

Weekly Current Affairs-23rd To 28th September 2024 English**National News****Bhupendra Yadav launches Clean the Beach Campaign 2024 in Mumbai**

The Union Ministry for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Bhupendra Yadav, led the country in this year's Clean the Beach Campaign on the occasion of the International Coastal Clean-up Day on 21 September 2024. The minister participated in an event to clean the beach at Juhu in Mumbai.

FATF Report on India: Observations and Significance

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recently released its Mutual Evaluation Report on India, following an on-site assessment in November 2023. India, which became a FATF member in 2020, was placed in the "regular follow-up" category, which is viewed positively given prior objections from some developed countries. The FATF identified key areas for improvement, including the prosecution of money laundering (ML) and terror financing (TF) cases, the protection of the non-profit sector from terrorist abuse, and the implementation of preventive measures.

India's Triumph in Reclaiming 297 Antiquities from the US

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to the United States, a landmark event took place that marked a significant victory in India's ongoing efforts to reclaim its cultural treasures. In a ceremony of great cultural and diplomatic importance, 297 antiquities were officially handed over to India by U.S. authorities. For a long time, many countries, including India, have faced a big problem: people stealing and selling their old and valuable art and historical objects. This is called illicit trafficking of cultural property. It's been especially hard on India, with many old and precious items taken out of the country illegally.

National Symposium 'Exercise AIKYA' on Disaster Management

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), in collaboration with the Southern Command of the Indian Army, is organizing a two-day national symposium, 'Exercise AIKYA', on disaster management. It aims to improve disaster preparedness and response through collaboration between various stakeholders.

India unveils CSIRT-Power to fortify power sector against cyber threats

In a significant move to safeguard India's critical power infrastructure, Union minister Manohar Lal inaugurated the Computer Security Incident Response Team Power (CSIRT-Power) at Northern Regional Power Committee in New Delhi. To serve as the responsible agency for responding to and preventing cybersecurity incidents within the power sector.

FCRA Licence of International Cooperative Alliance Cancelled

The Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) licence of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) was cancelled by the Union Home Ministry for alleged rule violations. The ICA, established in 1895, is an apex body representing cooperatives worldwide and has over 1 billion members.

President Droupadi Murmu Inaugurates 16th ASOSAI Assembly

President Droupadi Murmu will inaugurate the 16th Assembly of the Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI) on September 24, 2024, in New Delhi. This significant event marks the beginning of crucial discussions centered on the evolving role of Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) in promoting transparency and accountability.

PM Modi Returns to Delhi After Successful Three-Day US Visit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi concluded a successful three-day visit to the United States from September 21 to 23, 2024. His trip included participation in the 6th Quad Summit, the 'Summit of the Future' at the United Nations, bilateral meetings, and engagement with the Indian diaspora.

Central Silk Board Celebrates 75 Years of Advancing India's Silk Industry

On September 20, 2024, the Central Silk Board (CSB) marked a significant milestone with the celebration of its Platinum Jubilee in Mysuru. The event, commemorating 75 years of dedicated service to India's silk industry, was graced by numerous dignitaries and witnessed several important launches and releases.

Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2024, India's Nationwide Movement for Nutrition and Health

The 7th Rashtriya Poshan Maah, celebrated across India in 2024, marks a significant milestone in the country's ongoing battle against malnutrition. This monthlong campaign, an integral part of India's mission to eradicate nutritional deficiencies, has brought renewed energy and focus to the national discourse on health and nutrition.

Vice President of India inaugurates 83rd Foundation Day Celebrations of CSIR

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar stressed the importance of producing substantial results in research and development (R&D), underscoring that contributions must go beyond mere cosmetic efforts. Addressing the 83rd CSIR Foundation Day celebrations in New Delhi.

Union Minister Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia inaugurates 5G Open RAN testing Lab at CDoT, Bangalore

Minister of Communications, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia visited Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) Bengaluru Campus and inaugurated the 5G O-RAN (Open Radio Access Network) Testing lab. The Lab will facilitate development of a complete Indian end to end 5G ecosystem in the areas of core, access, transport, cloud, orchestration and security.

India to Host the World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSa) in Delhi

As India gears for hosting World Telecom Standardisation Assembly (WTSa2024), Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has set the ball rolling by launching the WTSa2024 Outreach Sessions, Scheduled in Delhi, Hyderabad, and Bengaluru. Outreach sessions aim to provide a distinctive platform to students for learning and direct engagement with industry experts, fostering meaningful interactions and knowledge exchange.

