attends The 'International Lawyers Conference' In New Delhi

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **'International Lawyers' Conference 2023'** at New Delhi's Vigyan Bhawan today. This conference, organized by the **Bar Council of India**, has brought together legal experts from across the globe to deliberate on the theme **'Emerging Challenges in Justice Delivery System.'**
- The event, scheduled for September 23 and 24, marks the first of its kind in India and aims to facilitate discussions on pressing legal issues of both national and international significance. The primary objective of the International Lawyers' Conference 2023 is to serve as a **platform for meaningful dialogue and discussion on various legal topics.**
- The conference is designed to foster the exchange of ideas and experiences among legal professionals and



strengthen international cooperation while enhancing the understanding of legal issues. Throughout the two-day event, experts and participants will delve into a wide range of topics that are shaping the legal landscape.

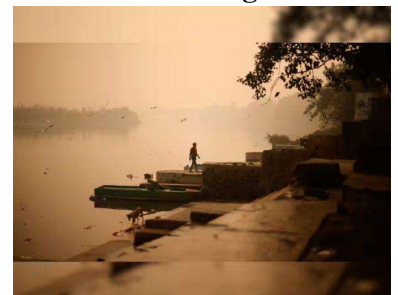
### Prime Minister Modi's Visit To Varanasi: Laying The Foundation Stone Of An International Cricket Stadium

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** recently visited Varanasi, his Lok Sabha constituency, to mark several significant milestones. During his visit, he laid the foundation stone of an **international cricket stadium in Ganjari, Rajatalab**, aimed at realizing his vision of developing world-class sports infrastructure.
- **International Cricket Stadium in Varanasi located at Ganjari, Rajatalab is build at a Cost of Approximately Rs 450 crore.** The thematic architecture of the stadium draws inspiration from Lord Shiva, incorporating elements such as crescent-shaped roof covers, trident-shaped floodlights, and ghat steps-based seating arrangements. The stadium is part of Prime Minister Modi's vision to develop modern and world-class sports infrastructure.



### Biswanath Ghat In Assam, Has Been Chosen As The Best Tourism Village Of India In 2023

- The **Ministry of Tourism** has declared **Biswanath Ghat in Assam** as the **Best Tourism Village of India for the year 2023.** This recognition comes after an extensive selection process that involved reviewing 791 applications from 31 different states and union territories across the country. Assam Chief Minister **Himanta Biswa Sarma** expressed his delight at this achievement, highlighting the immense efforts made by the government to promote rural tourism in the state.



- Biswanath Ghat, situated to the south of Biswanath Chariali Town, is famously referred to as ‘Gupta Kashi.’ This name is derived from the ancient Biswanath temple in the town and draws a parallel with Kashi during the illustrious Gupta Empire era. This picturesque ghat is adorned with a collection of temples dedicated to various deities. Notably, a **Shiva temple** graces the confluence of the Bridhaganga (Burigonga) River with the **Brahmaputra**.

### Gautam Adani’s Ambitious Vision For Dharavi: Transforming Asia’s Largest Slum Into A Modern City Hub

- Gautam Adani expressed his commitment to transforming Dharavi into a **modern city hub**. He plans to support small industries, create **new job opportunities**, especially for young people and women, and establish training and research centers. Adani envisions an organized marketplace in line with **India’s Open Network for Digital Commerce** to be part of the redevelopment plan.
- **Dharavi**, one of **Asia’s largest slums**, located in the heart of **Mumbai**, has long been a focal point for discussions on urban development and improving living conditions for its **1 million residents**.
- In the late **1800s**, Dharavi was home to **potters, leather tanners, artisans, and embroidery workers** who established trade and businesses in the region. Over time, slum dwellers settled here, constructing huts in an unplanned manner.

### India’s First Lighthouse Festival Took Place In Goa

- On September 23, India witnessed a historic event as the **country’s first-ever lighthouse festival** illuminated the picturesque state of **Goa**. Organized by the **Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways**, this festival is part of a grand vision to transform 75 lighthouses across India into thriving tourist hubs.
- The Indian Lighthouse Festival in Goa, which commenced on **September 23 and extends to September 25**, marks a significant milestone in the journey to resurrect these historic structures and celebrate their cultural and historical significance.



- The festival kicked off with a grand inauguration ceremony at the iconic Fort Aguada Lighthouse in Panjim, Goa. Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, who spearheads this initiative, inaugurated the event. The Fort Aguada Lighthouse, with its rich history and stunning vistas, provided the perfect backdrop for this transformative endeavor.

### India Gets Its First Green Hydrogen-Run Bus That Emits Just Water

- The **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)** achieved a significant milestone in India’s transition to clean energy by unveiling the nation’s **first green hydrogen-powered bus**. This groundbreaking initiative marks a crucial step towards reducing the nation’s dependency on fossil fuels while promoting eco-friendly transportation alternatives.
- IOC is leading the charge in harnessing the power of green hydrogen, produced through the **electrolysis of water** using electricity from renewable sources. This green hydrogen will be utilized to fuel two buses, which are slated for trial runs in the national capital region.
- Hydrogen is hailed as the fuel of the future and holds immense potential in aiding India’s decarbonization efforts. Globally, the demand for hydrogen is expected to surge, with estimates ranging from four to seven times current levels, reaching **500-800 tonnes by 2050**. Domestically, **India’s demand for hydrogen** is projected to quadruple, from the current 6 tonnes to 25-28 tonnes by 2050.



### ‘2018’ Is India’s Official Entry In Oscars 2024

- The **Film Federation of India** has announced that the Malayalam movie “**2018: Everyone is a Hero**,” based on the Kerala floods, will represent India as its official entry at the **Academy Awards or Oscars in 2024**.
- The film, directed by **Jude Anthany Joseph**, delves into the harrowing tales of survival during the devastating floods that struck the state. Its selection was attributed to its poignant portrayal of climate change issues and the societal misconceptions about development.
- “2018: Everyone is a Hero” boasts a multi-talented ensemble cast including Tovino Thomas,



Kunchakoboban, Tanvi Ram, and AparnaBalamurali, who contributed significantly to the film's success. Its selection among fierce competition highlights its potential to leave a lasting impact on the global stage.

### India Slips Four Spots To 56th Position In 2023 World Talent Ranking

- The **2023 World Talent Ranking**, released by the **International Institute for Management Development (IMD)** on September 27th, has brought both good news and areas of concern for India. While the nation has shown improvements in infrastructure, it has **slipped four spots to the 56th position** (Out of 64 economies) compared to its 52nd position in the 2022 ranking.
- The IMD World Talent Ranking considers various factors, including the **quality of life**, statutory minimum wage, and primary and secondary education. India performs reasonably well in terms of future readiness, **ranking 29th globally**. However, the report points out a critical issue: India's **educational system ranks second to last (63rd)** in quality.
- In the **IMD World Talent Ranking for 2023**, Switzerland secured the top position, followed by Luxembourg in second place, and Iceland, Belgium, and the Netherlands rounding out the top five.

### India Ranks 40th In Global Innovation Index 2023

- **India retains 40th rank out of 132 economies** in the **Global Innovation Index 2023** rankings published by the **World Intellectual Property Organization**. India has been on a rising trajectory, over the past several years in the Global Innovation Index (GII), from a rank of 81 in 2015 to 40 in 2023.
- This year, the **NITI Aayog, in partnership with the CII and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)**, is hosting, virtually, the India Launch of the **(Global Innovation Index) GII 2023** on 29th September 2023.
- For the 13th year in a row, Switzerland is the most innovative economy in 2023 followed by **Sweden, the United States, the United Kingdom and Singapore**. Discover how other economies are performing in the Global Innovation Index 2023 rankings.

### TCS Tops Kantar BrandZ Top Most Valuable Indian Brands Report 2023

- In the latest edition of the **Kantar BrandZ Top 75 Most Valuable Indian Brands Report for 2023**, **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** has retained its prestigious position at the top of the list with an impressive brand value of \$43 billion.
- **HDFC Bank**, a stalwart in the Indian banking sector, retains its second-place ranking. while **Infosys**, a tech industry titan, maintains its third position in the rankings. **Airtel**, a leading telecom provider, secures the fourth spot and **State Bank of India** makes a notable entry into the top five, underscoring its significance as a financial institution in India.
- The 2023 ranking is based on the opinions of over 127,634 respondents who evaluated 1,500 brands across 106 categories. This extensive survey provides valuable insights into the perceptions and preferences of Indian consumers.



## International

### Georgia Declares October as 'Hindu Heritage Month'

- In a significant move, **Governor Brian Kemp** of the U.S. state of Georgia has officially declared that the **month of October** will be celebrated as '**Hindu Heritage Month**' within the state.
- This proclamation aligns Georgia with several other states across the United States that have taken similar steps to honor and commemorate Hindu heritage, culture, values, and traditions.
- Georgia joins a growing list of states that have recognized the importance of Hindu heritage and culture. These states include Texas, Ohio, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Florida, Minnesota, Virginia, and others. The declaration of 'Hindu Heritage Month' serves as a way to celebrate and acknowledge the contributions and significance of Hinduism in American society.



### 43rd ASEAN Summit Begins In Jakarta Today

- President **Joko Widodo** and First Lady **Iriana** extended a warm welcome to the heads of state and government participating in the **43rd summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** in **Jakarta**. The 43rd ASEAN Summit, hosted by **Indonesia** and occurring from **September 5th to 7th**, saw esteemed delegates gathering at the Plenary Hall of the **Jakarta Convention Center**, the summit's main venue.
- The 43rd ASEAN Summit commenced on a **note of unity and cultural celebration**. Delegates gathered to sing the **ASEAN Anthem**, symbolizing their shared commitment to the region's prosperity and stability. The summit was further enriched by captivating **art performances**, including those by **Aemove Dancer** and **Gitabumi Voices**.



- This year, Indonesia assumed the chairmanship with the theme "**ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth**." This theme underscores **Indonesia's determination to preserve ASEAN's relevance in the global arena** and equip the bloc to face future challenges while promoting regional stability and peace.

### Opening of the 78th Session of the UN General Assembly

- The 78th session of the **United Nations General Assembly** commenced with **Dennis Francis** taking on the role of General Assembly President. In his opening remarks, he emphasized the importance of addressing the numerous global challenges currently confronting the world.
- The 78th session of the General Assembly, themed '**Rebuilding trust and reigniting global solidarity: Accelerating action on the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals towards peace, prosperity, progress, and sustainability for all**,' focuses on several critical areas.
- The session acknowledges the challenges posed by climate change, conflict, and poverty to achieving global peace. The session welcomes initiatives aimed at greater transparency and accountability, including the UNGA's Security Council veto initiative.



### UK Rejoins EU's Horizon Science Research Programme

- After a two-year post-Brexit standoff regarding science funding, the **United Kingdom** has decided to rejoin the European Union's **Horizon science research programme**. This move is seen as a significant development in bilateral relations between the **UK and the EU**, following the resolution of a trade dispute seven months prior.
- In addition to rejoining Horizon, the UK has also chosen to associate with the European earth



observation programme, Copernicus. However, the UK will not participate in the EU's Euratom nuclear research scheme. Instead, the UK has decided to pursue a domestic fusion energy strategy.

