

THE OAS GAZETTE

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Mukhyamantri Medhabi
Chhatra Protsahan Yojana



2 Nutrition Schemes for
Pregnant Women, Girls
& Children



Prestigious Norman
Borlaug Field Award,
2023



Prof Dipti Ranjan Sahoo
Winner of Shanti Swarup
Bhatnagar Awards for 2022



Odisha's Eco
Retreat Fest

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COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE OF CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR ODISHA STATE CIVIL SERVICES EXAMS



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Odisha Current Affairs

Maraging Steel

- Odisha-based Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) has supplied special grade MDN-250 (maraging steel) for various space missions of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) including Chandrayaan, Gaganayaan and Aditya L1. Maraging steel plates are used in PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle) and GSLV (Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle) programmes of ISRO.
- The significance of maraging steel is that it has very high strength (to the tune of 5-6 times of mild steel) along with good ductility.
- SAIL also contributed 4000-tonne special steel plates to India's seventh frigate, the indigenous P17A project of the Indian Navy.
- The warship Name "INS Mahendragiri", was launched in Mumbai by Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar's wife, Sudesh.
- Mahendragiri is a part of a mountain range in the Rayagada district of Odisha.

IUPAC (International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry) 2023

- Jyotirmayee Mohanty, Odisha-born scientist of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai, recently received the IUPAC (International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry) 2023 Distinguished Women in Chemistry or Chemical Engineering award.
- She got the prestigious award from IUPAC president Javier G-Martinez at the World Chemistry Congress's inaugural ceremony held at The Hague in the Netherlands on August 20.
- She is the first woman scientist from India to receive this award in this category.

Shriyanka Sadangi

- Ace shooter Shriyanka Sadangi from Odisha has been included in the Indian team for women's 10m air rifle and 50m rifle 3-position events at the upcoming Asian Championship in South Korea.
- The tournament is scheduled to be held from October 22 to November 2 at Changwon in South Korea.

The annual monsoon bird census

- The annual monsoon bird census kicked off in Bhitarkanika National Park. (3-7 Sep)
- The Forest department launched the five-day-long census to create a scientific database of the bird population in the park.
- Around 20 personnel in four groups will monitor all the water bodies and mangrove forest areas of Bhitarkanika during the census.

- In 2022, forest officials counted 1,16,070 nesting birds of 10 species
- 1,98,639 birds were sighted in the park in 2021.
- The most important nesting birds are open-billed stork, little cormorant, median egret, large egret, little egret, purple heron, grey heron, darter, white ibis, and cattle egret.

SAFF U-19 Championship

- South Asian Football Federation (SAFF).
- Dates : 21-30 September 2023
- Venue :: Kathmandu, Nepal
- Odisha's Shuvendu Panda will be the head coach of the team, while A Siba Prasad and Raja Harijan have been named in the 23-member squad.
- India has been placed in Group B along with Bhutan and Bangladesh, while Group A comprises hosts Nepal, Maldives and Pakistan. (6 teams)

181 Mobile Veterinary Unit Vehicles to provide services at Farmer's doorstep

- These vehicles will be used to provide health services to cattle and other livestock under Mukhyamantri Bhramyaman Pranichikitsa Seva.
- Rs 30 crore in the first phase in all districts.
- The mobile veterinary units will provide veterinary healthcare and animal husbandry services to the farmers through basic animal healthcare, complex surgery, vaccination and diagnostic services besides organizing awareness camps for the farmers, also provide emergency healthcare to stray and abandoned animals through Animal Helpline.
- The location of the vehicles will be tracked using the Global Positioning System.
- Minister for Fisheries and Animal Resources Development Ranendra Pratap Swain.

Millet brand ambassadors from Odisha set to inspire world at G20 Summit

- Two tribal women from Koraput and Mayurbhanj districts are set to inspire the world at the G20 Summit in Delhi with valuable insights on millets, sustainable agriculture, healthy eating habits and the success of the Odisha Millet Mission.
- The millet brand ambassadors from Odisha are Raimati Ghiuria (36), a pioneering farmer from Kundra block in Koraput will showcase kundrabatimadia (finger millets) and the tribal method of cultivating it (Genome Saviour Community Award in 2012, Jamsetji Tata National

Virtual Academy Fellowship Award in 2015, Best Farmer Award by TATA Steel in 2015), and Subasa Mohanta of Matiagarh village of Mayurbhanj district.

- Besides talking about the benefits of the highly nutritious coarse grains to the world leaders and delegates at Bharat Mandapam, they will also elaborate on the lifestyle of the tribals and efforts made to preserve millet.

Odisha Paika Academy and Research Centre in Khurda district

- The academy will facilitate research and training on the study of Paika Bidroha, an armed revolt raised by the warriors of Khurda against British rule in 1817.
- The rebellion was led by Buxi Jagabandhu Bidyadhar.
- The Paika Bidroha, also called sepoy mutiny, is considered as the first armed rebellion against the Britishers in the country.
- The chief minister hoped that the academy would help promote awareness about the life and times of the Paikas and the supreme sacrifice made by them against British rule.

Hockey 5s Asia Cup 2023: Senior Men

- India beat Pakistan in the final to win the inaugural Men's Hockey 5s Asia Cup 2023
- Place- Salalah, Oman
- The win also served as Asia's qualifying tournament for the FIH Men's Hockey 5s World Cup Oman 2024.
- The 24-year-old from Sundargarh, Dipsan Tirkey played his part to perfection as India thumped Malaysia 10-4 in the opening match.

4K deaths in 20 Years: Odisha demands lightning to be declared 'Natural Disaster'

- Lightning was declared a state-specific disaster in April 1, 2015.
- The state government is providing an ex-gratia of Rs 4 lakh to a family of lightning strike victim.
- Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Pramilla Mallick
- Odisha was hit by 39,392 lightning strikes on September 2.
- 'Annual Thunderstorm Report 2022-23' 1. Madhya Pradesh, 2. Maharashtra, 3. Odisha

Second Edition of Kathmandu Kalinga Literary Festival in Nepal capital

- The 2nd Kathmandu Kalinga Literary Festival (KLF) concluded in Kathmandu on September 3. Foreign Minister of Nepal NP Saud was the chief guest in the inaugural ceremony held on Sep 1.
- The minister expressed the hope that this event would play an important role in the exchange of culture in South Asia.
- Artists and litterateurs from Nepal, India, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka gathered at Kathmandu for the Festival. Padma Shri Sudarsan Pattnaik, Padma Shri Nila Madhab Panda, Padma Shri Aruna Mohanty, and Promising Singer Abhilipsa Panda were there.
- Central Theme of the Festival was "Shakti and Bhakti - The Civilizational Connection: Nepal as a Centre of Global Thought."
- The next Kathmandu Kalinga Literary Festival will be held on November 23, 24, 2024
- In addition to the 'Yashaswi Sahitya Samman,' the festival introduced the 'Yashaswi Book Prize' to recognize outstanding literary works.

Odisha to launch Special Vaccination Drive

- The Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI 5.0) drive will be launched in the state from September 11 to vaccinate all children under the age of five years and pregnant women, who have missed their routine vaccine doses.
- The drive will be carried out in three rounds between September and November with each round
- spanning six days. September 11-16, October 9-14 and November 6-11.
- The drive aims to vaccinate 1,04,261 unvaccinated or partly vaccinated children and 19,896 pregnant women in 314 blocks of 30 districts.
- The full immunisation coverage in the state has increased from 36.1 percent in 1992-93 to 90.5 percent in 2019-21. This has significantly reduced vaccine-preventable diseases and under-five mortality in the state.

Mukhyamantri Medhabi Chhatra Protsahan Yojana

- The Odisha government has decided to reimburse entire course fees of eligible ST and SC students, studying medical and engineering (BTech and MTech) at various government-run institutions, under the Mukhyamantri Medhabi Chhatra Protsahan Yojana.
- All expenses, including admission charge / seat acceptance charge, initial deposit, annual course fee (tuition fee and all compulsory payable charges to the institution), hostel admission charges and

annual hostel/mess charges and any other incidental expenses for study like purchase of books/study materials coaching /tutorial expenses, signed by the dean/head of the institution and student has to be forwarded to the district collector for reimbursement under the scheme.

- This scheme will be applicable to all eligible ST and SC students from 2023-24 onwards,
- Commissioner-cum-Secretary Roopa Roshan Sahoo said in a letter to all district collectors.
- The government had earlier launched 'Chatra Protsahan Yojana'(CPY) in October 2021 to provide free coaching to SC/ST students in the state for medical and engineering entrance examinations.

Green Hydrogen Unit to come up in Odisha's Gopalpur

- Renewable energy company Avaada Group will set up a green hydrogen and ammonia manufacturing unit at Gopalpur Industrial Park (GIP) in Odisha's Ganjam district.
- The project is slated to generate around 1,500 direct and 4,000 indirect job opportunities.
- Avaada Group will acquire 120 acre in GIP to set up a 0.5 MTPA green hydrogen/ammonia production facility, which aims to curtail annual carbon dioxide emissions by nearly two million tonnes.
- The Tata Steel Special Economic Zone Limited (TSEZL) inked a pact with Avaada GreenH2, the green hydrogen arm of integrated energy enterprise Avaada Group

PPP Policy 2023

- The Odisha government has notified a new Public Private Partnership (PPP) Policy, 2023 to attract private investment in the construction of public infrastructure.
- It will be applicable to all infrastructure projects including roads, bridges, ports, railways, airports, irrigation, helipads, industrial parks, logistic hubs, water supply, power, tourism, sports, healthcare, education, and inland waterways implemented through the PPP route.
- The government has also made a provision for levying user fees to boost the commercial viability of the projects and the amenability of private sector participation.

Odisha's Eco Retreat Fest

- Eco Retreat, the annual flagship event of Odisha Tourism will be begun at seven locations from December 1 and the tourists can book their stay at

220 luxury tents from September 15.

- Announced at the 44th Foundation Day of Odisha Tourism Development Corporation (OTDC).
- The fifth edition of Eco Retreat Odisha will be held at Konark, Putsil, Sonapur, Daringbadi, Bhitarkanika, Satkosia, and Hirakud, it will give experience with luxury, adventure, local culture, mouth-watering Odia cuisine, aesthetic folk music and dance.
- Eco Retreat event has become the face of Odisha Tourism which promotes sustainable tourism in the state. Its contribution to the economy through creation of employment opportunities while boosting the state's businesses. "It has made a profit of Rs 5 crore in the last fiscal".

Prestigious Norman Borlaug Field Award, 2023

- Dr Swati Nayak will be the third Indian and first Odia to receive this prestigious award at USA.
- World Food Prize Foundation (IOWA, USA) announced.
- The award is given to exceptional scientists under 40 years of age who work in the field of food and nutrition security, hunger eradication and exhibit the character and attributes of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and Green Revolution's Chief Architect Dr Norman Borlaug.

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards

- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar conferred the Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Award-2022 on four veteran artists from Odisha at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on September 16.
- Chhau dancer Siba Prasad Das, theatre director Anant Mahapatra, folk musician (Brahma veena player) Ananda Bag and Gotipua dancer Gobinda Chandra Pal.
- New Delhi-based Odissi dancer Kumkum Lal, who was a disciple of Guru Kelucharan Mohapatra, has also been selected for the award, which is a one-time honor being conferred by the Akademi on 86 senior artistes under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to commemorate 75 years of India's Independence.

2 Nutrition Schemes for Pregnant Women, Girls & Children

- MukhyamantriSampoorna Pushti Yojana" (MSPY) and "Pada Pushti Karyakram "(PPK)
- The MSPY aims at providing nutritious dry food to pregnant women, post-natal women and girls of 15 to 19 years. Nutritious food for children having extreme nutrition deficiency and vitamin-enforcedChhatua (cereal) and eggs will be

supplied to moderately deficient and underweight children.

- Under PPK, nutritious cooked food will be supplied to tribal children living in remote and inaccessible areas of the state.

Kapdaganda Design of Dongria Groups in Odisha's Rayagada

- The art forms of Dongria Kondhs which once adorned the walls of their shrines of Niyam Raja and Dharanipenu are being promoted.
- The Kapdaganda shawl, unique to Dongria Kondh tribe, has reached the last leg of the race for Geographical Indications (GI) tag.
- In order to appease their gods and goddesses, the Dongria Kondhs draw these arts on the woven shawls and scarfs.
- particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG) who live in the Niyamgiri Hills of Rayagada and Kalahandi districts.

Prof Dipti Ranjan Sahoo, an engineering researcher from Odisha, has been selected for the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Awards for 2022

- 12 scientists from across the country who have been selected for the prestigious award. Sahoo has been nominated for the award in Engineering category.
- Serving as a Professor of Structural Engineering in the Department of Civil Engineering at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Delhi.
- He had passed Bachelor in Civil Engineering from Indira Gandhi Institute of Technology under Utkal University in Bhubaneswar in 2001 and then did his Master's degree in Structural Engineering from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)-Kanpur in 2003. He was awarded Doctorate degree in Civil Engineering by the institute in 2008.
- Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award is named after first Director General of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). The CSIR presents awards to scientists and researchers in seven categories every year.

Star Kishore Jena wins Gold in Indian GP5; Srabani Nanda tops 100M

- Kishore's best throw of 82.53 metres was good enough to fetch him gold medal at Chandigarh in the Indian Grand Prix 5. Odisha athlete Srabani Nanda finished first in the women's 100m.
- It will be an important race as the Indian relay team will look to qualify for the upcoming Huangzhou Asian Games.
- Fifth in the World Athletics Championships with a personal best effort of 84.77 metres at Budapest.

The Global Stainless-Steel Expo 2023 (GSSE 2023)

- The Odisha government has unveiled during the inauguration of the Global Stainless-Steel Expo 2023 (GSSE 2023) in Mumbai, an ambitious special subsidy scheme to boost the stainless-steel industry in the state & to become the 'Stainless Steel Destination' for the world.
- 20% Capital Investment Subsidy
- Electricity Duty Exemption
- ESI/EPF Reimbursement
- Land Allocation

Special Finance Assistance to Betel leaf, Kia Flower farmers

- In Puri & Ganjam, to include all the farmers concerned in a special scheme and provide financial assistance. Farmers with at least 2000 square meters of area will be considered eligible for the assistance.
- The farmers who have betel leaf farms will be given financial assistance of Rs 2500 per unit for its management. A farmer will get assistance for a maximum of two units.
- Wide awareness will be created regarding interest-free loans of up to Rs 1 lakh through Kishan Credit Card for betel leaf farming.
- Kia flower farmers of Ganjam will be promoted under the National Horticulture Mission.



OPSC Current Affairs

**NATIONAL**

PM Attends 20th Anniversary Celebration Of Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit Event

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, graced the occasion commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit.
- This prestigious event took place at Science City in Ahmedabad, a city that has witnessed the remarkable transformation of Vibrant Gujarat over the past two decades.

Goa hosted India's first lighthouse festival

- On September 23, India saw a historic occasion when the country's first-ever lighthouse festival lit up the scenic state of Goa.
- This festival, organized by the Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, is part of a broad goal: transforming 75 lighthouses around India into thriving tourism destinations.
- The Indian Lighthouse Festival in Goa, which began on September 23 and runs through September 25, is a huge step forward in the effort to resuscitate these historic landmarks and commemorate their cultural and historical value.

India marks a watershed moment when 75% of villages declare ODF Plus status

- Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, India's Jal Shakti minister, has claimed a huge milestone in the country's sanitation efforts.
- He said that 75% of Indian villages, totaling over 4.4 lakh, have achieved the coveted 'Open Defecation Free Plus' (ODF Plus) classification.
- This landmark represents an important step toward achieving the aims of the Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin's second phase by 2024-25.

The Prime Minister will launch 'Sankalp Saptah' on September 30, 2023,

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate a week-long initiative called 'Sankalp Saptah'.
- This bold plan is inextricably linked to the successful implementation of the Prime Minister's Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP), a statewide program introduced earlier this year.

- The primary purpose of this effort is to improve government at the block level, hence increasing inhabitants' quality of life.

India receives its first green hydrogen-powered bus that emits only water

- On September 25, 2023, the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) unveiled the nation's first green hydrogen-powered bus, marking a critical milestone in India's move to renewable energy.
- This ground-breaking program is an important step toward reducing the nation's reliance on fossil fuels while promoting environmentally friendly transportation options.

The "Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve" in MP is India's 54th Tiger Reserve

- Madhya Pradesh, which has the most tigers in the country, has established the 'Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve' to protect the big cats.
- The Madhya Pradesh government has revealed the Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve, the state's seventh and India's 54th tiger reserve. MP preserved its "tiger state" classification in the 2022 census, with the state's large cat population increasing to 785 from 526 in 2018. Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve has become Madhya Pradesh's sixth tiger reserve.
- The core area includes approximately 1,414 square kilometers in the tiger reserve and 925.12 square kilometers in the buffer zone.

What is the Women's Reservation Bill 2023?

- The Women Reservation Bill 2023, also known as the 128th Constitutional Amendment Bill or the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, has recently emerged as a focal point in Indian politics.
- This historic legislation intends to give women one-third of the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies seats.
- The bill's adoption, however, is contingent on the completion of a Census and a delimitation exercise, raising concerns about its timetable and ramifications for the 2018 elections.

UPAg: India's Revolutionary Unified Portal for Agricultural Statistics

- The government of India has introduced the UPAg (Unified Portal for Agricultural Statistics), which is a significant breakthrough for the country's agricultural sector.
- This ground-breaking effort aims to address the country's farming industry's complicated governance concerns.

India achieves milestone as the 13th Nation to issue Globally Recognized OIML Certificates

- In a significant development, India has joined the ranks of countries authorized to issue International Organisation of Legal Metrology (OIML) certificates.
- The announcement was made by the Union Consumer Affairs Ministry on September 14 in New Delhi, marking a pivotal moment in India's metrological capabilities.

President Droupadi Murmu launches Ayushman Bhav Campaign for Universal Health Coverage virtually

- President Droupadi Murmu launched the Ayushman Bhav campaign and the Ayushman Bhava webpage from the Raj Bhavan in Gandhinagar in a historic virtual ceremony, marking a key step toward achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in India.
- This program attempts to improve healthcare access and cost, particularly for underprivileged communities.

The Centre has approved a 10% reservation in medical education for students from government schools

- The Union Home Ministry has approved Puducherry's proposal to impose a 10% horizontal reservation for students graduating from government higher secondary institutions who plan to pursue undergraduate medical studies.
- This reservation policy, which takes effect immediately, will benefit students who have passed the NEET exam and finished their education in government schools beginning with standard one.

The ASI has launched the "Adopt a Heritage 2.0" campaign. App for Indian Heritage and e-permission gateway

- The ASI (Archaeological Survey of India) is planned to begin the "Adopt a Heritage 2.0" project on September 4, 2023, at the Samvet Auditorium, IGNC, New Delhi, to ensure the protection and enhancement of India's rich cultural history and invaluable cultural legacy.

The Cabinet has approved the PRIP scheme to support research and innovation

- The Union Health Ministry has launched an ambitious plan to increase pharmaceutical and medtech research and innovation.
- They have introduced the Promotion of Research and Innovation in the Pharma-MedTech Sector (PRIP) scheme, which has been approved by the Union Cabinet, to achieve this goal.
- The government launched the initiative earlier this month, believing that the Indian pharmaceutical industry has the ability to grow its current 3.4 percent share of the world market to 5% by 2030.

The largest indigenous nuclear power plant in India has begun operations

- In an important development for India's energy sector, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared that the 700 MW nuclear power facility in Kakrapar, Gujarat, has begun full operation.
- This landmark is a watershed point in India's goal for energy self-sufficiency and demonstrates the country's commitment to utilizing indigenous nuclear technology.

The Law Minister has launched Tele-Law 2.0.