India Elected to GlobE Network Steering Committee

India has been elected to the fifteen-member steering committee of the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE Network) during a plenary session in Beijing, as announced by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on September 26, 2024. This election follows a multi-stage voting process and underscores India's commitment to addressing international corruption and financial crime.

Shigeru Ishiba Set to Become Japan's Next Prime Minister

Shigeru Ishiba, former defence minister, is poised to become Japan's next prime minister after winning the Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) leadership vote. Ishiba will succeed Fumio Kishida, who stepped down following scandals that damaged his tenure. With the LDP holding a majority in the lower house, Ishiba's path to the role is effectively secured. He edged out economic security minister Sanae Takaichi by a narrow margin of 21 votes in the leadership race.

India and Uzbekistan Sign Bilateral Investment Treaty in Tashkent

India and Uzbekistan have signed a Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) aimed at boosting investor confidence and enhancing economic cooperation between the two nations. The treaty was formalized by Indian Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Uzbekistan's Deputy Prime Minister Khodjayev Jamshid Abdukhakimovich in Tashkent. This BIT assures protection for investors from both countries, providing a minimum standard of treatment and non-discrimination while facilitating dispute resolution through arbitration.

International News

India and Bhutan Deepen Cooperation on Food Safety and Regulatory Standards

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, held a bilateral meeting with the Bhutan Food and Drug Authority (BFDA) during the Global Food Regulators Summit at Bharat Mandapam. The meeting focused on implementing the "Agreement" signed on March 21, 2024, during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Bhutan. The Agreement aims to enhance food safety, align regulatory frameworks, simplify food import procedures, and foster technical cooperation between the two nations. It also seeks mutual recognition of the BFDA's control over Bhutanese food business operators (FBOs) by the FSSAI.

Left-leaning leader wins Sri Lanka election in political paradigm shift

Anura Kumara Disanayake has emerged as Sri Lanka's newly elected president, securing 42% of the vote in the country's first election since the 2022 economic collapse. The 55-year-old leader of the National People's Power (NPP) coalition defeated his main rival, opposition leader Sajith Premadasa, who garnered 23% of the vote.

New Global Climate 'Loss and Damage' Fund Names First Director

The Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage, aimed at assisting countries ravaged by climate-driven disasters, has appointed Ibrahima Cheikh Diong, a Senegalese finance specialist and dual U.S. citizen, as its first director. The fund, created in 2022 under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), is administered by the World Bank and represents a significant win for developing nations who have long pushed for support against climate disasters. Wealthy nations had resisted this fund, fearing it would lead to compensation demands for their greenhouse gas emissions.

Russia, China Warships Enter Sea of Okhotsk for Drills

China will hold joint naval and air drills with Russia in the Sea of Japan and the Sea of Okhotsk along with the two countries carrying out a joint maritime patrol in the Pacific. It was starting the joint Russian-Chinese naval exercise that would include anti-aircraft and anti-submarine weapons.

Marhowra Plant to Export Evolution Series Locomotives to Africa by 2025

Wabtec Locomotive Private Limited, a joint venture between Indian Railways and Wabtec, is set to enhance its Marhowra plant's capabilities by exporting Evolution Series ES43ACmi locomotives to global customers, particularly in Africa, starting

in 2025. This initiative marks the plant's inaugural venture into manufacturing locomotives for export, underscoring India's growing prominence in the global locomotive manufacturing sector.

PM Modi Addresses 79th U.N. General Assembly Session in New York

Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered a significant address at the 79th U.N. General Assembly session, themed "Summit of the Future," held in New York on September 22, 2024. Emphasizing the necessity for reforms in global institutions, Modi stated that such changes are crucial for ensuring global peace and development. The summit commenced prior to the high-level meeting of world leaders, initiated by U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, who urged global leaders to recommit to multilateralism to address the pressing challenges facing humanity.

Russia and China start naval exercises in the Sea of Japan

Russia and China started naval exercises in the Sea of Japan. The exercises will include anti-aircraft and anti-submarine weapons. This exercise aims to deepen the strategic cooperation level between the Chinese and Russian militaries and enhance their ability to jointly deal with security threats.

Iran unveils all new and powerful suicide drone 'Shahed-136B'

Amid the growing tension in the Middle-East, Iran for the first time has showcased the Shahed 136B drone and Jihad ballistic missile. Iran presented this new kamikaze drone as part of its military modernization program, in a context marked by growing instability in the region.

IMF Approves \$7 Billion Loan for Pakistan

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has taken a significant step to support Pakistan's struggling economy by approving a new \$7 billion loan. This decision, announced on Wednesday, comes more than two months after initial negotiations between the IMF and Pakistani authorities reached a staff-level agreement.

