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THE HINDU REVIEW

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MONTHLY CAPSULE | CURRENT AFFAIRS



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The Most Important Current Affairs March 2023

Oscars awards 2023 : Check the complete list of winners

Oscars 2023: The 95th Academy Awards (Oscars Awards 2023) are finally announced and the fans are excited to know how India fares at Oscars Awards 2023. The Academy Awards, or Oscars Awards 2023, which were originally held in 1929, recently celebrated their 95th anniversary. The Oscars Awards 2023 held on March 13 IST in Los Angeles' Dolby theatre. It was hosted by popular late night show host **Jimmy Kimmel**.

Oscars awards 2023- Here's the complete list of winners
Oscars Awards 2023 full winner list is given below.

Category	Winners
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Picture	Everything Everywhere All At Once
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Actress	Michelle Yeoh (Everything Everywhere All at Once)
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Actor	Brendan Fraser (The Whale)
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Director	Daniel Kwan and Daniel Schienert (Everything Everywhere All at Once)
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Film Editing	Everything Everywhere All at Once
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Original Song	"Naatu Naatu" (RRR)
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Sound	Top Gun: Maverick
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Adapted Screenplay	Women Talking
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Original Screenplay	Everything Everywhere All at Once - Daniel Kwan and Daniel Schienert
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Visual Effects	Avatar: The Way of Water
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Animated Feature Film	Guillermo del Toro's 'Pinocchio'
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Actress in a Supporting Role	Jamie Lee Curtis in 'Everything Everywhere All at Once'
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Actor in a Supporting Role	Ke Huy Quan in 'Everything Everywhere All at Once'
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Documentary Feature Film	'Navalny' by Daniel Roher, Odessa Rae, Diane Becker, Melanie Miller and Shane Boris
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Live Action Short Film	'An Irish Goodbye' by Tom Berkeley and Ross White
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Cinematography	'All Quiet on the Western Front' by James Friend
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Makeup and Hairstyling	Adrien Morot, Judy Chin and Annemarie Bradley for 'The Whale'

Category	Winners
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Costume Design	Ruth Carter for 'Black Panther: Wakanda Forever'
Oscars Awards 2023 Best International Feature Film	'All Quiet on the Western Front' - Germany
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Documentary Short Film	'The Elephant Whisperers' by Kartiki Gonsalves and Guneet Monga
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Animated Short Film	The Boy, the Mole, the Fox, and the Horse
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Original Score	All Quiet on the Western Front
Oscars Awards 2023 Best Production Design	All Quiet on the Western Front

Mirabai Chanu won BBC Indian Sportswoman of The Year for 2022

2022 'BBC Indian Sportswoman Of The Year' award

Tokyo Olympic Games silver-medallist weightlifter **Mirabai Chanu** has bagged the **2022 'BBC Indian Sportswoman Of The Year' award** after a public vote. The 28-year-old weightlifter from Manipur became the first athlete to win the award twice in a row after bagging it in 2021 as well. BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year Award was launched in 2019 to celebrate sportswomen in India who have made their mark on the world stage.

Other awardee's in different Categories:

- Table tennis player **Bhavina Patel** won the **'BBC Para Sportswoman of the Year'** award, a category introduced this year. She won a silver at the 2020 Paralympics in Tokyo, becoming the first Indian paddler to achieve the feat. Bhavina also won gold at the 2022 Commonwealth Games.
- Former captain of the Indian women's hockey team **Pritam Siwach** was conferred with the **'BBC Lifetime Achievement Award'** for her contribution to Indian sports and for inspiring generations of players. Siwach was the first woman hockey coach to be given the Dronacharya Award, the highest national award for coaches.
- Boxer Nitu Ghanghas** was chosen as the **'BBC Emerging Player of the Year'**. She is a two-time youth world champion and Commonwealth Games medallist. She won gold at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in the minimum weight category.
- The women's lawn bowls team of **Lovely Choubey, Rupa Rani Tirkey, Pinki and Nayanmoni Saikia**, which won gold at the 2022 Commonwealth Games, India's first-ever medal in the sport was given the **'BBC Changemaker of the Year Award'**.

International Women's Day 2023

International Women's Day 2023

Every year on **March 8**, the world celebrates **International Women's Day** as a focal point for the campaign for women's rights. It raises awareness of topics including gender equality, access to abortion, and violence and abuse against women. The day serves as a rallying point for advancing women's equality. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality. International Women's Day is a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women, who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities.

Theme of International Women's Day 2023

With the theme "**DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality**," the **United Nations** Observance of International Women's Day honours and celebrates the women and girls who are leading the way in the development of transformational technology and digital education. In addition to highlighting the significance of safeguarding the rights of women and girls in digital environments and tackling online and ICT-facilitated gender-based violence, the observance will investigate how the growing economic and social inequities caused by the digital gender gap.

Significance of International Women's Day 2023

The day celebrates women and addresses issues such as women's equal rights, violence and abuse against women, and reproductive rights. Gender inequality and discrimination are rampant in our societies, and most of the time, women are victims of them. To fight these gender biases and to bring attention to issues such as gender equality, reproductive rights, and violence and abuse against women, International Women's Day is celebrated. It has become a forum to raise awareness and galvanize change in society.

History of International Women's Day

The concept of International Women's Day first emerged in the early 1900s. Women's Day first came into existence in 1909 and it was known as National Women's Day. The day was initially celebrated on 28 February 1909, when 15,000 women marched through New York City demanding shorter hours, better pay, and voting rights.

Around the same time in Europe, in 1910 to be precise, the second International Conference of Working Women was held in Denmark's Copenhagen, where Clara Zetkin, who led the Women's Office for the Social Democratic Party in Germany tabled the idea of an International Women's Day and on March 9, 1911, International Women's Day was honoured for the first time in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland.

The United Nations (UN) started celebrating International Women's Day in **1977**, it was officially agreed that the day will be widely observed on **March 8 every year**.

8th National Photography Awards

Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting **Dr L. Murugan** presented the 8th National Photography awards in New Delhi. A total of thirteen awards were presented during the ceremony today including 6 each in the Professional and Amateur category. The theme for the Professional category was "**Life and Water**", while in the Amateur category the theme was "**Cultural Heritage of India**".

A total of 13 awards were presented comprising of one Lifetime Achievement Award with cash prize of Rs.3,00,000; one award each in Professional Photographer of the Year category and Amateur Photographer of the Year category with cash prize of Rs.1,00,000 and Rs.75,000 respectively; and 5 Special Mention Awards in both Professional and Amateur categories with cash prize of Rs.50,000/- and Rs.30,000/- each respectively.

Winners of the 8th National Photography Awards

Lifetime Achievement Award

- Ms Sipra Das

Professional Photographer of the Year Award

- Shri Sasi Kumar Ramachandran

Special Mention Awards in the Professional category

- Shri Dipjyoti Banik
- Shri Manish Kumar Chauhan
- Shri R S Gopakumar
- Shri Sudipto Das
- Shri Umesh Harishchandra Nikam

Amateur Photographer of the Year Award

- Shri Arun Saha

Special Mention Awards in the Amateur category

- Shri C S Sreeranj
- Dr Mohit Wadhawan
- Shri Ravishankar S L
- Shri Subhadip Bose
- Shri Tharun Adurugatla



Jury for 8th National Photography Awards

Shri Vijay Kranti, Chairman of Jury for the awards informed the audience that a total of 9 entries were received for Lifetime Achievement Award while 12 were entered in the category on recommendation of Jury members. He further informed that 462 entries with a total of 4,535 images were received for the Professional category. These entries were received from 21 States and 4 Union Territories. In the Amateur category, 874 entries with 6,838 images were received from 24 States and 6 Union Territories.

Members of the Jury for 8th National Photography Awards

- Shri Vijay Kranti, Chairman
- Shri Jagdish Yadav, Member
- Shri Ajay Aggarwal, Member
- Shri K. Madhavan Pillai, Member
- Ms. Ashima Narain, Member, and
- Shri Sanjiv Misra, Photographic Officer, Photo Division, Member Secretary

India 8th most polluted country in the world: Swiss firm IQAir Report

According to the 'Global Air Quality' study published by the Swiss company IQAir, India fell from the fifth to the eighth most polluted nation in the world in 2022. The research shows that the PM2.5 level in the most polluted Indian cities is 53.3. The two Indian cities that made the list of the most polluted cities in the world are Bhiwadi, which is a suburb of Delhi, and Delhi, which was not far behind at 92.6. At the same time, 39 out of 50 cities in the list of most polluted cities are from India.

10 most polluted countries in the world

Rank	10 most polluted countries in the world
1	Chad
2	Iraq
3	Pakistan
4	Bahrain
5	Bangladesh
6	Burkina Faso
7	Kuwait
8	India
9	Egypt
10	Tajikistan

Key points of the reports:

Australia, Estonia, Finland, Grenada, Iceland and New Zealand met the World Health Organization (WHO) PM2.5 guideline (annual average of 5 µg/m3 or less).

Countries that meet WHO PM2.5 guideline

Australia
Estonia
Finland
Grenada
Iceland
New Zealand

'World Air Quality Report' 2022: About India

1. In India, the transport industry is responsible for 20–35% of the country's PM2.5 pollution. The use of biomass fuels, industrial facilities, and coal-fired power plants are other contributors of air quality degradation.
2. Among the top 50 most polluted cities worldwide, Delhi comes in at number four. The city with the highest pollution is Lahore, Pakistan, followed by Hotan, China. Rajasthan's Bhiwadi is ranked third.
3. According to the data, Delhi's PM2.5 concentration is about 20 times higher than the recommended amount.
4. The research makes a distinction between "big" Delhi and the capital city of New Delhi because Delhi has historically been the most polluted capital in the world. Both cities rank among the top 10, but N'Djamena, in Chad, has the dubious distinction of being the world's most polluted capital.
5. Pollution levels have decreased in NCR areas including Noida, Ghaziabad, Gurugram, and Faridabad.
6. According to the data, Gurugram had a 34% decrease in PM 2.5 levels and Faridabad saw a 21% decrease from the average levels observed in prior years.
7. There has been an 8% decrease in Delhi.
8. The research claims that pollution levels have significantly decreased in 31 cities, including 10 cities in Uttar Pradesh and 7 cities in Haryana.
9. According to the survey, there has been an increase in pollution in 38 cities and towns overall compared to the national average over the previous years.
10. The survey placed Kolkata as the most polluted of the six major cities, followed by Delhi. Chennai, on the other hand, was said to be the cleanest, with pollution there "only" 5 times the WHO-recommended safe threshold. Since 2017, pollution levels in the major cities of Hyderabad and Bengaluru have been higher than average.

ICC Player of the Month for February

The winners of the ICC Player of the Month awards for February 2023 have been revealed by the International Cricket Council (ICC), with Ashleigh Gardner of Australia being awarded the ICC Women's Player of the Month and Harry Brook of England recovering the ICC Men's Player of the Month titles. The outcomes of the ICC Player of the Month Awards for February are a carbon copy of those from December 2022, when both winners received their first awards following successful months for their respective teams in both the short and long formats of the game.

ICC Women's Player of the Month, February 2023: Ashleigh Gardner

Following a string of brilliant performances that helped Australia successfully defend their Women's T20 World Cup title in South Africa, **Ashleigh Gardner** is named the ICC Women's Player of the Month for February. She continued to solidify her position as the top-ranked T20I all-rounder in the MRF Tyres ICC Women's Player Rankings by taking consistent wickets and contributing with significant runs throughout the match, and she eventually capped a fruitful campaign with the Player of the Tournament award.

Gardner defeats Nat Sciver of England and Laura Wolvaardt of South Africa, both of whom were nominated for outstanding performances and two other ICC Women's T20 World Cup stars, to win the award.

ICC Men's Player of the Month, February 2023: Harry Brook

Brook wins his second award as the ICC Men's Player of the Month after once again showcasing his burgeoning reputation in international cricket. The prolific hitter has excelled across all formats, and recent Test matches for a resurgent England have shown just how high his potential is. Brook's quick and gutsy strokeplay was a feature, exciting spectators in a thrilling Test series, scoring big again in New Zealand last month.

In order to win his second ICC Men's Player of the Month title, Brook defeated fellow nominees Ravindra Jadeja and Gudakesh Motie. He joins Pakistan's Babar Azam, the 2022 ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year, as the only players to receive the honour twice.

TIME list of World's Greatest Places of 2023 Released, 2 Indian Places Makes the list

2 Indian places grabs spot in list of World's Greatest Places of 2023

India's **Mayurbhanj** and **Ladakh**, which have been chosen for their endangered tigers and historic temples, as well as their adventures and cuisine, respectively, are two of the 50 locations which are featured in the **TIME Magazine's list of World's Greatest Places in 2023**. Check out the entire **TIME Magazine's list of World's Greatest Places of 2023**.

TIME magazine's list of World's Greatest Places of 2023: Key Points

- As **TIME Magazine** revealed its list of the "**World's Best Places of 2023**," the Mayurbhanj region of Odisha and the Union Territory of Ladakh both made the cut.
- Although the travel industry is back in full force in 2023, it was noticed that there have been some significant changes in the way and places we visit.
- The magazine asked its global network of journalists and contributors for suggestions of locations, keeping an eye out for those offering novel and interesting experiences, in order to construct this list of the World's Best Places.

- The senior editor at TIME, **Emma Barker Bonomo**, was reported by CNN as saying that the list highlights two current major trends in travel: sustainability and authenticity.
- Many of the places on this list are figuring out ways to allow tourists to visit with less of an impact on the environment.
- And many have catered to tourists' yearning for distinctive, regional encounters by providing native-led tours or carefully selected homestays.

TIME list of World's Greatest Places of 2023

Below is the list of **TIME Magazine's list of World's Greatest Places of 2023**:

- Tampa, Florida
- Willamette Valley, Oregon
- Rio Grande, P. R.
- Tucson, Arizona
- Yosemite National Park, California
- Bozeman, Montana
- Washington, D.C.
- Vancouver, Canada
- Churchill, Manitoba
- Dijon, France
- Pantelleria, Italy
- Naples, Italy
- Aarhus, Denmark
- St. Moritz, Switzerland
- Barcelona, Spain
- Timisoara, Romania
- Sylt, Germany
- Berat, Albania
- Budapest, Hungary
- Vienna, Austria
- Brisbane, Australia
- Kangaroo Island, Australia
- Dominica
- Mexico City, Mexico
- Guadalajara, Mexico
- Torres del Paine National Park, Chile
- Pantanal, Brazil
- Medellín, Colombia
- Ollantaytambo, Peru
- Roatán, Honduras
- **Ladakh, India**
- **Mayurbhanj, India**
- Kyoto, Japan
- Nagoya, Japan
- Isan, Thailand
- Phuket, Thailand
- Jeju Island, South Korea
- Luang Prabang, Laos
- Giza and Saqqara, Egypt

- Chyulu Hills, Kenya
- Musanze, Rwanda
- Rabat, Morocco
- Dakar, Senegal
- Loango National Park, Gabon
- Freetown Peninsula, Sierra Leone
- The Red Sea, Saudi Arabia
- Aqaba, Jordan
- Jerusalem, Israel
- Sharjah, UAE
- Tuamotu Archipelago, French Polynesia

Global Terrorism Index – India ranked 13th, topped by Afghanistan

Afghanistan remains the country most impacted by **terrorism** for the fourth consecutive year, despite attacks and deaths falling by 75 per cent and 58 per cent, respectively, the **tenth Global Terrorism Index (GTI) report** showed. **India** ranked 13th on the index, marking only a marginal decrease from the previous year. In spite of being among the 25 worst-hit nations on the index, Indian respondents desisted from selecting war and terrorism as the biggest threat to their daily safety.

What Is Global terrorism index(GTI):

- The **Global Terrorism Index** is an annual ranking produced by the **Institute for Economics and Peace**. As even the definition of terrorism is hotly debated, it is essential to highlight that the methodologies used to measure terrorism are also contested.
- The Global Terrorism Index ranks **163 countries** on four indicators weighted over five years. These four factors are: the number of terrorist incidents per year, the number of fatalities caused by terrorists per year, the number of injuries caused by terrorists per year, and total property damage caused by terrorism per year.
- The index provides a comprehensive summary of the key global trends and patterns in terrorism since 2000. It produces a composite score in order to provide an ordinal ranking of countries on the impact of terrorism.
- The GTI is based on data from the **Global Terrorism Database (GTD)** which is collected and collated by the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START) at the University of Maryland.

India: Key findings of the Global Terrorism Index (GTI):

- India was listed among countries with a **“high”** impact of terrorism and ranked **13th**.
- India was among the **25 worst terror-hit countries** and among **56 of the 120 nations** surveyed with no respondents selecting war and **terror as the biggest threat** to their daily safety.
- The report lists the **Communist Party of India (Maoist)** as the **12th deadliest terror group** in 2022.

Pakistan: Global Terrorism Index (GTI):

Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) is the rebel group with the largest growth rate in Pakistan, where terror-related deaths have increased by 120%. The number of people killed as a result of terrorism in **Pakistan** increased dramatically to 643, which is the second-largest rise in the past year, as the number was 292 in the previous year. The number of deaths due to terrorism in Afghanistan in the same year was 633. As a result of the rapid increase in deaths, Pakistan has climbed four spots to rank sixth on the index.

Top five countries with the highest impact of terrorism:

Rank	Country	Score
1	Afghanistan	8.822
2	Burkina Faso	8.564
3	Somalia	8.463
4	Mali	8.412
5	Syria	8.161

Global deaths from terrorism:

- It fell by **9 %** to **6,701 deaths, from 38 % in 2015**.
- The West African Country of Burkina Faso had the largest number of deaths globally, increasing from 759 to 1,135 in 2022. Pakistan was in 4th position in terms of the number of terrorism deaths, after Burkina Faso, Mali and Somalia.

South Asia: GTI score: Most Affected With The Terrorism:

- South Asia remains the region with the worst average GTI score.
- It recorded **1,354 deaths** from terrorism in 2022, a **decrease of 30 %** when compared to the previous year.
- **Afghanistan and Pakistan** remain amongst the ten countries most affected by terrorism in 2022.

The List of Deadliest terrorist groups:

Islamic State (IS) and its affiliates were the deadliest terrorist groups in the world in 2022, followed by al-Shabaab, Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), and Jamaat Nusrat Al-Islam wal Muslimeen (JNIM).

10 happiest countries in the world for 2023

The **World Happiness Report 2023** has been released. According to the **World Happiness Index for 2023**, Finland is the happiest country in the world for the sixth year in a row. Let us have a look at the **list of 10 happiest countries in the world for 2023**.

10 happiest countries in the world for 2023: According to World Happiness Index

Researchers looked at six important variables to determine where people are happy in the world: social support, money, health, independence, charity, and lack of corruption. The survey discovered that, despite a number of converging crises, overall life satisfaction is on par with levels prior to the epidemic.

Finland, which is well known for its beautiful landscapes and high standard of living, continues to hold the top spot because of its straightforward way of life, dedication to sustainability, close connection to nature, and enjoyment of seasonal and local foods. Israel and the Netherlands completed the top five, placing second and third, respectively, behind Denmark and Iceland.

India has been ranked 125th out of 146 countries, which is an improvement of nine positions from its 2022 ranking. However, India's ranking is lower than even war-torn countries like Russia and Ukraine. Furthermore, India's neighboring countries such as Nepal, China, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka have a higher ranking than India.

10 happiest countries in the world for 2023: Key Points

- The **World Happiness Report of 2023** team also discovered that many ordinary acts of kindness, including lending a hand to a stranger, giving to charity, and volunteering, are all above pre-pandemic levels.
- Happiness has been demonstrated to increase as a result of acts of kindness, according to research co-author Lara Aknin.
- The 2023 also examined the **Ukrainian** survey data that was readily available.
- "The tragic impact of the conflict is clear to all, and thus we also discover that well-being in Ukraine has taken a real knock," says **Jan-Emmanuel De Neve**.
- Yet what is unexpected is that the state of the economy in Ukraine declined less than it did in 2014 when Russia annexed Crimea.

List of 10 happiest countries in the world for 2023

Below is the List of 10 happiest countries in the world for 2023:

1. Finland

Finland is a country in Northern Europe that borders Russia, Sweden, and Norway. Helsinki, the nation's capital, is located on a peninsula and several nearby islands in the Baltic Sea. Suomenlinna, a coastal castle built in the 18th century, as well as the chic Design District and other museums, can all be found in Helsinki. The nation's Arctic Lapland province, a large wilderness with national parks and ski areas, offers the opportunity to view the Northern Lights.

2. Denmark

Jutland Peninsula and many islands make up the Nordic nation of Denmark. It's linked to adjacent Sweden via the Öresund bridge. Royal palaces, the vibrant Nyhavn port, the Tivoli amusement park, and the well-known "Little Mermaid" monument may all be found in Copenhagen, the country's capital. Hans Christian Andersen's hometown is Odense, which has a historic centre with cobblestone streets and half-timbered homes.

3. Iceland

The stunning terrain of the Nordic island nation of Iceland, which has volcanoes, geysers, hot springs, and lava fields, defines the country. National parks Vatnajökull and Snaefellsjökull provide protection for enormous glaciers. The majority of people reside in the capital, Reykjavik, which is powered by geothermal energy and has the National and Saga museums, which chronicle Iceland's Viking history.

4. Israel

Jews, Christians, and Muslims all consider Israel, a Middle Eastern nation on the Mediterranean Sea, to be the biblical Holy Land. The holiest places are in Jerusalem. The Temple Mount complex, which is located within its Old City, houses the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Dome of the Rock monument, the Western Wall, and the Al-Aqsa Mosque. Tel Aviv, the financial centre of Israel, is renowned for its Bauhaus style and beaches.

