

SEPTEMBER 2023

Monthly GK DIGEST

**Prepared By:
Ramandeep Singh**

+91 9067201000 

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

INDIA AND US LAUNCHES RETAP UNDER STRATEGIC CLEAN ENERGY PARTNERSHIP

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) said that it is intended to advance new

and emerging renewable technologies with a view toward deployment and scaling.

- RETAP’s initial focus is to be on green/clean hydrogen, wind energy, long duration energy storage, and to explore geothermal energy, ocean/tidal energy and other emerging technologies as mutually determined in the future.

MARITIME PARTNERSHIP EXERCISE BETWEEN INDIAN NAVY SHIP AND SRI LANKA NAVY SHIP

- The exercise aimed to enhance interoperability, mutual understanding and cooperation between the two navies.
- The exercise also involved a joint clean-up drive at Crow Island beach and a presentation of a state-of-the-art Arogya Maitri Cube to the speaker of Sri Lanka Parliament by the High Commissioner of India.

MAZAGON DOCK SHIPBUILDERS SIGNS MASTER SHIP REPAIR AGREEMENT WITH US GOVT

- This agreement will allow Mazagon Dock to service and repair US Navy ships in India. This is a significant achievement for Mazagon Dock and India, as it shows their maritime capabilities and strategic partnership with the US.
- The agreement is expected to open-up voyage repairs of US Navy ships at Mazagon Dock, which is located in Mumbai and has a capacity to build and repair warships, submarines, and merchant vessels.
- The agreement may also boost the business prospects of Mazagon Dock, which is listed on the stock market and has reported a 40 percent year-on-year jump in consolidated net profit for the quarter ended June 2023.

NABARD INKS MOU WITH UNDP INDIA TO BOOST DATA-DRIVEN INNOVATIONS

- Under this MoU, both organizations will work to improve the lives and livelihoods of smallholder farmers by sharing open-source data for product development, transfer of technology, and supporting the framing of agrarian policies.
- The MoU was signed by Chief General Manager of NABARD, Mr. Sanjeev Rohilla, and UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, Ms. Isabelle Tschan.
- The partnership includes enhancing and disseminating collaborative digital public goods like

DiCRA (Data in Climate Resilient Agriculture). DiCRA is a **collaborative digital public good which provides open access to key geospatial datasets pertinent to climate resilient agriculture.**

INDIA BECOMES 13TH COUNTRY TO ISSUE OIML CERTIFICATE

- India has become the 13th country in the world that can issue OIML certificates, **joining an exclusive group of nations such as Australia, Switzerland, China, Germany, UK, Japan, and others.**
- This means that **domestic manufacturers can now get their products tested in India and export** them without incurring additional testing fees. This will **create revenue and employment opportunities for India, as well as influence OIML's policies and strategy.**

INDIA AND RUSSIA AGREED TO TRAIN INDIAN SEAFARERS IN POLAR AND ARCTIC WATERS

- This is **part of their efforts to widen maritime cooperation and explore new transport corridors** like the Northern Sea Route (NSR) and the Eastern Maritime Corridor (EMC) between Vladivostok and Chennai.
- The **NSR is expected to become more accessible** due to the **melting of Arctic ice caused by climate change.**

U.K. UNIVERSITIES TO COLLABORATE WITH TAMIL NADU STATE INSTITUTIONS

- Higher Education **Minister K. Ponmudy signed the MoU on behalf of the State government** and said that the **United Kingdom is a natural partner in the efforts to internationalise higher education.**
- The **collaboration** would also **involve joint and dual degree programmes and collaborative research in mutual areas.**

ISO AND UNDP PARTNERSHIP TO ENHANCE ACHIEVEMENT OF SDG

- The **partnership was announced on September 20, 2023, with a Statement of Intent signed by ISO President Ulrika Francke and UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner.**
- The partnership also **aims to enhance sustainability actions by both the public and private sectors,**

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supporting innovation, sustainability, and global trade.

INDIAN NAVY CONDUCTS MARITIME EXERCISE WITH SINGAPORE

- **SIMBEX 2023 is a bilateral naval exercise** between the **Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN)** that has been conducted annually since 1994. It is the **longest continuous naval exercise** that the Indian Navy has with **any other country.**
- The **Indian Navy is represented by a Rajput-class destroyer, INS Ranvijay; a Kamorta-class corvette, INS Kavaratti; a Sindhughosh-class submarine, INS Sindhukesari; and a P-8I maritime patrol aircraft.**
- It also reflects the **deep and long-standing friendship between the two countries and their navies.** SIMBEX 2023 showcases the **high level of interoperability and professionalism of both navies,** as well as their ability to jointly undertake multi-discipline operations in the maritime domain.

IRAN-INDIA JOINT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & FIEO SIGNED MOU

- The **MoU aims to strengthen trade, investment, quality standards and technology transfer** between the two countries.
- This MoU is a **result of the growing friendship and bilateral cooperation between Iran and India, which was reaffirmed by their leaders in recent meetings.**
- The **MoU is expected to enhance the economic ties between Iran and India, which have been affected by the US sanctions** on Iran in the past.

INS SAHYADRI PARTICIPATES IN 1ST INDIA-INDONESIA-AUSTRALIA TRILATERAL MARITIME EXERCISE

- The **trilateral exercise provided an opportunity for the three maritime nations to strengthen their partnership and improve their collective capability to support a stable, peaceful, and secure Indo-Pacific region.**
- **Complex tactical and manoeuvring exercises, cross-deck visits, and cross-deck landings** of integral helicopters were conducted for **training of crew and enhancement of interoperability.**

FIRST ASIAN MAN TO BE NOMINATED FOR INTERNATIONAL TENNIS HALL OF FAME

- **Leander Paes** has become the **first Asian man to be nominated for the International Tennis Hall of Fame** in the player category.
- He is **one of the six nominees announced** for the Class of 2024, **along with Cara Black, Ana Ivanovic, Carlos Moya, Daniel Nestor, and Flavia Pennetta.** He will **compete with them for the online fan voting, which is open until October 9.**
- He is also a **former doubles world No. 1 and a Davis Cup record holder with 43 doubles ties victories.** He has **played for India for 30 years and inspired many young players with his passion and dedication.**

INDIAN RAILWAYS SIGNED SUPPLY CONTRACT WITH INDO-RUSSIAN JV KINET RAILWAY SOLUTIONS

- **Kinet Railway Solutions is a joint venture between Metrowagonmash (MWM) and Locomotive Electronic Systems (LES) from Russia, and India's Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) from India.**
- The **Vande Bharat trains will be manufactured at the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai, with the technical support and guidance from Kinet Railway Solutions.**

INTERNATIONAL NEWS- ONE LINER

- **Southeast Asian leaders decided that Myanmar won't take over the rotating leadership** of their regional bloc as scheduled in 2026. The **Philippines agreed to take over the regional bloc's chairmanship** in 2026 at an **ASEAN summit** hosted by Indonesia on September 6.
- **European Union (EU) Chief Ursula von der Leyen has warned that the return of wolves** to parts of Europe has **become a real danger for livestock** and potentially also for humans. She has promised a review of the predator's protected status.
- **The African Union (AU), representing a bloc of more than 50 countries, has achieved formal admission** as a permanent member of the Group of 20 (G20). This is a **significant recognition of Africa's increasing relevance** to the rest of the world.

- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Financial Stability Board (FSB)** have advanced **policy and regulatory recommendations** to identify and **respond to macroeconomic and financial stability risks** associated with crypto-assets
- The United Kingdom (U.K.) **has decided to rejoin the European Union's (EU) preeminent science R&D funding program, Horizon Europe.** This is a significant post-Brexit shift.
- **Election Commissioner Arun Goel visited Maldives to monitor the Presidential Election 2023.** He went to observe at the invitation of the Election Commission of Maldives.
- North Korean leader **Kim Jong-un has indeed arrived in Russia ahead of a meeting with President Vladimir Putin.** This meeting is expected to bring together two leaders who are increasingly isolated on the world stage.
- **United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Turk, has indeed criticized the Taliban's systematic assault on freedom in Afghanistan. He stated that human rights are in a state of collapse in Afghanistan,** more than two years after the **Taliban returned to power and stripped back institutional protections at all levels.**
- The **European Central Bank (ECB)** has indeed **hiked its key interest rate.** This is part of their **ongoing fight against stubbornly high inflation.** The **increase of a quarter-percentage point** has raised the ECB's **benchmark deposit rate to 4%, up drastically from minus 0.5%** just a little more than a year ago.
- **NASA has indeed released a report** on its yearlong study into **Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs)** or what they refer to as **Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena (UAPs).** NASA stated that **the study of UFOs will require new scientific techniques, including advanced satellites.**
- The **Indian Sellers Collective, an umbrella body of trade associations and sellers across India, has criticized a report backed by the World Health Organization (WHO) on the growth of ultra-processed foods in India**
- **Amazon has developed a new version of its cashier-less shopping technology** specifically for clothing stores. This **updated system, known as the Just Walk Out technology, uses radio-frequency identification (RFID) tags** to track clothing and other items.

- **Shantiniketan**, the prestigious institution founded by Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore in 1901, has been added to **UNESCO's World Heritage List**.
- **Google** has indeed integrated its AI chatbot, Bard, into Gmail and YouTube. Users can now enable Bard to interact with their Gmail, Docs, and Drive accounts to summarize and answer questions across their personal content.
- The **Hoysala temples at Belur, Halebid, and Somanathapur** in Karnataka were indeed declared as **UNESCO World Heritage Sites**. This is a significant recognition of their cultural and architectural importance.
- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has indeed released its first-ever report on the global impact of high blood pressure.
- **78th session of the UN General Assembly**, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan raised the issue of Kashmir in his address. He called for the establishment of a just and lasting peace in Kashmir through dialogue and cooperation between India and Pakistan.
- **British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak** has announced a delay of five years in imposing a proposed ban on petrol and diesel cars to 2035.
- **Ukraine** launched a missile attack on the headquarters of Russia's Black Sea Fleet in Crimea. The attack was one of Kyiv's recent strikes on Russian military targets in Crimea.
- **China and Syria** announced the formation of a strategic partnership on Friday, September 22, 2023. This announcement was made as Chinese leader Xi Jinping kicked off a series of diplomatic meetings ahead of the upcoming Asian Games.
- According to the **World Bank**, poverty in Pakistan has surged from 34.2 percent in the fiscal year 2022 to a staggering 39.4 percent in the last fiscal year. This means that approximately 95 million people are living below the poverty line.
- **NASA's first asteroid samples** have successfully landed on Earth after being released from the spacecraft.
- The **Indian and US armies** have started a two-week war game in Alaska. This exercise, called Yudh Abhyas-23, involves complex drills covering various military skills.
- **Iran** has successfully launched its third military satellite, the **Noor 3**, into orbit. The satellite was

launched on September 27, 2023, using a three-stage Qasem rocket. The Noor 3 is an imaging satellite.

- The **21st Arab Media Forum** in Dubai unveiled a comprehensive guide to Generative AI in Media. This guide, titled '100 Practical Use Cases of Generative AI in Media', was launched by the UAE Ministry of Artificial Intelligence, Digital Economy and Remote Work Applications, in collaboration with the Dubai Media Council.
- **Russia** is formally seeking to rejoin the **United Nations' Human Rights Council**. This comes nearly 18 months after it was suspended from the body following its invasion of Ukraine.
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has indeed approved capital management reforms that will unlock \$100 billion in new funding over the next decade. These reforms were introduced through an update of ADB's Capital Adequacy Framework (CAF).

NATIONAL NEWS

DELHI METRO TO START SELLING 'TOURIST SMART CARDS'

- The 'Tourist Smart Cards' are available in two categories: one-day validity and three-day validity cards, offering "unlimited rides" in the metro network.
- The 'Tourist Smart Cards' grant unrestricted access to the entire metro network and no penalties or surcharges are imposed on them for issues such as entry/exit mismatches or overstay within the system.
- To assist tourists in planning their journeys, the Delhi Metro Rail offers a Delhi Metro Rail app which provides comprehensive information on the metro network. Within the app, a dedicated 'Tour Guide' section showcases a list of all Metro stations and nearby tourist attractions.

CENTRE APPROVED 30 RAILWAY PROJECTS WORTH OVER ₹83,000 CRORE

- The **Union Tourism and Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy** said that the projects will boost the development and welfare of the state.
- He said that the state government has been asked to speed up the land acquisition for railway

projects and support the Phase II of Multi-Modal Transport System (MMTS) in Hyderabad.

Shippocket and enable India based sellers, using Shippocket, **to directly generate e-PBE and shipping labels** from Shippocket platform itself.

UNION MINISTER SCINDIA INAUGURATES UTKELA AIRPORT

- **Utkela Airport is owned by the Government of Odisha** and has been **developed as a regional airport under the UDAN scheme** of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, at a cost of Rs 31.07 crore.
- The newly **inaugurated Utkela-Bhubaneswar flight route will enhance regional air connectivity** and play an **important role in the economic development** of the region. The **operator IndiaOne will run flights on this route using 9-seater Cessna C-208 aircraft** sanctioned under the UDAN scheme.

IAF AND DRONE FEDERATION OF INDIA WILL CO-HOST BHARAT DRONE SHAKTI

- The **event will feature over 50 live aerial demonstrations** by various **drone start-ups and corporates, covering applications such as surveying, agriculture, fire suppression, tactical surveillance, logistics, loitering munition systems, drone swarms, and counter-drone solutions.**
- The event **aims to give a fillip to India's commitment to becoming a global drone hub by 2030.**

DROUPADI MURMU UNVEILED THE STATUE OF MAHATMA GANDHI

- **President of India, Droupadi Murmu unveiled the 12 feet high statue of Mahatma Gandhi and inaugurated 'Gandhi Vatika' at Gandhi Darshan, New Delhi on September 4, 2023.**
- She also **addressed a gathering and said that Mahatma Gandhi is an invaluable gift** for the world community and his values and ideals gave a new direction to the world.
- Mahatma Gandhi, byname of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, was an Indian lawyer, politician, social activist, and writer who became the leader of the nationalist movement against the British rule of India.

INDIA'S FIRST SOLAR CITY INAUGURATED IN SANCHI

- **Sanchi has become India's first solar city**, which means that it **produces more energy from solar power than it consumes from conventional sources.** This is a **remarkable achievement for a town** that has a history of over 2,000 years.
- The project will **reduce annual carbon dioxide emissions by 13,747 tonnes**, which is **equivalent to planting over 2,38,000 tree.**

BENGALURU ESTABLISHED 500 KVA UNDERGROUND POWER TRANSFORMER STATION

- It was **inaugurated by Energy Minister KJ George on September 9, 2023.** It has a **500 kVA capacity oil-free transformer, which is installed at a depth of 10 feet below the road's surface.**
- It also **improves the aesthetic appearance of the urban landscape**, as it **eliminates the need for overhead cables** and related equipment.

