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## NATIONAL NEWS

### NCERT panel suggests replacing 'India' with 'Bharat'

- The 2022 Social Science Committee of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has suggested that 'India' should be called 'Bharat' in all Social Science textbooks up to Class 12.
- The roots of "Bharat", "Bharata", or "Bharatvarsha" are traced back to Puranic literature, and to the epic Mahabharata. The Puranas describe Bharata as the land between the "sea in the south and the abode of snow in the north". Bharata is also the name of the ancient king of legend who was the ancestor of the Rig Vedic tribe of the Bharatas, and by extension, the progenitor of all peoples of the subcontinent.
- Bharata is also the name of the ancient king of legend who was the ancestor of the Rig Vedic tribe of the Bharatas, and by extension, the progenitor of all peoples of the subcontinent.

#### Key Points

NCERT Headquarters	– Delhi
NCERT President	– Dharmendra Pradhan
NCERT Director	– Dinesh Prasad Saklani

### Jammu and Kashmir achieves 100% Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus Model Status

- The Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir has declared all its 6650 villages across 285 blocks in 20 Districts as ODF Plus Model.
- The achievement of ODF Plus Model for all villages in the UT is a significant milestone as it goes beyond constructing and use of toilets towards cleanliness by managing Grey water and Solid Waste in each village.
- For a village to achieve the status of ODF plus Model, it is required to pass through three stages of ODF Plus namely Aspiring, Rising and Model.
- When a village achieves a condition where it is visually clean with minimal litter and stagnant water, apart from solid and liquid waste management (SLWM) and adequate cleanliness awareness generation activities, it is declared as ODF plus Model.

#### Key Points

Jammu and Kashmir's Capital	– Jammu (winter), Srinagar (summer)
Lt. Governor	– Manoj Sinha

### Women Bike Expedition 'Yashasvini' flagged off from the iconic Lal Chowk, Srinagar

- The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Child Development, kick-started a cross-country bike expedition with 'Yashasvini' a group of CRPF women bikers.
- The group embarked the journey from Srinagar for a countrywide rally to celebrate women's power or Nari Shakti of the country.
- The bikers' team starting from Srinagar will traverse more than 2134 KMs, crossing 40 districts to reach Ekta Nagar, Gujarat on October 31, on the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India.

#### Key Points

CRPF Director	– Dr. Sujoy Lal Thaosan
CRPF Headquarters	– New Delhi

### External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar unveils Rabindranath Tagore's bust in Vietnam

- External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar unveiled the bust of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore at the International Friendship Park in Bac Ninh province, Vietnam.
- Tagore was a renowned painter, educator, humanist, music composer and a very profound thinker. He was a Nobel laureate writer from West Bengal.

### Government of India notifies the establishment of the National Turmeric Board

- The Government of India notified the constitution of the National Turmeric Board, which will focus on the development and growth of turmeric and turmeric products in the country.
- It will provide leadership on turmeric-related matters, augment the efforts, and facilitate greater coordination with the Spices Board and other Government agencies in the development and growth of the turmeric sector.
- It will primarily focus on capacity building and skill development of turmeric growers for harnessing greater benefits out of value addition.
- The Board shall have a Chairperson to be appointed by the Central Government, members from the Ministry of AYUSH, Departments of Pharmaceuticals, Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Commerce & Industry

of the Union Government, senior State Government representatives from three states (on rotation basis), select national/state institutions involved in research, representatives of turmeric farmers and exporters, and have a Secretary to be appointed by the Department of Commerce.

- India is the largest producer, consumer and exporter of turmeric in the world. The largest producing states of Turmeric are Maharashtra, Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. India has more than 62% share of world trade in turmeric.

#### **Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the country's first high-tech sports training centre for Divyangjan**

- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the country's first high-tech sports training centre for Divyangjan in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.
- It is named after former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- It aims to provide equal opportunities in sports, enhance talent, and encourage participation in various sports disciplines. Divyangjan from all over the country can practice and train in the Atal Bihari Training Center for Divyang Sports.

#### **Sarakka Central Tribal University approved for Telangana**

- The Union Cabinet approved the establishment of the Sarakka Central Tribal University in Mulugu district, Telangana.
- It will be built with a budget of ₹889 crores and the initiative was a commitment made by the Central government as a part of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014.
- This initiative aimed to support both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana in establishing tribal universities.

#### **NLC India Ltd secures 810 MW Grid connected Solar Photovoltaic Power project in Rajasthan**

- NLC India Limited, a Navratna Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSE) under the Ministry of Coal has won 810 MW Solar PV project capacity from Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Nigam Limited (RRVUNL).
- NLCIL has successfully garnered the entire capacity of the 810 MW tender floated by RRVUNL in December 2022, for developing the project RRVUNL's 2000 MW Ultra Mega Solar Park at Pugal Tehsil, Bikaner District, Rajasthan. This achievement marks a significant step forward in NLCIL's commitment to clean and sustainable energy solutions.

- With this project, the capacity of power project in Rajasthan will be 1.36 GW including 1.1 GW of green power, bringing economies of scale and optimised fixed costs.

#### **On Navratri, PM Modi releases new Garba Song 'Maadi'**

- On the auspicious occasion of Navratri, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a new Garba song titled "Maadi". The song, penned by PM Modi, is sung by Divya Kumar and is composed by the Meet Bros. He released the same video on YouTube and X, formerly Twitter.
- The song is four minutes and forty seconds long and is sung in Gujarati. The video shows people dressed in colourful attire heading to various garba venues to swing to the beats while some are also seen with dandiya.
- Notably, in one of the frames, the Statue of Unity located in Vadodara and dedicated to Sardar Vallabhai Patel, features in the background.

#### **Supreme Court rejects appeal to legalise same-sex marriage**

- The Supreme Court refused to tweak the Special Marriage Act (SMA) of 1954 to give legal recognition to same-sex marriages, saying it can only be done by the legislature and that any attempt by the court to do so would amount to encroaching upon the field set for the legislature.
- Stating that the Constitution does not confer any fundamental right to marry, the five-judge bench presided by Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud said it cannot strike down the provisions of the SMA so as to recognise same-sex marriages as that would result in the loss of benefits of what is essentially progressive legislation.
- Apart from the CJI, the bench comprised Justices S K Kaul, S Ravindra Bhat, Hima Kohli, and P S Narasimha.

#### **Tamil Nadu to use AI to reduce elephant deaths on railway tracks**

- Tamil Nadu has turned to an artificial intelligence-based system that will use thermal and normal cameras to help detect the movement of the jumbos near the tracks.
- Once the cameras detect the movement of an elephant near the track, the AI system will automatically send an alert based on the "sensed data" to the Control Room which will work round-the-clock on a real-time

basis. While normal cameras will function during the day, the thermal cameras will get activated at night.

- The alert will also be sent in the form of a Short Messaging Service (SMS) to the mobile phones of field staff of the Forest Department, loco pilots, and officials from the Southern Railways. The sirens will also go off after detecting the movement of wild animals. The field officers will get into action, and the loco pilot will slow down the train to see the animals.
- Since 2012, August 12 has been celebrated as 'World Elephant Day' as a step to call attention to the conservation of the largest animal in the world.
- Train hits are the second biggest cause of unnatural elephant deaths in India after electrocution.

#### **India re-elected as President of Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) for a third Successive Term**

- In an unprecedented development where India had already served two terms as President, Asia- Pacific

Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) General Conference (GC) from 2018 – 2021 and 2021 – 2023, India has been elected as President of AIBD GC for the third successive term to lead the prestigious international organisation.

- This milestone has happened for the first time in the history of AIBD.
- AIBD, established in 1977 under the auspices of UNESCO, is a unique regional inter-governmental organisation, that currently has 92 member organisations from across 44 countries, including 26 Government Members (countries) represented by 48 broadcasting authorities and broadcasters, and 44 Affiliates (organisations) of which represented by 28 countries and regions in Asia, Pacific, Europe, Africa, Arab States and North America.
- India is one of the founding members of AIBD and Prasar Bharati, India's public service broadcaster is the representative body of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India at AIBD.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

#### **Qatar signs 27-year gas supply deal with Italy's Eni**

- State-owned QatarEnergy would supply Italy's Eni with gas for 27 years. Affiliates of Qatar Energy and Eni signed a long-term sale and purchase agreement for up to 1 million tons per year (mtpa) of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from Qatar's North Field expansion project.
- LNG will be delivered to the FSRU Italia, a floating storage and regasification unit in Tuscany's port of Piombino from 2026.