Thailand to allow same-sex couples to marry in January

Thailand the third place in Asia, after Taiwan and Nepal, to allow same-sex marriage. The bill grants full legal, financial and medical rights for marriage partners of any gender. Thailand's landmark marriage equality bill was officially written into law allowing same-sex couples to legally wed.

Jaishankar attends joint ministerial meeting of L.69 and C-10 groupings of Nations

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar participated in the first-ever Joint Ministerial Meeting of the L.69 and C-10 groupings of nations on the sidelines of the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Nirmala Sitharaman Attends 9th AIIB Board of Governors Meeting in Samarkand

Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman represented India at the 9th Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) Board of Governors meeting held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, on September 25-26, 2024. During her visit, she also engaged in discussions with Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev on the sidelines of the meeting.

State News

Goa Maritime Symposium 2024

The Indian Navy hosted the fifth edition of the Goa Maritime Symposium (GMS) 2024 from 23-24 September under the aegis of the Naval War College, Goa. Conducted in the newly inaugurated Chola building, this year's theme was "Common Maritime Security Challenges in the IOR – Progressing Lines of Effort to Mitigate Dynamic Threats such as Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing and Other Illegal Maritime Activities."

Pune Airport To Be Named After Jagadguru Sant Tukaram Maharaj

Maharashtra government approved a proposal to name Pune airport as Jagadguru Sant Tukaram Maharaj Pune International Airport. Last month, Murlidhar Mohol proposed naming the airport after the 17th-century saint, noting that Lohegaon, where the airport is situated, was the village of Sant Tukaram Maharaj's mother.

Mizoram launches 'Bana Kaih' scheme to support farmers and entrepreneurs

Chief Minister Lalduhoma officially launched the state's new flagship initiative, the Hand Holding Scheme (Bana Kaih), during a ceremony held at Vanapa Hall. The scheme is designed to provide financial assistance and support to entrepreneurs and farmers across the state, promoting economic growth and self-sufficiency through a range of targeted programs.

Kolkata's Famous Trams Face Discontinuation After 150 Years

The Kolkata trams, which have operated since the late 19th century, are a testament to the city's rich transportation history. The Kolkata tram is set to be discontinued soon due to congestion. However, one route will still be operational.

Mankidia community becomes 6th PVTG to get Habitat Rights over forests in Odisha

Recently, the Mankidia community became the 6th particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG) PVTG to get habitat rights over forests in Odisha. The Mankidia are a semi-nomadic community known for their traditional skill of rope making, trapping and eating monkeys.

Economy News

Union Minister Piyush Goyal inaugurates Invest India's new office in Singapore

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal inaugurated Invest India's new office in Singapore. The office will serve as a dedicated point of contact for companies from the region looking to invest in India, fostering collaboration across sectors.

Moody's Upgrades India's Economic Growth Forecast to 7.1% for CY 2024

Moody's has revised its forecast for India's GDP growth in calendar year (CY) 2024, raising it to 7.1% from its earlier projection of 6.8% made in June. This upgrade highlights India's key role in driving growth in the Asia-Pacific region, which is expected to outperform global economies in the coming years. Other global institutions like the World Bank and the IMF have also adjusted their projections, reflecting increasing confidence in India's economic momentum despite potential global challenges.

UPI Now Mandatory for Bids Up to ₹5 Lakh in Public Debt Issues

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has implemented new guidelines requiring retail investors to use the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) to block funds when applying for public issues of debt securities amounting up to ₹5 lakh. This regulation aims to streamline the application process for individual investors engaging with public debt issues, including non-convertible redeemable preference shares, municipal debt securities, and securitized debt instruments. The new rule will take effect on November 1, 2024, and is part of SEBI's effort to enhance efficiency and align the process with equity share applications.

For SeamLess Market Access SEBI Launches FPI Outreach Cell

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has launched a dedicated Foreign Portfolio Investor Outreach Cell as part of the Alternative Investment Fund and Foreign Portfolio Investors Department (AFD). This cell will focus on direct engagement with Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs), and supporting them in accessing the Indian securities market seamlessly.

Rankings & Reports News

Hurun India Under-35 List 2024: Celebrating Young Entrepreneurial Talent

The Hurun India Under-35 list for 2024 has emerged as a prestigious recognition of India's young entrepreneurial talent, highlighting the achievements of 150 entrepreneurs aged 35 or younger. This comprehensive list spans various industries, from retail giants to innovative tech startups, showcasing the diverse and dynamic nature of India's business landscape.