- One of the key points of negotiation was how much the UK needed to pay to rejoin Horizon, considering it had missed two years of the seven-year program. Under the agreement, the UK will not be required to pay for the period it was frozen out. Moreover, a "clawback" mechanism has been established to compensate the UK if British scientists receive significantly less funding than the UK government contributes.

### African Union Becomes Permanent Member Of G20 Under India's Presidency

- During the opening session of the **two-day G20 Summit**, the **African Union (AU)**



received an official invitation to join the Group of 20 largest economies (G20) as a permanent member. This momentous declaration was made by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, marking a significant stride towards a more inclusive and equitable global economic landscape.

- Following Prime Minister Modi's announcement, Union of Comoros President and AU Chairperson **Azali Assoumani** assumed his seat as a full member of the G20. This marked a moment of pride and triumph for the African Union, as it secured its place among the world's most influential economies.
- The African Union, comprising **55 member states** from across the African continent, wields substantial influence in regional and global affairs. Its permanent membership in the G20 reflects the increasing recognition of Africa's economic and geopolitical importance.

### African Union

- The **African Union (AU)** is a continental organization consisting of 55 member states from across Africa. It was officially launched on **July 26, 2001, in Durban, South Africa**, and is headquartered in **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**.

- The African Union was established to promote unity and cooperation among African nations, foster economic and political integration, and work towards the development and peace of the African continent.
- The African Union is governed by various organs, including the **Assembly of the African Union** (comprising heads of state and government), the **Executive Council** (comprising foreign ministers), and the **African Union Commission** (the AU's secretariat).

### Next G20 Presidency: PM Modi Hands Over G20 Presidency Gavel To Brazil's President

- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi handed over the **G20 Presidency gavel** to **Brazil's President**, marking the transition of leadership within the elite group. The transfer of power took place with warm diplomatic exchanges, emphasizing the importance of cooperation and shared priorities.
- During the handover ceremony, **President Lula da Silva** outlined the priorities that Brazil would focus on during its G20 Presidency. These included **Social Inclusion and Fight Against Hunger**: Highlighting the importance of addressing social inequalities and hunger on a global scale. **Energy Transition and Sustainable Development**: Emphasizing the need for a sustainable approach to energy and overall development. **Reform of Global Governance Institutions**: Advocating for greater representation of emerging countries in organizations like the UN Security Council, World Bank, and IMF.

### United States City Louisville Declares September 3rd As Sanatana Dharma Day

- **Mayor Craig Greenberg** has declared **September 3** as **Sanatana Dharma Day** in **Louisville, Kentucky** in the United States emphasizing the significance of fostering peace, tolerance, and understanding within diverse communities.
- **Sanatana Dharma**, often referred to as Hinduism, is one of the world's oldest spiritual traditions. Rooted in ancient scriptures and philosophical principles, it encompasses a diverse range of beliefs, practices, and



rituals. For millions of people worldwide, Sanatana Dharma is a way of life that fosters spiritual growth, compassion, and respect for all living beings.

- Previously, **July 20** was declared as ‘**Encyclopedia of Hinduism**’ day in Kentucky by former Louisville mayor Greg Fisher.

### What Is India-Middle East-Europe Mega Economic Corridor Project?

- In a significant announcement during the **G20 summit**, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** unveiled plans for the **India-Middle East-Europe economic corridor**, a ground-breaking initiative that promises to reshape global trade and connectivity.
- The corridor, which involves **India, UAE, Saudi Arabia, European Union, Italy, Germany and the United States**, is poised to be historic venture, surpassing even the legendary Silk and Spice routes of the past.
- India-Middle East-Europe mega economic corridor project aims to **boost trade between the participating nations, with a particular focus on facilitating the exchange of energy-related goods**. This initiative could serve as a substantial response to China’s extensive infrastructure initiative, which aims to enhance global connectivity with the Chinese economy.

### Storm Daniel Devastates Eastern Libya, Over 5,300 Lives Lost

- **Eastern Libya Is In A State Of Emergency After A Powerful Storm Named Daniel Caused Terrible Damage. Thousands Of People Have Been Affected, With More Than 5,300 Lives Lost And Many Still Missing.**



- Libya has been in turmoil for over ten years. It’s divided into different parts, with each having its own leaders. This division has led to neglect of basic things like infrastructure. It took a long time for outside help to reach the city of Derna, where the situation is critical. Roads leading to Derna were damaged or destroyed by the floods.
- The health minister for eastern Libya reported over 1,500 people have been found dead, with half of them already buried. While one official estimated that more than 5,000 people died, another source mentioned that

more than 5,300 lives were lost in Derna alone. The ambulance authority in Derna had reported 2,300 deaths earlier.

### Switzerland Ranked No. 1 In The World Best Countries Report 2023

- **Switzerland** has once again claimed the title of the world’s **best country**, according to the latest **U.S. News & World Report’s annual Best Countries rankings**. This marks



Switzerland’s second consecutive year at the pinnacle and its **sixth time overall** as the No. 1 nation on the list.

- India secured the **30th spot** with an **overall score of 40.8**. In the previous year, in 2022, India held the 31st position out of 85. India achieved its most remarkable performance in the “**Movers**” category, securing the **5th position**. This category evaluates countries based on their potential for future growth and their readiness to face challenges presented by the global economy. In the realm of **cultural influence** and **heritage**, India attained the 29th and 10th positions, respectively. In the **power category**, India claimed the 12th spot.

### NATO’s Largest Military Exercise Since The Cold War: “Steadfast Defender”

- **NATO** member countries are gearing up to conduct their most extensive military exercise since the Cold War era. Set to commence in the spring of the following year, this ambitious undertaking is aimed at simulating various military scenarios, with a primary focus on defense against a hypothetical adversary resembling a **Russian-led coalition known as Occasus**.
- This expansive military exercise is expected to encompass a multitude of elements, showcasing NATO’s commitment to readiness and collective defense.
- The overarching objective of this exercise, codenamed “**Steadfast Defender**,” is to refine NATO’s transformation from a crisis response organization into a robust war-fighting alliance. The scenario envisages repelling a hypothetical Russian-led attack on a NATO member state.



### India Emerges As Bangladesh's Leading Export Partner

- The Government of India has declared that it has surpassed Japan and China to become Bangladesh's largest export partner. The growth in bilateral trade has been particularly noteworthy, with Bangladesh's exports to India surging from **\$450 million to a remarkable \$2 billion**.
- This announcement was made during discussions centered on exploring new trade routes, specifically the **Agartala-Akhaura rail link project**, which promises to bolster connectivity and trade ties between the two nations.
- Once **Agartala-Akhaura rail link project** is operational, it will mark the seventh rail link connecting India and Bangladesh, further enhancing connectivity and trade opportunities. This development underscores the commitment to strengthening infrastructural ties.



### India-Canada Relations Strained Over Allegations Of Sikh Separatist Involvement

- Canada's prime minister, **Justin Trudeau**, announced that there was "credible" information linking Indian government agents to the murder of a Sikh separatist leader in British Columbia. The announcement marks a significant worsening of bilateral ties.
- Recently, there was a tragic incident where **Hardeep Singh Nijjar** was fatally shot outside a Sikh temple in Surrey, British Columbia, Canada. Nijjar had been advocating for the creation of an independent Sikh nation called Khalistan within India's Punjab state. He was wanted by Indian authorities and was officially labeled as a "terrorist" in July 2020. Nijjar held a prominent position as the leader of the Khalistan Tiger Force, an organization that India has designated as a terrorist group.
- This incident has given rise to discussions on social media regarding potential connections between Indian intelligence agencies and these overseas deaths, including those that occurred on Canadian soil.

### UK PM Rishi Sunak Delays Ban On New Petrol And Diesel Cars By 5 Years In Net Zero Reset

- British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak** has unveiled a shift in the UK's strategy for achieving its **Net Zero climate action targets**. This strategy includes a significant delay of five years in implementing the proposed ban on petrol and diesel cars, pushing the deadline to 2035.
- Despite this delay, Sunak emphasized that the UK remains steadfast in its commitment to reduce carbon emissions and achieve its **Net Zero target by 2050**. The core objective is unchanged, but the approach is evolving to be more practical, proportionate, and realistic, particularly in light of the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.
- In addition to delaying the ban on petrol and diesel cars, Sunak's plan includes: The ban on installing oil and LPG boilers, as well as new coal heating, for off-gas-grid homes by 2035 and Exemption for Fossil Fuel Boilers including gas, in 2035, allowing a transition to low-carbon alternatives. Policies that compelled landlords to upgrade property energy efficiency will also be scrapped.

### Invitation To U.S. President Biden For Republic Day Celebration

- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi** extended an invitation to U.S. **President Joe Biden** to be the chief guest at **India's Republic Day** celebrations on January 26 next year. U.S. Ambassador Eric Garcetti confirmed the invitation, stating that it is under consideration by the U.S. government. President Biden is also scheduled to visit India in 2024 for the **Quad Summit**, and efforts are being made to align the summit with his visit.
- This marks the third time the Modi government has invited a U.S. President to be the chief guest at the Republic Day parade. In 2015, President Barack Obama was the first American President to attend Republic Day as the chief guest. President Donald Trump declined the invitation for January 2019 due to scheduling conflicts in the U.S. Congress.



### Republican-Led House Panel Initiates Biden Impeachment Inquiry

- The Republican-controlled U.S. House of Representatives has embarked on an impeachment inquiry against

Democratic President **Joe Biden**.

Spearheaded by Speaker **Kevin**



**McCarthy**, this move signifies an attempt to score political points at the onset of the election campaign cycle.

- The backdrop for this impeachment inquiry is the history of impeachments involving former **President Donald Trump**. The Democrats impeached Trump twice, first over allegations of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress linked to his interactions with Ukraine, and later for “incitement of insurrection” following the January 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol. Kevin McCarthy’s pursuit of Biden’s impeachment may be seen as an effort to counterbalance the scales, potentially influencing voter support for Democrats in upcoming elections.
- The primary focus of the impeachment inquiry centers on Hunter Biden’s business dealings and whether President Biden benefited from them during his tenure as Vice President under Barack Obama. The House Oversight Committee’s August memorandum alleged that the Biden family received over \$20 million from foreign sources.

### Pakistan Announces General Elections In January 2024

- The **Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP)** has officially declared that the **general elections in Pakistan** will be held in the last week of January 2024. This



announcement follows a series of delays in the election timeline. Initially slated for October of the same year, the elections were postponed due to the early exit of the Shehbaz Sharif government and the necessity for a comprehensive census.

- The preliminary list of constituencies is set to be made public on September 27. Subsequently, after considering complaints and feedback on the preliminary lists, the final list of constituencies will be released on November 30. This meticulous process ensures transparency and fairness in constituency delineation.
- The elections will span a **54-day period**, culminating in the voting week at the **end of January 2024**. This extended timeline allows for comprehensive preparations and the smooth execution of the electoral process.