- Access to justice is a fundamental right that every citizen, regardless of geographical location or socioeconomic class, should have.
- The Union Minister of Law and Justice recently unveiled Tele-Law 2.0, a revised version of the Tele-Law program, which is a key step toward accomplishing this goal.
- This initiative, run by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law & Justice, intends to deliver free legal aid to rural and neglected communities using video conferencing.

Education Minister grants Deemed University Status to NCERT

- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan stated on September 1 that the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has been designated as a deemed university, a significant development in the field of education.
- This historic statement was delivered in the national capital during a gathering marking NCERT's 63rd foundation day.

Arogya Maitri Cube, the world's first portable hospital, is unveiled in India

- India has unveiled the world's first movable disaster hospital, a ground-breaking facility comprised of 72 cubes that can be airlifted.
- This exceptional undertaking is part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's planned "Project BHISHM" (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri), which will be unveiled in February 2022.
- The initiative was formally launched during the MedTech Expo in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

The tallest Nataraja statue in the world has been placed at the G20 meeting venue

- A spectacular 27-foot-tall Nataraja monument depicting Lord Shiva in his cosmic dance greeted world leaders attending the G20 Summit.
- This magnificent artwork, made of ashtadhatu, an eight-metal alloy, weighs an incredible 18 tonnes, necessitating a transportation trailer outfitted with 36 tires for its journey to Delhi.
- This masterpiece was meticulously made by skilled artisans from Swamimalai in Tamil Nadu's Thanjavur region, skilfully integrating traditional and contemporary aspects while drawing inspiration from ancient Nataraja idols.

What does Vasudhaivakutumbakam imply in Hindi and English?

- The 18th G20 Summit, which will be held in New Delhi in 2023, will have a significant topic that will resonate strongly with the global world.
- "VasudhaivaKutumbakam," a motif originating from ancient Sanskrit literature, represents the essence of unity and connectivity

Government celebrates Sixth Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2023 in September

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development is celebrating the 6th Rashtriya Poshan Maah throughout September 2023. This year, the objective is to comprehensively tackle malnutrition through a life-cycle approach.
- The focal point of Poshan Maah 2023 is to cultivate widespread awareness concerning critical human life stages: pregnancy, infancy, childhood, and adolescence.
- The aim is to foster nutritional understanding across India through a theme centered on "Suposhit Bharat, Sakshar Bharat, Sashakt Bharat" (Nutrition-rich India, Educated India, Empowered India).

The portal "Bharat: The Mother of Democracy" was unveiled at the G20 Summit

- On the eve of the G20 leadership conference, the Ministry of Culture launched an impressive internet portal titled "Bharat: The Mother of Democracy."
- This portal is a comprehensive digital display depicting India's rich history of democracy, spanning an incredible 7,000 years - from the Sindhu-Saraswati civilization to the year 2019.

India received its first Airbus C295 plane

- The arrival of the first C295 aircraft in India marked an important milestone in the country's aviation history.
- This advancement is the product of a collaboration between the European aviation giant Airbus and the Indian conglomerate Tata Group, and it is the first time an Indian private company has manufactured an aircraft.

The Ministry of Railways has launched the 'Swachhata Pakhwada-2023' initiative

- In its ongoing dedication to cleanliness, India's Ministry of Railways has formally inaugurated the SwachhataPakhwada 2023 program.
- This campaign, which aims to promote cleanliness and environmental awareness, began on September 15th, 2023.

PM Modi officially opened the Yasho Bhoomi conference center

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled Phase 1 of the India International Convention and Expo Centre (IICC), suitably titled 'Yashobhoomi.'
- This cutting-edge facility, built at a cost of Rs 5,400 crore, seeks to reshape the worldwide landscape of meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibits (MICE).

The old Parliament Building will be renamed 'Samvidhan Sadan'

- As the Indian Parliament's proceedings move to a new, state-of-the-art facility, Prime Minister Narendra Modi revealed the new name for the previous Parliament building: "Samvidhan Sadan" or "Constitution House."
- This landmark tower, designed by British architects Sir Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker and completed in 1927, has witnessed some of India's most crucial occasions, including the

formulation and adoption of the country's constitution.

The Hoysala Temples have been designated as India's 42nd UNESCO World Heritage Site

- The Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala, which include the magnificent Hoysala temples of Belur, Halebid, and Somananthpura in Karnataka, have been inscribed on the World Heritage list of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
- This is India's 42nd UNESCO World Heritage Site, and it comes just one day after Rabindranath Tagore's Santiniketan gained the same honor.
- The temples were selected as India's World Heritage nominee for the years 2022-2023. Since April 15, 2014, the 'Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala' have been on UNESCO's Tentative list.
- All three Hoysala temples are already Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) protected sites.



INTERNATIONAL

India and the United Nations have launched a Global Capacity-building initiative

- In an unprecedented move, India and the United Nations have launched the "India-UN Capacity Building Initiative." This project aims to make it easier for India's development experiences, best practices, and expertise to be shared with partner countries in the Global South.
- The announcement of this initiative took place during the "India-UN for the Global South-Delivering for Development" event on September 23 in New York.
- The event was attended by prominent figures, including India's External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar, and Dennis Francis, President of the 78th General Assembly.

concentrated on other facets of bilateral collaboration.

Syria and China form Strategic Partnership

- China and Syria have formally announced the formation of a strategic alliance, a significant diplomatic move.
- This statement came during a meeting in Hangzhou, China, between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Syrian President Bashar Assad as the city prepared to host the Asian Games.
- The alliance shows China's expanding engagement with Middle Eastern countries and its desire to assert itself on the world stage.

Nepal and China Sign 12 Agreements: An In-Depth look at the visit's results

- Nepal's Prime Minister, Pushpa Kamal Dahal, recently returned from a week-long visit to China, where he was anticipated to discuss crucial matters such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), cross-border energy trade, and historic agreements.
- However, the agreements struck during this visit did not address these critical issues. Instead, they

Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger have signed the Alliance of Sahel States, a mutual defense treaty

- Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger have signed a mutual defense treaty known as the Alliance of Sahel States (AES) to confront the serious issue of jihadism in the Liptako-Gourma region.
- This historic pact intends to create a framework for collective defense and mutual assistance among these nations in order to defend their people from the growing threat of terrorism.



- In this section, we will look at the most important components of this advancement.

India-Canada relations strained over allegations of Sikh separatist involvement

- Canada's prime minister, Justin Trudeau, announced that there was "credible" information linking Indian government agents to the murder of a Sikh separatist leader in British Columbia.
- The announcement marks a significant worsening of bilateral ties.

G77+China Summit concludes with an emphasis on empowering Global South

- The two-day Summit of the G77+China recently concluded, marking a significant moment for the Global South's aspirations in the international governance system.
- This summit brought together delegations from over 100 nations, including more than 30 heads of state and government.
- The Group of 77 (G77), established in 1964, consists of over 130 member nations, with its leadership rotating among member nations in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.
- Notably, G77 member countries collectively represent over 80 percent of the world's population and comprise more than two-thirds of UN member nations.
- China, while not a member of the G77, has been actively cooperating and supporting the group's objectives within the framework of "G77+China."

The United States City of Louisville has designated September 3rd as Sanatana Dharma Day

- Mayor Craig Greenberg of Louisville, Kentucky, has established September 3 as Sanatana Dharma Day, emphasizing the importance of cultivating peace, tolerance, and understanding within diverse communities.
- Louisville Mayor Craig Greenberg recently attended a re-consecration ceremony or 'MahakumbhAbhishekam' at the Hindu Temple of Kentucky, where his deputy, Barbara Sexton Smith, read the official proclamation on September 3.
- Several spiritual luminaries and celebrities attended the occasion, including Chidanand Saraswati, president of Parmarth Niketan in Rishikesh, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, and Bhagawati Saraswati, as well as Lieutenant Governor

Jacqueline Coleman and Deputy Chief of Staff Keisha Dorsey.

- Previously, Kentucky designated July 20 as the 'Encyclopedia of Hinduism' day.

The United Kingdom has rejoined the European Union's Horizon Science Research Programme

- After a two-year stalemate on science funding following Brexit, the United Kingdom has opted to rejoin the European Union's Horizon science research program.
- Following the resolution of a trade dispute seven months previously, this step is considered as a significant development in bilateral relations between the UK and the EU.

What is Kampala Ministerial Declaration?

- The Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment, and Climate Change (KDMECC) is a significant agreement adopted by 48 African countries to address the complex relationship between human mobility and climate change.
- This declaration, initially signed by 15 African states in 2022, provides an action-oriented framework for member states to manage climate-induced migration effectively.

What is the intelligence alliance of the Five Eyes?

- The Five Eyes Intelligence Alliance, also known as the "Five Eyes," is a covert multinational intelligence alliance made up of five English-speaking countries.
- This alliance, formed in the aftermath of World War II, has played a critical role in establishing global intelligence and security strategy.
- The Five Eyes alliance originated as a post-war intelligence-sharing agreement between the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. Formed in 1946, its primary objective was to share signals intelligence (SIGINT) to counter the emerging Soviet threat during the Cold War.

Taliban seeks economic support and recognition from India ahead of Moscow Format Meeting

- Ahead of the upcoming Moscow format meeting in Kazan, Russia, the Taliban has called upon India for economic support and recognition.

- This development is significant in light of China's increased engagement with the Taliban and the recent appointment of a new Chinese Ambassador to Kabul.
- India has previously refused to recognize the Taliban's "Islamic Emirate" and has emphasized the importance of respecting human rights and protecting minority communities.
- This development comes ahead of the Moscow format discussion scheduled to be held in Kazan, Russia, on September 29, which holds regional significance.

The world's second-largest Hindu temple outside of India will be dedicated in the United States

- The Swaminarayan Akshardham temple in Robbinsville Township, New Jersey, is planned to open on October 8, 2023, in a historic moment for Hindu devotees and lovers of art and culture.
- It will be led by its spiritual leader, Mahant Swami Maharaj.
- This massive temple, built outside of India, is on track to become the world's second-largest Hindu temple, behind Cambodia's Angkor Wat.
- The Swaminarayan Akshardham, with its exquisite architecture, spiritual significance, and devotion to sustainability, is a testament to human dedication, tradition, and craftsmanship.

The I2U2 Group of India, Israel, the United Arab Emirates and the United States has announced a collaborative space venture

- India, Israel, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and the United States have announced an ambitious collaborative space enterprise called I2U2.
- This collaborative effort intends to develop a game-changing space-based tool with broad applicability for politicians, institutions, and entrepreneurs.
- The news comes on the heels of India's recent successful lunar mission, which marks an important milestone in the quartet's space research endeavors.

Singapore has surpassed Hong Kong as the world's freest economy

- Singapore has overcome Hong Kong to claim the title of the world's freest economy, thereby ending Hong Kong's 53-year tenure at the top.
- According to a report produced by the Canadian think tank Fraser Institute, this transition has occurred.

- For the first time, Hong Kong was ranked second in the Economic Freedom of the World Index, which has been measuring economic freedom since 1970.

President Biden of the United States has been invited to the Republic Day celebrations

- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi invited US President Joe Biden to be the primary guest at India's Republic Day celebrations next January 26.
- The invitation has been confirmed by US Ambassador Eric Garcetti, who stated that the US administration is considering it.
- President Biden is also slated to visit India for the Quad Summit in 2024, and efforts are underway to coordinate the summit with his travel.

What is the Mega Economic Corridor Project India-Middle East-Europe?

- During the G20 meeting, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a momentous announcement about the India-Middle East-Europe economic corridor, a groundbreaking program that aims to transform global trade and connectivity.
- The corridor, which will connect India, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, the European Union, Italy, Germany, and the United States, is set to be a monumental undertaking, surpassing even the legendary Silk and Spice routes of the past.

African Union becomes Permanent Member of G20 Under India's Presidency

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

Delhi in Dili: India to open Embassy in Timor-Leste

- During the annual ASEAN-India summit in Jakarta, Indonesia, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a significant announcement regarding India's diplomatic relations with Timor-Leste.
- India has decided to open an embassy in Timor-Leste, reflecting its commitment to strengthening

ties with the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) region.

Georgia has declared October to be "Hindu Heritage Month"

- In a landmark gesture, Governor Brian Kemp of the United States state of Georgia has designated

October to be 'Hindu Heritage Month' inside the state.

- Georgia joins numerous other states throughout the country in honoring and commemorating Hindu ancestry, culture, values, and customs through this proclamation.

ECONOMICS



What are Social Bonds?

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) recently issued its inaugural social bonds with a total size of Rs 1,040.50 crore.
- Social bonds, also known as social impact bonds and abbreviated as SIB, are the type of bond where the bond issuer is gathering funds for a project that has some socially beneficial implications.
- These bonds are designed to finance projects that address various social issues, such as healthcare, education, affordable housing, poverty alleviation, and environmental sustainability.
- The Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) in Maharashtra's Pune and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in 2020 co-created India's inaugural SIB.
- This is the first externally certified AAA-rated Indian Rupee-denominated SIB in the country. The bonds have been rated 'AAA' by CRISIL and ICRA.
- The base issue size of the social bonds was ₹1,000 crore, with an option to retain oversubscription up to ₹2,000 crore, thereby aggregating up to Rs 3,000 crore.
- The face value of each bond is ₹1 lakh.
- Maturity: 5 years
- Coupon Rate: 7.63 per cent.

Emerging Markets Bond Index

- JP Morgan Chase & Co. has announced that Indian government bonds would be included in its developing countries bond index beginning in June 2024.
- India's domestic bonds will be included in JP Morgan's Government Bond Index-Emerging Markets (GBI-EM).
- The GBI-EM Global Diversified Index (GBI-EM GD) is expected to have a maximum weight of 10%.
- The Emerging Markets Bond Index is a benchmark index used to assess the total return performance of international government and corporate bonds

issued by emerging market nations that meet certain liquidity and structural conditions.

- Emerging market bonds are debt securities issued by developing countries that often provide greater yields than developed-country government or corporate bonds.
- Basel-III Capital Framework : Reserve Bank Of India
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced new criteria for All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs) based on the Basel III capital framework, which will take effect in April 2024.
- Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard), National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID), National Housing Bank (NHB), and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) are the five AIFIs regulated by the RBI.

Bima Sugam

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) is developing the 'Bima Sugam' online platform, which is being billed as a 'game-changer' and a 'UPI moment' for the insurance industry.
- It will be a one-stop shop for all insurance-related needs, such as coverage, portability, agent changes, and claims.
- Buyers can acquire life, auto, or health insurance policies directly through web aggregators, brokers, banks, and insurance agents. Insurance firms will be key shareholders in the platform, which will provide services through a 'e-insurance account'.
- The platform's goals are to centralize data, make policy transfer easier, provide a diverse variety of policy options, eliminate intermediary commissions, and enable the acceptance of innovative products.
- Following delays from the original schedule, the launch date for Bima Sugam has been planned for June 2024.

Kisan Rin Portal

- The Finance and Agriculture Ministers will launch the 'Kisan Rin Portal'.
- Kisan Rin Portal assists farmers in obtaining subsidized loans through the Kisan Credit Card (KCC).
- It was created in partnership with several government agencies.
- It provides an in-depth look at farmer statistics, loan disbursement details, interest subvention claims, and scheme utilization trends.
- It promotes seamless connection with banks in order to provide more focused and efficient agricultural loans.

Serious Fraud Investigation Office

- Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO), arrested a Chartered Accountant in Hyderabad recently.
- Shri Nalin Prabhat Panchal, a Chartered Accountant by profession was arrested for failure to honour the summons issued in connection with the prosecution of Nityank Infrapower & Multiventures Private Limited.
- Ministry: Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- HQ: New Delhi.
- It is a multi-disciplinary organization, consisting of experts in the field of accountancy, forensic auditing, banking, law, information technology, investigation, company law, capital market and taxation, etc.
- It works for detecting and prosecuting or recommending for prosecution white-collar crimes/frauds.

The Ponzi Scheme

- An actor is being investigated for his alleged involvement in a Rs.1,000 crore Ponzi scam involving 2 lakh investors.
- A Ponzi scheme is a sort of investment fraud in which investors are promised enormous returns with little or no risk.
- These are investment operations that provide returns to existing investors from funds raised by new investors.
- It takes its name from Charles Ponzi, an Italian businessman who conducted a similar scheme in the 1920s.
- Ponzi schemes are not regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- Ponzi schemes are prohibited in India by the Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Act of 2019 and the Prize Chit and Money Circulation Schemes (Banning) Act of 1978.

I-CRR Discontinuation: RBI

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) declared that it would phase out the Incremental Cash Reserve Ratio (I-CRR).
- The central bank will gradually release the cash that banks have kept under I-CRR.
- The I-CRR will be phased out in stages to provide a seamless transition and to avoid abrupt shocks to the system's liquidity.
- 25% of each bank's impounded cash will be released in the first and second stages of the I-CRR reversal.
- In the third stage, the remaining 50% of the balance will be released.
- This methodical strategy is intended to ensure that banks have enough liquidity to handle increasing credit demand throughout the upcoming holiday season.

Overnight Index Swap

- Due to offshore payments and the triggering of stop losses, Indian overnight index swap (OIS) rates surged to their highest levels in ten months.
- Overnight Index Swap is a derivative instrument in which the returns on a fixed-rate asset are swapped against a predetermined published index of a daily overnight reference rate for a specified time period.
- An OIS's major function is to manage interest rate risk, namely the risk associated with swings in the overnight lending rate.
- Every day, an overnight index swap rate is calculated.
- This rate is based on the average interest rate that institutions with overnight loans have paid for that day.

17th Edition of ANUTEC

- At the 17th edition of ANUTEC - International FoodTec India, held in Mumbai, major industry and government representatives revealed a hopeful future for India's food processing sector.
- It is on a phenomenal growth trajectory, ready to become one of the nation's primary economic drivers.
- The food processing industry is an important part of the overall food supply chain.
- It entails converting raw agricultural and livestock products into processed and value-added food items fit for human consumption.
- This industry comprises a wide range of activities, technologies, and procedures aimed at making food safer, more convenient, and longer-lasting, while also improving flavor and nutritional content.

Eastern Economic Forum (EEF)

- The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways will attend the Eastern Economic Forum, which will be place in Vladivostok, Russia.
- The Eastern Economic Forum was founded in 2015 to help Russia's Far East's economic development and to expand international collaboration in the Asia-Pacific area.
- It is an important international venue for creating and strengthening relationships between the Russian and global investment groups.
- For a detailed expert assessment of the Russian Far East's economic potential, investment prospects, and business environment within advanced special economic zones.
- Interbank Call Money Market
- The RBI is likely to launch the pilot of central bank digital currency (CBDC) for transactions for interbank borrowing or call money market.
- Money Market basically refers to a section of the financial market where financial instruments with high liquidity and short-term maturities are traded.
- It includes buying and selling of securities of short-term maturities of one year or less, such as treasury bills and commercial papers.
- It is used by many participants, including companies, to raise funds.
- The money market is considered a safe place to invest due to the high liquidity of securities.
- Call Money is also referred to as the money at call.
- It is a short-term loan that is due to be paid immediately in full as and when demanded by the lender.

Fintech Self-Regulatory Organizations: RBI

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor recently urged fintech entities to establish Self-Regulatory Organizations (SROs) in the rapidly evolving fintech sector.
- Fintech Self-Regulatory Organizations (SROs):
- Financial technology or Fintech refers to innovative technologies designed to enhance and automate the delivery of financial services.
- Fintech encompasses technological advancements across various financial sectors, including retail banking, investments, and decentralized cryptocurrencies like DeFi, with a focus on improving financial literacy and education.
- An SRO is a non-governmental entity responsible for creating and enforcing industry-specific rules and standards.

The Nation's First Transit Card

- The State Bank of India has launched the 'Nation First Transit Card,' a RuPay prepaid instrument that works with the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) and may be used across the country.
- Nation First Transit Card intends to provide a seamless and convenient consumer commuting experience, as well as easy digital ticketing for payments in metro, buses, water ferries, parking, and other modes of transportation using a single card.
- Individuals can also use this card to make retail and e-commerce purchases.
- RuPay and National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) technology are used to power it.