5. Netherlands

The Netherlands is a nation in northwest Europe with a flat topography that is home to canals, tulip fields, windmills, and bicycle paths. The Rijksmuseum, the Van Gogh Museum, and the house where Jewish diarist Anne Frank hid during World War II are all located in Amsterdam, the country's capital. From the city's "Golden Period" in the 17th century, canalside homes and a collection of artwork by Rembrandt and Vermeer are still standing.

6. Sweden

Sweden is a Scandinavian country with tens of thousands of inland lakes, glaciated mountains, and coastal islands. Its major cities, including the capital and largest city in the east, Stockholm, and the coastal Gothenburg and Malmö. 14 islands make up Stockholm. Together with the mediaeval old town, Gamla Stan, royal residences, and museums like outdoor ones, it features more than 50 bridges. Skansen

7. Norway

A Scandinavian nation, Norway is home to mountains, glaciers, and extensive coastline fjords. The capital, Oslo, is a city with parks and museums. The Viking Ship Museum in Oslo has preserved Viking ships on display. The starting location for cruises to the breathtaking Sognefjord is Bergen, which has colourful wooden buildings. Very popular in Norway are hiking, skiing, and fishing, particularly in the Olympic ski resort in Lillehammer.

8. Switzerland

Switzerland is a hilly nation in Central Europe that is home to many lakes, towns, and the lofty Alps. Medieval neighbourhoods may be found throughout its cities, like the Zytglogge clock tower in Bern, the nation's capital, and the wooden chapel bridge in Lucerne. The nation is renowned for its hiking trails and ski resorts. Key businesses include banking and finance, while Swiss goods like watches and chocolate are well-known worldwide.

9. Luxembourg

The small European nation of Luxembourg is bordered by Belgium, France, and Germany. It is primarily rural, with rocky gorges of the Mullerthal region in the east, the Moselle river valley in the southeast, and extensive Ardennes woodland and nature parks in the north. The iconic mediaeval old town of Luxembourg City, the nation's capital, is guarded and set on sheer cliffs.

10. New Zealand

The island nation of New Zealand is located in the western Pacific Ocean. Around 700 smaller islands make up its two main landmasses, the North Island and the South Island. By area, it is the sixth-largest island nation, with 268,021 square kilometres.

India's most valuable celebrity of 2022

India's most valuable celebrity of 2022

According to a report by **Kroll**, a corporate investigation and risk consulting firm, actor **Ranveer Singh** has been named **India's most valuable celebrity of 2022**, surpassing cricketer **Virat Kohli** who held the top spot for five years. The report titled "Celebrity Brand Valuation Report 2022: Beyond the Mainstream" reveals that Singh's brand value is **\$181.7 million**.

Virat Kohli, who previously held the top spot, has fallen to the second position with a brand value of **\$176.9 million**, according to the Kroll report. Kohli's brand value has been decreasing for the past two years since he resigned as the captain of the Indian men's cricket team. In 2020, his brand value was over \$237 million but steeply declined in 2021 to \$185.7 million, resulting in his current second-place ranking.

Other celebrities in the list:

- The Kroll report reveals that **Akshay Kumar and Alia Bhatt** have maintained their positions as the third and fourth most valuable celebrities in India, with brand values of \$153.6 million and \$102.9 million, respectively.
- **Deepika Padukone** has moved up two ranks to the fifth spot with a brand value of \$82.9 million, and has since become the brand ambassador of Qatar Airways and PotteryBarn.
- The report also includes **Amitabh Bachchan, Hritik Roshan, and Shah Rukh Khan** in the top 10 most valuable celebrities.
- Former cricketer **MS Dhoni** is ranked sixth with a brand value of over \$80 million, while **Sachin Tendulkar** has entered the top 10 for the first time, ranking eighth with a brand value of \$73.6 million.
- For the first time, South Indian stars **Allu Arjun and Rashmika Mandanna** have made it to the list of India's top 25 most valuable celebrities.
- Olympic gold medallist **Neeraj Chopra and PV Sindhu** tied at the 23rd spot with a brand value of \$26.5 million, according to the report.

World Happiness Report 2023

World Happiness Report 2023

The **2023 World Happiness Report** has been released, and it shows that **Finland** remains the happiest country in the world for the sixth year in a row. **Denmark, Iceland, Israel, and the Netherlands** are the next happiest countries, with other European countries such as Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, and Luxembourg also making the top 10. The rankings are based on data from the main life evaluation question in the **Gallup World Poll**, which measures how happy citizens perceive themselves to be.

Top 10 country in the list of 2023 World Happiness Report:

Rank	Country
1	Finland
2	Denmark
3	Iceland
4	Israel
5	Netherlands
6	Sweden
7	Norway
8	Switzerland
9	Luxembourg
10	New Zealand
126	India

India's position in the World Happiness Report?

India's position in the World Happiness Report has improved from 136 to 126, although it is still behind its neighboring countries such as Nepal, China, and Bangladesh. Despite having the world's fastest-growing economy, India's ranking in the report has consistently been low, leading some to question how it can be ranked lower than countries in turmoil.



How Russia and Ukraine are ranked?

Despite the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine, both countries rank higher than India in the World Happiness Report, with **Russia ranked 70th and Ukraine ranked 92nd**. The report indicates that both countries experienced increased levels of kindness in 2020 and 2021, but in 2022, Ukraine saw a sharp rise in benevolence while it declined in Russia.

Most unhappy countries of the world?

The World Happiness Report has ranked Afghanistan as the least happy country out of the 137 nations surveyed. The report also highlighted other nations such as Lebanon, Zimbabwe, and the Democratic Republic of Congo as being among the unhappiest countries, largely due to factors such as high levels of corruption and low life expectancy.

About the World Happiness Report:

The World Happiness Report is an annual report published by the **United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network**. It ranks countries based on how happy their citizens perceive themselves to be and provides analysis of the factors that contribute to happiness, such as income, social support, and life expectancy. The report is based predominantly on data from the main life evaluation question in the Gallup World Poll. The first report was published in 2012 and it has been released annually since then, typically in March.

The World Happiness Report assesses happiness levels across the world based on various criteria, including both domestic and global factors. Although India has improved its ranking in the report, it still remains quite low compared to many neighboring countries. The report gauges happiness based on feedback from a nationally representative sample of individuals regarding their current life satisfaction levels.

WPL 2023 Final: Mumbai Indians defeated Delhi Capitals by seven wickets

WPL 2023 Final

In the **Women's Premier League (WPL) 2023 final**, held at the **Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai**, the Mumbai Indians won against the **Delhi Capitals** by seven wickets. The Delhi Capitals chose to bat first after winning the toss, and set a target of 132 runs. In response, the Mumbai Indians achieved the target by scoring 134/3 in 19.3 overs. Nat Sciver-Brunt played exceptionally well and remained unbeaten after scoring 60 runs off 55 balls, while the team's captain Harmanpreet Kaur contributed 37 runs off 39 balls. The Harmanpreet Kaur-led side scripted history by becoming the winners of the 2023 edition of the tournament.

WPL 2023 Final: Brief Score

- Delhi Capitals: 131 for 9 in 20 overs (Meg Lanning 35; Hayley Matthews 3/5, Issy Wong 3/42).
- Mumbai Indians: 134 for 3 in 19.3 overs (Nat Sciver-Brunt 60 not out, Harmanpreet kaur 37; Radha Yadav 1/24).

WPL 2023 Final: Orange Cap

After an outstanding performance throughout the tournament, **Meg Lanning** was crowned the winner of the **WPL 2023 Orange Cap**. The captain of the Delhi Capitals was the top scorer for her team in the final, contributing 35 runs in the first innings. Throughout the season, Lanning scored a total of 345 runs and finished with an impressive average of 49.29 and a strike rate of 139.11 in nine matches.

WPL 2023 Final: Purple Cap

Hayley Matthews, who plays for Mumbai Indians, was awarded the **Purple Cap** for her excellent performance in the WPL 2023 final. Matthews, who is an all-rounder from the Caribbean, triggered the collapse of the Delhi Capitals by taking three wickets for just five runs in her four overs. With this performance, her total wicket tally in the tournament reached 16, which led her to clinch the Purple Cap.

WPL 2023: Full list of award winners

Awards	Player/Team	Cash Prize/Awards
WPL 2023 Orange Cap winner (Most Runs):	Meg Lanning, Delhi Capitals	Rs 5 Lakh
WPL 2023 Purple Cap winner (Most Wickets)	Hayley Matthews, Mumbai Indians	Rs 5 Lakh
Most Valuable Player	Hayley Matthews, Mumbai Indians	Rs 5 Lakh
Best Catch of the Season:	Harmanpreet Kaur, Mumbai Indians	Rs 5 Lakh
FairPlay Award:	Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals (Shared).	Trophy
Emerging Player of the Season:	Yastika Bhatia, Mumbai Indians	Rs 5 Lakh
Power Striker of the Tournament:	Sophie Devine, Royal Challengers Bangalore	Rs 5 Lakh
Player of the Match in Final	Natalie Sciver, Mumbai Indians	Rs 5 Lakh

2023 IBA Women's World Boxing Championships: Check the list of Winners

IBA Women's World Boxing Championship 2023

India emerged as a dominant force at the 13th edition of the **IBA Women's World Boxing Championship 2023, held in New Delhi**. The event concluded with four Indian female boxers securing gold medals in different weight categories. Saweety Boora, Nitu Ghanghas, Nikhat Zareen, and Lovlina Borgohain were the top performers in their respective categories, contributing to India's historic success in the competition. This was the second time India achieved such a remarkable feat, the first being in the 2006 event. The 13th edition of the Women's World Boxing Championship 2023 was organised by the International Boxing Association (IBA) and took place from **March 15 to March 26, 2023**.

2023 IBA Women's World Boxing Championships: Check the list of Winners

Weight Class	Athlete Name	Country	Medal
Welterweight	Yang Liu	China	Gold
Flyweight	Wu Yu	China	Gold
Middleweight	Lovlina Borgohain (75 kg)	India	Gold
Bantamweight	Huang Hsiao-wen	Chinese Taipei	Gold
Minimumweight	Nitu Ghanghas (48 kg)	India	Gold
Light flyweight	Nikhat Zareen (50 kg)	India	Gold
Light welterweight	Yang Chengyu	China	Gold
Light middleweight	Anastasiia Demurchian	Russia	Gold
Featherweight	Irma Testa	Italy	Gold
Light heavyweight	Saweety Boora (81 kg)	India	Gold
Heavyweight	Khadija Mardi	Morocco	Gold
Lightweight	Beatriz Ferreira	Brazil	Gold

Banking and Financial Current Affairs

- **RBL Bank**, the private lender said that it has reached an agreement with **Export-Import Bank of India (India Exim Bank)** under the **Trade Assistance Programme (TAP)** in order to facilitate cross-border commercial operations. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Bank credit growth** slowed down to 16.8% in the October-December 2022 period from a year earlier, **RBI data** showed. This compares with 17.2% seen in the previous quarter, according to the quarterly statistics on bank deposits and credit, released by the Reserve Bank of India. A year earlier, credit growth was 8.4%. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- India's **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** is shortly to be connected to comparable networks in **Indonesia, Mauritius, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)**. This occurs a week after Singapore's **PayNow** launched cross-border connection for real-time digital payments. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Axis Bank** completed the acquisition of Citibank's consumer business. The deal, which was announced in March 2022, will see India's third-largest private sector bank absorbing Citibank's consumer businesses, covering loans, credit cards, wealth management and retail banking operations in India. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corp Ltd (IRCTC)** and **HDFC Bank**, announced the launch of a co-branded travel credit card. Known as the IRCTC HDFC Bank Credit Card, the newly launched co-branded card is available exclusively on NPCI's Rupay network. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- Recently, **RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das** had stated during the most recent Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) address that the apex banking regulator, in collaboration with banks, would launch a pilot project to evaluate the operation of a QR-code based coin vending machine. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India** launched two key surveys, the results of which provide "useful inputs" for the central bank's bi-monthly **monetary policy**. One of the surveys is to know inflation expectations of households and the other is to gauge the consumer confidence. The latest round of Consumer Confidence Survey (CCS) is aimed at gathering qualitative responses from households, regarding their sentiments on **general economic situation**, employment scenario, price level, households' income and spending. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **State Bank of India (SBI)** announced the completion of a **\$1 billion** syndicated social loan facility. It is the largest Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) loan by a commercial bank in the Asia Pacific and the second-largest social loan globally, the bank said. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India imposed a Rs 5,000 cap on withdrawals by individual customers from Tamil Nadu-based **Musiri Urban Co-operative Bank** as part of several restrictions slapped on the lender due to its deteriorating financial condition. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- While **digital payments** have skyrocketed during the past few years, a significant portion of the population still does not use digital payments for day-to-day transactions. In order to bridge this gap, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor **Shaktikanta Das** launched a mission -- "**Har Payment Digital**" - with the aim of making every citizen in the country a user of digital payments as part of Digital Payments Awareness Week (DPAW) 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Reserve Bank of India governor Shaktikanta Das said payments through **UPI (unified payment interface)** have grown exponentially in the past 12 months with daily transactions crossing 36 crore, which is up 50 per cent from 24 crore in February 2022. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company (**Kotak Mutual Fund**) has launched a digital campaign called '**DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality**', which calls for digital inclusion of all with the hashtag #IncludeAll. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Punjab National Bank, nation's public sector bank and **Central Warehousing Corporation** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate financing under **e-NWR (Electronic Negotiable Warehousing Receipt)**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- In a country witnessing rapid growth, it comes as no surprise that **India** also has one of the fastest-growing **fintech** landscapes in the world, driven primarily by the advancement in the digital payments segment. **Boston Consulting Group (BCG)**, in collaboration with **PhonePe**, India's leading digital payments company, today unveiled a report titled, "**Digital payments in India: A US\$10 trillion opportunity**". ([Click here to read the article](#))
- India's digital payments landscape has witnessed phenomenal growth over the past five years. As per the report, India's digital payments market is at an inflection point and is expected to increase more than **threefold** from the current **US\$3 trillion to US\$10 trillion by 2026**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Finance Ministry** has tweaked the **anti-money laundering law** by bringing **cryptocurrencies** and other virtual digital assets trade under its ambit. This means that **exchanges, custodians, and wallet providers, among others in crypto-related trade, will fall under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act**. The government has imposed money laundering provisions on cryptocurrencies or virtual assets as it looks to tighten oversight of digital assets. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** granted an 'Infrastructure Finance Company (IFC)' status to Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (**IREDA**), a company statement said. It was earlier classified as an 'Investment and Credit Company (ICC)'. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **State Bank of India (SBI)** has raised Rs 3,717 crore through its third Basel III compliant Additional Tier 1 bond issuance in the current financial year at coupon rate of 8.25 per cent. SBI said the issue attracted overwhelming response from investors with bids of **Rs 4,537 crore** and was oversubscribed by about 2.27 times against the base issue of Rs 2,000 crore. The total number of bids were 53 indicating wider participation. The investors were across provident and pension funds and insurance companies. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **IDFC Mutual Fund** has rebranded itself as **Bandhan Mutual Fund**. The change in name will be effective from March 13. All the schemes of the fund house will be renamed to replace the word 'IDFC' with the word 'Bandhan'. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has permitted banks from **18 countries** to open Special Vostro Rupee Accounts (SVRAs) to settle payments in rupees, the government said. Speaking in Rajya Sabha, Union Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat **Kishanrao Karad** said that 60 such approvals have been given by the RBI. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Suryoday Small Finance Bank announced the launch of '**Blossom Women's Savings Account**' with 7 percent per annum interest rate with monthly interest credit. In addition to this, specially designed RuPay Platinum Debit Card offering discount on shopping and online purchases will also be available with the account, Suryodaya Small Finance Bank said. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **IDFC FIRST Bank**, a private sector bank in India, has become the official banking partner of the **Mumbai Indians**, a franchise cricket team that competes in the Indian Premier League (IPL). ([Click here to read the article](#))
- To leverage the reach of **UPI** and the strength of credit card products, **Canara Bank** in collaboration with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) launched the Rupay Credit Card through UPI using the BHIM app. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **ICICI Bank** announced that it offering a comprehensive bouquet of digital and physical solutions to cater to all banking needs of startups across their various life stages. As part of the '**Startup Ecosystem Banking**' the Bank has put in place a dedicated team for startups that serves them through an extensive network of branches. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- According to data from the **Reserve Bank of India**, the country's **foreign exchange reserves** declined by **\$2.397 billion to \$560 billion** as of March 10, 2023. This marks a three-month low for India's foreign exchange reserves after they had increased for the first time in five weeks to \$562.40 billion as of March 3. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)** approved the merger of **HDFC Ltd and HDFC Bank**, which is considered to be the largest merger in the history of corporate India. The merger will create a massive banking entity by combining India's largest housing finance company with the country's largest private lender. Prior to this, HDFC Ltd had already received approval from various regulatory bodies and stock exchanges for the merger. Shares of both companies were trading higher on the BSE during late trading hours. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- To prevent further turmoil in the **global banking system**, Swiss authorities have orchestrated a shotgun merger between **UBS and Credit Suisse**, with UBS agreeing to buy its rival for 3 billion Swiss francs (\$3.23 billion) and assuming up to \$5.4 billion in losses. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Shaktikanta Das, initiated the establishment of a "**Greenfield Data Centre**" and an "Enterprise Computing & Cybersecurity Training Institute" in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, during a foundation stone laying ceremony. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Canara Bank** has announced that it sold its stake in Commercial Indo Bank LLC (CIBL), a joint venture with **State Bank of India (SBI)**, to SBI for approximately ₹121.29 crore. CIBL, which was established in 2003, operates in **Russia** and is owned 60% by SBI and 40% by Canara Bank. According to Canara Bank, the sale agreement was executed on November 11, 2022. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Lok Sabha passed the **Finance Bill 2023**, which implements tax proposals for the upcoming fiscal year, without any discussion. The passage of the Bill occurred amid Opposition uproar over the Adani controversy. Proposals for a total of **64 official amendments** were put forward in the Bill, including one that aims to eliminate long-term tax benefits for specific categories of debt mutual funds and another that calls for the establishment of the **GST Appellate Tribunal**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **ICICI Lombard General Insurance** has introduced an industry-first feature for health insurance policyholders called '**Anywhere Cashless**,' which allows them to receive cashless facilities at any hospital, regardless of whether or not it is currently part of ICICI Lombard's hospital network. However, the hospital must agree to accept the cashless facility for this feature to apply. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **First-Citizens Bank** and Trust Company, based in Raleigh, North Carolina, has entered a purchase and assumption agreement with the **Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)** to acquire all loans and deposits of the recently failed **Silicon Valley Bridge Bank** in the United States. The FDIC established Silicon Valley Bridge Bank, National Association after the California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation closed down Silicon Valley Bank. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **YES Bank** has collaborated with **National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL)** to issue its first electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG). The integration of their digital document execution (DDE) platform has made it possible to completely digitize the previous paper-based process of issuing and maintaining Bank Guarantees. This includes the digital stamping and signing, which has significantly reduced the time it takes to issue Bank Guarantees. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **IDFC First Bank** has announced its collaboration with the **Swedish company Crunchfish** to launch a pilot project to demonstrate offline retail payments. The bank is going to participate in the **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) pilot project** that aims to enable offline payments. The project aims to provide digital payment services to customers and merchants even in areas without network connectivity. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** has increased the interest rate on employees' provident fund (EPF) deposits for the financial year 2022-23. At its meeting, the retirement fund body has fixed the interest rate at **8.15 per cent**. However, this rate is subject to approval by the Ministry of Finance, which ratifies the interest rate provided by the EPFO. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Starting from April 1, merchants carrying out transactions through the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** using **Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI)** will be subjected to charges, according to a circular issued by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has issued a circular stating that merchants conducting transactions on the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) using Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI) will be charged an interchange **fee of 1.1%** on the transaction amount for amounts over Rs 2,000. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Axis Bank**, one of India's top private sector banks, has introduced a groundbreaking payment solution called "**MicroPay**" in collaboration with technical partners **Ezetap by Razorpay** and **MyPinpad**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The government increased the **maximum age** for Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority's (PFRDA) ombudsman from 65 to 70 years. The **ombudsman** is responsible for receiving, evaluating, and helping to resolve complaints or grievances that come under PFRDA regulations. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- As part of its corporate social responsibility, the **State Bank of India (SBI)** has partnered with the NGO That's Eco Foundation to donate ₹48 lakh for the plantation of 32,000 tree saplings at Garden City University in Bengaluru. This initiative aims to contribute to the environment by increasing the green cover and promoting sustainable practices. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The central board of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** chaired by Governor Shaktikanta Das, conducted its 601st meeting in **Hyderabad** to assess the current global and domestic economic conditions, along with the accompanying difficulties. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- During the ASSOCHAM Annual Session 2023, Mr. Piyush Goyal, who serves as the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and Textiles, declared that **India's merchandise and services exports** are expected to surpass **US\$ 760 billion** in the present fiscal year, which will end on March 31, 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- Starting from **April 1**, the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has implemented **interchange fees** of up to **1.1 percent** for prepaid payment instruments used in merchant **UPI transactions**. The fee, ranging from 0.5 percent and based on the merchant category code, will be charged for UPI payments exceeding **₹2,000** made to online merchants, large merchants, and small offline merchants. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Economy Current Affairs

