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Current Affairs - English

OCTOBER' 2023



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MONTH OF *OCTOBER*’ 2023”

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Tallest Statue of B.R. Ambedkar to Be Unveiled In North America on October 14

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

Escalation of Israel-Palestine Conflict: “Operation Al-Aqsa Flood” Unleashed By Hamas Sparks Widespread Violence

- The Israel-Palestine conflict has escalated dramatically as Hamas, the armed Palestinian group, initiated “Operation Al-Aqsa Flood,” firing over 5,000 rockets into Israel. The situation quickly escalated into a full-scale war, resulting in significant casualties and widespread fear among civilians.
- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared a state of war, emphasizing the seriousness of the situation. He asserted that this was not a mere operation but a full-blown war. Netanyahu vowed that Hamas would face an unparalleled retaliation.
- The conflict between Israel and Palestinian militants, particularly Hamas, dates back to 2007. The latest escalation followed heightened tensions, exacerbated by Israel’s closure of borders to Gazan workers. The conflict’s toll included both combatants and civilians, with a significant number of casualties reported on both sides.

EU Approves World’s First Green Bond Standards to Combat Green washing

- In a significant move to combat green-washing and assist investors in identifying truly sustainable companies, European Union lawmakers have approved ground-breaking standards for companies issuing “green” bonds. This new initiative aims to promote transparency and credibility in the green bond market, preventing misleading climate-friendly claims.
- The European Parliament’s approval marks the introduction of a voluntary standard for the use of the “European Green Bond” label, heralded as the first of its kind globally. This standard is designed to guide investors towards genuinely sustainable investment opportunities while providing issuing companies with confidence regarding the suitability of their bonds for environmentally conscious investors.
- These standards not only enhance transparency but also establish a registration system and supervisory framework for external reviewers of European green bonds. By ensuring rigorous oversight, the EU aims to bolster investor confidence in green bonds, thereby supporting the region’s transition to climate neutrality.

India Participates in the 5th Meeting of Moscow Format

- In a significant diplomatic gathering held in the Russian City of Kazan, representatives from various countries convened for the fifth meeting of the Moscow Format Consultation on Afghanistan.

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- The primary focus of this high-level meeting was to discuss the ongoing situation in Afghanistan, with an emphasis on regional security and the integration of Afghanistan into border regional economic processes.
- One of the key outcomes of the meeting was a collective call on the Taliban to establish a government system that is “truly inclusive” and represents the interests of all key ethnopolitical groups within the country. Additionally, the participants urged the Taliban to intensify their efforts in counter-terrorism and anti-drug activities.

Indonesia Launches ‘Whoosh,’ Southeast Asia’s First High-Speed Railway

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

China Launched Its Youngest Ever Space Crew

- China’s space endeavors are reaching new heights, evident in the recent launch of Shenzhou 17 from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center. This mission highlights China’s determination to explore outer space, fueled by a competitive spirit with the United States.
- The Shenzhou 17 crew comprises Tang Hongbo, Tang Shengjie, and Jiang Xinlin, with an average age of 38, making it the youngest team on a space station construction mission. Tang Hongbo, a seasoned astronaut, previously led a 2021 space mission for three months.
- The crew’s primary tasks include conducting experiments in space medicine and technology. They will also install and maintain equipment both inside and outside the station. Moreover, China plans to send a new telescope into space, allowing in-depth exploration of the universe through surveys and sky mapping, although the installation timeframe remains undisclosed.

Pakistan’s Inflation Soars To 31.4%: A Deep Dive into The Economic Crisis

- Pakistan’s inflation rate surged to 31.4% year-on-year in September, driven by soaring fuel and energy prices. This alarming increase followed a high of 27.4% in August, highlighting the severe economic challenges faced by the nation.
- To curb inflation, Pakistan increased interest rates to a staggering 22%. The country’s currency, the rupee, hit all-time lows in August but rebounded in September, becoming the best-performing currency due to authorities’ crackdown on unregulated FX trade.
- The Ministry of Finance anticipates inflation to remain high at 29-31% in the coming months. Despite this, the government recently reduced petrol and diesel prices after consecutive hikes, citing international petroleum prices and an improved exchange rate.

India & Switzerland Celebrated 75 Yrs Of Friendship

- India and Switzerland recently celebrated 75 years of their enduring friendship and fruitful collaboration in a beautiful Kumaon village nestled in the Uttarakhand region of India.
- The three-day event, aptly named ‘Swiss Himalayan Bounty,’ unfolded last week at a charming homestay in Satoli village, positioned at an altitude of 6,000 feet near Mukteshwar in the Nainital district.
- Robert Graf, the head of SHA (Swiss Himalayan Amity), outlined the organization’s holistic approach to uplift the hill communities of Uttarakhand. He emphasized their efforts to promote the use of smokeless ‘chulhas’ (stoves) in the region, addressing both health and environmental concerns.

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Pro-China Leader Mohamed Muizzu Wins Maldives Presidential Election

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

Russia Delivers Uranium For Bangladesh's Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant

- Bangladesh recently received its first shipment of uranium from Russia, which will be used to fuel the country's Rooppur nuclear power plant. The plant, financed and constructed by Russia's Rosatom, is a significant project aimed at enhancing Bangladesh's electrical grid and supporting its growing economy.
- The Rooppur power plant, located in Ishwardi, Bangladesh, will generate 2,400 megawatts of electricity when both units are fully operational. This capacity will provide electricity to approximately 15 million households in Bangladesh, making a substantial contribution to the nation's energy needs.
- Russia has funded the construction of the Rooppur power plant with an \$11.38 billion loan. Bangladesh will begin repaying this loan over a period of two decades, starting in 2027. Once the Rooppur plant begins production, Bangladesh will join the ranks of over 30 countries with operational nuclear power reactors.

Israel Imposes Total Siege on Gaza

- Hamas launched a surprise offensive, leading to Israeli airstrikes on Gaza. Dozens of Palestinians killed and wounded, with over 570 casualties reported. More than 123,000 people displaced in Gaza due to the conflict.
- Israel imposed a total siege on the Gaza Strip and cut off water supply following a surprise offensive by Hamas. The conflict has escalated, causing civilian casualties and displacement.
- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed a strong response, threatening to turn Hamas sites to rubble. Israel imposed a complete siege on Gaza, impacting 2.3 million people: no electricity, food, water, or gas.

Sheikh Hasina Unveils Largest Project Built With Chinese Aid

- Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina marked a historic moment in the country's infrastructure development by inaugurating the 82-km Padma Bridge Rail Link. The inauguration ceremony took place at Mawa Railway Station in Munshiganj.
- The Padma Bridge Rail Link stands out as the largest infrastructure project in Bangladesh financed under Chinese preferential loans, with the Exim Bank of China providing a substantial loan of Tk 21,036.70 crore. This landmark initiative is poised to directly benefit 80 million people and could potentially boost Bangladesh's economic growth by 1.5%.
- The project, estimated to cost Tk 39,246.80 crore, holds the promise of a considerable economic boost for Bangladesh. It is expected to increase the country's economic growth by enhancing connectivity and facilitating smoother transportation across regions.

What Is Hamas, The Palestinian Militant Group?

- In October 2023, Hamas, an Islamist militant group governing the Gaza Strip, launched a massive surprise attack on southern Israel, killing hundreds of civilians and soldiers and taking dozens as hostages.
- Hamas, short for Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiya (Islamic Resistance Movement), was founded in 1987 by Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, a Palestinian cleric with ties to the Muslim Brotherhood.

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- It emerged during the first intifada as the political arm of the Brotherhood in Gaza. It gained popularity for the social services it provided and as a rejection of Fatah's perceived corruption.
- Since Israel's withdrawal from Gaza in 2005, Hamas has been the de facto authority in the territory. It won a majority in the PA's legislature in 2006 and established its government.

Robert Fico to Become Slovakia's New Prime Minister

- Slovakia's newly appointed Prime Minister, Robert Fico, has taken office for the fourth time amidst promises to prioritize Slovakian interests, reduce military aid to Ukraine, and curb immigration.
- Fico's Smer party won last month's elections, forming a coalition government with Hlas and the ultra-nationalist Slovak National Party (SNS). This alliance caused their suspension from the socialist group in the European Parliament.
- Fico advocates for humanitarian aid to Ukraine but opposes further military assistance and sanctions on Russia. He also aims to establish peace talks, aligning with Hungary's leader Viktor Orbán. Despite his nationalist stance, Fico asserts Slovakia's commitment to remain in the EU and NATO.

Italy Faces Record Low Births: A Deepening Demographic Crisis

- Italy is experiencing a severe demographic crisis, with the number of births hitting a new low this year. Preliminary data from the national statistics bureau ISTAT reveals a concerning trend, indicating a continuation of the country's longstanding population decline.
- Between January and June of this year, there were 3,500 fewer births compared to the same period in 2022. In 2022, the total number of births fell by 1.7% to 393,000. This marked the 14th consecutive annual drop, reaching the lowest level since Italy's unification in 1861.
- Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has allocated approximately 1 billion euros (\$1.05 billion) to tackle this crisis. The decline in births is attributed partly to the challenges faced by Italian women in balancing work and motherhood, which the government considers a national emergency for the country, the third largest economy in the Eurozone.

Bhutan and China Make Progress In Border Talks

- China and Bhutan are working towards resolving their longstanding border disputes. Bhutan's foreign minister visited Beijing for talks with his Chinese counterpart, indicating progress in the negotiation process.
- China has disputes with only two of its 14 neighboring countries – India and Bhutan. Bhutan and China have ongoing border disputes since the 1980s, specifically in areas like Jakarlung, Pasamlung, and Doklam.
- Bhutan maintains that discussions about tri-junction points (involving India, China, and Bhutan) can only happen after India and China resolve their border issues. Bhutan is observing how India and China settle their disputes before initiating comprehensive talks regarding tri-junction points.

Japan Becomes First Nation To Launch An Electromagnetic Railgun From An Offshore Vessel

- On October 17, the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) in collaboration with the Acquisition Technology & Logistics Agency (ATLA), a division of the Japanese Ministry of Defense, successfully test-fired a medium-caliber maritime electromagnetic railgun from an offshore platform.
- This remarkable feat marks the first time any nation has managed to launch a railgun from an offshore platform. Typically, railguns are mounted on ships, but Japan aspires to employ this technology both on land and at sea, making this test an unprecedented advancement in the field.
- A railgun is a cutting-edge electromagnetic weapon designed to launch projectiles at incredibly high velocities. This technology is capable of targeting various objects, including ships, missiles, and aircraft. The primary goal of Japan's railgun program is to integrate this technology with long-range missiles, augmenting its capacity to intercept aerial targets effectively.

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US Imposes Sanctions on Three Chinese Firms For Alleged Missile Component Supply To Pakistan

- The United States has imposed sanctions on three Chinese companies for their alleged involvement in supplying missile components to Pakistan. These sanctions were issued under Executive Order 13382, which focuses on entities involved in the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems.
- The three Chinese companies subjected to sanctions are as follows: 1) General Technology Limited, 2) Beijing Luo Luo Technology Development and 3) Changzhou Utek Composite Company.
- The US State Department has stated that these sanctions are part of the global nonproliferation regime and are intended to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery, and associated procurement activities of concern. The US government remains committed to disrupting procurement networks that support activities related to proliferation.