What is the Impossible Trinity

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian investors are facing a challenge in overcoming the "impossible trinity".
- The impossible trinity, or the trilemma, refers to the idea that an economy cannot pursue independent monetary policy, maintain a fixed exchange rate, and allow the free flow of capital across its borders simultaneously.
- In a fixed exchange rate regime, the domestic currency is tied to another foreign currency such as the U.S. dollar, Euro, the Pound Sterling, or a basket of currencies.
- An able policymaker can, at best, achieve two of these three objectives at any given time.

One-Hour Trade Settlement: SEBI

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), which had in July announced it was working on launching real-time settlement of trades, is now planning to implement one-hour settlement of trades first.
- In one-hour settlement, if an investor sells a share, the money will be credited to their account in an hour, and the buyer will get the shares in their demat account within an hour.
- Settlement is a two-way process that involves the transfer of funds and securities on the settlement date.
- A trade settlement is said to be complete once purchased securities of a listed company are delivered to the buyer and the seller gets the money.
- The current cycle of T+1 means trade-related settlements happen within a day or 24 hours of the actual transactions.
- The migration to the T+1 cycle came into effect in January 2023.

What is a Currency Chest?

- Two complaints were recently filed after the RBI discovered counterfeit notes in the SBI cash chest in Kochi, Kerala.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) stores money for banks and ATMs in the Currency Chest.
- The RBI has given permission to a few scheduled banks to set up currency chests.
- The RBI has oversight power for the chests.
- They are inspected on a regular basis by RBI representatives.
- When the RBI prints fresh currency notes, they are first sent to currency vaults.
- The banks that hold the cash chests then deliver these notes to other banks.
- They serve as cash delivery points.

Personalised Adaptive Learning (PAL) is now available on DIKSHA Platform

- The National e-Governance Division (NeGD) intends to include Personalised Adaptive Learning (PAL) into the Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA) platform (Ministry of Education), with the goal of providing students with personalized learning experiences.
- Personalized Adaptive Learning (PAL) is an educational technique that employs technology, namely artificial intelligence (AI), to tailor learning experiences to individual students' needs, talents, and progress.
- PAL can give more difficult subject-related questions as well as supplementary resources and explanations for science topics.

GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENT



Galactic Tides

- The universe's galaxies, like the earth's oceans, experience tides, albeit on a much bigger scale.
- Galactic tides are tidal forces felt by objects subject to a galaxy's gravitational field, such as the Milky Way.
- They are created by gravitational forces that arise from interactions between celestial objects such as stars and gas clouds within a galaxy.
- These tidal forces have an impact on many elements of a galaxy's evolution.
- They have the ability to modify the structure of a galaxy by forming tidal tails and bridges, stimulating star formation, and disturbing smaller star systems.



2023 Annular Solar Eclipse

- The Annular solar eclipse will take place on October 14 and will be visible in various parts of the world.
- The annular solar eclipse is often known as the "ring of fire."
- This eclipse occurs when the moon is at or near the farthest point in its orbit from Earth.
- In the sky, the moon seems smaller than the sun and does not completely hide it, providing an eye-catching visual impact.



Mt. Semeru Volcano

- Mt. Semeru volcano in Indonesia's East Java province erupted
- Mt. Semeru volcano is an active volcano in East Java, Indonesia.
- It is located in a subduction zone, where the Indo-Australia plate subducts under the Eurasia plate.
- It is the highest mountain on the island of Java.

Morocco: Powerful Earthquake

- A powerful earthquake of magnitude 6.8 struck central Morocco, 72 kilometers southwest of Marrakesh.



- Morocco is a mountainous country in western North Africa that lies directly across the Strait of Gibraltar.
- It retains much of its ancient architecture and even more of its traditional customs.
- Morocco's largest city and major Atlantic Ocean port is Casablanca, an industrial and commercial centre.

Cirrus Clouds: New study

- A new study has found a significant statistical correlation between thunderstorms occurring around the world and the formation of wispy cirrus clouds, which might increase global warming.
- Cirrus Clouds are delicate, feathery clouds that are made mostly of ice crystals.
- They are thin and wispy in appearance, often appearing as delicate, high-altitude filaments or strands.
- Their wispy shape comes from wind currents, which twist and spread the ice crystals into strands.
- They are usually white or have a light grey colour. In the daytime, they are whiter than any other cloud in the sky.



Massive Flooding at the Sardar Sarovar Dam (SSD)

- The sudden release of enormous amounts of water from the Sardar Sarovar Dam (SSD) has caused catastrophic flooding in Narmada district low-lying areas.
- The Sardar Sarovar Dam (SSD) is a concrete gravity dam erected on the Narmada River in Gujarat's Narmada district in Kevadia.
- Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was the inspiration for the dam's name.
- It is the third-highest concrete dam in India, with a length of 1.2 km and a depth of 163 m, after Bhakra (226 meters) in Himachal Pradesh and Lakhwar (192 meters) in Uttar Pradesh.



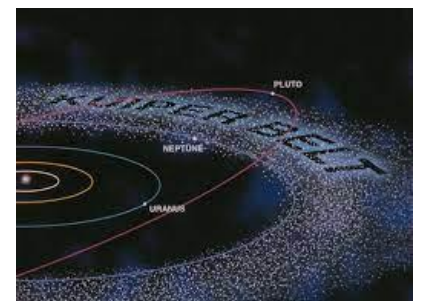
The Jhelum River's water level has dropped

- Due to the dry weather conditions in Kashmir Valley, the water level of the Jhelum and its tributaries has dropped dramatically.
- It is a river that runs between India and Pakistan.
- It is an Indus River tributary.
- The Jhelum (Vyeth in Kashmiri, Vetesta in Sanskrit, and Hydaspes in Greek) is the valley's principal stream.
- It is the largest and westernmost of Punjab's five rivers, flowing through the Jhelum District in Pakistan's Punjab province.
- Its source is the Verinag Spring in Anantnag, Kashmir Valley, at the foot of the Pir Panjal range.



The Kuiper Belt

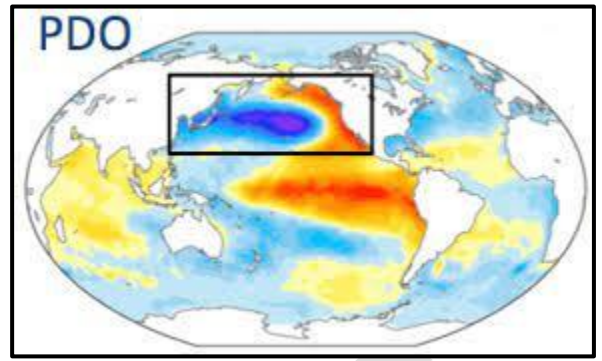
- Astronomers have just discovered persuasive evidence pointing to the presence of an Earth-like planet in our solar system's distant Kuiper Belt.
- The Kuiper Belt, also known as the Edgeworth-Kuiper belt, is a flat ring of tiny frozen planets that spin around the Sun beyond Neptune's orbit.
- It is named for Gerard Kuiper, a Dutch-American astronomer who proposed such a region in the 1950s.
- This belt contains millions of these ice objects known as Kuiper Belt objects (KBOs) or trans-Neptunian objects (TNOs).



The Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO)

- A new study found that a cyclical phenomenon known as the Pacific Decadal Oscillation, which occurs every 20-30 years, could increase the frequency of cyclones that form near the Equator in the coming years.
- The Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) is a long-term change in the Pacific Ocean.
- Steven Hare of the University of Washington created the term PDO around 1996.

- Only after several years of measuring ocean temperatures and their interactions with the atmosphere will it be known.
- Approximately every 20 to 30 years, the PDO waxes and wanes.
- Scientists can establish whether we are in a 'cool' or a 'warm' phase based on ocean surface topography data and other ocean and atmospheric data.



Nishimura Comet

- According to NASA, there is a strong chance that Comet Nishimura will be visible to the naked eye this week.
- Hideo Nishimura, an amateur astronaut, found Comet Nishimura in mid-August using 30-second pictures with a common digital camera.
- Since then, the comet, formally known as C/2023 P1 Nishimura, has grown brighter as it moved through the inner solar system.
- Because the comet is angularly close to the Sun, it will only be visible early before sunrise or late before sunset.
- Currently, the comet is in the constellation Leo.
- Every 435 years, it completes an orbit around the Sun.



Zealandia has been discovered

- Geoscientists recently discovered Zealandia, a continent that has been lurking in plain sight for about 375 years.
- Zealandia is a long, narrow microcontinent buried in the South Pacific Ocean.
- It is situated in the southwestern Pacific Ocean, largely east of Australia and south of New Caledonia. It includes the countries of New Zealand and New Caledonia.
- Zealandia, or Te Riu-a-Mui in Mori, was a member continent of the ancient supercontinent Gondwana, which also contained Western Antarctica and Eastern Australia 500 million years ago.
- Around 105 million years ago, it began to "pull away" from Gondwana.



The Super Blue Moon has been observed on 30 Aug 2023

- The night sky was lighted by a rare sight on August 30, 2023: a super blue moon. However, contrary to its moniker, this full moon was neither blue nor super-sized.
- According to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the last blue supermoon occurred in 2009, and the next is not expected until 2037.
- A superblue moon is a supermoon combined with a blue moon.
- This alignment, called perigee, contrasts with apogee, when the moon is farthest in its elliptical orbit around Earth. While the difference is subtle, near the horizon, an optical illusion can make it seem larger.
- A supermoon happens when the moon's orbit brings it into close proximity to Earth, making it appear larger and brighter.



Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve: Big Cat Habitat Protection

- The Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve became the seventh protected habitat for big cats in Madhya Pradesh.
- Madhya Pradesh, regarded as India's "tiger state" due to its large tiger population, has formally created a new protected area for these majestic beasts known as the 'Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve.'
- This recently constructed reserve is the state's sixth tiger reserve.

- Madhya Pradesh has continually held the title of "tiger state," with its tiger population expanding from 526 in 2018 to 785 in 2022, according to the census.
- The buffer zone of the Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve includes the previously established eco-sensitive zones of the Nauradehi and Veerangana Durgavati sanctuaries, as well as nearby forest regions.

2023 State of the Rhino Report

- According to the International Rhino Foundation's (IRF) State of the Rhino Report, 2023, the greater one-horned rhino population in India and Nepal is rising.
- While poaching and habitat loss continue to be major concerns to rhinos worldwide, climate change is also having an impact on their survival.
- Collaboration between India, Bhutan, and Nepal, combined with tight government protection and administration, has resulted in a 20% growth in population over the last decade. It is believed that 3,262 rhinos live in India.
- Despite hunting, black rhino populations are rising.
- South Africa, on the other hand, is dealing with terrible poaching losses of its white rhinos, particularly in certain areas.

Summit on Climate Ambition 2023

- The United Nations Climate Ambition Summit (CAS), held on September 20, 2023, at United Nations Headquarters in New York, sought to accelerate climate action as a precursor to the 28th Conference of Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- The Climate Ambition Summit (CAS) is a well-known international gathering that addresses the serious issue of climate change.
- The CAS is intended to highlight "first mover and doer" leaders from government, business, finance, local governments, and civil society who arrived with genuine actions, policies, and plans - not just commitments - to accelerate the global economy's decarbonization and provide climate justice.

Polyethylene Terephthalate

- A new deep-sea enzyme that can break down Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) has just been found by researchers.
- The most widely used thermoplastic polymer in the world is polyethylene terephthalate (PET).
- It is a member of the polyester family.
- PET is made by polymerizing ethylene glycol and terephthalic acid.
- When ethylene glycol and terephthalic acid are heated together in the presence of chemical catalysts, they generate PET in the form of a molten, viscous material that can be spun directly into fibers or solidified for further processing as plastic.
- In its natural condition, it is a very flexible, colorless, semi-crystalline resin.

Sea Urchins: Mass death

- The beautiful coral reefs of the Red Sea are facing a new peril, according to marine biologists: a mass death of sea urchins caused by an unknown disease.
- Sea urchins are marine invertebrates known as echinoderms, which means "spiny-skinned animals."
- It also includes well-known aquatic organisms such as starfish and sea cucumbers.
- Sea urchins have spherical to somewhat flattened, spiky bodies and can be found in oceans all over the world, from shallow coastal waters to deep-sea habitats.
- They reside on the ocean floor, mainly on hard surfaces, and move around using tube feet or spines.
- *Sperostomaganteum* in deep waters near Japan is the largest urchin (known from a single specimen).

Indian-Spot Billed Duck: Spotted

- An Indian spot-billed with pale plumage was sighted at Manickapuram tank in Tiruppur district, Tamil Nadu, recently.
- Indian-Spot Billed Duck is a large dabbling duck that is a non-migratory breeding duck throughout freshwater wetlands in the Indian subcontinent.
- The name is derived from the red spot at the base of the bill that is found in the mainland Indian population.
- Scientific Name: *Anas poecilorhyncha*
- It is a resident throughout Pakistan and India in freshwater wetlands.

- They inhabit both inland and coastal wetlands such as ponds, lakes, pools, streams, creeks, estuaries, tidal flats and marshes.
- They tend to avoid very large patches of open water and prefer medium-sized wetlands with vegetation cover.

Artificial Reef (AR)

- To promote sustainable practices, the Department of Fisheries has sanctioned 732 artificial reef units for ten coastal states as a sub-activity under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)'s "Integrated Modern Coastal Fishing Villages" program.
- A man-made structure that mimics some of the characteristics of a natural reef is known as an artificial reef (AR).
- These are engineering technology treatments that include habitat enhancement to rehabilitate and/or improve natural habitats, increase productivity, and manage aquatic resources (FAO, 2015).
- Rocks, cinder blocks, and even wood and old tires have been used to build artificial reefs, which come in an unlimited number of shapes and patterns.

Carrying Capacity Assessment

- Carrying Capacity Assessment is a tool for promoting sustainable tourism in mountainous terrain. It emphasizes the global expansion of tourism and its effects, both positive and negative, on hilly regions.
- The carrying capacity of a tourist location refers to the greatest number of people that may be accommodated without negatively impacting the environment or the quality of visitor satisfaction.

Pterygotriglaintermedica: A new marine Fish species

- The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) has identified a new species of bright orange deep-water marine fish in Digha Mohana, West Bengal.
- Pterygotriglaintermedica, often known as gurnards or sea-robins, is a member of the Triglidae family.
- It is the fourth species of the Pterygotrigla genus to be reported in India, while the Triglidae family contains a total of 178 species globally.
- This fish's specimens were discovered to be considerably different from other gurnad species in several ways, including snout length, a form of the internuncial area, and size of the cleithral spine.

Mithun: Food Animal Tag

- Mithun from the Northeast has been designated a 'food animal' by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- The Mithun (*Bos frontalis*) is thought to be a descendant of the Indian Gaur or bison.
- It is vital to the socioeconomic and cultural lives of tribes in Arunachal Pradesh such as the Nyishi, Apatani, Galo, and Adi.
- It is found in Northeast India, Bangladesh, northern Myanmar, and Yunnan Province, China.
- It is referred to as the 'cattle of the mountain'.
- Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland have gayals as their state animals.

Green Nudge

- A Chinese study has shed light on the environmental benefits of applying "green nudges" in online food delivery systems.
- Green nudges are interventions that urge people to act in more environmentally friendly ways.
- They are a novel policy tool aimed at encouraging pro-environmental behavior.
- This simple tweak resulted in a 648% rise in no-cutlery orders by defaulting to "no disposable cutlery" and awarding consumers with "green points," offering potential benefits for both the environment and consumer behavior.
- Over the course of 18 months in Shanghai, the study calculated that more than 225.33 million sets of single-use cutlery (SUCs) were decreased, potentially eliminating 4,506.52 metric tonnes of garbage and conserving 56,333 trees.

Amrit Brikshya Andolan: Government of Assam

- The Assam government launched the "Amrit BrikshyaAndolan" initiative, which aimed to increase the state's green cover by planting seedlings, especially of commercial trees.
- During this major tree-planting initiative, the campaign aimed to break nine world records.

- The campaign's major goal was to plant one million saplings across Assam, involving thousands of volunteers from various districts of the state.
- The Assam government plans to plant eight crore seedlings in 2024 and another ten crore saplings in 2025.

Tungreshwar Wildlife Sanctuary is a wildlife sanctuary in India

- The 4.6 km long underground tunnel for traversing the Tungreshwar Wildlife Sanctuary was recently constructed as part of the Surya Regional Water Supply Project.
- Tungreshwar Wildlife Sanctuary is located in Maharashtra's Palghar district, 75 kilometers from Mumbai.
- It connects Sanjay Gandhi National Park with Tansa Wildlife Sanctuary.
- It's known for its mountainous topography, lush forests, and little rivers or streams.
- Forests are classified into three types: dry deciduous, moist deciduous, and semi-evergreen.

World Ozone Day 2023

- Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) recently celebrated the 29th World Ozone Day.
- World Ozone Day or International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer, is observed annually on September 16.
- It is celebrated every year to spread awareness among people about the depletion of the Ozone Layer and the measures taken/ to be taken to preserve it.
- The theme for World Ozone Day 2023 is "Montreal Protocol: fixing the ozone layer and reducing climate change".

2023 International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) Day

- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) celebrated International Coastal Clean-up (ICC) Day, 2023 on September 16, 2023, across all Coastal States and UTs.
- Since 2006, the day has been observed yearly on the third Saturday of September under the auspices of the UNEP and the South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) (in the South Asian Region).
- This year, Maharashtra had the biggest number of volunteers, followed by Tamil Nadu.
- The Coast Guard Act of 1978 established the ICG as an autonomous Armed Force of India in August 1978.
- The idea for the ICG arose after the 1971 conflict, and the model for a multifunctional Coast Guard was devised by the visionary Rustamji Committee (1974).

Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary

- India is preparing to bring in a new batch of cheetahs from South Africa for the Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh.
- Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary is located on the northern border of the Madhya Pradesh districts of Mandasaur and Nimach.
- It covers an area of 368.62 km² (142.32 sq mi) and borders Rajasthan state.
- It is located in the ecoregion of Khathiar-Gir dry deciduous forest.

The world's most invasive species: Red Fire Ants

- According to a new study, the red fire ant, one of the world's most invasive species, has been discovered for the first time in Europe.
- Red Fire Ants, often known as fire ants, are stinging ants native to South America.
- *Solenopsis invicta* is the scientific name for this plant.
- They are well-known for their aggressiveness, harsh stings, and high colony sizes. Crops and local ecosystems can also be harmed by the ants.
- They have a coppery head and are reddish-brown to reddish-black in color.

Wetland Bhoj

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has ordered the Madhya Pradesh government to halt the operation of cruise ships and other motorized boats in the Bhoj wetland.
- The upper and lower lakes of the Bhoj wetland are continuous human-made ponds located in the city of Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- The upper lake is referred to as Bhojtal (Bada Talaab), while the lower lake is referred to as Chhota Talaab.
- The lakes are abundant in biodiversity, especially macrophytes, phytoplankton, and zooplankton.

- It is home to around 15 different types of fish as well as other endangered species such as turtles, amphibians, and aquatic invertebrates.
- In 2002, it was recognized as a Ramsar site.

Second Berlin Chemicals and Sustainability Forum

- The Union Minister for Environment, Forests, and Climate Change took part in a virtual 'High Level Dialogue on Human Health and Environment' as part of the 2nd Berlin Forum on Chemicals and Sustainability- Just Transition Towards a Pollution-Free Planet
- The conference aims to create a global awareness of major issues in chemical and waste management while also giving critical political guidance.
- The 2nd Berlin Forum on Chemicals and Sustainability is a high-level gathering aimed at providing political guidance and momentum on significant international issues and priorities related to chemical and waste management.
- The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety, and Consumer Protection (BMU) organized it.