INDIA POST AND SHIPROCKET PARTNER TO STRENGTHEN E-COMMERCE EXPORT ECOSYSTEM

- **India Post, India's leading postal service provider**, has announced **partnership with Shippocket**, a leading logistics aggregator company, **to enhance its last-mile delivery services for various E-commerce products.**
- This partnership will **provide shipping and last-mile delivery services to Shippocket's three lakh strong seller base** which includes startups and a large number of small and medium businesses.
- This **agreement will lead to technical integration between Dak Ghar Niryat Kendra (DNK) and**

SWACHH VAYU SARVEKSHAN 2023

- The **survey aims to rank 131 cities in the country based on their actions to improve the air quality** in different domains.
- The survey has **three categories of cities based on their population**, and **awards are given to the three best performing cities** in each category.

ODISHA'S KORAPUT KALA JEERA RICE GETS GI TAG

- The **Koraput Kala Jeera Rice** is grown by the farmers of **Koraput district in Odisha**, which is considered to be the **centre of origin of cultivated rice**.
- The GI tag for Koraput Kala Jeera Rice was applied by Jaivik Sri Farmers Producer Company Limited (JSFPC), an **organisation of farmers from 14 blocks of the district, with the support of the NABARD and the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Empowerment of the Government of Odisha**.
- The Geographical Indications Registry issued an advertisement on August 31, 2023, **confirming the grant of GI status to Koraput Kala Jeera Rice**.

AIR INDIA LAUNCHES PROJECT ABHINANDAN

- Air India to provide a personalised and hassle-free on-ground experience to its passengers. Project Abhinandan was launched on September 11, 2023, to enhance the airport experience for Air India guests and make them feel at ease and welcomed when they fly with the national carrier.
- As part of the project, **Air India has deployed specially trained Service Assurance Officers (SAOs) at 16 major airports** in India, including Pune, Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Calicut, Chennai, Delhi, Goa, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Kochi, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, Varanasi and Vishakhapatnam.
- The **SAOs are also trained to address unforeseen issues such as missed flights, delayed baggage delivery and misconnections at airports**, among others.

MASTERCARD AND INVEST INDIA ALONG WITH TOURISM MINISTRY LAUNCHED ENHANCED PRICELESS.COM

- This is a program that **aims to redefine experiential travel in India and provide an immersive cultural odyssey to international and domestic travelers**.
- It **offers exclusive access to curated culture-rich, gastronomical, and wellness luxe experiences** across various Indian cities
- The program was launched on September 12, 2023 in New Delhi, and is **an extension of Mastercard's global priceless platform that offers over 2,000+ curated experiences across a spectrum of passion points for Mastercard cardholders in 40+ countries**.

HARYANA CM LAUNCHED NEW E-BHOOMI PORTAL

- The **e-Bhoomi portal** is a platform to **simplify the process of purchasing land for government projects** with the **consent of landowners**.
- The **portal allows farmers and aggregators to offer land for government projects**, with a **minimum offer of 10 acres required for aggregators**.
- The **offer of land on the new portal would be valid for six months**. The **aggregator must be an income taxpayer and must have a Parivar Pehchan Patra family ID**.

UNION MINISTER DHARMENDRA PRADHAN LAUNCHED SKILL INDIA DIGITAL PLATFORM

- The **platform aims to synergize and transform the skills, education, employment, and entrepreneurship landscape of India** by **providing skill development and entrepreneurial support to people**.
- It **focuses on digital technology and Industry 4.0 skills and aligns with the vision of the G20 framework** for building DPI and the digital economy. It is also a **comprehensive information gateway for all government skilling and entrepreneurship initiatives**.

SWACHHATA SPECIAL CAMPAIGN 3.0 PORTAL LAUNCHED

- The portal is **designed to monitor the progress of the Swachhata Special Campaign 3.0**, which is a campaign that **aims to improve the cleanliness and efficiency of government offices and enhance public experience**.
- The **portal is developed by NIC (National Informatics Centre)** and can be **accessed at scdpm.nic.in**. The **portal is expected to help in institutionalizing Swachhata and minimizing pendency in government offices**.

J&K'S UDHAMPUR RAILWAY STATION RENAMED AFTER CAPT. TUSHAR MAHAJAN

- This is a **tribute to his courage and valour**, and a **way of honouring his memory and legacy**. Captain

Tushar Mahajan was born on May 25, 1987, in Udhampur, Jammu and Kashmir.

- He was involved in several operations against terrorists and militants in Jammu and Kashmir, including **Operation Rakshak** and **Operation Sarp Vinash**.
- The renaming was approved by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Jammu and Kashmir administration, following the demand of the people of Udhampur and the efforts of Union Minister Jitendra Singh.

- The portal is expected to usher in a paperless work culture within the organization and enhance consumer convenience and satisfaction.

MSDE MINISTER LAUNCHES 'SKILLS ON WHEELS' WITH NSDC AND INDUSIND BANK

- The initiative aims to empower 60,000 rural youth, especially women, over a period of five years by providing them with relevant skills training that will improve their livelihoods and make them job and future-ready.
- The initiative is a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), and IndusInd Bank.

UNIFIED PORTAL FOR AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

- The UPAg portal aims to streamline and enhance data management in the agricultural domain by integrating data from various sources such as crop surveys, price monitoring, trade statistics, procurement and stock information, etc.
- The UPAg portal is part of the larger efforts by the DA & FW to improve data governance and accuracy in agriculture. Some of the other initiatives undertaken by the department include Krishi Decision Support System, farmer registry, crop survey, etc.

AGRI SECRETARY MANOJ AHUJA LAUNCHES MOBILE APP & WEB PORTAL FOR GCES

- These platforms aim to revolutionize farming practices by using digital technology to provide more accurate and real-time estimates of crop statistics.
- These platforms aim to revolutionize farming practices by using digital technology to provide more accurate and real-time estimates of crop statistics.

NHAI SIGNS AGREEMENT TO DEVELOP MULTI MODAL LOGISTICS PARK

- The project is proposed to be developed under the Public Private Partnership (DBFOT) model at an estimated cost of Rs 1,770 crore. The MMLP will be developed in an area of 400 acre at Muddelinganahalli in Bengaluru rural district in Karnataka.
- The MMLP will also enable efficient inter-modal freight movement to lower overall freight costs and time, provide efficient warehousing, improve tracking and traceability of consignments thereby enhancing the efficiency of the Indian logistics sector.

INDIA'S FIRST LIGHTHOUSE FESTIVAL

- The festival was inaugurated by Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal on Saturday, September 23, 2023 at the historic Fort Aguada in Panjim, Goa.
- The festival also marks the enactment of the Marine Aids to Navigation Act, 2021, which provides a framework for the development, maintenance and management of aids to navigation in India.

HP CM SUKHVINDER SINGH SUKHU LAUNCHES INTEGRATED ELECTRICITY CONSUMER PORTAL

- The portal aims to provide various services to the electricity consumers of Himachal Pradesh, such as online bill payment, online application for new connection, name change, load adjustment, etc.

UNION MOS KAILASH CHOUDHARY LAUNCHED AI CHATBOT

- It is integrated with the PM-KISAN scheme, which provides income support of Rs. 6,000 per year to all land holding farmer families.

- It can also **provide information on various aspects of agriculture**, such as **crop insurance, soil health card, organic farming**, etc.
- **Kisan e-Mitra is the first AI chatbot integrated with a major flagship scheme of the Union government.** It has been **developed and improved with the support of the EKstep Foundation and Bhashini.**

BIHAR TO PROVIDE FREE OF COST TREATMENT TO PATIENT

- The **patients enrolled for treatment will not be charged for medicines, surgery, pathological and other tests and bed charge for admission in general wards.**
- The **state government will bear all the expenses incurred by the IGIMS in lieu of providing free of cost treatment to the patients.** The **new arrangement will come into effect after it is notified in the state gazette.**
- It will also **benefit poor patients, who can now avail free services for medicines, surgery, medical tests and other pathological tests.**

TATA MOTORS DELIVERS INDIA'S FIRST HYDROGEN FUEL CELL POWERED BUSES

- **Tata Motors won a tender from IOCL in June 2021 to provide 15 FCEV buses to evaluate the potential of hydrogen-based PEM fuel-cell technology in India.**
- The **buses feature a 350-bar hydrogen storage system, 70-kilowatt fuel cell stack, electronic braking system & stability control for higher safety, intelligent transport system, new-generation telematics for efficient, user-friendly vehicle maintenance and tracking along with roomy interiors.**

ONGC SIGNED AGREEMENT WITH HPCL FOR SALE OF OIL FROM MUMBAI OFFSHORE

- This is the **second term agreement sealed by ONGC after it signed a similar pact with BPCL last month for sale of 4-4.5 million tonnes per annum of crude oil.**
- The **rule change allowed ONGC to start quarterly auctions of crude oil from Mumbai offshore, but it faced pressure from refiners like IOC to offer discounts equivalent to those on Russian oil, which**

was sanctioned and shunned by some buyers due to Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

NATIONAL NEWS- ONE LINER

- The **Chennai (Tamil Nadu) based Geographical Indications Registry has granted Geographical Indication (GI) tags to Bhaderwah Rajmash (Red kidney beans) and Ramban Sulai Honey of Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) and Chokuwa rice (Magic Rice) of Assam.**
- The **Union government has issued a notification for the implementation of the amendments to the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867, from September 1.**
- The **drive against child marriages in Assam will be relaunched in September, as per Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.**
- **Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal launched the Tele-Law 2.0 initiative on August 25, 2023. This version entails the fusion of Tele-Law Services with Nyaya Bandhu pro bono legal services, a merger to further enhance citizen accessibility to legal aid.**
- **UN Committee on the Rights of the Child issued new guidance on Monday that calls for governments to take action to protect boys and girls in the face of the deepening climate crisis.**
- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched Falcon, an open-source project that aims to simplify the management and use of blockchains based on Hyperledger Fabric and supported on Kubernetes clusters.**
- **Kolkata Metro Railway has decided to use a composite Aluminium Third Rail in all the upcoming corridors being undertaken for construction along with retrofitment in existing corridors with steel third rail.**
- The **Rashtriya Poshan Maah is being celebrated during the month of September every year under POSHAN Abhiyaan (PM's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment), which was launched in 2018.**
- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah is set to inaugurate the 'Amrit Kalash Yatra' in New Delhi as part of the 'Meri Mati-Mera Desh' campaign at 2 p.m.**
- **India's first indigenously developed 700 MWe nuclear power reactor at the Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP) in Gujarat has started operations at full capacity.**
- The **26th National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) was held on the 25th and 26th of August**

2023 at Brilliant Convention Centre, Indore, Madhya Pradesh (MP) to deliberate on providing better facilities to the citizens.

- IIT-Madras incubated space-tech start-up, has launched a high-resolution aerial drone-based synthetic aperture radar (SAR) system, which can perform detailed and high-resolution all-weather imaging even in rainy or cloudy conditions.
- The Indian government has indeed formed a committee led by former President Ram Nath Kovind to examine the possibility of implementing "one nation, one election".
- The National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) was granted the status of a 'deemed to be university' last week. This means that it will now be able to grant degrees on its own.
- The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) launched the 'Mera Bill Mera Adhikar' GST reward scheme on September 1st, 2023. The scheme offers cash rewards of up to Rs 1 crore and is being launched in six states and UTs on a pilot basis, including Assam, Gujarat, Haryana, and the UTs of Puducherry, Dadra Nagar Haveli, and Daman & Diu.
- On 31 August, 2023, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Directorate General Resettlement (DGR) under the Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare, Ministry of Defence and M/s Genpact India Private Limited in New Delhi.
- The Indian government has formed an 8-member committee to examine the issue of 'One Nation, One Election' and make recommendations for holding simultaneous Centre and state elections in the country.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) released the outcome document of the WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit 2023 in the form of the "Gujarat Declaration". The declaration reaffirmed global commitments towards indigenous knowledge, biodiversity, and traditional, complementary and integrative medicine.
- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has launched the 'Adopt a Heritage 2.0' programme, the Indian Heritage app, and an e-permission portal. This initiative aims to engage corporate stakeholders in enhancing the amenities at 3696 protected monuments spread across the country.
- The Union Cabinet has recently approved the extension of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) for release of 75 lakh LPG connections over three years from Financial Year 2023-24 to 2025-26.
- Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal represented India at the Eastern Economic Forum, 2023, which was held in Vladivostok, Russia from September 10 to 13.
- RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has been rated 'A+' in the Global Finance Central Banker Report Cards 2023. The Central Banker Report Cards is an annual publication by Global Finance since 1994, which assesses and grades the performance of central bank governors.
- The Kantar BrandZ Top 75 Most Valuable Indian Brands Report for 2023 is a comprehensive study of the most valuable brands in India, based on the opinions of more than 125,000 consumers and financial data. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has retained its top rank.
- The Ministry of Culture has launched the 'Adopt a Heritage 2.0' scheme to attract Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funding from corporates and MNCs for the upkeep of at least 1,000 monuments.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed the operation of pre-sanctioned credit lines at banks through the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) system. Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) can now enable payments through a pre-sanctioned credit line for individuals, with prior customer consent, for transactions using the UPI system.
- IBM has collaborated with Indian Bank, a premier public sector bank, to accelerate its modernization path with flexible and secure compute infrastructure for deploying new front-end banking applications, while addressing the business growth of the Core Banking Solution (CBS) workloads for the bank.
- Vijayawada Railway Station has achieved the prestigious "Platinum Rating" Certification as a Green Railway Station from the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC), marking the highest recognition in this category.
- The Andhra Pradesh Food Processing Society (APFPS) and the State Bank of India (SBI) have entered into an agreement on Tuesday, 5 September, to upgrade and support the establishment of at least 7,500 micro food processing units in the state.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the 20th ASEAN-India Summit and the 18th East Asia Summit in Jakarta, Indonesia on 7th September 2023. At the ASEAN-India Summit, he held extensive discussions with ASEAN partners on further

strengthening of ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and charting its future course.