#### **United Nations Announces Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence**

- The United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres announced the creation of a 39-member advisory body to address issues in the international governance of artificial intelligence.
- The members include tech company executives, government officials from Spain to Saudi Arabia, and academics from countries such as the U.S., Russia and Japan.
- Sony Chief Technology Officer Hiroaki Kitano, OpenAI CTO Mira Murati and Microsoft Chief Responsible AI Officer Natasha Crampton are among the executives representing technology companies.

- Representatives also come from six continents with diverse backgrounds ranging from U.S.-based AI expert Vilas Dhar to Professor Yi Zeng from China and Egyptian lawyer Mohamed Farahat.

#### **China to build the world's largest underwater 'ghost particle' detector**

- China is building an enormous telescope in the western Pacific Ocean to detect 'ghost particles', also known as neutrinos.
- The new telescope, also called Trident, will span 7.5 cubic km in the South China Sea.
- Its size will allow it to detect more neutrinos and make it 10,000 times more sensitive than existing underwater telescopes.

#### **Bangladesh gets first uranium shipment from Russia for its Moscow-built nuclear power plant**

- Bangladesh received the first uranium shipment from Russia to fuel the country's only nuclear power plant-Rooppur power plant.
- It is still under construction by Moscow. Once finished, the plant is expected to boost Bangladesh's national electrical grid and help the South Asian nation's growing economy.



- The Rooppur power plant will produce 2,400 megawatts of electricity when the twin-unit facility goes fully online. The plant is being constructed by Rosatom, Russia's state nuclear energy corporation. Moscow has funded the construction with a \$11.38 billion loan, to be repaid over two decades, starting from 2027.
- Once Rooppur starts production, Bangladesh will join more than 30 countries that run nuclear power reactors.

#### Key Points

Capital	– Dhaka
President	– Mohammed Shahabuddin
Prime Minister	– Sheikh Hasina

#### European Union (EU) approved the world's first green bond standards

- EU lawmakers approved new standards for companies issuing "green" bonds to help investors pick sustainable companies and avoid greenwashing or misleading climate-friendly claims.
- The European Parliament voted in favour of the new voluntary standard for using a "European Green Bond" label, calling it the first of its kind in the world.
- Europe is the world's biggest issuer of green bonds, accounting for more than half of global volume in 2021, though issuance is still only 3% to 3.5% of the overall bond market.

#### Swaminarayan Akshardham, the largest Hindu Temple inaugurated in New Jersey

- The largest Hindu temple outside India, BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham, has been inaugurated in New Jersey, the United States in the presence of Mahant Swami Maharaj.
- It is spread over 185 acres. The temple reportedly was built by nearly 12,500 volunteers – men, women and children – who took a break from their jobs and studies and dedicated themselves for days and months to construct the temple.

#### Sri Lanka set to take over chairmanship of Indian Ocean Rim Association

- Sri Lanka took over the chairmanship of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) during the 23rd Council of Ministers' Meeting from 2023 to 2025. It was handed the chairmanship by Bangladesh.

- The IORA, an intergovernmental organisation established in 1997, comprises 23 member states and 11 dialogue partners hailing from regions surrounding the Indian Ocean.

#### Key Points

Sri Lanka's Capital	– Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte and Colombo
Sri Lanka's President	– Ranil Wickremesinghe

#### Operation Al-Aqsa Flood-Hamas launched an air attack on Israel

- The Palestinian armed group Hamas on October 7 launched a surprise attack on Israel in one of the most serious escalations in the Israel-Palestinian conflict in years.
- Hamas fighters entered Israeli territory from the Gaza Strip, killing more than 1,400 people and sending shockwaves across Israel. The gunmen crossed the border with a heavy barrage of rockets from the Gaza Strip.
- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu launched a brutal military offensive in Gaza, killing more than 4,600 people as he promised to finish Hamas.
- Hamas stands for the Islamic Resistance Movement and in Arabic means "zeal".
- The group politically controls the Gaza Strip, a territory of about 365 sq km that is home to more than two million people but is blockaded by Israel.
- Hamas has been in power in the Gaza Strip since 2007 after a brief war against Fatah forces loyal to President Mahmoud Abbas, the head of the Palestinian Authority and Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). The Hamas movement was founded in Gaza in 1987 by an imam, Sheikh Ahmed Yasin, and his aide Abdul Aziz al-Rantissi shortly after the start of the first Intifada, an uprising against Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territories.
- The movement started as an offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and created a military wing, the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, to pursue an armed struggle against Israel with the aim of liberating historic Palestine.

#### 'Sponge Bombs': Israel's new secret weapon to block Hamas Tunnels

- In order to fight Hamas through its tunnel network, Israel is reportedly making 'sponge bombs', which

create a sudden explosion of foam that rapidly expands and then hardens.

- Israel has been testing the chemical grenades, which contain no explosives but are used to seal off gaps or tunnel entrances from which Hamas operatives may emerge.
- These devices are said to be encased within a protective plastic container that has a metal barrier that divides two distinct liquids. When activated, these liquids merge and advance toward their intended destination.
- The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) were seen deploying these devices during exercises in a mock tunnel system near the Gaza border in 2021.

#### Israel uses 'Iron Sting' Mortar Bomb for the first time against Hamas

- The Israeli military forces have unveiled the state-of-the-art 'Iron Sting' system that aims to eliminate rocket launchers with exceptional precision.
- The 'Iron Sting' is a 120 mm mortar munition equipped with both laser and GPS guidance and has a range of

1-12 km. It was developed by Elbit Systems and first revealed by the Defense Ministry, IDF Ground Forces, and Elbit in 2021.

#### Israel's Iron Dome missile system

- Iron Dome is designed to protect against incoming short-range weapons. It operates in all weather conditions. It uses radar to track rockets and can differentiate between those that are likely to hit built-up areas and those that are not.
- Interceptor missiles are only fired at rockets expected to strike populated areas.
- The system consists of batteries located across Israel, each with three to four launchers that can fire 20 interceptor missiles. There are both fixed and mobile versions of the system.
- Iron Dome was developed after the 2006 conflict between Israel and Hezbollah, a militant group based in southern Lebanon.
- Iron Dome was created by Israeli firms Rafael Advanced Defense Systems and Israel Aerospace Industries.

## GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

#### Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates tourist facilities in Nathdwara

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated several key projects in Nathdwara, Rajasthan, which included the 'tourist facilities at Nathdwara.'
- These projects were funded by the Ministry of Tourism as part of the Krishna circuit of the Swadesh Darshan scheme.
- The Ministry of Tourism allocated a substantial budget of ₹23.59 Crore for the development of tourism facilities in Nathdwara. Notably, a tourism interpretation cum cultural center was developed at a cost of ₹13.43 Crore.

#### Madhya Pradesh to provide 35% reservation for women in Government jobs.

- In an important development towards gender equality and women's empowerment, the Madhya Pradesh government has announced a groundbreaking policy to reserve 35% of all state government job positions for women, excluding the Forest Department.
- This progressive amendment to the Madhya Pradesh Civil Services (Special Provision for Appointment of

Women) Rules, 1997, comes just ahead of the upcoming state assembly elections.

#### Key Points

Capital	– Bhopal
Governor	– Mangubhai C. Patel
Chief Minister	– Shivraj Singh Chouhan

#### Norway To Support India's 'Hunger Project' In Uttarakhand

- Norway has launched an important initiative to support India's 'Hunger Project' in Uttarakhand and help strengthen women leaders to protect the environment and promote food security in Uttarakhand.
- The duration of the project would be three years, until September 2026 with a budget of ₹44.7 million.

#### Key Points

Norway's Capital	– Oslo
Prime Minister	– Jonas Gahr Støre

### Government introduces Shreshtha scheme for quality education of Scheduled Caste students

- In a significant move aimed at advancing education and promoting the socio-economic progress of Scheduled Castes (SCs), the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has introduced the 'Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas' (SHRESHTA).
- The primary goal of this initiative is to extend the impact of government development programmes and bridge service gaps in areas predominantly inhabited by SC communities within the education sector.
- SHRESHTA envisions the creation of a conducive environment for the socio-economic upliftment and comprehensive development of SC students, ensuring a brighter future for them.

#### Key Points

Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment – Virendra Kumar Khatik

### CM Yogi Adityanath declares Gangetic Dolphin as U.P's aquatic animal

- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath declared the Gangetic Dolphin as the state aquatic animal and emphasised the need to maintain the purity of ponds and rivers.
- Dolphins help keep the rivers and environment clean. Gangetic Dolphins are found in rivers like Ganga, Yamuna, Chambal, Ghaghra, Rapti, and Gerua. Their estimated population in the state is around 2,000.