Mosquitoes can be controlled using Genetic Engineering

- To genetically alter mosquitoes, gene-drive technology has been employed in outdoor but controlled environments in India, Brazil, and Panama.
- Imperial College London scientists genetically modified a gene expressed in the midgut of mosquitoes to emit two antibacterial compounds known as magainin 2 and melittin.
- They are harmful to the growth of the Plasmodium parasite in the midgut and shorten the longevity of female mosquitoes.
- According to computational modeling studies, this strategy could drastically hinder malaria transmission.

One Sun, One World, One Grid Initiative

- In New Delhi, a one-day symposium on "Transnational Grid Interconnections for One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG)" was recently held.
- The Prime Minister of India proposed the OSOWOG project during the First Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) in October 2018.
- The effort seeks to link energy supply across boundaries.
- It intends to connect many regional grids via a single grid that will be utilized to transfer renewable energy power and therefore realize the potential of renewable energy sources, particularly solar energy.
- The project is being led by the governments of India and the United Kingdom, in collaboration with the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the World Bank Group.

Global Biofuels Alliance

- India's Prime Minister announced the formation of the Global Biofuels Alliance.
- The Global Biofuels Alliance is an initiative led by India to form an alliance of governments, international organizations, and industry to promote the use of biofuels.
- So far, 19 countries and 12 international organizations, including both G20 members and non-members, have decided to join the alliance.
- The alliance's original members are India, Brazil, and the United States.
- This Alliance will promote collaboration and the increased use of sustainable biofuels, notably in the transportation sector.

2023 Africa Climate Summit

- President William Ruto reminded us of the critical need for regional and global action while launching the Africa Climate Summit, 2023 (ACW23) on September 4, 2023, in Nairobi, Kenya.
- The Africa Climate Summit 2023 took place from September 4th to September 6th, 2023.
- Nairobi, Kenya (Africa) is the location.
- The summit's goal is to address the growing vulnerability to climate change and its related costs, both internationally and specifically in Africa.
- Leaders will be asked to make bold pledges and commitments during the Africa Climate Summit.
- To lead these initiatives, a complete "Pledging and Commitment Framework" will be developed.

Electric Tractor CSIR PRIMA ET11

- The CSIR PRIMA ET11 is a tiny, 100% pure electric tractor that was designed in-house. (First-ever Electric Tractor) It has a towing capacity of 8 tons and a top speed of 25 miles per hour. (From the tractor industry)
- The goal is to serve India's small and marginal farmers.
- It meets the needs of agricultural field applications.
- Its dynamics, weight distribution, transmission engagements, and lever and pedal position are all carefully thought out.
- All of the levers, switches, and other controls have been repositioned to make it more appealing to women.

Air Quality Life Index: Report

- The recently released Air Quality Life Index (AQLI) report suggests that air pollution shortens the lives of the residents of Delhi by around 11.9 years.
- On account of the number of people that high particulate matter levels affect in India, the country faces the greatest health burden from air pollution among all the countries in the world.
- In South Asia, particulate pollution has increased by 9.7 percent from 2013 to 2021.
- In India, 5 levels rose 9.5 percent.
- Particulate matter (PM): particles found in the air, including dust, dirt, soot, smoke, and liquid droplets that remain suspended in the air for long periods of time.
- According to PM2.5 data for 2021 derived from satellites, pollution in India has increased from 56.2 µg/m³ in 2020 to 58.7 µg/m³ in 2021.
- This is more than 10 times the WHO guideline of 5 µg/m³.

GRIHA Norms

- GRIHA-IV (Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment) standards are being developed by the Indian Army's new Thal Sena Bhawan (TSB).
- The word GRIHA standards stand for Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment. GRIHA is a Sanskrit word that means 'Abode'.
- It is a rating tool that allows individuals to compare the performance of their building to nationally accepted benchmarks.
- It assesses a building's environmental performance holistically over its full life cycle, establishing a comprehensive criterion for what defines a "green building."
- Based on acknowledged energy and environmental principles, the grading system will strive to achieve a balance between current practices and emergent concepts, both national and worldwide.
- It is developed by TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute).

Caribbean False Mussel

- The spread of an invasive species, the Caribbean false mussel (*Mytilopsis salsalei*), is wiping out native clams and oysters in Kerala, according to a new assessment from the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).
- The Caribbean false mussel is native to South and Central America's Atlantic and Pacific shores.
- It could have arrived at the Indian coast via ballast waters, which are seawater that ships hold inside for stability, and then spread to the estuaries by smaller fishing vessels.
- This invasive species has spread from Thiruvananthapuram to Kasaragod estuaries.

5th Regional Meeting of ISA

- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) held its 5th regional meeting in Kigali, Rwanda.
- Nine solar power demonstration projects across three countries: 4 in Uganda, 2 in Comoros and 3 in Mali, were virtually inaugurated in the meeting.
- During the meeting, a report titled "Roadmap of Solar Energy for Universal Energy Access", was unveiled.
- The report outlines a strategic approach to effectively and economically tackle the global energy access challenge using solar-powered solutions.
- It encompasses case studies, real-world examples, and innovative policies aimed at bringing about a transformative shift in the implementation of solar mini-grids.
- The report's conclusions hold significant relevance for Africa, especially the Sub-Saharan region and rural areas.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



Google is celebrating its 25th anniversary

- The search engine giant Google is celebrating its 25th birthday with a special Google Doodle.
- While the organization is always looking forward, anniversaries such as birthdays provide an opportunity for reflection.
- This article delves into Google's origins, evolution, and ongoing purpose to organize the world's information for universal accessibility and utility.

The Next Pandemic: Disease X Poses as a Global Threat

- Global health specialists are warning of a potential global pandemic known as "Disease X," which might outlive COVID-19 and take the lives of more than 50 million people.
- They warn that COVID-19 could be a prelude to more lethal pandemics in the future.

NASA's largest sample ever landed in the Utah desert

- A NASA capsule arrived in the Utah desert, transporting the largest asteroid samples ever collected to Earth, capping out a seven-year journey.
- Scientists have high hopes for the sample, saying it would help them understand how our solar system formed and how Earth became livable.
- The Osiris-Rex mission landed on the asteroid Bennu four years after its launch in 2016 and collected almost nine ounces (250 grams) of dust from its rocky surface.
- According to NASA, even this small amount will "help us better understand the types of asteroids that could threaten Earth" and shed light "on the earliest history of our solar system."

September Equinox 2023: Date, Time and Significance

- September Equinox 2023
- On Saturday, 23rd September 2023, at 12:20 IST (06:50 UTC), people around the world witnessed an astronomical event known as the September Equinox. September Equinox is also known as Fall Equinox. This significant event marks the transition from summer to fall in the Northern Hemisphere and from winter to spring in the Southern Hemisphere.

What is September Equinox?

- The September Equinox occurs in September every year when day and night are nearly equal in length worldwide.
- It marks the start of autumn in the Northern Hemisphere and spring in the Southern Hemisphere. This astronomical event is caused by Earth's tilt.

Titled Earth's Role

- This north-south movement of the subsolar point occurs because Earth's axis is titled at an angle of approximately 23.4 degrees concerning the ecliptic plane, an imaginary plane defined by Earth's orbit around the Sun. This title is the reason for the changing seasons.

What is Equinox?

- On the days of the equinoxes (March and September), Earth's axis aligns perpendicular to the Sun's rays, causing all regions on Earth to receive roughly the same amount of sunlight.
- This alignment results in nearly equal lengths of day and night everywhere, hence the name "equinox," derived from the Latin words "aequus" (equal) and "nox" (night).
- **Equinox:** While equinoxes are often thought of as having exactly 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of darkness, this is not entirely accurate.
- The equinox, a term used in astronomy, refers to the days when day and night are actually of equal length.
- The equinox typically occurs a few days before or after the equinox due to factors like atmospheric refraction.

The Rafflesia genus, the world's largest flower, is on the verge of extinction

- An international consortium of scientists, including botanists from Oxford's Botanic Garden, has issued a grave call to action to rescue the renowned genus, Rafflesia.
- Because of habitat destruction and a lack of protection, these extraordinary plants, famed for their huge, foul-smelling flowers, are under significant threat. A new study provided light on Rafflesia's perilous situation, advocating prompt conservation actions to prevent extinction.
- Rafflesia, sometimes known as the "corpse flower," is a botanical mystery that has captivated scientists for ages.

- It is a parasitic plant that infects tropical vines in Southeast Asia's jungles. Rafflesia spends most of its existence concealed within its host plant as a network of thread-like filaments.
- However, at random intervals, it develops a gigantic, five-lobed blossom up to a meter across.
- To attract pollinators, this flower generates a foul odor reminiscent of rotting meat.

Amazon Web Services (AWS) collaborates with ISRO to improve AI capabilities using cloud technologies

- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe) have signed a strategic Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Amazon Web Services (AWS), a prominent participant in the cloud computing market.
- This alliance intends to boost space-tech advances via cloud computing, thereby opening up new opportunities in the space sector.

An Introduction to Scrub Typhus

- Scrub typhus, often known as bush typhus, is caused by the bacterium *Orientia tsutsugamushi*.
- It is spread to people through the biting of infected chigger larvae, which mature into mites.
- This page takes an in-depth look into scrub typhus, including its causes, symptoms, treatment, consequences, prevention, and geographical spread.

On Mars, NASA's MOXIE successfully generates oxygen

- The Mars Oxygen In-Situ Resource Utilization Experiment, or MOXIE, has accomplished an amazing accomplishment by creating 122 grams of oxygen, which is enough to keep a small dog breathing for roughly 10 hours.
- This small, microwave-sized gadget has an astonishing capability: it can turn the tenuous and hostile Martian atmosphere into critical, life-sustaining oxygen.

Nishimura Green Comet

- A newly discovered green comet is zipping by Earth and is now visible for the first time in more than 400 years. Comet Nishimura was discovered by amateur Japanese astronomer Hideo Nishimura on August 11 and named after him.
- Nishimura first spotted it by taking long exposure shots using a Canon digital camera and a telephoto lens.

What is a green comet?

- When our solar system first formed, huge amounts of debris were left over.
- So, what we see as a comet is a chunk of dirty ice that remains from that time.
- Comets typically stay far away from the sun, frozen and impossible for us to see. But every once in a while, one will come in toward the sun.
- As the heat from the sun begins to evaporate the icy material that makes up the comet, the dirt and dust inside gets freed, leaving behind the tail of the comet, which is what we see from Earth.
- In the age of automated telescopes, Nishimura's discovery is quite the feat.

Japan launches 'moon sniper' lunar lander SLIM into space

- Japan has launched "moon sniper" its lunar exploration spacecraft aboard a homegrown H-IIA rocket, clearing a path to become the world's fifth country to land on the moon early next year.
- Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) said the rocket took off from Tanegashima Space Center in southern Japan as planned and successfully released the Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM). Japan aims to land SLIM within 100 metres of its target site on the lunar surface.
- The \$100-million mission is expected to reach the moon by February.
- The launch comes two weeks after India became the fourth nation to successfully land a spacecraft on the moon with its Chandrayaan-3 mission to the unexplored lunar south pole.
- Two earlier lunar landing attempts by Japan failed in the last year.

ISRO Aditya L1 Mission Launched

- ISRO Aditya L1 mission was launched successfully on September 2, 2023 at 11:50 AM IST from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, India.
- The mission is India's first dedicated solar mission and will study the Sun's atmosphere, including the chromosphere and corona. It will also study the solar wind and its interaction with the Earth's atmosphere.
- The Aditya L1 spacecraft is a 1.5-ton satellite that is equipped with seven payloads.
- The payloads will study the Sun's atmosphere using a variety of methods, including remote sensing and in-situ measurements.
- The spacecraft will be placed in a halo orbit around the Sun-Earth Lagrange Point 1 (L1), which is located about 1.5 million kilometers from Earth.

- The Aditya L1 mission is expected to last for five years. During this time, it will collect valuable data about the Sun that will help scientists to better understand its behavior and its impact on Earth.
- ISRO Aditya L1 Vs. NASA Parker Solar Probe Their Sun's Study Mission
- India's Aditya L1 and NASA's Parker Solar Probe are both pioneering solar missions aiming to unravel the secrets of the Sun. While their objectives align, they differ in approach, technology, and proximity to the Sun. This article presents a detailed comparison of these two remarkable missions.

ISRO Aditya L1 Vs. NASA Parker Solar Probe: Mission Overview

Aditya L1: India's Solar Mission

- **Launch Date:** Scheduled for September 2, via ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV C-57).
- **Orbit:** Positioned at the L1 Lagrange point, 1.5 million kilometers from Earth, ensuring uninterrupted solar observation.
- **Objective:** Dedicated to studying the Sun's activities and potential impacts on Earth's technology.
- **Instruments:** Carries seven specialized instruments to capture images, analyze particles, measure magnetic fields, and study the Sun's layers.
- **Parker Solar Probe: NASA's Solar Endeavor**
- **Launch Date:** Launched in 2018.
- **Orbit:** Orbits within 3.9 million miles of the Sun's surface, venturing into the scorching corona.
- **Objective:** Study the solar corona, solar wind, high-energy particles, and understand solar dynamics and space weather.
- **Instruments:** Equipped with four scientific instruments focusing on magnetic fields, plasma, energetic particles, and solar wind imaging.
- **Proximity to the Sun: A Key Contrast**
- **Aditya L1:** Positioned strategically at the L1 Lagrange point, offering continuous observation from a distance.
- **Parker Solar Probe:** Unprecedentedly close to the Sun's surface, within the corona, enduring extreme heat and radiation for direct data collection.

- Differences in Payloads

Aditya L1's Payloads

- **VELC:** Captures images and spectral data of the solar corona, providing insights into its temperature, velocity, and density.
- **SUIT:** Offers high-resolution imagery of the photosphere and chromosphere, aiding in understanding these essential solar layers.
- **SoLEXS:** Observes soft X-rays, revealing surface activity on the Sun.
- **HEL1OS:** Provides crucial hard X-ray data for insights into high-energy solar phenomena.
- **ASPEX:** Enables in-situ analysis of solar wind particles, particularly protons and heavier ions.
- **PAPA:** Analyzes electrons and heavier ions in the solar wind through in-situ observations.
- **Advanced Tri-axial High-Resolution Digital Magnetometers:** Measures magnetic fields in the solar corona.
- **Parker Solar Probe's Payloads**
- **FIELDS:** Studies magnetic fields.
- **ISIS:** Investigates plasma.
- **WISPR:** Images the solar wind.
- **SWEAP:** Analyzes solar wind electrons, alphas, and protons.
- **ISRO Aditya L1 Vs. NASA Parker Solar Probe: Mission Objectives**
- **Aditya L1:** Continuous monitoring from a distance to provide insights into solar activities and their potential impacts on Earth's technology.
- **Parker Solar Probe:** Close encounters yield insights into solar wind acceleration, aiding predictions of satellite and communication system disruptions.
- **Solar Mission Landscape**
- Several other space agencies, including ESA, Japan, China, and Russia, have contributed to solar exploration.
- In 2018, NASA launched the Parker Solar Probe in collaboration with ESA, aiming to make direct contact with the Sun's corona.
- The 'Solar Orbiter', a joint effort between NASA and ESA launched in 2020, aims to enhance understanding of the Sun's influence on space.

DEFENCE AND SECURITY



The 13th Indo-Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference will be held in New Delhi

- The 13th Indo-Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference (IPACC) was held in New Delhi on September 26 and 27, 2023, at the Manekshaw Centre.
- The Indian Army and the US Army Pacific co-hosted this biennial event, which brought together army chiefs from 30 Indo-Pacific states to discuss security cooperation, collective strategy, and critical regional concerns.

The Indian Air Force received its first C-295 aircraft

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh formally inducted the first C-295 medium tactical transport aircraft into the Indian Air Force (IAF) arsenal on a historic day in the IAF's history.
- This historic occasion was seen by Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari and other high military personnel in Ghaziabad.
- The C-295 aircraft is an important improvement for the IAF, providing mobility and modern capabilities for a variety of tasks.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh officially opened the Bharat Drone Shakti 2023 exhibition

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will open the Bharat Drone Shakti 2023 display at Ghaziabad's Hindan Air Base.
- Along with the show, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will formally induct the C-295 cargo plane into the Indian Air Force.
- This historic ceremony will be attended by key military authorities, including IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari.

19th edition of YUDH ABHYAS to be conducted in Alaska

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

Indian Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has officially approved the indigenous Dhruvastra Missile

- In a significant development, India's Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has given the green light to several capital acquisition proposals, including the indigenous Dhruvastra short-range air-to-surface missile.
- This precision-guided weapon is designed for deployment on the indigenously built DHRUV MK-IV helicopters and is poised to elevate India's combat capabilities against enemy tanks and armored vehicles significantly.

P-7 Heavy Drop Parachute System: A game changer for India's Armed Forces

- India's defense capabilities received a significant boost with the development of the P-7 Heavy Drop Parachute System, an indigenous marvel designed to enhance the paradropping capabilities of the country's Armed Forces.
- This innovative system, entirely developed within India, promises to revolutionize the way military stores are paradropped on the battlefield.

SWAVLAMBAN-2023, 2nd Edition of the Indian Navy's Naval innovation and indigenisation Seminar

- The Indian Navy is preparing to conduct the second edition of the Naval Innovation and Indigenisation (NIIO) Seminar, dubbed 'Swavlamban 2023,' on the 4th and 5th of October 2023.
- This event follows the inaugural seminar, which took place in July 2022 and marked a critical milestone in the Navy's pursuit for innovation and self-sufficiency.

Coastal Security Drill 'Operation Sajag' conducted by Indian Coast Guard along the West Coast

- 'Operation Sajag,' a comprehensive drill was conducted by the Indian Coast Guard along the west coast on September 18, 2023. It is a significant event in the realm of coastal security.
- This operation involves all stakeholders in the coastal security construct and plays a pivotal role in revalidating the coastal security mechanism

while enhancing awareness among fishermen operating at sea.

BAE Systems and L&T Partner to bring All-Terrain Vehicles to India

- A ground-breaking partnership between global defense and security firm BAE Systems and India's Larsen & Toubro (L&T) is expected to transform the Indian defense environment.
- The collaboration intends to introduce the world's leading Articulated All-Terrain Vehicle (AATV), known as the 'BvS10,' to the Indian military.
- This enterprise, which is part of the 'Make in India' program, promises improved capabilities and increased defense preparedness for the country.

The Indian Coast Guard attends the 19th Meeting of the Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies

- The Indian Coast Guard attended the 19th Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM) in Istanbul, Turkey, from September 5 to 8, 2023.
- A four-member Indian Coast Guard delegation led by DG Rakesh Pal, Director General Indian Coast Guard, participated in the annual event of the independent forum with 23 members of Coast Guard Agencies and 02 associate members in the form of ReCAAP (Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia) and UNODC (The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime).

The world's highest fighter airfield will be built at Nyoma, Ladakh.

- The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is about to start on a unique accomplishment by building the world's highest fighter airfield at Nyoma in Ladakh.
- On September 12, 2023, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will lay the foundation stone for this massive project at Jammu's Devak Bridge.
- This attempt demonstrates the BRO's commitment to enhancing India's defense capabilities in a crucial region.

21st Edition of India France Bilateral Naval Exercise 'VARUNA'-2023

- The Indian and French navies, steeped in strong maritime traditions and strategic collaboration, recently completed Phase II of the Varuna-23 naval exercise.
- This exercise, held in the Arabian Sea, illustrates both nations' commitment to improving their war fighting capabilities, improving interoperability, and promoting peace, security, and stability in the region.

The Indian Naval Ship Sumedha has arrived in Egypt to take part in 'Exercise BRIGHT STAR-23'

- The Indian Navy's INS Sumedha arrived in Port Alexandria, Egypt, to take part in 'Exercise BRIGHT STAR-23'.
- This year's round of the multinational Tri-Services military exercise will include 34 countries.
- It is the largest joint military exercise ever held in the Middle East and North Africa.
- This combined military exercise, hosted by Egypt, is significant for the Indian Navy and boosts India's diplomatic and strategic connections with partner nations.