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arjun Munda Inaugurates 4th EMRS National Cultural & Literary Fest And Kala Utsav-2023

- Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, Shri Arjun Munda, inaugurated the 4th Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) National Cultural & Literary Fest and Kala Utsav-2023 in the picturesque city of Dehradun on the 3rd of October, 2023.
- The event was graced by the presence of the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Shri Pushkar Singh Dhama, and was hosted at the Maharana Pratap Sports College. This fest provides a national platform for tribal students to showcase their hidden talents across various spheres.
- The Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) Cultural Fest is an annual extravaganza eagerly anticipated by tribal students from all corners of India. This year's four-day event, scheduled from the 3rd to the 6th of October, boasts participation from over 2000 tribal students hailing from 22 different states. It promises an array of more than 20 events, ranging from captivating dance and song performances to stimulating quizzes and vibrant visual arts presentations.

PM Modi Inaugurated The Country's First High-Tech Sports Training Center

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the country's first high-tech sports training centre for Divyangjan, named after former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.
- This initiative aims to provide equal opportunities in sports, enhance talent, and encourage participation in various sports disciplines. Divyangjan from all over the country can practice and train in the Atal Bihari Training Center for Divyang Sports.
- The Atal Bihari Training Centre for Disability Sports is a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to training and nurturing athletes with disabilities. It houses world-class infrastructure and coaching staff to provide the best possible training environment for differently-abled athletes.

54th IFFI Reveals Indian Panorama Lineup For 2023 Scheduled To Be Held In Goa In November

- The 54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) has officially announced its Indian Panorama selection for 2023, featuring a diverse array of 25 feature films and 20 non-feature films. These cinematic gems will be showcased during the festival, scheduled to run from November 20 to November 28 in Goa.
- These movies represent the artistic prowess and cultural diversity of Indian cinema. The 12-member feature film jury, led by TS Nagabharana, has meticulously chosen these films, making them a must-watch for film enthusiasts.

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- The Indian Panorama, organized by the National Film Development Corporation under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, curates films of exceptional cinematic, thematic, and aesthetic quality. This selection is the result of a meticulous process involving renowned figures from the Indian film industry.

India’s First Semi-High-Speed Regional Rail Service ‘Namo Bharat’

- Previously known as RapidX, country’s first semi-high-speed regional rail service, Namo Bharat marks the introduction of the Regional Rapid Train Service (RRTS) in India. These trains are designed with the utmost passenger convenience and safety in mind. Moreover, these trains offer features such as overhead luggage racks, Wi-Fi connectivity, and mobile and laptop charging outlets at every seat.
- Fare structures for Namo Bharat have been meticulously designed, taking into account the distance or stations covered. The minimum fare for the premium coach is set at Rs 40, with a maximum fare of Rs 100. For the five standard coaches operating on the priority section, fares range from a minimum of Rs 20 to a maximum of Rs 50.
- The Namo Bharat trains will offer a remarkable average speed of 100 kilometers per hour, outperforming both traditional metro trains and passenger trains in the Indian Railways network. These state-of-the-art train sets have been manufactured by Alstom, a renowned company, right here in Gujarat, further bolstering India’s ‘Make in India’ initiative.

India to Host World’s Largest Textiles Event, Bharat Tex 2024

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

NCERT to Replace ‘India’ With ‘Bharat’ In Upcoming Books

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

What is The Digital India Act 2023?

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

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addressing online civil and criminal offenses, delivering timely remedies and enforcing the rule of law on the internet.

Government Launches Tradable Green Credit Program To Promote Eco-Friendly Actions

- The government has initiated a novel program that allows individuals and entities to earn and trade green credits, which are units of incentives for environmentally beneficial actions. This program aims to encourage positive environmental contributions through market-based incentives.
- The program is introduced at the national level, promoting a competitive market-based approach for green credits to incentivize environmental actions. It is a voluntary initiative stemming from the 'LiFE' (Lifestyle for Environment) campaign.
- The initiative encourages industries, companies, and entities to fulfill their existing or other obligations under existing laws. It also promotes voluntary environmental measures by allowing the generation or purchase of green credits. However, green credits generated or procured to meet legal obligations cannot be traded.

One Nation One Student ID card – APAAR ID

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

SC Refers Electoral Bond Case to 5-Judge Constitution Bench

- The Supreme Court decided to refer a group of petitions challenging the electoral bond scheme for political party funding to a five-judge Constitution bench. The bench, led by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud, received an urgent application requesting a conclusive judgment. The matter is set to be heard on October 30.
- Electoral bonds are introduced as an alternative to providing cash donations to political parties. This change aims to make political funding more transparent and accountable.
- There are four Public Interest Litigations (PILs) pending on this issue, indicating the public interest and concern regarding the electoral bond scheme. One of the PIL petitioners had stated in March that a substantial amount, totaling Rs 12,000 crore, had been paid to political parties through electoral bonds.

Supreme Court Dismisses Appeal to Legalise Same-Sex Marriage

- India's Supreme Court recently made a significant decision, declining an appeal to legalize same-sex marriages in the country, dealing a blow to LGBTQ rights in one of the world's most populous nations.
- Chief Justice Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud emphasized that issues like same-sex marriage should be within the domain of the parliament, highlighting the court's commitment to steering clear of policy matters.
- Chandrachud also called for measures to prevent discrimination against LGBTQ individuals. This includes the establishment of hotlines and safe houses for vulnerable members of the LGBTQ community.

Govt. Launches Month-Long Celebration Drive for 8th National Ayurveda Day

- Union Minister of Ayush and Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, announced a month-long celebration drive regarding the 8th National Ayurveda Day. This year, Ayurveda Day falls on November 10, 2023, and it serves as a platform to address specific health issues through Ayurveda.
- The month-long Ayurveda Day celebrations are designed to create awareness and educate students, farmers, and the general public about the benefits of Ayurveda. This day is observed as a tribute to

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Lord Dhanvantari, the God of Ayurveda, and coincides with Dhanteras, a day dedicated to seeking blessings for good health.

- The theme, “Ayurveda for One Health,” resonates with India’s G20 Presidency theme, “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam,” which means the world is one family. Ayurveda Day 2023 carries the tagline “Ayurveda for everyone on every day,” emphasizing its applicability to every aspect of life, from humans to animals, plants, and the environment.

Operation Ajay Set to Evacuate Indian Nationals From Israel

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

Anurag Thakur Unveils Trailer for Animated Series “Krish, Trish, and Baltiboy – Bharat Hain Hum”

- Union Minister Shri Anurag Thakur has launched the trailer of “Krish, Trish, and Baltiboy – Bharat Hain Hum”, an animated series consisting of two seasons, produced by Central Bureau of Communication, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Graphiti Studios.
- The series is an effort to educate the youth about the lesser known but significant contributors of the freedom struggle, contributors who were forgotten by the education system of the past.
- The series consists of 52 episodes, 11 minutes each, featuring stories from Indian Freedom struggle from 1500s to 1947. The series is hosted by the iconic animated characters Krish, Trish and Balti boy. The series has been created by the creator duo of Munjal Shroff and Tilakraj Shetty from Graphiti Studios.

Union Cabinet Approves Setting Up of ‘Mera Yuva Bharat’ Autonomous Body for Youth Development

- The Union Cabinet, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the establishment of an autonomous body named “Mera Yuva Bharat” (MY Bharat).
- MY Bharat aims to enable equitable access for young individuals to realize their aspirations and contribute to the holistic development of the nation across various government sectors. This body is designed to serve as a pivotal mechanism for youth development, with a strong emphasis on technology-driven solutions.
- This initiative aligns with the National Youth Policy and targets individuals between the ages of 15-29, with a subset of programs catering to those aged 10-19. Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) will be officially launched on 31st October, 2023, which coincides with National Unity Day.

Dr. Jitendra Singh Launches the Intelligent Grievance Monitoring System (IGMS) 2.0 Public Grievance Portal and Automated Analysis In Tree Dashboard

- On 29th September 2023, Dr. Jitendra Singh, the Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions, inaugurated the Special Campaign 3.0 in the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).
- This campaign, themed “Digital DARPG,” is aimed at enhancing service delivery, utilizing emerging technologies, and ensuring efficient management within government offices.
- Under the “Digital DARPG” initiative, DARPG initiated a comprehensive approach towards unified service delivery portals. Collaborating with 27 Senior Officials, including Right to Service

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Commissioners from States/UTs, DARPG identified 164 services for pan-India e-service delivery, in addition to the 56 mandatory e-services.

STATE NEWS

Bihar Government Announces 10% Reservation for EWS in Judicial Services

- The Bihar government has unveiled a 10% reservation quota for people falling under the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) category in the state's judicial services, as well as in government-run law colleges and universities.
- The decision to implement this reservation stems from the state's commitment to promote social equality and provide opportunities to those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. The recent caste-based survey revealed key demographic insights, highlighting the need for targeted affirmative action.
- This amendment paves the way for the inclusion of EWS reservation in the higher judicial services, ensuring equitable representation in the judicial system. It also extends the EWS reservation to recruitment in the judicial wing of the Bihar Civil Services, aligning it with the broader commitment to providing opportunities for economically disadvantaged sections of society.

Bihar Caste Census Reveals Demographic Insights

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

Glacial Lake Burst In Sikkim Causes Devastation

- At least seven people have lost their lives, and a significant number remain injured or missing in the wake of flash floods that struck Sikkim on October 4. These devastating floods were triggered when a glacial lake, formed by the gradual melting of a Himalayan glacier, unexpectedly overflowed, leading to the inundation of the Teesta river basin.
- The floods originated from the sudden overflow of the South Lhonak lake, located at an altitude of approximately 5,200 meters above sea level. This catastrophic event resulted in the destruction of the Chungthang dam, a critical component of Sikkim's largest hydroelectric project, and caused extensive damage to highways, villages, and towns.
- The Chungthang dam, a concrete-rock structure, was breached at its center due to the force and speed of the surging water, estimated at nearly 54 kilometers per hour. The suddenness of the event left little time for warnings or preventive measures.

Project Nilgiri Tahr: Tamil Nadu's Effort to Conserve an Endangered Species

- Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has launched "Project Nilgiri Tahr," an initiative aimed at conserving and protecting the endangered Nilgiri Tahr species. The project, with a budget of ₹25 crore, seeks to better understand the Nilgiri Tahr's population, distribution, and ecology, as well as address immediate threats to their survival.
- A core objective of Project Nilgiri Tahr is to develop a deeper understanding of the Nilgiri Tahr's population, distribution, and ecological requirements. This knowledge is crucial for their conservation. The project aims to re-introduce Nilgiri Tahr to their historic habitats, helping to restore their natural range and protect their populations.

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- The Forest Department has established a project office in Coimbatore to oversee and manage the various aspects of Project Nilgiri Tahr. A full-time Project Director and a Senior Scientist, assisted by four Senior Research Fellows, have been appointed to lead and execute the project's activities.

Two-Day Literature Festival to be Held This Weekend in Bengaluru

- The Neev Literature Festival 2023 is scheduled to take place on October 7th and 8th, 2023, at the Neev Academy in Yemalur, Bengaluru. This year, the theme of the event is 'What is childhood without stories?'.
- In the aftermath of the pandemic, children's lives have undergone a significant transformation. They now grapple with issues such as artificial intelligence, globalization, mental health challenges, shifting values, and numerous other factors. Consequently, the festival endeavors to address and respond to these changes.
- The Neev Literature Festival was initiated in 2017, followed by the introduction of the Neev Book Award in 2018. The goal was to discover and present exceptional children's books that center around Indian experiences and stories. Over the years, the festival has delved into thought-provoking themes such as 'Partition: Memory and Memorialization', 'Peripheries: Boundaries on the Edge, Boundaries Within', and 'Embracing Diversity'.