#### Key Points

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister – Yogi Adityanath  
Uttar Pradesh Governor – Anandiben Patel

### The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India launched the 'A-HELP' programme at Jharkhand

- The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India launched the 'A-HELP' (Accredited Agent for Health and Extension of Livestock Production) programme in Jharkhand.
- This initiative was launched through an MoU signed between DAHD and the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) under the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India.

- 'A-HELP' program aims to empower women by engaging them as Accredited Agent who contribute significantly to disease control, animal tagging, and livestock insurance.
- The new scheme would enhance access to veterinary services at the farmer's doorstep and empower Pashu Sakhis.

#### Key Points

Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying – Parshottam Rupala  
Union Minister of Rural Development – Giriraj Singh

### Union Cabinet approves setting up of 'Mera Yuva Bharat' autonomous body for youth development

- The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of an autonomous body Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) to serve as an overarching enabling mechanism powered by technology for youth development and youth-led development and provide equitable access to youth to actualize their aspirations and build Viksit Bharat across the entire spectrum of the Government.
- Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat), an autonomous body will benefit the youth in the age group of 15-29 years, in line with the definition of 'Youth' in the National Youth Policy.
- In case of programme components specifically meant for adolescents, the beneficiaries will be in the age group of 10-19 years. Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) will help in Setting the focus of the Government on Youth Led development and making the Youth "active drivers" of development and not merely "passive recipients".

#### Key Points

Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports – Anurag Singh Thakur  
National Youth Day – 12 January

### Uttar Pradesh launches Swachch Tyohar, Swasth Tyohar Campaign for festivals

- In view of the festivals, the government of Uttar Pradesh has started a special cleanliness campaign 'Swachch Tyohar, Swasth Tyohar' (Clean Festival, Healthy Festival), especially in and around temples.



- The urban development and energy departments have called for celebrating Navratri, Dussehra, and Diwali festivals as 'Swachh Tyohar, Swasth Tyohar' by giving the mantra 'Cleanliness is next to Godliness' for maintaining cleanliness in all municipal bodies of the state.

#### **Bhopal Mahila Thana became country's first women police station to get ISO certification**

- Mahila Thana located in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, has been awarded ISO certificate.
- It has become the first women's police station in the country to get an ISO certificate. It has been awarded the '9001:2015' ISO certification. Bhopal Mahila Police Station has been made 'victim friendly'.

#### **Rajasthan Government launches 'iStart Talent Connect Portal' to boost employment opportunities in the state**

- In a bid to boost employment opportunities in the state, the Rajasthan government recently launched the 'iStart Talent Connect Portal' at Jaipur's Techno Hub.
- The portal, which has been unveiled under the state government's flagship initiative, iStart Rajasthan, in collaboration with Jaipur-based startup Hyrefox, has been developed to serve as a user-friendly platform for both job providers and job seekers.
- The platform not only allows companies to discover potential talent but also lets them post job openings and connect with their future employees.

##### **Key Points**

Rajasthan Capital	– Jaipur
Rajasthan Chief Minister	– Ashok Gehlot
Rajasthan Governor	– Kalraj Mishra

#### **Tamil Nadu launches project for conservation of Nilgiri Tahr**

- The Tamil Nadu government launched an exclusive project for the conservation of Nilgiri Tahr, the state animal which once inhabited a large portion of the biodiversity-rich Western Ghats.
- The scheme will be implemented at a cost of ₹25.14 crores.
- It will have nine components including bi-annual synchronized surveys across the divisions, tranquilization, collaring and monitoring of Tahr individuals, re-introduction and monitoring.

- Known as Varai Aadu locally, Nilgiri Tahr is an endangered species endemic to the Western Ghats known for their gravity-defying skills in climbing steep cliffs, getting them the nickname Mountain Monarch. It is classified as a critically endangered species in the IUCN red list of threatened species and is protected under schedule-I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act of India, 1972.

##### **Key Points**

Tamil Nadu Capital	– Chennai
Tamil Nadu Chief Minister	– M. K. Stalin
Tamil Nadu Governor	– R. N. Ravi

#### **Tripura becomes the fourth state to implement e-cabinet system**

- After Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura has become the fourth state to implement the e-cabinet system. It is modelled on the e-cabinet system of Uttarakhand.
- All future cabinet meetings in the state will be paperless, reducing the carbon footprint and environmental degradation in the process, with ministers and bureaucrats using tablets.
- In the debut e-cabinet meeting, the government approved a proposal to procure a loan of ₹160 crore from the Asian Development Bank, which earlier provided soft loans with low-interest rates to the government and partnered with it in several developmental projects.

#### **Bihar govt announces 10% reservation for EWS in judicial services**

- The Bihar government announced a 10% reservation for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in the judicial services and state-run law colleges and universities.
- The announcement came just a day after the government released the first set of data from the state's caste survey.

##### **Key Points**

Bihar Capital	– Patna
Bihar Chief Minister	– Nitish Kumar
Bihar Governor	– Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

### Govt likely to set aside ₹ 30,000 crore for PM Fasal Bima Yojna expansion

- The government is considering putting aside ₹30,000 crore to expand the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) portal.
- It plans to convert it into a comprehensive platform that covers insurance coverage beyond crops to include assets such as ponds, tractors, livestock, and palm trees, officials familiar with the subject told Mint.
- This program will be driven by the Ace Integrated Development Environment (AIDE) application,

which was launched in July to ensure door-to-door enrolment, with the intent of making crop insurance more accessible and convenient for farmers.

- The app will facilitate insurance intermediaries to enrol farmers for crop insurance in addition to extending coverage to 40 million farmers for non-subsidised schemes.
- Earlier, the government restructured the PMFBY, which resulted in the insured area rising by 12% in 2022-23 compared to the previous year and reaching over 49.7 million hectares.

## DEFENCE NEWS

### Indian Navy gets the third guided missile stealth destroyer- Imphal

- The third guided-missile stealth destroyer, named "Imphal," has been delivered to the Indian Navy by Mazagon Docks.
- With a displacement of 7,500 tons and a crew of 312, the 164-meter warship is equipped with surface-to-air missiles and BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles.
- Imphal is the third vessel of Project 15B that was built at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL).
- The Project is a follow-on of the Kolkata class (Project 15A) destroyers commissioned in the last decade. Imphal follows in the wake of her predecessors Indian Naval Ships Visakhapatnam and Mormugao commissioned in the past two years.

#### Key Points

Chief of Naval Staff	– Admiral R. Hari Kumar
Navy Day	– 4 May

### Indian Air Force (IAF) to stop flying MiG-21 by 2025

- Amid the efforts to replace its ageing Russian-origin aircraft, IAF is all set to replace all MiG-21 squadrons with the LCA Mark 1A by 2025.
- MiG-21, which has been in service with the IAF for more than 60 years now, has met with several accidents in the recent past.

#### Key Points

Air Chief Marshal	– V.R. Chaudhari
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### IAF Deploys Three S-400 Missile Units Along China And Pakistan Borders

- IAF has deployed its three S-400 air defense missile squadrons along borders with China and Pakistan.
- In 2018-19, India agreed with Russia to procure S-400 missiles worth Rs. 35,000 crore (approx). As per the agreement five squadrons of S-400 missiles were set to be delivered by Russia to India. Out of five squadrons, three were delivered. Whereas the delivery of the remaining two was hindered due to the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

### Chief of Army Staff presented the prestigious 'President's Colours' to the Third Battalion of the Naga Regiment

- General Manoj Pande, the Chief of Army Staff presented the prestigious 'President's Colours' to the Third Battalion of the Naga Regiment during an impressive Colour presentation parade held at Kumaon Regimental Centre, Ranikhet, Uttarakhand.
- After reviewing the parade, the Army Chief appreciated the rich traditions of the Naga Regiment in all spheres of military activities including operations, training and sports.
- The COAS also complimented the newly raised unit for their remarkable performance within a short period of time and conveyed his best wishes to all ranks to serve the Nation with pride.

### India and Bangladesh commence annual joint military exercise, SAMPRITI

- India and Bangladesh commenced the 11th edition of an annual joint military exercise, SAMPRITI on October 3, 2023, in Umroi, Meghalaya.