Bharat Drone Shakti 2023 will be co-hosted by the Indian Air Force and the Drone Federation of India

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Drone Federation of India are teaming together to co-host 'Bharat Drone Shakti 2023.'
- This planned event, slated for September 25th and 26th, 2023, will take place at the IAF's Hindan (Ghaziabad) airfield.
- It is expected to be a ground-breaking display showcasing the prowess of the Indian drone industry, with over 50 live airborne demos.

Trishul, an IAF training exercise, has begun

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) has begun its annual massive training exercise, Trishul, an important event aimed at improving operational preparedness and capability.
- The Western Air Command (WAC) organizes this massive exercise, which encompasses a broad geographical area from Leh in Kashmir to Nal in Rajasthan.

SPORTS

Moto GP Bharat 2023

- MotoGP Bharat takes place from September 22 to September 24 at the Buddh International Circuit in Greater Noida.
- Since hosting three Formula One races from 2011 to 2013, the three-day extravaganza has become one of India's largest racing events.
- The track, which hosted Formula One races from 2011 to 2013, has been reconfigured to accommodate two-wheel racing.
- The gravel traps around the track have been extended to make it safer for riders if they fall off it.
- Air fences and foam barriers have also been built to ensure the safety of the riders.

T20 Cricket World Cup matches will be held in New York, Dallas, and Florida in 2024

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has formally picked three prominent locations in the United States to host the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, in a momentous announcement.
- The tournament is making its first appearance on American territory, with Dallas, Florida, and New York serving as host cities.

Golden Ticket

- Jay Shah, the Secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), made a historic gesture by handing out "Golden Tickets" to numerous renowned figures in India ahead of the hosting of the One-Day International (ODI) World Cup.
- The BCCI's Golden Tickets are intended to promote and publicize the World Cup.
- Recipients of these rare tickets will not only be able to watch all World Cup matches from the starting line, but they will also be treated to VIP amenities.

BCCI announces SBI Life as official partner for 2023-26 Season

- Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced SBI Life as the official partner for the BCCI Domestic and International Season 2023-26 on September 20, 2023.
- This is a three-year deal, and the partnership will begin with the upcoming three-match ODI series against Australia, starting September 22, 2023.
- This is a significant partnership for both the BCCI and SBI Life.

Lovlina, Harmanpreet, to carry the Flag at the Asian Games Opening Ceremony

- The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has chosen to have two flag bearers lead the Indian contingent at the opening ceremony of the Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou, China.
- This decision is a big departure from convention and has sparked enormous interest among sports fans across the country.

Elavenil Valarivan Wins Gold in Air Rifle at the Rio World Cup

- On a thrilling Saturday, Indian shooter Elavenil Valarivan won the women's 10m air rifle event at the ISSF World Cup 2023 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- The 24-year-old Olympian outperformed her competition to win the coveted gold medal, displaying remarkable talents and steely nerves.

Deepak Chahar, a cricketer, has launched a new business called 'DNINE Sports'

- Deepak Chahar, a cricketer recognized for his spectacular achievements on the field, has launched DNINE Sports, a sports equipment company.
- With a 2.5 crore investment, this sports line promises to redefine athletic gear by delivering a diverse range of products that cater to the needs of athletes, including professional cricketers.

Diamond League Final in Eugene 2023

- Mondo Duplantis, the reigning world and Olympic pole vault champion from Sweden, brought the athletics season to a memorable climax on September 17th at the 2023 Diamond League Final in Eugene.
- Duplantis cleared the bar at 6.23 meters on his first attempt, breaking his own world record of 6.22 meters established in Clermont-Ferrand in February.
- This was the eighth time Duplantis had broken the world record in pole vault, and the second time he had done so outdoors - both times in Eugene, having previously jumped 6.21 meters at the 2022 World Championships.

Neeraj Chopra comes in 2nd place in the Diamond League final

- India's best javelin thrower and reigning World champion, Neeraj Chopra, demonstrated his skill and determination at the Diamond League finals in Eugene.
- His best throw of 83.80 meters earned him second place in this important competition, where he faced off against difficult opponents.

Asia Cup Winners list from 1984 to 2023 country wise

Asia Cup Winners List from 1984 to 2023			
Year	Winner	Runner Up	Hosting Nation
1984	India	Sri Lanka	UAE
1986	Sri Lanka	Pakistan	Sri Lanka
1988	India	Sri Lanka	Bangladesh
1991	India	Sri Lanka	India
1995	India	Sri Lanka	UAE
1997	Sri Lanka	India	Sri Lanka
2000	Pakistan	Sri Lanka	Bangladesh
2004	Sri Lanka	India	Sri Lanka
2008	Sri Lanka	India	Pakistan
2010	India	Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka
2012	Pakistan	Bangladesh	Bangladesh
2014	Sri Lanka	Pakistan	Bangladesh
2016	India	Bangladesh	Bangladesh
2018	India	Bangladesh	UAE
2022	Sri Lanka	Pakistan	UAE
2023	India	Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka and Pakistan

Maharashtra wins the 5th National Wheelchair Rugby Championship, defeating Karnataka

- Maharashtra claimed the title of champions in the 5th National Wheelchair Rugby Championship 2023 with a convincing 31-10 victory against Karnataka.
- This championship, held in Pune from September 10 to September 11, 2023, was characterised by tight competition and served as a tribute to India's excellent development of wheelchair rugby.

Kiran George of India wins the Indonesia Badminton Masters

- Kiran George, an Indian badminton player, won the Indonesia Masters 2023, which was held in Medan, North Sumatra.
- Kiran George, now placed 50th in the badminton rankings, demonstrated amazing prowess as he upset world No. 82 Koo Takahashi of Japan with a score of 21-19, 22-20 in a 56-minute duel at the GOR PBSI Pancing court.
- Kiran George's victory was his second BWF World Tour Super 100 badminton title, following his success in the Odisha Open the year before, in which he defeated compatriot Priyanshu Rawat in the final.

SAFF U16 Championship Final

- India wins the SAFF U16 Championship after defeating Bangladesh.

- In the final match of the SAFF U-16 Championship 2023, which took place on September 10 at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu, Bhutan, India defeated Bangladesh 2-0 to win the championship.
- US Open 2023 Winners Complete list

The complete list of US Open 2023 Winners in different categories

S. No.	Category	Winner	Runner Up
1.	Men's Singles	Novak Djokovic	Daniil Medvedev
2.	Women's Singles	Coco Gauff	Aryna Sabalenka
3.	Men's Doubles	Rajeev Ram and Joe Salisbury	Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden
4.	Women's Doubles	Gabriela Dabrowski and Erin Routliffe	Vera Zvonareva and Laura Siegemund
5.	Mixed Doubles	Harri Heliövaara and Anna Dalinina	Jessica Pegula and Austin Krajicek

Prathamesh Jawkar wins Silver in the 2023 World Archery Cup

- Prathamesh Jawkar, the Indian compound archer, had a fantastic voyage in his first-ever World Cup Final appearance at the 2023 Archery World Cup Final in Hermosillo, Mexico.
- Jawkar's amazing run in the competition ended with a thrilling face-off against Denmark's Mathias Fullerton, and he clinched a silver medal.
- Prathamesh Jawkar, the Shanghai World Cup champion, made waves in the archery world by defeating world No. 1 and reigning champion Mike Schloesser for the second time in four months.

Praggnanandhaa finishes third, while Grischuk wins the Open Blitz title

- R Praggnanandhaa of India finished third in the 2023 Tata Steel Chess India tournament in Kolkata, establishing himself as the main Indian challenger.
- In the Open Blitz category, world champion Alexander Grischuk demonstrated his dominance by finishing first, while Arjun Erigaisi finished second among Indian contestants, finishing fourth in the Chess competition.

Amul is the official sponsor of the Indian team at the Hangzhou Asian Games

- Amul has been named the official sponsor of the Indian contingent for the 19th Asian Games 2022, which will be held from September 23 to October 8, 2023 in Hangzhou, China.
- Amul will utilize the integrated logo in its communication as part of this association to recognize the athlete's efforts.
- Since the London 2012 Olympics, Amul has worked with Indian athletes through the Indian Olympic Association for all Indian contingents to the Olympics, Commonwealth Games, and Asian Games, and we are delighted to strengthen our decade-long connection.

The 2023 Tata Steel Chess India Women's Rapid Tournament is won by Divya Deshmukh

- Divya Deshmukh, a 17-year-old Chess Woman Grandmaster from Nagpur, Maharashtra, India, won the women's quick portion of the Tata Steel Chess India competition.
- She swept the competition, winning all three rounds of the tournament, which took held on September 1, 2023, at the National Library in Kolkata.
- Deshmukh took first place with a fantastic score of 7, while China's reigning world champion, Ju Wenjun, came in second with 6.5 points. Polina Shuvalova of Russia finished third with 5.5 points.

McGahey will become the first transgender person to play international cricket

- For the first time in international cricket, a transgender lady will compete in ICC-sponsored competitions.
- Danielle McGahey, 29, will be the first transgender woman to play international cricket.
- According to the International Cricket Council (ICC), the right-handed batter from Australia who migrated to Canada in 2020 met the eligibility criteria for male-to-female (MTF) transition.
- McGahey has been nominated to Canada's roster for the Women's T20 Americas Qualifier, which serves as a qualifying tournament for the T20 World Cup 2024. McGahey socially changed from male to female three years ago in 2020, according to BBC Sport, before undertaking a medical transition in 2021.

India defeated Pakistan in the Hockey 5s Asia Cup in 2023

- At hockey, India won the inaugural Men's Hockey 5s Asia Cup 2023 at Salalah, Oman, with a penalty shootout victory over Pakistan.
- The victory also served as Asia's qualifier for the FIH Men's Hockey5s World Cup Oman 2024. India has therefore qualified for the FIH Men's Hockey5s World Cup Oman 2024.
- India has defeated Pakistan in the Hockey 5s format for the first time in three matches.

Max Verstappen wins the 2023 Italian Grand Prix

- Max Verstappen has won the Italian Grand Prix, giving him a new record of ten consecutive wins in Formula One history.
- Sergio Perez completed a Red Bull 1-2 by passing Carlos Sainz in the closing stages after a tough struggle with the Ferrari driver.

Mohun Bagan SG wins the Durand Cup finals 1-0 over East Bengal

- Mohun Bagan Super Giants defeated East Bengal (1-0) to win the Durand Cup 2023 trophy at Kolkata's Salt Lake Stadium.
- Mohun Bagan SG became the first team in Durand Cup history to capture 17 titles with this triumph.
- East Bengal is the Durand Cup's second-most successful team, having won 16 titles.
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AWARDS

Waheeda Rehman will be honored with the Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award

- Anurag Thakur, Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, said today that the seasoned and successful actor Waheeda Rehman will be awarded the coveted Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award, India's highest accolade in the world of cinema, on September 26, 2023.
- She has appeared in more than 90 films. She is well-known for her versatility and has given memorable roles in a number of classic films, including "Pyaasa," "CID," "Guide," "Kaagaz Ke Phool," "Khamoshi," and "Trishul."
- Her contributions to the realm of cinema have left an unforgettable imprint on audiences of all ages.

Swati Nayak from Odisha, to receive the 2023 Norman Borlaug Field Award

- Odia scientist Swati Nayak is slated to receive the coveted Borlaug Field Award in 2023, in recognition of her extraordinary contributions to agricultural and food production.
- Her creative approach to engaging farmers in demand-driven rice seed systems, from testing and deployment through access and adoption of climate-resilient and nutritious rice varieties, has earned her this prestigious award.
- Swati Nayak is a scientist at the CGIAR-International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in the Philippines, where she is the South Asia head for seed system and product management.

A new marine tardigrade species has been named after A.P.J. Abdul Kalam by CUSAT researchers

- Cochin University of Science and Technology (Cusat) researchers have discovered a new species of marine tardigrade that they have named after the late former President and scientist A.P.J. Abdul Kalam.
- The new tardigrade species, named 'Batillipeskalami,' was discovered by researchers in the intertidal beach sediments of Mandapam coast, close to Kalam's birthplace in Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu.

The novel 'Western Lane' by an Indian-origin author has been shortlisted for the Booker Prize 2023

- The judging panel for the Booker Prize 2023 has announced the final selection of six novels chosen from the "Booker dozen" longlist of 13 titles.

- These books were chosen from a pool of 163 that were published between October of the previous year and September of this year. The winner's name will be revealed on November 26th.
- 'Western Lane,' the debut novel of London-based Indian-origin author Chetna Maroo, has been named to the coveted Booker Prize shortlist.

NMC of India Awarded 10-Year Recognition by World Federation for Medical Education

- The National Medical Commission (NMC) of India has achieved a remarkable milestone by receiving a prestigious 10-year Recognition Status from the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME).
- This recognition signifies a significant achievement for NMC and India's medical education sector, highlighting their commitment to maintaining the highest standards of medical education and accreditation.

The government issues a new set of national awards known as "Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskars"

- The Government of India has just created the "Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar" (RVP), a distinguished collection of National Awards in the fields of Science, Technology, and Innovation.
- These awards play an important role in recognizing and celebrating outstanding contributions made by scientists, technologists, and innovators who have had a substantial impact on diverse sectors of science, technology, and technology-led innovation.

Nobel Prize 2022 Winners list: Check the Complete List of Noble Prize Winners

Nobel Prize for Economics

- U.S. economists Ben Bernanke, a former chairman of the Federal Reserve, Douglas Diamond and Philip Dybvig won this year's Nobel Economics Prize for research on how propping up failing banks can stave off an even deeper economic crisis.

Nobel Prize for Peace

- Jailed Belarusian activist Ales Byalyatski, Russian rights group Memorial and Ukraine's Center for Civil Liberties won the 2022 Nobel Peace Prize amid a war in their region that is the worst conflict in Europe since World War Two.

Nobel Prize for Literature

- French author Annie Ernaux won the 2022 Nobel Prize in Literature for "the courage and clinical acuity" in her largely autobiographical books examining personal memory and social inequality.

Nobel Prize in Chemistry

- Scientists Carolyn Bertozzi, Morten Meldal and Barry Sharpless won the 2022 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for discovering reactions that let molecules snap together to create new compounds and that offer insight into cell biology.

Nobel Prize in Physics

- Scientists Alain Aspect, John Clauser and Anton Zeilinger won the 2022 Nobel Prize in Physics for experiments in quantum mechanics that laid the groundwork for rapidly developing new applications in computing and cryptography.

Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine

- Swedish geneticist Svante Paabo won the 2022 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for discoveries that underpin our understanding of how modern-day people evolved from extinct ancestors at the dawn of human history.

Fashion Designer Rahul Mishra Honored with France's "Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres" award

- Rahul Mishra, the visionary Indian designer was honored with the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters) by the French government, joining a distinguished list of fellow countrymen and women including Ritu Kumar, Ritu Beri, Wendell Rodricks, and Manish Arora who have previously received this award.

84 Artistes Conferred with Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Awards

- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar gave the one-time Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Awards to 84 renowned artists from diverse fields of the performing arts in a historic ceremony.
- The relevance of these prizes stems from their goal of honoring Indian artists above the age of 75 who, despite their significant accomplishments, have garnered little national recognition in their long careers thus far.

Awardee	Artistic Genre	Contributions / Achievements
Mahabir Nayak (Jharkhand)	Music (Folk)	Celebrated for remarkable contributions to music
Harishchandra Prabhakar Borkar (Maharashtra)	Theatre	Acknowledged for significant contributions to theatre
Dharmeswar Nath (Assam)	Dance	Lauded for outstanding achievements in dance
Raghubir Malik	Hindustani Vocal	Notable in the world of Hindustani vocal
Dina Nath Mishra	Hindustani Vocal	Notable in the world of Hindustani vocal
Gowri Kuppaswamy	Carnatic Vocal	Lauded for mastery of Carnatic vocal
Anasuya Kulkarni	Carnatic Vocal	Lauded for mastery of Carnatic vocal
Lalitha Srinivasan	Bharatnatyam	Spotlight shone for expertise in Bharatnatyam
Vilasini Devi Krishnapillai	Bharatnatyam	Spotlight shone for expertise in Bharatnatyam
Smita Shastri	Kuchipudi	Celebrated for exceptional contributions to Kuchipudi
Kumkum Lal	Odishi	Celebrated for exceptional contributions to Odishi
Krishen Langoo (Jammu and Kashmir)	Theatre, Music (Folk)	Recognized for achievements in theatre and folk music
John Claro Fernandes (Goa)	Playwriting	Notable for contributions to playwriting in Goa
Tsering Stanzin (Ladakh)	Folk Music	Recognized for contributions to folk music in Ladakh

Najma Akhtar has been awarded a lifetime achievement award in academia

- Professor Najma Akhtar, Vice Chancellor of Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI), was recently awarded the 'Lifetime Achievement Award-Academia'.
- Dr Raghunath Anant Mashelkar (Padma Vibhushan) awarded her with the award during TeamLease EdTech's Grand Conference and Award Function themed "Making India Employable".
- A jury team of educators and industry experts chose Akhtar to receive the honor.
- She was recognized for her "outstanding efforts to connect education and employment".

Army doctor awarded Dr AM Gokhale award for ophthalmology in Pune

- Brig Sanjay Kumar Mishra of the Indian Army's Research and Referral Hospital received the coveted "Dr AM Gokhale Award" in Pune.
- He received the honor during the Retina Conclave in Pune.
- Dr. AM Gokhale was a renowned Ophthalmology teacher, and his students went on to become the country's doyens of Ophthalmology.

RITES Ltd has been awarded the 2023 Safety Innovation Award

- RITES Limited has received the 'Safety Innovation Award 2023' in the area of 'Construction' for integrating 'Innovative Safety Management Systems' in its operations.
- The award was handed to RITES executives at the opening ceremony of The Institution of Engineers (India), the biggest multi-disciplinary professional body of engineers, at Hotel Le Meridien in New Delhi.

- RITES, having a multi-sectoral presence, has consistently embraced best safety practices in its operations, exemplifying its commitment to prioritizing safety measures at worksites.

The Vijayawada Railway Station has been certified as a 'Green Railway Station' by the IGBC

- The Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) granted Vijayawada Railway Station the 'Green Railway Station' certification with the highest rating of Platinum for its efforts in enhancing environmental standards and offering eco-friendly services to customers.

The station's ratings will be upgraded from gold in 2019 to platinum in 2023

- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has published the list of awardees for the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) awards for 2022, which are considered among the most prestigious science prizes in India.
- The announcement was issued on September 26, the CSIR's foundation day, after an unexplained delay of nearly a year. Nearly two years ago, the CSIR announced the Bhatnagar winners for 2021.

Praveena Anjana, a chartered accountant Miss International India 2023 has been crowned

- Praveena Anjana of Udaipur has been named Miss International India 2023, and will represent India at the Miss International competition in Japan this October.
- Anjana, 23, is a chartered accountant by trade who has had a lifelong interest in fashion and beauty. She began modeling at a young age and has won several beauty pageants, most recently the Miss Divine Beauty 2023 pageant in August.

Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee, an Indian-American physician, has been named to the longlist for the UK's top non-fiction prize

- Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee, an Indian-American cancer physician and researcher, has had his book longlisted for the renowned 50,000-pound Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-Fiction in London.
- Among the 13-book longlist announced is 'The Song of the Cell: An Exploration of Medicine and the New Human,' which discusses how cellular research has revolutionized medicine, allowing for the treatment of life-altering diseases such as Alzheimer's and AIDS.