Jammu and Kashmir's Renowned Pashmina Craft Receives GI Tag

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

KVIC Inaugurated a New Khadi India Outlet at IIT Delhi

- In a bid to bridge the generational gap and ignite a renewed interest in the age-old fabric, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) inaugurated a revamped Khadi India outlet at the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Campus in Delhi on October 2.
- Recognizing the need to adapt to contemporary fashion preferences, a new range of Khadi apparel has been crafted. This collection is designed to appeal to young audiences with vibrant colors and contemporary silhouettes.
- Khadi Institutions, under the guidance of the (Centre of Excellence for Khadi) CoEK team, have standardized the production of nine distinct styles of Khadi apparel. The IIT outlet will serve as a trailblazer, setting the stage for a fresh narrative around Khadi fashion.

Tripura Becomes Fourth State to Implement E-Cabinet System

- Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha recently introduced the state's e-cabinet system. This move positions Tripura as the fourth Indian state, and the second in the Northeast region, to adopt an e-cabinet system after Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, and Arunachal Pradesh.
- The introduction of this system signifies a commitment to paperless cabinet meetings, reducing the carbon footprint and promoting environmental sustainability through the use of digital tablets by ministers and bureaucrats.
- During the debut e-cabinet meeting, the government approved a proposal to procure a loan of Rs 160 crore from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The launch of the system was made possible through collaboration between the National Informatics Centre and the state's information and cultural affairs department.

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Rajasthan to Have Three New Districts: CM Ashok Gehlot

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

NITI Aayog Organized First State Workshop on Women-Led Development in Goa

- The inaugural edition of the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) – NITI Aayog State Workshop Series on Enabling Women-led Development through Entrepreneurship was organized at CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) Auditorium, Goa. The workshop was held in collaboration with the Government of Goa with a focus on the western region of the country.
- Swayampurna Goa initiative: Celebrating the three-year milestone of the Swayampurna Goa initiative, Dr. Pramod Sawant emphasized its focus on skill development and the deployment of "Swayampurna Grameen Mitras" for the doorstep delivery of government services in every block and Panchayat.
- Swayampurna e-bazaar: Furthermore, the Chief Minister reiterated the role of women in socio-economic progress, announcing the Swayampurna e-bazaar during Dussehra, aimed at expanding market access through Common Service Centres.

Tamil Nadu Govt. Fetes 9 ISRO Scientists, Announces Award of ₹2.25 Crore

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin recently celebrated the achievements of nine eminent space scientists from the state, including renowned figures like K Sivan and Mylswamy Annadurai, for their remarkable contributions to India's space program.
- In a special event held in Chennai on 2nd October 2023, Chief Minister Stalin announced cash awards of Rs.25 lakh for each of the scientists and unveiled plans for a scholarship program to encourage scientific innovation among postgraduate engineering students.
- CM Stalin made two significant announcements during the ceremony. First, a cash award of Rs.25 lakh would be granted to each of the nine scientists as a token of appreciation for their hard work and dedication. Second, the government would establish a scholarship program in the name of renowned scientist, benefiting nine postgraduate engineering students. A corpus of Rs.10 crore would be allocated for this purpose, covering all expenditures, including tuition and hostel fees.

Master Training Of Football For Schools (F4S) Kicked Off At Sambalpur, Odisha

- On October 2, 2023, a two-day master training program for capacity-building within the F4S program was launched in Sambalpur, Odisha. This event saw the participation of 95 Physical Education Teachers/Trainees from various States/UTs, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS), and AIFF.
- The primary goal of this training was to equip these educators with the skills and knowledge needed to promote football as an integral part of physical education. Football for Schools (F4S) is an ambitious program spearheaded by the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA). F4S aims to revolutionize physical education in Indian schools.
- At its core, F4S aims to empower approximately 700 million children by integrating football into their education. This initiative recognizes the potential of sports, particularly football, in fostering holistic development. It emphasizes accessibility for both boys and girls, collaborating with relevant authorities and stakeholders to make football an integral part of the education system.

Rajasthan Government Launched 'iStart Talent Connect Portal'

- Rajasthan government unveiled the 'iStart Talent Connect Portal' at Jaipur's Techno Hub. This new portal is a significant addition to the state's flagship initiative, iStart Rajasthan, and is a collaborative effort with the Jaipur-based startup, HyreFox.

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- The 'iStart Talent Connect Portal' has been developed as a user-friendly platform to cater to the needs of both job providers and job seekers. It not only facilitates talent discovery but also allows companies to post job openings and connect with potential employees.
- The 'iStart Talent Connect Portal' is an initiative in line with the government's efforts to empower the job market in Rajasthan. This portal is designed to address the challenges faced by both corporates and startups in finding the right candidates for their organizations.

Madhya Pradesh to Provide 35% Reservation for Women in Govt. 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.
- Additionally, an impressive 50% of teaching positions will be reserved for women, emphasizing the government's commitment to gender balance and women's empowerment in the education sector.

Arunachal Pradesh's Yak Churpi' Receives GI Tag

- Slightly sour and salty churpi, a naturally fermented cheese prepared from the milk of Arunachali yak, nurtured in the high-altitude areas of Arunachal Pradesh, has recently received the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Churpi, a traditional cheese made from yak milk, has been a staple food for tribal communities in Arunachal Pradesh. Its nutritional profile, rich in protein, makes it a vital dietary source, especially in regions where fresh vegetables are scarce.
- Churpi is not just a food item; it holds deep cultural significance for the people of Arunachal Pradesh. It is considered an integral part of the tangible cultural and tribal heritage of the region. The cheese-making process, passed down through generations, is a testament to the rich cultural heritage of these tribes.

Dept. of Animal Husbandry and Dairying Launched 'A-HELP' Programme In Jharkhand

- The Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India, recently unveiled the 'A-HELP' (Accredited Agent for Health and Extension of Livestock Production) programme in the state of Jharkhand.
- 'A-HELP' program is a ground-breaking initiative aimed at empowering women by engaging them as Accredited Agents who will significantly contribute to disease control, animal tagging, and livestock insurance.
- The initiative has been made possible through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between DAHD (Department of Animal husbandry and Dairying) and the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) under the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India.

DEFENCE NEWS

Indian Navy to Unveil Weaponized Boat Swarms and Underwater Vessels at Swavlamban 2.0

- The Indian Navy is preparing to host the second edition of the Naval Innovation and Indigenization Seminar, known as Swavlamban, scheduled to take place on October 4th and 5th in the vibrant city of New Delhi.
- The Indian Navy is set to unveil two remarkable platforms at this event: the Autonomous Weaponized Boat Swarms and the Autonomous Vessel Underwater (AUV).
- The Indian Navy has entered into a significant agreement with the Sagar Defence Engineering Pvt. Ltd for the development of these autonomous systems. With the implementation of an integrated

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autonomous system, the foremost objective is to address India's maritime security needs by executing diverse naval and security missions.

ISRO to Conduct First Test Flight of Gaganyaan Mission on October 21

- Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for Space, Science, and Technology, officially announced that, on October 21, The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is poised to make history as it prepares to conduct the first in a series of critical test flights in anticipation of the much-anticipated Gaganyaan mission, which marks India's maiden charge into manned space exploration.
- The forthcoming test flight will be executed at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. The primary objective of this mission is to evaluate the "crew module," the pivotal component that will house Indian astronauts during their journey into space.
- The test mission entails launching the crew module into outer space and orchestrating its return to Earth, with a successful touchdown in the Bay of Bengal. To ensure a seamless and safe recovery process, the Indian Navy has initiated mock operations to prepare for this momentous occasion.

Country's Oldest Think Tank USI to Hold First Ever Indian Military Heritage Festival

- The United Service Institution of India (USI), the nation's oldest think tank, is set to host the first-ever Indian Military Heritage Festival (IMHF), scheduled for October 21 and 22.
- This ground-breaking event aims to fill a void in the national discourse and cultural calendar by shedding light on India's rich military history, contemporary security concerns, and the pursuit of self-reliance in military capabilities through the Atmanirbhar Bharat programs.
- The IMHF seeks to deepen our understanding of India's extensive military heritage and traditions. It will explore various aspects, including indigenous historical knowledge systems, India's role in the world wars, post-Independence challenges, and perspectives on war and conflict. Through insightful discussions, the festival aims to enlighten attendees from all walks of life about the multifaceted dimensions of India's military history.

Annual Joint HADR Exercise 2023 (AJHE-23) – CHAKRAVAT 2023

- AJHE, known as CHAKRAVAT, is a significant initiative that has evolved since its inception in 2015 into a multi-agency endeavor that includes the active participation of India's armed forces, paramilitary forces, disaster response organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academic institutions, and international organizations.
- The Annual Joint HADR Exercise is conducted on a rotational basis by India's three armed services: the Indian Army, Indian Navy (IN), and Indian Air Force (IAF). The previous edition of the exercise was hosted by the IAF in Agra. In 2023, the Indian Navy is set to host AJHE-23 in Goa from October 9th to 11th.
- This exercise involves a scenario-based simulation to assess and refine disaster response strategies and coordination among participating agencies. On October 11, 2023, a Multi-Agency Capability Demonstration will take place. This segment will showcase rescue and relief drills, emphasizing the nuances and important lessons learned in disaster response.

J & K Lt Governor Flags off CRPF Women Bike Expedition 'Yashasvini' From Srinagar

- The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) kick-started an all-female bikers' expedition rally named 'Yashasvini' from Srinagar to Gujarat on Tuesday. The rally, an ode to women empowerment, was flagged off from the iconic Ghanta Ghar near the city center of Lal Chowk in Srinagar.
- This all-female cross-country bike rally is not just an ordinary road trip; it's a testament to determination and strength. Covering a staggering distance of 2134 kilometers, the rally will traverse through 40 districts, spanning across 15 states and Union Territories.
- During this incredible journey, the three teams from Srinagar, Shillong, and Kanyakumari will engage with various target groups as part of the "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" initiative. They will interact with school children and college girls, women self-help groups, cadets of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) and anganwadi workers to inspire and empower women across diverse age groups and backgrounds.

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

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

India and Bangladesh Annual Joint Military Exercise “SAMPRITI” Begins

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

IAF’s Ambitious Rs 3 Lakh Crore Weapon Procurement Plan: A Strategic Investment in India’s Defense

- Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari announced that the Indian Air Force (IAF) is set to procure a range of weapon systems, including aircraft, helicopters, and missiles, with an estimated cost ranging from Rs 2.5 lakh crore to Rs 3 lakh crore over the next six to seven years.
- The majority of the equipment will be sourced from Indian industry, aligning with the government’s ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’ (self-reliant India) initiative. The IAF is investing in force multipliers, including AI-based decision tools, electronic warfare equipment, robust networks, and space and cyber capabilities.
- The IAF will acquire 97 additional Tejas light combat aircraft Mark-I at an estimated cost of Rs 67,000 crore, supplementing the previous procurement of 83 such aircraft among others.

Indian Air Force Set to Induct Astra BVR Air-to-Air Missile

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

Mid-Planning Conference for Multilateral Naval Exercise (MILAN) - 24

- The Indian Naval is all set to host MILAN 24, a significant multilateral naval exercise, at Visakhapatnam from 19th February to 27th February 2024. This event follows a long-standing tradition of hosting the MILAN exercise, showcasing India’s commitment to fostering international maritime cooperation.
- The upcoming MILAN 24 will consist of both a harbour phase and a sea phase. MILAN 24 will coincide with India G20 Presidency and the conduct of the exercise would yet again realise the ‘G20

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theme Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'. MILAN 24 is likely to witness the largest-ever participation to date with invites being extended to over 50 countries.