- This exercise, alternately organised by both countries, signifies strong bilateral defence cooperation initiatives.
- With its inception in Jorhat, Assam in 2009, the exercise has witnessed ten successful editions till 2022.
- SAMPRITI-XI, scheduled for 14 days, will engage approximately 350 personnel from both sides. The exercise underscores the importance of enhancing interoperability between the two armies, sharing tactical drills, and promoting best practices.

#### **IAF received the first LCA trainer from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**

- HAL has handed over the first trainer version of the LCA Tejas to Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- The IAF has a fleet of 220 LCAs in the inventory and has signed a contract for 83 additional LCAs and is moving forward to procuring 97 more.
- The twin-seater variant has all the capabilities to support the training requirements of the IAF and augments itself to the role of a fighter as well in case of necessity.
- HAL has an order of 18 twin seaters from IAF and is planning to deliver eight twin seaters in FY 2023-24. Further, 10 twin seaters would be delivered progressively by 2026-27. Further orders are also expected from IAF.

#### **Indian Navy introduced 360 degrees appraisal system to improve promotion evaluation**

- The Indian Navy has institutionalised a '360 Degree Appraisal Mechanism' as the present system has an inherent limitation of a 'top-down' approach.
- The new appraisal mechanism is aimed to "address this shortfall by encompassing large-scale surveys from suitably identified peers and subordinates for every officer being considered for promotion".
- The survey comprises a spectrum of questions, encompassing aspects such as professional knowledge, leadership attributes, suitability in war/crisis and potential for holding higher ranks.
- Inputs, thus obtained, are suitably quantified for independent analyses by a nominated Board of Officers, headed by a Flag Officer. This will also be provided as feedback to the officers to effect behavioural changes and improvements

#### **Key Points**

Chief of Naval Staff	– Admiral R. Hari Kumar
Navy Day	– 4 May

#### **Indian Air Force unveils its new ensign on 91st anniversary**

- IAF celebrated its 91st anniversary in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. As a part of the celebrations, the IAF organised the ceremonial parade at Air Force Station Bamrauli at Prayagraj.
- Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari unveiled the new IAF ensign at the parade, while the previous version was lowered, folded with full honors, and handed over to the Air Chief. It will now become part of the exhibits at the Air Force Museum.
- The theme for this year's Air Force Day is 'IAF-Airpower Beyond Boundaries'.

#### **Indian Navy & SBI join hands to launch Nav-eCash card**

- Taking Digital India to the high seas, the Indian Navy and State Bank of India (SBI) launched SBI's NAV-eCash Card onboard India's largest Naval Aircraft Carrier INS Vikramaditya.
- NAV-eCash Card with its dual-chip technology will facilitate both online as well as offline transactions. The unique infrastructure of naval ships inhibits traditional payment solutions particularly when the ship is on high seas where there is no connectivity.
- The Card will obviate the difficulties faced by personnel onboard in handling physical cash during deployment of the ship on the high seas. The idea of such a card was jointly nurtured by SBI and Navy officials and the card takes care of the requirements of the Navy to provide a seamless onboard experience.

#### **Indian Army installs first-ever mobile tower at Siachen Glacier**

- A mobile tower has been installed for the first time at Siachen Glacier, the world's highest battlefield.
- The Fire and Fury Corps of the Indian Army shared this news on X. This tower was installed by the Indian Army in collaboration with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL).

### Indian Navy Launches 25T Bollard Pull Tug 'Mahabali' in Gujarat

- Indian Navy recently commissioned Mahabali Tug Shoft Shipyard Pvt. Ltd., Gujarat. It is a 25-ton Bollard Pull (BP) Tug.
- This vessel, a creation of Shoft Shipyard located in Bharuch, Gujarat, is one of three such tugs commissioned as part of a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Defence and the Shipyard.
- It has been constructed in accordance with the classification rules set forth by the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS).

### Indian Army and Air Force Contingent conduct India-Kazakhstan Joint Military Exercise KAZIND-2023

- The Indian Army and Indian Air Force contingent comprising 120 personnel departed for Kazakhstan

to take part in the seventh edition of Joint Military 'Exercise KAZIND-2023'.

- The exercise will be conducted at Otar, Kazakhstan from October 30 to November 11, 2023.
- The Joint Exercise between India and Kazakhstan was instituted as 'Exercise PRABAL DOSTYK' in the year 2016. After the second edition, the Exercise was upgraded to a company-level exercise and renamed as 'Exercise KAZIND'. The Exercise has been further upgraded as a Bi-service Exercise this year by including the Air Force component.
- 'Exercise KAZIND-2023' will provide an opportunity for both sides to gain an insight into the tactics, battle drills and procedures of each other, which is a prerequisite while operating under the ambit of the United Nations.

## BANKING, FINANCE AND ECONOMY NEWS

### PM Modi Inaugurates 'Namo Bharat', India's first Regional Rapid Train Service

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off 'Namo Bharat', India's first semi-high-speed regional rail service in Uttar Pradesh. The train will connect Sahibabad and Duhai Depot stations in Uttar Pradesh.
- This marks the launch of the Regional Rapid Train Service (RRTS) in India.
- 'Namo Bharat' is a "transformational" regional development initiative, which is designed to provide high-speed trains for intercity commuting.
- The full 82-km stretch between Delhi and Meerut will be complete within the next 1-1.5 years.

### The Competition Commission of India (CCI) becomes a member of the International Competition Network's steering group

- CCI has become a member of the steering group of the International Competition Network (ICN).
- The ICN comprises 140 competition agencies from 130 countries. It is guided by its apex body- a Steering Group of 18 members. This is the first time that the CCI has become a member of the ICN's steering group and the membership is for two years.
- The ICN provides competition authorities with a specialised yet informal venue for maintaining

regular contacts and addressing practical competition concerns, according to its website.

#### Key Points

CCI Headquarters	– New Delhi
CCI Chairperson	– Ravneet Kaur

### Reliance Jio partners with Plume to deliver AI-enhanced in-home services

- India's top telecom operator, Reliance Jio Infocomm, announced a partnership with California-based Plume to deliver smart home and small business services to its nearly 200 million subscribers across India, leveraging Plume's cloud platform.
- With this new partnership, Jio will deploy 'Home Pass' and 'Work Pass' consumer services enabled by Plume's AI-powered and cloud-based platform, including whole-home adaptive WiFi, connected device and application performance optimisation, cyber threat protection for connected devices, advanced parental controls, WiFi motion sensing and more.

### Tata Group set to become India's first homegrown iPhone maker as Wistron approves sale

- The Tata Group will soon make India's first homegrown iPhone after Wistron Corp approved the sale of an assembly plant near Bengaluru.



- The manufacture would start within two and a half years.
- Tata is also set to honour several manufacturing and hiring commitments made by Wistron as part of their agreement. This includes shipping iPhones worth at least \$1.8 billion from the factory in the fiscal year through March 2024 to win state-backed financial incentives. Wistron had also indicated plans to triple its workforce in the plant by next year.
- The facility currently employs more than 10,000 workers who assemble the latest iPhone 14 model.

### **RBI approves MobiKwik's Zaakpay to Operate as a Payment Aggregator**

- Mobikwik's payment gateway arm Zaakpay has finally received in-principle authorisation from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as a payments aggregator.
- Mobikwik had applied for the payments aggregator licence in 2021, but was rejected by the regulator. The firm re-applied in October last year.
- The RBI's in-principle authorisation will enable Zaakpay to onboard new merchants onto its platform for processing of online payments.
- Earlier, all the companies in the business of processing payments were called 'payment gateways'. However, the RBI, in its 2020 PAPG guidelines, clarified that 'payments aggregators' will facilitate payments to merchants by handling the money, whereas 'payment gateways' will just offer the technology platform—they won't get involved in the settlement of funds. And, to operate as a payments aggregator, one needs RBI approval.

### **Key Points**

- RBI's headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra
- RBI's Governor – Shaktikanta Das

### **IIT Kanpur and Airbus to collaborate to boost aerospace talent base in India**

- IIT Kanpur and Airbus signed an MoU to facilitate increased collaboration in developing education programmes with a focus on research to foster talent development in the Indian aerospace sector.
- Both organisations will also explore collaboration opportunities with global institutes where students will get to work on projects relevant to the sector.