Business News

JK Lakshmi Cement and Rohit Sharma Celebrate Five Years of Association

The partnership between JK Lakshmi Cement (JKLC) and Indian cricket team captain Rohit Sharma enters its fifth consecutive year. Known for his cricketing excellence and leadership, Sharma's association has strengthened the brand's image and helped JKLC connect with a wider audience. This renewed collaboration will see him featured in advertising campaigns, brand activations, and promotional activities, enhancing JKLC's visibility across India.

Sebi imposes Rs 1 crore fine on Jai Anmol Ambani in Reliance Home Finance case

The Securities and Exchange Board of India fined Jai Anmol Ambani ₹1 crore for irregularities in Reliance Home Finance, alleging he approved ₹40 crore in unsecured loans. Sebi asserted he misrepresented his involvement in the company's operations.

Tata Steel Commissions India's Largest Blast Furnace in Kalinganagar

Tata Steel has successfully commissioned India's largest blast furnace at its Kalinganagar facility in Odisha, marking a significant milestone for the steel sector. With a total investment of Rs 27,000 crore, this Phase II expansion will increase the plant's capacity from 3 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) to 8 MTPA. The new facility is designed to meet the growing demands of various industries, including automotive, infrastructure, shipbuilding, defence, and oil and gas. Over the last decade, Odisha has become the largest investment destination for Tata Steel, with a cumulative investment exceeding Rs 100,000 crore.

Dassault Aviation Expands Footprint in India with New Military MRO Subsidiary

Dassault Aviation, the renowned French aircraft manufacturer famous for its Rafale fighter planes, has taken a significant step towards expanding its presence in the Indian market. On Wednesday, the company announced the establishment of a new subsidiary dedicated exclusively to military Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) operations in India.

Agreement News

FSSAI and Brazil's MAPA Sign MoU to Enhance Food Safety Cooperation

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAPA) of Brazil. This collaboration aims to strengthen food safety measures and promote bilateral cooperation in the sector.

Rubber Research Institute signs MoU with IndianOil

A memorandum of understanding was signed between Rubber Research Institute of India (RRII) and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) to enhance the research on using Rubber Process Oils marketed by IOCL in different tyre and non-tyre rubber products.

Labour Ministry Partners with Amazon to Ignite Job Opportunities for Youth

The Union Labour Ministry and Amazon have signed an MoU to leverage the National Career Service (NCS) portal for boosting job opportunities in India. The agreement, signed by Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya and Minister of State Shobha Karandlaje, aims to expand job accessibility for the country's youth by providing diverse employment services through the NCS platform. The partnership highlights the role of advanced technologies like AI in upgrading the portal to offer a more user-friendly experience for job seekers and employers alike.

Appointment News

Kalikesh Singh Deo Elected National Rifle Association of India president

The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) has ushered in a new era of leadership with the election of Kalikesh Narayan Singh Deo as its president. This significant event took place during a General Body meeting held at the Constitution Club on Saturday, marking a pivotal moment in the organization's history.

Alok Ranjan Appointed NCRB Chief

Senior IPS officers Alok Ranjan and Amit Garg have been appointed as the heads of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) and the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA), respectively. Alok Ranjan, a 1991-batch officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre, will serve as the Director of NCRB until his superannuation on June 30, 2026, succeeding Vivek Gogia, who has been repatriated to the AGMUT cadre. Amit Garg, a 1993-batch IPS officer from the Andhra Pradesh cadre, will lead the SVPNPA until his retirement on October 31, 2027.

Jitendra J Jadhav Appointed as Director General of Aeronautical Development Agency

The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet has approved a significant change in leadership for India's aeronautical sector. Jitendra J Jadhav, a Distinguished Scientist with nearly four decades of experience in aircraft design and development, has been appointed as the new Director General of the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA). This appointment, effective from September 11, 2024, marks a new chapter in India's pursuit of aeronautical excellence.

James Cameron Joins Stability AI Board

In a groundbreaking move that signals the increasing convergence of Hollywood and artificial intelligence, Stability AI announced on Tuesday that James Cameron, the visionary director behind blockbuster films such as "Titanic" and "The Terminator," has joined the company's board of directors. This unexpected collaboration between one of cinema's most innovative filmmakers and a cutting-edge AI startup marks a significant moment in the evolution of both industries.