- MILAN, a biennial multilateral naval exercise, was initiated by the Indian Navy in 1995. Initially, it was aligned with India's 'Look East Policy.' However, as India's international engagement evolved with the 'Act East policy' and the 'Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)' initiative by Hon'ble PM Narendra Modi, MILAN opened its door to participation from Friendly Foreign Countries (FFCs).

EU And India Conduct Maiden Joint Naval Exercise in The Gulf of Guinea

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

First Vertical Wind Tunnel Installed at Indian Army's Special Forces Training School in Himachal Pradesh

- The Indian Army inaugurated its first Vertical Wind Tunnel (VWT) at the Special Forces Training School (SFTS) in Himachal Pradesh. This cutting-edge facility provides military trainees with a controlled environment to enhance their Combat Free Fall (CFF) skills by simulating real-life free fall conditions.
- The Indian Army Chief, Gen Manoj Pande, virtually inaugurated the Vertical Wind Tunnel (VWT) at the Special Forces Training School (SFTS) in Himachal Pradesh. This advanced wind tunnel is the first of its kind in the Indian Army and aims to revolutionize military training methods.
- The Vertical Wind Tunnel (VWT) functions as a free fall simulator, creating a column of air at specific speeds to simulate various Combat Free Fall (CFF) conditions. This controlled environment allows trainees to refine their skills and assess their reactions to different free fall scenarios.

Bihar Government Announces 10% Reservation for EWS in Judicial Services

- The Bihar government has unveiled a 10% reservation quota for people falling under the Economically Weaker Section (EWS) category in the state's judicial services, as well as in government-run law colleges and universities.
- The decision to implement this reservation stems from the state's commitment to promote social equality and provide opportunities to those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. The recent caste-based survey revealed key demographic insights, highlighting the need for targeted affirmative action.
- This amendment paves the way for the inclusion of EWS reservation in the higher judicial services, ensuring equitable representation in the judicial system. It also extends the EWS reservation to recruitment in the judicial wing of the Bihar Civil Services, aligning it with the broader commitment to providing opportunities for economically disadvantaged sections of society.

India and Malaysia Kick Off "Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023" Bilateral Training

- In a testament to their ongoing defense cooperation, the Indian and Malaysian armies have initiated "Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023." This joint bilateral training exercise, held at Umroi Cantonment in India, aims to strengthen military capabilities and enhance the synergy between the two nations.

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- The Indian contingent, which will actively engage in the exercise, is being represented by a battalion of THE RAJPUT REGIMENT. The presence of this accomplished regiment highlights the significant role of the Indian Army in bolstering defense partnerships with friendly nations.
- “Exercise Harimau Shakti 2023,” scheduled until November 5, 2023, will involve approximately 120 military personnel from both sides. The primary goal is to enhance military capabilities for conducting Multi-Domain Operations within a sub-conventional scenario. The last edition of “Exercise Harimau Shakti” took place in Pulai, Kluang, Malaysia, in November 2022.

Defence Minister Inaugurated Indian Military Heritage Festival in New Delhi

- The Indian Military Heritage Festival took center stage at the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi. The event was inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who was joined by Chief of Army Staff General Manoj Pande.
- The United Service Institution of India (USI), the oldest tri-service think tank of India working since 1870 conducted the annual ‘Indian Military Heritage Festival’. This grand occasion served as a tribute to India’s rich military history and aimed to inspire the youth of the nation.
- The United Service Institution of India (USI) is a think tank dedicated to national security and defense services, headquartered in New Delhi, India. Its mission is to promote and advance interest and knowledge in the fields of defense services, encompassing the arts, sciences, and literature related to this domain. Major General Sir Charles MacGregor founded the United Service Institution in 1870 in Shimla.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Launches Project ‘Udbhav’ to Promote “Indianisation”

- The Indian Army recently launched ‘Project Udbhav’ with the aim of rediscovering the profound Indian heritage of statecraft and strategic thoughts derived from ancient Indian texts.
- “Project Udbhav, initiated by the military, aims to tap into ancient Indian treatises such as Chanakya’s Arthashastra, Kamandaka’s Nitisara, and the Thirukkural by the Tamil poet-saint Thiruvalluvar to glean insights on statecraft, strategy, diplomacy, and warfare.
- ‘Project Udbhav’ bridges the gap between ancient wisdom and modern military techniques, enabling India to address the evolving security challenges of the 21st century. The project embodies the belief that age-old scriptures and writings, spanning centuries in the past, contain profound knowledge that can significantly benefit modern military strategies.

Iron Sting Weapon Israel

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

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES NEWS

Ministry of MSME’s ‘Shramdaan Event’ for A ‘Garbage-Free India’

- On 1st October 2023, the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) took a significant step towards realizing the vision of a “Garbage Free India.” Aligning with the national initiative championed by the Hon’ble Prime Minister, a unique event titled ‘Shramdaan’ was organized by the Ministry.
- Shramdaan’ epitomized a united and concerted effort. Participants from the Ministry of MSME, including its diverse range of organizations and field offices scattered across the country, actively participated. This collective engagement amplified the impact of the cleanliness drive.

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- "Garbage Free India" The focal theme of 'Shramdaan' revolved around the concept of "Garbage Free India." Emphasizing the importance of cleanliness, the event sought to engage citizens in proactive measures for a cleaner and healthier nation.

PM Modi to Inaugurate 10th Edition of Vibrant Gujarat Summit on January 10, 2024

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate the 10th edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Summit on January 10, 2024. The summit is scheduled to take place from January 10 to 12, 2024, at the Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- This event promises to be a golden opportunity for investors to engage with Gujarat and tap into its potential for growth and prosperity. This event holds significance as it aligns with the Prime Minister's vision of "Viksit Bharat @2047," emphasizing India's growth and development.
- The 10th Vibrant Gujarat Summit carries the theme of "Gateway to the future." This theme underscores the state's vision for the future and its role as a gateway to investment and development opportunities.

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 Rs. 23.59 Crore for the development of tourism facilities in Nathdwara. Notably, a tourism interpretation cum cultural center was developed at a cost of Rs. 13.43 Crore.
- The interpretation center serves as an informative hub about Shrinathji (Lord Krishna) and Shri Vallabhacharyaji, the revered devotee and founder of Pushtimarg, a major branch of the Vaishnava sect. At this center, tourists can delve into various aspects of Shrinathji's life, including his journey from Goverdhan to Nathdwara, divine acts, worship rituals, adornment, appearances, festivals, and related customs.

GST Amnesty Scheme 2023

- The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council, in its 52nd meeting has announced an amnesty plan to streamline the process of appealing against demand orders issued by tax inspectors. Under the existing GST rules, a individual has a three-month window from the date of issuance of an assessment order to file an appeal against it. This period can be extended by one additional month.
- To avail of this extended appeal period, taxpayers will be required to make an increased pre-deposit. Previously set at 10 percent of the tax demand, the pre-deposit has now been raised to 12.5 percent. This change ensures that taxpayers have a vested interest in their appeals while providing some financial flexibility.
- The GST Council's decision to extend the appeal deadline and increase the pre-deposit threshold is expected to benefit a significant number of taxpayers who were unable to file appeals within the previous time constraints. This move reflects the Council's commitment to making the GST system more taxpayer-friendly.

PM SVANidhi Scheme Surpasses 50 Lakh Beneficiaries Mark

- The Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi, or PM SVANidhi scheme, has achieved a significant milestone by providing assistance to over 50 lakh street vendors across the country. Street vendors have long been essential contributors to the urban informal economy, offering vital goods and services to urban residents.

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- Administered under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, this scheme has been instrumental in integrating street vendors into the formal economic sector, offering them new opportunities for upward mobility.
- Launched on June 1st, 2020, the PM SVANidhi Scheme is a micro-credit initiative aimed at providing collateral-free working capital loans of up to 50 thousand rupees to urban street vendors. This visionary scheme not only bolsters the livelihoods of street vendors but also contributes to the formalization of the urban informal economy, aligning with the government's broader economic goals.

Government Introduces Shreshta Scheme for Quality Education of Scheduled Caste Students

- In a remarkable move towards enhancing education and bolstering the socio-economic advancement of Scheduled Caste (SC) students, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has unveiled the 'Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas' (SHRESHTA).
- SHRESHTA, designed to provide high-quality education to SC students, aims to create an environment conducive to their holistic development and secure their future prospects. The scheme's implementation comprises two distinct approaches. The first category includes top CBSE/State Board-affiliated private residential schools known as SHRESHTA institutions.
- The second implementation approach relates to existing NGO/VO-operated schools and hostels. This approach is specifically intended for educational institutions up to the 12th grade that are managed by voluntary organizations (VOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

RCS- UDAN Completes 6 Successful Years

- RCS-UDAN, launched in 2016, has significantly improved air connectivity in India, focusing on remote areas and underserved regions. It completed six successful years in 2023, marking a milestone in the country's aviation sector.
- RCS-UDAN connected previously unserved routes, linking cities and towns that lacked air connectivity. Started with UDAN 1.0, expanding to UDAN 5.2, the scheme continuously evolved, addressing various challenges and demands.
- Key Achievements of the scheme are: More than 130 lakh passengers benefited from RCS-UDAN, demonstrating its success in making air travel accessible. Various versions of UDAN introduced different elements, like helipads and seaplanes, to diversify connectivity options.
- UDAN contributed significantly to the tourism sector by connecting popular destinations and promoting religious and cultural tourism. Introduction of tourism routes and expansion of helicopter services in hilly regions stimulated tourism, benefiting local economies.

APPOINTMENTS NEWS

Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti Assumes Charge as Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff

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

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Swiss Watchmaker ‘Rado’ Appoints Katrina Kaif as Global Brand Ambassador

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

Veteran Communist Party Leader Anathalavattom Anandan Passed Away

- Veteran CPI (M) leader and former legislator Anathalavattom Anandan, who played a key role in building the trade union base for the party in the state, passed away at a hospital on Thursday. He was 86 years old.
- Anathalavattom Anandan was born in Varkala, Thiruvananthapuram district, in 1937. His journey in the world of politics began in 1954. In 1956, Anandan became a member of the undivided Communist Party of India (CPI) and remained steadfast even after the party split in 1964.
- He was elected to the state assembly from the Attingal constituency three times, representing the people’s interests and championing the cause of the working class. His tenure in the legislative assembly, spanning 1987, 1996, and 2007, demonstrated his commitment to serving the people of Kerala.

India’s Historic Re-Election as AIBD GC President

- India has been re-elected as the President of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) General Conference (GC) for an unprecedented third successive term.
- This remarkable accomplishment, announced by Apurva Chandra, Secretary of the Information & Broadcasting Ministry, signifies a monumental moment in AIBD’s history. The pivotal moment in India’s broadcasting history unfolded during the 21st General Conference & Associated Meetings 2023.
- Established in 1977 under the auspices of UNESCO, AIBD stands as a prestigious institution with 92 member organizations spanning 44 countries. Among its members are 26 government representatives from various countries, comprising 48 broadcasting authorities and broadcasters, along with 44 affiliates from 28 nations and regions across Asia, Pacific, Europe, Africa, Arab States, and North America.

Reliance’s JioMart Ropes in MS Dhoni As Brand Ambassador

- Reliance Retail’s JioMart has signed up Mahendra Singh Dhoni, India’s most iconic cricketer, as its brand ambassador. Dhoni’s association comes alongside the rebranding of their festive campaign JioMart to “JioUtsav, Celebrations Of India,” which is scheduled to launch on October 8, 2023.
- The JioUtsav campaign is designed to celebrate India’s vibrant culture, its people, and the various festivals that mark the country’s calendar. This campaign takes inspiration from Dhoni’s life, recognizing that he has given the nation numerous reasons to celebrate through his incredible cricketing achievements.
- JioMart has been steadily expanding its presence in the Indian e-commerce market. Whether it’s electronics, groceries, fashion, or home essentials, JioMart aims to provide a wide array of choices to cater to every customer’s needs. Currently, the platform collaborates with over 1000 artisans and offers a diverse range of 150,000 unique products.