Satyajit Majumdar has been awarded the Dr V G Patel Memorial Award for 2023

- Mumbai Professor Satyajit Majumdar, dean of Tata Institute of Social Sciences' School of Management and Labour Studies, has received the 'Dr V G Patel Memorial Award-2023 for Entrepreneurship Trainer, Educator, and Mentor' for his work in promoting and growing entrepreneurship in India.
- Patel is popularly regarded as the "Father of the Indian Entrepreneurship Movement."

In the Global Finance Central Banker Report 2023, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das received a 'A+' rating

- In a recent statement that drew international notice, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das was given an 'A+' rating in the famous Global Finance Central Banker Report Cards 2023.
- This honor elevates him to the top tier of central bank governors worldwide.
- Shaktikanta Das now ranks first among three central bank governors who have received a 'A' rating.
- Thomas J. Jordan of Switzerland and Nguyen Thi Hong of Vietnam join Shaktikanta Das in the elite group of central bank governors who received an 'A+' rating in the Global Finance Central Banker Report Cards 2023.

Shanta Thoutam has been awarded the World Innovation Award at the BRICS Innovation Forum

- Shanta Thoutam, Telangana's Chief Innovation Officer (CIO), was awarded the World Innovation Award at the first BRICS Innovation Forum, which took place in Moscow from August 27 to 29.
- The award is granted for outstanding contributions to SDG-4, which ensures inclusive and equitable quality education and supports lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- At the forum, there were representatives from over 30 countries.

Winners of the 65th Ramon Magsaysay Awards in 2023

- The Ramon Magsaysay Award, also known as the "Nobel Prize of Asia," is a prestigious honor that recognizes remarkable spirit and powerful leadership.
- This year, four Asians received the Ramon Magsaysay Award, joining the ranks of Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, Satyajit Ray, and many more.
- KorviRakshand of Bangladesh, Eugenio Lemos of Timor-Leste, Miriam Coronel-Ferrer of the Philippines, and Dr Ravi Kannan R. of India are among them.
- The award includes a certificate, a medallion carrying the late President's picture, and a cash prize of USD 50,000.



APPOINTMENTS

Dhananjay Joshi has been appointed Chairman of the Telecom Industry Association (DIPA)

- Dhananjay Joshi, MD and CEO of Summit Digitel, has been named chairman of the Digital Infrastructure Providers Association (DIPA).
- Dhananjay Joshi succeeds Akhil Gupta, Chairman of Bharti Enterprises, who has been Chairman of the industry group since 2011.
- DIPA has appointed Sandeep Girotra, CEO of American Tower India, as its new vice chairman.

Swamy, Srinivasan K. For 2023-2024, he was elected Chairman of the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC)

- Srinivasan K. Swamy, Executive Chairman of R.K. Swamy Hansa Group, was unanimously elected Chairman of the
- Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) for the term 2023-2024.
- Mr. Swamy's broad experience and leadership in the advertising and media industries are reflected in this key appointment.

Rahul Navin takes over as Director of Enforcement for the IRS (Indian Revenue Service)

- Rahul Navin succeeded outgoing Director Sanjay Kumar Mishra as In-Charge Director of the Enforcement Directorate (ED).
- This shift signals a significant change in the leadership of the ED, a critical agency in India responsible for implementing economic rules and regulations.
- Mr. Navin is currently the Enforcement Directorate's Special Director.

Rajnish Kumar, the former Chairman of the State Bank of India, has been

appointed Chairman of Mastercard India

- Mastercard, the global financial services firm, has named Rajnish Kumar as Chairman of Mastercard India, a crucial appointment in its Indian business.
- This action underscores Mastercard's commitment to expanding its presence in India and managing the volatile domestic payments landscape.
- Kumar brings a plethora of experience to the post as the former Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI).

Sindhu Gangadharan of India has been selected as Nasscom Vice-Chairperson

- Sindhu Gangadharan, Senior Vice President and Managing Director of SAP Labs India and responsible for SAP User Enablement, has been appointed Vice-Chairperson of The National Association of Software and Service Companies (Nasscom).
- She will use her significant experience in technology and business leadership, gained over many years in India and Germany, to assist in building India's TechAde project in her new capacity.
- Gangadharan is the first woman to run SAP Labs India, SAP's largest R&D center in the world.
- She is in charge of supervising product development and innovation across all five locations, which are located in Bangalore, Gurgaon, Pune, Hyderabad, and Mumbai.

'India's Moon Man' Mylswamy Annadurai Joins SS Innovations' Board of Directors

- Padmashri Dr.Mylswamy Annadurai, popularly known as the Moon Man of India, has been appointed as a Director on the Board of Directors of SS Innovations, India's renowned surgical robotic enterprise.

- This appointment applies to both the Indian company, SS Innovations Private Limited, and the worldwide company, SS Innovations International.

Neeraj Mittal takes over as Secretary of Transportation

- The Cabinet Appointments Committee (ACC) has appointed Neeraj Mittal, a seasoned Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from the 1992 batch, as secretary in the Department of Telecommunications.
- Neeraj Mittal is now the principal secretary of Tamil Nadu's information technology department.
- He previously served as a senior advisor at the World Bank Group and as a joint secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
- He will succeed K Rajaraman, who has been named head of the International Financial Services Centre Authority (IFSCA) in Gujarat.

Shyam Sunder Gupta has been appointed as the Principal Chief Operations Manager of Central Railway

- On Tuesday, September 5, 2023, Shyam Sunder Gupta took over as Central Railway's Principal Chief Operations Manager. Mukul Jain, who retired from the job on August 31, 2023, was superannuated at the time of his appointment.
- Shyam Sunder Gupta's distinguished career in railway services, as well as his significant knowledge, make him an invaluable addition to this critical post.

MD of Cognizant India Rajesh Nambiar has been selected as the Chairman of Nasscom

- Nasscom, the Indian IT and technology trade group, has named Rajesh Nambiar, Chairman and Managing Director of Cognizant India, as its new Chairperson.
- Nambiar succeeds Anant Maheshwari, former President of Microsoft India, as the trade body's new Chairperson.

Uday Kotak Resigns as MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank; Dipak Gupta Takes Over Interim

- Uday Kotak has publicly resigned from his role as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Kotak Mahindra Bank, effective September 1st, 2023.

- The bank announced this important news to the exchanges on September 2, signaling the end of an era in Indian banking.
- Mr. Kotak, on the other hand, will continue to play an important role inside the firm as a non-executive director until his term ends on December 31, 2023.

Vasudha Gupta, M.D. Assumes responsibility as Akashvani's Principal DG.

- Dr. Vasudha Gupta, a seasoned Senior Indian Information Service officer, has been appointed as the Division's Principal Director General.
- This position follows her outstanding career as Director General of Akashvani, where she was instrumental in rejuvenating the legendary broadcasting institution.
- Dr. Vasudha Gupta brings over 33 years of committed service in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, including her time as Director General of the Press Information Bureau (PIB), to her current job.

R Madhavan nominated as President of FTII Pune

- R Madhavan, a well-known actor, has been nominated as the new President of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune. He will also serve as Chairman of the FTII's governing council.
- Madhavan's nomination comes on the heels of his film, 'Rocketry: The Nambi Effect,' which received national acclaim. During the 69th National Film Awards, the film won the prestigious Best Feature Film award.

Manish Desai assumes Leadership of the Press Information Bureau (PIB)

- Manish Desai, the chief of the Central Bureau of Communications (CBC), has been transferred to manage the Press Information Bureau (PIB) by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- Manish Desai, a senior officer of the Indian Information Service (IIS) since 1989, has held a number of crucial positions throughout his career.
- He was the head of the CBC, in charge of the government's advertising and public relations department.

Jaya Verma Sinha the Railway Board's first female chairperson

- The government chose Jaya Verma Sinha as the first woman Chairperson of the Railway Board, the

Ministry of Railways' highest decision-making body.

- Ms. Sinha is the Board's first female chairman in its 118-year history.
- The Railway Board was established in 1905. She will take office on or after September 1st, having

previously served as a Member (Operations and Business Development).

- She was at the vanguard of dealing with the fallout from the catastrophic Balasore tragedy, which killed 291 people.
- Her term will end on August 31, 2024.



OBITUARIES

Piloo Reporter, the first neutral umpire, has died

- Piloo Reporter, a former international umpire, died on September 3 in Thane, Mumbai. He was 84 years old and had been suffering from cerebral contusions, which had caused him to remain bedridden for a lengthy period of time.
- Piloo Reporter, known for his cheery nature and active technique of announcing boundaries, stood in 14 Tests and 22 ODIs during his 28-year career.
- His distinct method of signaling limits earned him the beloved nickname "PD" among cricketers.

RS Shivaji, a Tamil actor and comedian, died at the age of 66 in Chennai

- In a sad time for Indian cinema, famous actor and comic RS Shivaji died at the age of 66. On Saturday morning in Chennai, the gifted performer breathed his final breath, leaving behind a legacy of joy and spectacular performances.
- RS Shivaji, who was born on October 26, 1956, to acclaimed actor and producer MR Santhanam and actor and director Santhana Bharati, was a well-known figure in the film business.
- His career was marked by notable collaborations with top performers and directors, particularly with the famous Kamal Hassan.

ISRO scientist N Valarmathi, the man behind the Chandrayaan-3 countdown, has died

- N Valarmathi, an Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) scientist who contributed her voice to rocket launch countdowns in Sriharikota, died of a heart attack.
- She was last heard during the countdown to the launch of Chandrayaan-3, which landed on the Moon for the first time.
- On July 14, Chandrayaan-3 was launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. Her final countdown announcement was Chandrayan 3.

Malini Rajurkar, a Hindustani vocalist, died at the age of 82

- Malini Rajurkar, a well-known Hindustani classical vocalist who embodied simplicity and profundity, died at a Hyderabad hospital.
- She was 82 years old and had been suffering from age-related illnesses.
- She has performed at important Indian music festivals such as GunidasSammelan in Mumbai, Tansen Samaroh in Gwalior, Sawai Gandharva Festival in Pune, and Shankar Lal Festival in Delhi.
- She is particularly well-known for her grasp of the Tappa and Tarana genres. She has also performed lighter music.
- Her interpretations of Marathi natyageete, pandunrupatijanakjaya, naravarkrishnasamaan, and yabhavanatilgeetpurane have been particularly well received.

Dennis Austin, the creator of PowerPoint, died at the age of 76

- Dennis Austin, one of Microsoft PowerPoint's co-creators, died at the age of 76. PowerPoint was invented by Austin and Robert Gaskins and debuted in 1987.
- The two software developers were part of the software company Forethought, which was purchased by Microsoft for \$14 million months after PowerPoint, then known as Presenter, was released.
- After being packaged with other products in the Microsoft Office suite, including Word and Excel, PowerPoint quickly gained popularity as an alternative to overhead projectors for presentations.

Ajit Ninan, a political cartoonist, died at the age of 68

- Ajit Ninan, a well-known political cartoonist, died at the age of 68.
- Ninan was best known for his Centrestage series in India Today and Ninan's World in The Times of India.

- Nina was a well-known political cartoonist who also worked in children's literature.
- One of his most popular creations is Detective Moochwala and his dog Pooch, who first appeared in Target, a youth magazine, in the 1980s.
- His resistance in the form of political cartoons, satire on both the reigning and opposing governments, cartoons on the environment, and caricatures is affectionately remembered by everyone of his generation.

Famous Author Gita Mehta has died

- Gita Mehta, a well-known writer and filmmaker, died.
- She was eighty years old. Karma Cola, Snakes and Ladders, A River Sutra, Raj, and Eternal Ganesha were among the works Mehta wrote.
- She has also produced and directed at least 14 television documentaries for networks in the United Kingdom, Europe, and the United States.
- Dateline Bangladesh, her cinematic compilation of the 1971 Bangladesh liberation war, was broadcast in Indian and international theatres.

- Mehta's novels have been translated into 21 languages and have charted in Europe, the United States, and India.

National Recognition K G George, a Malayalam film director, died at the age of 78

- On Sunday, the Malayalam film industry mourned the death of renowned filmmaker K G George, who died at the age of 78 in an old age facility near Kakkanad.
- Following a stroke that severely disrupted his life, the director had been battling health challenges for the previous five years.
- People from all walks of life expressed their condolences and tributes upon the news of his death, including politicians, actors, and fellow directors, who took to social media to share their grief.



IMPORTANT DAYS

1st September - National Nutrition Week

- National Nutrition Week is commemorated from September 1st to September 7th to educate people about the importance of nutrition and its value to the human body in order to improve health.

5 September - International Day of Charity

- Every year on September 5, the International Day of Charity is marked to abolish poverty in all of its forms and dimensions in order to realize sustainable development goals.

5 September - Teachers' Day (India)

- Teachers' Day is observed on September 5th each year to commemorate the birth anniversary of India's second President, Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan.
- On this day, we honor and thank teachers for their contributions to the development of responsible citizens.

8 September - International Literacy Day

- International Literacy Day is observed on 8 September every year to make people aware of the

importance of literacy which no doubt is a matter of dignity and human rights.

- Let us tell you that it is a key component of the UN's Sustainable Developmental Goals.

10 September - World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD)

- Every year on September 10, World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD) is marked to promote awareness about suicide prevention.
- The International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) organizes this day. WHO is also a co-sponsor of this day.

11 September- Digvijay Diwas

- Digvijay Diwas is celebrated yearly on September 11 to commemorate Swami Vivekananda's landmark speech in Chicago.
- He represented India and Hinduism at the Parliament of the World's Religions in 1893. The first World Parliament of Religions was held from September 11 to September 27, 1893.

12 September- Parshuyan Parv

- Paryushana, also known as Pajjusana, is a significant event among Jains. It is a moment for Jains to pause and beg forgiveness from those they have harmed.

- The event is observed by both the Digambar and Shwetambar Jain sects.

14 September - Hindi Diwas

- Hindi Diwas is observed on September 14th since it was on this date in 1949 that the Constituent Assembly of India adopted Hindi written in Devanagari script as the official language of the Republic of India.

15 September - Engineer's Day (India)

- Engineer's Day is observed in India on September 15th each year to honor the Indian Engineer Bharat Ratna Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya.

15 September - International Day of Democracy

- On September 15, the International Day of Democracy is marked to remind people that democracy is about people.
- This day provides an opportunity to educate people about the value of democracy and the successful implementation of human rights.

16 September - World Ozone Day

- Every year on September 16, World Ozone Day is observed.
- The Montreal Protocol was signed on this day in 1987.
- The United Nations General Assembly established World Ozone Day in 1994, and it has been honored every year since then.
- This day serves as a reminder to people about the ozone layer's depletion and the need to develop ways to maintain it.

18 September- HartalikaTeej

- HartalikaTeej is a major Hindu women's celebration. The day honors Goddess Parvati and her undying love and devotion to Lord Shiva.
- On this day, married and unmarried women fast and pray for their spouses' or future husbands' health and longevity.

18 September - World Bamboo Day

- The day is marked on September 18th to raise global awareness about bamboo.

19 September- Ganesh Chaturthi

- Ganesh Chaturthi is a major Hindu holiday observed in India. It is also known as Vinayak Chaturthi or Ganeshotsav.

- The day is commemorated as Lord Ganesha's birth anniversary in order to provide prosperity, knowledge, and good fortune.
- This year's 10-day Hindu celebration will begin on September 19 and conclude on September 28.

21 September - International Day of Peace (UN)

- On September 21, the globe celebrates the International Day of Peace (UN). It was originally marked in September 1982, and in 2001, the General Assembly passed Resolution 55/282, designating September 21 as the International Day of Nonviolence and Cease-Fire.

21 September - World Alzheimer's Day

- On September 21, World Alzheimer's Day is marked to promote public awareness about the difficulties that dementia patients experience.
- World Alzheimer's Month was established in 2012.

22 September - Rose Day (Welfare of Cancer patients)

- Rose Day is honored on September 22nd for the benefit of cancer patients, alternatively, we may say that this day represents hope for cancer sufferers that their disease is curable.
- This day is observed in memory of 12-year-old Melinda Rose of Canada, who did not give up hope after being diagnosed with a rare form of blood cancer.

22 September - World Rhino Day

- Every year on September 22nd, it is observed. The day raises awareness and helps to create a safe natural habitat for this amazing animal.

24 September (Fourth Sunday) World Rivers Day

- World Rivers Day is celebrated on the last Sunday of September.
- In 2022, it falls on 26 September. The day highlights the importance of rivers and generates awareness and encourages people to improve and save water, rivers around the world.
- It is necessary to care for our water resources.

25 September - World Pharmacists Day

- It is observed on 25th September annually. In 2009, the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) Congress in Istanbul, Turkey designated 25th

September as the annual World Pharmacists Day (WPD).

25 September - Antyodaya Diwas

- In 2014, on 25th September 'Antyodaya Diwas' was declared in honour of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya's 98th Birth Anniversary.

26 September - World Contraception Day

- World Contraception Day is observed on 26 September annually.
- It is a global campaign to improve awareness about the contraceptive methods available and enable young people to make informed decisions regarding their sexual and reproductive health.

26 September - World Environmental Health Day

- The day has been declared by the International Federation of Environmental Health.

27 September - World Tourism Day

- World Tourism Day is observed yearly on September 27 to highlight the importance of tourism in creating jobs and building a future for millions of people throughout the world.

28 September - World Rabies Day

- Every year on September 28th, World Rabies Day is commemorated to raise awareness about rabies prevention and to highlight efforts in combating this horrific disease.

28 September - International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI)

- International Day For Universal Access To Information (IDUAI) 2022 is observed on 28 September every year. The day focuses on the right to seek, receive, and impart information.

29 September - World Heart Day

- World Heart Day is observed annually on 29 September. This day informs people about heart disease and stroke which is the world's leading cause of death.

30 September (Third Saturday) - International Red Panda Day

- It is observed on the third Saturday of September month. This year it falls on 18 September. The day raises awareness of their urgent need for conservation.



BOOKS & AUTHORS

Shri Apurva Chandra Launches "People's G20," An eBook About India's G20 Presidency

- Apurva Chandra, Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, recently released an ebook named "People's G20" in New Delhi, providing a detailed look into India's G20 presidency.
- This ebook documents India's key involvement in the G20 Summit and its various activities during its tenure.
- The book is organized into three sections, each of which focuses on a different aspect of India's G20 presidency.

Important Books related to G20

- G20 @ 2023: The Roadmap to Indian Presidency by V. Srinivas
- India & the G20: Legacy & Prospects for Multilateralism amidst a Polycrisis by Patrick Bond and Sonal Raghuvanshi

- 20 Years of G20: From Global Cooperation to Building Consensus Edited by Rajat Kathuria and Prateek Kukreja
- India in the G20: Rule-taker to Rule-maker Edited By Manjeet Kripalani

Fire on the Ganges Life among the Dead in Banaras by Radhika Iyengar

- 'Fire on the Ganges: Life Among the Dead in Banaras,' by Radhika Iyengar, is published by HarperCollins.
- The book delves into the Indian city of Banaras (also known as Varanasi), specifically its link with death and the afterlife.
- Fire on the Ganges is the first attempt to document the daily lives of the Doms in Banaras.
- It depicts the tragic, exhilarating story of a community seeking to establish a position beyond that assigned to it by ancient tradition via their stories of struggle and survival, betrayal, and love.



With 67 launches, a book about Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath makes history.

- 'Ajay to Yogi Adityanath,' a recently released graphic novel, has achieved history by having the

most book launches, earning it a position in the Asia Book of Records.

- This extraordinary novel, written by acclaimed author Shantanu Gupta, dives into the life of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, chronicling his rise from humble beginnings to political leadership.

2023-24 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

Introduction

- Odisha State Finance Minister, Bikram Keshari Aarukha, presented a Supplementary Budget of Rs 28,200 crore for the fiscal year 2023-24 in the Odisha Assembly.

Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Compliance

- The Supplementary Budget ensures FRBM compliance, maintaining revenue surplus, containing fiscal deficit within 3% of GSDP, and keeping the debt-GSDP ratio below 25%.