### **Kerala to establish 200 crores Graphene production facility in Public Private Partnership (PPP).**

- The Kerala Government has decided to set up a pilot production facility of Graphene. The production facility will cost ₹200 crores. Graphene is called a wonder material for its extraordinary electrical and electronic properties, in the state.
- The Kerala Digital University would be the implementing agency, and KINFRA has been appointed as a special purpose vehicle for infrastructure development.
- The digital university was given permission to prepare a preliminary proposal to avail loans from the Kerala Infrastructure Investment Fund Board (KIIFB) for the project and to find private partners through a global expression of interest.

### **India's female micro-entrepreneurs account for 43% of PM SVANidhi loan disbursement**

- India's female micro-entrepreneurs account for 43% of the total disbursement under the PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbharNidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme, according to the SBI Special report.
- PM SVANidhi scheme was launched during the COVID-19 pandemic on June 1, 2020. It is a micro-credit scheme for urban street vendors that aims to provide collateral-free loans up to Rs. 50,000 in incremental tranches.
- The scheme provides loans in three tranches (1st Term loan up to Rs. 10,000; 2nd term loan up to ₹20,000 and 3rd term loan up to ₹50,000).
- Among the cities, Varanasi is the top performer where 45% of total spenders are active spenders, followed by Bengaluru, Chennai, and Prayagraj.
- Among the PSBs, the State Bank of India (SBI) has disbursed 31% of the total loans under this scheme, followed by Bank of Baroda (31%), Union Bank of India (10%), and Punjab National Bank (8%), respectively.

### **Reliance Jio unveils Jio Space Fiber: India's first satellite-based gigabit broadband service for nationwide access**

- Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd, India's top carrier, rolled out its Jio Space Fiber satellite broadband service. This will be the nation's inaugural satellite-driven giga fiber service.
- The satellite broadband aims to extend high-speed internet access to previously untapped regions in India.



- Jio Space Fiber aims to provide everyone with the opportunity to partake fully in a burgeoning digital society, offering gigabit-level access to governmental, educational, health, and entertainment services online.

#### **National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC), the only PSU in Forbes World's Best Employers 2023 list**

- NTPC, India's largest integrated energy conglomerate, has been recognized as one of the 'World's Best Employers 2023' in the Forbes World's Best Employers list 2023.
- It ranked 261st among the top 700 companies in the world ranking and is the only Indian Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) to feature in the list. Forbes publishes the World's Best Employers list every year through independent market research to identify the top 700 companies.
- The list recognizes companies that provide exciting and positive working environments, training and career advancement opportunities, employee benefits, employee centricity and workplace diversity.

#### **Key Points**

Chairman	– Gurdeep Singh
Headquarters	– New Delhi

#### **ICICI Bank introduces 'iFinance,' A One-Stop Solution for Multi-Bank account access**

- ICICI Bank launched 'iFinance', enabling crores of customers-retail and sole proprietors, to get a consolidated view of their savings and current accounts in one place.
- Customers of other banks can also benefit from this facility.
- ICICI Bank has introduced this facility by leveraging the Account Aggregator ecosystem, on the Bank's digital platforms, namely the iMobile Pay app, Retail Internet Banking (RIB), Corporate Internet Banking (CIB) and InstaBIZ, the Bank's mobile app for businesses.

#### **Key Points**

ICICI bank	– Mumbai
Headquarters	
Chairman	– Girish Chandra Chaturvedi

#### **World Bank raises India's retail inflation forecast to 5.9% for FY24**

- The World Bank increased its retail inflation forecast for

India for 2023-24 to 5.9% from the 5.2% estimate made in April. Its economic growth forecast for the country remains at 6.3%, underpinned by strong investment growth.

- Abnormal rainfall during the monsoon months caused a sharp increase in food prices in July 2023. Though eased in August, it is expected to continue to weigh on headline inflation through the rest of the fiscal year.

#### **Key Points**

Headquarters	– Washington DC, US
President	– Ajay Banga

#### **Fintech Unicorn Slice to merge with the North East Small Finance Bank**

- Indian fintech unicorn Slice has officially confirmed its merger with North East Small Finance Bank (NESFB). This confirmation came following the approval it received from RBI.
- This collaboration will revolutionise banking services and expand financial inclusion in India. This will also amplify their ability to serve a broader customer base currently underserved by traditional banking institutions.

#### **Arunachal Yak churpi, Khamti rice & Tangsa textile get Geographical Indication (GI) tag**

- A first-ever yak milk product, Arunachal Yak Churpi, has got the GI tag. Churpi is a slightly sour and salty naturally fermented cheese prepared from the milk of Arunachali yak. It is nurtured in the high-altitude areas of Arunachal Pradesh. Churpi, rich in protein, has been a lifeline for tribal yak herders in the harsh, vegetation-starved, cold, and hilly mountainous regions of the state.
- Khaw Tai is a chewy sticky rice variety, that hails from the Namsai region and is cultivated by traditional Khampti tribal farmers.
- The Tangsa Textile products crafted by the Tangsa tribe of Changlang district are renowned for their exotic designs and vibrant colors.

#### **Indian Railways' PSUs, RITES Ltd and IRCON granted Navratna status**

- Ircon International Limited (IRCON) and RITES Ltd(RITES) both Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Ministry of Railways, have been announced as 15th and 16th Navratna respectively

among CPSEs. This tag was confirmed by the Ministry of Finance.

- RITES Ltd is a leading transport infrastructure consultancy and engineering firm in India. It provides services in the diverse sectors of transportation, railways, export of rolling stock, highways, airports, metros, urban engineering & sustainability, ports & waterways, and energy management.
- The core competence of IRCON is in Railways, Highways & Extra High Tension substation engineering and Construction. It has executed projects operated in the areas of Railway construction including ballastless track, electrification, tunnelling, signal & telecommunication as well as leasing of locos, construction of roads, highways, commercial, industrial & residential buildings and complexes, airport runway and hangars, metro and mass rapid transit system, etc.

#### **YES Bank becomes the first lender to offer 'ONDC Network Gift Card'**

- YES Bank has become the first bank in the country to issue an 'ONDC Network Gift Card'.
- The ONDC Network Gift Card, issued in partnership with Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), is at the forefront of democratising digital commerce.
- Unlike traditional gift cards, this concept empowers customers to utilise the gift card for purchasing products from any brand and any seller across a wide array of segments, including food, fashion, handicrafts, electronics, home essentials, health and well being.

#### **Bharti Group to buy out AXA's 49% stake in Bharti AXA Life Insurance Co.**

- Bharti Group has entered into a binding agreement with France's AXA Group to acquire its joint venture partner's 49% stake in Bharti AXA Life Insurance.
- The Bharti Life Ventures (BLVPL), the holding company of Bharti AXA Life Insurance, will have full ownership of the life insurer. The acquisition by Bharti Group, conducted through its Bharti Life Ventures arm, is expected to conclude by December this year, subject to regulatory approvals.
- This development positions Bharti Group to compete more effectively with established players like HDFC Life Insurance, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, SBI Life Insurance, and LIC in a market that ranks ninth in the world.

#### **RBI cancels certificate of registration of two NBFCs**

- RBI cancelled the certificate of registration of two Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) — Today's Holdings Pvt Ltd and Integrated Finance Co Ltd.
- Four NBFCs and two housing finance companies, which includes Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC), surrendered their licences.
- The four NBFCs are Ford Credit India Pvt Ltd, Acoustic Commercial Pvt Ltd, VSG Trade Pvt Ltd, and Centrum Microcredit Ltd. Another housing finance company to give up its licence was National Trust Housing Finance Ltd.

#### **Skill India partners with Coca-Cola India to launch Retailer Skill Development Program**

- To empower the retailer community in the states of Odisha and Uttar Pradesh, the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), working under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), announced a partnership with Coca-Cola India to launch the Super Power Retailer Program under the Skill India Mission.
- The program is being piloted in the state of Odisha.
- The launch of the Super Power Retailer will empower retailers and provide them with training to expand their businesses and enhance consumer experiences.
- The initiative will play a pivotal role in strengthening India's economy by skilling, reskilling, and upskilling the retailers

#### **Key Points**

Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship – Dharmendra Pradhan

#### **Swan Energy pays ₹ 231 cr to acquire Reliance Naval and Engineering**

- Swan Energy Ltd, through its SPV Hazel Infra has paid ₹231.42 crore towards the upfront payment for cash-strapped Reliance Naval & Engineering before the deadline.
- With this acquisition, Swan Energy has firmed up plans to emerge as the biggest private player in the commercial and naval defence vessel manufacturing and ship repairing segments.

- Apart from targeting major contracts from the naval defence sector, the company is also focussing on driving business for commercial vessel manufacturing and for the oil and gas sector.