### Singapore Overtakes Hong Kong As World’s Freest Economy

- In a significant shift, Singapore has surpassed Hong Kong to claim the title of the **world’s freest economy**, marking the end of Hong Kong’s 53-year reign at the top. This shift is according to a report released by the Canadian think tank Fraser Institute.
- The **Economic Freedom of the World Index**, which has been tracking economic freedom since 1970, placed Hong Kong in second place for the first time. The report highlights how Hong Kong’s recent shift is closely linked to civil and political freedom. The imposition of a national security law in 2020, which criminalizes secession and sedition, has raised concerns about the city’s autonomy.
- Top 5 Freest Economies are:**

Rank	Country
1	Singapore
2	Hong Kong
3	Switzerland
4	New Zealand
5	United States

### Rafflesia Genus, World’s Largest Flower Near Extinction

- An international group of scientists, including botanists from the **University of Oxford’s Botanic Garden**, has issued a dire call to action to save the iconic **genus Rafflesia**. These remarkable plants, known for their massive, foul-smelling flowers, are under severe threat due to habitat destruction and lack of protection. A recent study has shed light on the

precarious status of *Rafflesia*, urging immediate conservation efforts to prevent their extinction.

- Of the **42 known species of *Rafflesia***, **25 are classified as critically endangered and 15 are endangered**. Shockingly, more than two-thirds of these species receive no protection from current conservation strategies. This relevance comes from the first-ever global assessment of the threats faced by these remarkable plants.

### I2U2 Group Of India, Israel, UAE & US Announces Joint Space Venture

- The **I2U2 group** comprising **India, Israel, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and the United States** has unveiled an ambitious joint space venture. This collaborative initiative aims to create a groundbreaking space-based tool with wide-ranging applications for policymakers, institutions, and entrepreneurs.
- The announcement follows India's recent successful lunar mission, marking a significant milestone for the quartet's space exploration efforts. Against the backdrop of India's triumphant lunar soft-landing, the I2U2 group, consisting of four nations deeply engaged in space exploration, has come together to pioneer a unique space-based tool.
- The core of this project revolves around harnessing the space-based observation data and capabilities possessed by the four I2U2 partner nations. The objective is to leverage this data to create a distinctive tool with applications spanning multiple domains.



### The Zagorochoria, Nestled On Mount Pindos In Epirus Added To UNESCO's World Heritage List

- A cluster of traditional, picturesque villages on Mount Pindos in Epirus, known as the **Zagorochoria** (or villages of Zagori), was recently inducted onto **UNESCO's World Heritage List**. This momentous decision was made during the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, marking a significant milestone in Greece's cultural heritage preservation efforts.
- Located in a remote rural landscape in northwestern Greece, Zagorochoria consists of **small stone villages** that sprawl along the western slopes of the

northern part of the **Pindus mountain range**. A network of stone-arched bridges, stone-cobbled paths, and stone staircases seamlessly connects these charming villages, forming a system that **once served as a political and social unit**, linking the communities of the Voidomatis River basin.

- These traditional villages are typically organized around a central square, featuring ancient plane trees and surrounded by sacred forests meticulously maintained by local communities. What makes these villages truly remarkable is their architecture, perfectly adapted to the rugged mountain topography.

### World's Second Largest Hindu Temple Outside India To Be Inaugurated In US

- In a historic moment for devotees of Hinduism and lovers of art and culture, the **Swaminarayan Akshardham temple** in **Robbinsville Township, New Jersey**, is set to be inaugurated on **8<sup>th</sup> October 2023**, under the guidance of its spiritual head, **Mahant Swami Maharaj**.
- This monumental temple, constructed outside of India, is poised to become the **second-largest Hindu temple in the world**, following the majestic **Angkor Wat in Cambodia**. With its intricate design, spiritual significance and commitment to sustainability, the Swaminarayan Akshardham stands as an evident to human dedication, tradition and artistry.
- Measuring an impressive **255ft x 345ft x 191ft**, the **New Jersey Akshardham temple** is possibly the **second largest temple globally**, only surpassed by **Cambodia's Angkor Wat**. The temple complex boasts **one main shrine, 12 sub-shrines, nine shikhars (spire-like structures) and nine pyramidal shikhars**, with the largest elliptical dome of traditional stone architecture ever constructed.

### The Next Pandemic: Disease X Looms As A Potential Global Threat

- Health experts from around the world are sounding the alarm about a potential global pandemic referred to as "**Disease X**," which could surpass the lethality of





COVID-19 and claim over 50 million lives. They warn that COVID-19 might be just a precursor to more devastating pandemics in the future.

- Dame Kate Bingham, who chaired the **UK's Vaccine Taskforce**, issued a grim warning about the severity of Disease X. She emphasized that the world has been fortunate that COVID-19 was not more lethal and cautioned that the next pandemic could be exponentially more deadly.
- In response to the threat of Disease X, UK scientists have initiated vaccine development efforts targeting this unidentified but potentially deadly pathogen. More than 200 scientists are involved in this research, conducted at the high-security Porton Down laboratory complex in Wiltshire.

### Afghani Currency Has Emerged As The Best Performing Currency In The Current Quarter

- **The Afghani**, the currency of conflict-ridden Afghanistan, has taken the financial world by surprise by emerging as the **best-performing currency of the September quarter** in 2023. As of September 26th, the Afghani was trading at approximately 78.25 against the US dollar.
- This unexpected surge is attributed to a combination of factors, including massive dollar inflow in the form of humanitarian aid and currency control measures imposed by the ruling Taliban. This influx of foreign currency has played a pivotal role in stabilizing the Afghan economy.
- Another factor bolstering the Afghani is **Afghanistan's vast natural resources**, including significant reserves of **lithium**. The Taliban has expressed its intent to tap into these resources to attract foreign investments. Additionally, Afghanistan's inclusion under China's Belt and Road Initiative in May 2023 has further enhanced the prospects of increased foreign investment, particularly for infrastructure development projects.



### Google's Celebrates Its 25th Birthday

- **Google**, the search engine giant, is commemorating its **25th birthday with a special Google Doodle**.

- Throughout its 25-year journey, Google's mission has remained steadfast: to organize the world's information and ensure its universal accessibility and utility. This mission has driven the company's innovations, from search algorithms to the development of products like Google Maps, Gmail, and Google Drive.
- In the late 1990s, Sergey Brin and Larry Page shared a common dream: to make the World Wide Web more accessible and user-friendly. From the confines of their dorm rooms, Brin and Page worked tirelessly on a prototype for a superior search engine. As their project gained momentum, they relocated to Google's first official workspace – a rented garage. On September 27, 1998, Google Inc. was formally founded.

### What Is The Five Eyes Intelligence Alliance?

- The Five Eyes Intelligence Alliance, often referred to as simply **"Five Eyes,"** is a secretive international intelligence coalition comprising five English-speaking countries.
- The Five Eyes alliance originated as a post-war intelligence-sharing agreement between the **United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand**. Formed in 1946, its primary objective was to share **signals intelligence (SIGINT)** to counter the emerging Soviet threat during the Cold War.
- Established in the aftermath of **World War II**, this alliance has played a pivotal role in shaping global intelligence and security strategies.



### NASA's MOXIE Successfully Generates Oxygen On Mars

- The Mars Oxygen In-Situ Resource Utilization Experiment, commonly referred to as MOXIE, has achieved a remarkable feat by producing a substantial 122 grams of oxygen, a quantity sufficient for sustaining a small dog's breathing for approximately 10 hours.. This compact device, roughly the **size of a microwave**, possesses an extraordinary capability: it can convert the tenuous and inhospitable Martian atmosphere into vital, life-sustaining oxygen.

- Since the moment **Percy**, the Mars Perseverance rover, touched down on the Martian surface, MOXIE has been operating flawlessly. To date, it has generated a remarkable 122 grams of oxygen, averaging an impressive rate of 12 grams per hour. This achievement is more than double NASA's initial goal for MOXIE, and the oxygen produced boasts an impressive purity level of 98% or better.

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## Defence

### IAF's Training Exercise Trishul Begins

- The **Indian Air Force** (IAF) has kicked off its annual mega training exercise, **Trishul**, which is a crucial event aimed at bolstering its operational readiness and capabilities. This extensive exercise is organized by the **Western Air Command** (WAC) and spans a vast geographical area, from **Leh in Kashmir to Nal in Rajasthan**.
- Trishul, scheduled from **September 4th to 14th**, is designed to rigorously assess the operational preparedness of the Western Air Command. This assessment encompasses a **wide range of assets and scenarios**, making it an intricate and comprehensive training program.
- The exercise features the deployment of all frontline assets under the Western Air Command, showcasing the IAF's diverse airpower. This includes various fighter aircraft such as the **Rafale, Mirage 2000, and Su-30MKIs**, highlighting the formidable combat capabilities of the Indian Air Force.



### INS Sumedha Has Arrived In Egypt To Participate In 'Exercise BRIGHT STAR-23'

- Indian Navy's **INS Sumedha** arrived at Port Alexandria, **Egypt** to participate in 'Exercise **BRIGHT STAR-23**'. This edition of the multinational Tri-Services military exercise will see participation from **34 countries**. It is the largest ever joint military exercise in the **Middle East and North Africa region**.
- The exercises will span over two weeks with intense operations and training, aimed at reaffirming the ability of the participating navies to **operate together as an integrated force** and to highlight their shared commitment to maritime security and global stability through collaborative training and mutual understanding.
- Participation in Exercise **BRIGHT STAR-23** offers the Indian Navy a valuable opportunity to showcase its capabilities and **enhance interoperability** with other nations' naval forces. Learning from the best practices

of partner nations is vital for strengthening maritime security operations. The exercise serves as a **platform for India to share its expertise** while gaining valuable insights into the strategies and tactics of other participating countries.

### 21st EDITION OF INDIA FRANCE BILATERAL NAVAL EXERCISE 'VARUNA' – 2023

- The Indian and French Navies, steeped in rich maritime traditions and strategic cooperation, recently concluded the **Phase II** of the **21st edition** of the Varuna naval exercise, **Varuna-23**. Held in the **Arabian Sea**, this exercise exemplifies the commitment of both nations to enhance their warfighting capabilities, improve interoperability, and promote peace, security, and stability in the region.
- The Varuna-23 exercise spanned **three days** and saw the active participation of guided missile frigates, a tanker, **Maritime Patrol Aircraft**, and integral helicopters from both the Indian and French Navies. This robust collaboration showcased joint operations, underway replenishment, and various tactical maneuvers designed to sharpen the skills of both navies.
- The roots of the Varuna naval exercise trace back to **1993** when Indian and French naval forces initiated their bilateral engagement. Over the years, this exercise has evolved significantly, earning the moniker '**Varuna**' in **2001**.