- The country's **services exports** are doing "extremely well" and going by the current trend these outbound shipments would register about 20 per cent growth in this fiscal and cross the **USD 300 billion** target despite global economic uncertainties, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The amount of various subsidies and sops transferred to recipients through **direct benefit transfer (DBT)** has reached almost **Rs 5.5 trillion** so far in the current fiscal year, **FY23**, almost on par with **FY21**'s total and falling just 13% shy of **FY22**'s total achievement. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- India's gross domestic product (**GDP**) **growth rate** fell for the second straight quarter in the October-December period, coming in at **4.4 percent**, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation said. India is poised to achieve 7 percent GDP growth in 2022-23 despite global slowdown. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Moody's** now expects India's real GDP growth to be **5.5% in 2023**, up from the earlier projection of **5%**, and **to be 6.5% in 2024**. The upward revisions for India also incorporate a significant increase in capital expenditure budget allocation to ₹10 lakh crore (3.3% of GDP) for fiscal year 2023-24, up from ₹7.5 lakh crore for the fiscal year ending in March 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- India's purchasing managers' index (PMI) declined to a 4-month low at 55.3 in February owing to a rise in input costs, according to the **S&P Global India Manufacturing PMI** report. In January, the manufacturing PMI stood at 55.4. The headline figure, however, remained above its **long-run average of 53.7**. A reading above 50 indicates an overall increase in output compared to the previous month. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The gross **goods and service tax (GST)** revenue collection in the month of February 2023 stood at Rs 1,49,577 crore, up around 12% on an annual basis. With this, the monthly **GST revenues** remained over Rs 1.4 lakh crore for 12 straight months in a row, the Finance Ministry said in a statement. India's GST revenue in February 2022 was Rs 1,33,026 crore. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- India's per capita income** in nominal terms doubled to Rs 1,72,000 since 2014-15 when the **Narendra Modi**-led NDA came to power but uneven income distribution remains a challenge. As per the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**, the annual per capita (net national income) at current prices is estimated at Rs 1,72,000 in 2022-23, up from Rs 86,647 in 2014-15, suggesting an increase of about 99 per cent. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- India's **Wholesale price index (WPI)**-based inflation eased below the 4 per cent-mark in February and was recorded at 3.85 per cent, data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry showed. In January, the **WPI inflation** figure was 4.73 per cent. This is the lowest since January 2021 when the WPI inflation was 2.51 per cent. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- India's retail inflation** for February slows down to 6.44 percent as against 6.52 percent in January 2023, according to data published by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on March 13. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- CRISIL** expects India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth to touch 6% in fiscal 2024, compared with 7% estimated by the National Statistics Office (NSO) for fiscal 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)** has increased its growth projection for India by 20 basis points to 5.9% for the fiscal year 2024, according to its latest interim outlook report titled "**Fragile Recovery**." ([Click here to read the article](#))
- On March 22, the **Income Tax Department** launched a mobile application called "**AIS for Taxpayer**" that enables taxpayers to view their tax-related information in the **Annual Information Statement (AIS)** or Taxpayer Information Summary (TIS). The app has become essential and beneficial since starting from the new financial year on April 1, Form 26AS will only show information related to tax deducted at source (TDS) and tax collection at source (TCS). ([Click here to read the article](#))



- The Union Cabinet approved an increase in the **dearness allowance** and dearness relief by 4 per cent to 42 per cent, benefiting 47.58 lakh **central government employees** and 69.76 lakh pensioners. According to I&B Minister **Anurag Thakur**, the combined impact of both the Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief on the exchequer will be Rs 12,815.60 crore annually. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **S&P Global Ratings** has maintained its earlier projection for **India's economic growth** rate at 6% in the fiscal year starting from April 1, with a further increase to 6.9% in the following year. In its latest quarterly economic update for Asia-Pacific, S&P predicted that the **inflation rate** would decline to 5% during the 2023-24 fiscal year, down from the current financial year's 6.8%. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- A recent report by **GlobalData** suggests that the **fixed communication services** revenue of India is set to experience a **compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 6.4%**, with an estimated increase from **\$10.2 billion in 2022 to \$13.9 billion in 2027**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Business Current Affairs

- **Nokia** will no longer use the **colour blue** and will instead use whatever is more fitting given the circumstances, therefore no particular colour scheme is allocated. **Nokia** is now a "**enterprise technology company**," according to **Lundmark**, rather than just a maker of smartphones. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Tata group-owned Air India's order for a record 470 aircraft from Airbus and Boeing Co** will be at a list price of \$70 billion, Chief Executive Campbell Wilson said, as the airline seeks opportunities to expand in long-haul international. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Air India, owned by the Tata group**, will discontinue the Vistara brand on completion of its merger with Tata SIA Airlines Ltd, the operator of Vistara airline, chief executive and managing director **Campbell Wilson** said. Tata Group owns a 51 per cent stake and Singapore Airlines the rest in Vistara. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Singapore Airlines** will give **Air India** an additional SGD 360 million (USD 267 million). With its acquisition by **Tata** and merger with **Vistara Airlines**, it will give SIA a 25.1% interest in the firm. Through this deal, SIA will strengthen its relationship with Tata and gain an instant strategic position in a company that is four to five times bigger than **Vistara** in terms of size. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Joblessness** as measured by the CMIE All India **unemployment rate** remained elevated in February 2023 and rose to 7.45% from 7.14% in the previous month. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- A 300-acre plot adjacent to **Bengaluru's international airport** has been agreed upon by **Foxconn**, a Taiwanese company that assembles iPhones, as the location for its largest technology manufacturing campus in India. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance (ABSLI)**, the life insurance subsidiary of **Aditya Birla Capital Limited (ABCL)** launched a new-age savings solution ABSLI Nishchit Aayush Plan, which aims to provide financial security to policyholders while also providing long-term savings benefits. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Indian commercial vehicle manufacturer, **Ashok Leyland**, has launched an "**All Women Production Line**" with 100 per cent female employees at its **Hosur plant in Tamil Nadu**. The initiative to introduce an all-women production line is to promote women empowerment and encourage them take up roles in manufacturing industry. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Pfizer** is spending about \$43 billion to acquire **Seagen** to reach deeper into new cancer treatments that target tumor cells while sparing surrounding healthy tissue. The pharmaceutical giant said it will pay \$229 in cash for each share of **Seagen Inc**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Competition Commission of India** said that it has cleared Reliance Industries Ltd's Rs 2,850 crore acquisition of the Indian business of German retailer **Metro AG**. The deal, announced nearly three months ago, will help Reliance strengthen its wholesale format and cement its position as the biggest player in India's burgeoning retail industry with stores spanning electronics, groceries and fashion. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Microsoft** strikes a deal to make **Xbox** PC video games available on the **Boosteroid** cloud gaming platform, its latest move to appease antitrust regulators scrutinising its purchase of game maker Activision Blizzard. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)** has launched the "**Learning Science via Standards**" initiative to promote science learning among school students. This program aims to improve students' learning outcomes in science and promote an interest in science education by providing them with access to national and international standards related to science. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Ashneer Grover**, co-founder of **BharatPe**, has launched a new cricket-focused fantasy sports app named **CrickPe** ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) tournament. ([Click here to read the article](#))

International Current Affairs

- Inspectors from the **United Nations** nuclear watchdog found **uranium** particles enriched up to 83.7% in **Iran's** underground Fordo nuclear site. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Nigerian** electoral officials announced on 1 March 2023 that the ruling party's candidate in the presidential election, **Bola Tinubu**, has been elected as the country's new president. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Japan, the United States, South Korea and Taiwan have held the first meeting of senior officials under a new U.S.-led framework to help ensure a stable **supply of semiconductors**, Japan's industry ministry said. Officials from industry organizations in the four economies took part in the virtual conference of the **"Chip 4" alliance** on Feb. 16 to discuss ways to maintain supply chain resilience in times of natural disasters and other contingencies. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **United Kingdom and European Union** have unveiled an agreement on the Northern Ireland Protocol, called the **Windsor Framework**. This is not a new protocol or a fundamental rewrite of the current treaty. But the package announced this week is an improved deal that could substantively ease how the protocol will operate for businesses as well as individuals. It is a negotiating achievement that marks a turning point in the long road since **Brexit** for Northern Ireland. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- POTS or postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome has affected around three **million Americans** before **Covid-19** and at least one million new patients after **the pandemic**. Many people are still not familiar with the disease. A study reveals that around 2% to 14% of people with covid develop POTS. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The country is changing its top leadership as it continues its anti-corruption campaign. The National Assembly(NA) of the Socialist Republic of **Vietnam** elected **Vo Van Thuong(Võ Văn Thưởng)** (52 years old), a member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Vietnam, as the new President of Vietnam for a term running until 2026. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Ales Bialiatski**, a leading defender of human rights in **Belarus** and a candidate for the **2022 Nobel Peace Prize**, was given a 10-year prison term in **Minsk**, the Capital of Belarus. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **United Nations(UN)** inked the first **'High Seas Treaty'** in a bid to protect the ocean bodies of the world that lie outside the national boundaries and form almost two-thirds of the world's oceans. The treaty will create a new body to manage **the conservation of marine life** and establish marine protected areas in the high seas. Also referred to as the 'Paris Agreement for the Ocean', the treaty to deal with Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ). ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **5th Asean-India Business Summit** took place on 6 March 2023 in **Kuala Lumpur**. Speakers and participants from Asean and India convened to discuss how business linkages, connectivity and supply chain resilience can be enhanced through deeper ASEAN-India cooperation. The Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology addresses the 5th ASEAN-India Business summit. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Qatar's** Amir **Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani** has appointed Foreign Minister **Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani** as the country's new prime minister. The decision to appoint Sheikh Mohammed, who was the deputy prime minister, came after the amir accepted the resignation of former Prime Minister Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdulaziz Al Thani. Sheikh Khalid was appointed as Qatar's prime minister and minister of interior in January 2020. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Xi Jinping** began an unprecedented third term as **China's president** after he was endorsed by a unanimous vote from the 2,977-member National People's Congress (NPC). Xi will head a hand-picked party and government team tasked with steering the world's second-largest economy through challenges at home and abroad over the next five years. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Indonesia** is all set to move its capital from **Jakarta** to **Borneo** over environmental issues such as being congested, sinking into seawater, and being prone to earthquakes. Officials said the new metropolis city will be a "sustainable forest city," that puts the environment at the heart of the development and will be carbon neutral by 2045. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Ram Chandra Paudel** has been elected to serve as the new **president of Nepal**. According to the Nepalese Election Commission, he received 33,800 electoral votes, while his opponent, Subash Chandra Nembang, received 15,500 votes. Ram Chandra Paudel received votes from 352 members of provincial assemblies and 214 members of parliament. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Colombia** has opened military service **to women** for the first time in 25 years. A cohort of 1,296 women have been enlisted in **Colombia's Army** in the month of February. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Indonesia's Mount Merapi**, one of the world's most active volcanoes, erupted, spewing out smoke and ash that covered villages near the crater. There were no immediate reports of casualties, the the National Disaster Mitigation Agency said. The images broadcasted shows ash-covered houses and roads at a village near the volcano, in Yogyakarta. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- Startup-focused lender **Silicon Valley Bank** Financial Group became the largest bank to fail since the 2008 financial crisis, in a sudden collapse that roiled global markets, left billions of dollars belonging to companies and investors stranded. Silicon Valley Bank, the nation's **16th largest bank**, collapsed on Friday, forcing a government takeover and calling into question the fate of almost \$175 billion in customer deposits. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Denmark** inaugurates a project to store carbon dioxide 1,800 metres beneath the **North Sea**, the first country in the world to bury CO2 imported from abroad. The **CO2 graveyard**, where the carbon is injected to prevent further warming of the atmosphere, is on the site of an old oil field. Led by British chemical giant Ineos and German oil company Wintershall Dea, the "Greensand" project is expected to store up to eight million tonnes of CO2 per year by 2030. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- An **earthquake** of 7.1 magnitude struck the New Zealand's Kermadec Islands region, the US Geological Survey (USGS) said. The **earthquake** was estimated at a depth of 10 km (6.21 miles). The US Tsunami Warning System has issued a tsunami warning following this earthquake. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The US Senate Committee has announced the appointment of **Eric Garcetti** as the new **US Ambassador to India**. Despite being nominated by President **Joe Biden** almost two years ago, Garcetti's appointment had been pending until now. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Recently, at the **United Nations Least Developed Countries (LDC) Summit** that concluded on March 9 in **Doha, Qatar**, the landlocked Himalayan kingdom of **Bhutan** will no longer be on the list of LDCs and will become only the seventh country to graduate from the list. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- A bipartisan resolution was passed by the US, formally recognizing the **McMahon Line** as the international boundary between **China and India's Arunachal Pradesh**. The resolution rejected China's claim that the state belongs to its territory and instead acknowledged Arunachal Pradesh as an integral part of India. Furthermore, the resolution expressed support for India's sovereignty and territorial integrity. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **International Criminal Court (ICC)** issued an arrest warrant for Russian President **Vladimir Putin** over the forced transfer of children to Russia after the Kremlin's invasion of **Ukraine**. Ukrainians accuse Russia of attempting genocide against them and seeking to destroy their identity — partly through deporting children to Russia. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, and his Bangladesh counterpart **Sheikh Hasina**, will inaugurate the **India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline** via video conference. It is first such pipeline through which refined diesel will be supplied to Bangladesh from India. The project is built under grant assistance from the government of India. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Ram Sahaya Prasad Yadav**, a leader of the Janata Samajbadi Party, has won the election to become **Nepal's third Vice President**. He was able to secure victory over Astalaxmi Shakya of CPN (UML) and Mamata Jha of the Janamat Party with support from Nepali Congress, CPN (Maoist Centre), and the CPN (Unified Socialist) including the ruling alliance. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Japanese Prime Minister **Fumio Kishida** has formally invited Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** to the G7 Summit after both had a delegation-level talk at Delhi's Hyderabad House. PM Modi said that PM Kishida's visit will be helpful to maintain a momentum of mutual cooperation between India and Japan. He pointed out the importance of leading two significant summits, **G20 and G7**, by respective countries. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the first submarine base of Bangladesh '**BNS Sheikh Hasina**' at Pekua in Cox's Bazar. Hailing the newly inaugurated naval base as an 'ultra modern submarine base', Prime Minister called the event a proud chapter in the history of **Bangladesh navy**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- After President **Abdel-Fattah El-Sisi** visited India as a chief guest for the Republic Day celebrations, **Egypt** has become a member of the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB). ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Hindenburg Research's** recent report accusing **Block Inc.** of ignoring extensive fraud has had a significant impact on co-founder **Jack Dorsey's** net worth. His fortune experienced its most substantial single-day decline since May, with a drop of 11%, resulting in a decrease of \$526 million. According to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, Dorsey's net worth now stands at \$4.4 billion. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The New Development Bank (NDB), which is also known as the BRICS bank and is a multilateral financial institution created by Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, has announced that former **Brazilian President Dilma Vana Rousseff** has been elected as its new President. She replaces **Marcus Troyjo** in the position. Dilma Rousseff is an economist who served as the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil for two consecutive terms, from January 2011 to August 2016. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- A recent study conducted by researchers from the **World Bank**, Harvard Kennedy School, AidData, and the Kiel Institute for the World Economy has revealed that **China** spent approximately **\$240 billion** from 2008 to 2021 bailing out 22 developing countries that had difficulty repaying loans taken for **Belt and Road infrastructure projects**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Humza Yousaf**, a Pakistani-origin politician, has won the **Scottish National Party (SNP) leadership contest** and is set to become **Scotland's First Minister**, replacing Nicola Sturgeon. Yousaf, who is the son of Asian immigrants, is poised to become the first person of colour to serve as Scotland's first minister. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The northwestern **Kagera region of Tanzania** has been declared an epidemic zone by the country's leaders after five people died and three others were diagnosed with **Marburg viral disease (MVD)** at a local hospital. The World Health Organization (WHO) has identified 161 individuals who are at risk of contracting the virus through contact tracing. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **The Saudi Arabian government** has taken a significant step towards joining the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)**, a regional alliance dominated by China and Russia. During a cabinet meeting presided over by **King Salman bin Abdulaziz**, a memorandum was approved to initiate dialogue with the SCO. The decision to pursue membership was reportedly raised during a visit to Saudi Arabia by Chinese President Xi Jinping in December of last year. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **UAE President, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**, has appointed his brother, **Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan**, as the Vice President of the country. The appointment was endorsed by the UAE Federal Supreme Council. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the current Vice President, will continue to hold the same position. Additionally, Sheikh Mohamed, who is also the Ruler of Abu Dhabi, has designated Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed and Sheikh Hazza bin Zayed as the Deputy Rulers of Abu Dhabi. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Herbalife**, a leading global nutrition company, has teamed up with the **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** to become an official partner of the **TATA Indian Premier League (IPL) for the 2023 season**. This partnership brings together two strong brands that share a passion for sports. The IPL is a beloved cricket tournament for fans in India and around the world, while Herbalife is known for providing high-quality, science-based nutrition products that help athletes perform at their best. The TATA IPL 2023 is set to take place in India from March 31 to May 28, 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))

National Current Affairs

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways **Nitin Gadkari** inaugurated **7 National Highway projects** worth Rs 2,444 crore, totaling 204 km in Rewa, Madhya Pradesh. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari informed that with the construction of the Churhat tunnel and bypass, the length between **Rewa to Sidhi** has decreased by 7 km. Now instead of two and a half hours, people will be able to cover this distance in 45 minutes. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela** is organized every year by the **Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI)** and this year it will be held in New Delhi from 2nd to 4th March 2023. The Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela will be inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, **Narendra Singh Tomar**. This time the theme of the fair is "Nutrition, Food and Environmental Protection with Shree Anna". ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Reliance Jio** has climbed up to number two rank — up from fifth place last year — in a list of the top **10 strongest telecom brands** in the world. In this post we will explore the Top 150 most valuable and strongest telecoms operator brands according to **Brand Finance 2023 rankings**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **International Yoga Festival 2023** was held in Rishikesh from 1st March to 7th March 2023. The International Yoga Festival 2023 is the main attraction of **Bharat Parv** this year. The six-day event of the International Yoga Festival 2023 promotes the rich heritage and diverse natural wonders of the state, and it is a significant point of discussion among those visiting the **Uttarakhand Tourism** pavilion at the event held in Red Fort. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The '**Catch the Rain 2023**' campaign was introduced by **President Droupadi Murmu** in New Delhi. The campaign's central idea is the sustainability of drinking water sources. Addressing at the ceremony, the **President** stated that since India only has 4% of the world's water resources, water management and conservation are India's most pressing challenges. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Yuva Utsava-India@2047 launched by **Anurag Singh Thakur**, the Union Minister for Youth Affairs, Sports, Information, and Broadcasting, from **IIT Ropar in Punjab**. On this occasion, **Shri Anurag Thakur** also unveiled the **Yuva Utsava Dashboard**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri launched 'Swachhotsav', a three-week women-led swachhata campaign under the **Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban)**. Series of events and activities will be organized across cities to celebrate women from all walks of life. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** will visit **Karnataka** and dedicate the **Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway** to the country. The 118-km-long project will cut the distance between **Bengaluru** and **Mysuru's** travel time from nearly three hours to just over 75 minutes. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** dedicated World's longest railway platform of 1.5 kilometres at Sri Siddhaarooda railway station in **Hubballi** in the state of **Karnataka**. The world's longest railway platform will cater to the transportation needs of the **Hubballi-Dharwad region** and will help in enhancing the operational capacity of the yard. Furthermore, it will enable the operations of trains in both directions. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The first methanol-powered buses in Bengaluru will be unveiled by Union Minister for Road and Transport, Nitin Gadkari. The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), NITI Aayog, Indian Oil Company (IOC), and Ashok Leyland are working together to carry out the initiative, which aims to lower the level of pollutants. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Environmental, Social, and Governance Law (ESG)** issues have become a significant area of concern for businesses, governments, and individuals around the world. **India** is no exception to this trend, with the country's corporate sector and regulators increasingly focused on ESG-related matters. As we enter 2023, it is worth taking a closer look at the state of **Environmental, Social & Governance Law India 2023** (ESG law in India) and what the future holds for this rapidly evolving area. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- According to railways and telecom minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw**, the first bullet train in India will begin service in August 2026. The project will stimulate the economy because several of the suppliers to the project have begun receiving export orders. The government intends to start operating the first bullet train in August 2026. The goal is to run the bullet train on a larger section in 2027. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **AAHAR 2023**: The objective of Aahar 2023, which was put together with the help of the Union Ministry of Food Processing Industries, the **Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)**, and other organisations, is to showcase the hospitality industry's potential and showcase technologies, goods, and services to both domestic and foreign consumers. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Indian Railways** has set a target of becoming a 'net-zero carbon emitter' by 2030, said Union Railways Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** in a written reply to the Lok Sabha. The Railways plans to achieve this ambitious target in two steps: A complete transition to electric trains by December 2023 and powering the trains and stations primarily through non-renewable sources by 2030. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare **Narendra Singh Tomar** on 15 March 2023, inaugurated "AgriUnifest" in Bengaluru, Karnataka. It is a 5-day cultural program, organized by Bangalore Agricultural University in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). More than 2500 students from 60 State Universities/Central Universities have participated. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Government, Ministry of Textiles, has issued a notification to set up 7 Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA) Parks with a total outlay of Rs. 4,445 crore. The Parks will come up in Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- On April 13, a 70-foot tall statue of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar will be unveiled in **Latur city, Maharashtra**. The unveiling ceremony will take place in the presence of Union ministers **Kiren Rijju and Ramdas Athawale**, along with other dignitaries such as former Maharashtra chief minister **Devendra Fadnavis** and state minister Sanjay Bansode. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- On March 22, the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, inaugurated the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** Area Office and Innovation Centre in the country. At an event held in New Delhi, he also launched the Bharat 6G Vision Document, as well as the 6G Research and Development Test Bed and the Call Before U dig App. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **India** is aiming to become a leader in the global shipbuilding industry by launching the **Green Tug Transition Programme (GTTP)** and setting a goal of becoming a 'Global Hub for Green Ship' building by **2030**. The GTTP will start with the production of Green Hybrid Tugs, which will run on Green Hybrid Propulsion systems, and eventually switch to alternative fuel sources like Methanol, Ammonia, and Hydrogen. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The recent collapse of **Silicon Valley Bank (SVB)** has led to uncertainty in the talent market for **Indian startups**, which had around \$1 billion in deposits with the lender. SVB was shut down by regulators on March 10 due to a run on the bank, despite having \$209 billion in assets at the end of 2022. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- An **Indian** delegation led by the **Department of Commerce** recently participated in the second round of negotiations for the **Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)** in Bali, Indonesia. Representatives from **13** other countries also took part in the discussions covering all **four pillars of the IPEF: Trade, Supply Chains, Clean Economy, and Fair Economy**. India was involved in talks related to the latter three pillars. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The Real-time Performance Monitoring Dashboard of MoPSW called '**Sagar Manthan**' was virtually launched by Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Ayush Shri **Sarbananda Sonowal**. The digital platform is designed to have **all integrated data** related to the ministry and other subsidiaries. The inauguration ceremony was attended by MoS, MoPSW Shri Shripad Y. Naik, MoS, MoPSW Shri Shantanu Thakur and other officials from the ministry. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Agriculture Minister of India, **Narendra Singh Tomar**, has introduced a new platform called '**DigiClaim**' on the national crop insurance portal. This platform is aimed at expediting the disbursement of insurance claims to farmers who have availed themselves of crop insurance. To demonstrate its effectiveness, the Minister used the platform to transfer a total insurance claim of Rs. 1,260.35 crore to insured farmers in several Indian states, including Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttarakhand, and Haryana, with just a single click. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Prime Minister Modi has recently launched an app called "**Call Before You Dig**" to prevent uncoordinated digging that can cause damage to underground utility assets, such as **optical fibre cables**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** inaugurated the **Vedic Heritage portal** in New Delhi. The primary aim of the portal is to communicate the messages enshrined in the **Vedas** and make it more accessible to the common people. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Whitefield (Kadugodi) to Krishnarajapura **Metro Line** was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who expressed his happiness in a tweet. He mentioned that this new metro line will enhance the '**Ease of Living**' for the people of **Bengaluru**, by improving transportation and connectivity in the region. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- According to **Nitin Gadkari**, India's Union Road Transport and Highways Minister, the country's **highways infrastructure** will be at par with that of the United States by 2024. He revealed that the government is working on this goal in a time-bound 'mission mode,' which includes the development of green expressways and rail over bridges. These initiatives are aimed at ensuring that India's highway infrastructure matches the standards of the US by the specified timeline. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri **Amit Shah** unveiled the statues of **Lord Basaveshwara ji and Nadaprabhu Kempegowda ji** at the State Assembly premises in Bengaluru, Karnataka. Lord Basaveshwara and Nadaprabhu Kempegowda are two prominent historical figures from Karnataka, a state in southern India. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- India's first quantum computing-based telecom network link has been made operational between **Sanchar Bhawan** and National Informatics Centre office in **New Delhi**. Telecom Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** announced prize money of **Rs 10 lakh** for ethical hackers who can break the encryption of the system and also launched a hackathon challenge for anyone who can break the system developed by **C-DoT**, with a reward of Rs 10 lakh per break. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- During the International **Zero Waste Day 2023** in New Delhi, **Sh. Hardeep S. Puri**, The Hon'ble Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, announced that **1000** cities are targeted to achieve a **3-Star Garbage Free** rating by October 2024. The GFC-Star rating protocol, launched in January 2018 to promote a competitive and mission-driven approach among **ULBs**, has seen a significant increase in certification since its inception. ([Click here to read the article](#))