- The **Indian Government** has approved a scheme for **Viability Gap Funding (VGF)** for the **development of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)**. The scheme aims to develop **4,000 MWh of BESS projects by 2030-31**, with a **financial support** of up to 40% of the capital cost as budgetary support in the form of VGF.
- The **Maritime Infrastructure Perspective Plan 2023-37** was released at the 2nd Naval Commanders Conference. This plan **aims to synchronize and enmesh the infrastructure requirements of the Navy over the next 15 years**.
- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has approved Groww Mutual Fund to **launch its first index fund**. The index fund is named the **Groww Nifty Total Markets Index Fund**. This approval allows Groww to enter the mutual fund space.
- The **Uttar Pradesh State Institute of Education (SIE)** has **designed a first-of-its-kind dialects dictionary** containing **76,000 words** in regional dialects/languages of the State like **Bhojpuri, Awadhi, Braj and Bundelkhandi**.
- The **“Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The gender snapshot 2023” report**, jointly produced by UN Women and UN DESA, **provides a comprehensive analysis of gender equality progress** across all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has **approved the acquisition of up to 29.9% equity stake** in RHI Magnesita NV by Ignite Luxembourg Holdings S.à r.l. This **proposed combination leads to an indirect acquisition** of RHI Magnesita India Limited (RHIM India) **as no shares of the Indian company were being purchased as part of the Proposed Combination**.
- The **Maharashtra government** has announced that **it will bring back the ‘Wagh Nakh’ (tiger claws)** used by **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj from the United Kingdom**. The **‘Wagh Nakh’** is an **iconic weapon that Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj used to kill Afzal Khan**.
- **India proposed to launch a G-20 Satellite Mission for Environment and Climate Observation during the G20 Leaders' Summit** in New Delhi on September 9, 2023. The **mission aims to provide climate and weather data to countries**, particularly those in the Global South.
- The **Manipur Cabinet approved a permanent housing scheme** for displaced people and extended the 'disturbed area' status of the State on September 15, 2023. The permanent housing **scheme will provide financial assistance to people whose houses were damaged or destroyed in recent violence in the state**.
- The **Union Education Ministry** has asked States to **bring all education data under one platform**. This is being done under the National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR), which is a **flagship initiative of the Ministry to transform the education sector through technology**.
- **India and the U.K.** agreed to **continue to work at pace towards a free trade pact (FTA)** at a meeting between the two countries' Prime Ministers, Narendra Modi and Rishi Sunak, on September 9, 2023, at the **G20 Summit in New Delhi**.
- Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launched the **“One Week One Lab” programme**. This initiative is **designed to showcase the achievements of the 37 Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) laboratories**.
- **NVIDIA** has recently announced **partnerships with both Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) and Tata Group** to advance AI in India. The **partnership aims to develop India’s own foundation large language model trained on the nation’s diverse languages and tailored for generative AI applications**.
- **North Korea** has unveiled its first tactical, nuclear-armed submarine named **"Hero Kim Kun Ok"**. This is a **significant step in North Korea’s efforts to build a nuclear-armed navy to counter the US and its allies**. The submarine is assigned to the fleet that patrols the waters between the Korean peninsula and Japan.
- The **Tamil Nadu government** has launched a new social welfare initiative called the **‘Kalaigarnar Magalir Urimai Thogai Thittam’** to support women’s financial well-being. This scheme provides monthly financial assistance to eligible female household heads.
- The **US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC)** has approved up to \$425 million in financing for TP Solar, a subsidiary of **Tata Power Renewable Energy (TPREL)**. This funding is for **TP Solar’s upcoming greenfield 4.3 GW solar cell and module manufacturing plant** in the Tirunelveli district of **Tamil Nadu, India**.
- **ITI Limited**, a Central PSU under the Ministry of Communications, has indeed developed its own **laptop and 'mini PC'**. The products are branded as **'SMAASH'** and have been designed in association with **Intel Corporation**.
- The **Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD)** in India has launched **five**

transformative initiatives to foster inclusivity and empower persons with disabilities.

- The second phase (Phase II) of the Varuna-23 was conducted in the Arabian Sea. The exercise witnessed participation of guided missile frigates, tanker, Maritime Patrol Aircraft and integral helicopters from the two sides.
- Bharti AXA Life Insurance has launched a new product called 'Income Laabh'. This plan aims to simplify insurance and provide maximum protection to its customers.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the reappointment of Sandeep Bakhshi as the Managing Director and CEO of ICICI Bank Limited. His reappointment was approved by shareholders at the bank's Annual General Meeting.
- GQG Partners, a US-based investment firm, acquired over 5 crore shares in IDFC First Bank from V Vaidyanathan, the MD and CEO of the bank. The transaction was a block trade. The proceeds of the sale, net of STT and other brokerage charges, amount to Rs 478.7 crore.
- Goa Governor P.S. Sreedharan Pillai launched the 'Mashaal' for the 37th National Games at a program held in Durbar Hall Raj Bhavan, Donapaula. The 37th National Games will be held in Goa from October 25 to November 9.
- The Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Transport Department of Kerala to expand the scope of the open mobility network in the state.
- Andhra Pradesh Governor S Abdul Nazeer has released six special postal covers on "Manyam Viplava Saradhi Alluri Sitarama Raju" in honour of unsung heroes through the medium of philately.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh laid the foundation stone for the Nyoma airfield near the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh. The strategic Nyoma belt in eastern Ladakh will soon have a new airfield, according to the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).
- The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) organized the 'Vaishali Festival of Democracy' at Nalanda University in Bihar. This festival was held on Friday, September 15, which also coincides with the International Day of Democracy.
- The 'Ayushman Bhav' campaign was inaugurated by President Droupadi Murmu on September 13. This campaign is a significant step towards redefining healthcare accessibility and inclusivity across India.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated several rail sector projects in Raigarh, Chhattisgarh. The projects, worth around projects are expected to bolster regional connectivity and contribute to tourism and employment.
- 12th Round of Ministerial India-UK Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD) held in New Delhi on 11th September 2023, India and the United Kingdom (UK) announced the launch of the UK-India Infrastructure Financing Bridge (UKIIFB).
- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has indeed inaugurated 90 infrastructure projects of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), worth over Rs 2,900 crore. These projects are spread across 11 States/Union Territories.
- The government inaugurated the Vidya Samiksha Kendra (VSK) and laid the foundation stone for 141 PM Shri Schools and the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Residential School in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
- The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) organized a workshop on Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) in collaboration with UNICEF and the National Stock Exchange at the NSE premises in Mumbai on September 12, 2023.
- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has extended the waiver of the domestic content requirement (DCR) for solar cells under Component C of the PM KUSUM Scheme.
- The Geological Survey of India Training Institute (GSITI) in Hyderabad has signed a 5-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) in Bengaluru. This MoU is part of the National Natural Resources Management System (NNRMS) program.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the Downstream Petrochemical Complex and Refinery Expansion Project at BPCL's Bina Refinery in Madhya Pradesh on September 14, 2023.
- Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions Dr Jitendra Singh launched a dedicated web portal for monitoring the Special Campaign 3.0 on Thursday, 14th September 2023. The portal, scdpm.nic.in, will serve as a platform for monitoring the Swachhata campaign.

- The **Supreme Court of India** has recently **onboarded the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) portal**, marking the completion of the flagship e-Courts project.
- The **4th and the last meeting of the G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group (SFWG) held under India's G20 presidency**, successfully concluded in Varanasi.
- **NITI Aayog** has successfully completed the **Special Campaign 2.0 for the disposal of pending matters and Swachht**. This campaign was initiated by the **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG)** with the vision of giving a heartfelt tribute of **"A Clean India"** to Mahatma Gandhi.
- The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur** has indeed **partnered with ICICI Bank to foster the startup ecosystem**. They have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to fuel startup innovation in India.
- **Indian fashion designer Rahul Mishra** was conferred with the insignia of **Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters)** by the **French government**.
- **India's U-16 team** emerged as the **champions of the SAFF U-16 Championship 2023** by defeating **Bangladesh 2-0** in a thrilling final. The goals were scored by **Bharat Lairenjam and Levis Zangminlun**.
- The **Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (Absorption of Employees into Government Service) Bill-2023** has received the assent of **Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan**.
- The **Chief Justice of India, D.Y. Chandrachud**, announced that the **Supreme Court of India** is now **'onboard' with the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)**. This is a **significant development** as it allows **real-time access** to data on pending cases.
- From **October 1**, all reported births and deaths in **India will be digitally registered on the Centre's portal**. This initiative is through the **Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023**, which introduces **digital birth certificates**.
- The **Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA)** in India has **extended the tenure of the Company Law Committee by one year**. The committee was initially set to expire on **16th September 2023**.
- The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has **cancelled the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA) licenses of three non-governmental organizations (NGOs)** ahead of the **September 30 deadline for renewal**.
- The **National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI)** has indeed **launched India's first contactless payment wearable** called the **"OTG Ring"** during the **Global Fintech Fest, 2023**.
- **IndusInd Bank** has indeed **launched a 'Virtual Commercial Credit Card'** in collaboration with **Visa and Juspay**. This credit card is designed to **redefine cross-border transactions for corporates and travel agents**.
- **Global Economic Outlook report** by **Fitch Ratings in September 2023**, India's **growth forecast** has been **retained at 6.3%** for the fiscal year 2024.
- The **Kalaignar Magalir Urimai Thogai Thittam** is a **basic income scheme for women** launched by **Chief Minister M.K. Stalin**. This scheme provides **monthly financial assistance to eligible women family heads across the state of Tamil Nadu**.
- The **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)**, chaired by **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh**, has **approved the procurement of 12 Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft** for the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**.
- The **Telangana government** has announced a **new scheme called the 'Chief Minister's Breakfast' (Mukhyamantri Alpahara)** to provide **free breakfast to students studying in government schools** across the state. The scheme will be **launched on October 24** as a **Dasara gift to students**.
- The **Sangeet Natak Akademi** announced **special one-time awards, known as the 'Amrit' awards**, to **commemorate 75 years of India's independence**. These awards were given to **84 artists** who are **above the age of 75 years** and haven't been accorded any national honour in their career so far.
- The **Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (AH&D)**, **Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India**, in collaboration with the **World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)**, conducted a **multi-sectoral workshop titled "Risk-based management of spillover events in wildlife in India"**.
- The **sweet 'Atreyapuram Pootharekulu'** from **Andhra Pradesh** has indeed received the **Geographical Indication (GI) tag**. This sweet is made of **rice and jaggery**, and its production is now **confined only to the Atreyapuram village** on the

banks of the Godavari in Konaseema district of Andhra Pradesh.

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released a list of 15 non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) that fall under the “upper layer” in the scale-based regulation for the financial year 2024.
- According to a survey conducted by Morning Consult, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been declared the most popular global leader with an approval rating of 76%. This rating is over 12 percentage points higher than the next leader on the list - Switzerland President Alain Berset.
- The Supreme Court of India has recently onboarded the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) portal. This is a significant development as it marks the integration of all three tiers of the Indian judiciary into the NJDG portal.
- The Union government has decided not to release any socio-economic data it had collected while registering persons with disabilities for its Unique Disability ID (UDID) cards in the last six years.
- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is indeed planning to expand its network of BSL-3 and BSL-4 laboratories. This initiative is part of the Prime Minister-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM).
- Santiniketan, the town in West Bengal’s Birbhum district, has indeed been included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. This is a proud moment for all Indians. The home of late Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore, Santiniketan was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List on September 17, 2023.
- The Assam Government has indeed mobilized public support to attempt nine world records during a drive to increase the State’s green cover. This initiative is known as the ‘Amrit Brikshya Andolan’.
- The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has signed three Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) and laid the foundation stone for ‘Modern Khadi of New India’. The MoUs were signed with Prasar Bharati, NBCC (India) Limited, and Digital India Corporation.
- The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare in India launched three significant initiatives on September 19, 2023, Kisan Rin Portal (KRP), KCC Ghar Ghar Abhiyaan, Weather Information Network Data Systems (WINDS) Manual. These initiatives aim to revolutionize agriculture, enhance financial inclusion, optimize data utilization, and improve the lives of farmers across the nation.
- A National Workshop on e-NAM 2.0 and Agricultural Marketing Reforms was organized. The workshop was addressed by Shri Manoj Ahuja, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
- The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the National Standards Body of India, has established 6467 Standard Clubs in schools and colleges across the country. The initiative started in 2021 and has already made a significant impact.
- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has issued recommendations on the "Rationalization of Entry Fee and Bank Guarantees". These recommendations were made in response to a reference from the Department of Telecommunication (DoT) seeking the rationalization of Entry Fees and Bank Guarantees for various licenses operating in the telecom sector.
- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, has approved nine capital acquisition proposals worth approximately Rs 45,000 crore.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the Phase 1 of the India International Convention and Expo Centre (IICC), also known as Yashobhoomi, to the nation. This state-of-the-art facility is located in Dwarka, New Delhi.
- The Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysalas in Karnataka and Santiniketan in West Bengal have been inscribed on UNESCO’s World Heritage List.
- The Airport Authority of India (AAI) has recently inducted two new B-360 type of aircraft into its flight inspection fleet. These aircraft are equipped with an advanced state-of-the-art Flight Inspection system.
- SpaceX’s Falcon 9 rocket set a reuse record by launching 22 Starlink internet satellites toward low Earth orbit (LEO) from Cape Canaveral Space Force Station in Florida on Tuesday, September 20, 2023. This was the rocket’s 17th liftoff and landing, which is unprecedented.
- The President of India, Droupadi Murmu, inaugurated the Annual General Meeting and Biennial Conference of the Asia Pacific Forum on Human Rights in New Delhi. During her speech, she

emphasized the **interconnectedness of human rights and environmental conservation.**

- The **National Medical Commission (NMC)** of India has indeed **achieved the prestigious World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) Recognition Status** for a remarkable tenure of 10 years.
- **Reliance Jio** has launched its **Jio AirFiber services in eight metro cities** in India. **Jio AirFiber** is a **Fixed Wireless Access solution that offers high-speed internet connectivity without the need for wires or installation.**
- **Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia** inaugurated the **'Udaan Bhawan'** and the **'E-wallet'** facility in Delhi on **18th September 2023.**The **'Udaan Bhawan'** is an **Integrated Office Complex at Delhi's Safdarjung Airport.**
- The **United Nations World Food Program (UN WFP)** and the **Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB)** have indeed **taken a significant step towards addressing some of the world's most pressing challenges by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).**
- According to a recent report by the **World Bank and UNICEF**, an **estimated 333 million children globally – or 1 in 6 – live in extreme poverty.** This means they are surviving on less than \$2.15 a day.
- The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has introduced a **digital facility for Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)** to **effortlessly open NRE and NRO accounts (both savings and current accounts) through its mobile app YONO.** This **service is designed for new customers, providing a hassle-free process for account opening and management.**
- The **Indian Army** has recently inducted **600 self-neutralizing anti-tank mines known as "Vibhav".** These mines are **designed and manufactured indigenously in collaboration with the Defense Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).**
- The **Women's Reservation Bill**, also known as the **Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam**, was **passed in the Lok Sabha** after being in consideration for 27 long years. This **historic bill ensures a 33% reservation for women in Parliament and state assemblies.**
- **Windy India 2023 Summit** is **set to commence in Chennai** from October 4. This event is a part of the successful Indo-Danish Energy partnership. **The summit will focus on the evolution of the wind**

energy sector, including advanced generation technology and local manufacturing of key components such as gearboxes and generator blades.

- The **Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR)** has **given permission to conduct the Truenat test to diagnose Nipah in Kerala.** The **Truenat test** is a **chip-based, point-of-care, rapid molecular test for diagnosing various diseases.**
- The words **"socialist"** and **"secular"** were indeed **missing from the Preamble in the copies of the Constitution handed out to MPs.** **Congress leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury** expressed concern over this and called it a 'serious matter.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has reported that **household savings have fallen to a five-decade low of 5.1% of GDP in FY23, down from 7.2% in FY22.** This **decline suggests a severe income crunch and likely transience of the post-pandemic rise in consumption.**
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has revised **India's GDP growth projection for the fiscal year 2023 (FY23) to 6.3%.** This is a **slight decrease from their previous estimate of 6.4%.**
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has **successfully tested the 'Type V Heavy Drop System'** from a cargo aircraft. This system was **developed at a Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) facility in Agra.**
- The **Uttar Pradesh government** has **launched a new initiative to provide instant birth registration for newborns** at government health facilities. This initiative is the **first of its kind in India.**
- **Startup Odisha**, an initiative of the **MSME Department of the Government of Odisha**, has **launched a 100 Crore Odisha Startup Growth Fund (OSGF)** in collaboration with the **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** as the fund manager.
- The **Supreme Court** refused to interfere with the **Cauvery Water Management Authority's (CWMA)** direction to **Karnataka to release 5,000 cusecs of water per day for 15 days to neighbouring Tamil Nadu.**
- The **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting** in India has **issued an advisory to television channels.** They have been **advised to refrain from providing a platform to individuals who are facing**

charges of serious crimes, including terrorism, or belong to organizations that have been proscribed by law.