### World's Highest Fighter Airfield To Come Up In Ladakh's Nyoma

- The **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** is set to achieve a remarkable feat as it embarks on the construction of the **world's highest fighter airfield** at Nyoma in **Ladakh**. The foundation stone of this ambitious project is scheduled to be placed by Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** on September 12, 2023, at the Devak Bridge in Jammu.
- Nyoma** stands as a prominent village situated in the southern region of Ladakh, India. It hosts an **Indian**





**Air Force Base** within the Leh district. Nyoma is notably home to an **Advanced Landing Ground (ALG)** established in 1962. Nyoma's elevation reaches an impressive **4,180 meters** (13,710 feet) above sea level, making it one of the highest-altitude locations in the region.

### Udhampur Railway Station Renamed As Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan Railway Station

- After an order was approved by the **Jammu and Kashmir administration** regarding the renaming of **Udhampur railway station**, the Northern Railway has notified the change in the name to '**Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan Railway Station**', in honour of the Army braveheart.
- It is notified for the information of the general public that with immediate effect, the name of **UDHAMPUR (UHP) Railway Station** in Firozpur Division of Northern Railway has been changed to "**Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan (MCTM) Railway Station.**"
- Captain Tushar Mahajan, a dedicated officer in the Indian Army, gave his life in service to his country. He served as a member of the renowned **9 Para Special Forces**, often referred to as the '**9 Parachute Commando.**' Captain Tushar Mahajan was born on **May 25, 1987**, in Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir, India.

### INDIAN NAVAL SHIPS, SUBMARINE & LRMP AIRCRAFT REACH SINGAPORE TO PARTICIPATE IN SIMBEX 23

- The **30th edition** of the **Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX)** has commenced, marking another milestone in the strong and enduring partnership between the Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN).
- This annual naval exercise, which began in **1994**, stands as a testament to the deep-rooted maritime cooperation between the two nations. Indian Naval Ships **Ranvijay** and **Kavaratti**, alongside the submarine **INS Sindhukesari**, have arrived in Singapore to participate in **SIMBEX-2023**. The exercise also sees the inclusion of the **Long-Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft P8I**.



- **SIMBEX** has etched its name in history as the longest continuous naval exercise conducted by the Indian Navy with any other country. Over nearly three decades, this bilateral exercise has evolved, **providing a robust framework for maritime cooperation** and partnership. It has not only strengthened the ties between the Indian Navy and RSN but has also contributed to regional stability and security in the Indo-Pacific region.

### India Gets Its First Airbus C295 Aircraft

- India reached a significant milestone with the arrival of the **first C295 aircraft**, marking a momentous achievement in the country's aviation history. This development is the result of a collaboration between **European aviation giant Airbus** and the Indian conglomerate **Tata Group**, marking the first instance of an Indian private company manufacturing an aircraft.
- The C295 aircraft is set to replace the **IAF's ageing Avro fleet**. With the capability to carry up to **nine tonnes of payload** or transport as many as **71 troops**, it boasts a maximum cruise speed of approximately **480 kilometers per hour**. One of its notable features is a rear ramp for loading and unloading, making it ideal for transporting larger equipment, a capability the Avro lacked.
- The C295 aircraft is highly versatile, capable of operating at altitudes of up to **30,000 feet**. It can take off and land on short, soft, rough, and unprepared airstrips, a feat that the Avro couldn't match. Furthermore, it can perform low-level flight, with a minimum speed of **110 knots**. These features make it adaptable to a variety of operational scenarios.



### 19th Edition Of YUDH ABHYAS To Be Conducted In Alaska

- The **19th edition** of **YUDH ABHYAS** is set to commence in Alaska, USA. This annual exercise is a collaborative effort between the Indian Army and the US



Army, aimed at strengthening military cooperation and readiness.

- The Indian Army contingent, consisting of 350 personnel, will actively take part in this edition of the exercise. The lead battalion representing India hails from the esteemed **MARATHA Light Infantry Regiment**.
- During YUDH ABHYAS, both sides will engage in a series of tactical drills geared towards enhancing interoperability, particularly in the context of **UN peacekeeping operations**. The exercise will facilitate the exchange of views and best practices related to a broad spectrum of combat skills.

### 13th Indo-Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference In New Delhi: Key Highlights

- The **13th Indo-Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference (IPACC)** took place from September 26 to 27, 2023, at the **Manekshaw Centre** in New Delhi. This biennial event, co-hosted by the **Indian Army** and the **US Army Pacific**, brought together army chiefs from 30 Indo-Pacific nations to deliberate on security cooperation, collective strategies, and pressing regional issues.
- The primary objective of the IPACC was to foster security cooperation among participating nations in the Indo-Pacific region. Army chiefs discussed and formulated collective strategies to address regional security challenges. A crucial focus of the conference was the role of military diplomacy in mitigating crises within the Indo-Pacific region.
- Moreover, Indian vendors showcased a wide array of locally-produced weapons and systems to representatives from 30 countries. The exhibition featured advanced drones, artillery guns, unmanned ground vehicles, surveillance equipment, and armored personnel carriers, highlighting India's advancements in defense manufacturing.



### IAF Receives First Dornier Do-228 Aircraft From HAL

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has recently celebrated the arrival of the **first** of six state-of-the-art **Dornier Do-228 aircraft**, exclusively manufactured by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**. This upgraded version of the aircraft is set to bolster the IAF's operational capabilities with its advanced features, marking a significant milestone in the modernization efforts of the Indian defense forces.
- The foundation for this crucial development was laid in March when the **Ministry of Defence** inked a deal with HAL for the procurement of **six Dornier-228 aircraft**, allocating a budget of **Rs 667 crore**. This deal represents a significant step forward in the ongoing efforts to modernize and upgrade the Indian Air Force's fleet.
- These upgraded Dornier-228 aircraft come equipped with a range of advanced features that set them apart. The inclusion of **new engines, composite propellers, advanced avionics, and a modern glass cockpit** significantly enhances their performance and usability.



## Appointments or Resign/Retired

### Jaya Verma Sinha 1st Woman Chairperson to Head the Railway Board

- The government appointed **Jaya Verma Sinha** as the **first woman Chairperson of the Railway Board**, the top decision-making body for the Ministry of Railways. Ms. Sinha is the first ever woman to head the **Board in its 118-year-old history**. The Railway Board came into effect in 1905.
- She will assume office on or after September 1, and before this she was the Member (Operations and Business Development). She was at the forefront while handling the aftermath of the tragic Balasore accident which killed 291 people. **Her tenure will be till August 31, 2024.**



### Anand Mahindra welcomes MS Dhoni as Brand ambassador of Swaraj Tractors

- Industrialist **Anand Mahindra** has welcomed **Mahindra Singh Dhoni** as the cricketer became a brand ambassador of his **Swaraj Tractors**.
- Swaraj Tractors is an Indian tractor manufacturing company headquartered in **Mohali, Punjab**. It is a subsidiary of **Mahindra & Mahindra**. **Swaraj Tractors** was established in **1974** with a mission to be self-reliant and develop India's first Indigenous tractor. Today, it is one of the leading tractor manufacturers in India, with a market share of over 10%.

### Tharman Shanmugaratnam Wins Singapore Presidential Election

- In a significant political development, Indian-origin economist **Tharman Shanmugaratnam** has emerged victorious in **Singapore's presidential election**. This victory is especially noteworthy as it comes after a gap of ten



years, marking the country's first contested presidential polls since 2011.

- Tharman Shanmugaratnam** secured a substantial majority in the presidential elections, receiving a resounding **70.4 percent** of the votes. His victory was achieved against two other contenders of **Chinese origin**, **Ng Kok Song** and **Tan Kin Lian**, who garnered 15.7 percent and 13.88 percent of the votes, respectively.

### Manish Desai Takes Charge of Press Information Bureau (PIB)

- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has made significant appointments, including the transfer of **Manish Desai**, the Central Bureau of Communications (CBC) chief, to lead the **Press Information Bureau (PIB)**.
- Manish Desai**, a distinguished officer of the **Indian Information Service (IIS)** since **1989**, has taken on several critical roles in his career. He held the position of CBC chief, overseeing the government's advertising and public communication arm. His responsibilities encompassed a broad spectrum of communication activities across various media platforms, including print, electronic, outdoor, transit, and new media.



### R Madhavan Nominated as President of FTII Pune

- Renowned actor **R Madhavan** has been nominated as the new **President of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune**.
- Additionally, he will serve as the Chairman of the governing council of FTII. Madhavan's nomination follows the recent success of his film, **'Rocketry: The Nambi Effect'**, which earned national recognition. The film secured the prestigious Best Feature Film award during the **69th National Film Awards**.





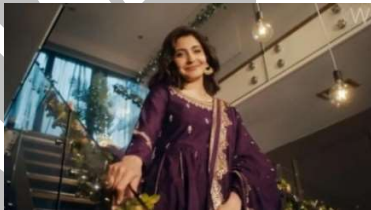
### Uday Kotak Resigns As Kotak Mahindra Bank MD & CEO, Dipak Gupta Takes Interim Charge

- Uday Kotak has formally resigned from his position as the **Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Kotak Mahindra Bank**, with the change taking effect from **September 1st, 2023**. However, he will continue to play a vital role as a **non-executive director** within the organization until his tenure concludes on **December 31, 2023**.
- Dipak Gupta**, the **joint managing director of Kotak Mahindra Bank**, will take on the responsibilities of the **Managing Director and CEO** on an interim basis. This transition is subject to approval from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** and the members of the bank. It reflects the bank's commitment to maintaining stability and continuity in its leadership.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited is a prominent Indian financial institution based in Mumbai. It provides a **wide range of financial services and products** including **personal finance, investment banking, life insurance, and wealth management**. Notably, Kotak Mahindra Bank ranks as the **third-largest private sector bank** in India in terms of market capitalization, following HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank.



### Women's fashion brand W roped Anushka Sharma as Brand Ambassador

- Women's fashion brand **W** on-boarded **Anushka Sharma** as its brand ambassador. With this partnership, the brand prepares to launch its high-decibel festive campaign that beautifully merges the warmth of festivities with the spirit of modernity.
- The specially curated **Festive Collection** by **W** includes its widest range of **Anarkalis, Festive sets, dresses and lots more**. It boasts of an exquisite array of fabrics, carefully selected to enhance the festive experience.
- From cotton lurex sets adorned with metallic gota trims to velvety textures with matte sequins, the collection offers a tactile journey through the opulence



of the festive season. The incorporation of coloured zari weaves, mirror work, and intricate dori work with sequin highlights bring a rich and diverse palette of textures and embellishments.

### Former SBI Chief Rajnish Kumar Appointed Chairman Of Mastercard India

- Mastercard**, the global financial services corporation, has made a significant appointment in its Indian operations by naming **Rajnish Kumar** as the **Chairman of Mastercard India**. This move reflects Mastercard's commitment to strengthening its presence in India and navigating the dynamic landscape of domestic payments.
- Kumar concluded his three-year term as the **Chairman of SBI** in October 2020, leaving behind a legacy of banking excellence. Now, he steps into a new role at Mastercard India, where he will provide guidance and leadership to Mastercard's South Asia executive team. This team is headed by **Gautam Aggarwal**, Division President for South Asia & Country Corporate Officer, India.
- Rajnish Kumar's career spans nearly four decades in India's largest bank, the **State Bank of India**. During his tenure, he held various leadership positions and played a pivotal role in managing critical operations not only in India but also in the **UK and Canada**. His contributions to the banking sector are well-acknowledged, with one of his notable achievements being the spearheading of the **YONO** platform, a groundbreaking digital banking initiative.