Centre Notifies Appointment Of Chief Justices Of 8 High Courts

The Central Government, through the Ministry of Law and Justice, notified the appointment of Chief Justices to eight High Courts to fill key judicial positions and ensure the smooth functioning of the judicial system in various states. Union Law Minister (Independent Charge) Arjun Ram Meghwal announced the appointment of Chief Justices to eight High Courts.

1. **Justice Manmohan** (presently Acting CJ of Delhi High Court) – Chief Justice of Delhi High Court.
2. **Justice Rajiv Shakdher** (presently Judge of Delhi HC) – Chief Justice of Himachal Pradesh High Court.
3. **Justice Suresh Kumar Kait** (Judge of Delhi HC) – Chief Justice of Madhya Pradesh High Court.
4. **Justice Indra Prasanna Mukerji** (Judge of Calcutta HC) – Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court.
5. **Justice Nitin Madhukar Jamdar** (Judge of Bombay HC) – Chief Justice of Kerala High Court.
6. **Justice Tashi Rabstan** (Judge of J&K&L HC) – Chief Justice of Jammu & Kashmir & Ladakh High Court.
7. **Justice KR Shriram** (Judge of Bombay HC) – Chief Justice of Madras High Court.
8. **Justice MS Ramachandra Rao** (presently CJ of HP HC) – Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court.

Banking News

KVS Manian Assumes Office as Federal Bank CEO

KVS Manian has officially taken charge as the Managing Director and CEO of Federal Bank, effective September 23, 2024. He succeeds Shyam Srinivasan, who retired after successfully leading the bank since 2010. Manian joins Federal Bank following a distinguished career at Kotak Mahindra Bank, where he worked for over 25 years and played a key role in its transformation from a non-banking financial company to one of India's leading private sector banks.

Axis Bank and Mastercard Launch MyBiz Credit Card for Small Business Owners

Axis Bank, a leading private sector bank in India, has partnered with Mastercard, a global payments technology firm, to launch the MyBiz credit card, specifically designed for sole proprietors and small business owners. This premium World Mastercard® offers a comprehensive suite of business and travel benefits tailored to meet the diverse needs of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Bank of Baroda and EaseMyTrip Launch Co-Branded Travel Debit Card

Bank of Baroda, in collaboration with EaseMyTrip.com, has introduced the Bank of Baroda EaseMyTrip Co-branded Travel Debit Card, aiming to cater to frequent travelers and those with a penchant for entertainment and lifestyle. This initiative marks the first co-branded travel debit card launched by a public sector bank in India, reflecting the growing trend towards customized financial products.

Science & Technology News

Tech Mahindra and University of Auckland Partner for AI and Quantum Research

Tech Mahindra has signed an MoU with the University of Auckland (UoA) to promote innovation in AI, machine learning (ML), and quantum computing. The collaboration will target sectors like healthcare, banking, financial services, insurance, and government, enhancing industry-academic partnerships to boost graduate employability. Focus areas include spiking neural networks, 1-bit large language models (LLMs), and post-quantum cryptography, particularly in healthcare applications such as drug discovery and personalized digital biomarkers.

Women in Space Leadership Programme Initiative Launches by DST

The Department of Science and technology (DST) in India with the collaboration with the British Council launches the initiative of "A Women in Space Leadership" (WiSLP) as a part of the UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI).

For the Second Time in History Sunita Williams Takes Command of ISS

NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) astronaut and Indian Origin Sunita Williams has officially taken command of the International Space Station (ISS) as part of her extended mission aboard the orbiting laboratory. She is set to take command for the second time for ISS.

Earth's New Mini Moon: Asteroid 2024 PT5 to Orbit for Two Months

Earth is set to welcome a temporary "mini-moon" in the form of a small asteroid named 2024 PT5, which will orbit our planet from September 29 to November 25, 2024. Discovered by NASA's Asteroid Terrestrial-Impact Last Alert System (Atlas) on August 7, 2024, this asteroid measures approximately 33 feet wide and originates from the Arjuna asteroid belt, a region filled with various space rocks. While it cannot be observed with the naked eye or typical telescopes, professional astronomers will be able to capture images of this tiny object moving rapidly across the night sky.

Schemes and Committees News

CM-SATH Scheme Officially Launched to Support Meritorious Students

Chief Minister Dr. Manik Saha officially launched the CM-SATH scheme to boost the educational prospects of the state's brightest students. The scheme, designed to provide financial support to meritorious students for their higher education, reflects the state government's commitment to quality education.