- The **Union Ministry of Railways** has indeed **revised the ex-gratia relief amounts for victims of rail accidents** or their dependents. In **case of death in a train accident** as defined under Section 124 of the Railway Act 1989, the **ex-gratia amount has been increased to 5 lakh**.
- The **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** is currently waiting **to establish contact with Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander and Pragyan rover**. They will **continue attempts to revive the lander and rover for another 14 days**.
- The **Government of India** has introduced a **new set of National Awards** in the field of Science, Technology, and Innovation known as "**Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar**". These **awards aim to recognize the remarkable contributions made by scientists, technologists, and innovators** in various fields of science and technology.
- According to a report by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** titled "**Growth of ultra-processed foods in India- An analysis of trends, issues and policy recommendations**", **India's Ultra-Processed Food Sector** grew at a **Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 13.37%** in retail sales value from 2011 to 2021.
- The **Indian Naval Ship 'Nireekshak'** successfully **conducted vital Mixed Gas Diving training sessions** as part of IN-SLN Divex 23. The **Indian Navy's diving support vessel initiated the sea dive** on Sunday and after a successful diving exercise, returned with the Sri Lanka Navy divers.
- The **India Global Forum and World Governments Summit** have **launched the Emerging Economies Programme**. This initiative was announced on September 20, 2023, in Dubai, UAE.
- The **National Medical Commission (NMC)**, India has indeed achieved the **remarkable feat of being granted the coveted World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) Recognition Status for a remarkable tenure of 10 years**.
- The **Chief Minister of Odisha, Naveen Patnaik**, has **launched two new schemes to improve the nutritional status of women and children**.
- The **Election Commission of India (ECI)** has indeed taken a **unique approach to educate children** about

the **electoral process** and the **significance of voting**.

They have **released two comic books** featuring **iconic characters such as Chacha Chaudhary**.

- **Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M)** have **developed a portable device** that can **detect heavy metals in soil and water**. The **device is designed to be user-friendly**, even for those without scientific training.
- The **Neelakkurinji Biodiversity Knowledge Centre** was **inaugurated at Adimaly**, which is the **entry point to the Munnar hill station** in Kerala. This **centre was established by the State Haritha Keralam Mission, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Idukki district panchayat**.
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has been **unable to establish communication with the Vikram lander and Pragyan rover** of the **Chandrayaan-3 mission**. Despite **numerous efforts**, **no signals have been received from these lunar explorers**.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** laid the **foundation stone of the International Cricket Stadium in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**. The **stadium will be developed in Ganjari, Rajatalab, Varanasi at a cost of about Rs 450 crores and spread across an area of more than 30 acres**.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has indeed **flagged off nine new Vande Bharat trains**. These **trains are expected to significantly improve connectivity and boost tourism across India**.
- The **Raj Bhasha Kirti Puraskar 2022-23** is the **most prestigious award offered by the Indian government for "achievements in implementing the official language"**.
- **India has indeed won the bid to host the prestigious 17th International Congress on the Chemistry of Cement (ICCC) in New Delhi in 2027**. The **successful bid was presented by India's leading research and academic institutions, the National Council for Cement and Building Materials (NCCBM) and IIT Delhi, during the ongoing 16th ICCC in Bangkok**.
- **Delhi Lieutenant Governor VK Saxena** launched the **Vigilance Complaint Information Management System (VCIMS) portal** on September 21, 2023. This **portal is a first-of-its-kind online platform in the country that will help in speedy action with transparency and secrecy in dealing with and monitoring complaints on corruption**.

- UPNEDA and SIDBI signed an MoU to promote green projects on September 21, 2023. The MoU aims to make direct financing options available for micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in Uttar Pradesh for solarisation of residential units at Ayodhya and for bio-energy and renewable project financing.
- The Defence Procurement Board (DPB) discussed the Indian Navy's proposal for acquiring a second Vikrant-like aircraft carrier. The proposed aircraft carrier is expected to displace 45,000 tonnes and is estimated to cost around 40,000 crore.
- The Parliamentary Standing Committee (PSC) on Labour, headed by veteran Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP Bhartruhari Mahtab, has expressed concern that both the Labour Ministry and the Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) are not fully prepared to provide extended coverage as envisaged under the Code on Social Security.
- The Goa government has recently approved the 'Goa State Shack Policy 2023-2026'. This policy allows the erection of temporary beach shacks, deck beds, and umbrellas for the upcoming three tourist seasons.
- India has indeed achieved a significant sanitation milestone under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase II. As of now, 75% of villages in the country have declared themselves ODF Plus.
- The 6th Edition of the 'NeSDA – Way Forward Monthly Report for States/UTs' was released by the Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG). 14,736 e-services are provided across States/UTs, which is an increase of 6.2% (869) services from July Report.
- The National Health Authority (NHA) is hosting the 'Arogya Manthan' event to celebrate the fifth anniversary of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) and the second anniversary of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM). The two-day event took place on 25th and 26th September 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- The country has reached a major milestone under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) Phase II, with 75% of the villages achieving ODF Plus status.
- The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Digital Lenders Association of India (DLAI) to support the country's fintech sector. The agreement aims to develop standard protocols for digital lending partnerships, including alliances between banks and Lending Service Providers (LSPs).
- The Finance Ministry of India has retained its 6.5% gross domestic product (GDP) growth estimate for the Financial Year 2023-24 (FY24), allaying fears of worsening economic activity in the second quarter.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has indeed successfully conducted the CE20 E13 engine hot test for the Gaganyaan mission. This marks a crucial step towards the Gaganyaan qualification and the 22-tonne thrust qualification.
- The Indian Railways has indeed tightened safety rules for the operation of private trains and coaches.
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) has formally inducted the C-295MW transport aircraft into service. This aircraft will gradually replace the HS-748 Avro transport aircraft. The first C-295MW was inducted into service in a formal ceremony at the Hindon Air Force Station.
- Biswanath Ghat in Assam has indeed been selected as the Best Tourism Village of India 2023. This selection was made from amongst 791 applications from 31 states and Union Territories.
- The Electronics and IT Ministry has indeed rebuffed Moody's report on Aadhaar. The Ministry asserted that there have been no breaches reported from the unique ID system's database till date, dismissing concerns about security and privacy in a centralized system.
- The Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve is the seventh tiger reserve in Madhya Pradesh. This newly established reserve incorporates the previously recognized eco-sensitive zone of Nauradehi and Veerangana Durgavati sanctuaries, along with surrounding forest areas, into the buffer zone.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the merger of Sahebrao Deshmukh Co-op Bank with Cosmos Co-op Bank. The merger came into effect from September 26, 2023, and the branches of Sahebrao Deshmukh Co-operative Bank will now function as branches of Cosmos Co-operative Bank.
- The Third Missile Cum Ammunition (MCA) Barge, Yard 77 (LSAM 9) was launched by Cmde G

Ravi, Warship Production Superintendent

(Visakhapatnam), on September 22, 2023 at

Guttenadeevi, East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh.

- The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** has indeed issued an advisory to **manufacturers of sweets**, asking them to refrain from outdoor cooking practices.
- The **ISRO Chief, S Somanath**, stated that about **95% of the components** used in **rockets** in India are domestically sourced..
- According to a recent survey by the **Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)**, **Indians are consuming more salt than the World Health Organization (WHO)** recommended amount. The **estimated** mean daily **salt intake for Indians** was found to be **8 grams**, which is **higher than the WHO's recommendation of less than 5 grams per day**.
- The **Cauvery Water Regulation Committee (CWRC)** has directed Karnataka to release 3,000 cusecs of water every day to **Tamil Nadu starting from September 28**. The **decision** was taken at a meeting in **New Delhi after Karnataka and Tamil Nadu** submitted their **arguments before the committee**.
- The **Tamil Nadu government** has recently unveiled its new **tourism policy**. The state aims to develop into the most **attractive experiential destination in Asia with multi-pronged goals**. Over the **next five years**, the state aims to attract **20,000-crore investments**.
- The **National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS)**, under the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs, has launched **Phase II of the 'Amazon Future Engineer Programme' in 54 Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)** spread across **Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan and Telangana**.
- According to the **2023 Global Crypto Adoption Index by Chainalysis**, India has topped the list among **154 nations**. The index is **designed to identify countries where the most people are putting the greatest share of their wealth into cryptocurrency**.
- **Poonawalla Fincorp**, a **Cyrus Poonawalla group-promoted NBFC**, has received **Reserve Bank of India's approval to issue a co-branded credit card with IndusInd Bank**. The company plans to launch this credit card within three months.
- The **Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)** celebrated its **82nd Foundation Day on 26th**

September 2023. The celebration took place at various CSIR campuses across India.

- The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** has officially recognized **Mithun as a food animal**, effective from September 1, 2023. **Mithun, scientifically known as Bos frontalis, is deeply intertwined with the indigenous communities, ecological balance, and local traditions of the northeastern states**.
- The **Kerala government** has **decided to approach the Supreme Court against Governor Arif Mohammed Khan** for his delay in signing eight bills that were passed by the state legislative assembly.
- **Amnesty International** has stated that the **Indian authorities** are exploiting the recommendations of the **Financial Action Task Force (FATF) to target civil society groups**. The **FATF is a global body responsible for tackling terrorism financing and money laundering**.
- The **UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund) India**, in collaboration with the **International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS)**, unveiled the **"India Ageing Report 2023"** which **provides critical insights into elderly care in India**.
- The **'CRIIO 4 GOOD'** modules were **launched by the Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan**, in association with the **International Cricket Council (ICC), UNICEF, and the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** at the **Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad**.
- The **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)'s Review of Maritime Transport 2023** calls for a **"just and equitable transition" to a decarbonized shipping industry**.
- The **International Air Transport Association (IATA)** has indeed allotted the three-letter code **'DXN'** to the upcoming **Noida International Airport at Jewar**. This code is a unique identifier given to each airport to avoid confusion and enable smooth running of operations.
- **Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Aerospace Force** successfully launched the **homegrown imaging satellite Noor 3 into orbit**. The satellite was launched by the satellite carrier **Qased** and was **placed into a low Earth orbit (LEO) 450 kilometers above the Earth's surface**.

- The **Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir** has indeed declared all its 6650 villages across 285 blocks in 20 Districts as ODF Plus Model. This is a significant achievement under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) phase-II.

BANKING

NATIONAL PENSION SYSTEM ASSETS UNDER MANAGEMENT CROSSED 10 LAKH CRORE

- The **AUM of NPS and APY** doubled in **less than three years**, as it was around **5 lakh crore rupees** in November 2020.
- The **AUM of NPS and APY** is distributed across different segments, such as central government, state government, corporate, all citizen model, NPS Lite and APY.

PNB LAUNCHES PNB GST SAHAY APP

- The **PNB GST Sahay App** is a mobile application launched by Punjab National Bank (PNB), a state-owned bank in India, to provide instant digital loans to small and medium-sized businesses (MSMEs) based on their GST invoices.
- The app also offers features such as loan eligibility calculator, loan application tracker, loan repayment schedule, and loan statement.
- PNB has become the first public sector bank to extend loans to MSME sector entrepreneurs using their GST invoices. The app aims to simplify loan procurement for businesses operating within the MSME sector and support their growth and development.

WORLD'S FIRST FULLY AUTOMATED INVESTMENT FUND – 'THE AD ASTRA FUND'

- The fund aims to achieve an **AUM of INR 350 crores by FY24's end** and is designed to keep the portfolio churn as low as possible.
- It covers thorough fundamental and qualitative analysis of securities, as well as quantitative and mathematical analysis, at a scale and speed that are beyond the scope of a human research team.

PHONEPE ENTER ONLINE STOCK BROKING WITH SHARE.MARKET APP

- The app allows users to open trading and demat accounts, and invest in stocks, mutual funds, exchange-traded funds (ETFs), and curated WealthBaskets.
- The app is available both as a mobile app and a dedicated web portal. Users can sign in with their PhonePe-linked mobile numbers and complete the KYC process to activate their accounts.
- The app also has a dedicated markets section to track the share market.

MASTERCARD LAUNCHES ALT ID FOR ENHANCED ONLINE PAYMENT SECURITY

- According to Mastercard, the **ALT ID solution** is meant for cardholders who carry out transactions without saving their cards, also referred to as guest checkout.
- It is a **custom-made capability developed by Mastercard** to create an alternate identifier for the real card numbers provided by cardholders during guest checkout transactions on e-commerce platforms.

INDIAN BANK LAUNCHED VISA CO-BRANDED METAL CREDIT CARD

- The card is designed to provide a seamless and transparent credit consumption experience to the digitally savvy consumers in India. The card has no joining or annual fees, and offers 5X rewards on the top two spend categories.
- The card is expected to revolutionize the credit card landscape in India by introducing state-of-the-art technology and user autonomy.

BAJAJ AUTO CONSUMER FINANCE GETS CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION FROM RBI

- **Bajaj Auto Consumer Finance** is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bajaj Auto, which was set up in 2021 to offer financing solutions for vehicles manufactured or endorsed by Bajaj Auto and associate entities.
- It covers aspects such as customer KYC policy, anti-money laundering policy, customer acceptance policy, customer identification procedure, risk management policy, pre-settlement policy, asset classification policy, loan write-off policy, loan restructuring policy, etc.

PAYTM UNVEILED A SOUNDBOX DEVICE

- Paytm has launched a **new version of the Soundbox, called the Paytm Card Soundbox**. This device allows merchants **to accept both mobile and card payments, including Visa, Mastercard, American Express, and RuPay**, through its Soundbox.
- The device uses **NFC technology to accept contactless card payments and also shows visual payment confirmations** through an LCD display.
- The Paytm Card Soundbox is a Made in India device that **allows merchants to accept card payments of up to Rs 5,000**. It is also equipped with a **4W speaker and an extended battery life of five days**.

HITACHI PAYMENT SERVICES LAUNCHED WHITE LABEL UPI-ATM WITH NPCI

- **Hitachi Payment Services** is a subsidiary of Japan-based Hitachi Ltd and a **leading payments and commerce solutions** provider in India.
- The Hitachi Money Spot UPI-ATM is built on Android OS and offers **secure card-less cash withdrawals, cash deposit facility, and seamless digital experience** for customers.
- The UPI-ATM is expected **to enhance customer security, drive financial inclusion, and facilitate easy access to banking services** in areas where traditional banking infrastructure and card penetration is limited.