### Rahul Navin Takes Charge As Director Of Enforcement Directorate

- IRS (Indian Revenue Service)** officer **Rahul Navin** assumed the role of **In-Charge Director of the Enforcement Directorate (ED)**, succeeding the outgoing Director **Sanjay Kumar Mishra**. This transition marks an important development in the leadership of the ED, a crucial agency responsible for enforcing economic laws and regulations in India. Mr. Navin is currently serving as the **Special Director of the Enforcement Directorate**.
- The official order further stated that the tenure of **Sanjay Kumar Mishra** as the **Director of Enforcement** in the **Enforcement Directorate** concluded on the **15th of September, 2023**. This event follows a series of legal developments and extensions that ultimately led to the conclusion of **Mr. Mishra's** tenure. **Sanjay**

Kumar Mishra was initially appointed as the Director of the Enforcement Directorate for a two-year term on November 19, 2018

- The Enforcement Directorate (ED) is a specialized law enforcement agency in India responsible for enforcing economic laws and regulations in the country. It is primarily tasked with investigating and prosecuting cases related to financial crimes, money laundering, foreign exchange violations, and economic offenses.

### HDFC Bank's Jagdishan Gets 3-Year Extension

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently given its stamp of approval for the reappointment of **Sashidhar Jagdishan** as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **HDFC Bank**.
- This tenure extension will see Jagdishan at the helm of the bank for an additional three years, extending his leadership until **October 26, 2026**. This regulatory decision comes as a significant endorsement of his leadership and strategic vision for one of India's largest and most influential banking institutions.
- Jagdishan's contract extension comes several months following the merger of **HDFC Ltd**, the parent company, with **HDFC Bank**. This merger resulted in the formation of the **second-largest bank** in India, trailing only behind the State Bank of India in terms of size and scope. The merger officially took effect on **July 1, 2023**, leading to the dissolution of the long-standing institution, HDFC Ltd, which had been in operation for 44 years.

### Katrina Kaif Named As Uniqlo India's Brand Ambassador

- Japanese clothing giant **Uniqlo** has announced its partnership with Bollywood actress **Katrina Kaif**, marking her as the brand's first ambassador in India. This collaboration is part of Uniqlo's strategy to expand its presence in the Indian market and promote its Fall-Winter 2023 campaign.
- Katrina Kaif, a prominent figure in the Indian film industry will feature in campaign films, showcasing Uniqlo's fashion offerings across various media channels, including digital and offline platforms. Katrina Kaif joins the ranks of other global brand ambassadors for Uniqlo, such as tennis legend Roger Federer, who has been representing the brand since 2018. This diverse selection of ambassadors aligns with Uniqlo's commitment to global appeal.

- The collaboration between Uniqlo and Katrina Kaif is set to last for one year, focusing on promoting the brand's Fall-Winter 2023 collection. This campaign will span multiple mediums, including print, digital, outdoor advertising, and in-store promotions.

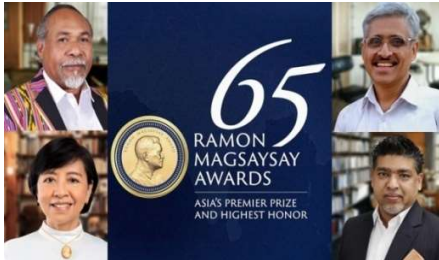
### K.N. Shanth Kumar Elected Chairman of Press Trust of India (PTI) Board

- In a significant development within the realm of Indian journalism, **K.N. Shanth Kumar**, a seasoned media professional, has been elected as the Chairman of the **Press Trust of India's Board of Directors** for a one-year term.
- This announcement came following the Annual General Meeting of PTI's Board of Directors, held at the news agency's headquarters in New Delhi on a Friday.
- Mr. Shanth Kumar's election marks a transition in PTI's leadership, as he takes over from **Aveek Sarkar**, who had served as Chairman for two consecutive terms. This shift in leadership is expected to bring fresh perspectives and ideas to the helm of India's largest and oldest private news agency.

## Honours/ Awards

### 65th Ramon Magsaysay Awards 2023 Winners List

- The **Ramon Magsaysay Award**, often called the ‘**Nobel Prize of Asia**’, is a notable accolade that represents exceptional spirit and influential leadership.
- This year, in the ceremony’s **65th edition**, four Asians were given the Ramon Magsaysay Award, joining the ranks of Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, Mother Teresa, Dalai Lama, Satyajit Ray, and many others.
- They are **KorviRakshand from Bangladesh, Eugenio Lemos from Timor-Leste, Miriam Coronel-Ferrer from the Philippines, and Dr Ravi Kannan R. from India**. The award carries a certificate, a medallion bearing the likeness of the late President, and a cash prize of **USD 50,000**.



### RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das Rated ‘A+’ In Global Finance Central Banker Report 2023

- In a recent announcement that has garnered international attention, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor **Shaktikanta Das** has been awarded an ‘**A+**’ rating in the prestigious **Global Finance Central Banker Report Cards 2023**. This commendation places him at the pinnacle of central bank governors worldwide. The announcement was made by the RBI through its official communication channel on social media platform ‘X’ (formerly known as Twitter).
- This recognition has placed **Shaktikanta Das** at the top of the list of three central bank governors who have been rated ‘A’. Joining Shaktikanta Das in the elite category of central bank governors who earned an ‘A+’ grade in the Global Finance Central Banker Report Cards 2023 are **Thomas J. Jordan** from Switzerland and **Nguyen Thi Hong** from Vietnam. This recognition solidifies Governor Das’s standing as



one of the most influential and effective central bank leaders in the world.

### Chartered Accountant Praveena Anjana Crowned Miss International India 2023

- Praveena Anjana** of Udaipur has been crowned **Miss International India 2023**, gaining her position to represent India at the Miss International pageant in Japan this October. Anjana, 23, is a chartered accountant by profession who has been interested in fashion and beauty since she was a kid. She began modelling at an early age and has competed in various beauty pageants, most recently winning the Miss Divine Beauty 2023 pageant in August.
- Anjana is a strong supporter for women’s empowerment and is enthusiastic about utilising her platform to raise awareness about key topics such as gender equality and education. She is also a skilled classical dancer and likes playing the piano.



### Vijayawada Railway Station Gets IGBC’s ‘Green Railway Station’ Certification

- Vijayawada Railway Station** was awarded the ‘Green Railway Station’ certification with the highest rating of **Platinum** by the **Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)** for its efforts in improving the environmental standards and providing eco-friendly services to passengers. This is an upgradation of the station’s ratings, from gold in 2019 to platinum in 2023.
- Some of these measures include use of star-rated electrical appliances, LED lights, installation of a sewage treatment plant to recycle wastewater, periodic testing to check smoke emission, increasing green coverage, improvement in amenities for passengers, provision of medical facilities, proximity to bus stops, avoidance of single-use plastic, use of comprehensive mechanised cleaning for effective waste segregation and its disposal, among others.



### Army Doctor Awarded Dr AM Gokhale Award For Ophthalmology In Pune

- Renowned ophthalmologist **Brig Sanjay Kumar Mishra** of Indian Army's Research and Referral Hospital was conferred with the prestigious "**Dr AM Gokhale Award**" in Pune.
- The award was conferred to him at the Retina Conclave at Pune. Dr AM Gokhale was a renowned teacher of Ophthalmology and his students progressed to become the doyens of Ophthalmology in the country.
- Brig Sanjay Kumar Mishra hails from Mau, Uttar Pradesh and finished his tutoring from Prayagraj. He has been conferred with Bar to Sena Medal (Distinguished) by the President of India just before 26 January 2021. Earlier he was awarded the Sena Medal and Bar to VishishtSeva Medal (VSM). Brig Mishra is one of the highest decorated officers of Indian Armed Forces Medical Services.



### Najma Akhtar Honored With Lifetime Achievement Award In Academia

- Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) Vice Chancellor, Professor **Najma Akhtar**, was recently presented '**Lifetime Achievement Award-Academia**'. The award was presented to her by **Dr Raghunath Anant Mashelkar (Padma Vibhushan)** at the Grand Conference and award function titled "**Making India Employable**," organised by Team LeaseEdTech.
- Akhtar was selected for the award by a jury panel comprising of educationists and industry experts. She has been awarded for her "great efforts to connect education to employment."
- The '**Making India Employable Awards**' is organised to celebrate individualistic excellence, innovation and real-world impact in the fields of education, employability and skilling. These awards are bestowed on the very best of the best who showcase exemplary contributions towards the common goal of Making India Employable.

### Karachi's Erica Robin becomes first Miss Universe Pakistan 2023

- **Erica Robin**, a model from Karachi has been crowned "**Miss Universe Pakistan 2023**", becoming the first-ever woman from the country to win the title.
- Jessica Wilson, a 28-year-old cyber security engineer was named first runner-up while **Hira Inam (24)**, **Malyka Alvi (19)**, and **Sabrina Wasim (26)** were the rest of the finalists.
- Robin will be the official representative of Pakistan at the Miss Universe pageant, scheduled to be held in El Salvador later this year. Pakistan will be sending five models to compete in the prestigious Miss Universe pageant. This landmark moment marks the first time Pakistan has ever been represented in the world's most esteemed beauty competition.

### Indian-Origin Author Chetna Maroo's Debut Novel 'Western Lane' Shortlisted In Booker Prize 2023

- The **Booker Prize 2023** judging panel has unveiled the final list of **six novels**, carefully curated from the "Booker dozen" longlist of 13 titles. These novels were selected from a pool of 163 books, published between October of the previous year and September of the current year. The announcement of the prize is scheduled for **November 26th**.
- London-based Indian-origin author **Chetna Maroo's** debut novel, '**Western Lane**,' has earned a well-deserved place on the prestigious Booker Prize shortlist. The novel tells the poignant story of an **11-year-old British Gujarati girl** named **Gopi** and her profound bonds with her family. At its core, 'Western Lane' explores the challenges faced by an immigrant father who endeavors to raise his family as a single parent.
- The Booker Prize remains **open to works of fiction written in English** by authors from any corner of the world, as long as the books are published in the **UK or Ireland**. The diversity within this year's shortlist is remarkable, encompassing authors of **Indian, Jamaican, Canadian, and Irish descent**, as well as acclaimed writers who have garnered recognition in various literary circles.



### Swati Nayak From Odisha, To Receive The 2023 Norman Borlaug Field Award

- Odia scientist **Swati Nayak** is set to receive the prestigious **Borlaug Field Award for 2023**. This coveted award honors her innovative approach to engaging farmers in demand-driven rice seed systems, from testing and deployment to access and adoption of climate-resilient and nutritious rice varieties.
- Swati Nayak currently serves as a scientist and holds the position of South Asia lead for seed system and product management at the **CGIAR-International Rice Research Institute (IRRI)** located in the **Philippines**. Swati Nayak has an impressive career spanning over **13 years**. She has organized more than 10,000 on-farm and comparative testings, and participatory evaluations for over 500 rice varieties.
- Swati Nayak is scheduled to receive the Borlaug Field Award during the Borlaug Dialogue, set to take place on October 24 this year in **Des Moines, Iowa**. This award, named after the renowned agricultural scientist and Nobel laureate **Norman Borlaug**, is presented annually to individuals under the age of 40 whose work significantly advances global food production and helps alleviate hunger and malnutrition.