States Current Affairs

- **Salhoutuonuo Kruse and Hekani Jakhalu**, both from the ruling Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party, made history by becoming the first women candidates to be elected in the state assembly election. In a significant milestone, people in **Nagaland** have elected two women candidates after 60 years since it attained statehood. **Kruse won from Western Angami AC and Jakhalu clinched Dimapur-III constituencies**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Steel and Mines Minister Prafulla Kumar Mallik has informed the state Assembly that **Gold deposits** have been found at different locations in three districts of **Odisha**, including Deogarh, Keonjhar, and Mayurbhanj. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Mauganj** was declared as 53rd district of Madhya Pradesh by **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, the chief minister of **Madhya Pradesh**. Mauganj is a tehsil of the **Rewa district**. CM Chouhan declared that **Mauganj** would become the 53rd MP district during a function in Rewa. It will be built by combining four of the Rewa district's tehsils. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, the chief minister of **Madhya Pradesh**, unveiled the "**Laadli Behna**" Yojana, under which qualified women will get 1,000 rupees every month in support. On March 5, the chief minister's 65th birthday, the procedure for accepting applications for the benefit programme started. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Union Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** and four Sikkim ministers released a unique cover of the Department of Posts, 'Go Green, Go Organic' for Sikkim. The union minister thanked Department of Posts for this release and congratulated Sikkim State for its achievements of becoming the first state of the world to get recognized as an Organic state by the **World Book of Records (London)**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- Chief Minister of **Uttarakhand**, **Pushkar Singh Dhami** has announced the launch of **Mukhyamantri Ekal Mahila Swarozgar Yojana** in the state at the end of **Women Empowerment and Safety Week**. Women in remote villages of the state are giving impetus to the rural economy through self-help groups. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Conrad Kongkal Sangma** was sworn in as the **Meghalaya chief minister** for the second successive term in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Manik Saha** took oath as 13th chief minister for the second time as Tripura **Chief Minister** after the BJP clinched a victory in the February 16 Assembly polls. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Thousands of women devotees gathered at the **Attukal Bhagavathy temple** on March 7 for **Attukal Pongala**, the ninth day of the annual 10-day **women-centric festival**. 300 priests have been appointed for the sanctification ceremony at 2.30 pm and the city of **Thiruvananthapuram** is in a very festive mood. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Neiphiu Rio**, the leader of the **Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP)**, took the oath of office as the **fifth Chief Minister of Nagaland**. Governor La Ganesan gave the 72-year-old lawmaker the oath of secrecy. Mr. Rio is serving his fifth term and second consecutive term as the NDPP's leader. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Yaoshang**, **Manipur's version of Holi**, which lasts for five days, has begun. On the full moon of Lamta (February–March) in the Meitei lunar calendar, the event is observed annually. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Deputy Chief Minister **Devendra Fadanvis** informed the Maharashtra's Legislative Council that the state will introduce the fourth women's policy to give more opportunities to women by considering the issues of women from all groups. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **In Nagpur, Maharashtra**, a new project known as "**beggar-free city**" has been launched. Amitesh Kumar, the Nagpur City commissioner of police, announced that notification 144 CrPC has been issued in this regard. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Ganesh Joshi, the state's agriculture minister, said that **Uttarakhand** launched the country's first "**Resham Keet Bima**" programme to safeguard its sericulturists. 200 sericulturists from five blocks in four districts—Dehradun, Haridwar, Udham Singh Nagar, and Nainital—received insurance in the first phase of the pilot project, which started in Uttarakhand. This insurance protected them from the effects of climate change, water scarcity, and other dangers. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The government of **Uttarakhand** has approved a 10% horizontal reservation for statehood campaigners in state government positions. Under the direction of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, the decision was made during a cabinet meeting held in Bhararisain. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- On 17 March 2023, Chief Minister **Ashok Gehlot** announced the creation of **19 new districts** and 3 new divisions in the state during his course of the discussion on the Finance and Appropriation Bill in the Legislative Assembly. **Rajasthan** will now have 19 new districts and 3 new divisions, taking the number of districts to 50 and divisions to 10. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Merlin Group** has partnered with the World Trade Centers Association to develop a **World Trade Center in Kolkata** that will cover an area of 3.5 million square feet. The project's License Agreement was signed by Scott Wang, Vice President of the World Trade Centers Association (WTCA) Asia Pacific region, and Merlin Group's Chairman, Sushil Mohta, and Managing Director, Saket Mohta. The project, which is being built in Salt Lake, West Bengal, is estimated to require an investment of approximately Rs 1,500 crore. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, inaugurated Asia's largest 4-metre International Liquid Mirror Telescope at Devasthal, **Uttarakhand**, in the presence of Lt. Gen (Retd.) Gurmeet Singh, the Governor of Uttarakhand. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Chief Minister of Assam, Himanta Biswa Sarma, inaugurated the '**Mission Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE)**' in the state, which is a global mass movement led by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**. Sarma stated that the initiative aims to encourage an environmentally conscious lifestyle, with a focus on utilizing resources rather than engaging in wasteful consumption. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **The government of Tamil Nadu** has decided to declare **Thanthai Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary** as the **18th wildlife sanctuary in the state**. This sanctuary covers an area of 80,567 hectares in the forest regions of Anthiyur and Gobichettipalayam taluks in Erode district, and includes reserve forest areas in Anthiyur, Bargur, Thattakarai, and Chennampatti. ([Click here to read the article](#))



- Uttarakhand Chief Minister **Pushkar Singh Dhami** has announced the government will set up a sports university in the **Kumaun region's Haldwani town**. Dhami, who made the announcement on the occasion of completion of one year of the formation of his government, said there had been longstanding demands from several sports associations for such a university. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Kerala government** has been fined Rs 10 crore by the Principal Bench of the **National Green Tribunal (NGT)** for their inability to prevent the uncontrolled pollution of the designated **Ramsar sites**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- A team of scientists from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has discovered a new species of **Moray Eel fish** from the **Cuddalore coast in Tamil Nadu**. The new species has been named "**Gymnothorax Tamilnaduensis**" after Tamil Nadu and has been given the common name of "**Tamil Nadu brown moray eel**". ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **World Bank** has given the nod to provide a loan of **\$108 million (about ₹ 889 crores)** to assist **Assam** in its efforts to improve its disaster preparedness and enhance **flood forecasting**. The multilateral bank has stated that around six million individuals will benefit from this project, which is part of a larger investment program worth \$500 million for the state. The main aim of the **Assam Integrated River Basin Management Project** is to build eco-friendly infrastructure in the **Beki and Buridehing river** basins to lessen the impact of floods and river erosion on the state, ultimately safeguarding around one lakh individuals. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **World Bank** has granted a loan of **USD 363 million** to the state of **Karnataka** in India, which will help to provide clean drinking water to **two million** rural households. The initiative aims to establish **piped water connections** in households throughout the state, including the construction of a drinking water distribution network and the installation of **water meters**. The project is set to benefit around **10 million people** across all **31 districts** in the state. The loan is part of the **Karnataka Sustainable Rural Water Supply Program**, which seeks to introduce policies and initiatives that will improve the operational efficiency of rural water supply services. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Schemes/Committees

- **IT Minister Rajeev Chandrasekhar** launched a grievance appellate panel mechanism, that will look into appeals by users against decisions of social media platforms. The announcement came in the presence of representatives of Big Tech internet companies like Meta, Snap, Google and others. The digital platform, **Grievance Appellate Committee (GAC)**, is a powerful tool for ensuring accountability of platforms to their users, Chandrasekhar, who is the minister of state for IT. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Supreme Court **ordered an experts committee to be set up**, headed by a retired Supreme Court judge, **AM Sapre**, after a batch of PILs was filed on the recent **Adani Group** shares crash triggered by the US-based short-seller **Hindenburg Research's allegations** of fraud. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court also told the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to finish the probe into the **Adani Group-Hindenburg saga** within a period of two months. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **government e-Marketplace (GeM)** held a celebration to celebrate "**SWAYATT**," a programme to support start-ups, women, and youth advantage through e-Transactions on **GeM**, which has been a major success. **SWAYATT** is a programme that seeks to increase the benefits of e-Transactions on government e-Marketplaces (**GeM**) for startups, women, and young people. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a major move, a select group of **central government employees** have been given a one-time option to opt for **old pension scheme**, according to a Personnel Ministry order. The employees who joined the **central government services** against posts advertised or notified before December 22, 2003, the day **National Pension System (NPS)** was notified, are eligible to join the old pension scheme under the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972 (now 2021), said the order. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Ministry of Culture** administers a Scheme by the name of 'Financial Assistance for Veteran Artists' (erstwhile 'Scheme for Pension and Medical Aid to Artistes') to provide **financial assistance to veteran artists** of the country of the age of 60 years and above in the form of monthly artists' pension. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- To encourage **micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs)** to adopt particular manufacturing practices, the Indian central government introduced a revamped version of the **MSME Competitive (LEAN) Programme**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **The Research, Education and Training Outreach (REACHOUT)** scheme is a program launched by the Indian government to promote research, education and training in the country. The Indian Ministry of Earth Sciences has initiated the REACHOUT Scheme to advance research, education, and training in the realm of Earth Sciences. The program aims to encourage collaboration between academic institutions, industry, and government to improve the quality of education and research in India. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying** announced that the fourth phase of the **Sagar Parikrama** program began on March 18 and concluded on March 19. The program covered three coastal districts of **Karnataka - Uttara Kannada, Udupi, and Dakshina Kannada**. Purushottam Rupala, the Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, along with state ministers and stakeholders, were present at the event. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs**, headed by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**, has announced an extension of the subsidy of Rs 200 per LPG cylinder under the **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)** for one year. The PMUY was launched in **May 2016** by the Central government to provide **deposit-free LPG connections** to adult **women** of poor households and make LPG accessible to rural and impoverished households. The government credits the subsidy directly to the bank accounts of eligible beneficiaries. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- For the upcoming **2023-24 season**, the Indian government has increased the **minimum support price (MSP)** for **raw jute** by **Rs 300 to Rs 5,050 per quintal**. The decision was taken during a meeting of the **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs**, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and was based on the recommendations of the **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)**. The MSP of Raw Jute (TD-3 equivalent to earlier TD-5 grade) has been fixed at Rs 5,050 per quintal for the upcoming season. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Indian government** has formed a committee led by **finance secretary TV Somanathan** to explore ways to address concerns raised by government employees over the **National Pension System (NPS)**. The committee aims to find a middle ground between the fiscally imprudent **old pension system (OPS)** and the reform-oriented NPS. The committee will develop a strategy that meets the requirements of **government employees** while also ensuring **financial responsibility** to safeguard the interests of the general public. The new approach will apply to both the central and state governments. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The Central Government has launched a program called the **National Rabies Control Programme (NRCP)**, which seeks to prevent and manage cases of Rabies. The objectives of the NRCP include providing rabies **vaccine** and **immunoglobulin** through free national drug initiatives, conducting training on appropriate animal bite management, prevention and control of rabies, surveillance, and intersectoral coordination, enhancing the surveillance of animal bites and reporting of rabies deaths, and raising awareness about rabies prevention. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

- **Godrej & Boyce**, the flagship company of the Godrej Group, announced that its business Godrej Tooling has partnered with **Renmakch**, to collaborate on Machinery & Plant (M&P) projects for **Railways and Metro Rail**, offering world-class equipment that is 'Made in India'. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **India and Australia** signed a Framework Mechanism for **Mutual Recognition of Qualifications** that will help ease the mobility of students and professionals between the two countries. While the two countries will recognise the degrees, professional registrations of engineering, medicine and law pass-outs will remain outside the framework's ambit. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In order to reduce carbon footprint in its operations, **Tata Steel Mining Limited** has signed a memorandum of understanding with **GAIL (India) Limited** for supply of natural gas to its ferro alloys plant at Athgarh in Odisha's Cuttack district. According to the MoU, GAIL will supply the agreed quantity of natural gas through its pipeline from **Gujarat to Athgarh**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The National Anti-Doping Agency (**NADA**) under the Youth Affairs and Sports Ministry; and the National Council of Educational Research and Training (**NCERT**) signed an MoU to strengthen value-based sports education amongst school children and teachers. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- A **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** on Research, Technology, and Innovation Collaborations between **India and Mexico** has been inked. It focuses on **several key technology areas**, including Aerospace, Electronics Instrumentation & Strategic Sectors, Civil, Infrastructure & Engineering, Ecology, Environment Earth & Ocean Sciences, and Water, Mining, Minerals, Metals & Materials, Chemicals (including leather), and Petrochemicals, Energy (Conventional & Non-Conventional), and Energy Devices. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The Centre and the **World Bank** have signed two complementary loans of \$500 million each to support and enhance the country's **health sector development**. Through this combined financing of \$1 billion, the World Bank will support India's flagship **Pradhan Mantri-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM)**, launched in October 2021. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Domestic information technology (IT) services firm, **HCL Technologies**, announced a partnership with Azure Quantum, **Microsoft's** quantum cloud computing service. Through this partnership, HCLTech will offer cloud-based quantum computing services to businesses using Microsoft's platform as a technology stack. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **United States and India** will sign a memorandum of understanding on semiconductors as both countries discuss coordination of investment and continue dialogue around policies to spur private investment, U.S. Commerce Secretary **Gina Raimondo** said. The dialogue comes close on the heels of the launch of the inauguration of the initiative on **Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET)**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Australia and India** have agreed to accelerate a broader economic partnership and to boost their defence ties, Australian Prime Minister **Anthony Albanese** said in New Delhi. Last year the two countries signed a free trade deal called the Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA), the first signed by India with a developed country in a decade. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Government of **India and the World Bank** have signed an agreement for the Green National Highway Corridors Project, with loan assistance of \$500 million against total project cost of \$1,288.24 million (Rs 7,662.47 crore). ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on March 15 said that it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Central Bank of United Arab Emirates** for promoting innovation in financial product and services. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Ministry of Steel has signed 57 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with 27 companies for specialty steel production under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme. The government has allocated Rs. 6322 crores to boost the steel sector and generate an investment of about Rs. 30,000 crores, creating an additional capacity of approximately 25 million tonnes of specialty steel over the next five years. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Larsen & Toubro (L&T)**, an Indian multinational that specializes in EPC projects, hi-tech manufacturing, and services, has signed a binding agreement with **McPhy Energy**, a leading electrolyzer technology and manufacturing company based in **France**. The agreement establishes a long-term partnership between the two companies to explore opportunities in the emerging green hydrogen market. ([Click here to read the article](#))

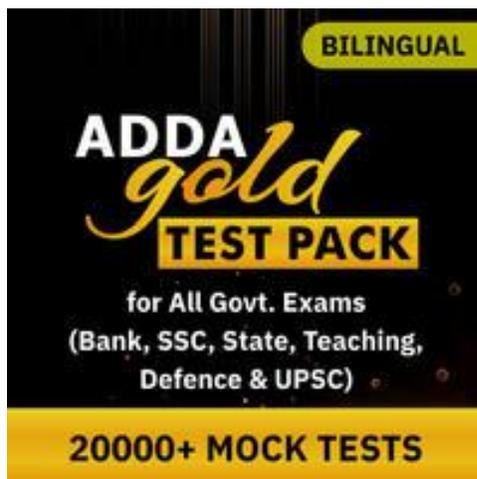
- **SJVN Ltd**, a state-owned company, has secured Rs 915 crore in '**GREEN**' financing from **Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)** to support its 90 MW Omkareshwar floating solar project in Madhya Pradesh and 100 MW Raghnesda solar project in Gujarat. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Appointments/Resignations (National & International)