Launch of 'Paridhi 24x25' by Union Minister of Textiles

On September 5, 2024, Union Minister of Textiles, Shri Giriraj Singh, alongside Union Minister of State for External Affairs & Textiles, Pabitra Margherita, launched the India-specific fashion trend book "Paridhi 24x25," a bilingual web portal of VisioNxt, and an AI Taxonomy e-book. This significant event attracted over 150 industry leaders from the fashion, textiles, and retail sectors, as well as prominent craftsmen and weavers from various craft clusters. VisioNxt has already produced over 60 micro trend reports, more than 10 close-to-season trend reports, 3 research papers, and the inaugural AI Taxonomy book on Indian wear categories.

Ministry of Tourism Unveils Paryatan Mitra and Didi Initiative

On the occasion of World Tourism Day, the Ministry of Tourism launched "Paryatan Mitra" and "Paryatan Didi," a responsible tourism initiative aimed at improving tourist experiences across India. The initiative focuses on empowering local communities, especially women and youth, to serve as ambassadors and storytellers of their destinations, enhancing hospitality, cleanliness, and sustainability.

Summits & Conference News

India to Host World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit 2025

The Indian government will host the inaugural World Audio Visual & Entertainment Summit (WAVES) from February 5 to 9, 2025, to boost the country's media and entertainment industry and enhance its global influence. This will be the first global summit covering the entire media and entertainment spectrum.

Prime Minister attends the sixth Quad Leaders' Summit in Wilmington, Delaware

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in the sixth Quad Leaders' Summit in Wilmington, Delaware on 21 September 2024, hosted by the President of the United States of America, Joseph R. Biden, Prime Minister of Australia Mr. Anthony Albanese and Prime Minister of Japan Fumio Kishida also participated.

Awards & Honors News

Jaipur to Host 25th Edition of IIFA Awards

Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan, is set to host the prestigious 25th edition of the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards from March 7 to 9, 2025, at the JECC Sitapura. The announcement was made during a formal agreement signing ceremony at the iconic Albert Hall, attended by Deputy Chief Minister Diya Kumari. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed by Rajasthan Tourism Commissioner VP Singh and IIFA Vice President Suresh Iyer, marking the beginning of preparations for this grand event.

Odisha Swimmer Pratyasa Ray To Get Ekalabya Puraskar

Emerging swimmer Pratyasa Ray has been selected for the 32nd Ekalabya Puraskar for 2024 for her achievements in swimming. A proud moment for Odisha's sporting fraternity. Pratyasa Ray, a promising talent in the field of swimming with a remarkable track record, has been selected for this year's award in recognition of her exceptional performances.

Rhea Singha from Gujarat wins Miss Universe India 2024 title

Rhea Singha, a 19-year-old model from Gujarat, was crowned Miss Universe India 2024 in Jaipur. She will represent India at the global Miss Universe competition in Mexico. The 19-year-old Gujarati beauty Rhea Singha was recently crowned Miss Universe India 2024.

Vinod Bachchan Honored at the House of Lords, UK Parliament

Renowned Bollywood producer Vinod Bachchan received the prestigious Global Prestige Award at the House of Lords, UK Parliament, recognizing his significant contributions to the Indian film industry. The award ceremony was hosted by Lord Bellamy KC and Lord Rami Ranger CBE, a distinguished Member of Parliament. Bachchan, known for producing hits such as Tanu Weds Manu, Zila Ghaziabad, Ginny Weds Sunny, and Shaadi Mein Zaroor Aana, was honored for his influential role in bringing Indian cinema to global audiences. His films not only entertain millions but also promote Indian culture and traditions worldwide.

Indian Astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla Poised to Make History as Pilot of Axiom-4 Mission to the ISS

In a monumental step for India's space program, Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla of the Indian Air Force (IAF) will pilot the Axiom-4 (Ax-4) mission to the International Space Station (ISS) in 2025. The Ax-4 mission is the result of a bilateral agreement between India and the US. Over a year ago, during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official visit to the US.

Deepak C Mehta, Honored With ICC Lifetime Achievement Award For 2023

Visionary industrialist and leader Shri Deepak C Mehta, Chairman and Managing Director of Deepak Nitrite Limited, has

been conferred the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award by the Indian Chemical Council (ICC) at the 59th ICC Annual Awards Function in Mumbai.

Best Tourism Villages Competition-2024 Winner Revealed By Ministry

The Ministry of Tourism in Government of India announced the winners of the Best Tourism Villages Competition 2024 on the occasion of World Tourism Day 2024. This award competition was the 2nd edition since its launching.