### Waheeda Rehman To Receive Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award

- Today on September 26, 2023, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, **Anurag Thakur**, announced that the seasoned and accomplished actor, **Waheeda Rehman**, will be honored with the prestigious **Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award**, India's highest recognition in the world of cinema.
- Waheeda Rehman's journey in cinema spans over five glorious decades. She has portrayed her roles with finesse and dedication, earning critical acclaim for her exceptional performances. Notably, she was honored with a **National Film Award** for her portrayal of a clanswoman in "**Reshma and Shera**." Additionally, she holds the **Padma Shri** and **Padma Bhushan** awards, further underscoring her exceptional contributions to Indian culture and cinema.

- As India celebrates her accomplishments, the timing of this award is significant. Parliament's recent passage of the historic **Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam** underscores the achievements of women in various fields. Waheeda Rehman's recognition is a fitting tribute to one of the leading ladies of Indian Cinema. Her dedication to philanthropy and the betterment of society after her retirement from films reflects her commitment to the greater good.

### Ruixiang Zhang Awarded 2023 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize in Mathematics

- **Mathematician Ruixiang Zhang**, an Assistant Professor at the University of California, Berkeley, USA, has been selected as the recipient of the prestigious **2023 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize**. This award recognizes his remarkable contributions to the field of mathematics.
- The prize, which includes a **cash award of \$10,000**, will be presented during an international conference in Number Theory, held in the hometown of the renowned mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan, at SASTRA University in Kumbakonam during the third week of December.



## Sports

### Max Verstappen wins Italian Grand Prix 2023

- **Max Verstappen** has won the **Italian Grand Prix** and sets a new record for the most consecutive wins in Formula 1 history with 10.
- Here are the full results:

Pos.	Driver	Team	Time
1	Max Verstappen	Red Bull	LAP 51
2	Sergio Pérez	Red Bull	+6.064
3	Carlos Sainz	Ferrari	+11.193

### MohunBagan SG defeats East Bengal 1-0 at

#### Durand Cup finals

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



### Hockey 5s Asia Cup 2023, India beat Pakistan

- In Hockey, **India beat Pakistan** in penalty shootout in the final to win the inaugural **Men's Hockey 5s Asia Cup 2023 in Salalah, Oman**. The win also served as Asia's qualifying tournament for the **FIH Men's Hockey5s World Cup Oman 2024**. Subsequently, India qualified for the **FIH Men's Hockey5s World Cup Oman 2024**.
- This is the first time in three meetings that India have beaten Pakistan in the Hockey 5s format. From 2-4 down in the second half, India took the game to the



shootout after two goals from Mohammed Raheel. In the shootout, Pakistan missed all their chances while Maninder Singh hit the hammer in the coffin to score India's second goal in the shootout. Earlier in the evening, India thrashed Malaysia 10-4 in the semifinals.

### McGahey to become first transgender to play international cricket

- For the first time in international cricket, a transgender woman player will feature in ICC-related tournaments. **Danielle McGahey**, 29, is set to become the first transgender woman player to play in international cricket.
- The right-hand batter from Australia, who moved to Canada in 2020, had fulfilled the eligibility criteria for **male-to-female (MTF) transition**, per ICC.
- McGahey is named in Canada's squad for the Women's T20 Americas Qualifier, the pathway tournament to the **T20 World Cup 2024**. According to BBC Sport, the first to break this news, McGahey socially transitioned from male to female three years ago in 2020 before undergoing a medical transition in 2021.

### Nattaya Boochatham becomes 1st bowler from associate nation to pick up 100 Wickets in T20s

- Thailand women's cricket team's star spinner **Nattaya Boochatham** created history with her three wickets against Kuwait in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup Asia Region Qualifier, September 4. **Nattaya completed 100 wickets in T20Is** to become the first-ever cricketer, male or female, to reach the 100-wicket mark in international cricket.
- The 36-year-old spin all-rounder now has taken 101 wickets in 73 ODI matches at an average of 9.96 and becomes the first-ever cricketer to take 100 wickets at a bowling average below 10. She becomes the only 11th cricketer in the world with 100 T20I wickets in women's cricket but possesses the best bowling average in the list. She will join the current world no.1 bowler Sophie Ecclestone's 102 wickets tally if she picks one wicket in Thailand's next game against Hong Kong on September 6.





### Amul is official sponsor of Indian contingent at Hangzhou Asian Games

- Amul is named as the official sponsor of the Indian Contingent for the **19th Asian Games 2022** to be held in **Hangzhou, China** from **September 23 to October 8, 2023**. As part of this association, Amul will use the integrated logo in its communication to celebrate the efforts of the sportsperson.
- Amul has partnered with Indian sportspersons through the Indian Olympic Association since the London 2012 Olympics for all Indian contingent to Olympics, Commonwealth Games and Asian Games and we are pleased to further strengthen our decade long relationship.

### Goa Governor Launches 'Mashaal' For 37th National Games

- Governor of Goa, **Shri. P.S. Sreedharan Pillai**, officially introduced the Mashaal (torch) to mark the commencement of the **37th National Games**. This splendid event was organized by the **Department of Sports and Youth Affairs**, in collaboration with the **Sports Authority of Goa**, at the Durbar Hall in Raj Bhavan, Donapaula.
- **Dr. Pramod Sawant** declared that the Mashaal, will traverse through Goa and various other states for a period of four days, sparking enthusiasm for the National Games and **enabling rural areas in the state to partake in this grand celebration**.
- Governor Pillai also revealed the **National Games' Anthem** (theme song), which featured the iconic voice of the legendary actor, **Amitabh Bachchan**. Furthermore, a **specially designed website** was also launched during the ceremony. This website is a comprehensive resource, providing information and updates about the event. It promises to be an invaluable tool for participants, spectators, and enthusiasts alike.



### Praggnanandhaa Finishes Third, Grischuk Takes Open Blitz Title

- At the 2023 Tata Steel Chess India tournament held in Kolkata, **R Praggnanandhaa** from India achieved an

impressive **third-place finish**, establishing himself as the leading Indian contender. In the Open Blitz category, world champion **Alexander Grischuk** exhibited his dominance by securing the top position,



while **Arjun Erigaisi** secured the second-best position among Indian participants, securing **fourth place** in the Chess tournament.

- Former world Rapid champion **Nodirbek Abdusattorov** finished the tournament with three points, tying with Praggnanandhaa. Abdusattorov secured a crucial win over Vidit Gujrathi, which allowed him to edge past the Indian sensation on tiebreaks.

### Basketball Germany beat Serbia to win World Cup for first time

- **Germany beat Serbia 83-77** to lift basketball's **2023 FIBA World Cup**. Germany went 8-0 in the tournament, becoming the fifth consecutive World Cup champion to go unbeaten. The tournament most valuable player Dennis Schroder carried Germany with a game-high 28 points, way above his average of 17.9 points per game, and added two rebounds and two assists.
- The 2023 FIBA Basketball World Cup was the 19th tournament of the FIBA Basketball World Cup for men's national basketball teams. The tournament was the second to feature 32 teams and was hosted by multiple nations for the first time in its history—the Philippines, Japan, and Indonesia—from 25 August to 10 September 2023.

### Asia Cup 2023, Virat Kohli Becomes Fastest ODI Player To Reach 13,000 Runs

- India's **Virat Kohli** became the fastest batter to reach **13,000 ODI runs** during the Asia Cup Super 4 against **Pakistan** at the **R. Premadasa Stadium in Colombo, Sri Lanka**.
- The 34-year-old record of fellow Indian veteran **Sachin Tendulkar (321 innings)**, by achieving in just 267 innings. He reached his 47th ton in ODIs. With this century, Kohli has now scored four consecutive 100s at this stadium, the joint-most highest centuries at a single venue alongside South

African great Hashim Amla. The other three tons were against Sri Lanka— two of which came in 2017 and one in 2012.

- Kohli completed 13,000 ODI runs, becoming the fifth player to reach the landmark in men's ODIs. Sachin Tendulkar, Ricky Ponting, Sanath Jayasuriya and Mahela Jayawardene are the others before him to reach the milestone. He became the quickest batter to reach this milestone, Ponting (341) and Sangakkara (363) took over 300 innings too while Jayasuriya reached the mark in 416 innings.

### Asia Cup 2023, Rohit Sharma Completes 10000 ODI Runs

- Indian captain **Rohit Sharma** completed **10,000 ODI runs** during the **Asia Cup 2023 Super Four match** against Sri Lanka in Colombo. Rohit Sharma has crossed the landmark after reaching 23 with a six during his 241st innings in the format.
- 36-year-old Sharma became the sixth Indian batter to cross the landmark and the second-quickest overall after Virat Kohli in terms of innings played. He is also the third Indian opener to reach the milestone after Sachin Tendulkar and Sourav Ganguly. Rohit has amassed 30 ODI centuries and 50 half-centuries while averaging nearly 49 since making his debut against Ireland in Belfast in 2007.

### India's Kiran George Clinches Indonesia Badminton Masters Title

- Indian badminton player **Kiran George** secured a remarkable victory at the **Indonesia Masters 2023**, held in Medan, North Sumatra. Competing at the GOR PBSI Pancing court, Kiran George, currently ranked **50th** in the badminton rankings, displayed exceptional prowess as he defeated world No. 82 **Koo Takahashi** of Japan with a score of 21-19, 22-20, all within an intense battle lasting 56 minutes.
- This triumph marked Kiran George's **Second BWF World Tour Super 100 badminton title**, following his victory at the **Odisha Open** the previous year, where he defeated compatriot Priyanshu Rawat in the final.



- Remarkably, Kiran George was the **sole Indian player to reach the final** at the Indonesia Masters 2023, a testament to his exceptional skills and determination on the court.

### Ferrari's Carlos Sainz Wins Singapore Grand Prix 2023

- Ferrari's **Carlos Sainz** won the **Singapore Grand Prix** to end Formula 1 leader **Max Verstappen's** record run of 10 wins in a row and shatter Red Bull's dream of going through the season unbeaten.
- McLaren's Lando Norris finished a close second and Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton took third place as Red Bull ended up off the podium for the first time since last November's Brazilian Grand Prix.
- The 2023 Formula 1 Singapore Grand Prix drew a more-than-expected 264,108 spectators over the race weekend. Last year, the event attracted a record 302,000 spectators, surpassing the 268,000 figure for the 2019 edition. The Singapore Grand Prix was cancelled in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Neeraj Chopra Finishes Second In Diamond League Final

- **Neeraj Chopra**, India's star javelin thrower and the reigning World champion, displayed his skill and resolve at the **Diamond League finals** in Eugene. His best throw of **83.80 meters** secured him the **second position** in this prestigious competition, where he engaged in a remarkable battle against formidable opponents. Neeraj Chopra had previously clinched the **Diamond League crown in 2022**, making a remarkable best attempt of 88.44 meters.
- Chopra followed up his noteworthy effort with throws of 81.37, 80.74, and 80.90 meters. While these throws were commendable, they were not enough to surpass the eventual Diamond League champion, Jakub Vadlejch of the Czech Republic.
- **Jakub Vadlejch** made his victory by landing the javelin at an outstanding 84.24 meters. Finland's **Oliver Helander**, secured the third position.