THE RBI HAS INSTRUCTED BANKS TO RELEASE PROPERTY DOCUMENTS WITHIN 30 DAYS

- **In case of delay, the banks and NBFCs have to compensate the borrower at the rate of 5,000/- for each day of delay.**
- These **directions will be applicable to all cases where release of original movable or immovable property documents** falls due on or after December 1, 2023.

SBI CARD LAUNCHES 'SIMPLYSAVE MERCHANT SBI CARD'

- **Interest-free short-term credit up to 50 days ,10X reward points on utility, insurance, and telecom payments.**
- The card is **aimed at empowering MSMEs by ensuring easier and timely access to formal credit.**

- Abhijit Chakravorty, MD and CEO of SBI Card, said that the company was committed to crafting **specialised payment solutions based on cardholders' lifestyle and spending patterns.**

KREDX & MASTERCARD PARTNERS TO MAKE B2B PAYMENT REWARDING

- KredX and Mastercard have partnered to **make B2B payments rewarding for enterprises and vendors**, this partnership will **integrate Mastercard's commercial card service with KredX's supply chain finance platform**, which **offers features like dynamic discounting, early payment and price discovery.**
- The platform will also **eliminate the complexities associated with B2B payments**, such as **diverse invoicing, payment terms, currency variations, and reconciliation procedures.**
- This collaboration is expected to create a pioneering B2B payments solution **accessible to all businesses, supporting them with better cash flows and access to working capital.**

UNION BANK OF INDIA, 1ST PSB TO LAUNCH RUPAY DEBIT CARDS

- Union Bank of India has launched **two new variants of RuPay Debit Cards for women and high net worth individuals (HNIs)**. These are the **RuPay Select Debit Card and the RuPay qSPARC Debit Card.**
- The RuPay qSPARC Debit Card is a **smart card that can be used for small payments such as transit, toll, parking, etc.** The card is in line with the government's initiative of National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) and can be used across various modes of transport such as metro, bus, etc.
- **The card has a per transaction limit of Rs. 2,000 and a per day limit of Rs. 10,000.** The card is issued to **customers who opt for it at the time of account opening or later.**

AU SMALL FINANCE BANK LAUNCHES ZENITH+ METAL CREDIT CARD

- It is **crafted in metal, which gives it a distinctive and elegant look.** It offers reward points worth **Rs. 5,000 as a welcome benefit, which can be redeemed on luxury brands.**

- It provides **16 domestic and international airport lounge access per year**, along with VIP check-ins and complimentary meet & greet service.
- It has an **annual membership fee of Rs. 4,999**, which can be **waived off on spending Rs. 8 lakhs in the previous card anniversary year**.

STATE BANK OF INDIA (SBI) INTRODUCED 'NATION FIRST TRANSIT CARD'

- The Nation First Transit Card is a **new initiative by SBI to enable digital fare payment through a single card across various modes of transportation in India**.
- It is **based on the RuPay NCMC Prepaid Card and the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) technology**, which are designed to simplify payment processes for commuters.
- The card can also be **used for making retail and e-commerce payments, adding versatility to its use**.

CASHFREE PAYMENTS PARTNERS WITH NPCI

- **Cashfree Payments** has partnered with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to launch a new feature called 'AutoPay on QR'**. This feature is designed to **enhance customer acquisition for subscription-based businesses, support retention, and facilitate rapid growth**.
- **Customers just need to scan the QR code and approve an e-mandate via UPI apps within 30 seconds**.
- The **'AutoPay on QR'** feature **simplifies the customer onboarding process into a two-step workflow**.

MAX LIFE LAUNCHED LIFE INSURANCE & HEALTH COMBINED INSURANCE POLICY NAMED 'SEWA'

- It also **rewards you for living a healthy lifestyle by offering a wellness program and a 5% discount on the first-year premium if you enroll for it**.
- **SEWA** is available in **two variants: Elite and Lite**, which differ in terms of **premium payment term, sum assured on maturity, and fixed daily hospitalization cash benefit**. You can **choose the variant that suits your needs and goals best**.
- You can also **avail tax benefits as per prevailing tax laws on your premiums and policy benefits**. SEWA is a smart way to secure your earnings and wellness with a single policy.

Odisha Govt Signed MoU with 6 Public Sector Banks to Provide Banking Services

- These **banks were State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Union Bank of India, UCO Bank, Bank of India and Bank of Baroda**.
- The **state government will provide rent free banking space for five years and bear one-time expenses for fixed cost and recurring expenses** for a period of three years³⁴. A **provision of Rs 500 crore** has been made for the scheme.
- People staying in **unbanked GPs will have easy access to all kinds of banking services free of cost**. Senior citizens, **differently abled people and pregnant women will get doorstep banking services** and avail **the direct benefit transfer (DBT) of the government in a timely manner**.

SIDBI PARTNERS WITH TATA POWER TO FINANCE SOLAR ROOFTOP INITIATIVES

- **Tata Power is India's largest integrated power company**, which has a **presence across the entire power value chain**, including **renewable energy**.
- This **scheme will enable MSMEs to access solar energy from Tata Power or its subsidiaries without any collateral at an interest rate less than 10%**. The **scheme will also have a quick sanction and disbursement process** (within 7 days with disbursement in 4 days).
- According to the **MoU signed by SIDBI and Tata Power, MSMEs who install rooftop Solar PV plants from Tata Power will also get financial assistance and easy financing options from SIDBI**.

YES BANK PARTNERS WITH JUSPAY TO LAUNCH HYPERUPI

- With **HyperUPI**, merchants can now offer customers a hassle-free **one-click UPI experience** without having to **depend on another app to make UPI transactions**.
- HyperUPI aims to **simplify and speed up the payment experience** and leads to a **remarkable four-fold improvement in transaction speed and a success rate of over 90%**.

'IB SAATHI' LAUNCHED BY INDIAN BANK

- Indian Bank's initiative 'IB SAATHI' stands for **IB Sustainable Access and Aligning Technology for Holistic Inclusion**. It is an initiative launched by the public sector Indian Bank on **September 16, 2023** to provide an integrated ecosystem for all stakeholders in the financial sector through the business correspondent route.
- The initiative aims to offer an enhanced user experience through the **simplified delivery of services, encompassing both basic and value-added offerings to customers.**
- **Indian Bank plans to deploy around 5,000 banking correspondents** by March 2024 to enhance its reach and accessibility.
- The bank also plans to add over **60 more services** through the **Banking Correspondent channel** in the financial year **2024-25**.

UJJIVAN SMALL FINANCE BANK INTRODUCES MAXIMA SAVINGS ACCOUNT

- The **Maxima Savings Account** offers an annual interest rate of up to **7.5%**, one of the highest in the industry, and customers can open the account with **Rs. 1 lakh**.
- The **Maxima Savings Account** also provides various benefits such as **higher transaction limits, free cheque and DD issuances, free transactions across all channels, unlimited cash deposits and withdrawals at any branch, and a complimentary health prime benefit for applicable customers.**

BHARTI AXA LIFE INSURANCE LAUNCHES NEW MID-CAP SCHEME

- The fund aims to provide **long-term capital appreciation** by investing in a portfolio of **mid-cap companies**, which are **expected to be the future's blue chips**. The fund will be managed by a team of **seasoned professionals** at **Bharti AXA Life Insurance**.
- The fund will follow a **bottom-up approach to stock selection, focusing on quality companies with strong growth potential and reasonable valuations.**

TCS PARTNERS WITH BANKID BANKAXEPT AS

- **New regulations around digital identity authentication** require **BankID** to offer users a

compliant, reliable and secure electronic identity solution and 'round the clock' support.

- **TCS will build and manage a 24x7 operations command center** at **Oslo, Norway**, for all **BankID BankAxept AS** users and clients.

HDFC AMC GETS RBI APPROVAL TO ACQUIRE UPTO 9.5% STAKE IN KVB, DCB BANK

- **HDFC AMC** is a **subsidiary of HDFC Bank**, which is one of the **largest private sector banks in India**. **HDFC AMC** is also one of the **leading asset management companies** in the country, with a **market share of over 13% as of June 2023**.
- They offer a range of products and services such as **savings accounts, loans, deposits, insurance, mutual funds, etc.** **KVB** has a **network of over 800 branches across 22 states and union territories**, while **DCB Bank** has over **350 branches across 19 states and union territories**.

PHONEPE ANNOUNCED THE LAUNCH OF INDUS APPSTORE DEVELOPER PLATFORM

- The platform aims to provide a **localized and user-friendly experience in 12 languages**, as well as a **zero-fee and zero-commission model for app developers**.
- **PhonePe** hopes to challenge **Google and Apple's dominance in the app store market** by offering **more choice and flexibility to both developers and consumers**.

KOTAK MAHINDRA AMC PARTNERS WITH CBSE

- **Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company**, also known as **Kotak Mutual Fund**, has introduced an **Investor Education and Awareness Initiative** called "**Seekho Paiso ki Bhasha**" in collaboration with the **Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)**.
- The **primary goal of this initiative is to educate and raise awareness among approximately 75,000 educators**, with the intention of **empowering them and enhancing their financial acumen**.

ONDC HAS LAUNCHED GIFT CARD FOR CONSUMERS

- This **network-level gift card is designed to empower companies for corporate gifting and employee engagement**, as well as for **consumers to be able to**

shop across thousands of sellers on the network, using any ONDC-enabled buyer applications.

- The ONDC Network Gift Card can be loaded with a maximum amount of 10,000 and is powered by the RuPay network, the ONDC Network Gift Card gives consumers the freedom to choose from a vast array of products and brands, spanning categories such as food, fashion, electronics, home and kitchen essentials.

BANKING- ONE LINER

- Investments made by Mutual Funds in commercial papers (CPs) issued by non-bank financial companies (NBFCs) reached beyond 1 lakh crore. This has happened for the first time in July 2023, since August 2019.
- The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) network crossed the milestone of 1,000 crore transactions per month in August 2023, processed a record 1,058 crore transactions.
- ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has launched a new income plan called ICICI Pru GIFT Pro. It is an innovative income plan with flexible options. Along with assured long-term income, ICICI Pru GIFT Pro offers customers the option to receive a lump sum benefit.
- Kotak Mahindra Bank has introduced a UPI interoperability feature on its Digital Rupee (e) application as part of the RBI's CBDC pilot project. With this feature, e app users can now scan any QR code at merchants to make payments for groceries, daily expenses, and more.
- DGFT has clarified e-commerce exports also qualify for packing credit loan in foreign currency (PCFC) as per RBI guidelines. Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) said banking and financial institutions are encouraged to provide pre-shipment and post-shipment export credit and PCFC to e-commerce exports.
- AU Small Finance Bank and Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance has entered into strategic partnership. With this partnership, AU SFB customers can select from Bajaj Allianz Life's products including term, savings, retirement and investment products.
- Bank of Baroda has enabled QR-based cash withdrawal in its UPI ATMs. The UPI ATM facility is available for Bank of Baroda customers as well as

those of all participating issuer banks that use any UPI-enabled Mobile app.

- RBI has given ICICI Bank approval for making i-Process its subsidiary, subject to certain conditions. i-Process is a company
- that provides staffing solutions services for some of India's top financial institutions.
- YES Bank has announced that it has launched Unified Payments Interface (UPI) Interoperability on the Reserve Bank of India's Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) app. This will allow users to scan any UPI QR code through the YES Bank Digital Rupee app and make transactions seamlessly.
- Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance has launched a new savings plan called Bajaj Allianz Life ACE. It is a non-linked, participating, early-income life insurance plan that offers flexibility to customers to tailor-make the cash flows as per their financial requirements.
- State Bank of India (SBI) has announced the introduction of UPI interoperability on CBDC. This feature, accessible through the 'eRupee by SBI' application, will empower SBI CBDC users to scan any merchant UPI QR code for transactions.
- Punjab National Bank (PNB) has announced the launch of India's Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) with Unified Payments Interface (UPI) Interoperability feature in its Digital Rupee mobile application.
- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has recently launched a slew of new payment options on the popular payments platform Unified Payment Interface (UPI), including conversational transactions.
- The Ministry of Finance has approved a series of welfare measures for the benefit of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) agents and employees.
- Axis Bank has launched a new platform called 'NEO for Business' specifically designed for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).
- Utkarsh Small Finance Bank has indeed launched an innovative service called Interoperable Cardless Cash Withdrawal (ICCW) that uses UPI on its ATM networks.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued new prudential regulations for All India Financial Institutions (AIFIs). These newly issued directions will come into effect on April 1, 2024. The RBI has

introduced norms on the Basel III capital framework, fund raising, exposure guidelines, and norms on classification and valuation of investment portfolios for AIFs

- JPMorgan Chase & Company (JPM) announced on September 24, 2023 that it will include Indian government bonds in its Government Bond Index-Emerging Markets (GBI-EM) from June 28, 2024.
- The Indian government has indeed extended the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme until June 30, 2024.
- Karnataka Bank has launched a “Door-Step Gold Loan” facility named “KBL-Swarna Bandhu” in collaboration with SahiBandhu. This is a unique product for gold loans with end-to-end digitization. Through this product, the Bank will be able to provide Gold Loan Services at the customer’s doorstep.

APPOINTMENTS

Name of the Person	Designation
Jaya Verma Sinha	Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Railway Board
Gokul Subramaniam	Intel India President
Tharman Shanmugaratnam	Ninth president of Singapore’s
Dipak Gupta	Managing director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Kotak Mahindra Bank
N.V. Ramana	Member of the International Mediator Panel of (SIMC).
Mahendra Singh Dhoni	Brand ambassador for Swaraj Tractors
Rajesh Nambiar	New Chairperson of NASSCOM
A. Ravi Shankar	New Commissioner of Police for Visakhapatnam city
Rajnish Kumar	Chairman of Mastercard India
Banmali Agrawala	New Chairman of Tata Advanced Systems
Rahul Navin	In-charge director of the Enforcement Directorate (ED)
PeterBains	Group CEO of Bioco
Srinivasan K. Swamy	Chairman of the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC)
Shri Vivek Bhasin	Director of the Nuclear Fuels Group (NFG)
Nihar Malaviya	CEO of Penguin Random House
Bhargav Dasgupta	Vice-President for Market Solutions of ADB
Sanjeev Mantri	New managing director and CEO of ICICI Lombard General Insurance
Katrina Kaif	Uniqlo India’s brand ambassador
KN Madhusoodanan	Part-time chairman of Dhanlaxmi Bank
K.N. Shanth Kumar	Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Press Trust of India (PTI)
Lokesh Suji	IESF membership committee for three-year term
Sindhu Gangadharan	Vice-Chairperson of Nasscom
Joshit Ranjan Sikidar	Director Finance of SECI

INDEX AND RANKING

INDIA IS RANKED 52ND IN DIGITAL QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX 2023

- Digital Quality of Life Index 2023, India is ranked 52nd out of 121 countries in terms of digital quality of life, which is a measure of how well a country provides its citizens with secure, affordable, and reliable access to the online world.
- The index is based on five pillars: internet affordability, internet quality, electronic

infrastructure, electronic security, and electronic government.