Ramaswamy N Appointed As Chairman and Managing Director of GIC Re

- On October 4, 2023, the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re) made a significant announcement regarding the appointment of its new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), Ramaswamy N. This appointment is effective from October 1, 2023.

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- The appointment of Ramaswamy N follows the standard succession planning procedures as Devesh Srivastava, the outgoing CMD, concluded his four-year term at the end of September 2023 upon reaching the age of 60.
- Ramaswamy N's association with GIC Re dates back to 1988 when he joined as a direct recruit officer. Over the course of more than three decades, he has demonstrated unwavering commitment and expertise in various facets of non-life insurance.

PayU Elevates Anirban Mukherjee as Global CEO

- Anirban Mukherjee, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of PayU India, has been promoted to the role of global CEO of PayU. Anirban Mukherjee will be taking over from Laurent Le Moal, who has decided to step back from the day-to-day operational management of the business. However, Le Moal will continue to be involved with Prosus and PayU in an advisory capacity.
- In his new role as Global CEO, Anirban Mukherjee will be entrusted with the overall business operations of PayU on a global scale. His reporting line will directly lead to Ervin Tu, the interim CEO of Prosus and Naspers, the parent company of PayU. This move signifies a pivotal moment in PayU's journey as it gears up to shape the future of the global digital payments industry.
- PayU India claims to serve over 450,000 merchants, work with more than 70 large banks through its paytech platform called Wibmo and provide credit facilities to over 2 million customers in India. The company's business in India continues to grow and it plays a vital role in the country's dynamic fintech sector.

Navneet Munot Elected Chairman of The Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)

- The Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI) has recently elected Navneet Munot, the Managing Director and CEO of HDFC Asset Management, as the Chairman during a Board meeting.
- Munot, a Chartered Accountant and a CFA charter holder, boasts over three decades of experience in the financial services sector. He will succeed A Balasubramanian, Managing Director of Aditya Birla Sun Life Asset Management Company, who will complete two consecutive terms in October.
- The Board of AMFI has also elected Anthony Heredia, MD and CEO of Mahindra Manulife Mutual Fund, as the Vice-Chairman. With his extensive experience in the investment management industry, Heredia takes over the role from Radhika Gupta, MD of Edelweiss Asset Management.

Sanjay Kumar Jain Selected As CMD, IRCTC

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In a significant development for the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), Sanjay Kumar Jain, an officer of the Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) of the 1990 batch, has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD).

His appointment comes after a vacancy in the position since the retirement of Mahendra Pratap Maal in January 2021. The recommendation for his appointment was made by the Search-Cum-Selection Committee (SCSC) and subsequently approved.

Mr. Sanjay Kumar Jain is a seasoned officer with a remarkable track record. Before his elevation to the role of CMD, he served as the Principal Chief Commercial Manager in the Northern Railway. His diverse experience within the Indian Railways has allowed him to gain valuable insights into the functioning of the organization.

Ashok Vaswani to Succeed Uday Kotak as New CEO Of Kotak Mahindra Bank

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

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- Kotak Mahindra Bank's announcement regarding Ashok Vaswani's appointment as the MD & CEO coincided with the release of the bank's financial results for the second quarter. The positive financial performance, along with the RBI's approval of Vaswani's appointment, bodes well for the bank's future prospects.

AWARDS NEWS

Nobel Prize in Physics 2023 Awarded to Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz and Anne L'Huillier

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

Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2023 Awarded to Mounji G. Bawendi, Louis E. Brus And Alexei I. Ekimov

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

Nobel Peace Prize 2023 Awarded to Narges Mohammadi

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

Dilip Nongmaithem Receives Bal Sahitya Puraskar in Manipuri Language

- The Sahitya Akademi, India's premier literary institution, has once again recognized and celebrated outstanding literary contributions with the prestigious 'Bal Sahitya Puraskar' for the year 2023.
- This time, the honor has been conferred upon Dilip Nongmaithem, an accomplished author in the Manipuri language, for his remarkable work titled "Ibemma Amasung Ngabemma." This award is a testament to his profound storytelling and significant impact on children's literature.

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- The accolade consists of an engraved copper-plaque, symbolizing the recognition of the author's literary achievement, and a monetary prize of ₹50,000, which further supports and encourages their creative endeavors.

Sudha Murty, the First Woman to Get Global Indian Award

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

West Bengal Teacher Deep Narayan Nayak Named Finalist for Global Teacher Prize 2023

- Deep Narayan Nayak, a dedicated teacher from West Bengal, has achieved recognition as one of the top 10 finalists for the prestigious Global Teacher Prize 2023.
- This esteemed award, organized annually by the UK-based Varkey Foundation in collaboration with UNESCO and Dubai Cares, a UAE-based philanthropic organization, celebrates exceptional educators from across the globe.
- The Global Teacher Prize holds significant value, with a cash prize of USD 1 million. Its primary objective is to honor and celebrate exceptional teachers who have made substantial contributions to the field of education.

Professor Dr. Joyeeta Gupta Honored with Dutch Spinoza Prize for Climate Change Research

- Dr. Joyeeta Gupta, an Indian-origin professor at the University of Amsterdam, has been awarded the prestigious Dutch Spinoza Prize for her ground-breaking work in the field of climate change.
- Dr. Joyeeta Gupta becomes the twelfth researcher affiliated with the University of Amsterdam to receive this prestigious award, highlighting the institution's commitment to excellence.
- Dr. Gupta's research primarily focuses on understanding and addressing the distributional challenges posed by climate change through effective governance. She emphasizes that climate change consequences directly impact the socio-economic disparities between affluent and underprivileged communities.

US President Biden Honors Indian-American Scientists with National Medal for Technology & Innovation

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

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

- The beautiful village of Dhordo in Gujarat has garnered international recognition after it secured a place on the list of the 54 best tourism villages announced by the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).
- Dhordo village has recently hosted the inaugural Tourism Working Group Meeting of the G20, during India's presidency of the influential group. This gathering of global leaders in the enchanting landscapes of Dhordo showcased the village's capacity to host international events and highlighted its growing importance in the world of tourism.
- The UNWTO's Best Tourism Villages 2023 accolade is a tribute to villages leading the way in nurturing rural regions, preserving landscapes, upholding cultural diversity, safeguarding local values, and celebrating culinary traditions. It was launched in 2021.

West Bengal Governor Presents 'Durga Bharat Samman' Awards

- Hindustani classical vocalist and composer Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty has been conferred with the prestigious 'Durga Bharat Samman' by the Governor of West Bengal, C V Ananda Bose.
- Bose 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).
- Visva-Bharati, a renowned central university, was also honored with the 'Durga Bharat Samman.' The accolade acknowledges the institution's unwavering commitment to providing quality education, research, and its role in nurturing future leaders and thinkers.
- All four recipients of the 'Durga Bharat Samman' were not only honored with this prestigious award but were also presented with a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh each, a plaque, and a citation. These tokens of appreciation serve as a testament to their exceptional dedication, commitment, and achievements in their respective fields.

CJI Chandrachud Honored with "Award for Global Leadership" By Harvard Law School

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

SPORTS NEWS

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

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

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Ajay Jadeja Appointed as Mentor for Afghanistan Cricket Team in ICC Cricket World Cup 2023

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

Asian Games 2023, India Team Wins Archery Mixed Team Compound Gold

- Indian players Jyothi Surekha Vennam and Pravin Ojas Deotale won gold in the Compound Archery Mixed Team. India has made its mark at the Asian Games 2023, excelling in specific sports that brought a total of 71 medals for the country.
- The duo defeated the South Korean pair of So Chaewon and Joo Jaehoon 159-158 at the Fuyang Yinhu Sports Centre Final Field. This is the first gold for Archery in the ongoing Asian Games.
- India have now won 16 gold, 26 silver and 29 bronze medals in the Hangzhou Games and have a chance to add to add more to their tally. China is currently on top with 164 golds, 90 silvers and 46 bronze medals. Japan and South Korea are second and third in the list.

Asian Games 2023, Annu Rani Wins Gold in Women's Javelin Throw

- India's Annu Rani won the gold medal in the women's javelin throw with a 69.92m throw at the Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou. She became the first Indian woman to win a javelin gold in Asian Games history.
- Rani started with a 56.99m throw in her first attempt and followed it with a 60+ in the next one. Her 61.28m throw in the second attempt put her in the medal contention but her 62.92m throw in the fourth attempt turned out to be sufficient for a gold. Rani's first-place finish secured India its 15th gold.
- Sri Lanka's Nadeesha Dilhan Lekamge Hatarabage, with 61.57 metres throw, and China's Huihui Lyu, with 61.29 metres throw, won silver and bronze, respectively.

Parul Chaudhary Wins 5000m Gold

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

ICC Names Sachin Tendulkar as 'Global Ambassador' for ODI World Cup 2023

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has made an exciting announcement on Tuesday, designating the legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar as the 'Global Ambassador' for the highly anticipated Cricket World Cup 2023. This prestigious event is scheduled to kick off tomorrow in the vibrant city of Ahmedabad, India.
- Sachin Tendulkar holds the record for participating in six 50-over World Cups. His association with this global cricketing spectacle goes back decades, from being a ball boy in 1987 to donning the

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Indian jersey in numerous editions. Sachin's legacy and his passion for the game make him the perfect choice to unveil the World Cup trophy before the inaugural match.

- The Cricket World Cup 2023 will officially commence with a grand ceremony before the first match between England and New Zealand. Sachin Tendulkar's presence on this occasion will undoubtedly add a touch of cricketing magic, marking the beginning of what promises to be a thrilling tournament.

Asian Games 2023, Abhishek, Ojas, Prathamesh Win Gold in Compound Men's Team Archery

- India's men's compound team of Abhishek Verma, Ojas Deotale and Prathamesh Jawkar secured another archery gold medal after its 235-230 win against South Korea in the Asian Games.
- The third end started with Korea scoring 28/30 while India managed a perfect 30. Another nine from Korea in the second trio of arrows helped extend its lead to five points to 175-170 after End 3. India scored 60/60 in the final end to ensure that Korea got no space to make its way back.
- Earlier, the women's compound team of Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Aditi Gopichand Swami and Parneet Kaur bagged a gold medal.

Asian Games 2023: Dipika Pallikal, Harinder Pal Sandhu Clinch Gold in Squash Mixed

- India's Dipika Pallikal and Harinder Pal Sandhu won the gold medal in the mixed doubles squash tournament at the Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou, the People's Republic of China.
- Dipika Pallikal and Harinder Pal Sandhu defeated Malaysia's Aifa Azman-Mohd Syafiq Kamal 2-0 (11-10, 11-10) in the mixed doubles final. This is the first time a squash mixed doubles tournament has featured at the Asian Games.
- India has made its mark at the Asian Games 2023, achieving its best-ever medal tally in the history of the tournament. As of October 5, India has won a total of 84 medals, with 21 gold medals, 31 silver medals and 32 bronze medals.