Helander's best throw of 83.74 meters was a mere six centimeters short of Chopra's mark.

### Asia Cup 2023 "Man Of The Match" And "Man Of The Tournament"

- **Kuldeep Yadav** won the title of Player of the Tournament

(Man of the Series) and

**Mohammad Siraj** won the title of Player of the Match or Man of the Match.



Asia Cup Final 2023, India beats Sri Lanka by 10 Wickets

- **Mohammed Siraj** earned the Man of the Match award in the final due to his remarkable performance, securing figures of 6/21. Notably, he took four wickets in a single over, a feat that ranks as the fourth-best by an Indian player in One-Day Internationals (ODIs). **Kuldeep Yadav** who clinched 9 wickets in the tournament has won the player of the tournament award.
- India's fast bowler, **Mohammed Siraj**, chose to dedicate the prize money amounting to USD 5,000 or approximately Rs 4.15 Lakhs to the dedicated ground staff at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo. Additionally, both the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) and Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) had jointly announced a generous award of USD 50,000, equivalent to Rs 41.54 Lakhs, for the ground staff members at Kandy and Colombo.

### Adidas Revealed Team India Jersey For ICC World Cup 2023

- **Adidas** has revealed **Team India's jersey for the upcoming ICC World Cup 2023**. The upcoming tournament is a historic one for India as they will be hosting the ODI World Cup alone for the very first time.
- With just over two weeks remaining before the ICC World Cup 2023 gets underway, **Adidas**, Team India's official kit sponsor, has unveiled the jersey for the Men in Blue. On Wednesday (September 20), **Adidas** posted a video on their social media platforms to release the jersey.
- In a notable departure from previous designs, the iconic three white stripes on the shoulders of the jersey have been replaced with vibrant tricolor stripes. This bold move serves as a testament to India's rich cultural

heritage and national pride. The jersey also features two stars above the BCCI logo, symbolizing India's two triumphs in the ODI World Cup – in 1983 and 2011. These stars are a proud reminder of India's cricketing achievements on the world stage.

### What Is World Cup 'Golden Ticket' Given To Indian Celebrities And Who Are The Recipients?

- **Jay Shah**, the Secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), has handed out "Golden Tickets" to several iconic figures in India ahead of the hosting of the **One-Day International (ODI) World Cup**.
- These Golden Tickets, bestowed by the BCCI, are aimed at promoting and publicizing the World Cup. Recipients of these exclusive tickets will not only have the privilege to witness all World Cup matches from the ground zero but will also be treated to VIP services.
- The Golden Ticket is part of the "Golden Ticket for India Icons" program initiated by the BCCI. It is designed to honor India's greatest personalities. This ticket grants its holders the opportunity to watch all Cricket World Cup matches live from the stadium. Some of the recipients of this ticket are legendary **Amitabh Bachchan**, followed by **cricketing maestro Sachin Tendulkar** and most recently, the enigmatic superstar of **Indian cinema, Rajinikanth**.

### Harmanpreet, Lovlina To Be Flag-Bearers At Asian Games Opening Ceremony

- The **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** has decided to have not one, but two flag-bearers: **Harmanpreet Singh** and **Lovlina Borgohain**, to lead the Indian contingent at the opening ceremony of the upcoming **Asian Games 2023** in Hangzhou, China.



- **Harmanpreet Singh** is widely regarded as one of the best drag-flickers in the world. He was an integral part of the Indian Hockey team that made history by winning a **bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics**. **Lovlina Borgohain**, the Olympic medallist boxer, is another shining star in India's sporting



constellation. She clinched a **bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics** in the **69kg category**.

### ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 Anthem Is Released

- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has unveiled the official theme song for the upcoming **ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023**, set to be hosted in India. Titled **'DiJashn Bole,'** this musical composition by Pritam is a vibrant celebration of cricket and the spirit of India.
- The music video features the renowned Bollywood star Ranveer Singh in a leading role, alongside a star-studded cast of celebrities and content creators, including Dhanashree Verma, the wife of Indian cricketer Yuzvendra Chahal.
- The song, **'DiJashn Bole,'** captures the essence of excitement, enthusiasm, and the festive atmosphere that the tournament is expected to bring. With lyrics penned by **Shloke Lal and Saaveri Verma**, the song boasts a dynamic ensemble of vocal talent, including Nakash Aziz, Sreerama Chandra, Amit Mishra, Jonita Gandhi, AKASA, and features a rap performance by Charan.

### New York, Dallas, And Florida To Host T20 Cricket World Cup Matches In 2024

- In a significant announcement, the **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has officially designated three prestigious venues in the **United States** for hosting the **ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024**. This marks a historic moment as the tournament makes its debut on American soil, with **Dallas, Florida, and New York** being selected as the host cities.
- To ensure the success of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, preparations are in full swing, including infrastructure development. Notably, a groundbreaking agreement has been reached for the construction of a cutting-edge, 34,000-seat modular stadium in Eisenhower Park, Nassau County, New York.
- Moreover, the existing venues in Grand Prairie and Broward County will undergo expansions through modular stadium solutions. These upgrades will enhance seating capacity, media facilities, and premium hospitality areas, subject to final agreement.

### India Becomes No 1 Ranked Team In All Formats Of Cricket

- After their 5-wicket win against **Australia**, **India** became the number 1 ranked team in all three formats i.e. **Tests, ODIs, and T20Is**. India displaced Pakistan from the top of the ODI rankings while they lead England in the T20I rankings.
- India (116 rating points) displaced their arch-rivals Pakistan (115) at the top of the rankings after the win in the first ODI. Australia remain third but the gap between the top two has now widened after they dropped two points to 111.
- Moreover, with the updated ODI rankings, India is now No 1 team in all three formats of the game. In the T20 rankings, India is on top with a rating of 264 and 15,589 points, while in the Test format of the game, India is on top with 3,434 points and a rating of 118. Indian cricket team became the second team in the history of cricket to achieve this wonderful feat after South Africa did this in 2014.



### Inaugural Indian Grand Prix 2023: Marco Bezzecchi Secures Victory

- In a thrilling race at the Buddh International Circuit, Italian rider **Marco Bezzecchi**, representing the Mooney VR46 Racing Team, emerged victorious in the inaugural **Indian Grand Prix** for the 2023 MotoGP season. This marked Bezzecchi's third triumph of the season, solidifying his status as a top contender in the championship.
- Jorge Martin, despite leading for a portion of the race, ultimately finished in the second position. Francesco Bagnaia, the championship leader, faced a disappointing crash at Turn 4, marking his third crash of the season and preventing him from securing a podium finish.
- Yamaha's Fabio Quartararo claimed the third-place spot, while KTM's Brad Binder followed closely in fourth place. Eight-time world champion Marc



Marquez, who initially contended for a top position, ran wide and finished in ninth place.

### Indian Team Become First Team To Hit 3000 Sixes In ODI Cricket

- In the second ODI between **Team India and Australia in Indore**, India achieved a significant milestone by surpassing **3000 ODI sixes**. They posted a formidable total of 399/6, striking an impressive 18 sixes during their innings.
- This remarkable feat made India the first team to reach the milestone of 3000 ODI sixes. The West Indies closely trail as the second team on the list with **2953 sixes**, while Pakistan holds the third position with **2566 sixes**.
- Furthermore, India set a new record against Australia in ODI cricket by scoring 399/6, marking their highest-ever total in matches between the two teams. As a result, Australia faces the daunting task of chasing down a colossal target of 400 runs to level the series.

### India Clinched 5 Medals On Day One Of Asian Games At Hangzhou In China

- India, known for its strong sporting culture, had a promising start on the first official day of the **2023 Asian Games in Hangzhou, China**. India



wrapped up the first official day of the Asian Games 2023 **with five medals – three silver and two bronze**.

- The **women's 10m air rifle team**, comprising AshiChouksey, MehuliGhosh, and Ramita, set the tone for India by clinching the country's first medal at the Asian Games 2023. They secured a **silver medal** in the team event. **Ramita**, displaying exceptional skill, went on to win an individual **bronze** in the same category.
- India's impressive medal streak in rowing continued as **ArjunLalJat** and **Arvind Singh**, competing in the men's lightweight double sculls, secured a **silver medal**. Additionally, the **men's eight teams** also performed remarkably and secured a **silver medal**, further contributing to India's success. Additionally, the men's pair represented by **BabuLalYadav** and **Lekh Ram** secured a bronze, further adding to India's medal tally in this discipline.

### India Women's Cricket Team Wins Gold Medal By Defeating Sri Lanka

- **India** emerged victorious against the formidable **Sri Lankan team**, securing the **gold medal** with a **19-run victory** in a remarkable debut appearance in the Asian Games 2023. This triumph marks a significant milestone for India, who had chosen not to participate in the two previous editions of the continental Games that included cricket as a sport.
- India's path to gold began with their impressive batting performance. After winning the toss, they chose to bat first and managed to reach a total of 116-7 in their allotted 20 overs. The key partnership of **SmritiMandhana**, who contributed with 46 runs, and Jemimah Rodrigues, who added 42, played a pivotal role in setting up a competitive target for Sri Lanka.
- In the bronze medal match, **Bangladesh** emerged victorious by restricting **Pakistan** to a meager total of 64-9. They then successfully chased down their target of 65 runs in 18.2 overs, securing the bronze medal. Pakistan, who had previously won gold in the Asian Games cricket competition, returned home empty-handed, pointing to their inability to set challenging scores as a significant contributor to their disappointing showing.

## Obituaries

### Former Zimbabwe captain Heath Streak Passes Away

- **Zimbabwe's** former captain **Heath Streak** has passed away at the age of 49, following a long battle with colon and liver cancer. He was Born in Bulawayo, Streak, a cricketing legend, was particularly known for his prowess as a fast bowler. He held the distinction of being Zimbabwe's all-time leading wicket-taker in Test cricket, having taken 216 wickets at an average of 28.14.
- Additionally, he scored 1990 runs at an average of 22.35 in Test matches. In One Day Internationals (ODIs), Streak claimed 239 wickets at an average of 29.82 and scored 2,943 runs at 28.29.