#### Qualcomm, Google partner to make RISC-V chip for wearable devices

- Chip designer Qualcomm will partner with Alphabet's Google to make wearable devices like smartwatches using chips based on RISC-V technology.
- RISC-V, pronounced as 'risk five', is an open-source technology that competes with costly proprietary technology from British chip designer Arm Holdings.
- RISC-V can be used as a key ingredient for anything from a smartphone chip to advanced processors for artificial intelligence.
- US companies are still actively working to advance RISC-V based technology despite concerns expressed by lawmakers that China is exploiting a culture of open collaboration among American companies to advance its own semiconductor industry.

#### MeitY joins hands with IBM to accelerate innovation in Artificial Intelligence (AI), Semiconductor & Quantum Tech

- MeitY has signed three memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with tech giant IBM to accelerate innovation in areas such as artificial intelligence (AI), semiconductors and quantum technology.
- IBM signed the MoUs with three separate entities of the ministry – Digital India, India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC).
- Under this, the tech giant will work with the three bodies to ramp up research and development (R&D) efforts, accelerate India's efforts to attain self-reliance in the area of semi conductors, and advance

national strategies and missions on AI and quantum technology.

- The pacts will help MeitY access IBM's expertise and resource base in these areas and scale up its growth initiatives in the three burgeoning industries. The two will also work on skill development and engaging industry stakeholders to further fuel the growth of three ecosystems.

#### Federal Bank adopts Mookkannoor village in Ernakulam

- Federal Bank launched a 'Mookkannoor Mission' as a tribute to its founder K.P. Hornis. The mission is an initiative under the Swachh Bharat Mission.
- The bank has adopted Mookkannoor village in Ernakulam, and a comprehensive plan including digitisation of the entire village, cleanliness drive that includes waste management, tree plantation, and community development and renewable energy projects will be implemented in stages.

#### Key Points

MD & CEO of Federal Bank – Shyam Srinivasan

#### Google announces DigiKavach to prevent financial frauds in India.

- Google launched an initiative called 'DigiKavach' in India, with the aim of preventing financial fraud in the country.
- As per Google, DigiKavach is an early threat detection and warning system; it is designed to identify and study emerging financial fraud patterns before these cause 'widespread harm.'
- Under this, its teams will first study the methods and modus operandi of scammers, and follow it up by drawing insights to detect the threats early.
- Finally, the teams will collaborate with a 'wider ecosystem' to cross-share insights effectively.

### PEOPLE IN NEWS/APPOINTMENTS

	Name	Designation
1	Lieutenant General Raghu Srinivasan	28th Director General (DG) of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO)
2	Anirban Mukherjee	Global CEO of PayU India
3	Ramaswamy N	Chairman and Managing Director of GIC Re
4	Dinesh Khara	SBI Chairman
5	Navneet Munot	Chairman of the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)

	Name	Designation
6	VJ Kurian	Chairman of South Indian Bank
7	Neeraj Chopra	Laureus ambassador
8	Mohamed Muizzu	President of Maldives
9	Arindam Bagchi	India's Permanent Ambassador to UN in Geneva
10	Sanjay Kulshreshtha	Chairman and Managing Director of HUDCO
11	Mohammed Shami	Brand Ambassador of Puma
12	Ashok Vaswani	CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank
13	Pankaj Bohra	National President of the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC)
14	Prof Sarang Deo	Member of WHO's TB Advisory Group
15	Sadhna Saxena Nair	Director General of Hospital Services (Armed Forces)
16	Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar	King of Malaysia
17	Tarun Sobti	Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff
18	Sanjay Kumar Jain	Chairman and Managing Director IRCTC
19	B K Mohanty	Director (Finance) of the IREDA
20	Sanjay Kulshreshtha	Chairman & Managing Director of the HUDCO
21	Katrina Kaif	Brand Ambassador of Rado
22	Rajkumar Rao	National Icon of Election Commission
23	Mahendra Singh Dhoni	Brand ambassador of Lays and Reliance Jio
24	Chetan Bhagat	Brand ambassador of Henry Harvin Education
25	Raghubar Das	Odisha's Governor
26	Indra Sena Reddy Nallu	Tripura's Governor
27	Muneesh Kapur	RBI's Executive Director

### DAYS AND THEMES

Date	Day	Theme
October 2023	Breast Cancer Awareness Month	
October 1	International Day of Older Persons	Fulfilling the Promises of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for Older Persons: Across Generations
October 2	Gandhi Jayanti	Ek Tareekh Ek Ghanta Ek Saath
October 2	International Day of Non-Violence	
October 2	Lal Bahadur Shastri Jayanti	
October 2	World Habitat Day	Resilient Urban Economies: Cities as Drivers of Growth and Recovery.
October 3	World Nature Day	Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet
October 4	World Animal Welfare Day	Great or Small, Love Them All
October 5	World Teacher's Day	The teachers we need for the education we want: The global imperative to reverse the teacher shortage
October 6	World Cerebral Palsy Day	Together Stronger
October 7	World Cotton Day	Making cotton fair and sustainable for all, from farm to fashion



Date	Day	Theme
October 8	Air Force Day	IAF-airpower beyond boundaries
October 2- 8	National Wildlife Week	Partnerships for Wildlife Conservation
October 9	World Post Day	Together for Trust: Collaborating for a safe and connected future
October 10	National Ayurveda Day	Ayurveda for One Health
October 10	World Mental Health Day	Mental health is a universal human right
October 11	International Girl Child Day	Invest in Girls' Rights: Our Leadership, Our Well-being
October 12	World Arthritis Day	Living with an RMD at all stages of life.
October 13	UN International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction	Fighting inequality for a resilient future
October 14	World Standard Day	Shared Vision for a Better World – Standards for Sustainable Development Goals
October 15	World Students' Day	FAIL: First Attempt in Learning
October 15	International Day of Rural Women	Rural Women Cultivating Good For All
October 16	World Food Day	Water is Life, Water is Food. Leave No One Behind
October 17	International Poverty Eradication Day	Decent Work and Social Protection: Putting Dignity in Practice for All
October 20	National Solidarity Day	
October 20	World Osteoporosis Day	Step Up for Bone Health-Build Better Bones
October 24	United Nations Day	Equality, Freedom, and Justice for All
October 24	World Polio Day	A healthier future for mothers and children
October 31	Rastriya Ekta Diwas or National Unity Day	

### OBITUARIES (NATIONAL)

	Name	Occupation/ Field	Place
1	Anathalavattom Anandan	Politician	Kerala
2	PV Gangadharan	Producer and Director	Kozikode, Kerala
3	Sarat Barkotoky	Politician and teacher	Assam
4	Bajnath Aggarwal		
	Trustee of Geeta Press Gorakhpur		
5	MS Gill	Former Chief Election Commissioner	
6	Ayyalasomayajula Lalitha	First Female Engineer in India	
7	Swarup Naik	Music director and Lyricist	Cuttack, Odisha
8	Bangaru Adigal	Spiritual leader	Chengalpattu, Tamil Nadu
9	Bishan Singh Bedi	Cricketer	
10	Sarat Chandra Mishra	Police officer	
11	Karthyayani Amma	Kerala adult literacy topper	
12	Dahyabhai Shastri	Sanskrit Scholar	



## OBITUARIES (INTERNATIONAL)

	Name	Occupation/ Field	Country
1	Terence Davies	British filmmaker	
2	Michael Chiarello	Celebrity Chef And Former Food Network Star	
3	Martti Ahtisaari	Politician	
4	Matthew Perry	Actor	Los Angeles, US
5	Saleemul Huq	Scientist	
6	Richard Roundtree	First Black Action Hero	
7	Li Keqiang	Politician	

## BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Book	Name of the writer
The Book of Life: My Dance with Buddha for Success	Vivek Agnihotri
The Professionals' Handbook to ChatGPT	V Pattabhi Ram and Dungar Chand U Jain
The Reverse Swing: Colonialism to Cooperation	Ashok Tandor
The Lords of the Wankhede – Tales Between Two Titles'	W.V. Raman and R. Kaushik
Nilavu Kudicha Simhangal	S Somnath

## RANKS AND INDICES

### Mukesh Ambani Surpasses Gautam Adani as India's richest on Hurun List

- Mukesh Ambani, chairman of Reliance Industries Limited, has reclaimed the title of the richest Indian, surpassing Adani Group chairman Gautam Adani, who experienced a substantial decline in wealth due to the scathing Hindenburg Research report, as per Hurun India Rich List 2023.
- Hurun India and 360 ONE Wealth released the 360 ONE Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2023. This is the 12th annual ranking of the richest individuals in India.
- Gautam Adani (61), the chairman of Adani Group, slipped to the second position with a wealth of ₹4.74 lakh crore. Cyrus S Poonawalla (82), the founder of Serum Institute of India, has maintained his position at number three, with a total wealth amounting to ₹2.78 lakh crore as of 2023.