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

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

Indian Men's Hockey Team Clinches Gold at Asian Games 2023

- In a historic moment at the Gongshu Canal Sports Park Stadium in Hangzhou, the Indian men's hockey team secured a remarkable victory over Japan, winning the gold medal and earning a coveted spot at the Paris 2024 Olympics.
- In a highly anticipated showdown, India defeated Japan with a commanding score line of 5-1 in the Asian Games 2023 men's hockey final. This victory not only clinched the gold medal but also ensured a place in the upcoming Olympics.
- This victory marks the Indian men's hockey team's fourth gold medal at the Asian Games, following triumphs in 1966, 1988, and 2014 editions. Their consistent excellence continues to shine on the international stage.

Ojas Deotale is Nagpur's First Asian Games Gold Medalist

- In the final of 19th Asian Games 2023, on Saturday at the Fuyang Yinhu Sports Centre, Indian archer Ojas Deotale from Nagpur won gold medal in the men's individual compound archery event. This victory marks Ojas Deotale third gold medal in the Asian Games 2023.

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- Ojus Deotale's success can be attributed to his exceptional precision and determination in the archery field. Deotale missed the 10-point circle only once in the centre of the target only once as he compiled a score of 140 out of a possible 150 in the final in which each archer shoots five rounds (called End in archery) with three arrows in each round.
- Deotale, the 21-year-old from Nagpur in Maharashtra who won the World Championship in Berlin earlier this year, shot his only score of nine in the final on in the second arrow of the fourth round. In contrast, Verma encountered a nine off the third arrow in the second round and then got an eight on the second arrow of the third, thus pushing him three points behind Deotale.

Indian Women's Kabaddi Team Clinches Gold at Asian Games 2023

- The Indian women's kabaddi team emerged victorious against a determined Chinese Taipei, securing the gold medal in the Asian Games 2023. In a fiercely contested match, the Indian women's kabaddi team clinched the gold medal by defeating Chinese Taipei with a nail-biting score of 26-25.
- The Indian women's kabaddi team previously secured gold at Guangzhou 2010. They defended their title at Incheon 2014. In Jakarta 2018, they finished as runners-up. Chinese Taipei showcased their growth in kabaddi by upgrading their bronze medal from Jakarta 2018 to silver in the Asian Games 2023.

Asian Games 2023, India Wins Gold in Men's Cricket

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

Jyothi Surekha Vennam Wins Gold in Women's Archery At Asian Games 2023

- India's Jyothi Surekha Vennam won gold medal in the women's individual compound archery event at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, on Saturday.
- Jyothi defeated So Chaewon of South Korea 149-145 in the final to complete a hat-trick of gold medals, having already won titles in the women's and mixed team events. This remarkable achievement etched her status as a standout athlete in the field.
- Jyothi Surekha Vennam clinched her third Gold in the ongoing 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou as archers began the final day of games events on Saturday, October 7 on a high. Jyothi, who won a gold in the mixed team and women's team events, beat Korea's Chaewon So in the final 149-145.

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Uttarakhand CM Launches App and Portal to Boost Self-Employment

- The state government of Uttarakhand took a significant step towards empowering its youth by launching the 'Yuva Uttarakhand mobile application.' The primary objective of this innovative app is

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to provide valuable information about self-employment opportunities to the state's unemployed youth.

- In addition to the 'Yuva Uttarakhand mobile application,' the Chief Minister also inaugurated the 'Prayag portal.' This portal is dedicated to providing job information and serves as a comprehensive resource for job-seeking youth in the state.
- Chief Minister Dhama, also announced the establishment of self-employment centers in all districts of Uttarakhand which will serve as hubs where local residents can access information and application details related to various self-employment schemes. In a remarkable initiative, two such centers were inaugurated in the first phase, located in Dehradun and Udham Singh Nagar.

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

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

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

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

Asian Para Games 2023 Opening Ceremony

- The Asian Para Games, organized by the Asian Paralympic Committee and recognized by the International Paralympic Committee, commences on October 22, 2023. This marks the fourth edition of the Games, featuring 566 medal events across 22 sports and 24 disciplines.
- The event promises thrilling moments as athletes from across Asia gather to compete. India is sending its largest-ever contingent, consisting of 313 athletes, to compete in various events at the Asian Para Games 2023.
- Renowned Para Shuttler Parul Parmar will proudly bear the Indian flag during the opening ceremony, symbolizing the spirit of Indian para-athletes. Para-club Thrower Amit Saroha joins Parul Parmar as the co-flag bearer, representing India with pride and determination.

Shubman Gill Becomes Fastest Batter to Score 2000 Runs in ODIs

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

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Sundar Singh Gurjar Breaks World Record in Men's Javelin F46 Event With Gold

- Indian para-athletes excelled in the javelin throw events at the Asian Para Games in Hangzhou, China, with Sundar Singh Gurjar breaking a world record and Sumit Antil successfully defending his gold medal.
- In the men's javelin throw-F46 final, India's Sundar Singh Gurjar delivered an outstanding performance, breaking the world record with a throw of 68.60 meters. This incredible achievement not only secured him the gold medal but also surpassed the previous world record held by Sri Lankan Dinesh Priyantha at 67.79 meters. Sundar's throw also set new Games and Asian Records.
- Reigning Olympic and world champion Sumit Antil put up a stellar defense of his gold medal in the men's javelin F64 event. In his first throw, he easily shattered the Games Record with a distance of 66.22 meters, surpassing his previous record set in 2018. His second throw came close to his world record of 70.83 meters, measuring 70.48 meters.

PM Modi Inaugurated 37th Edition of National Games in Panaji, Goa

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

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Nature Day 2023

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

World Space Week (WSW) 2023: October 4 to 10

- World Space Week (WSW) is a global celebration that highlights the significance of space science and technology in enhancing human life. Established in 1999 by the United Nations General Assembly, this annual event takes place from October 4 to 10.
- The choice of October 4 as the starting date of WSW is a tribute to the day when the Soviet Union launched Sputnik 1, the first human-made Earth satellite, marking the beginning of the Space Age and the first Space Race.
- The theme for World Space Week 2023 is "Space and Entrepreneurship." This theme underscores the evolving landscape of the commercial space industry and its growing influence.

World Animal Welfare Day 2023

- World Animal Day, also known as World Animal Welfare Day, is a global initiative celebrated annually on October 4th. This day serves as an International Day of Action, advocating for the rights and welfare of animals.

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- The choice of this date coincides with the feast day of Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. This event unites animal lovers worldwide, raising awareness and fostering a sense of responsibility towards the well-being of animals.
- The theme for World Animal Day 2023, “Great or Small, Love Them All,” emphasizes the importance of acknowledging animals as sentient beings. It underscores the need to elevate global animal care standards and advocates for animal rights universally.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month 2023

- Breast Cancer Awareness Month is observed throughout the entire month of October each year. During this time, individuals, healthcare organizations, and non-profits collaborate to raise awareness and promote breast cancer prevention and treatment.
- The primary objective of this month-long campaign is to raise awareness about breast cancer, promote early detection, support those affected by the disease, and raise funds for research, prevention, and treatment. It serves as a reminder of the importance of regular breast examinations and mammograms to detect breast cancer at an early, more treatable stage.
- Breast Cancer Awareness Month was established in the early 1980s to promote breast cancer awareness, early detection, and support for individuals and families affected by the disease. Since then, it has become a global movement that has contributed to increased awareness and improved outcomes for breast cancer patients.

World Teachers’ Day 2023

- World Teachers’ Day, observed annually on October 5th, is a global celebration dedicated to honoring the invaluable contributions of teachers to society. This day serves as an opportunity to recognize the vital role teachers play in shaping the future and to address the challenges they face.
- World Teachers’ Day is a momentous occasion to celebrate how teachers are catalysts for educational transformation. Teachers have the unique opportunity to make a lasting impact on the lives of their students, shaping sustainable futures and finding personal fulfillment in their vocation.
- World Teachers’ Day was inaugurated on October 5, 1994, marking the 30th anniversary of the 1966 conference. Since then, it has grown into a globally recognized annual event that honors teachers and their contributions to education.

National Wildlife Week 2023

- The National Zoological Park recently kick-started the celebration of the 69th Wildlife Week, a significant event aimed at raising awareness about the importance of wildlife conservation in India.
- This year’s theme, “Partnerships for Wildlife Conservation,” reflects the collaborative efforts required to protect and preserve the nation’s rich biodiversity.
- The festivities coincide with the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, reinforcing the principles of Ahinsa (non-violence) and compassion for all living beings. The choice of dates for Wildlife Week, spanning from October 2 to October 8, holds deep symbolism.

World Cotton Day 2023

- World Cotton Day, observed on October 7 each year, emphasises cotton’s importance in generating jobs and supporting economies, especially in less developed countries.
- The theme for World Cotton Day 2023, ‘Making cotton fair and sustainable for all, from farm to fashion,’ is championed by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).
- The day’s celebrations promote fair trade and help developing nations engage in all aspects of the cotton industry to improve their economies. The first World Cotton Day was proposed on October 7, 2019, and was officially approved by the WTO.

International Day of the Girl Child 2023

- The International Day of the Girl, observed every year on October 11, is a global initiative dedicated to raising awareness about gender inequality and advocating for the rights and empowerment of girls.
- The International Day of the Girl was first celebrated in 2012. This day was established to focus attention on the unique challenges girls face and to promote their empowerment and the fulfillment

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of their human rights. The day was born out of the recognition that girls, like boys, deserve equal opportunities and rights.

- The theme for the International Day of the Girl in 2023 is "Invest in Girls' Rights: Our Leadership, Our Well-being." This theme emphasizes the need to invest in girls, recognizing that their leadership and well-being are crucial for a fairer and more equal future.

National Police Commemoration Day 2023 Celebrates On 21 October

- On October 21, 1959, ten courageous Policemen laid down their lives in a fierce ambush by heavily armed Chinese troops at Hot Springs in Ladakh. In their memory and that of all Police personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice while on duty, October 21 is observed as Police Commemoration Day.
- In 2018, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji dedicated the National Police Memorial (NPM) in Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, to the nation on Police Commemoration Day. The NPM plays a pivotal role in giving Police Forces a sense of national identity, pride, unity of purpose, common history, and shared destiny.
- The NPM is more than just a memorial; it is a site of pilgrimage and a place of reverence for Police personnel and citizens alike. It reminds all who visit of the tremendous sacrifices made by these brave men and women in uniform. The Memorial is open to the public on all days except Mondays.

World Development Information Day 2023

- World Development Information Day, celebrated on October 24th each year by the United Nations, serves as a platform to draw attention to pressing global development issues and the critical need for enhanced international cooperation to address them.
- Established in 1972, this day is dedicated to promoting the effective dissemination of information and mobilizing public opinion, particularly among the youth, to foster greater awareness of development challenges. It coincides with United Nations Day.
- During a conference by United Nations General Assembly, a proposal was put forth to reduce conflicts between nations through the use of information technology and by seeking public opinion. This proposal culminated in the passing of a resolution on December 19, 1972. As of October 24, 1973, the world has observed World Development Information Day.

Global Media and Information Literacy Week 2023

- Global Media and Information Literacy Week, observed from October 24 to 31 every year, is an event of great importance in the realm of information and media literacy. It serves as an occasion for reflection, celebration, and international collaboration on this critical topic.
- The theme for Global Media and Information Literacy Week 2023 is "Media and Information Literacy in Digital Spaces: A Collective Global Agenda." This theme underscores the growing importance of digital literacy in a world where information is increasingly disseminated through digital channels.