- The 1st rank in the Digital Quality of Life Index 2023 is secured by France (FR) , 2nd and 3rd ranks are secured by Finland (FI) and Denmark (DK) respectively.

TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2024

- The ranking is based on 18 carefully calibrated performance indicators that measure an institution’s performance across five areas:

teaching, research environment, research quality, industry, and international outlook.

- The **University of Oxford** tops the ranking for the **eighth year** in a row, followed by **Stanford University and MIT**.
- It is **followed by the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay**, which is **ranked** in the **251-300 bracket**.

- **Switzerland** is the most **innovative economy** in the world for the **13th year** in a row, followed by **Sweden, the United States, the United Kingdom and Singapore**.

FINANCIAL INCLUSION INDEX 2023

- The **FI-Index** is a **composite measure** of the extent of **financial inclusion in the country**, based on **three sub-indices: Access, Usage and Quality**.
- The **Usage sub-index** captures the extent and frequency of use of **financial services and products**, such as **deposits, credits, payments, insurance, pension, etc.**

GLOBAL INNOVATION INDEX 2023

- The **GII 2023** edition was **launched on September 27, 2023**, and it **reveals the ranking** of the most **innovative economies in the world among 132 economies**.
- **India has retained its 40th spot**, which is a **remarkable improvement from its 81st position in 2015**.

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Awardee	Awards
Dr. Ravi Kannan	Ramon Magsaysay Award
Dr. Shanta Thoutam	World Innovation Award
Satyajit Majumdar	Dr V G Patel Memorial Award
Brig Sanjay Kumar Mishra	Dr AM Gokhale award
Najma Akhtar	Lifetime Achievement Award-Academia
84 Artistes	Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Awards
33rd First Annual Ig Nobel Prize	Team with an Indian researcher
Dr. Swati Nayak	Norman Borlaug Field Award

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme
September 1st-7th, 2023	National Nutrition Week	Theme: Healthy Diet Gaining Affordable for All
September 2nd, 2023	World Coconut Day	Theme: Sustaining Coconut Sector for the Present and Future Generation
September 5th, 2023	International Day of Charity	Theme: "Global Solidarity to End Poverty".
September 7th, 2023	International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies	Theme: "Together for Clean Air".
September 7th, 2023	World Duchenne Awareness Day	Theme: 'Breaking Barriers'.
September 8th, 2023	World Physical Therapy Day	Theme: "Prevention and Management of Osteoarthritis".
September 9th, 2023	Himalaya Diwas	Theme: "Preserving the Himalayan Ecosystem"
September 9th, 2023	World First Aid Day	Theme: "First Aid in the Digital World"
September 9th, 2023	International Day to Protect Education from Attack	Theme: "Justice for Victims".
September 11th, 2023	National Forest Martyrs Day	Theme: -
September 12th, 2023	United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation	Theme: -

September 14th, 2023	Hindi Diwas	Theme: Traditional Knowledge to Artificial Intelligence"
September 15th, 2023	International Day of Democracy	Theme: "Empowering the next generation"
September 16th, 2023	International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer	Theme: "Montreal Protocol: fixing the ozone layer and reducing climate change".
September 17th, 2023	World Patient Safety Day	Theme: "Engaging patients for patient safety"
September 18th, 2023	International Equal Pay Day	Theme: -
September 18th, 2023	World Water Monitoring Day	Theme: "Accelerating the change to solve the water and sanitation crisis"
September 18th-24th, 2023	International Week of Deaf People	Theme: "A World Where Deaf People Everywhere Can Sign Anywhere!"
September 21st, 2023	International Day of Peace	Theme: "Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for the #GlobalGoals"
September 21st, 2023	World Alzheimer's Day	Theme: "Never too early, never too late".
September 22nd, 2023	World Rose Day	Theme: "Nurturing Hope and Happiness"
September 22nd, 2023	World Car-Free Day	Theme: -
September 23rd, 2023	International Day of Sign Languages	Theme: "A World Where Deaf People Can Sign Anywhere".
September 24th, 2023	World Rivers Day	Theme: "Rights to Rivers".
September 25th, 2023	Antyodaya Diwas	Theme: -
September 25th, 2023	World Lung Day	Theme: "Access to prevention and treatment for all. Leave no one behind."
September 26th, 2023	International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons	Theme: -
September 26th, 2023	World Contraception Day	Theme: "The Power of Options"
September 27th, 2023	World Tourism Day	Theme: "Tourism and Green Investments".
September 28th, 2023	World Rabies Day 2023	Theme: "All for 1, One Health for all"
September 28th, 2023	World Maritime Day	Theme: "MARPOL at 50 – Our commitment goes on".
September 29th, 2023	International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste	Theme: "Reducing food loss and waste: Taking Action to Transform Food Systems".

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Signed Between	Date Signed	Purpose
BEL and IAI	2nd September 2023	To collaborate in meeting India's needs in the Short-Range Air Defence Systems sector.
IREDA with IIFCL	4th September 2023	To co-finance renewable energy projects, including small hydro projects.
DBS Bank and Keppel	4th September 2023	To jointly scale up sustainable urbanisation and digitalisation solutions in Asia, with a focus on India
India enters with 8 countries	5th September 2023	Offering them the India Stack and DPI at no cost and with open-source access.
APFPS with SBI	5th September 2023	Aims to boost the development of the food processing by supporting the upgradation and establishment of at least 7,500 micro food processing units.

Indian Railways' GSV Vadodara and Airbus	7th September 2023	Aims to develop a strong pipeline of skilled workforce for the Indian aviation sector and create 15,000 job opportunities for students.
NJA with the Singapore Judicial College	8th September 2023	To advance cooperation in judicial education and research between these two prestigious institutions.
ATIS' Next G Alliance & Bharat 6G Alliance	8th September 2023	To explore collaboration opportunities on 6G wireless technologies.
Telangana & Tabreed	8th September 2023	Aims to provide sustainable and cost-efficient cooling services for industrial and commercial units in the region.
India and Bangladesh	9th September 2023	To strengthen their bilateral cooperation in various fields, such as digital payment, culture, and agriculture.
India and Saudi Arabia	10th September 2023	To promote digital transformation, innovation in cybersecurity, and artificial intelligence in the energy sector.
Indian Navy and Uber	11th September 2023	To provide reliable, convenient, safe and economical mobility solutions
ONDC with Transport Department of Kerala	11th September 2023	To expand the scope of the open mobility network in the state.
NGEL & Nayara Energy	11th September 2023	To explore opportunities in the green hydrogen and green energy space.
UNDP and NABARD	12th September 2023	To co-create data-driven innovations in agriculture and food systems.
IIT and ICICI Bank	12th September 2023	To fuel startup innovation in India.
UN WFP and IITB	12th September 2023	Taken a significant step towards addressing some of the world's most pressing challenges
MoLE with Private Job Portals/Employers	12th September 2023	To enhance employment opportunities and services for job seekers on the NCS portal.
AWS with ISRO & IN-SPACE	15th September 2023	To support space-tech innovations through cloud computing in India
IREDA and BoM	18th September 2023	Aims to provide a robust financial ecosystem for green energy projects
Khadi and Village Industries Commission	18th September 2023	To promote Khadi products, modernize the KVIC infrastructure, and enhance the digital capabilities of the commission
GRSE with Lloyd's Register & Caterpillar Inc	20th September 2023	For Hydrogen Fuel Cell Ferry & Medium-Speed Engines
SJVN & PFC	20th September 2023	For providing financial support to Renewable Energy and thermal generation project.
Department of Social Justice & Empowerment and All World Gayatri Pariwar	22nd September 2023	Aim of NMBA is to combat substance abuse and create awareness about its ill effects, with a particular focus on youth, students, and communities
Iran-India Joint Chamber of Commerce & FIEO	22nd September 2023	Aims to strengthen trade, investment, quality standards and technology transfer between the two countries.
Indian Navy & IISc Bengaluru	22nd September 2023	For technical collaboration and joint research and development in the field of engineering related to defence technologies.
REC & PNB	26th September 2023	To explore the possibility of funding projects in the Power Sector and Infrastructure & Logistics Sector

Ministry of Education, AICTE & Microsoft	25th September 2023	Aims to equip students and educators associated with AICTE and its partner institutions with skills and exposure to new technologies.
ECI & Electoral Commission of Seychelles	26th September 2023	Aims to enhance the exchange of best practices in election management and the training of officials, including the digitalization of electoral process and its potential benefits.
Arunachal with NGI	27th September 2023	To explore the feasibility of harnessing the geothermal potential that the state's numerous hot springs offer.
IBM with MOE	27th September 2023	To provide tailored courses to empower Indian youths with future-ready digital skills.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

HIMACHAL CM SUKHU LAUNCHES SABAL YOJNA

- **SABAL stands for Sporting Abilities, Rebuilding Aspirations and Livelihood Scheme** launched by the Himachal Pradesh **Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu** on September 4, 2023.
- The scheme **aims to provide essential facilities and opportunities for specially-abled children in the state.** It covers around **400 schools** across Hamirpur, Solan and Shimla districts.
- It **provides a provision of two per cent reservation in government jobs for specially-abled individuals.** It enhances the **education stipend provided to specially-abled children to Rs. 1000.**

TAMIL NADU GOVT TO LAUNCH SCHEME GRANTING MONTHLY AID

- The **Tamil Nadu government** is launching a new scheme called the **Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thogai Thittam or Kalaingar Women Entitlement Scheme** on September 15, 2023, which is the birth anniversary of DMK founder C N Annadurai.
- The scheme **aims to provide monthly financial assistance of Rs 1,000 to over 1.06 crore eligible women heads of family.**
- The scheme is **based on the eligibility criteria such as age, income, land ownership and electricity consumption.**

UNION MINISTER PARSHOTTAM RUPALA LAUNCHES SHRIMP CROP INSURANCE SCHEME

- The **shrimp crop insurance scheme** is a new initiative by the **Agricultural Insurance Company of India (AIC)** in collaboration with the **ICAR-Central**

Institute of Brackishwater Aquaculture (ICAR-CIBA) to provide insurance coverage for shrimp farming.

- The scheme covers **various species of shrimps such as black tiger prawn, white leg shrimp, scampi and others.**
- The scheme is also **aligned with the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampadan Yojana**, which is a **flagship programme** of the government for the sustainable development of the fisheries and aquaculture sector.

GOA CM PRAMOD SAWANT LAUNCHED GRIHA ADHAR SCHEME

- The **Griha Adhar Scheme** is a scheme started by the government of Goa to provide **financial assistance and support to housewives/homemakers from the middle, lower middle, and poor sections of society.**
- The **objective of the scheme** is to address the **problem of spiralling prices and to help the housewives/homemakers maintain a reasonable standard of living for their families.**

TN CM LAUNCHES WOMEN'S RIGHTS GRANT SCHEME

- The **funds will be directly deposited into their scheme-linked bank accounts** and they can **withdraw the cash with ATM cards issued to them.**
- The **state government allocated Rs 7,000 crore in the budget 2023-24** for the implementation of the scheme.
- The scheme **excludes women who work for banks, income taxpayers, professional taxpayers, pensioners, elected members of municipal authorities, and public sector undertakings (PSUs), as well as workers of state and federal governments and PSUs.**

AR CM PEMA KHANDU LAUNCHES SCHEME FOR WELFARE OF LABOUR FORCE

- **Under the scheme**, benefits such as **maternity benefits, natural death compensation, accidental death compensation, funeral assistance, medical assistance, and more** have been significantly increased.
- The **scheme is applicable for workers who are enrolled with the Arunachal Pradesh Building and other Construction Workers Welfare Board.**

CHHATTISGARH GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES MUKHYAMANTRI GRAMIN AWAS NYAY YOJANA

- The **Chhattisgarh government has launched the Mukhyamantri Gramin Awasiya Yojana**. This initiative aims to provide homes for over **47,000 impoverished residents in the state's rural areas.**
- It aims to benefit homeless families from **Socio-Economic survey 2023** and those families who are on a **permanent waiting list of central govt's PMAY scheme**. A total of **10,76,000 beneficiaries** are expected to benefit in the next phases.

MOCF MINISTER MANSUKH MANDAVIYA LAUNCHES NATIONAL POLICY AND PRIP SCHEME

- The **policy aims to promote research and innovation in the pharmaceutical and medical technology sector in India**, and to make India a global leader in this field.
- The **policy and scheme are expected to create a world-class research environment, foster industry-academia collaboration, focus on priority areas, accelerate the growth of the pharmaceutical sector, enhance.**

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

INDIA UNVEILS 'G20 INDIA' MOBILE APP

- It includes details about the **summit's logo, theme, and host cities**. It has **dedicated pages for each G20 leader, with links to their official websites.**
- It enables users to perform **login, registration, and accreditation**. It helps the delegates to interact with **foreign delegates** in all G20 countries languages.
- The **app is a one-stop information hub for the G20 Summit and India's leadership**. Users can **download**

the app now to enjoy up to the minute information about G20 India throughout the year.

GOOGLE CLOUD & CERT-IN UNDER MEITY PARTNERS

- They aim to create a **'cyber force' of 1,000 officials** who will learn how to defend against cyber threats, use **generative AI**, and conduct **cybersecurity AI hackathons.**
- **Google Cloud will also provide 100,000 cybersecurity certificate scholarships to learners who want to pursue a career** in this field.
- This **partnership is expected to enhance the cybersecurity capabilities of India and foster collaborations to deliver new safe and secure services** for Indians.

META LAUNCHES UPI PAYMENTS FOR WHATSAPP BUSINESS MESSAGING

- This feature is **available for WhatsApp Business messaging**, which is a **platform for small and medium enterprises to connect with their customers and offer various services.**
- The new **feature of payments for WhatsApp Business messaging** is expected to **boost the adoption of digital payments in India and help businesses increase their sales and customer loyalty.**

GOOGLE INTRODUCES ANDROID EARTHQUAKE ALERTS SYSTEM IN INDIA

- This **system** is already **deployed in many countries** around the world and aims to provide people with an **early warning when earthquake shaking begins.**
- The **alerts are classified into two types: 'Be Aware Alert' and 'Take Action Alert'**, depending on the **magnitude and intensity of the earthquake**. The alerts also suggest actions a user can take for their **safety, such as taking cover under a table.**
- To use the system, you need to have an **Android 5 or higher phone with Wi-Fi and/or cellular data connectivity**, and both **Android Earthquake Alerts and location settings enabled.**

SPORTS

GERMANY DEFEAT SERBIA TO WIN FIRST-EVER FIBA BASKETBALL WORLD CUP

- **Serbia**, on the other hand, **suffered another heartbreak after losing the title game for the second time** in the last three tournaments.
- **Germany was led by Dennis Schroder**, who scored **28 points and was named the tournament MVP**. He was **supported by brothers Franz and Moritz Wagner**, who combined for **29 points and 12 rebounds**.
- The **game was close in the first half, with both teams tied at 47 at halftime**. But **Germany pulled away in the third quarter** with a 22-10 run, and never relinquished the lead despite Serbia's late rally.