Important Dates News

World Bollywood Day 2024: Celebrating Indian Cinema's Global Impact

World Bollywood Day, observed annually on September 24th, stands as a testament to the rich heritage and global influence of Indian cinema. This day serves as a unique platform for Bollywood enthusiasts and film industry professionals to come together and celebrate the art of cinema and its contributions to culture and society. It's a day that not only honours the magic of Bollywood but also raises awareness about Indian culture and storytelling among audiences worldwide.

Antyodaya Diwas 2024

Antyodaya Diwas is an annual occasion in India commemorating the birth anniversary of Indian leader Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya. India observes Antyodaya Diwas on September 25th to honor Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya.

World Maritime Day 2024: Navigating the Future with Safety First

World Maritime Day 2024, celebrated on 26 September 2024, embraces the theme "Navigating the Future: Safety First!" This theme underscores the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) commitment to enhancing maritime safety and security, protecting the marine environment, and ensuring that regulatory developments keep pace with technological advancements.

International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, September 26

In 2013, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) took a significant step towards global nuclear disarmament by declaring September 26 as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, also known as Nuclear Abolition Day. This declaration was formalized through UNGA Resolution 68/32.

Google's Birth Anniversary 2024: Celebrating 26 Years of Innovation and Digital Revolution

As we commemorate Google's 26th anniversary in 2024, we reflect on the tech giant's remarkable journey from a simple search engine to a global powerhouse that has fundamentally

reshaped our digital landscape. Founded in 1998, Google has become an integral part of our daily lives, offering a vast array of services that span information retrieval, communication, entertainment, and beyond.

World Tourism Day 2024: Date, Theme, and Significance

World Tourism Day is observed annually on September 27. In 2024, it will fall on a Friday, providing an excellent opportunity for extended weekend celebrations and activities related to tourism. Tourism is a vital industry that plays a crucial role in the global economy. It contributes significantly to the economic growth of nations, creates numerous employment opportunities, and fosters cultural connections among people from diverse backgrounds. To celebrate and recognize the importance of this sector, the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) established World Tourism Day as a global observance.

World Environmental Health Day 2024, Date, History, Theme and Significance

Every year on September 26, the world comes together to observe World Environmental Health Day. This annual event serves as a powerful reminder of our collective responsibility to safeguard the health of our planet and, by extension, our own well-being. As we face increasingly complex environmental challenges, this day takes on even greater significance, encouraging us to reflect on the intricate relationship between environmental health and human health.

World Contraception Day 2024: Empowering Choices for Reproductive Health

World Contraception Day, observed annually on September 26, stands as a beacon of awareness in the realm of reproductive health. This global campaign is dedicated to raising consciousness about contraception and promoting informed decision-making in sexual and reproductive health matters. By equipping individuals with knowledge and access to various contraceptive options, the day aims to reduce unintended pregnancies and enhance accessibility to vital reproductive health services worldwide.

World Heart Day 2024, Date, History, Theme and Significance

World Heart Day, observed annually on September 29th, stands as a global beacon for cardiovascular health awareness. This international event serves as a crucial reminder of the importance of heart health and the ongoing battle against cardiovascular diseases (CVDs), which remain the leading cause of death worldwide. As we approach World Heart Day 2024, the focus intensifies on empowering individuals, governments, and health organizations to take proactive measures in preventing heart-related conditions.

Sports News

India's Historic Triumph at the 2024 Chess Olympiad

The 2024 Chess Olympiad in Budapest, Hungary has etched itself into the annals of Indian sports history. In an unprecedented achievement, India secured gold medals in both the men's and women's team categories, marking a watershed moment for chess in the country.

Indian Wrestling Champion Sangram Singh Makes Historic MMA Debut

Commonwealth Heavyweight champion Sangram Singh has made an unforgettable entrance into the world of Mixed Martial Arts (MMA). The Indian wrestler's debut at the Gama International Fighting Championship in Tbilisi, Georgia, has set a new benchmark for Indian fighters in international MMA competitions.

India-A Clinches Duleep Trophy in Thrilling Final Against India-C

The Duleep Trophy final between India-A and India-C concluded in dramatic fashion, with India-A emerging victorious by a margin of 132 runs. The match, which seemed destined for a draw that would have crowned India-C as champions, took a sudden turn in the closing stages, showcasing the unpredictable nature of cricket's longer format.

Jeevan-Vijay Pair Wins Hangzhou Open 2024

The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet has approved a significant change in leadership for India's aeronautical sector. Jitendra J Jadhav, a Distinguished Scientist with nearly four decades of experience in aircraft design and development, has been appointed as the new Director General of the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA). This appointment, effective from September 11, 2024, marks a new chapter in India's pursuit of aeronautical excellence.