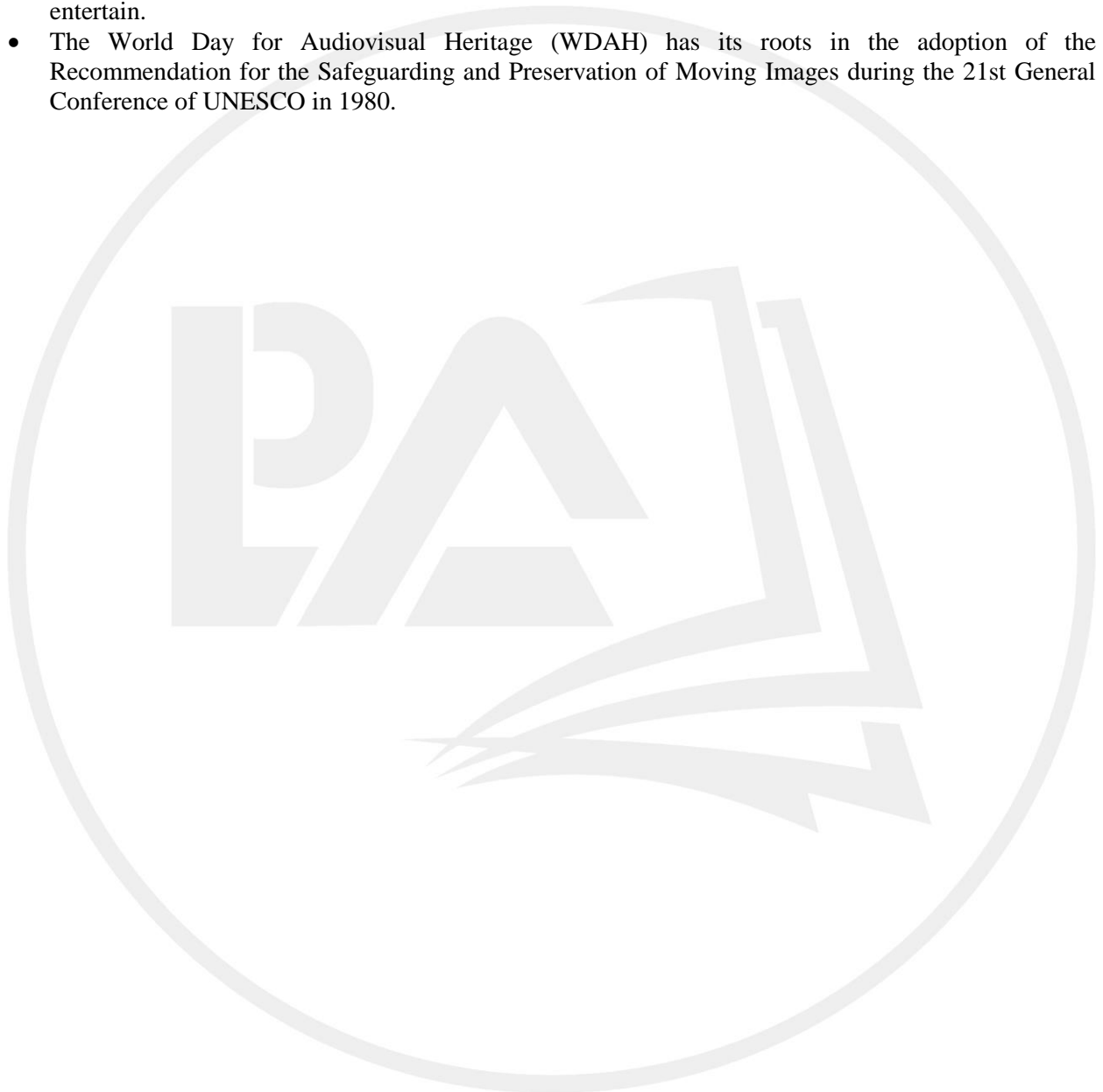
UN Disarmament Week

- UN Disarmament Week, celebrated on October 24 to 30, 2023, is an annual event organized by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). It plays a vital role in raising awareness of the significance of disarmament and advocating for the elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.
- Disarmament is essential for achieving global peace and security. The presence of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction poses a severe threat to humanity, making their elimination a necessity for creating a safer world for all.
- In 1978, the General Assembly's special session on disarmament called for the establishment of a week-long observance starting on October 24, the anniversary of the United Nations' founding. This initiative aimed to promote awareness and understanding of disarmament issues.

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World Day for Audiovisual Heritage 2023

- World Day for Audiovisual Heritage 2023 is a significant initiative co-led by UNESCO and the Coordinating Council of Audiovisual Archives Associations (CCAAA) to pay homage to the dedicated audiovisual preservation professionals and institutions safeguarding our rich heritage for the benefit of future generations.
- The 2023 World Day for Audiovisual Heritage, observed on October 27, revolves around the theme “Your Window to the World.”
- Audiovisual heritage serves as a unique window to the world, providing us with the ability to witness events we may have missed, hear the voices of the past, and create narratives that both inform and entertain.
- The World Day for Audiovisual Heritage (WDAH) has its roots in the adoption of the Recommendation for the Safeguarding and Preservation of Moving Images during the 21st General Conference of UNESCO in 1980.



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Current Affairs MCQs

- How many types of activities are covered by the Green Credit program?
 - 6
 - 8
 - 10
 - 12
- Sri Lanka's initial focus for trade agreement renegotiations involves which three countries?
 - Japan, South Korea, and Vietnam
 - India, China, and Thailand
 - United States, United Kingdom, and Canada
 - Australia, New Zealand, and Malaysia
- Who is the State Minister of Finance in Sri Lanka who announced the intention to renegotiate RCEP trade agreements?
 - Shehan Semasinghe
 - Ajay Sahai
 - Narendra Modi
 - Mahinda Rajapaksa
- When was the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) formed?
 - 1997
 - 1985
 - 2000
 - 2010
- Who proposed the idea of an Indian Ocean Rim for socioeconomic cooperation?
 - Nelson Mandela
 - Mahatma Gandhi
 - Jawaharlal Nehru
 - Rajiv Gandhi
- When was the previous IOC Session held in India before the 141st session in Mumbai?
 - 2020
 - 1990
 - 1983
 - 1976
- Who extended an invitation to host the 2029 Youth Olympics at the 141st IOC Session in Mumbai?
 - Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde
 - Prime Minister Narendra Modi
 - Deputy CM Ajit Pawar
 - President of the IOC, Thomas Bach
- What event led to the declaration of "National Space Day" in India on August 23rd every year?
 - Successful Mars Orbiter Mission
 - Chandrayaan 3 mission's lunar landing
 - ISRO's launch of 104 satellites in a single mission
 - India's first spacewalk

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9. What is the total balance in Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) accounts as of October 4, 2023?
 - (a) ₹1.75 lakh crore
 - (b) ₹2.05 lakh crore
 - (c) ₹1.50 lakh crore
 - (d) ₹2.25 lakh crore

10. What drives the interest in Jan Dhan enrolments according to the provided information?
 - (a) High-interest rates
 - (b) Linking to government schemes and DBTs
 - (c) Tax benefits
 - (d) A wide network of ATMs

11. Which village in Punjab was recently awarded the title of “Best Tourism Village of India 2023” by the Union Ministry of Tourism?
 - (a) Nawanpind Sardaran
 - (b) Amritsar
 - (c) Patiala
 - (d) Ludhiana

12. Where is the tallest statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar outside of India located?
 - (a) Maryland, USA
 - (b) London, UK
 - (c) Toronto, Canada
 - (d) Sydney, Australia

13. Who was the first chairman of NASA and played a pivotal role in shaping the agency’s mission and accomplishments?
 - (a) Neil Armstrong
 - (b) John F. Kennedy
 - (c) T. Keith Glennan
 - (d) Alan Shepard

14. What chess championship did Grandmaster Raunak Sadhwani win in Sardinia, Italy?
 - (a) FIDE World Junior Blitz Chess Championship
 - (b) FIDE World Chess Championship
 - (c) FIDE World Junior Rapid Chess Championship
 - (d) Chess Olympiad

15. Who are the Sangha sisters?
 - (a) Five sisters from Nawanpind Sardaran who have dedicated themselves to preserving their ancestral homes and promoting sustainable tourism in their village.
 - (b) Five sisters from Amritsar who are known for their philanthropic work.
 - (c) Five sisters from Patiala who are successful entrepreneurs.
 - (d) Five sisters from Ludhiana who are famous for their singing and dancing skills.

16. How much assistance has India provided for water projects in Tanzania?
 - (a) USD 10 million
 - (b) USD 100 million
 - (c) USD 1 billion
 - (d) USD 1 trillion

17. Who is responsible for deploying ‘Bima Vahaks’ in every Gram Panchayat by December 31, 2024, as per the recent circular?
 - (a) Prime Minister of India
 - (b) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)

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- (c) Gram Panchayat Council
(d) Indian Ministry of Finance
18. Which of the following is NOT a definition of unemployment rate?
(a) The percentage of people unemployed among those in the labor force.
(b) The percentage of people seeking work but unable to find a job.
(c) The percentage of people who are not employed or actively seeking employment.
(d) The percentage of people who have been unemployed for more than 26 weeks.
19. Which states/UTs had a higher urban unemployment rate than the national average in April-June 2023?
(a) Delhi, Gujarat, and Maharashtra
(b) Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Chhattisgarh
(c) West Bengal, Bihar, and Haryana
(d) Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, and Punjab
20. According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) bulletin released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), what was the urban unemployment rate in India during the April-June quarter of this fiscal year?
(a) 6.6%
(b) 7.6%
(c) 8.6%
(d) 9.6%
21. Who imposed a total siege on the Gaza Strip and cut off water supply following a surprise offensive by Hamas?
(a) Israel
(b) Palestine
(c) Egypt
(d) United Nations
22. When was the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) established as an intergovernmental organization?
(a) 1987
(b) 1997
(c) 2007
(d) 2012
23. Which two cities are connected by the ferry service set to launch on October 11, 2023, as part of efforts to enhance connectivity?
(a) Mumbai, Colombo
(b) Chennai, Male
(c) Nagapattinam, Kankesanthurai
(d) Dubai, Muscat
24. Which country's stock exchange witnessed a decline in APSEZ stocks on the day of the incident?
(a) Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)
(b) New York Stock Exchange (NYSE)
(c) London Stock Exchange (LSE)
(d) Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE)
25. Where is Haifa Port located?
(a) Egypt
(b) Saudi Arabia
(c) Israel
(d) United Arab Emirates

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26. What is India’s fiscal deficit target as a percentage of GDP for the current financial year (FY24)?
- (a) 6.4%
 - (b) 5.9%
 - (c) 7.2%
 - (d) 8.1%
27. What is the primary deficit?
- (a) The fiscal deficit without considering interest payments
 - (b) The revenue deficit
 - (c) The total government expenditure
 - (d) The government’s capital expenditure
28. Which company secured an 810 MW solar photovoltaic power project in Rajasthan?
- (a) NLC India Ltd. (NLCIL)
 - (b) Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RRVUNL)
 - (c) Ministry of Coal
 - (d) Navaratna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)
29. Who is leading the initiative for the introduction of the Digital India Act 2023 (DIA)?
- (a) Ministry of Finance
 - (b) Ministry of Home Affairs
 - (c) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY)
 - (d) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
30. Which organization is hosting the Indian Military Heritage Festival (IMHF)?
- (a) Indian Ministry of Defense
 - (b) United Service Institution of India (USI)
 - (c) Indian Army
 - (d) Atmanirbhar Bharat Program
31. When will the regular business of the special session of parliament in the new building commence?
- (a) 18 September 2023
 - (b) 19 September 2023
 - (c) 20 September 2023
 - (d) 21 September 2023
32. What is the primary objective of the PM Vishwakarma Scheme?
- (a) Promoting modern industries
 - (b) Preserving traditional crafts and supporting artisans
 - (c) Enhancing agricultural productivity
 - (d) Boosting the tourism sector
33. What is the primary role of the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) in the Indian Ministry of Defence?
- (a) Making decisions on foreign policy
 - (b) Approving annual defense budgets
 - (c) Deciding on new policies and capital acquisitions for the armed forces
 - (d) Conducting military exercises
34. What is the significance of the Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Awards?
- (a) Recognizing young talent in the performing arts
 - (b) Celebrating international artists
 - (c) Honoring artists above the age of 75
 - (d) Showcasing the diverse culture of India