### Global Hunger Index 2023

- In the Global Hunger Index 2023, India ranked 111th out of 125 countries, translating to a severe level of hunger.

- The GHI evaluates a country's score based on four critical indicators: undernourishment, child stunting, child wasting, and child mortality.
- The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is a peer-reviewed report, published annually by Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe.
- According to the GHI 2023 report, Belarus, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Chile, China are among the top-ranked countries (i.e., low level of hunger) and Yemen, Madagascar, Central African Republic are at the bottom. The GHI 2023 score for the world is 18.3.

### Mumbai Secures 19th Spot, Bengaluru 22nd and New Delhi 25th in the Knight Frank Index

- London-based property consultant, Knight Frank, has ranked Mumbai in the 19th position, Bengaluru in the 22nd position, and New Delhi in the 25th position in the Global Prime Residential Index.
- Mumbai is the highest-ranking Indian city in terms of percentage increase on the global index.
- The Turkish capital Ankara leads Knight Frank's Global Residential Cities Index with the highest growth rate of 105.9%, followed by Istanbul at 85.1%.

### Global Remote Work Index (GRWI)- India among the world's worst countries to work remotely

- The Global Remote Work Index (GRWI) ranks India at 64, marking a significant drop of 15 places from the previous year. The index evaluates countries based on cyber safety, economic safety, digital and physical infrastructure, and social safety.
- The top ten countries to work remotely are Denmark, Netherlands, Germany, etc.

### India's rank on Global Pension Index falls to 45 out of 47 countries

- India dropped from the 41st position out of 44 countries in the 2022 Global Pension Index to the 45th spot out of 47 countries in 2023.

- It comprises three sub-indices – adequacy, sustainability and integrity – to measure retirement income systems in 47 countries across over 50 indicators.
- The first sub-index shows the adequacy of the benefits being provided and the sustainability sub-index represents the likelihood that the current pension system would be able to provide benefits in the future.
- India's score improved marginally from 44.4 last year to 45.9 now. The report primarily attributed this to an improvement in the adequacy sub-index.
- The index was released by the United States-based consulting company Mercer and not-for-profit organisation CFA Institute.

## SPORTS NEWS

### Asian Games 2023

- The Asian Games were held from September 23 to October 8, 2023 in Hangzhou, the People's Republic of China. A 655-member Indian contingent participated in the same.
- This was the 19th edition of the continental quadrennial multisport. It was originally scheduled for 2022 but was postponed by a year due to COVID-19.
- India finished their Asian Games 2023 campaign with a record haul of 107 medals – 28 gold, 38 silver and 41 bronze. This surpassed India's previous record tally achieved at the last edition at Jakarta 2018, where a 570-strong Indian squad racked up 70 medals – 16 gold, 23 silver and 31 bronze.
- China led the overall Asian Games 2023 medals tally with 201 gold, ahead of Japan (52) and the Republic of Korea (42).
- India won 22 medals in shooting which led the way at the games. This included seven gold.
- In Athletics, Neeraj Chopra won the gold with his successful title defence in the javelin throw. Besides, athletes won six gold along with 14 silver and nine bronze.
- The archery compound team won five gold medals in the category.
- The cricket and kabaddi teams also bagged two gold medals each while the men's hockey team's gold secured a spot at the Paris 2024 Olympics.

- India also earned their first Asian Games badminton gold medal courtesy of the men's doubles pair of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy.
- Squash, tennis and equestrian completed the 28 gold medals for India in Hangzhou.
- In addition to medals, Hangzhou offered 74 Paris 2024 Olympic quotas – six in archery, 10 in artistic swimming, 34 in boxing, two in breaking, two in hockey, 10 in modern pentathlon, six in sailing, two in tennis and two in water polo.
- India secured six quotas in all – four in boxing (Nikhata Zareen, Preeti Pawar, Parveen Hooda, Lovlina Borgohain) and one each in athletics (Kishore Jena) and men's hockey.

### India wins 111 Medals at the fourth Asian Para Games

- Indian para-athletes created history as they ended their Hangzhou Asian Para Games campaign with an unprecedented 111 medals, the biggest haul for the country in any major international multi-sport event.
- The para-athletes won 29 gold, 31 silver and 51 bronze.

### Grandmaster Raunak Sadhwani crowned U-20 world junior rapid chess champion

- Grandmaster Raunak Sadhwani won the FIDE World Junior Rapid Chess Championship in Sardinia, Italy.
- He scored 8.5 over 11 rounds to win the Championship ahead of Arseniy Nesterov of Russia, who scored 8.

- He became a grandmaster at the age of 13. He is the ninth youngest player in history and the fourth youngest Indian to be awarded the title.

#### **Lionel Messi wins record eighth Ballon d'Or for best player in the world**

- Argentina captain Lionel Messi won a record eighth Ballon d'Or for the best player in the world, beating Norway's UEFA player of the year and treble winner Erling Haaland of Manchester City to the prestigious prize.
- He played a pivotal role in leading Argentina to their first World Cup victory since 1986. This remarkable achievement places Messi three Ballons d'Or ahead of his rival Cristiano Ronaldo, who last won the award in 2017.
- Messi has now been a top-three finalist for this prestigious accolade a total of 14 times, with five instances as the runner-up.

#### **Amol Muzumdar appointed as head coach of Indian women's cricket team**

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced Amol Muzumdar as the new head coach of the Indian women's cricket team.
- A domestic titan, Muzumdar scored over 11,000 first-class runs in 171 matches including 30 centuries during his 21-year impressive career. He also featured in over 100 List A games and 14 T20 matches.
- He won several Ranji Trophy titles with Mumbai and later represented Assam and Andhra Pradesh.

#### **Former England captain Alastair Cook announces retirement from cricket**

- Former England captain Alastair Cook announced his retirement from cricket after deciding against seeking a renewal of his contract at Essex, his long-time county team.
- The left-handed opener had already retired from the international game in 2018 after hitting 12,472 Test runs, the most by any English batter and fifth on the all-time list, behind Sachin Tendulkar, Ricky Ponting, Jacques Kallis and Rahul Dravid.

#### **Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren unveils Mascot and trophy for Asian Women's Hockey Championship in Ranchi**

- Chief Minister Hemant Soren unveiled the mascot-Juhi and the trophy of Asian Women's Hockey Championship in Ranchi.

- The mascot 'Juhi' is inspired by Juhi, the iconic elephant at Betla National Park, Jharkhand.
- The seventh edition of the Women's Asian Champions Trophy will be held in India for the first time. It is also the first international hockey tournament hosted by Ranchi, the capital of Jharkhand.
- The top six Asian teams – Japan, South Korea, China, Malaysia, Thailand and India – will feature in the seventh edition. The previous edition of the Women's Asian Champions Trophy hockey was held in Donghae, Korea in 2021 and it was won by Japan.

#### **Cricket approved by IOC for 2028 Los Angeles Olympics**

- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) recently took a significant step towards embracing the world's most popular sport, Cricket, by accepting the recommendation to include T20 cricket for both men and women at the 2028 Los Angeles Summer Olympics.
- This decision was made during the IOC's executive board meeting in Mumbai, heralding a new era for the sport on the global stage.
- The acceptance of cricket's inclusion in the 2028 Los Angeles Summer Olympics represents a pivotal moment in the sport's history.

#### **Google Doodle celebrated Appalachian Trail-World's Longest Hiking-Only Footpath**

- Google Doodle paid tribute to the Appalachian Trail, the longest hiking-only footpath in the world. This iconic trail has captivated the hearts of adventurers, nature enthusiasts, and explorers for nearly a century.
- On October 2, 1968, The National Trails System Act established the Appalachian Trail as one of the country's first National Scenic Trails.
- Former US President Lyndon B. Johnson had signed the National Trails System Act in 1968 which declared the Appalachian Trail as one of the first national scenic pathways and acknowledged it as federal land. The Appalachian trail is a 2,190-mile footpath that spans across 14 US states and has served sightseeing hikers for nearly 100 years now.
- The Trail which travels through fourteen states along the crests and valleys of the Appalachian Mountain Range, from its southern terminus at Springer Mountain, Georgia, to the northern terminus at Katahdin, Maine.