- **Vishal Sharma** has been named the **Chief Executive Officer-Designate (CEO-Designate)** of the **GIL-Chemicals Business**, effective as of March 1, 2023, according to a statement from Godrej Industries Ltd. **Nitin Nabar**, Executive Director and President (Chemicals), **Godrej Industries Limited**, would be Vishal's reporting authority, according to the company's announcement. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Senior Indian Information Service (IIS) officer, **Rajesh Malhotra** has been appointed as the principal director general of the **Press Information Bureau (PIB)**, according to the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. He will be the principal spokesperson of the government of India. He will replace **Satyendra Prakash**, who took charge as principal DG of PIB in August 2022. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, **Rashmi Shukla** has been appointed as the **Director-General of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)**. SSB is the border-guarding force deployed along Nepal and Bhutan border. Rashmi Shukla, a 1988 batch IPS officer of the Maharashtra cadre, was posted with the Central Reserve Police (CRPF). ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Jishnu Barua** has become the new chairperson of power regulator **Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC)**. Barua has been appointed chairperson of the CERC on February 27, 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Pramerica Life Insurance Limited has appointed **Pankaj Gupta** as **Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer**. The appointment has been approved by the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** and the Board of Pramerica Life Insurance. **Pankaj Gupta** succeeds **Kalpna Sampat**, who was the previous MD & CEO. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **S.S. Dubey** took charge as the new Controller General of Accounts (**CGA**). He is the 28th officer to hold the position of CGA. Prior to that, Dubey has served as Chief Controller of Accounts in Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion etc. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Tejal Mehta**, an Indian-American woman judge who promised to make a real impact to the community and treat people with compassion, has taken oath as the first Justice of a district court in the US state of Massachusetts. Mehta will serve as the first Justice of the Ayer District Court. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Savlon revealed the God of Cricket, **Sachin Tendulkar** as its world's first 'Hand Ambassador' for its Swasth India Mission. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In the first command appointment for a woman officer in the Indian Air Force (IAF), Group **Captain Shaliza Dhambi** has been selected to take over the command of a frontline combat unit in the Western sector. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Arun Subramanian**, an attorney, has been appointed as the first **Indian American judge of the Manhattan Federal District Court in New York**. The nomination of Mr. Subramanian for the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York was first made public by US President Joe Biden in September 2022. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **B Gopkumar**, the managing director and CEO of Axis Securities, has been named the new CEO of renowned fund house **Axis Mutual Fund** by Axis Asset Management Company. Chandresh Nigam, the previous CEO of the company, is replaced by Gopkumar. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The selection of **Rohit Jawa**, a senior executive of the UK-based parent company Unilever, as **Hindustan Unilever Ltd.'s (HUL)** new managing director and CEO has been approved by the company's board. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Former Infosys President **Mohit Joshi** has been appointed as the company's **Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** for a term of 5 years, beginning on December 20, 2023, and ending on December 19, 2028, according to IT services provider Tech Mahindra (both days inclusive). ([Click here to read the article](#))
- For a period of three months beginning March 14, the Center has chosen **Siddhartha Mohanty** as the interim chairman of the Life Insurance Company of India (**LIC**). ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Tim Mayopoulos**, the former CEO of **Fannie Mae**, was appointed by the **Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)** to lead **Silicon Valley Bank**. He takes over after the startup-focused lender was shut down by regulators as a result of a run on its deposits, which left it with insufficient capital. For more than six years prior to joining fintech Blend, Mayopoulos was the CEO of mortgage financier Fannie Mae. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Amitava Mukherjee**, NMDC Director (Finance), has been given the additional responsibility of **Chairman-Cum-Managing Director**. Mukherjee, an Indian Railway Accounts Service (IRAS) officer from the 1995 batch, has a Master's in Commerce from Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya in Bilaspur and is also a Cost Accountant. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **She Changes Climate campaign**: Climate entrepreneur **Shreya Ghodawat** has been appointed as **India's ambassador for She Changes Climate**– a global campaign driving awareness of the crucial role of women in accelerating just climate action. On International Women's Day, the global non-profit organization "She Changes Climate" unveiled a new campaign called "Embrace Equity" with the goal of amplifying women's voices regarding the effects of climate change." ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Honeywell International HON** announced that company current president and chief operating officer, **Vimal Kapur**, will succeed **Darius Adamczyk** as the new chief executive officer (CEO), effective Jun 1. He has also been named to the board of directors of HON as of March 13. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Rajesh Gopinathan**, the Managing Director and CEO of **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)**, has announced his decision to resign from his position in order to pursue other interests. Gopinathan has been with the company for more than two decades. TCS's board of directors has approved his request to step down and has appointed **K Krithivasan** as CEO-designate, effective from March 16, 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Viacom18** has appointed **MS Dhoni** as its brand ambassador to promote digital sports viewing. Dhoni will collaborate with Viacom18 to encourage fans to watch their favorite sports on digital platforms. He will participate in various network initiatives and feature in JioCinema's upcoming TATA IPL campaign, along with promoting the brand on his social media accounts. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Indian government has appointed **Deepak Mohanty** as the new chairman of Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA), replacing Supratim Bandyopadhyay whose term ended in January. Mohanty, a former executive director of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), previously served as a member of PFRDA. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Luxor Writing Instruments Pvt Ltd**, a stationery manufacturer, has appointed renowned cricketer **Virat Kohli** as its latest brand ambassador. Kohli is widely regarded as one of the best cricketers of all time, having set numerous records throughout his career. He will represent Luxor's stationery products and help the company increase its appeal among young writers, thereby enhancing its position as a prominent writing instrument provider in the country. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The **Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB)** has suggested that **Ashwani Kumar**, an executive director at Indian Bank, be appointed as the managing director of UCO Bank. Kumar has previously held positions at several other public sector banks, including Bank of Baroda, Corporation Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce, and Punjab National Bank (PNB). ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Lalit Kumar Gupta** has been approved as the new **Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)** of the **Cotton Corporation of India (CCI)** by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). CCI is a public sector undertaking under the Ministry of Textile. An order from the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) has been issued, stating that Gupta will assume the role of CMD of CCI with immediate effect, for a period of five years or until his superannuation, or until further orders, whichever comes first. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)**, a 'Maharatna' and a Fortune Global 500 Company, announced that **G. Krishnakumar** has taken over as the Chairman and Managing Director of the company. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- After **Tata Consumer Products Ltd (TCPL)** withdrew from acquiring **Bisleri International**, Ramesh Chauhan, the chairman of the company, announced that his daughter **Jayanti Chauhan** will now lead the bottled water company. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The current **MD & CEO of ICICI Prudential Life Insurance**, **N S Kannan**, is set to retire from his position in June 2023 upon completion of his term. His successor, **Anup Bagchi**, who is an Executive Director at ICICI Bank, will take over as the **MD & CEO for a five-year term from June 19, 2023**, subject to approval from the insurance regulator. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Manmeet K Nanda** has been appointed as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of **Invest India**, a prestigious organization. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has released a statement announcing the approval of Nanda's appointment by Invest India's board, following Deepak Bagla's decision to step down. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **CEAT**, the tyre manufacturer, has named **Arnab Banerjee** as its new **Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** following the resignation of Anant Goenka. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- National women's hockey team midfielder **Salima Tete** has appointed the AHF Athletes Ambassador from India for a term of two years. Tete accepted the certificate and the position during the **Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) Congress** in Mungyeong, Korea. Tete, who led the Indian women's junior hockey team to a fourth-place finish at the 2021 FIH Women's Junior World Cup in Potchefstroom, South Africa, is among four players from Asia to be appointed for the position. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **NDTV** announced to the stock exchanges that **Upendra Kumar Sinha**, the former chairman of Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI), has been appointed as the non-executive chairperson and independent director of the NDTV board of directors. Additionally, **Dipali Goenka**, the CEO of Welspun India, has also been appointed as an independent director on the NDTV board. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Pranav Haridasan** has been appointed as the new **Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Axis Securities** for the next three years. **B Gopkumar**, who is currently the MD & CEO of Axis Securities, has been transferred to **Axis Asset Management Company** as MD & CEO. Pranav Haridasan has been appointed as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Axis Securities for the next three years. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Ajay Singh**, the chief of SpiceJet, has become the new President of the **Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)**. He has replaced Sumant Sinha, who completed his tenure as Managing Director of Renew Power. **Sanjay Nayar**, the Founder and Chairman of Sorin Investment Fund, has been appointed as the new Senior Vice-President of ASSOCHAM. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Star Sports**, which is owned by **The Walt Disney Company India**, has appointed **Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh** as its brand ambassador. This is a significant step for the brand as it seeks to tap into Singh's immense popularity and love for sports to reach a wider and more diverse audience that may not have previously engaged deeply with sports. Singh will act as the "sutradhaar" or narrator for the upcoming season of the Indian Premier League (IPL), which the company is branding as the "Incredible League". He will also participate in creating content for the IPL, which is scheduled to begin on March 31st. ([Click here to read the article](#))



- Tata Power has re-appointed **Praveer Sinha** as the company's **Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director**. His re-appointment to the top post is for a period of four years from May 1, 2023, to April 30, 2027, subject to the approval of members of the company, Tata Power said in a regulatory filing. His present tenure as CEO and MD is scheduled to conclude on April 30, 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **The Board of Hero MotoCorp** announced the appointment of **Niranjan Gupta** as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the company, effective from May 1. Gupta, who currently serves as the CFO and Head of Strategy and M&A, will be elevated to the new role. Meanwhile, Pawan Munjal will remain the Executive Chairman and Whole-time Director on the Board. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Elon Musk**, the CEO of Twitter, has achieved the highest number of followers on the platform, exceeding former US President Barack Obama, who held the record since 2020. According to Guinness World Records, Twitter has around 450 million monthly active users, and Elon Musk has accumulated more than 133 million followers, which accounts for about 30% of the platform's total users. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Sumil Vikamsey**, who is currently the CEO of Cash Business at **Hitachi Payment Services**, has been appointed as the new Managing Director of the company. He will take over from Rustom Irani, who is retiring on March 30 after being associated with the organisation since 2011. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Economic growth** and strength are boosted by **gender equality**, according to the World Bank's Women, Business and the Law Report 2023. It increases labour force participation and results in a more effective allocation of resources. Women may engage more fully in the economy and realise their full potential when they have equal access to economic opportunities, which boosts productivity and growth. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- An **ILO-UNICEF report** on Social Protection for Children said **31 Indian states** have implemented the national ' **PM CARES for Children** ' scheme launched during the pandemic with 10,793 full orphans (children who have lost both parents) and 151,322 half-orphans (children who have lost one parent) due to the pandemic taking the benefit of the scheme. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **India** has now been ranked at the **108th spot** globally for electoral democracy, far behind nations like Tanzania, Bolivia, Mexico, Singapore, and even Nigeria, which comes in at a modest 91st spot by **V-Dem Institute** in its **Electoral Democracy Report** for 2023. This ranking may come as a shock to many, but it is also far below nations like Tanzania, Bolivia, Mexico, Singapore, and even India. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Rudraprayag and Tehri** the two districts in **Uttarakhand** are facing the highest risk of landslides, according to satellite data collected over the past two decades. Data collected by the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has highlighted that Rudraprayag and Tehri Garhwal are at the highest risk of facing landslides, having seen the highest number of landslide incidents in the past 20 years. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Ranks and Reports

- **Elon Musk**, CEO of Tesla, once again overtook the position of richest person in the world on February 28, according to a **Bloomberg Billionaires Index report**. The second-placed French business tycoon **Bernard Arnault** has a net worth of \$185 billion, trailing **Tesla CEO Elon Musk** by \$187 billion. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Mumbai's jumped to **rank 37** from 92 in a global list of movement in prices of **luxury homes** as the city saw a gain of 6.4 percent during the 2022 calendar year. Property consultant Knight Frank virtually released "The Wealth Report 2023" in which **Mumbai** has ranked 37th. As per the report, the prime residential prices in Dubai rose 44.2 percent in 2022, maintaining its position at the top of Knight Frank's PIRI 100 and cementing its status as a global hub for ultra-high-net-worth individuals (UHNWIs), assisted by numerous visa incentives. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Knight Frank**, a global real estate consultancy, released its **Wealth Report 2023**, which provides insights into the trends and performance of the prime residential property market across the world. Among Indian respondents, the consultant said 88 per cent saw a rise in UHNWI's (ultra-high-net-worth individuals) wealth in 2022. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The celebration of **Yoga Mahotsav 2023** marks the official beginning of the 100-day countdown to **International Yoga Day 2023** and to sensitize and motivate the masses to participate in Yoga centric activities to widen the horizons of Yoga. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- According to the '**Global Air Quality**' study published by the **Swiss company IQAir**, **India** fell from the fifth to the **eighth most polluted nation** in the world in 2022. The research shows that the PM2.5 level in the most polluted Indian cities is 53.3. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **India** is still the world's largest importer of military equipment, despite an **11% decline** in arms purchases between **2013-17 and 2018-22**, according to a study by the **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sipri)**. The report is released at a time when India has intensified its efforts to become self-reliant in the defence manufacturing sector. This year's defence budget included about Rs 1 lakh crore for domestic purchases, compared to Rs 84,598 crore, Rs 70,221 crore, and Rs 51,000 crore in the three years prior. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)
- According to the data shared by the Ministry of Education, Bihar (61.8 %) has the **lowest literacy**, followed by Arunachal Pradesh (65.3 %) and Rajasthan (66.1 %). **Kerala** has the highest literacy rate in India at 94%, followed by Lakshadweep at 91.85% and Mizoram at 91.33%. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)
- In an annual report on **human rights practices in India**, the United States State Department has highlighted challenges to freedom of expression, cases of arbitrary arrests and detentions, extrajudicial killings, the confiscation and destruction of property without due process, discrimination against minority groups and infringement on the freedom of association, among other issues, in 2022. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)
- According to the 2023 M3M Hurun Global Rich List, **India** is ranked **third** in terms of the number of billionaires. However, China has almost five times more billionaires than India. The list shows that India has 105 self-made billionaires, ranking third in this category. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)
- **The Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi** has been ranked among the top 50 engineering institutions in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2023. Additionally, this year, a total of 44 programmes offered by Indian higher education institutions in various disciplines have been ranked in the top 100 globally. This represents an increase from last year's report, which saw 35 Indian programmes listed in the top 100. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)
- A report presented by UNESCO at the **UN 2023 Water Conference** in New York reveals that a significant portion of the world's population still does not have access to safe drinking water and adequate sanitation. The report indicates that 26% of the **global population** lacks safe drinking water, while 46% do not have access to well-managed sanitation facilities. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)
- According to the latest update from the **Passport Index**, **India's Mobility Scores** have decreased, resulting in the country experiencing the largest global drop on the Index this year. Prior to the pandemic in 2019, India had a mobility score of 71, which increased to 73 in 2022 as the post-pandemic wave of increasing mobility took

effect. However, as of March 2023, its mobility score has dropped to 70. This decline has occurred despite record increases in mobility as the global and national economies re-opened after the pandemic. India's ranking has fallen by six places in 2023, resulting in an individual ranking of **144 compared to 138 in 2022**. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

Sports Current Affairs

- Indian Grandmaster **D Gukesh** has been honoured with **Player-of-the-Year award** by the **Asian Chess Federation (ACF)** for clinching the gold medal with a record-breaking score of 9/11 in the 44th Chess Olympiad at Mahabalipuram. Gukesh became only the sixth Indian to break the 2700 Elo-rating mark, and the youngest Grandmaster from the country to be rated above 2700. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)
- India's top triple-jumper **Aishwarya Babu** has been banned by the **National Anti-Doping Agency's (NADA)** disciplinary panel for four years for using a prohibited anabolic steroid. Aishwarya Babu, 25 years old, was dropped from the Birmingham Commonwealth Games in 2022, along with sprinter **S Dhanalakshmi** after testing positive for the steroid, which is on the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) prohibited list. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)
- Tamil Nadu's **Jeswin Aldrin** broke the national record in the men's long jump in the second **AFI National Jumps Competition**. Jeswin Aldrin, 21-year-old, leaped 8.42 meters to take over the previous mark of 8.36 meters set by India teammate M Sreeshankar at the **Federation Cup** in Kozhikode in April 2022. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)
- **Karnataka** ended their 54-year wait to win the Santosh Trophy national football championship, beating **Meghalaya** 3-2 in a pulsating final at the King Fahd International Stadium in the Saudi Arabia capital. Services beat Punjab 2-0 in the playoff to finish third. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)
- **Max Verstappen** won the season-opening **Bahrain Grand Prix** from pole position, leading almost the entire race as he opened the defense of his back-to-back Formula One titles. It was the first time he had won in Bahrain and also the first time he had triumphed in a Formula One opener. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)
- **The Indira Gandhi Sports Complex** in New Delhi will host the IBA Women's World Boxing Championship 2023 from March 15-26. Mahindra has been named the title sponsor of this competition by the Boxing Federation of India (BFI), while **MC Mary Kom** and Bollywood actor **Farhan Akhtar** have been named as brand ambassadors. The third time in history, India is serving as the host country. [\(Click here to read the article\)](#)

- **Gianni Infantino** was re-elected as **FIFA president until 2027** by acclamation, after highlighting his strong financial performance as a reason for keeping a CEO in their position for life. The decision was made by the congress of 211 member federations, who have seen their annual funding from FIFA increase from \$250,000 to \$2 million since Infantino's first win in 2016. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The news is about the **Indian Premier League (IPL) team Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB)** partnering with Equitas Small Finance Bank as their banking partner for the IPL 2023 season. This partnership means that Equitas Small Finance Bank will provide a range of banking services to RCB, including salary accounts, forex, and other related financial services. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In the final of the Irani Cup 2022/23, **Team Rest of India** secured their 30th title win in the Indian domestic tournament, continuing their dominant performance. They defeated **Madhya Pradesh** by 238 runs. Yashasvi Jaiswal, who showcased brilliant batting skills across both innings, was adjudged the Player of the Match. He smashed a double century and a century in the two innings, contributing significantly to ROI's victory. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Tim Paine**, the former captain of the Australian test cricket team, has announced his retirement from cricket after playing his last **Sheffield Shield first-class match for Tasmania against Queensland**. Paine led the Australian team in 23 tests from 2018 to 2021 and played a total of 35 tests in his career. He took over as captain after Steve Smith was stripped of the role following the ball-tampering scandal during Australia's 2018 tour of South Africa. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Rohan Bopanna**, a 43-year-old Indian tennis player, and his **Australian partner Matthew Ebden** have become the oldest duo to win an **ATP Masters 1000 title**. They won the men's doubles final at the **Indian Wells Masters 2023** tournament in California by defeating the top-seeded team of **Wesley Koolhof and Neil Skupski**. Bopanna and Ebden won the first set 6-3 but lost the second set 2-6. However, they managed to win the match by clinching the deciding tie-breaker 10-8. ([Click here to read the article](#))
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- **Pankaj Advani**, the **Indian cue sports champion**, has retained his **Asian Billiards title** in the **100-up format** after defeating his compatriot **Brijesh Damani** 5-1 in the final held at **Qatar Billiards and Snooker Federation (QBSF) Academy**. Advani, who has won the **International Billiards and Snooker Federation (IBSF) world championship 25 times**, won the match with a scoreline of **100(51)-18, 100(88)-9, 86(54)-101(75), 100-26, 100(66)-2, 101(64)-59**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Rani Rampal**, a prominent player on the Indian hockey team, has achieved a significant milestone as the first woman in the sport to have a stadium named after her. The **MCF Rae Bareilly** has renamed the hockey stadium to '**Rani's Girls Hockey Turf**' in her honor. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- At the **Saudi Arabia Grand Prix** of the 2023 Formula One season, **Sergio Perez** displayed a dominant performance and earned his first win. His teammate at Red Bull, **Max Verstappen**, secured the second position after starting from the 15th spot. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **D&P Advisory** has analyzed the **Indian Premier League (IPL)** and reported that the cricket tournament was India's first unicorn, with a valuation of **\$1.1 billion in 2008**, the year it was launched. The advisory had previously announced that IPL had become a decacorn (valued at \$10.9 billion) recently. D&P Advisory is now preparing to publish a new analysis called "**IPL: The Pioneer of Indian Unicorns**." ([Click here to read the article](#))
- On March 29, the Premier League inducted former Manchester United manager **Sir Alex Ferguson** and ex-Arsenal boss **Arsene Wenger** into its **Hall of Fame**. This is the first time that managers have been included in this prestigious list. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Shakib Al Hasan** has surpassed **Tim Southee** to become the leading wicket-taker in T20I cricket during the second T20I match against Ireland in Chattogram. With 136 wickets in T20I at an average of 20.67 and an economy rate of 6.8, Shakib is considered as one of the best all-rounders in T20 cricket. He has also scored 2339 runs at a strike rate of 122.33 in T20I. Shakib made his debut in T20I against Zimbabwe in 2006 and has played 114 matches since then, featuring in all seven editions of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty**, the popular Indian doubles badminton pair, secured their first doubles title of 2023 by winning the Swiss Open Super 300 finals. They were the second seeds in the tournament and played exceptionally well in the final match, winning the first set 21-19. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Vedanta's Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Rajasthan Cricket Association** to build the **world's third-largest cricket stadium** in Chonp village, Jaipur. This project involves an investment of **INR 300 crore**, making it one of the largest corporate investments in India's sports infrastructure. The stadium will be named the **Anil Agarwal International Cricket Stadium, Jaipur.** ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Lashinda Demus**, a runner from the **United States**, has been awarded an **Olympic gold medal** at the age of 40, more than a decade after the **2012 London Games**. This came after the **International Olympic Committee** stripped **Natalya Antyukh**, the original gold medalist in the **400-meter hurdles**, of her title due to her involvement in the **Russian doping scandal**. Antyukh had beaten Demus by just 0.07 seconds on the **London track**, but historical evidence recovered from a Moscow testing laboratory database allowed the **Athletics Integrity Unit** to disqualify Antyukh's results from July 2012 through June 2013. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- On March 8, 2023, in conjunction with Sangeet Natak Akademi, Government of India, and P. L. Deshpande Maharashtra Kala Academy, Government of **Maharashtra**, an All India Women's Folk Art Conference will be held in **Ravindra Natya Mandir in Prabhadevi, Mumbai** on the occasion of **International Women's Day.** ([Click here to read the article](#))
- A Ministerial Meeting on **South-South Cooperation** has been held during LDC5 with an aim to explore concrete, innovative and actionable solutions in support of the deliverables of the DPoA through multi-stakeholder participation of the global South and traditional development partners. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The 23rd Commonwealth Law Conference was inaugurated by Goa Governor **P.S. Sreedharan Pillai**. The five-day conference, which is being held from March 5-9, 2023, was also attended by Union Minister for Law and Justice **Kiren Rijiju** and Chief Minister of Goa **Dr. Pramod Sawant**. The Conference has 500 delegates from 52 countries in attendance. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Summits And Conferences