INDIA'S KIRAN GEORGE WINS MEN'S SINGLES TITLE

- He **defeated Japan's Koo Takahashi in a thrilling final that lasted for 56 minutes**. He **won the first game 21-19 and the second game 22-20**.
- He also **beat former world championship bronze medallist Tommy Sugiarto of Indonesia** in the **semi-final**. He was the **only Indian who reached the final at the Indonesia Masters 2023**.

INDIA BEATS NEPAL AND ENTERS SAFF U-16 FOOTBALL SEMIFINAL

- **India also hit the woodwork four times** and dominated the game against Nepal. **India then faced Maldives** in the semifinal and won by a huge margin of 7-03.
- **India then met Bangladesh in the final and emerged as the SAFF U-16 champions** by beating them 2-0.

SPORTS- ONE LINER

- The **All India Football Federation announced** on Saturday that **Bhubaneswar and Guwahati** will host **India's opening two home matches** in the **FIFA World Cup 2026 and AFC Asian Cup 2027 Preliminary Joint Qualification Round 2**.
- The **India U16 men's team did secure a hard-fought 1-0 win over Bangladesh** to **open its SAFF U16 Championship campaign at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimphu, Bhutan**. The **winning goal** was netted by **Thoungamba Singh Usham in the 74th minute**.
- **India's Rohan Bopanna and his Australian partner Matthew Ebden** advanced to the **men's doubles**

quarterfinals at the **US Open** with a **hard-fought three-set win over Julian Cash and Henry Patten**.

- The **Indian men's hockey team** became the **champions of the inaugural Men's Hockey5s Asia Cup** after defeating Pakistan 4-4 (2-0 SO) in a crucial final on Saturday. The event also served as **Asia's qualifying tournament for the FIH Men's Hockey5s World Cup Oman 2024**.
- **India's steeplechaser Avinash Sable** qualified for the **Diamond League Finals** after finishing 5th in men's 3000m steeplechase in Xiamen on Saturday, September 2.
- **Amul is the official sponsor of the Indian Contingent for the XIX 19th Asian Games 2022 in Hangzhou, China**. **Amul has partnered with Indian sportspersons since the London 2012 Olympics** and will use the **integrated logo** in its communication to **celebrate the efforts of our athletes**.
- **Divya Deshmukh**, a 17-year-old **Chess Woman Grandmaster** from Nagpur, Maharashtra, India, won the women's rapid portion of the **Tata Steel Chess India tournament**. She **finished with 5.5 points**, followed by reigning **world champion Ju Wenjun on 4 points and Polina Shuvalova on 3.5 points**.
- **Indian tennis player Rohan Bopanna and his Australian partner Matthew Ebden** advanced to the **men's doubles semi-finals of the US Open 2023 tennis**. They continued their dream run and entered the **final of the US Open** with a straight-set win over French pair of **Pierre-Hugues Herbert and Nicolas Mahut**.
- **Indian men's team finished with a bronze medal at the Asian Table Tennis Championships 2023** following a semi-final **defeat to Chinese Taipei in Pyeongchang, the Republic of Korea**, on Wednesday.
- **Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden** reaching the **men's doubles final** at the US Open is a significant achievement. They must have displayed exceptional teamwork and skill to get this far in such a prestigious tournament.
- **Mayank Chakraborty from India and Nazerke Nurgali from Kazakhstan** emerged as the winners in the **Tata Steel Asian Junior Rapid Chess 2023**. **Mayank Chakraborty scored 7/9 to clinch Gold**. Despite losing his seventh round game against IM Srihari L R, he immediately bounced back by winning against IM Avinash Ramesh.

- **Alexander Grischuk, the Russian grandmaster** and former World No. 3, won the **Tata Steel Chess India Blitz tournament**. He scored **12 points from 18 games**.
- **U.S. Open semi-final, Daniil Medvedev from Russia defeated Carlos Alcaraz from Spain**. The match took place at Arthur Ashe Stadium in New York, USA. Medvedev **won the match with a score of 7-6 in Set 1, 6-1 in Set 2, 3-6 in Set 3, and 6-3 in Set 4**.
- **Vithya Ramraj from Tamil Nadu** indeed won the **women's 400m race at the Indian Grand Prix-5 athletics in Chandigarh**, clocking her **personal best time of 52.40s**. This **performance** is particularly impressive as she also won the **women's 400m hurdles at the same event, clocking 55.43s**.
- The **Indian U-16 team emerged victorious at the SAFF U-16 Championship 2023**. They secured a comprehensive **victory over Bangladesh with a score of 2-0 at the Changlimithang Stadium in Thimpu**.
- **Novak Djokovic won his 24th Grand Slam singles title at the 2023 US Open**. He **defeated Daniil Medvedev in the men's singles final with a score of 6-3, 7-6 (5), 6-3**.
- The **International Hockey Federation (FIH)** has indeed withdrawn the hosting rights of the upcoming Olympic qualifiers from Pakistan. This **decision** was taken due to the **ongoing tussle between the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) and the state-governed Pakistan Sports Board**.
- Indian **tennis player Sumit Nagal** had a great run at the **NÖ OPEN 2023 ATP Challenger in Tulln, Austria**.
- Indian **archer Prathamesh Jawkar won the silver medal** in the **men's compound event** at the **Archery World Cup Final 2023** in Hermosillo, Mexico.
- In the **Tata Steel Chess Tournament, G. Teswaini** claimed the **championship in the classical event**. Following that, **Bommini Mounika Akshaya won the blitz title**.
- **Riya Sachdeva** indeed won a **double crown** in the **Asian under-16 tennis championship**. She **won both the singles and doubles titles** in the **tournament held at the Singha Sports Academy**.
- **Indian Oil** has indeed become the **title sponsor of the first-ever MotoGP race in India, MotoGP Bharat**. The event took place at the **Buddh International Circuit from September 22 to 24, with 42 teams and 84 riders competing** across multiple categories.
- **Mohammed Siraj** has indeed reclaimed the top spot among **ODI bowlers**. He achieved this feat following his magnificent spell with **figures of 6/21** in the recently played **Asia Cup Final 2023 against Sri Lanka**.
- **Hockey captain Harmanpreet Singh and Olympic medallist boxer Lovlina Borgohain** will be the **flag-bearers** of the Indian contingent during the opening ceremony of the **Asian Games in Hangzhou** on September 23.
- **Indian wrestler Antim Panghal won a bronze medal** in the **women's 53 kg category** at the **World Wrestling Championships 2023** held in Belgrade, Serbia. She defeated **two-time European Champion Emma Jonna Denise Malmgren** in the **bronze medal** bout by a score of 16-6
- **India's Under 19 football team** started the **SAFF Championship with a 3-0 victory over Bangladesh**. The match took place at the Dashrath Stadium in Kathmandu, Nepal on Thursday, September 21, 2023.
- The **Indian men's volleyball team** had an impressive run at the **Asian Games in Hangzhou**. They secured a spot in the **quarter-finals with a 3-0 victory over Chinese Taipei**. However, their **journey ended with a quarterfinal loss to Japan**.
- The **Lightweight Men's Double Sculls team of Arjun Lal Jat and Arvind Singh** won the **silver medal at the Asian Games 2022**. This was India's first medal at the Hangzhou Asian Games.
- The **Indian shooting team of Ramita, Mehuli Ghosh, and Ashi Chouksey** indeed secured a **Silver Medal** in the **10m Air Rifle Women's team event at the Asian Games 2023**.
- The **Indian women's cricket team** clinched a **gold medal at the Asian Games** during their inaugural appearance. They triumphed over Sri Lanka by a margin of 19 runs in a hard-fought, low-scoring final held on a challenging pitch.
- **Marco Bezzecchi of the Mooney VR46 Racing Team** won the **inaugural MotoGP India Grand Prix 2023**. The race took place at the **Buddh International Circuit in Greater Noida**.
- In the 2023 Asian Games, the **Nepal men's cricket team** made history by becoming the **first team to score over 300 runs in a T20 International match**. They posted a **total of 314/3 against Mongolia in their 20 overs**.

- **Indian shooter Sift Kaur Samra won the gold medal in the individual 50m rifle 3-position event at**
- **The Asian Games with a world and Games record score of 469.6. Her compatriot, Ashi Chouksey, won the bronze medal.**
- **India's Naorem Roshibina Devi clinched a silver medal in the women's 60 kg Wushu event at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou, China. In the final, she lost to China's Wu Xiaowei 2-0, settling for the second spot on the podium.**
- **India's Badminton team indeed had an impressive victory over Brazil at the Badminton World Junior Championships in Spokane, United States.**
- **Kiran Baliyan indeed made history at the Asian Games 2023. She won a bronze medal in the women's shot put event, ending India's 72-year-long wait for a medal in this event. The 24-year-old athlete achieved this feat with a best throw of 17.36m.**
- **Indian table tennis star Manika Batra has indeed made history by becoming the first-ever Indian singles player to reach the quarterfinals of the Asian Games in table tennis.**
- **The Indian trio of Joshna Chinappa, Anahat Singh, and Tanvi Khanna have made the nation proud by securing a bronze medal in Squash at the Asian Games.**

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

Name of the Summit	Organized/Led by	VenuE	Aim/Theme
Global IndiaAI 2023	Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology	Hotel Shangri-La in New	Aims to bring together the best and brightest in AI from including leading AI players, researchers, startups, and investors.
Green Hydrogen Pilots in India	NTPC Ltd	New Delhi	Aimed to highlight pioneering innovative pilots and progress in green hydrogen technology.
India G20 Summit	Ministry of External Affairs	Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.	Theme- "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam", or "One Earth · One Family · One Future"
'International Lawyers' Conference	Bar Council of India	Vigyan Bhawan New Delhi	Theme-'Emerging Challenges in Justice Delivery System'.
Second edition of Naval Commanders' Conference	Indian Navy	New Delhi	Interaction between the Naval Commanders for deliberation and formulation of important policy decisions.
43rd ASEAN Summit	Association of Southeast Asian Nations	Jakarta, Indonesia	Theme- "Epicentrum of Growth"
Global Fintech Fest 2023	National Payments Corporation of India	Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai	Theme-Global Collaboration for a Responsible Financial Ecosystem: Inclusive, Resilient, Sustainable'.
UNCITRAL South Asia Conference	Minister of State for External Affairs	New Delhi	Aims to promote awareness and adoption to enhance regional cooperation on harmonization and modernization of international trade law.
14th World Spice Congress	Spices Board India and (AISEF)	CIDCO Exhibition and Convention Centre, Navi Mumbai	Theme- "Celebrating India's Spice Heritage"

ECONOMY- ONE LINER

- **The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) is planning to introduce a plan during the second half of this fiscal, to allow**

the subscribers of the **National Pension Scheme (NPS)** to **withdraw 60%** of the accumulated corpus in a systematic manner instead of the current system of a one-time withdrawal.

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved the proposed merger of **Air India and Vistara** subject to certain conditions. This is a major step forward for the Tata Group in consolidating its aviation business.
- The **State Bank of India (SBI)** has announced the introduction of **UPI interoperability** on its **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)** called the **Digital Rupee (e)**. This feature, accessible through the 'eRupee by SBI' application, will empower SBI CBDC users to scan any merchant UPI QR code for transactions.
- The commerce ministry has recommended an **anti-dumping duty** of up to **\$243 per tonne of import of Chinese glass** used in home appliances with a view to guard domestic players from cheap inbound shipments from China.
- **Federal Bank** has launched a **WhatsApp Lending Platform** to enable its customers to apply for pre-approved personal loans. The platform was inaugurated by Federal Bank's Chairman, AP Hota.
- **Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)** has achieved a remarkable milestone by providing tap water connections to **13 crore rural households**. The mission has increased the rural tap connection coverage from only **3.23 crore households** at the beginning in August 2019 to 13 crore in just four years.
- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has recently come out with guidelines to strengthen the existing cyber **security and cyber resilience framework** for stock exchanges and other market infrastructure institutions (MIIs).
- **Cabinet chaired by Hon'ble PM Shri Narendra Modi** has approved an amount of **Rs. 1164.53 cr** for **Industrial Development Scheme (IDS), 2017** for **Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand**. This is for **additional fund requirement** to meet committed liabilities under the scheme up to 2028-29.
- The **Department of Consumer Affairs, Government of India** has issued an **advisory for mandatory stock disclosure of Masur (lentil) with immediate effect**. All stakeholders should mandatorily disclose their **Masur stock on the stock disclosure portal managed by the department every Friday**.
- The **Finance Ministry** has indeed announced that a **28% Goods and Services Tax (GST)** will be imposed on **casinos and e-games**. This decision was made during the **50th GST Council meeting**.
- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced that it will **discontinue the Incremental Cash Reserve Ratio (I-CRR)** in a phased manner. The **I-CRR was introduced on August 10, 2023**, as a temporary measure to **absorb excess liquidity** from the banking system.
- The **World Bank** has indeed **praised India's financial inclusion via digital public infrastructure** in its G20 document. The document highlights that India has **achieved financial inclusion targets in just 6 years**, a feat that would otherwise have taken at least 47 years.
- **NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL)**, a wholly-owned subsidiary of India's leading integrated power producer **NTPC Limited**, and **Nayara Energy**, a new-age international downstream Energy Company of International scale, have entered into a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** to explore opportunities in the **Green Hydrogen and Green Energy space**.
- The **Poultry Federation of India** has expressed concerns about the recent **India-U.S. deal on poultry**. The deal was signed during the **G-20 meetings** when **U.S. delegations** headed by **President Joe Biden** were in India.
- The **Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)** has indeed introduced an **online allotment of safe deposit locker facility**. This new facility can be accessed by both customers and non-customers just by logging into the bank's portal.
- **India** marked the **one-year anniversary** of the launch of the **National Logistics Policy (NLP)** on 17th September 2023. The **NLP was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on September 17, 2022**.
- The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** has indeed emerged as the leading ministry out of **56 ministries/departments that participate** in the **Government-e-Marketplace (GeM)**, holding the **top position in both order value and order quantity**.
- The **Odisha government** has indeed unveiled a **special subsidy scheme to boost stainless-steel production**. The scheme offers a **20% capital investment subsidy, electricity duty exemption,**

land allocation, and Employee Provident Fund reimbursement.