Need for Supplementary Budget

The Supplementary Budget is necessitated by various factors:

- Funding ongoing state sector projects.
- Adapting to changes in fund release mechanisms by the Government of India.
- Recouping advances from the Odisha Contingency Fund.
- Making accounting adjustments.

Financing the Supplementary Budget

The budget components are financed as follows:

- Administrative Expenditure and Transfers to Local Bodies are funded through adjustments and surrender.
- Disaster Management Funds are financed against the year-end balance available in the State Disaster Risk Management Fund.
- Programme Expenditure of Rs. 20,100 crore is financed through tied-up resources, additional revenue collection, and savings.

Key Highlights of the Supplementary Budget 2023-24

- Rs. 1,302 crore allocated for Ama Odisha Nabin Odisha.
- Rs. 556 crore for the Location Accessible Multi-modal Initiative (LACMI) scheme.
- Rs. 252 crore for IT Connectivity to Gram Panchayats.
- Rs. 210 crore for Odisha Metro Rail Transport.

- Rs. 153 crore for Construction of additional classrooms in Schools through PRIs.
- Rs. 110 crore for Mukhyamantri Chhatra Chhatri Paridhana Yojana.
- Rs. 100 crore for Urban Infrastructure Development Fund.
- Rs. 38 crore under "Jagruti" for the protection, development, and empowerment of survivors of gender-based violence.
- Rs. 21 crore for Odisha Transport Drivers & Workers Welfare Scheme.
- Rs. 20 crore each for Revolving Fund for Working Capital for BOYANIKA and Sambalpur Bastralaya.
- Rs. 15 crore for Minority Marriage Assistance.
- Rs. 14 crore for Operation and Management of Block Level Bus Stands.
- Rs. 12 crore for Odisha Birth & Death Registration System (OBDRS).
- Rs. 11 crore for State Support Centre for ICDS.
- Rs. 9 crore under SUDAKSHYA for improving employable skills and creating self-employment opportunities for Girl students of Govt. Engg. Schools & Polytechnics.
- Rs. 5 crore each for CM's Research, Innovation & Fellowship Programme and "Nano Unicorn" for promoting entrepreneurship of skilled youth.

Provisions for Administrative Expenditure

- Total outlay for Administrative Expenditure is Rs. 2,864 crore.
- Rs. 196 crore allocated for Charges for Conduct of Elections including Police Arrangement.
- Rs. 150 crore for repair and maintenance of non-residential buildings under ST & SC Development, Minorities & Backward Classes Welfare Department.
- Rs. 27 crore for new Medical College & Hospitals at Jajpur and Kalahandi.
- Rs. 21 crore for Grants to Board of Secondary Education, Odisha.
- Rs. 20 crore for Grants to Odisha Lift Irrigation Corporation (OLIC).

- Rs. 16 crore for Payment of Compassionate Grant for Human-Animal Conflict.
- Rs. 10 crore for Text Book Press & Rs. 6 crore for Remuneration to Guest Faculty of Govt. Secondary Schools.
- Rs. 4 crore each for Odisha Staff Selection Commission and Odisha Sub-Ordinate Staff Selection Commission, towards conduct of various recruitment examinations.
- Rs. 3 crore for Medical Expenses for treatment of Boarders in ST & SC Hostel and Rs. 6 crore for Laboratory Equipments in Higher Secondary Schools under ST & SC Dept.

Disaster Risk Mitigation

- An additional provision of Rs. 4,664 crore is proposed in the Supplementary Statement of Expenditure, 2023-24 against the differential year-end balance available in the State Disaster Response Mitigation Fund.

Transfers from State

- Total of Rs. 572 crore is provided towards Transfer to PRIs as per SFC Award in the Supplementary Statement of Expenditure, 2023-24.

Provisions for Programme Expenditure and Priority Sectors

- Farmers' welfare & food security: Allocation of Rs. 4,433 crore.
 - Includes provisions for Crop Production Management, Horticulture Development Programme, Capital Investment & Farm Mechanization, Food Storage & Warehousing Procurement Operation Support System, Premium Subsidy under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, and Intensive Aquaculture & Inland Fisheries Development.
- Mission Shakti: Total allocation of Rs. 783 crore.
 - Includes Financial Support to WSHG and Block level Mission Shakti Federation, and Capacity Building under Mission Shakti.
- Social Security: Total allocation of Rs. 771 crore.
 - Includes provisions for Madhubabu Pension Yojana and welfare for Persons with Disabilities.
- Healthcare: A total sum of Rs. 862 crore.
 - Includes provisions for Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana, Mukhya Mantri Swasthya Seva Mission, Tertiary Health Care-Super Specialty Services, Medical Education & Research-Human Resources in Health and Medical Education, and state share National Health Mission (NHM).
- Empowering Women and Children: A total sum of Rs. 469 crore.

- Includes provisions for Aganwadi Services Training Programme, Mission Batsalya, State Support for implementation of ICDS in the State, Cash Transfer for pregnant Women under MAMATA Scheme, and support to Social Welfare Board for Awareness Campaigns.
- ST & SC Development: Total Rs. 1,136 crore allocated.
 - Includes provisions for the Umbrella Scheme for Education of ST Students, Scheme for development of SCs (including Enforcement of PCR Act), Special Development Council (SDC), Development of SCs & STs-Const. of Building, Pre-matric Scholarship, Post-matric Scholarship SC & ST Students under MukhyamantriMedhabiChatraProtsahan Yojana.
- Education, Sports, and Skill Development: Total Rs. 3,651 crore allocated.
 - Includes provisions for State's Support to Mid-Day Meal (PMPOSHAN), Mo School Abhiyan, Odisha Adarsha Vidyalaya, Non-Govt High Schools, Govt. High Schools, State Support for SamagraSikshya, Mukhyamantri Chhatra Chhatra Paridhana Yojana, Infrastructure Development of Universities and Colleges, GIA to Non-Govt. Colleges, and Infrastructure Development of Technological Universities / Engineering Colleges.
- Rural Infrastructure: Total allocation of Rs. 558 crore.
 - Includes Rs. 550 crore under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).
- Urban Development: Total allocation of Rs. 1,046 crore.
 - Includes provisions for Urban Infrastructure Development Fund, Improvement of Urban Governance, Smart City, and Urban Road Transport including Metro Rail.
- Industries: Total allocation of Rs. 320 crore for Industries & MSME.
 - Includes provisions for Industrial Infrastructure Development Fund (IIDF) and Industrial Policy Resolution.
- Infrastructure: Total allocation of Rs. 1,631 crore for infrastructure projects under Energy, IT, Commerce, Transport, and Public Works.
 - Includes provisions for Loans to PSUs under Energy Department, IT Infrastructure & Connectivity, Bus Terminals and related Infrastructure, subsidy under EV Policy, Subsidy for construction of Aerodrome, and 'Location Accessible Multi-modal Initiative' (LACCOMI) scheme.

- Promotion of Culture and Tourism: Total allocation of Rs. 264 crore.
 - Includes provisions for Mukhyamantri Kalakara Sahayata Yojana, the Directorate of Culture, Baristha Nagarika Tirtha Yatra Yojana, Publicity of Tourism, and construction of Odia University at Satyabadi.

This Supplementary Budget for 2023-24 not only addresses critical financial needs but also maintains fiscal responsibility, aligning with FRBM guidelines. It covers a broad spectrum of sectors, reflecting the state's commitment to welfare and development programs, thereby fostering economic growth and social development.

2023-24 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- **Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP):** The GSDP for 2023-24 at current prices is projected to be Rs 8.65 lakh crore, indicating a growth of 12.9% over the previous fiscal year.
- **Expenditure:** The total expenditure (excluding debt repayment) for 2023-24 is estimated at Rs 2,11,214 crore, reflecting a 14% increase compared to the revised estimate for 2022-23. Additionally, the state plans to repay debt amounting to Rs 18,786 crore.
- **Receipts:** Total receipts (excluding borrowings) for 2023-24 are estimated to be Rs 1,85,370 crore, marking a 13% increase over the revised estimate for 2022-23. However, in 2022-23, receipts fell slightly short of the budget estimate by Rs 245 crore.
- **Revenue Surplus:** The revenue surplus for 2023-24 is expected to be 3.1% of GSDP, amounting to Rs 26,739 crore. This is higher than the revised estimate for 2022-23, which was 2.3% of GSDP.
- **Fiscal Deficit:** The fiscal deficit for 2023-24 is targeted at 3% of GSDP, totaling Rs 25,844 crore. In 2022-23, the revised estimate for fiscal deficit was 2.9% of GSDP, slightly lower than the budget estimate of 3% of GSDP. In 2021-22, the state had achieved a fiscal surplus of Rs 20,627 crore (3.1% of GSDP).

Policy Highlights

- **MSMEs:** A new scheme will be launched to provide interest subvention on working capital loans to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). A new procurement policy will mandate Odisha government entities to procure from micro and small manufacturing units within the state.
- **Tribal Livelihood Promotion:** The MukhyamantriJanajatiJeebika Mission will be initiated to address critical infrastructural needs related to livelihood promotion, covering 14.5 lakh households in Phase-I.
- **AMA Hospital:** A new scheme will be introduced for upgrading public health facilities.
- **Biju Expressway-II:** The government plans to provide 4-lane connectivity from Berhampur to Jeypore.

- **Forest Protection:** The Mukhyamantri Van Surakshya Kendra initiative aims to establish 10,000 kendras in the areas of Van Suraksha Samiti to promote forest conservation at the grassroots level.
- **Odisha Chip Program:** A new center of excellence will be established to foster an ecosystem in the field of electronics design and manufacturing.

Odisha's Economy

- **GSDP Growth:** In 2022-23, Odisha's GSDP, at constant prices, is estimated to grow at 7.8%, outpacing the national GDP growth estimate of 7% for the same fiscal year.
- **Sector Contributions:** In 2021-22, the agriculture, manufacturing, and services sectors contributed 29%, 31%, and 40% of Odisha's economy, respectively, at current prices.
- **Unemployment:** The Periodic Labour Force Survey (July 2021-June 2022) reported an unemployment rate of 6% in Odisha, higher than the national average of 4.1%. The unemployment rate for the age group of 15-29 years in Odisha was 19.8%, also exceeding the national level of 12.4%.

Budget Estimates for 2023-24

- Total expenditure (excluding debt repayment) for 2023-24 is targeted at Rs 2,11,214 crore, with funds coming from receipts (excluding borrowings) of Rs 1,85,370 crore, net borrowings of Rs 14,844 crore, and Rs 11,000 crore from public accounts.
- Revenue surplus for 2023-24 is estimated at Rs 26,739 crore (3.1% of GSDP), and the fiscal deficit is targeted at 3% of GSDP (Rs 25,844 crore).
- The state's own tax revenue for 2023-24 is estimated at Rs 53,000 crore, representing 6.1% of GSDP.
- Own non-tax revenue is projected to be Rs 52,500 crore, or 6%-8% of GSDP, between 2021-22 and 2023-24.
- State's share in central taxes is estimated at Rs 46,251 crore for 2023-24, while grants-in-aid from the Centre are expected to be Rs 32,749 crore.
- State GST is anticipated to be the largest source of own tax revenue, constituting 42% of the total.

- Receipts from key tax sources like Sales Tax/VAT, Stamps Duty, and State Excise are expected to increase by 12% each in 2023-24.

Deficits, Debt, and FRBM Targets for 2023-24

- The fiscal deficit target for 2023-24 is set at 3% of GSDP, in line with the permitted limit by the central government.
- Outstanding public debt is estimated to be 13.1% of GSDP at the end of 2023-24, higher than the revised estimate for 2022-23 (12.7% of GSDP).
- Outstanding government guarantees, which are contingent liabilities, are expected to be 0.67% of GSDP.

Fiscal Risk due to Natural Disasters

- The budget identified natural disasters as a high-risk factor for government finances. The state experienced economic losses of about Rs 24,991 crore between 2014 and 2022 due to natural disasters, including cyclones, droughts, and floods.
- The government maintains the State Disaster Response and Mitigation Fund, with an annual contribution of about 0.3% of GSDP.
- The 15th Finance Commission recommended state-specific grants for disaster management,

including a grant of Rs 800 crore for Odisha for the early warning dissemination system in cyclone-prone areas.

Comparison of States' Expenditure on Key Sectors

- Education: Odisha allocated 13.2% of its expenditure to education in 2023-24, slightly lower than the average allocation for education by states in 2022-23.
- Health: The state allocated 7.6% of its total expenditure to health, higher than the average allocation by states.
- Water Supply and Sanitation: Odisha allocated 6.2% of its expenditure to water supply and sanitation, significantly more than the average allocation by states.
- Rural Development: Odisha allocated 7.1% of its budget to rural development, surpassing the average allocation by states.
- Police: The state allocated 2.1% of its expenditure to the police, considerably lower than the average expenditure by states.
- Roads and Bridges: Odisha allocated 7.9% of its total expenditure to roads and bridges, higher than the average allocation by states.

Admissions Open For UPSC CSE 2023-24

Optional Subject



Akhilesh Sir
Geography



Shewta Ma'am
Sociology



Ajay Sir
PSIR & Public Administration



OPSC MCQ

1. Which of the following statements about the Odisha Supplementary Budget for 2023-24 is/are incorrect?

1. The total allocation for the Supplementary Budget is Rs 18,200 crore.
2. The budget aims to address the financial needs for public welfare and developmental activities in the state.
3. The budget is not in compliance with the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act.

Options:

- A. 1 and 2
- B. 2 and 3
- C. 1 and 3
- D. 2 only

2. Regarding the financing of the Odisha Supplementary Budget, which statements are true?

1. It is primarily financed through additional taxes imposed on the citizens.
2. Allocations under Administrative Expenditure and Transfers to Local Bodies are to be financed against adjustment and surrender.
3. Disaster Management Funds are proposed to be financed from the State Disaster Risk Management Fund (SDRMF) without any additional resources.

Options:

- A. 1 and 2
- B. 2 and 3
- C. 1 and 3
- D. 2 only

3. Which sectors receive allocations in the Odisha Supplementary Budget for 2023-24?

1. Education, sports, and skill development.
2. Healthcare and public health programs.
3. Industrial development and infrastructure projects.

Options:

- A. 1 and 2
- B. 2 and 3
- C. 1 and 3
- D. 1, 2, and 3

4. What is the objective of the Supplementary Budget presented by Bikram Keshari Aarukha?

1. To maintain a fiscal deficit exceeding 3% of GSDP.
2. To reallocate available resources for public welfare.
3. To increase the debt-GSDP ratio beyond 25%.

Options:

- A. 1 and 2
- B. 2 and 3
- C. 1 and 3

D. 2 only

5. Regarding disaster risk mitigation in the Supplementary Budget, which statements are true?

1. Additional provision of Rs 4,664 crore is proposed against the differential year-end balance in the State Disaster Response Mitigation Fund.
2. The government maintains the State Disaster Response and Mitigation Fund, with an annual contribution of about 0.3% of GSDP.
3. Funds for disaster risk mitigation are primarily sourced from taxes on the agriculture sector.

Options:

- A. 1 and 2
- B. 2 and 3
- C. 1 and 3
- D. 1 only

6. Which Indian-origin author's novel 'Western Lane' has been shortlisted for the Booker Prize 2023?

- A) Soumya Swaminathan
- B) Chetna Maru
- C) Preeti Batham
- D) Kritika Kher

7. Which Indian wrestler won the bronze medal in the World Wrestling Championship 2023?

- A) Vinesh Phogat
- B) Antim Panghal
- C) Meenu Kumari
- D) Priya Bhanot

8. Who launched PM Kisan AI-Chatbot (Kisan e-Mitra)?

- A) Piyush Goyal
- B) Anurag Thakur
- C) Smriti Irani
- D) Kailash Chaudhary

9. SIMBEX Exercise is being organized between the Navy of India and which country?

- A) Singapore
- B) Sri Lanka
- C) France
- D) Russia

10. In how many categories has the National Science Award been announced?

- A) 03
- B) 04
- C) 05
- D) 06

11. Who has been appointed as the MD and CEO of Digital Infrastructure Providers Association?

- A) Rajiv Malhotra
- B) Ajay Sinha
- C) Dhananjay Joshi
- D) Vinay Saxena

12. 'Skills on Wheels' initiative has been launched by which ministry?

- A) Ministry of Education
- B) Ministry of Finance
- C) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- D) Ministry of Rural Development

13. 'The Hoysala group of sacred temples has been included in the UNESCO World Heritage Site list, in which state is it?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Kerala
- C) Karnataka
- D) Bihar

14. With whom has Khadi and Village Industries Commission entered into an agreement to promote Khadi products?

- A) Prasar Bharati
- B) NITI Aayog
- C) Reliance Foundation
- D) None of these

15. Which team won the Cricket Asia Cup 2023 title?

- A) Pakistan
- B) Sri Lanka
- C) Bangladesh
- D) India

16. Who has become the Indian bowler who has taken the most wickets in the Asia Cup?

- A) Kuldeep Yadav
- B) Ravindra Jadeja
- C) Jasprit Bumrah
- D) Mohammad Siraj

17. Who won the 5th National Wheelchair Rugby Championship 2023?

- A) Maharashtra
- B) Rajasthan
- C) Uttar Pradesh
- D) Bihar

18. Where is the world's highest fighter airfield being developed?

- A) Srinagar
- B) Baku
- C) Kathmandu

D) Ladakh

19. Which player won the men's singles title at Indonesia Masters 2023?

- A) Kiran George
- B) Lakshya Sen
- C) Koo Takahashi
- D) Priyanshu Rawat

20. Who won the US Open 2023 women's singles title?

- A) Arina Sabalenka
- B) Erin Routliff
- C) Coco Gauff
- D) Gabriela Dabrowski

21. How many scientists have been selected for the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award for the year 2022?

- A) 10
- B) 11
- C) 12
- D) 13

22. Which association has been inducted as a permanent member during the New Delhi G20 summit?

- A) ASEAN
- B) African Union
- C) SAARC
- D) OPEC

23. To which country has India handed over the presidency of G20 during the New Delhi G20 summit?

- A) Indonesia
- B) USA
- C) Japan
- D) Brazil

24. Who has become the fastest Indian spinner to take 150 wickets in One Day International cricket?

- A) Yajuvendra Chahal
- B) Ravichandran Ashwin
- C) Shardul Thakur
- D) Kuldeep Yadav

25. The Union Cabinet has recently approved the extension of which scheme?

- A) Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana
- B) Har Ghar Jal Yojana
- C) Jan Dhan Yojana
- D) PM Kisan Yojana

26. India's first UPI ATM has been launched by which payment services?
A) Airtel Payment Bank
B) Hitachi Payment Services
C) Bajaj Finance
D) Aditya Birla Capital
27. What is the theme of G20 Summit 2023?
A) 'One Earth One Family One Future'
B) Globe Together
C) World Ease Family
D) None of these
28. With whom has India Post partnered to strengthen the e-commerce export ecosystem?
A) eKart
B) Shiprocket
C) Bluedirt
D) Amazon
29. Who has been named as the official sponsor of the Indian contingent for the 19th Asian Games?
A) Amul
B) Paytm
C) Jio
D) Airtel India
30. Which Indian has been elected as a member of the International Esports Federation?
A) Lokesh Suji
B) Kapil Dev
C) Abhishek Sinha
D) Abhinav Bindra
31. What is the name given to India's first AI-powered anti-drone system?
A) Prakhar
B) Chetak
C) Indrajal
D) Gaganyaan
32. Who has been elected as the new President of Singapore?
A) Halima Yacob
B) Tharman Shanmugaratnam
C) Lee Hsien Loong
D) None of these
33. Who has been appointed as the interim Managing Director and CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank?
A) Uday Kotak
B) Yashasvi Sinha
C) Deepak Gupta
D) Rajeev Kapoor
34. Which team won the title of Durand Cup 2023?
A) East Bengal
B) Mohammedan SC
C) Kerala Blasters
D) Mohun Bagan Super Giant
35. Who has been elected as the new chairperson of NASSCOM?
A) Rajesh Nambiar
B) Atul Saxena
C) Rajeev Sinha
D) Mohit Kumar
36. What is the edition of 2022 Asian games, which is scheduled to be in Hangzhou, China?
A) 18th
B) 19th
C) 20th
D) 21st
37. Which state government has signed a MoU with six public sector banks for providing banking services in all unbanked gram panchayats (GPs) of the state?
A) Maharashtra
B) Tamil Nadu
C) Odisha
D) Andhra Pradesh
38. Who has been appointed as the first woman Chairman and CEO of Railway Board?
A) Samiksha Singh
B) Jaya Verma Sinha
C) Jayanthi Sharma
D) Hemlata Kushwaha
39. Who has been appointed as the new chairman of the Finance Industry Development Council?
A) Umesh Revankar
B) Rajiv Kumar
C) Ajay Sinha
D) Ravi Malhotra
40. Warship 'Mahendragiri' has been built by which Shipbuilders Limited?
A) Goa Shipyard Limited
B) Cochin Shipyard Limited
C) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
D) ABG Shipyard Limited
41. Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar has nominated whom as a member of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs?
A) Rahul Gandhi
B) Varun Gandhi
C) P Chidambaram

D) Sanjay Raut

42. FIFA has lifted the ban from which country's football federation with immediate effect?

- A) Sri Lanka
- B) Pakistan
- C) Japan
- D) Canada

43. Who is the President of Zimbabwe who has been re-elected for a second five-year term?

- A) Emmerson Mnangagwa
- B) Robert Pereiro
- C) Jacob Zuma
- D) None of these

44. Who has become the first Indian to win a gold medal in the World Athletics Championships?

- A) Neeraj Chopra
- B) DP Manu
- C) Kishore Jena
- D) Rohit Yadav

45. Who has acquired the title sponsorship rights for the domestic matches of the Indian cricket team?

- A) Master Card
- B) Star Sports
- C) IDFC First Bank
- D) Paytm

46. Which country has created a new Asian record in the men's 4x400m relay team event at the World Athletics Championships?