### ISRO scientist N Valarmathi, voice behind Chandrayaan-3 countdown, passes away

- **N Valarmathi**, an Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) scientist, who lent her voice to countdowns for rocket launches in **Sriharikota**, died after a cardiac arrest. She was last heard during the countdown announcement for the launch of Chandrayaan-3 that made a historic landing on the Moon. Chandrayaan-3 was launched from the SatishDhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on July 14. Chandrayan 3 was her final countdown announcement.
- Valarmathi was a scientist at the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for over 30 years. She was the voice behind the countdowns for many ISRO launches. Her calm and reassuring voice was a familiar sound to millions of Indians who tuned in to watch the ISRO launches. She was also known for her work in the development of space applications for the benefit of society.



### SPG Chief Arun Kumar Sinha, Responsible For PM Modi's Protection, Passes Away

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



### Dennis Austin, Software Developer Who Created PowerPoint, Passes Away At 76

- **Dennis Austin**, one of the two creators of **Microsoft PowerPoint**, passed away at the age of 76. Austin created PowerPoint with Robert Gaskins and released it in 1987. The pair of software developers were part of software company Forethought, which was acquired by Microsoft for \$14m months after PowerPoint, then called Presenter was launched.
- Dennis R. Austin was the principal software developer for **PowerPoint from 1985 to 1996**, particularly its versions for Apple Macintosh computers. Austin first encountered computers in high school at a summer program at the Carnegie Institute of Technology. His interest in programming languages and compilers deepened during his undergraduate engineering studies at the University of Virginia in the late 1960s.





### Renowned Writer Gita Mehta Passes Away

- Renowned writer-filmmaker **Gita Mehta** passed away. She was 80 years old. Mehta had written books including *Karma Cola*, *Snakes and Ladders*, *A River Sutra*, *Raj* and *Eternal Ganesha*. She also produced and directed at least 14 television documentaries for UK, European and US networks.
- Her film compilation of the Bangladesh liberation war of 1971, *Dateline Bangladesh*, was shown in cinemas both in India and abroad. Mehta's books have been translated into 21 languages and have been on the bestseller lists in Europe, the US, and India.
- **Gita Mehta** was born in 1943 to BijuPatnaik and GyanPatnaik in Delhi. In 2019, she was given the Padma Shri award but she refused to accept it. Mehta was the daughter of BijuPatnaik and the sister of Odisha chief minister Naveen Patnaik. She was married to American publisher Sonny Mehta, who died in December 2019.

### Father Of India's 'Green Revolution,' MS Swaminathan Passes Away At 98

- **Mankombu Sambasivan Swaminathan**, fondly known as **M.S. Swaminathan**, a legendary figure in the field of agriculture and a true humanitarian, passed away at the age of 98. Born on August 7, 1925, in Tamil Nadu's Thanjavur district, he dedicated his life to improving the lives of India's low-income farmers and revolutionizing the nation's agricultural landscape.
- During a critical juncture in India's history, when the country was on the brink of a mass famine and faced severe food shortages, Swaminathan collaborated with fellow scientist Norman Borlaug and others to develop high-yielding varieties of wheat and rice. This marked the inception of the '**Green Revolution**.'
- In 1987, he was honored with the first-ever **World Food Prize** for his role in introducing high-yielding wheat and rice varieties to India. His dedication also led him to establish the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation in Chennai. Additionally, he was the recipient of the **Ramon Magsaysay Award in 1971** and the **Albert Einstein World Science Award in 1986**.

## Important Days with theme

### World Coconut Day 2023

- Every year, **World Coconut Day** is celebrated on **September 2**. The day is celebrated to understand the benefits of this fruit and promote awareness. In India, **Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh** are the main states that grow coconuts.
- World Coconut Day is celebrated by the farmers and the stakeholders in the coconut growing business. World Coconut Day is an important opportunity to celebrate the many benefits of coconuts and to promote sustainable coconut farming practices.
- In **2009, Asian and Pacific Coconut Community (APCC)** started the initiative of celebrating World Coconut Day on September 2 every year.



### National Teachers' Day 2023: Date, History & Significance

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

### International Day of Charity observed on 5th September

- The **International Day of Charity** is celebrated on **September 5** to commemorate the day of passing away of great missionary Mother Teresa.
- The day aims to raise awareness and provide a common platform for charity related activities all over

the world for individuals, charitable, philanthropic and volunteer organizations. It is day of global observance and is observed on annual basis.

- **Mother Teresa**, a renowned nun and missionary, was born as **Anjeze Gonxhe Bojaxhiu in Skopje, North Macedonia** in on **26 August 1910**. She spent her first eighteen years in Skopje after which she went to Ireland and then visited India in 1928 where she devoted herself to helping the poor and the needy.

### International Literacy Day 2023

- **International Literacy Day** is celebrated on **September 8** every year to promote the importance of literacy for dignity and human rights, and a literate and sustainable society. The day is celebrated by the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)** at the global, regional, country, and local levels across the world.
- The day will be celebrated with the theme '**Promoting literacy for a world in transition: Building the foundation for sustainable and peaceful societies**'. This global celebration will include the award ceremony of the UNESCO International Literacy Prizes to announce this year's outstanding prizewinning programmes.
- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in **1966, at the 14th session** of its General Conference, announced the event and the first International Literacy Day was celebrated in 1967.

### Himalaya Diwas 2023

- **Himalaya Day or Himalaya Diwas** is celebrated every year on **9 September** with an aim to preserve the Himalayan ecosystem and region. This day is celebrated to mark the importance of the Himalayas.
- **9th September was officially declared as Himalaya Day by the then chief minister of Uttarakhand, Harish Rawat, in 2014**. Himalaya Day is also an excellent day to raise awareness among the general public and bring about community participation in conservation activities.

### Hindi Diwas 2023

- India, a diverse nation with a rich tapestry of languages, celebrates **Hindi Diwas** on **September 14th** each year. This significant occasion marks the adoption of Hindi in the Devanagari script as one of the official languages of the country. The history,

celebration, and significance of Hindi Diwas shed light on the importance of linguistic diversity and the role of Hindi in India's identity.

- The roots of Hindi Diwas trace back to a pivotal moment in India's history. On **September 14, 1949**, the Constituent Assembly of India recognized Hindi, written in the Devanagari script, as an official language of the nation. Officially, the first Hindi Day was celebrated on **September 14, 1953**.

### International Day Of Democracy 2023

- The **International Day of Democracy**, celebrated on **September 15th** each year, is a global observance that underscores the importance of democracy as a fundamental human right and a cornerstone of good governance and peace.
- Established in 2007 by a resolution passed by the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)**, this day serves as a reminder of the essential role that democracy plays in shaping societies worldwide.
- The theme for the International Day of Democracy in 2023 is **"Empowering the next generation."** This theme highlights the pivotal role that young people play in advancing democracy and emphasizes the importance of including their voices in decisions that profoundly affect their world.

### National Engineer Day 2023

- **National Engineers' Day** is a special occasion celebrated across India on **September 15th** each year. It is a day dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the remarkable contributions of engineers to society.
- In 2023, the theme is **'Engineering for a Sustainable Future.'** This theme underscores the importance of engineering in finding solutions to pressing global issues such as environmental sustainability, climate change, and resource conservation. It highlights the role of engineers in shaping a more sustainable and equitable world.
- The origins of National Engineers' Day in India are rooted in the legacy of **Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya**. This day is celebrated on September 15th to honor his birth anniversary. Sir Visvesvaraya was not only a renowned Indian engineer but also a statesman who left an indelible mark on the field of engineering.

### International Day Of Peace 2023

- Each year on **21 September**, the world comes together to observe the **International Day of Peace (IDP)**. This day, established by the United Nations (UN), serves as a reminder of our commitment to peace, non-violence, and conflict resolution.
- The theme for the 2023 International Day of Peace is **"Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for the #GlobalGoals."** This theme underscores our individual and collective responsibility in fostering peace.
- The history of the International Day of Peace dates back to the United Nations General Assembly passing Resolution 36/67 on **September 30, 1981**. This resolution called for a global ceasefire and the cessation of all hostilities on that day. Subsequently, the third Tuesday of September each year was declared as the International Day of Peace.

### World Rhino Day 2023

- **World Rhino Day**, observed annually on **September 22nd**, is a global initiative aimed at raising awareness about the critical plight of the rhinoceros species and advocating for their protection. This special day serves as a platform to highlight the challenges these magnificent creatures face and the urgent need for conservation efforts to prevent their extinction.
- World Rhino Day serves as a crucial platform for various organizations, wildlife enthusiasts, and concerned individuals to amplify their voices and educate the public about the dire situation faced by rhinoceroses. It emphasizes the significance of collective efforts in safeguarding these magnificent creatures.
- On this day, organizations and individuals alike discuss and promote various conservation strategies and projects aimed at protecting rhino populations. By shedding light on these initiatives, World Rhino Day encourages people to actively engage in efforts to preserve these species.





### World Tourism Day 2023

- **World Tourism Day 2023** is observed on **27 September** globally. This day is celebrated every year to focus on promoting tourism in various parts of the world. It was initiated by the **United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)**.
- This day is celebrated to promote tourism and understand its importance. World Tourism Day aims to make people understand the joy of exploring the world. The first World Tourism Day was held in 1980.
- This World Tourism Day 2023, the UNWTO, under the theme “Tourism and green investment” highlights the need for more and better-targeted investments for the Sustainable Development Goals, the UN roadmap for a better world by 2030.

### World Maritime Day 2023

- **World Maritime Day** will be celebrated on the **last Thursday of every September, on September 28** this year, to honor the tireless work of the international maritime industry workers.
- The word ‘maritime’ comes from the Latin word ‘maritimus,’ which means ‘of the sea.’ The day illuminates the role that every maritime officer, service agent, and seafarer plays in our individual lives.
- This year’s World Maritime theme is “**MARPOL at 50 – Our commitment goes on**”. The theme reflects the organization’s long history of protecting the environment from the impact of shipping via a robust regulatory framework and emphasizes its ongoing commitment to this important work.



### World Heart Day 2023

- Every year on **September 29th**, people around the world come together to observe **World Heart Day**. This global initiative aims to raise awareness about heart disease and promote preventive measures to combat cardiovascular diseases.
- Heart disease is the leading cause of mortality worldwide, and this day serves as a crucial reminder of the importance of heart health. In 2023, the theme “**Use Heart, Know Heart**” emphasizes the use of emojis to convey the significance of the day and the importance of heart knowledge.

- The concept of a global World Heart Day was introduced by Antoni Baie de Luna, former President of the **World Heart Federation**. With collaboration from the World Health Organization, World Heart Day was officially established in **1999**. The first official celebration took place on **September 24, 2000**. For over a decade, World Heart Day was observed on the last Sunday of September.

### International Day of Non-Violence 2023, Date, Theme, History and Significance

- The **International Day of Non-Violence**, celebrated on **October 2nd** each year, holds a special place on the global calendar. This day marks the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi, a towering figure in the Indian independence movement and a pioneer of the philosophy and strategy of non-violence.
- Beyond honoring his legacy, the day serves as a call to action to educate and inspire young people to develop the skills necessary for resolving conflicts peacefully. Established in 1993, the Non-Violence Project Foundation plays a pivotal role in advancing this cause. This article explores the significance of the International Day of Non-Violence, its historical roots, and its relevance in today’s world.