- The eighth edition of the annual **Raisina Dialogue**, the flagship conference on geopolitics and geo-strategy, begins in New Delhi. The theme of the conference is "Provocation, Uncertainty, Turbulence: Lighthouse in the Tempest?". ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Union Minister of Ayush and Ports, Shipping & Waterways, **Sarbananda Sonowal** inaugurated the first B2B Global Conference & Expo on Traditional Medicine under **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** at Guwahati. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **President Droupadi Murmu** inaugurated the 7th International Dharma Dhamma Conference 2023 in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. Over 15 countries will participate in the three-day conference. The 7th edition of the conference has a theme of "**Eastern Humanism for the New Era**" and has been planned in collaboration with Sanchi University of Buddhist-Indic Studies, whose vice chancellor Dr Neerja Gupta also joined President Murmu. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- National Youth Parliament Festival Fourth Edition was held in the Parliament of India in the national Capital, New Delhi. On the first day of the **National Youth Parliament Festival (NYPF)** finals in the **Central Hall of Parliament**, New Delhi, Minister of State for Youth and Sports Affairs **Shri Nisith Pramanik** gave a speech. During the first day, a continuation of the competitive session was planned. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **The International Golden City Gate Tourism Awards 2023** in the categories of "TV/Cinema Commercials International and Country International" were won by the **Indian Ministry of Tourism and Government of India**, respectively. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Vyas Samman 2022: Pagalkhana**, a 2018 satirical novel by renowned Hindi author **Dr. Gyan Chaturvedi**, has been chosen for the **32nd Vyas Samman**. Dr. Chaturvedi's Pagalkhana (mental hospital) was chosen for the prestigious Vyas Samman by a selection committee led by distinguished author Prof. Ramji Tiwari. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Shaktikanta Das**, Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, has been honored with the title "**Governor of the Year**" for 2023 by Central Banking, an international economic research journal. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Skytrax**, a **UK-based consultancy**, awards airports worldwide with the prestigious **World Airport Awards** based on customer surveys. For the fifth year in a row, **Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA)** has been the best airport in the South Asian region. The IGIA is an international airport and has received this recognition due to its excellent facilities and services provided to customers. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **The KK Birla Foundation** has announced that Tamil writer **Sivasankari** will be the recipient of the prestigious **Saraswati Samman award for the year 2022**, for her 2019 memoir, Surya Vamsam. This award is one of the most esteemed recognitions in Indian literature, and comes with a cash prize of Rs 15 lakh, a plaque, and a citation. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The **B20 Conference**, held in Gangtok, Sikkim under India's G20 presidency, focused on exploring business opportunities in tourism, hospitality, pharmaceuticals, and organic farming. The event brought together delegations from 22 countries and over 100 Indian delegations to showcase Sikkim's potential in these sectors. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Global Millets (Shree Anna) Conference** in New Delhi on 18th March, 2023. He will also address the gathering on the occasion. The conference will be attended by Agriculture Ministers of various countries, international scientists, nutritionists, health experts, start-up leaders and other stakeholders. The **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** has declared the year 2023 as the **International Year of Millets (IYM)**. The declaration was based on India's proposal. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Rishikul campus of Ayurvedic University in Haridwar recently hosted the International Ayurvedic conclave with a theme on "**Veterinary and Ayurveda**". The event, which began on March 17, was inaugurated by **Sanjiv Baliyan**, the Union Minister of State for Animal Husbandry, Dairying, and Fisheries. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The National Youth Conclave 2023 is an upcoming event in India that aims to bring together the country's youth and government leadership. The event is being organized under the aegis of India's G20 presidency and in conjunction with the Urban20 and Youth20 engagement groups. The objective of the conclave is to provide an opportunity for cross-learning between the youth and government leaders. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- During the **One World TB Summit** arranged by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) on **World Tuberculosis Day**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted India's powerful pharmaceutical industry as a significant advantage in the global battle against **TB**. He also mentioned that India has set a goal of eradicating TB by the year 2025. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The National Security Advisers of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** will convene in New Delhi, with China and Pakistan expected to attend virtually. **Ajit Doval**, the Indian National Security Adviser, will give the opening remarks, followed by discussions between SCO national security advisers and top officials. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Over 100 delegates from various countries attended the first meeting of the **G20 Trade and Investment Working Group in Mumbai**. The participants engaged in two-panel discussions and visited the **Bharat Diamond Bourse** to learn about India's gem and jewelry industry. The delegates also took part in a **Heritage Walk** at the Gateway of India. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Awards & Recognition

- **SS Rajamouli's 'RRR' movie**, the popular song 'Naatu Naatu' which is nominated in the '**Best Original Song**' category will be performed at the 95th Academy Awards or Oscar awards by singers Rahul Sipligunj and Kaala Bhairava in their Oscar debut. The song's music is composed by M.M. Keeravaani, while its lyrics are written by Chandrabose. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Groupe Speciale Mobile Association (GSMA)** has conferred **Government Leadership Award 2023 to India** for implementing best practices in telecom policy and regulation. GSMA, which represents more than 750 mobile operators and 400 companies in the telecom ecosystem, recognizes one country every year. India was declared winner in the ceremony held at Mobile World Congress Barcelona. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Sashidhar Jagdishan**, managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of **HDFC Bank**, has been chosen as the Business Standard Banker of the Year 2022. This award is given to him for his successful navigation of technology-related challenges while maintaining the bank's strong performance. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Union Health and Family Welfare Ministry** has received the **Porter Prize 2023**. It recognized the government's strategy in managing COVID-19, also the approach, and involvement of various stakeholders especially involvement of ASHA workers in the industry to create PPE Kits. The prize was announced during The India Dialog at Stanford University. The country's contribution in developing and manufacturing vaccines was also lauded. The theme of the two-day conference was The Indian Economy 2023: **Innovation, Competitiveness and Social Progress**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Vinod Kumar Shukla** has won the **PEN/Nabokov Award for Achievement in International Literature** for lifetime achievement in literature, one of the most coveted literary prizes worldwide, after decades of composing acclaimed novels like Naukar Ki Kameez (1979) and poetry collections like Sab Kuch Hona Bacha Rahega (1992). ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The "**Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman 2023**", organized by the Ministry of Jal Shakti to honour the women champions of rural water and sanitation sector, was graced by the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Delhi airport** has been ranked among the cleanest airports in **Asia-Pacific** as a part of the Airport Council International (ACI)'s annual service quality award. The Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), operated by DIAL, has bagged the award for Airport Service Quality (ASQ) best airport for 2022 in the category of over 40 Million Passengers Per Annum (MPPA). ([Click here to read the article](#))

- CBIP award 2022: **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)** has been awarded the **Central Board Of Irrigation And Power (CBIP) Award 2022** for 'Best Contribution in Solar Energy'. The **Odisha Power Transmission Corporation Limited (OPTCL)**, the State-run transmission utility, has been conferred with the Central Board of Irrigation and Power Award 2022 for the 'best-performing transmission power sector'. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Civic architect, urban planner and activist, **Sir David Alan Chipperfield** has been selected as the **2023 Laureate of The Pritzker Architecture Prize**, the award that is regarded internationally as architecture's highest honor. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Ratan Tata**, an Indian industrialist and philanthropist, has been named an Honorary Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia (AO) for his outstanding contributions to the **Australia-India bilateral relationship**, specifically in the areas of trade, investment, and philanthropy. The announcement was made by **Australia's** Governor-General, following a recommendation by Australia's High Commissioner to India, Barry O'Farrell. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- India's External Affairs Minister, **S Jaishankar**, inaugurated the "**Geoffrey Bawa: It is Essential To Be There**" exhibition at the National Gallery of **Modern Art** in New Delhi. The exhibition, which is a joint collaboration between the National Gallery of Modern Art in New Delhi, the High Commission of **Sri Lanka** in New Delhi, and the Geoffrey Bawa Trust, showcases the architectural works of Sri Lanka's renowned architect, the late Geoffrey Bawa. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The White House has announced that **US President Joe Biden** will bestow the 2021 National Humanities Medals upon several recipients, including Indian-American actress, comedian, and writer **Mindy Kaling**, also known as Vera Mindy Chokalingam. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Music Academy has announced that the **Sangita Kalanidhi award** for 2023 will be presented to **Bombay Jayashri**, a Padma Shri awardee and renowned Carnatic vocalist. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Aasif Sheikh**, a wicketkeeper from **Nepal**, has been awarded the **2022 Christopher Martin-Jenkins Spirit of Cricket Award** for his act of sportsmanship during a T20 international match. He refused to run out Ireland's Andy McBrine, who was accidentally tripped over by Kamal Airee, the bowler. Judges also highly commended England's Jos Buttler and Ben Stokes. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Luis Caffarelli**, 74, has won the **2023 Abel Prize** "for his seminal contributions to regularity theory for nonlinear partial differential equations including free-boundary problems and the Monge-Ampère equation". ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The highest civilian honor in Kerala, the "**Kerala Jyothi**," was awarded to the writer **M T Vasudevan Nair**. The second-highest award, "Kerala Prabha," was shared by actor Mammooty, former civil service officer T Madhava Menon, and writer Omchery NN Pillai. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **The Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature (FOSWAL)** presented a unique literary award to **Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman** of Bangladesh for his trilogy of books, which includes The Unfinished Memoirs, The Prison Diaries, and the New China 1952. FOSWAL acknowledged Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's exceptional literary skills and awarded him for his outstanding literary excellence in the trilogy, according to the citation provided by the organization. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Union Territory has awarded wildlife conservationist **Aliya Mir** for her exceptional efforts in conservation. Aliya is the first woman from Jammu and Kashmir **to work for Wildlife SOS** and is the first woman in the region to receive this honour. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Tapoban**, an NGO based in **Pathsala, Assam**, which focuses on supporting children with special needs and autism, has been honored with the prestigious **Children's Champion Award 2023** in the health and nutrition category. This award is presented by the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights and acknowledges individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the welfare of children in various areas such as education, justice, health, nutrition, sports, and creative arts. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Naveen Jindal** has been awarded a **lifetime achievement award by the University of Texas at Dallas** for his accomplishments in industry, politics, and education. Jindal, who graduated from the University in 1992, received the award in a ceremony. This award is the highest recognition given to an alumnus by the University of Texas, Dallas and is presented to those whose contributions have positively impacted society. Aziz Sancar, a Nobel Laureate, was the first person to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from the University of Texas at Dallas. ([Click here to read the article](#))



Important Days

- **World Civil Defence Day** is observed on **1st March** to raise awareness about the importance of civil defence measures in protecting people and their property from natural disasters, accidents, and other emergencies. The day honours the work of several civil defence organisations. The theme for this year is **"Uniting the world's leading specialists for the safety and security of future generations"**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **World Seagrass Day** is celebrated annually on **1st March** to raise awareness about seagrass and its important functions in the marine ecosystem. The seagrasses are grass-like plants that live close to the sea. They are the only flowering plant to grow in the marine environment. There are more than 60 seagrass species in the world. They act as the best carbon sink and provide food for marine life. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **On Zero Discrimination Day, 1 March**, we celebrate the right of everyone to live a full and productive life and live it with dignity. Zero Discrimination Day highlights how people can become informed about and promote inclusion, compassion, peace and, above all, a movement for change. On Zero Discrimination Day this year, under the theme **"Save lives: Decriminalise"**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **The Civil Accounts Day** was celebrated on **1st March** to mark the **47th foundation day of Indian Civil Accounts Service (ICAS)**. The Indian Civil Accounts Service was constituted in 1976, after the the maintenance of Accounts of the Union government was separated from that of Audit. Consequently, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India was divested with this responsibility. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Every **3rd of March**, wildlife is celebrated all over the world for the **UN World Wildlife Day**. This date was chosen as it is the birthday of CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, signed in 1973. World Wildlife Day will be celebrated in 2023 under the theme **"Partnerships for wildlife conservation"**, honoring the people who are making a difference. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **National Safety Day** is observed on **March 4** annually with an aim to promote safe working environment and ensure safety of people in all aspects. The theme for 2023 National Safety Day is **'Our Aim - Zero Harm'**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- India celebrates **National Security Day** on **March 4** every year. **Rashtriya Suraksha Diwas** is another name for it, and it is a holiday honouring the Indian Security Forces. The National Safety Council of India announced the theme for this year to be **'Nurture young minds - Develop safety culture'**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **World Obesity Day** is observed on March 4 every year to promote practical solutions and help people achieve and maintain a healthy weight while undertaking proper treatment. World Obesity Day returns on 4 March 2023 with the theme: **'Changing Perspectives: Let's Talk About Obesity'**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Observed on **5 March**, the **International Day for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Awareness** plays a role in deepening the global public's understanding about how disarmament efforts contribute to enhancing peace and security, preventing and ending armed conflicts, and curbing human suffering caused by weapons. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)** in collaboration with Pharmaceuticals & Medical Devices Bureau of India (PMBI), the implementing agency of Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) and States and Union Territories is celebrating **5th Jan Aushadhi Diwas 2023** under (PMBJP). The 5th Jan Aushadhi Diwas is organized across India based on the theme **"Jan Aushadhi - Sasti bhi Acchi bhi"**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Every year on the second Wednesday of March, **No Smoking Day** is observed. It falls on **March 8** this year. Even though we all know that smoking is bad for our health, quitting the habit appears to be a difficult task. This year's theme is: **"Stopping smoking improves your brain health"**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **The International Day of Women Judges**, which is celebrated every year on **March 10**, honours all female judges who have taken the lead in the fight against social injustice. This International Day of Women Judges is being observed with the campaign **"Women in Justice, Women for Justice"**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- On the **second Thursday in March** each year, the world observes **World Kidney Day**, a day dedicated to raising awareness about kidney health. On **March 9, 2023**, it will be remembered this year. **"Kidney Health for Everyone - Preparing for the Unexpected, Supporting the Vulnerable"** is the theme for World Kidney Day in 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **World Oral Health Day** is observed globally every year on **March 20**, with the primary objective of increasing awareness about the significance of oral health. The theme for 2023 is **'Be Proud of Your Mouth,'** which is the same theme used for the past three years. The campaign was launched by the FDI in 2021. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **The International Day of Happiness** is an annual celebration that occurs on **March 20**. International Day of Happiness's purpose is to emphasize the importance of happiness and the overall well-being of individuals. The theme of International Day of Happiness for this year has been kept as **"Be Mindful, Be Grateful, Be Kind."** ([Click here to read the article](#))

- 21 March, 2023 is celebrated as World Poetry Day 2023. Every year on **March 21**, people throughout the world celebrate **World Poetry Day** to honour an expression of language with which they can all identify. Every country's past contains poetry, which unites people through shared humanity and values. Even the most simple poems can spark conversation. The theme of World Poetry Day 2023 is "**Always be a poet, even in prose.**" ([Click here to read the article](#))
- March 21st is observed as **International Day of Forests or World Forestry Day** worldwide to increase awareness about the importance of forests, woodlands, and trees in our lives. It is important to understand the value, significance, and contributions of the forests to balancing the life cycle on earth. An issue like deforestation is also addressed on this day. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- March 21 is observed as **World Down Syndrome Day** worldwide, aiming to increase public awareness and show support for individuals living with this genetic condition. This year's World Down Syndrome Day theme is '**With Us, Not For Us**', emphasizing that people with disabilities should be treated equally and have access to the same opportunities as others. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- 21 March 2023 is celebrated as **International Nowruz Day 2023**. Every year on March 21, the **International Nowruz Day** is a much-anticipated global New Year's festival that marks the spring equinox, ushering in the season of rebirth and nature's renewal. Almost 300 million people worldwide commemorate the international holiday that the **United Nations** proclaimed on March 21, also known as "Naurыз," "Navruz," or "Nowrouz," which is translated as "new day" and has a history of at least 3,000 years. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- On **October 26, 1966**, the **UN General Assembly** passed **Resolution 2142 (XXI)** designating March 21st as the **International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**. This day was chosen because, in 1960, 69 peaceful protesters were killed by police in Sharpeville, South Africa, while demonstrating against the apartheid "**pass laws**". By establishing this day of commemoration, the General Assembly urged the global community to intensify its efforts to eradicate all types of racial discrimination, especially as it pertains to the struggle against apartheid in South Africa. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **World Water Day** is observed on **March 22** each year to emphasize the significance of water and to create awareness about the global water crisis. The primary purpose of celebrating this day is to promote the achievement of **SDG 6**, which aims to provide access to clean water and sanitation for everyone by 2030. The focus of World Water Day 2023 is on the theme of '**Accelerating the change to solve the water and sanitation crisis**,' underlining the vital importance of taking decisive action to address the global water crisis. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Shaheed Diwas or Martyrs' Day** is observed in India on **23rd March** every year to pay homage to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of India. This day marks the anniversary of the execution of three Indian freedom fighters- **Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev Thapar and Shivaram Rajguru in 1931**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Every year on **March 23**, **World Meteorological Day** is celebrated to mark the official formation of the **World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)** in 1950. The day recognizes the crucial role of the **National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS)** in ensuring the safety and welfare of society. The theme for World Meteorological Day 2023 is "**The Future of Weather, Climate, and Water Across Generations**". ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **World Tuberculosis Day** is observed on **March 24th** every year to raise awareness about the global epidemic of tuberculosis (TB) and efforts to eliminate the disease. The World Health Organization (WHO) aims to end the TB epidemic by 2030. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- On the **24th of March** every year, the **International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims** is commemorated in honor of Monsignor Óscar Arnulfo Romero, who was assassinated on this day in 1980. Monsignor Romero was passionately involved in speaking out against the infringement of human rights suffered by the most marginalized people in El Salvador. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The United Nations observes the **International Day of Solidarity with Detained and Missing Staff Members on March 25** every year to honor the memory of **Alec Collett**, a journalist who died while on a UN mission after being kidnapped. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Every year on **March 27**, **World Theatre Day** is celebrated worldwide to promote the significance of theatrical forms. Theatre not only provides entertainment but also serves as an art form that educates and inspires individuals. Many plays are performed on a variety of topics, including social issues, entertainment, and comedy. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Week of Solidarity with the Peoples Struggling Against Racism and Racial Discrimination** is an annual event that is observed from **March 21 to 27**. The purpose of this week is to oppose human rights violations, injustices, and racial discrimination that people face around the world. The week-long event highlights the importance of working towards achieving racial equality in all nations. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Purple Day of Epilepsy** is an international day of awareness dedicated to raising understanding and reducing the social stigma associated with epilepsy, a neurological condition. It is celebrated annually on **March 26** with the goal of educating people about epilepsy, recognizing the signs of a seizure, and offering support to those who are impacted by it. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- On December 14, 2022, the **United Nations General Assembly** acknowledged the significance of zero-waste programs and announced that **March 30** would be celebrated as the **International Day of Zero Waste** every year starting from 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **The International Day of Drug Checking** is an annual event that has been observed since **2017 on March 31st**. The purpose of the day is to educate people about drugs and their effects and to promote harm reduction initiatives to reduce the risks associated with drug use. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **World Backup Day** is an annual event that takes place on **March 31st** to raise awareness about the importance of data backup and protection. The day encourages individuals and organizations to take proactive steps to safeguard their data and prevent the loss of important information due to hardware failure, cyberattacks, or other unforeseen events. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Transgender Day of Visibility** is an annual holiday observed on **March 31st** to celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of transgender people, as well as to raise awareness of the discrimination and violence faced by the transgender community worldwide. Transgender Day of Visibility is an important opportunity to celebrate the diversity of gender identities and expressions and to promote understanding and acceptance of the transgender community. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** participated in **Exercise Shinyuu Maitri** with the Japan Air Self-Defence Force (JASDF). The Exercise Shinyuu Maitri is being organized on the sidelines of the Indo-Japan Joint Army Exercise, Dharma Guardian, which was conducted from 13 February 2023 to 02 March 2023 at Komatsu, Japan. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Indian warship **INS Trikand** has arrived in Bahrain for her first participation in the **International Maritime Exercise** organised by the US-led Combined Maritime Forces, a 34-nation naval group. INS Trikand hosted Rear Adm Jean Michel Martinet of the French Navy, who is also the Vice Commander of IMX23 & Commander Task Force (East). ([Click here to read the article](#))
- On March 7 and 8, 2023, the **Indian Army** and the **French Army** will hold their first joint military exercise, **FRINJEX-23**, at **Pangode Military Station** in **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**. The two armies are participating in this format for the first time, with each contingent consisting of a Company Group from the French **6th Light Armoured Brigade** and Indian Army personnel stationed in **Thiruvananthapuram**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Every year on **March 10**, the **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) Raising Day** is observed to mark the CISF's founding in 1969. This year, the **54th CISF Raising Day** celebrated to appreciate the efforts and contributions of Central Industrial Security Force. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Indian Navy's exercise, called the "Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise for 2023" (**TROPEX-23**), culminated in the **Arabian Sea** after running for four months from November 2022 to March 2023. TROPEX-23 witnessed the participation of approximately 70 Indian Navy ships, six submarines and over 75 aircraft. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Colonel Geeta Rana** of the Corps of Electronics and Mechanical Engineers has taken over command of an independent field workshop in the **Eastern Ladakh region with China after the Indian Army** recently approved women officers for command posts. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Defence Current Affairs