Malaysia's Iconic Shah Alam Stadium Demolished Amid Safety Concerns

The iconic Shah Alam Stadium, one of Malaysia's premier sports venues with a seating capacity of 80,372, met its demise as concerns over its safety rendered it unfit for use. Established in 1994, the stadium not only served as the backdrop for exhilarating football matches but also hosted globally renowned concerts.

World 6-Red Snooker Championship

IBSF (International Billiards and Snooker Foundation) World Men's 6, 2024 Red Snooker Championship A veteran Kamal Chawla wins Gold after beating a player from Pakistan in the final. Also, India bagged three bronze medals also in the event final. The tournament was held in Mongolia.

Defence News

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Inaugurates Sainik School in Jaipur, Rajasthan

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Sainik School in Jaipur, Rajasthan on September 23, 2024, as part of the Government's plan to establish 100 new Sainik Schools in partnership mode across India. This initiative aims to blend public and private sector contributions to enhance education for future generations and foster patriotism among youth. Deputy CM Diya Kumari and Col Rajyavardhan Rathore (Retd) were also present at the event.

Inauguration of the 41st Indian Coast Guard Commanders' Conference

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated the 41st edition of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Commanders' Conference in New Delhi on September 24, 2024. This three-day conference serves as a crucial platform for ICG Commanders to engage in meaningful discussions on strategic, operational, and administrative matters amid evolving geopolitical landscapes and maritime security complexities.

India's DRDO, IIT Delhi develop ABHED LightWeight Bullet Proof Jackets

India's Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO), along with researchers of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi has developed Light Weight Bullet Proof Jackets named ABHED (Advanced Ballistics for High Energy Defeat).

Books & Authors News

Anil Raturi's "Khaki Mein Sthitapragya: Memories and Experiences of an IPS Officer"

In Khaki Mein Sthitapragya, former DGP of Uttarakhand, Anil Raturi, compiles select memories and experiences from his nearly three and a half decades of service in the Indian Police Service. The book provides an insightful look at the social environment during his career and serves as a reflection on governance, policing, and the ethical dilemmas faced by public servants. It offers valuable lessons for present-day officers, while also shedding light on the evolving relationship between law enforcement and society.

Miscellaneous News

Mana Village Selected for Landmark Tribal Development Scheme

The Pradhan Mantri Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan, a groundbreaking initiative by the Central Government of India, has chosen Mana village in the Joshimath block of Chamoli district for implementation. This selection marks a significant

step towards improving the socio-economic conditions of tribal communities in the region.

India Unveils First CO2-To-Methanol Pilot Plant

The foundation stone for India's first of its kind CO2-to-Methanol pilot plant with an overall capacity of 1.4 Tons Per Day (TPD) was unveiled virtually by Prof. Abhay Karandikar, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, at Thermax Limited premises in Pune, Maharashtra.

Silver train model for Joe Biden, Pashmina for Jill

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has gifted US President Joe Biden a silver train model made by master artisans from Maharashtra and First Lady Jill Biden a Pashmina shawl in a papier mache box.

Mountaineers scale unclimbed peak in Arunachal Pradesh, name it after Sixth Dalai Lama

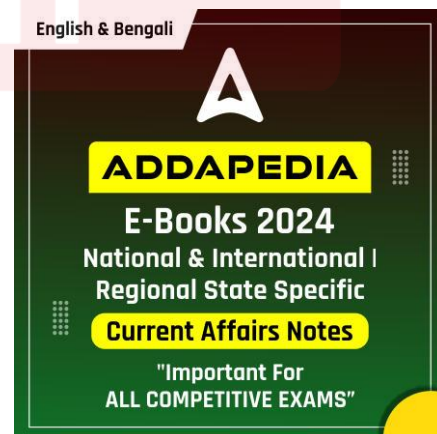
An extraordinary mountaineering achievement, of a team from the National Institute of Mountaineering and Adventure Sports (NIMAS), has successfully scaled an unnamed and unclimbed 6383 MSL or 20,942 ft high peak in Gorichen range of Arunachal Pradesh Himalayas on Tawang-West Kameng region.

Oxygen Bird Park Set To Be Inaugurated By Shri. Nitin Gadkari

Union Minister for Road, Transport and Highways Shri. Nitin Gadkari Ji, set to inaugurate Oxygen Bird Park (Amrit Mahotsav Park) on the Nagpur-Hyderabad National highway 44 in Nagpur, in state of Maharashtra.

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