- A) India
- B) China
- C) Japan
- D) Bangladesh

47. Which medal did Neeraj Chopra win in the Zurich Diamond League Championship 2023?

- A) Gold
- B) Silver
- C) Bronze
- D) No medal

48. Bharat Drone Shakti exhibition 2023' was inaugurated in which state/UT?

- A) Rajasthan
- B) Punjab
- C) Uttar Pradesh
- D) Assam

49. Jharia Master Plan, which was seen in the news, is associated with which Union Ministry?

- A) Ministry of Coal
- B) Ministry of MSME
- C) Ministry of Steel
- D) Ministry of Jal Shakti

50. Which country's women's cricket team has clinched a gold medal at the Asian Games 2023?

- A) Bangladesh
- B) Pakistan
- C) India
- D) Sri Lanka

51. Swati Nayak, who was in the news, has won which award?

- A) Norman E. Borlaug Award
- B) Booker Prize
- C) Pulitzer Prize
- D) Ramon Magsaysay Award

52. Which Union Ministry established the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC)?

- A) Ministry of Home Affairs
- B) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- C) Ministry of Women and Child Development
- D) Ministry of Education

53. As per recent data, what is the percentage of villages declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus?

- A) 50%
- B) 65%
- C) 75%
- D) 80%

54. e-UNNAT is the Service Delivery Portal of which state/UT?

- A) New Delhi
- B) Jammu and Kashmir
- C) Odisha
- D) Kerala

55. Which company launched 'Indus Appstore' developer platform?

- A) BharatPe
- B) PhonePe
- C) Pine Platforms
- D) Paytm

ANSWERS

1. Answer: C

2. Answer: B

3. Answer: D

4. Answer: D

5. Answer: A

6. Answer: B

- Indian-origin British writer Chetna Maru's first novel 'Western Lane' has been shortlisted for the Booker Prize 2023. For the first time in eight years, male writers have also been included in this list. The winner of the Booker Prize 2023 will be announced on 26 November. Last year, this award was given to Sri Lankan author Shehan Karunatilaka's book 'The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida'.

7. Answer: B

- India's young wrestler Antim Panghal won the bronze medal in the women's 53 kg category in the ongoing World Championship in Belgrade, Serbia. With this he also achieved the quota for Paris Olympics 2024. In the final Panghal defeated two-time European champion Emma Jona Denise Malmgren. This is India's first medal in this tournament.

8. Answer: D

- Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Kailash Chaudhary launched PM Kisan AI-Chatbot (Kisan e-Mitra) in New Delhi. The AI chatbot will provide information about the schemes of the ministry as well as help in resolving complaints. This is the first AI chatbot integrated with any major flagship scheme of the Central Government.

9. Answer: A

- Singapore-India annual naval maritime bilateral exercise SIMBEX is being conducted between the Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy. This exercise is being conducted in two phases. From the Indian side, maritime patrol ships like Ranvijay, Kavaratti and Sindhukesari are participating in this exercise. SIMBEX is the longest naval exercise conducted by the Indian Navy with any other country.

10. Answer: B

- The Government of India has prepared a new set of national awards in the field of science, technology, and innovation on the lines of Padma Awards, which has been named Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar. These awards will be given to scientists under four categories - Vigyan Ratna, Vigyan Shri, Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swaroop Bhatnagar and Vigyan Team. National Science Awards will be given every year for significant contributions in 13 fields.

11. Answer: C

- Digital Infrastructure Providers Association (DIPA) has appointed Dhananjay Joshi, MD and CEO of Summit Digital, as its president. Dhananjay Joshi has replaced Akhil Gupta as Chairman of Bharti Enterprises. Akhil Gupta served as the president of the industry body since 2011. DIPA is a non-profit industry body representing the digital infrastructure industry in India, established in 2010.

12. Answer: C

- Union Minister of Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan and Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla have launched the 'Skills on Wheels' initiative with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and IndusInd Bank. Under this initiative, relevant skill training will be provided to the youth population. National Skill Development Corporation was established on 31 July 2008. It is a non-profit public limited company.

13. Answer: C

- Hoysala temples of Belur, Halebid and Somnathpura, 'Hoysala group of sacred temples' located in Karnataka, have been included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. Recently, Shantiniketan of West Bengal was included in this list. With this the number of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in India has increased to 42. The Hoysala temples were built in the 12th-13th century, which was the capital of the Hoysala dynasty, considered patron of arts and literature.

14. Answer: A

- Khadi and Village Industries Commission has signed three MoUs to promote Khadi products. These include Prasar Bharti, NBCC (India) Limited and Digital India Corporation. According to the MoU signed with Prasar Bharati, soon the anchors of DD News and DD International channels will be seen in Khadi clothes. On this occasion, Khadi and Village Industries Commission Chairman Manoj Kumar also launched a dashboard and ATR portal.

15. Answer: D

- India has won the Cricket Asia Cup 2023 title by defeating Sri Lanka. The 16th edition of the tournament was co-hosted by Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Teams from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, India and Nepal participated in it. The Indian team has dominated this tournament. India has won the Asia Cup title a record 8 times. The Sri Lankan team has won this title 6 times. Pakistan has won the Asia Cup twice.

16. Answer: B

- Indian team's all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja has made a new record in Asia Cup 2023. Jadeja has become the highest wicket-taker for India in the Asia Cup. In this matter he has left behind former Indian bowler Irfan Pathan. Talking about the ODI format of Asia Cup, the record of taking most wickets is in the name of Sri Lanka's legendary former player Muttiah Muralitharan (30 wickets). Ravindra Jadeja has taken 24 wickets in the Asia Cup.

17. Answer: A

- Maharashtra won the 5th National Wheelchair Rugby Championship 2023 with a resounding win over Karnataka with a final score of 31-10. The 5th National Wheelchair Rugby Championship 2023 was organized by The Indian Rugby Football Union, the governing body of rugby in India. The Bihar team stood third in this competition.

18. Answer: D

- India is building the world's highest fighter airfield at Nyoma in Ladakh. This airfield, being prepared by the Border Road Organization, is located in eastern Ladakh, which is an important location to compete with China. This project is being prepared at a cost of Rs 218 crore. Defense Minister Rajnath Singh has launched more than 90 infrastructure projects in Samba, Jammu.

19. Answer: A

- Indian badminton player Kiran George has won the men's singles title in Indonesia Masters 2023. Kiran George, ranked 50th in badminton rankings, defeated Ku Takahashi of Japan. Kiran George had won the Odisha Open title last year by defeating Priyanshu Rawat in the final. Kiran George was the only Indian to reach the final of Indonesia Masters 2023.

20. Answer: C

- 19-year-old American tennis player Coco Gauff has won the US Open 2023 women's singles title. She won this title by defeating Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus in the final. This is Gauff's first Grand Slam title. After losing the first set, he made a brilliant comeback and won the final.

21. Answer: C

- 12 scientists have been selected for the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award for the year 2022. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar is the top annual award in the field of science. 12 scientists will be awarded awards in seven categories. Dr. CSIR Director General Kalaiselvi met Union Science and Technology Minister Dr. The awards for the year 2022 were announced in the presence of Jitendra Singh. Named after Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, the first director of CSIR, the awards are given in seven scientific disciplines - Physics, Biology, Engineering, Mathematics, Medicine, Chemistry and Earth Sciences.

22. Answer: B

- The African Union has been included as a new permanent member in the G20 summit held in New Delhi under the chairmanship of India. With this, now there are 19 countries and two unions (European Union and African Union) in this group. President of the African Union Azali Assoumani attended the conference and took membership. The African Union is a continental union which includes 55 countries of the African continent. It was established in 1999.

23. Answer: D

- During the New Delhi G20 summit, PM Modi has handed over the responsibility of the next presidency of the G20 to Brazil. PM Modi handed over the formal responsibility of the post of President to Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and promised all possible help. On December 1 last year, India took over the chairmanship of G-20 from Indonesia, which was the chairperson at that time. India will remain the President of G20 till 30 November.

24. Answer: D

- Indian spinner Kuldeep Yadav has become the fastest Indian spinner to take 150 wickets in One Day International cricket. Now in 88 ODI matches, Kuldeep has 150 wickets at an average of 25.64. Kuldeep's best bowling performance is 6/25. He has taken four wickets seven times and five wickets twice for India in ODIs.

25. Answer: A**26. Answer: B**

- India's first UPI ATM has been launched by Hitachi Payment Services, a subsidiary of Hitachi Limited. Hitachi Payment Services has launched it in collaboration with NPCI. UPI ATM provides cardless cash withdrawal facility which eliminates the need to carry physical debit or credit cards. With the help of UPI app, users can withdraw money from their many bank accounts.

27. Answer: A

- The 18th G20 summit will be held on 09-10 September in New Delhi under the chairmanship of India. The theme of the G20 Summit 2023 is "VasudhaivaKutumbakam - One Earth, One Family, One Future." Apart from the G20 member countries, 09 guest countries will also participate in this conference. The G20 summit will be organized in Brazil in the year 2024.

28. Answer: B

- India Post has partnered with ShipRocket to strengthen the e-commerce export ecosystem. The agreement was signed in the presence of Director General (Postal Service) Alok Sharma and ShipRocket Chief Executive Officer Sahil Goyal.

29. Answer: A

- Amul has been named as the official sponsor of the Indian contingent for the 19th Asian Games 2022 to be held in Hangzhou, China. The 19th Asian Games will be held from September 23 to October 8, 2023. In the 19th Asian Games 2022, 482 events will be organized in 40 sports. It was scheduled to be held last year itself but it was postponed due to Covid-19.

30. Answer: A

- The General Body of the International Esports Federation (IESF) has elected Lokesh Suji, Director of the Esports Federation of India (ESFI) and Vice President of the Asian Esports Federation (AESF) to its Membership Committee for a three-year term. The International Esports Federation was established in 2008, its objective is to promote esports.

31. Answer: C

- A Hyderabad-based robotics firm (Gray Robotics) has unveiled a state-of-the-art AI-powered anti-drone system named Indrajala. This system can not only protect vital installations like nuclear plants, and oil fields but can also protect entire cities from any type of drone. Indrajala has been designed to protect against all types of drones in an area of 4,000 square kilometers.

32. Answer: B

- Indian-origin Tharman Shanmugaratnam has registered a historic victory in the recently held presidential elections in Singapore. He will be the 9th President of the country. Tharman won this election by defeating two rivals of Chinese origin. In this election, he received a total of 70.4% votes. He will replace Halima Yacob. Singapore is an island country in Southeast Asia.

33. Answer: C

- Deepak Gupta has been appointed as the interim Managing Director and CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank. Kotak Mahindra Bank Managing Director and CEO Uday Kotak resigned from the post before the end of his tenure at the end of this year. Till the appointment of the new CEO, the current Joint Managing Director Deepak Gupta has been appointed interim Managing Director and CEO.

34. Answer: D

- Mohun Bagan Super Giant won the Durand Cup 2023 title by defeating East Bengal 1-0 at the Salt Lake Stadium in Kolkata. Mohun Bagan had earlier won the Durand Cup title in the year 2000. He made it to the finals in 2004, 2009, and 2019 but could not win the title. Durand Cup 2023 started on 3 August, it was the 132nd edition of the tournament, in which 24 teams participated.

35. Answer: A

- Technology industry body NASSCOM has appointed Rajesh Nambiar, Chairman and Managing Director of Cognizant India, as the new chairperson. Nambiar has replaced Ananth Maheshwari, former president of Microsoft India, as the new president. The National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) is an Indian non-governmental trade association. It was established in 1988.

36. Answer: D

- CM announced a financial support of 10 Lakh for the state's athletes, who are set to participate in the quadrennial sporting extravaganza scheduled to be held from September 23 to October 8. Notably, 13 athletes from Odisha have qualified for the multi-sport event. A total of 634 Indian athletes will be taking part in Hangzhou 2022.

37. Answer: D

- These banks were the State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Union Bank of India, UCO Bank, Bank of India and Bank of Baroda.

38. Answer: C

- The Central Government has appointed Jaya Verma Sinha as the first woman Chairman and CEO of the Railway Board. She will replace Anil Kumar Lahoti at this position. Railway Board is the apex decision making body in Railways. Jaya Verma Sinha has been an alumnus of Allahabad University. Jaya joined the Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) in 1988. Jaya Verma Sinha has also worked as Chief Commercial Manager in South Eastern Railway.

39. Answer: A

- The Managing Committee of the Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC) has appointed Umesh Revankar as the new Chairman of FIDC. He is currently working as the Executive Vice Chairman of Shriram Finance Limited. He has over 35 years of experience in the financial services industry. He joined the Shriram Group in 1987.

40. Answer: C

- The warship 'Mahendragiri', built at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, Mumbai, will be launched on 01 September. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar's wife Dr. Sudesh Dhankhar will launch the warship. The Vice President will be the chief guest at the ceremony. It is the seventh stealth frigate under Project 17A of the Indian Navy.

41. Answer: C

- Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar has nominated Congress MP P Chidambaram as a member of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs. The news of his appointment has been given through the bulletin of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat. That P. Bhattacharya who retired from the membership of Rajya Sabha on 18 August 2023.

42. Answer: A

- FIFA has lifted its ban on the Sri Lankan Football Federation with immediate effect. FIFA had banned the Football Federation of Sri Lanka on 21 January this year. This ban was imposed due to violation of FIFA rules by FSL in administration. Due to these restrictions, the Sri Lankan football team could not take part in the SAFF Championship 2023 held in July.

43. Answer: A

- Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa has been re-elected for a second and final five-year term after the results of

Zimbabwe's presidential election were announced. By the way, there has been a history of irregularities in elections in Zimbabwe, with the help of which former President Robert Mugabe remained in power for almost four decades. Zimbabwe is a South African country whose capital is Harare.

44. Answer: A

- India's star javelin thrower and golden boy Neeraj Chopra has won the gold medal in the World Athletics Championship 2023 by performing brilliantly. With this, Neeraj Chopra has become the first Indian athlete to win a gold medal in the World Athletics Championships. The World Athletics Championship was organized in Budapest, Hungary. Neeraj has also become the first Indian to win more than one medal in the Athletics Championships. He won this medal with a throw of 88.17 meters.

45. Answer: C

- IDFC First Bank has bagged the title sponsorship rights for all the domestic matches of the Indian cricket team. Under this, the bank will have to pay an amount of ₹ 4.2 crore for each international match. BCCI said that this contract will be for a long period of three years which will start with the India-Australia ODI series.

46. Answer: A

- The Indian men's 4x400m relay team produced a stellar performance at the World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary, setting a new Asian record and also qualifying for the final in the event. The Indian quartet of Mohd Anas Yahiya, Amoj Jacob, Mohd Ajmal Variathodi and Rajesh Ramesh finished second behind USA in the event. The Indian team completed the race in 2 minutes 59.05 seconds, before this record was in the name of Japan.

47. Answer: B

- India's star javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra has qualified for the Diamond League final. The final of this league will be held next month in Eugene, USA on 16 and 17 September. Neeraj Chopra finished second in the Zurich Diamond League Championship 2023 with a best throw of 85.71m. Jakub Wadlech of the Czech Republic secured the first position with 85.86m. At the same time, Germany's Julian Weber finished third with a throw of 85.04 metres. Neeraj Chopra's best throw is 89.94 metres, which is a national record.

48. Answer: C

- Bharat Drone Shakti exhibition 2023 was inaugurated recently by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at the Hindan Air Base in Uttar Pradesh.
- It has been jointly organised by Indian Air Force (IAF) and Drone Federation of India (DFI). The formal induction of the first C-295 MW transport aircraft into the IAF was also organised.

49. Answer: A

- Approved by the government in 2009, the purpose of the Jharia Master Plan (JMP) is to deal with Fire, Subsidence and Rehabilitation. The Masterplan identified 595 sites that needed to be rehabilitated, covering an area of 25.70 square kilometers.
- A new committee set up by the Ministry of Coal in 2022 to review this master plan, has formulated an action plan. Coal Ministry's efforts bring down surface fire identified from 77 to 27 sites.

50. Answer: C

- The Indian women's cricket team, led by captain Harmanpreet Kaur, recently clinched the gold medal at the Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou, China.
- In their debut appearance at the Asian Games, the Indian women's cricket team secured a gold medal, defeating Sri Lanka.

51. Answer: A

- Agriculture scientist Swati Nayak became the third Indian agriculture scientist to win the prestigious Norman E. Borlaug Award for 2023, for Field Research and Application, with the World Food Prize Foundation.
- Ms Nayak is the South Asia Lead for Seed System and Product Management at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), in New Delhi.

52. Answer: B

- In 2011, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment established the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Center (ISLRTC) as an autonomous center of IGNOU.
- ISLRTC has launched an online self-learning course in Indian Sign Language and a comprehensive dictionary containing 10,000 ISL terms on the International Day of Sign Languages. It introduced an initiative by launching 260 signs for financial terms in ISL.

53. Answer: C

- India reached a significant sanitation milestone with 75% of its villages now declared Open Defecation Free (ODF) Plus under the Swachh Bharat Mission - Grameen.
- The declaration of over 4.4 lakh villages as ODF Plus represents the efforts toward accomplishing the objectives of Phase II of the Swachh Bharat Mission - Grameen by 2025.

54. Answer: B

- Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) has released the sixth edition of National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) - Way forward Monthly Report for States/UTs.
- It provides a detailed overview of status of e-service delivery across States/UTs. Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala and Odisha provide 100% of their services through their Unified Service Delivery Portals namely e-UNNAT (1028), e-Sevanam (911) and Odisha One (404), respectively.

55. Answer: B

- PhonePe announced the launch of Indus Appstore developer platform, as a Made-in-India app store. At present, the app developers work with only the Google Playstore.
- For startups and new app launches, Indus Appstore will have a dedicated destination called 'Launch Pad' to provide these new apps with better visibility.