- The **Ministry of Defence** received a proposal from the **Indian Army** to buy 310 Advanced Towed Artillery Gun Systems (ATAGS) for deployment along the borders with China and Pakistan, marking a significant step towards '**Make-in-India**' in the defense sector. The Indian Army has submitted a proposal worth more than **USD 1 billion**, which is currently being discussed. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Union Cabinet approved the procurement of **70 HTT-40** basic trainer aircraft from **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**. The approval was given to the Indian Air Force (IAF). The procurement would cost around Rs 6,828 crore. The aircraft will be supplied over a period of six years. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In what is being seen as a major success for the "**Make in India**" initiative in defence sector, the **Indian Navy** has received a fully indigenised fuze for an **anti-submarine warfare (ASW)** underwater rocket, manufactured for the first time by a private Indian industry. This would be the first time the Indian Navy has placed a supply order for underwater ammunition fuzes with an Indian private sector industry. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The defence ministry sealed a deal with **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** to procure six Dornier aircraft at a cost of Rs 667 crore for the **Indian Air Force**. The addition of the six aircraft will further bolster the operational capability of the IAF in remote areas, the defence ministry said announcing the contract. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- In the rugged **Doda area of Jammu & Kashmir**, the Army erected the tallest "**Iconic National Banner**". The highest tricolour in the Doda district, which has been erected on a 100-foot pole, was unfurled by Maj Gen Ajay Kumar, GOC Delta Force, Commander 9 Sector RR Brig. Samir K. Palande, DC Doda Vishesh Paul Mahajan, and SSP Abdul Qayoom. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Indian Navy's** indigenously built guided missile frigate, **INS Sahyadri** participated in a Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) with **French Navy (FN)** ships FS Dixmude, a Mistral Class Amphibious Assault Ship and FS La Fayette, a La Fayette Class Frigate, in the **Arabian Sea**. The partnership exercise was conducted on March 10-11. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- On March 13 and 14, 2023, the Indian Ocean **Area** will host the **third edition of the multilateral exercise La Perouse**. Every two years exercise La Perouse, an exercise run by the French Navy, aims to improve maritime domain awareness and maritime cooperation among the participating navies in the Indo-Pacific region. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Operation Bold Kurukshetra**, a bilateral armour training exercise, was held from March 6–13, 2023, in Jodhpur Military Station in India. It was the 13th iteration, and the **Singapore Army and Indian Army** both took part. Both armies participated in the first command post exercise in the series, which included computer wargaming and planning components at the battalion and brigade levels. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **The Indian Navy** deployed a P8I aircraft to Guam, USA, on March 14, 2023, to participate in the third edition of '**Exercise Sea Dragon 23**', a coordinated multi-lateral Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) exercise for Long Range MR ASW aircraft organized by the US Navy. The exercise, scheduled from March 15 to March 30, 2023, will focus on coordinated ASW tactics among the participating countries and will involve advanced ASW drills. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Indian Navy's top gunnery school, **INS Dronacharya**, will be presented with the **President's Colour** in honor of its outstanding services. **President Droupadi Murmu** will be conferring the award as the highest recognition bestowed upon a unit by the President, who serves as the Supreme Commander of the armed forces, for its exceptional service to the country. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Union home ministry** has announced a 10 per cent reservation for **former Agniveers** in vacancies in the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), just after taking a similar initiative for jobs for them in the BSF. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- A two-day workshop on "**Human Factors Engineering in Military Platforms**" was inaugurated by the Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan on March 15 in New Delhi. The workshop is being organized by the Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences (**DIPAS**), which is a Delhi-based laboratory of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (**DRDO**). ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE)**, a shipbuilding company in India, has launched **INS Androth**, a vessel claimed to be the "most silent ship in the country" for the Indian Navy. The vessel is the first in a series of eight anti-submarine warfare shallow-watercraft to be delivered to the navy. The ships will be used for patrolling, search and rescue operations, and other military missions. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The annual bilateral maritime exercise called **Konkan 2023** was conducted between the **Indian Navy and the Royal Navy** from 20th to 22nd March 2023 off the Konkan coast in the Arabian Sea. The Royal Navy is the United Kingdom's naval warfare force. The exercise involved **INS Trishul**, a guided missile frigate, and HMS Lancaster, a Type 23 guided missile frigate, and aimed to improve cooperation and learn best practices through various maritime drills. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Indian **Defence Ministry** has recently signed two contracts with **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** worth more than **Rs 3,700 crore**, with the aim to enhance the operational capabilities of the **Indian Air Force**. Under the **Buy Indian - IDMM (Indigenously Designed Developed and Manufactured)** category, both projects are part of the ongoing vision of **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Recently, during the on-going tensions between India and China at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the **Indian Army and Air Force** carried out a 96-hour joint exercise named '**Vayu Prahar**' in the eastern region. The exercise aimed to develop plans to achieve synergy in multi-domain operations by using air and land forces. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The inaugural joint conference between the **Indian and African army chiefs** is scheduled to take place in Pune, with Defense Minister **Rajnath Singh** as the guest of honor and Indian Army Chief General **Manoj Pandey** in attendance. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- India is set to become a major exporter of **defense equipment and materials**, with exports projected to be worth **Rs 35,000 to Rs 40,000 crore by 2026**. The announcement was made by Union minister **Rajnath Singh** during a speech at **Symbiosis International University**, where he emphasized the importance of **self-reliance** and creating an ecosystem that fosters **self-confidence**. Since adopting the **Indianization program**, India's defense exports have increased from **Rs 900 crore in 2014 to Rs 15,000 crore to Rs 16,000 crore**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- On a recent occasion, **2,585 Agniveers**, including 272 women from the Indian Navy, successfully completed their training at **INS Chilka**, located in Odisha. The parade was reviewed by the Chief of the Naval Staff, Adm R Hari Kumar, and also attended by PT Usha, a Member of Parliament, and notable sports personality Mithali Raj, along with eminent naval veterans. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** signed a contract worth over Rs 1,700 crore with **BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL)** for the procurement of Next Generation Maritime Mobile Coastal Batteries (Long range) (NGMMCB-LR) and BrahMos Missiles under the Buy (Indian) Category. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Science and Technology

- The **CE-20 cryogenic engine**, which will power the nation's rocket for the third moon mission, **Chandrayaan-3**, had a flight acceptance hot test that was successfully completed, according to the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- SpaceX launched NASA's Crew-6 mission to orbit en route to the **International Space Station**, with a Russian cosmonaut and United Arab Emirates astronaut joining two NASA crewmates for the flight. The SpaceX launch vehicle, consisting of a **Falcon 9 rocket** topped with an autonomously operated Crew Dragon capsule called Endeavour, lifted off at 12:34 a.m. EST (0534 GMT) from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Researchers trying to uncover the secrets of **Earth's geology** have revealed the **fifth layer of the planet**. Seismic waves generated by earthquakes have revealed new insights about the deepest parts of Earth's inner core. The fifth layer is made of **iron and nickel**, the same materials that comprise the rest of the inner core. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has received the **NASA-ISRO SAR (NISAR)** satellite from the U.S. space agency. A US Air Force C-17 aircraft carrying the NASA-ISRO synthetic aperture radar (NISAR) has landed in Bengaluru. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Reliance Life Sciences Pvt Ltd** has received a licence from the **Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur** for a gene therapy method that has the potential to treat a variety of genetic eye ailments. Reliance Life Sciences will further develop the gene treatment technology from IIT Kanpur into a native product. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has received the **NASA-ISRO SAR (NISAR)** satellite from the U.S. space agency. A US Air Force C-17 aircraft carrying the NASA-ISRO synthetic aperture radar (NISAR) has landed in Bengaluru. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **SpaceX** launched a Falcon 9 rocket from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station with 40 more internet satellites for rival **OneWeb**, followed by the landing of the rocket's first stage booster back at the Florida spaceport. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **GPT4**, the most recent release of **OpenAI's** large language model, which powers popular apps like **ChatGPT** and the new **Bing**, has been announced. According to San Francisco-based research company **OpenAI**, **GPT-4** is more advanced than the previous version and has been trained on more data, costing more to operate. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Gaganyaan program aims to demonstrate India's capability to launch humans into Low Earth Orbit using an Indian launch vehicle and bring them back safely. The program includes four abort missions, with the first scheduled for May 2023. The program also includes several test vehicle missions and an uncrewed mission planned for 2024. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Svaya Robotics**, a Hyderabad-based company, has partnered with two **DRDO** labs, the Research and Development Establishment in Pune (R&DE) and Defence Bio-engineering & Electro Medical Laboratory in Bengaluru (DEBEL), to create India's first quadruped robot and wearable exo-skeleton. The company has designed both robots to serve multiple purposes in industries and healthcare, and they are dual-use robots. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- During the '**Adobe Summit**', software giant Adobe unveiled new generative AI advancements in its Experience Cloud that seek to revolutionize the way companies provide customer experiences. **Adobe** customers can effortlessly switch between **Sensei GenAI** services and current features within their workflows while using Adobe Experience Cloud, according to the company's statement. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In the latest preview of Bing and Edge, Microsoft has added a new functionality called '**Bing Image Creator**', which enables users to generate an image based on their written description by utilizing an enhanced version of **Open AI's DALL-E model**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Dr. Jitendra Singh**, the Union Minister of State for Science & Technology, announced in the Rajya Sabha that NASA and ISRO have collaboratively built an earth science satellite called **NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar)**. The satellite's primary objectives are to design, develop, and launch a dual-frequency (L and S band) radar imaging satellite, and to explore new application areas using L & S Band microwave data, particularly in surface deformation studies, terrestrial biomass structure, natural resource mapping and monitoring, and research on the dynamics of ice-sheets, glaciers, forests, oil slicks, etc. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- India has seen a surge in daily **Covid-19** infections, with **349 cases** of the newly detected **XBB1.16 variant**, which may be responsible for the recent increase in cases. According to data from the **Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG)**, Maharashtra has the highest number of XBB1.16 variant cases with 105 cases, followed by Telangana with 93 cases, Karnataka with 61 cases, and Gujarat with 54 cases. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) successfully launched its heaviest rocket, **LVM3**, for the sixth consecutive time from the Sriharikota spaceport. The rocket successfully placed **36 satellites** belonging to the UK-based **OneWeb group** company into their intended orbits. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- This summer, the **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** is preparing four individuals to live on Mars on **June 2023**. The four "**Martians**" will be a part of NASA's human exploration trip on Mars, even though the American space agency has long sought to send humans to the neighbouring planet. Also, NASA has sending satellites, the InSight lander, a rover mission with the Perseverance rover, the Ingenuity small robotic helicopter, and related delivery systems, all of which are intended to provide the Red Planet with its first comprehensive examination. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In just **30 seconds**, a cost-effective and portable **3D paper-based device** developed by researchers at **IIT Madras** can detect **milk adulteration**. This device is unlike traditional laboratory-based methods and can be used at home with just one millilitre of the liquid sample needed for testing. The device is capable of identifying various commonly used adulterating agents, including but not limited to detergents, soap, hydrogen peroxide, urea, starch, salt, and sodium-hydrogen-carbonate. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Punjab and Haryana Court** recently utilized the assistance of an AI chatbot called **ChatGPT** to make a decision regarding a bail application in a criminal case, marking the first time an Indian court has done so. The bench, led by **Justice Anoop Chitkara**, requested feedback from ChatGPT during the hearing of the bail petition filed by an individual who was taken into custody in June 2020 for **charges of criminal conspiracy, murder, rioting, and criminal intimidation**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- India has established a new design lab in Ahmedabad that aims to facilitate space sector start-ups in converting their inventive concepts into practical models at a faster pace. The **Space Systems Design Lab**, run by the **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe)**, has advanced analysis and simulation software, such as mission simulation, spacecraft and payload modeling and optimization, and ground station and launch vehicle avionics. ([Click here to read the article](#))

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Books & Authors

- Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya released the book '**India's Vaccine Growth Story - From Cowpox to Vaccine Maitri**' authored by Shri **Sajjan Singh Yadav**, Additional Secretary, Govt of India at the World Book fair 2023, at Pragati Maidan. The book elaborates on India's impressive achievement in developing, producing and distributing COVID-19 vaccines. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Vice President **Jagdeep Dhankhar** announced the released of the book "**Mundaka Upanishad: The Gateway to Eternity**". **Dr. Karan Singh**, a former member of parliament, wrote the book at Upa-Rashtrapati Nivas in New Delhi. He is a philosopher and politician from India. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- "**As Good as My Word**," written by **KM Chandrasekhar**, who served as the Cabinet Secretary from 2007 to 2011, begins as an autobiography with descriptive descriptions of his early years, academic career, and college years, all of which take place inside the walls of a modest but orderly Malayali home. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Supreme Court Judge Justice **V. Ramasubramanian** has released a book titled **India's Struggle for Independence - Gandhian Era**. The book, authored by **P. Jyothimani**, former Judge, Madras High Court, and G. Balan, former professor of history, Pachaiyappa's College, and published by Vanathi Pathipagam, was released at an event held at the University of Madras. The book covers aspects such as the relevance of Mahatma Gandhi as of the date. ([Click here to read the article](#))



- **Rachna Biswat Rawat**, a journalist and writer from India, has recently written a book called "**Bipin: The Man Behind the Uniform.**" The book is published by Penguin Veer, a Penguin Random House imprint, and focuses on the life, personality, and principles of General Bipin Rawat. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), **Rao Inderjit Singh**, launched the 24th edition of "**Women and Men in India 2022**" in New Delhi. This publication offers comprehensive information on various topics, such as political participation, employment, and health, while also providing gender-disaggregated data that can help us understand the differences between various groups of men and women living in rural and urban areas across different regions of India. It is a valuable resource for gaining insights into gender-related issues in India. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The book "**Snakes In the Ganga: Breaking India 2.0**" authored by **Shri Rajiv Malhotra and Mrs. Vijaya Viswanathan** has received considerable recognition in India. It sheds light on the various threats to India's national security from the United States, which is not typically perceived as a major risk by the average Indian. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Anurag Behar**, the CEO of Azim Premji Foundation and founding vice-chancellor of Azim Premji University, has authored a new travel book titled "**A Matter of the Heart: Education in India**". The book is a collection of 110 stories, based on Behar's experiences working at the foundation, and sheds light on the state of education in India beyond the major cities. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Shrimant Kokate**, a well-known Marathi author and historian, has recently released his first English book titled "**Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj (illustrated)**", which has been translated by Dilip Chavan. The book was released by Amol Kolhe, a popular MP and actor known for his portrayals of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and Sambhaji Maharaj in Marathi TV series. Kokate is renowned for his four books on Shivaji, which have received great reviews and have been widely read. He has written a total of 10 books on various subjects. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Ghulam Nabi Azad**, a former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir and Union Minister, has written an honest and forthright autobiography, which will be launched in New Delhi on April 5. Titled '**Azaad**', the book chronicles Azad's political journey and provides insights into the significant political changes that India has undergone over the past five decades. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Perumal Murugan's** novel '**Pyre**', which deals with caste-based discrimination, has been nominated for the **2023 International Booker Prize longlist**. Originally written in Tamil under the title '**Pukkuli**', the book follows the story of a couple from different castes who flee their village, triggering a dark and ominous tale. The book was translated into English by Aniruddhan Vasudevan in 2016. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Penguin Random House India (PRHI)** has announced that the English translation of the Nepali novel "**Phoolange**" will be released on April 17th. The book is written by **Lekhnath Chhetri**, a writer based in Darjeeling, and focuses on the failed Gorkha movement for a separate state. The original Nepali version of the novel was shortlisted for the Madan Puraskar, which is Nepal's most prestigious literary award, in 2021. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- During the 52nd Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva, Switzerland, a book entitled "**War and Women**" was launched. The author, **Dr M A Hasan**, presented the book, which highlights the suffering of Bengali women who were victims of sexual violence perpetrated by the Pakistan Army during the 1971 war. The event was organized by the Bangladesh Freedom Fighters Sansad in Europe, and it was considered a significant moment for raising awareness about the issue. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Vani Tripathi Tikoo**, an actor and member of the Indian censor board, has written her debut children's book titled "**Why Can't Elephants be Red??**" published by **Niyogi Books**. The book is about a two-and-a-half-year-old girl named Akku who is imaginative, adventurous, and growing up in Gurgaon and Singapore. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Miscellaneous Current Affairs

- A decade after his retirement, there is news about plans to install a life-size statue of **Sachin Tendulkar** inside the iconic Wankhede stadium where he played his last game for India. The statue will be unveiled on April 23. It will be the legend's 50th birthday. There is speculation that if everything does not work out well, the inauguration of the statue may be delayed until the 50-over World Cup planned later this year. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Union Education Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan** announced that two Australian universities Wollongong and Deakin are set to establish campuses in Gujarat's 'GIFT City'. The two universities will sign an agreement on setting up their campuses during **Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's** maiden visit to India next week. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The world's first 200-metre-long bamboo crash barrier has been installed on a highway connecting **Chandrapur and Yavatmal districts in Maharashtra**. Named '**Bahu Balli**', the bamboo crash barrier underwent "rigorous testing" at various government-run institutions like the **National Automotive Test Tracks (NATRAX)** in Pithampur, Indore. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **FinEMPOWER**, a new initiative from **BSE and UN Women India**, was introduced at the **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)**. In order to empower women towards financial security, BSE and UN Women have collaborated on a year-long capacity-building programme. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Savitribai Phule** was a Maharashtrian **poet, educator, social reformer, and teacher**. She made a significant contribution to advancing women's rights in India along with her husband, Jyotiba Phule in Maharashtra. **Savitribai Phule** is credited with founding the feminist movement in India. Savitribai Phule contracted the plague during this process and passed away on March 10, 1897. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **The Vande Bharat Express** is now being driven by **Surekha Yadav**, the first female locomotive pilot in Asia. From **Solapur to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminal (CSMT)** in Maharashtra, Yadav ran the Vande Bharat Express. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Connaught Plaza in Delhi will host a **Flower Festival** beginning from, March 11. It aims to emphasise the diversity of **G20** participants and invited nations. **Japan, Singapore, and the Netherlands are among the G20 nations taking part**. The objective of the festival is to showcase the vibrancy and colourful display of G20 members and guest countries. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** has unveiled **Rs 1,18,500 crore** budget for Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory for the next financial year. The total budget estimates for the fiscal is Rs. 1,18,500 crore, of which developmental expenditure is of the order of Rs. 41,491 crore. The capital component of the budget has increased substantially. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Sampanna Ramesh Shelar**, a Bachelor of Physical Education student, has set a new record by becoming the fastest Indian in the under-21 category to swim across the **Palk Strait, from Talaimannar in Sri Lanka to Dhanuskodi in Tamil Nadu**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Google Doodle: **Kitty O'Neil**, a famous American stuntwoman and actress who was deaf from a young age, was commemorated by Google on her **77th birthday anniversary** with a doodle featuring her in a yellow jumpsuit. She went on to become one of Hollywood's most famous stunt drivers. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)** has partnered with the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, the French Development Agency (**AFD**), and the European Union to organize the first-ever Urban Climate Film Festival as part of the CITIIS program under **U20** engagement events. The festival will feature a carefully selected collection of 11 films from 9 countries to increase public awareness of the effects of climate change on urban life and encourage discussion on sustainable urban development. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- At an event held in **Tikli Village, Haryana** to commemorate the **International Day of Forests**, the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, **Bhupender Yadav**, unveiled the **Aravalli Green Wall Project**, which aims to green the 5 km buffer area around the Aravalli Hill Range in four states. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Election Commission (EC) in the Indian state of **Karnataka** has selected **Manjamma Jogati**, a transgender folk dancer, as a poll icon to encourage more members of the transgender community to register and vote. Alongside Jogati, several other individuals, including cricketer Rahul Dravid and Jnanapeeth awardee Chandrashekar Kambar, have also been chosen as poll ambassadors. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- A Namibian Cheetah passed away at **Kuno National Park** in MP, India. The cheetah, named **Sasha**, was reportedly in good health when it was moved to India on **September 17th 2022**, but it was discovered that it had a **kidney infection**. This event was a setback for the project aimed at rejuvenating the cheetah population in the country. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- As part of the '**Drowning Prevention Awareness**' campaign, Indian Police Service (IPS) officer **Krishna Prakash** swam from Gateway of India to Elephanta Caves, Mumbai. He completed the expedition of 16.20 kms in just 5 hours 26 minutes and became the first person in history to do so. This is far from the first time the IPS officer broker broke records in sporting competitions. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Lt. Manmeet Colon**, who is of Indian origin and a Sikh woman officer, has recently taken up the position of assistant police chief in the state of Connecticut, becoming the first-ever person of Asian descent to hold the position. She has been a member of the New Haven Police Department (NHPD) for 15 years and was appointed as the city's third assistant police chief in an official ceremony. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- In order to conserve and protect the **Great Indian Bustard**, which is considered one of the **largest flying birds** in the world, the Government of India is implementing various measures throughout the country. However, apart from certain regions in **Rajasthan and Gujarat**, the bird has disappeared from **90%** of its original habitat. The International Union for Conservation of Nature has classified the species as **"critically endangered."** ([Click here to read the article](#))
- To commemorate the **69th anniversary** of its official inauguration by **Vice President Dr. S Radhakrishnan** on March 29, 1954, the National Gallery of Modern Art in New Delhi will host its first-ever **"Spring Fiesta"** in 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Obituaries

- **Chandrashekhhar Dasgupta**, a former Indian diplomat and the Padma Bhushan Awardee (2008), passed away at the age of 82. He was born on 2nd May 1940 in Kolkata, West Bengal. Chandrashekhhar Dasgupta was awarded the 3rd-highest civilian honour, the Padma Bhushan, for Civil Service (Delhi) in 2008. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Former Chief Justice of India **A.M. Ahmadi** has passed away at the age of 90. **Ahmadi** was the chief justice from 1994 to 1997. His judicial career as a City Civil and Session Court judge in Ahmedabad, he was the only Chief Justice of India who started at the very lowest rank to rise to the highest position of the Indian judiciary. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Renowned Bengali novelist and short story writer **Sasthipada Chattopadhyay** has passed away. The creator of the famous 'Pandav Goenda' (five detectives) series was 82. **Sasthipada Chattopadhyay** on March 9, 1941, at Khurut in Howrah district, Chattopadhyay published his first literary work 'Kamakhya Bhraman' (visit to Kamakhya) in 'Dainik Basumati' in 1961. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Veteran actor-writer-director **Satish Kaushik** has passed away at the age of 67. He was born on April 13, 1965, in Haryana, Kaushik was an alumnus of the NSD and the FTII, and started his film career in the early 1980s. He was an Indian actor, comedian, screenwriter, director and producer. He acted in theatres before finding his break in Bollywood. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Sameer Khakhar**, an experienced actor who had worked in theater, television, and movies, has passed away. He is most remembered for his portrayal of the character "Khopdi" in the popular TV series "Nukkad." Sameer Khakhar's career spanned across various genres of entertainment, but his performance as Khopdi was particularly notable, earning him recognition and praise from audiences. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Gordon Moore**, who helped start the company Intel in 1968 and predicted that computing power would continue to increase over time (known as "Moore's Law"), has passed away at the age of 94. Moore was an important figure in the semiconductor industry and played a key role in putting Intel's processors in most personal computers. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Pradeep Sarkar**, a renowned filmmaker who directed successful movies like Parineeta and Mardaani, has passed away at the age of 67. He began his career in directing with the film Parineeta in 2005, starring Vidya Balan, and went on to direct other popular movies such as Laga Chunari Mein Daag, Helicopter Eela, and Lafangey Parindey. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- A Malayalam comedy superstar **Innocent Vareed Thekkethala**, who acted in more than 750 films and served as an independent MP for the Chalakkudy constituency in the 16th Lok Sabha elections, has passed away at the age of 75. He was also the President of the Association of Malayalam Movie Artists (AMMA) for 18 years. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Static Takeaways