### Sachin Tendulkar named as the 'Global Ambassador' for ODI World Cup 2023

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has made an exciting announcement designating the legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar as the 'Global Ambassador' for the Cricket World Cup 2023.
- Sachin Tendulkar holds the record for participating in six 50-over World Cups.
- In addition to Sachin Tendulkar, the ICC has assembled an impressive group of cricketing legends to serve as ambassadors for the World Cup 2023. This eclectic mix includes West Indies' icon Vivian Richards, South Africa's cricketing maestro AB de Villiers, England's World Cup-winning captain Eoin Morgan, Australia's formidable Aaron Finch, Sri Lanka's spin wizard Muttiah Muralitharan, New Zealand's stalwart Ross Taylor, India's charismatic Suresh Raina, former captain Mithali Raj, and Pakistan's versatile all-rounder Mohammad Hafeez.

### Karthikeyan Murali becomes the third Indian to beat Magnus Carlsen in Classical Chess

- In a remarkable chess feat, the 24-year-old Indian chess grandmaster, Karthikeyan Murali, delivered

a stunning blow to the world's number one player, Magnus Carlsen.

- He hails from Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu.

### PM Modi inaugurated 37th Edition of the National Games in Panaji, Goa

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 37th edition of the National Games in Panaji, Goa
- He was felicitated by Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant with a Kunbi shawl, a symbol of the state's culture and identity.
- The Indian athletes presented a torch to PM Modi at the opening. The 'Infinity Flame' representing the games was presented to the Prime Minister and the games were officially inaugurated on that note. These games are for the first time being held in Goa.
- The Games will be held from October 26 to November 9. More than 10,000 athletes from across the country will compete in over 43 sports disciplines across 28 venues. Goa is poised to play host to the largest-ever National Games.
- The 37th National Games will mark the debut of several new sports disciplines on the medal stage, including beach football, roll ball, golf, sepaktakraw, sqay martial arts, kalleripattu, and pencak silat.

## EVENTS

### World Health Summit 2023

- The 2023 World Health Summit took place from October 15 to October 17 under the theme 'A Defining Year for Global Health Action' in Berlin, Germany, and online.
- It is a special event where people from different parts of the world come together to talk about how to make everyone healthier. This includes leaders, scientists, business people, and regular folks who care about health.

### PM Modi inaugurates the ninth G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20)

- The ninth G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20

Summit) was inaugurated at the India International Convention Centre, Yashobhoomi, Dwarka, Delhi by PM Narendra Modi.

- The summit was hosted by the Parliament of India under the broader framework of India's G20 Presidency with the theme of 'Parliaments for One Earth, One Family, One Future'.
- The summit's theme, 'Parliaments for One Earth, One Family, One Future,' derives its essence from the ancient Indian philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, emphasizing the interconnectedness of the world as one family.



## AWARDS AND HONOURS

### Nita Ambani awarded the USISPF Global Leadership Award for Philanthropy and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

- The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) awarded Nita Ambani, Founder and Chairperson of Reliance Foundation, with the 2023 Global Leadership Award for Philanthropy and Corporate Social Responsibility.
- Reliance Foundation, an arm of Reliance Industries Limited, aims to provide overall well-being and enhanced quality of life for all, especially focused on rural transformation, education, health, and women empowerment and has transformed the lives of over 70 million people across India.

### US President Joe Biden honours two Indian-American scientists for remarkable medical discoveries

- Two Indian American scientists- Ashok Gadgil and Subra Suresh -- were awarded the National Medal of Technology and Innovation and the National Medal of Science, respectively.
- The National Medal of Science is the nation's highest scientific honour, established by the US Congress in 1959 and administered by the US National Science Foundation.

- It is bestowed by the President of the United States on individuals deserving of special recognition for their outstanding contributions in biology, computer sciences, education sciences, engineering, geosciences, mathematical and physical sciences, and social, behavioural, and economic sciences, in service to the Nation.

### Gujarat's Dhordo Awarded UNWTO's Best Tourism Village 2023

- The Dhordo village in Kutch district of Gujarat was awarded as the Best Tourism Village by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO). It is well-known for being the gateway to the Great Rann of Kutch.
- With this, Dhordo is now one of the 70 villages from nearly 40 countries that enjoy this prestigious title.
- Dhordo received this title at the Best Tourism Village – 2023 award ceremony organised by the UNWTO at the historic city of Samarkand in Uzbekistan.

#### Key Points

UNWTO Founded	– 1 November 1975
UNWTO Headquarters	– Madrid, Spain
UNWTO Secretary-General	– Zurab Pololikashvili

### 69th National Film Awards 2023 conferred by President Droupadi Murmu

- President Droupadi Murmu conferred the 69th National Film Awards 2023 at the Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.

Category	Name
Best Actor	Allu Arjun for Puspa
Best Actress	Kriti Sanon for Mimi and Alia Bhatt for Gangubai Kathiawadi
Best Feature Film	Rocketry: The Nambi Effect
Best Feature Film on National Integration	The Kashmir Files
Best Hindi Film	Sardar Udham
Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment	RRR
Best Director	Nikhil Mahajan, Godavari

### Writer Ambai wins Shakti Bhatt Literary Prize for body of work

- Writer CS Lakshmi, popularly known by her pseudonym Ambai, has won the Shakti Bhatt Literary Prize for decades of fiction and non-fiction on women's rights and activism.

- Lakshmi has been an active academic in women's studies and founded SPARROW (Sound and Picture Archives for Research on Women) in 1988, a project to archive women's art. It includes banks of oral narratives, text and visuals, and digital art.



### **Nobel Prize in Literature awarded to Norwegian author Jon Fosse**

- The Nobel prize for Literature has been awarded to Norwegian author Jon Fosse.
- Fosse was awarded the Nobel laureate award "for his innovative plays and prose which give voice to the unsayable." He will receive the Nobel from King Carl XVI Gustaf at a formal ceremony in Stockholm on December 10, the anniversary of the 1896 death of scientist Alfred Nobel.
- Often compared to Samuel Beckett, Fosse's work is minimalistic, relying on simple language which delivers its message through rhythm, melody and silence.
- His major works include "Boathouse" (1989), which was well-received by critics, and 'Melancholy' I and II (1995-1996).
- The Nobel Prize in Literature is awarded by the Swedish Academy, Stockholm, Sweden. It is one of the five Nobel Prizes established by the will of Alfred Nobel in 1895.

### **Mahsa Amini awarded EU's Sakharov human rights prize**

- The European Union has awarded its top human rights prize to Mahsa Amini and the Iranian "Woman, Life, Freedom" movement her death triggered. She died in custody after allegedly violating the strict Iranian hijab (headscarf) rule for women.
- Her death sparked protests that presented the most severe challenge to the Iranian authorities in decades.
- The annual Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought recognises human rights activists and dissidents. Iranian-Kurdish Mahsa Amini was visiting Tehran last year when she was arrested by the morality police for allegedly breaching Iran's strict Islamic dress code for women.

- Her death generated a global movement known as "Woman, Life, Freedom," calling for an end to Iran's imposition of a headscarf on all women and other discriminatory laws.
- The award comes with a €50,000 (£43,500; \$53,000) endowment, which will be presented in a European Parliament ceremony in December.

### **Shreya Ghoshal won her fifth National Award**

- Shreya Ghoshal received her fifth award at the ceremony hosted in Delhi's Vigyan Bhawan. She won the award for the song Mayava Chayava from the Tamil film Iravin Nizhal.
- She won her first National Award for Bairi Piya from Devdas in 2003. She also won the National Awards for the track Dheere Jalna (Paheli) and Yeh Ishq Haaye from Jab We Met. She won two songs in 2010 for Jiv Dangla from the Marathi film Jogva and Pherari Mon from the film Antaheen.

### **West Bengal Governor Presents 'Durga Bharat Samman' Awards**

- West Bengal Governor C V Ananda Bose has conferred the 'Durga Bharat Samman' on Hindustani classical vocalist and composer Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty for his outstanding contribution to music, and on Visva-Bharati, a central university, for education.
- He also conferred the award, in its first edition, on the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for its recent successful 'Chandrayaan' mission, besides the Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE).
- The 'Durga Bharat Samman' awards reflect a celebration of excellence across diverse domains, from the enchanting world of classical music to the heights of educational institutions, space, exploration and maritime engineering.