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35. What are the statutory functions of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) primarily responsible for?
- (a) Tax collection
 - (b) Investigating corruption cases
 - (c) Investigating money laundering and foreign exchange violations
 - (d) Conducting cybercrime investigations
36. Hindi is one of how many scheduled languages in India?
- (a) 11
 - (b) 18
 - (c) 22
 - (d) 30
37. Why is the presence of methane and carbon dioxide significant on K2-18 b?
- (a) It suggests the planet has a toxic atmosphere.
 - (b) It indicates the planet is too hot for life.
 - (c) It supports the hypothesis of a hydrogen-rich atmosphere and water ocean.
 - (d) It suggests the planet is entirely covered in ice.
38. What is the main purpose of the Supreme Court of India joining the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)?
- (a) To improve its internal data management
 - (b) To enhance transparency and accountability in the judiciary
 - (c) To automate court proceedings
 - (d) To streamline administrative tasks
39. What is the significance of India issuing Internationally Accepted OIML Certificates?
- (a) It allows international manufacturers to sell their products in India.
 - (b) It enables Indian manufacturers to market their measuring instruments globally.
 - (c) It reduces the need for measuring instruments in India.
 - (d) It standardizes domestic measurement units.
40. What is the primary goal of the e-Courts Mission Mode Project?
- (a) Reducing court cases
 - (b) Improving access to justice using technology
 - (c) Increasing the number of physical courts
 - (d) Enhancing security in court complexes
41. Recently, the Indian Air Force received a C-295 aircraft from Airbus. What type of aircraft is it?
- (a) Fighter jet
 - (b) Transport
 - (c) Space traveler
 - (d) Trainer
42. What is the purpose of the PM Ujjwala Yojana?
- (a) Supporting LPG suppliers
 - (b) Providing free LPG connections to women
 - (c) Reducing LPG prices
 - (d) Enhancing LPG cylinder safety
43. Which age groups participate in the Subroto Cup International Football Tournament?
- (a) U-14 years and U-17 years
 - (b) U-16 years and U-19 years
 - (c) U-18 years and U-21 years
 - (d) U-20 years and U-23 years

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44. Which government scheme introduced the Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme in November 2015?
- Gold Reserve Scheme
 - Gold Monetisation Scheme
 - Gold Investment Initiative
 - Gold Security Program
45. Which of the following animal species is a natural reservoir for Nipah virus (NiV)?
- Pigs
 - Bats
 - Dogs
 - Cows
46. What are the three categories of Padma Awards?
- Gold, Silver, and Bronze
 - Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri
 - National, State, and Local
 - Civilian, Military, and Police
47. Which teams are participating in the ongoing Asia Cup tournament?
- India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and UAE
 - India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and Oman
 - India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and Nepal
 - India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and Maldives
48. Who won the Women's Singles title at the US Open tennis tournament?
- Aryna Sabalenka
 - Coco Gauff
 - Serena Williams
 - Naomi Osaka
49. What was the main focus of the discussion between Prime Minister Modi and the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia?
- Cultural exchanges
 - Economic corridor with Europe
 - Sports partnerships
 - Environmental cooperation
50. Which country was the first in the world to incorporate Farmers' Rights within the context of Plant Variety Registration?
- United States
 - China
 - India
 - Brazil
51. Who became the fastest to reach 13,000 ODI runs?
- Rohit Sharma
 - KL Rahul
 - Sachin Tendulkar
 - Virat Kohli
52. How does India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) plan to achieve its connectivity goals?
- By launching a space exploration program
 - By building an extensive highway network
 - By establishing a railway network linked through ports
 - By developing underwater tunnels

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53. Who won the 2023 US Open 2023 men's single title?
- (a) Novak Djokovic
 - (b) Daniil Medvedev
 - (c) Rafael Nadal
 - (d) Roger Federer
54. Who assumed the G20 Presidency from India at the 18th G20 Summit held in New Delhi?"
- (a) Narendra Modi
 - (b) Luiz Inacio Lula Da Silva
 - (c) Xi Jinping
 - (d) Vladimir Putin
55. India's first solar mission, Aditya L1 was launched on 2nd September from?
- (a) Bengaluru
 - (b) Port Blair
 - (c) Sriharikota
 - (d) Mauritius
56. What is the primary reason for the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) gradually reducing the incremental cash reserve ratio (ICRR) requirement for banks?
- (a) To encourage banks to deposit more funds with RBI.
 - (b) To address a shortage of liquidity in the banking system.
 - (c) To prevent excess liquidity from contributing to inflation.
 - (d) To generate more revenue for the central bank.
57. What record did "Jawan," the Hindi action film starring Shah Rukh Khan, achieve upon its release?
- (a) It became the highest-grossing Hindi film of all time.
 - (b) It was the first Hindi film to cross Rs 100 crore in one day.
 - (c) It broke the record for the highest worldwide collection on its opening day.
 - (d) It featured a never-before-seen cast ensemble in Bollywood.
58. Who won the men's doubles final at the 2023 US Open, defeating Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden?
- (a) Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden
 - (b) Aisam-ul-Haq Qureshi and Joe Salisbury
 - (c) Rajeev Ram and Joe Salisbury
 - (d) Todd Woodbridge and Rajeev Ram
59. What medal did the Indian men's table tennis team win at the Asian Table Tennis Championships 2023?
- (a) Gold
 - (b) Silver
 - (c) Bronze
 - (d) None
60. Which nation launched the lunar lander "SLIM" on September 7, 2023, with the aim of achieving a soft landing on the moon's surface?
- (a) China
 - (b) India
 - (c) Japan
 - (d) Russia
61. Which organization introduced new payment options on the Unified Payment Interface (UPI)?
- (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
 - (b) National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)

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- (c) Indian Ministry of Finance
(d) State Bank of India (SBI)
62. What was the theme of the ASEAN Summit that Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended in 2023?
(a) “Asia’s Century: Building a Rule-Based World Order”
(b) “ASEAN-India Partnership: A Decade of Progress”
(c) “ASEAN Matters: Epicentrum of Growth”
(d) “Global South Unite: Addressing Shared Challenges”
63. Who is co-hosting the Bharat Drone Shakti – 2023 event with Drone Federation of India?
(a) Indian Army
(b) Indian Air Force (IAF)
(c) Indian Navy
(d) Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)
64. Which Indian states are involved in the Cauvery water dispute?
(a) Tamil Nadu and Kerala
(b) Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh
(c) Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, and Puducherry
(d) Maharashtra and Gujarat
65. When does the 48th Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) start and end in 2023?
(a) September 1 to September 10
(b) September 7 to September 17
(c) August 30 to September 5
(d) September 15 to September 25
66. The world’s tallest Nataraja statue has been installed at which place?
(a) Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
(b) Swamimalai, Tamil Nadu
(c) Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu
(d) Mumbai, Maharashtra
67. Who will lead the Indian cricket team in the 2023 ODI World Cup?
(a) Virat Kohli
(b) Hardik Pandya
(c) KL Rahul
(d) Rohit Sharma
68. What is the name of the country’s first solar city inaugurated in Madhya Pradesh?
(a) Indore solar gram
(b) Bhopal, Sun city
(c) Gwalior, Sun roof
(d) Sanchi Solar City
69. Teachers’ Day is celebrated on September 5th every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of whom?
(a) Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
(b) Rabindranath Tagore
(c) Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan
(d) Swami Vivekananda
70. Which of the following countries is not a member of ASEAN?
(a) Vietnam
(b) Cambodia

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- (c) Taiwan
(d) Laos
71. What is the G-20 Summit?
(a) A meeting of 20 countries to discuss global trade
(b) An annual gathering of leaders from 19 countries and the European Union
(c) A financial conference for world leaders
(d) A summit to address climate change issues
72. What is the name of India's first solar observatory mission launched on September 2, 2023?
(a) Aditya-L1
(b) Chandrayaan-2
(c) Mangalyaan
(d) Astrosat
73. Which team won the inaugural Men's Hockey 5s Asia Cup 2023 and secured qualification for the FIH Men's Hockey's World Cup Oman 2024?
(a) Pakistan
(b) India
(c) Japan
(d) Oman
74. Which team won 2023 Durand Cup final?
(a) East Bengal FC
(b) Mohun Bagan Super Giant
(c) Chennai FC
(d) Kerala Blasters FC
75. Why did the Chandrayaan 3 Rover Pragyan pause operations on the Moon's surface?
(a) Loss of connectivity from ground station
(b) Scheduled maintenance and software update
(c) The presence of adverse lunar weather conditions
(d) Awaiting the next lunar sunrise for power supply
76. Who is heading the committee established by the central government to explore the possibilities of conducting simultaneous Lok Sabha and assembly elections in India?
(a) Prime Minister Narendra Modi
(b) Ram Nath Kovind
(c) Amit Shah
(d) Rahul Gandhi
77. Who has been appointed as the first woman CEO and Chairperson of the Railway Board?
(a) Rekha Sinha
(b) Sunita Sharma
(c) Ananya Patel
(d) Jaya Verma Sinha
78. Dr. R Ravi Kannan has been honored with the Ramon Magsaysay Award 2023. In which field does he specialize?
(a) Cardiology
(b) Surgical Oncology
(c) Pediatrics
(d) Orthopedics

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79. Who has been elected as the next president of Singapore in September 2023?
- (a) Lee Hsien Loong
 - (b) Tharman Shanmugaratnam
 - (c) Goh Chok Tong
 - (d) Kishore Mahbubani
80. Who is the current Parliamentary Affairs Minister?
- (a) Pralhad Joshi
 - (b) Narendra Modi
 - (c) Amit Shah
 - (d) Rajnath Singh
81. Which two football teams competed against each other in the Durand Cup final held on September 3, 2023?
- (a) Mohun Bagan and Mohammedan Sporting
 - (b) East Bengal and Churchill Brothers
 - (c) Mohun Bagan and East Bengal
 - (d) Bengaluru FC and ATK Mohun Bagan
82. What is the name of the government-initiated invoice incentive scheme to bring a cultural and behavioural change in the general public to ask for a Bill as their right and entitlement?
- (a) Bill Rewards Initiative
 - (b) Mera Bill Mera Adhikaar
 - (c) Fiscal Behavior Incentive
 - (d) Invoice Culture Drive

"CURRENT AFFAIR"

ANSWER – KEY

1	B	18	D	35	C	52	C	69	C
2	B	19	B	36	C	53	A	70	C
3	A	20	A	37	C	54	B	71	B
4	A	21	A	38	B	55	C	72	A
5	A	22	B	39	B	56	C	73	B
6	C	23	C	40	B	57	C	74	B
7	B	24	A	41	B	58	C	75	D
8	B	25	C	42	B	59	C	76	B
9	B	26	B	43	A	60	C	77	D
10	B	27	A	44	B	61	B	78	B
11	A	28	A	45	B	62	C	79	B
12	A	29	C	46	B	63	B	80	A
13	C	30	B	47	B	64	C	81	C
14	C	31	B	48	B	65	B	82	B
15	A	32	C	49	B	66	A		
16	C	33	C	50	C	67	D		
17	B	34	D	51	D	68	D		



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