- Meta Founded: February 2004;
- Meta CEO: Mark Zuckerberg (Jul 2004-);
- Meta Headquarters: Menlo Park, California, United States.
- PepsiCo CEO: Ramon Laguarta;
- PepsiCo Headquarters: Purchase, Harrison, New York, United States;
- PepsiCo Founded: 1965;
- PepsiCo President: Ramon Laguarta.
- RBL Bank CEO: R Subramaniakumar
- Exim Bank CEO: Ms. Harsha Bangari.
- FICCI Founded: 1927;
- FICCI Headquarters: New Delhi;
- FICCI Founder: Ghanshyam Das Birla;
- FICCI President: Sanjiv Mehta.
- UN Chairman: António Guterres



- Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare: Narendra Singh Tomar.
- IUCN Headquarters: Gland, Switzerland;
- IUCN Founded: 5 October 1948, Fontainebleau, France;
- IUCN Founder: Julian Huxley;
- IUCN CEO: Bruno Oberle (13 Jul 2020–);
- IUCN Motto: United for Life and Livelihoods;
- IUCN President: Razan Al Mubarak.
- ISRO Chairman: S. Somanath
- ISRO First Chairman: Vikram Sarabhai
- ISRO Foundation Year: 15 August 1969.
- Comptroller and Auditor General of India: Girish Chandra Murmu.
- Nigeria Capital: Abuja;
- Nigeria Currency: Nigerian naira;
- GSMA Chairperson: Stéphane Richard;
- GSMA Headquarters: London, England, UK;
- GSMA Founded: 1995.
- Axis Bank Founded: 1993, Ahmedabad;
- Axis Bank CEO: Amitabh Chaudhry (1 Jan 2019–);
- Axis Bank Headquarters: Mumbai.
- IRCTC Chairman & Managing Director: Rajni Hasija;
- IRCTC Headquarters: New Delhi;
- IRCTC Founded: 27 September 1999.
- HDFC Bank CEO: Sashidhar Jagdishan (27 Oct 2020–);
- HDFC Bank Founded: August 1994, Mumbai;
- HDFC Bank Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) : Ananthakrishnan;
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited Founded: 23 December 1940;
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited HQ: Bengaluru;
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited Founder: Walchand Hirachand.
- World Wide Fund Headquarters: Gland, Switzerland;
- World Wide Fund Founded: 29 April 1961, Morges, Switzerland;
- World Wide Fund Director: Marco Lambertini.
- Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) Founded: 1963;
- Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) Founded: 24 July 1998;
- Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Vietnam Prime Minister: Pham Minh Chinh;
- Vietnam Capital: Hanoi;
- Vietnam Currency: Vietnamese dong.
- Asian Chess Federation Headquarters: Al Ain, United Arab Emirates;
- Asian Chess Federation President: Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nahyan.
- Governor of Madhya Pradesh: Mangubhai Patel
- Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh: Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- MP Capital: Bhopal.
- BBC Headquarters: London, United Kingdom;
- Director-General of the BBC Timothy Douglas Davie;
- BBC Established: 18 October 1922.
- Chief of Naval Staff: Admiral R Hari Kumar;
- Indian Navy Founded: 26 January 1950;
- Indian Navy headquarters: New Delhi.
- BSE Full Form: Bombay Stock Exchange
- BSE MD and CEO : Sundararaman Ramamurthy
- UN Women India: Ms. Susan Ferguson.
- Capital of France: Paris
- President of France: Emmanuel Macron
- Chief of Army Staff, India: General Manoj Pande
- Chief of Defence Staff, India: Lt General Anil Chauhan.
- Qatar Capital – Doha
- Qatar Currency – Qatari riyal
- Emir of Qatar – Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.
- Hindustan Unilever Ltd Headquarters: Mumbai;
- Hindustan Unilever Ltd Founded: 17 October 1933.
- LIC Founded: 1 September 1956;
- LIC Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Silicon Valley Bank Headquarters: Santa Clara, California, United States;
- Silicon Valley Bank President: Gregory W. Becker;
- Silicon Valley Bank Founder: Roger V Smith;
- Silicon Valley Bank Founded: 1983;
- FDIC Founder: Franklin D. Roosevelt;
- FDIC Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States.
- The Organization of Islamic Cooperation Founded: 25 September 1969;
- The Organization of Islamic Cooperation Headquarters: Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
- NMDC Headquarters: Hyderabad;
- NMDC Founded: 1958.
- Honeywell International HON Founded: 1906, Wabash, Indiana, United States;
- Honeywell International HON Founder: Mark C. Honeywell;
- Honeywell International HON Headquarters: Charlotte, North Carolina, United States.
- FIFA Founded: 21 May 1904;
- FIFA Headquarters: Zürich, Switzerland.
- IDFC FIRST Bank Headquarters: Mumbai;
- IDFC FIRST Bank CEO: V. Vaidyanathan (19 Dec 2018–);
- IDFC FIRST Bank Parent organization: Infrastructure Development Finance Company;
- IDFC FIRST Bank Founded: October 2015.
- Bureau of Indian Standards Director General (DG): IAS Pramod Kumar Tiwari;

- Bureau of Indian Standards Founded: 23 December 1986;
- Bureau of Indian Standards Headquarters: Manak Bhawan, Old Delhi.
- Viacom18 Headquarters: Mumbai;
- Viacom18 Founded: November 2007;
- Viacom18 CEO: Jyoti S. Deshpande.
- Indian Ordnance Factories Founded: 1712;
- Indian Ordnance Factories Headquarters: Ayudh Bhawan, Kolkata;
- Indian Ordnance Factories Director General: Sanjeev Kishore.
- Indian Ordnance Factories Founded: 1712;
- Indian Ordnance Factories Headquarters: Ayudh Bhawan, Kolkata;
- Indian Ordnance Factories Director General: Sanjeev Kishore.
- World Dental Federation Founded: 15 August 1900;
- World Dental Federation Members: Over 200 members in some 130 countries;
- World Dental Federation President: Ihsane Ben Yahya.
- President of the 77th Session of the UN General Assembly: H.E. Csaba Kőrösi;
- UN General Assembly Headquarters: New York, United States.
- UCO Bank Founded: 6 January 1943;
- UCO Bank Founder: Ghanshyam Das Birla;
- UCO Bank Headquarters: Kolkata.
- Nepal Capital: Kathmandu;
- Nepal Prime minister: Pushpa Kamal Dahal;
- Nepal Currency: Nepalese Rupee.
- Cotton Corporation of India Headquarters: Mumbai;
- Cotton Corporation of India Founded: 1970.
- World Meteorological Organisation Founded: 23 March 1950;
- World Meteorological Organisation Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland;
- World Meteorological Organisation President: Gerhard Adrian.
- Larsen & Toubro (L&T) CEO: S N Subrahmanyam (Jul 2017-);
- Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Founded: 7 February 1946, Mumbai;
- Larsen & Toubro (L&T) Headquarters: Mumbai.
- New Development Bank (NDB) Founded: 15 July 2014;
- New Development Bank (NDB) HQ: Shanghai, China.
- Scotland Capital: Edinburgh;
- Scotland National animal: Unicorn;
- Scotland Currency: Pound sterling.
- IDFC First Bank CEO: V. Vaidyanathan (19 Dec 2018-);
- IDFC First Bank Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd Founded: 1988;
- Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd Key people: Nand Lal Sharma (Chairman & MD).
- SAARC Founded: 8 December 1985, Dhaka, Bangladesh;
- SAARC Secretary general: Esala Weerakoon.

- NASA Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States;
- NASA Founded: 29 July 1958, United States;
- NASA Administrator: Bill Nelson.
- Saudi Arabia Capital: Riyadh;
- Saudi Arabia Currency: Saudi Riyal.
- BCCI President: Roger Binny;
- BCCI Headquarters: Mumbai;
- BCCI Founded: December 1928.
- BCCI President: Roger Binny;
- BCCI Headquarters: Mumbai;
- BCCI Founded: December 1928.

Father of Various Fields in India

Field	Father
Indian Independence Movement	Mahatma Gandhi
Indian Constitution	Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
Indian Nuclear Program	Homi J. Bhabha
Indian Space Program	Vikram Sarabhai
Indian Agriculture	Dr. M.S. Swaminathan
Indian Green Revolution	M.S. Swaminathan and Norman Borlaug
Indian IT Industry	F.C. Kohli
Indian Banking	Sir Osborne Smith
Indian Cinema	Dadasaheb Phalke
Indian Classical Music	Pandit Vishnu Narayan Bhatkhande
Indian Modern Art	M.F. Husain
Indian Journalism	Raja Ram Mohan Roy
Indian Mathematics	Aryabhata
Indian Physics	C.V. Raman
Indian Botany	Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose
Indian Zoology	Dr. Salim Ali
Indian Archaeology	Alexander Cunningham
Indian Sociology	G.S. Ghurye
Indian Economics	Dadabhai Naoroji

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Popular Festivals of India - State Wise List

Name of Festival	Background
Andhra Pradesh	
Ugadi	New Year's Day of the Hindu lunisolar calendar month of Chaitra
Deccan festival	Celebrated in Hyderabad for 5 days
Lumbini festival	The Lumbini Festival in Andhra Pradesh is celebrated every year to relive the Heritage of Buddhism in the state. It celebrated in Nagarjunasagar.
Rayalaseema Food and Dance festival	Celebrated every year in the month of October. The main aim of the festival is to honor and celebrate the flourishing and exquisite art and cuisine of Rayalaseema area of Tirupati in the Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh.
Visakha Utsavam	Visakha Utsav is a tourism event . Main aim of the utsav is to promote the culture, arts, crafts, music and dance of Andhra Pradesh
Arunachal Pradesh	
Boori Boot Nyishi	Boori Boot is celebrated for successful harvest by the Hill-Miris of Nyishi community.
Reh- Idu Festival	Reh is one of the important festivals celebrated by the people of Indus.
Oriah festival	The yearly Oriah festival is held in March or April each year and it typically lasts for a week to 12 days. The Wanchos celebrate this festival as they believe it is a way to pay homage to their deities.
Mopin	The Mopin is an agricultural festival celebrated by the Galo tribe of Arunachal Pradesh to celebrate harvest.
Nyokum	This festival is celebrated by Nyishi tribe of Arunachal Pradesh. Nyok means Earth and kum means togetherness.
Sanken Festival	Sanken festival is also regarded as the festival of water. It is believed that sprinkling water shows a sign of respect and a cleansing ritual to welcome the New Year. It is a three day long festival and it is celebrated on 14th February every year. This festival is mainly celebrated by the Khampti tribe of Arunachal Pradesh.
Mohmol festival	Mohmol is a pre-harvest festival celebrated by the Tangsa community of Arunachal Pradesh.
Dree festival	The Dree Festival is celebrated by Apatani tribe. It is an agricultural festival to bring huge amount of harvest.
Solung	Solung is a popular agriculture festivals, celebrated by the Adi Tribes of Arunachal Pradesh. The festival is celebrated in the first week of September, after the sowing of seeds, to seek prosperity and a good harvest.
Chalo Loku	Chalo Loku is a colourful harvest festival, celebrated in the month of October-November, right after the harvest of the paddy field, and before the start of the new Jhum cultivation. Cha -paddy; Lo means season, and Loku means festival
Assam	
Magh - Biju	Magh Bihu is a harvest festival celebrated in Assam, which marks the end of harvesting season in the month of Jan - Feb
Dehing Patkai	This festival is named after the majestic Patkai range and the Dihing River. It is organized by the Government of Assam, providing the tourists with boundless chances for fun and feast.
Pragjyoti International Dance Festival	It is an annual festival organised by Kalpa, a Society for Promotion of Literature, Art, Culture and Social Harmony.
Bohag Bihu	Bohag Bihu also as called Haat Bihu is a festival celebrated in the state of Assam, which marks the beginning of the Assamese New Year. It usually falls on April 13.
Baishagu festival	Baishagu is one of the most popular seasonal festival of the Bodos tribe of Assam.
Bihar	

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Name of Festival	Background
Rajgir Dance Festival	Rajgir Dance festival is takes place every year at Rajgir in Bihar for 3 days
Chhath Puja	Chhath is an ancient Hindu Vedic festival , which is dedicated to the Sun and his wife Usha in order to thank them for bestowing the bounties of life on earth
Bihula	Bihula, who was widowed on her marriage night by snake bite. She is worshipped like a goddess on Nag Panchami day, the fifth day of Shravan month.
Sonepur Cattle fair	Sonpur Cattle Fair is held on Full Moon Day in November month at Sonpur.
Gujarat	
Saptak music	The Saptak Music Festival is an annual thirteen-day Indian classical music festival held in Ahmedabad, Gujarat. It is organised by Saptak School of Music from January 1 to 13 every year
Uttarayan Kite/ International Kite festival	During this festival, each and every family in Gujarat will start manufacturing kites, before a month.
Modhera Dance	Modhera is a place located in Gujarat. Modhera Dance Festival attracts national and international tourists every year.
Dangs Darbar	This festival is celebrated to honor the forefathers of five kings namely, Gadhavi, Pimpri, Amala-Linga, Vasurana and Daher
Vad festival	This Art festivalis celebrated to promote Vadodara as a cultural capital of India. It is one of India's biggest art and cultural festivals, held in the month of January.
Tarnetar	The Tarnetar is held at Tarnetar, near the town of Thangadh, Gujarat. It takes place along with the festival held at Trineteshwar Temple, celebrating the wedding of Arjuna with Draupadi
Haryana	
Suraj Kund Craft mela	Suraj Kund Craft mela held for 15 days in February.It showcases the traditional Indian handicrafts, music, dance & food.
Pinjore Heritage Festival	It is celebrated to promote the rich culture and historic tradition of Pinjore.
Himachal Pradesh	
Halda festival	Halda festival is celebrated by the Lamas tribe in the month of January. Halda is a festival of lights celebrated in Magha Poornima.
Nawala festival	Nawala is usually celebrated by the Gaddis tribe, as a thanks-giving ceremony to Lord Shiva.
Jammu and Kashmir	
Leh Sindhu Darshan	This festival is celebrated on full moon day in the month of June.
Guru Tse Chu	Stok Guru Tsechu is an unique monastic festival that takes place in Ladakh.It is held in the first month of the Tibetan lunar calendar.
Dosmoche festival	This festival takes place in Leh and was started by the royals of Ladakh. During this festival, there is a popular traditional dance called sacred mask dance.
Shachukul Gustor	This festival is celebrated by people of Shachukul monastery. Shachukul Gustor will take place in the month of July.
Phyang Tsedup	Phyang Tsedup Festival is one of the special festival, celebrated in the Dringungpa monastery in the month of July and August.
Chemrey Angchok	This festival is celebrated in Ladakh for two days with great joy.
Jarkhand	
Lawalong mela	Lawalong Mela is one of the biggest cattle fairs held in the Chatra District of Jharkhand.
Bhadlihadli mela	Bhadli Mela takes place in Jharkhand on the festive day of Makar Sankranti.
Sohrai festival	Sohrai is a cattle worship festival, celebrated by Santal and oraon people living in Jharkhand.
Karnataka	
Pattadakal Dance Festival	Pattadakkal Dance Festival is an annual dance festival of Karnataka held in Pattadakal.
Kerala	

Name of Festival	Background
Onam	Onam is an Hindu festival with origins in the state of Kerala. It falls in the Malayalam calendar month of Chingam.
Vishu	New year of Malayali
Thrissur Pooram festival	Thrissur Pooram is an annual Hindu temple festival held at the Vadakkunnathan Temple on the Pooram day.
Theyyam festival	Theyyam is a grand dance festival in Kerala. It is said to be ritual dance in Kerala and is known as Kaliyattam.
Arthunkal perunnal	Arthunkal Perunnal is a ten day annual feast at the St. Sebastian's church at Arthunkal, a coastal region in Alappuzha District.
Adoor gaja mela	The Adoor Gajamela is a fair of elephants.
Madhya Pradesh	
Khajuraho dance festival	Khajuraho dance festival is a one- week festival of classical dances held annually. It is organised by the Madhya Pradesh Kala Parishad.
Bhagoria mela	During this festival, young boys and girls are allowed to choose their life partner.
Lokrang	This is a five-day long festival begins every year on 26th January, the Republic Day. It is organized by the Madhya Pradesh Adivasi Lok Kala Academy.
Maharashtra	
Kalidas festival	Kalidasa festival celebrated in the honor of the great poet Kalidasa. It is held in Nagpur, Maharashtra every year for two days.
Chikoo Utsav	Chikoo Utsav is by Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation (MTDC). Venue: Bordi, Maharashtra.
Pola	Famous bull festival of Maharashtra
Meghalaya	
Ahaia festival	Ahaia is a winter festival, celebrated to boost the culture and heritage of tribes living in the Garo Hills region of Meghalaya.
Manipur	
Chavang kut	This festival is celebrated by the Kuki-Chin-Mizo tribes in Manipur in the month of November.
Chumphu	Chumphu Festival is an annual harvest Festival celebrated by the Tanghul Nagas of Manipur in the month of December
Mizoram	
Chapkhut festival	The Chapchar Kut is an annual harvest festival, celebrated in the month of march.
Nagaland	
Hornbill	The Hornbill is a Festival celebrated, in Nagaland, from december 1 to 10 . It is also called the 'Festival of Festivals'.
Odisha	
Bali Trutiya	The Bali Trutiya festival is, dedicated to Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati.
Bahuda Yatra	Bahu Jatra is the return journey of Jagannath Ratha Jatra.
Puri beach festival	The Puri Beach Festival is celebrated every year in the month of November at the coastal city of Puri in Orissa.
Konark dance festival	Konark Dance Festival is celebrated for five days in the month of December in the Sun temple of Konark, Odisha.
Nuakhai	Nuakhai is an agricultural festival mainly observed by people of Western Odisha.
Bali Jatra	Bali Jatra means a voyage to Bali, held in Odisha
Punjab	
Lohri	Lohri is a Punjabi folk festival, celebrated mostly by Sikhs and Hindus.
Chappar mela	Chhappar Mela is celebrated in the village of Chhappar in the district of Ludhiana, Punjab in the month of September.
Rajasthan	

Name of Festival	Background
Bikaner camel festival	Bikaner, The Camel Festival is a colourful event organised in Bikaner by the Department of Tourism, Government of Rajasthan.
Jaipur Literature festival	The Jaipur Literature Festival is an annual literary festival which takes place in Jaipur in January month.
Ramdeoji cattle fair	Ramdeoji Cattle fair is a cattle fair and also it is the second largest fair in Rajasthan.
Sikkim	
Pang Lhabsol	Pang Lhabsol is the colourful festival which is celebrated annually.
Losoong Sikkimese	Losoong is the Sikkimese New Year, celebrated by Bhutia tribe, in the month of December.
Tamil Nadu	
Pongal	Thai Pongal is a four-day harvest festival dedicated to Nature, celebrated in the month of January.
Jallikattu	Jallikattu is also known as eru thazhuvuthal and manju virattu. It is a traditional festival in which a bull is released into a crowd of people, and multiple participants attempt to grab the large hump on the bull's back with both arms. finally the winner will be honoured with prize amount.
Telangana	
Bathu Kamma	Bathukamma is floral festival celebrated by the Hindu women of Telangana.
Bonalu	Bonalu is an annual festival celebrated in Hyderabad and Secunderabad of Telangana.
Peerla panduga	Peerla Panduga is a festival celebrated by Hindus and Muslims in the state of Telangana
Tripura	
Ker puja	Ker puja is the most peculiar festival of Tripura. Typically held in the month of August. The deity of Vastu Deva is Ker, which means boundary or a particular area.
Kharchi puja	Kharchi puja is a Hindu festival celebrated in the month of July or August. During this festival people worship fourteen gods.
Uttarkand	
Uttarayani mela	The people of Uttarakhand celebrates the end of winter season with the Uttarayani or Uttarayan Fair.
Uttar Pradesh	
Mochan music festival	The Sankat Mochan Sangeet is an annual music festival organised in Varanasi in lieu of Hanuman Jayanti.
West Bengal	
Kenduli mela	The Kenduli Mela is a fair held in Kenduli and it is famous for the gathering of the Bauls, a group of mystic minstrels.
Ganga sagar mela	Gangasagar Mela is second largest festival celebrated in India.
Goa	
Ladainha festival	It is a thanksgiving festival. People thank God not only for the material benefits but also spiritual.
Chovoth	It is also known as Ganesh chaturthi
Union Territories	
Andaman and Nicobar	
Island tourism festival	The Island Tourism Festival is the annual cultural event organized for promotion of tourism for islanders.
Daman and Diu	
Garba festival	Garba dance is the dance performed during navarathri festival
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	
Holika Dahan	Holika Dahan also called as Kamudu pyre is celebrated for burning Holika, the devil.
Delhi	
Taj Mahotsav	Taj Mahotsav is an annual 10-day event held at Shilpgram in Agra in memories of the old Mughal era