- **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** indeed paid a dividend of 1,831.09 crore to the Centre for the fiscal year 2022-23.
- The **Finance Ministry** has invited applications for the post of whole-time member (Distribution) at the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI)**. The applicant should preferably have at least 25 years of experience in the relevant area with a minimum of three years experience at a senior level.
- The **Karnataka government** has approved 91 industrial investment projects worth 7,660 crores. The **State Level Single Window Clearance Committee (SLSWCC)** headed by Minister M B Patil approved these projects.
- **Akasa Air**, the Mumbai-based budget airline, has indeed received approval from the government to operate on international routes. This marks a significant milestone in Akasa's growth strategy.
- The **Finance Ministry** has indeed attributed the decline in the savings rate to an increase in borrowings for buying real estate.
- The **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** has initiated a public consultation process for the formulation of the **National Broadcasting Policy (NBP)**. The pre-consultation paper released by TRAI covers various aspects of the broadcasting sector.
- **State Bank of India (SBI)** By raising Rs.10,000 crore through the issue of infrastructure bonds at a coupon rate of 7.49%, SBI is investing in the future development of the country.
- **Micron Technology**, a leading American semiconductor manufacturer, has begun construction of a \$2.75 billion semiconductor testing and assembly plant in Gujarat's Sanand.
- The **Income Tax Department** in India has recently asked taxpayers to respond to its intimation regarding outstanding tax demands from previous years. This is to facilitate faster clearance of refunds for the 2022-23 fiscal year.
- **TATA Projects**, a leading technologically led Indian EPC company, has announced its collaboration with **Micron Technology** to construct an advanced semiconductor assembly and test plant in Sanand, Gujarat.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has indeed asked Regulated Entities (REs), which include commercial banks and Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs), to display information regarding borrowers whose secured assets have been taken into possession by the REs under the **Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act**.
- The **India Smart Cities Conclave 2023** was organized by the **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India**. It took place at the **Brilliant Convention Centre, Indore, Madhya Pradesh** on 26-27th September 2023.
- **Cipla Limited** has indeed announced the launch of drone-powered deliveries for its critical medicines (cardiac, respiratory and other essential chronic therapies) for hospitals and pharmacies in Himachal Pradesh, India. This initiative is in partnership with **Skye Air Mobility**.
- The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** issued India's first 'AAA' rated Indian Rupee denominated Social Bonds, raising 1,040.50 crore. The bonds have a coupon rate of 7.63%.
- The **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI)** has recently released four consultation papers seeking public input on a range of issues, including mobile porting and in-building connectivity.
- The **Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED)** on crude petroleum was indeed increased to Rs 12,100 per tonne. This change was effective from September 30.
- The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** has announced the listing of its 'Social Bonds' on the **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)**. The bank raised 1,040 crore through this offering.

OBITUARY- ONE LINER

- **Heath Streak**, the former Zimbabwe cricket captain, passed away at the age of 49. He had been battling colon and liver cancer for a long time. His wife, Nadine Streak, confirmed his death on social media. **Cricketers, both past and present, paid rich tributes to Heath Streak.**
- **Professor Sir Ian Wilmut**, the British scientist who led the team that created Dolly the sheep, the

world's first cloned mammal from an adult cell, has passed away at the age of 79. His pioneering work at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh laid the foundations for stem cell research and the field of regenerative medicine.

- **Dennis Austin**, the co-creator of PowerPoint, passed away at the age of 76 in his home in Los Altos, California on September 11. Dennis Austin was a visionary behind the creation of PowerPoint. He worked with Robert Gaskins, the Forethought executive who conceived the software.
- **N. S. Srinivasan**, a respected and well-known expert in roads, road research, road transport and road safety circles, passed away at his residence in Chennai. He was the founder director of National Transportation Planning and Research Centre (NATPAC), Thiruvananthapuram.
- **N. Neela**, the younger of the Sikkil Sisters, celebrated and senior flautists in Carnatic music, passed away on September 17. She was 85. Neela was decorated with several awards including Padma Shri, Sangita Kalanidhi given by The Music Academy and Sangeet Natak Akademi award.
- **Gita Mehta**, the renowned author and documentary filmmaker, passed away at the age of 80. She was the elder sister of Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. Alongside her literary endeavors, Gita Mehta also ventured into documentary filmmaking.
- **Hindustani classical vocalist Malini Rajurkar**, who epitomised simplicity and depth, passed away in a Hyderabad hospital on Wednesday. She was 82 and had been suffering from age-related ailments.
- **Bharatanatyam exponent Saroja Vaidyanathan** passed away at the age of 86. She was battling cancer for some time. She passed away at her residence in the early hours of Thursday, just two days after her 86th birthday.
- **Former Italian President Giorgio Napolitano** passed away on September 22, 2023. He was a long-serving Italian president and a pillar of stability in his country's politics. He was the first former Communist to become Italy's president.
- **Renowned Malayalam filmmaker KG George** passed away at the age of 77. He breathed his last in an old age home in Kakkanad, Kochi. He was undergoing treatment for a stroke. The veteran filmmaker was cremated in Kochi's Ravipuram crematorium on September 26.

- **Ashwin Suryakant Dani**, the co-founder and non-executive director of Asian Paints, has passed away at the age of 81. He played a key role in the growth of Asian Paints. He was associated with the company since 1968 and has been a strong force in heralding the company to technological excellence.

BOOKS

- Shri Apurva Chandra, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, unveiled the eBook titled "People's G20" on India's G20 Presidency. The book was released in the presence of Principal Director General, Press Information Bureau Shri Manish Desai and other senior Officers of Ministry of I&B and PIB.
- IAS officer Sonal Goel has recently launched her book "Nation Calling" at the Constitution Club of India in Delhi. The book was unveiled by the Chief Guest Kiren Rijiju, Union Minister of Earth Sciences.
- The University of Wollongong (UOW) Australia, in collaboration with the NSE Academy, has launched a new book titled "Introduction to Corporate Finance (sixth edition)". The book was unveiled at the National Stock Exchange (NSE) in Mumbai.

MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS QUESTION BANK: SEPTEMBER 2023

Q.1 What is the theme of the UN International Decade for People of African Descent?

- Recognition, justice, and development
- Equality, non-discrimination, and collaboration
- Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination, inequality and stratification
- All of the above
- None of these

Answer(a): The theme of the UN International Decade for People of African Descent is recognition, justice, and development.

Q.2 What is the name of the award won by Dr. Ravi Kannan in 2023?

- Nobel Prize
- Padma Shri
- Ramon Magsaysay Award

- d) Bharat Ratna
- e) None of these

Answer(c): Dr. Ravi Kannan, an oncologist based in Assam, has won the prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award for 2023.

Q.3 What is the theme for National Nutrition Week 2023?

- a) Healthy Diet Gawing Affordable for All
- b) Eat Right, Bite by Bite
- c) Go Further with Food
- d) Savor the Flavor of Eating Right
- e) None of these .

Answer(a): The theme for National Nutrition Week 2023 is Healthy Diet Gawing Affordable for All.

Q.4 What is the theme for 2023 World Coconut Day celebrations?

- a) Sustaining Coconut Sector for the Present and Future Generation”
- b) “Promoting the Importance of Coconuts”
- c) Raising Awareness about the Significance of Coconuts”
- d) “Celebrating the Multifaceted Significance of Coconuts”
- e) None of these

Answer(a): The theme for this year’s celebrations is “Sustaining Coconut Sector for the Present and Future Generation”.

Q.5 Who finished second in the women’s rapid portion of the Tata Steel Chess India tournament?

- a) Ju Wenjun
- b) Polina Shuvalova
- c) Koneru Humpy
- d) Divya Deshmukh
- e) None of these

Answer(d): Divya Deshmukh, a 17-year-old Chess Woman Grandmaster from Nagpur, Maharashtra, India, won the women’s rapid portion of the Tata Steel Chess India tournament. She finished with 5.5 points, followed by reigning world champion Ju Wenjun on 4 points and Polina Shuvalova on 3.5 points.

Q.6 Who has been appointed as the new Chairperson of NASSCOM?

- a) Anant Maheshwari
- b) Rajesh Nambiar
- c) Sundar Pichai
- d) Satya Nadella
- e) None of these

Answer(b): Rajesh Nambiar, Chairman and Managing Director of Cognizant India, has been appointed as the new Chairperson of NASSCOM. He is succeeding Anant Maheshwari, the former President of Microsoft India.

Q.7 What medal did the Indian men’s team win at the Asian Table Tennis Championships 2023?

- a) Gold
- b) Silver
- c) Bronze
- d) All of these
- e) None of the above

Answer(c): Indian men’s table tennis team won a bronze medal at the Asian Table Tennis Championships 2023. They lost 0-3 to Chinese Taipei in the semi-finals.

Q.8 What is the name of the bank that launched India’s Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) with Unified Payments Interface (UPI) Interoperability feature in its Digital Rupee mobile application?

- a) State Bank of India
- b) HDFC Bank
- c) Punjab National Bank
- d) ICICI Bank
- e) None of these

Answer(c): Punjab National Bank (PNB) has announced the launch of India’s Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) with Unified Payments Interface (UPI) Interoperability feature in its Digital Rupee mobile application.

Q.9 When is the International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies observed?

- a) September 5
- b) September 11
- c) September 9
- d) September 7
- e) None of these

Answer(c): The International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies is observed annually on September 7th. The theme for the year 2023 is "Together for Clean Air".

Q.10 What is the name of the initiative launched by HSBC India?

- a) ONDC in a Box
- b) Box in a ONDC
- c) ONDC Box
- d) Box ONDC
- e) None of these

Answer(a): HSBC India has indeed launched 'ONDC in a Box', making it the first foreign bank in India to offer an ONDC-enabled proposition. This one-stop-shop proposition is aimed at corporates for seamless enablement on ONDC.

Q.11 When is World Physical Therapy Day celebrated?

- a) September 1
- b) September 8
- c) September 15
- d) September 22
- e) None of these

Answer(b): World Physical Therapy Day is celebrated every year on September 8th. This day is dedicated to recognizing the work that physical therapists do for their patients and community.

Q.12 Who are the parties involved in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Green Hydrogen Production?

- a) NTPC Green Energy Limited and Reliance Industries
- b) NTPC Green Energy Limited and Nayara Energy
- c) Nayara Energy and Adani Group
- d) NTPC Green Energy Limited and Adani Group
- e) None of these

Answer(b): NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL), a wholly-owned subsidiary of India's leading integrated power producer NTPC Limited, and Nayara Energy, a new-age international downstream Energy Company of International scale, have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to explore opportunities in the Green Hydrogen and Green Energy space.

Q.13 When is the International Day to Protect Education from Attack observed?

- a) September 7

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- b) September 11
- c) September 9
- d) September 13
- e) None of these

Answer(c): The International Day to Protect Education from Attack was observed on September 9, 2023. The theme for the International Day to Protect Education from Attack in 2023 was "Justice for Victims".

Q.14 Who has been appointed as the Chairman of the Association of Investment Bankers of India (AIBI)?

- a) Arjun Mehra
- b) Prem D'Cunha
- c) Mahavir Lunawat
- d) None of the above
- e) None of these

Answer(c): The Association of Investment Bankers of India (AIBI) has appointed Mr. Mahavir Lunawat, Managing Director of Pantomath Capital Advisors Pvt Ltd, as its Chairman for two years starting September 2023.

Q.15 Who was the co-creator of PowerPoint who recently passed away?

- a) Robert Gaskins
- b) Dennis Austin
- c) Bill Gates
- d) Steve Jobs
- e) None of these

Answer(b): Dennis Austin, the co-creator of PowerPoint, passed away at the age of 76 in his home in Los Altos, California on September 11.

Q.16 Who withdrew the hosting rights of the upcoming Olympic qualifiers from Pakistan?

- a) International Olympic Committee
- b) Pakistan Hockey Federation
- c) International Hockey Federation
- d) Pakistan Sports Board
- e) None of these

Answer(c): The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has indeed withdrawn the hosting rights of the upcoming Olympic qualifiers from Pakistan. This decision was taken due to the ongoing tussle between the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) and the state-governed Pakistan Sports Board.

Q.17 When is World Duchenne Awareness Day observed?

- a) September 1
- b) September 7
- c) September 10
- d) September 15
- e) None of these

Answer(b): World Duchenne Awareness Day is observed on September 7 each year.

Q.18 When is Hindi Diwas celebrated?

- a) September 15
- b) September 14
- c) September 13
- d) September 12
- e) None of these

Answer(b): Hindi Diwas is celebrated on September 14 every year. This day commemorates the event when Hindi was adopted as one of the official languages of India by the Constituent Assembly of India in 1949.

Q.19 Who has launched the 'Virtual Commercial Credit Card'?

- a) Visa
- b) Juspay
- c) IndusInd Bank
- d) All of the above
- e) None of these

Answer(c): IndusInd Bank has indeed launched a 'Virtual Commercial Credit Card' in collaboration with Visa and Juspay. This credit card is designed to redefine cross-border transactions for corporates and travel agents.

Q.20 Who was appointed as the in-charge director of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on September 15, 2023?

- a) Rahul Navin
- b) Sanjay Kumar Mishra
- c) Rakesh Asthana
- d) Sushil Chandra
- e) None of these

Answer(a): Rahul Navin, a 1993-batch IRS officer, was appointed as the in-charge director of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday, September 15, 2023.

Q.21 What is the name of Amazon's cashier-less shopping technology?

- a) Just Walk In
- b) Just Shop In
- c) Just Shop Out
- d) Just Walk Out
- e) None of these

Answer(d): Amazon has developed a new version of its cashier-less shopping technology specifically for clothing stores. This updated system, known as the Just Walk Out technology, uses radio-frequency identification (RFID) tags to track clothing and other items

Q.22 What is the name of Google's AI chatbot that has been integrated into Gmail and YouTube?

- a) Bard
- b) Alexa
- c) Cortana
- d) Siri
- e) None of these

Answer(a): Google has indeed integrated its AI chatbot, Bard, into Gmail and YouTube. This integration is part of Google's effort to deepen Bard's presence across its applications.

Q.23 When is World Patient Safety Day 2023 observed?

- a) September 15
- b) September 19
- c) September 17
- d) September 21
- e) None of these

Answer(c): World Patient Safety Day 2023 will be observed on 17th September with the theme "Engaging patients for patient safety".

Q.24 Who presented the Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Awards 2022?

- a) Vice-President of India
- b) Prime Minister of India
- c) President of India
- d) Minister of Culture
- e) None of these

Answer(a): The Vice-President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, presented the one-time Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Awards on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

Q.25 What is the theme for World Water Monitoring Day 2023?

- a) "Accelerating the change to solve the water and sanitation crisis"
- b) "Clean water for all"
- c) "Water is life"
- d) "Preserve water, preserve life"
- e) None of these

Answer(a): The theme for World Water Monitoring Day 2023 is "Accelerating the change to solve the water and sanitation crisis".

Q.26 Who has been elected as the Chairman of the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) for the term 2023-2024?

- a) Mohit Jain
- b) Vikram Sakhuja
- c) Riyad Mathew
- d) Srinivasan K. Swamy
- e) None of these

Answer(d): Srinivasan K. Swamy, the Executive Chairman of R.K. Swamy Hansa Group, has been unanimously elected as the Chairman of the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) for the term 2023-2024.

Q.27 What is the theme for the International Day of Peace in 2023?

- a) Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for the #GlobalGoals
- b) Peace and Prosperity for All
- c) Sustainable Development for Peace
- d) Unity in Diversity
- e) None of these

Answer(a): The theme for The International Day of Peace in 2023 is "Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for the #GlobalGoals".

Q.28 What is the purpose of World Rose Day?

- a) To celebrate the beauty of roses
- b) To bring happiness in the lives of people fighting with cancer
- c) To commemorate the invention of the rose flower

- d) To mark the beginning of the rose harvesting season
- e) None of these

Answer(b): World Rose Day is observed every year on September 22 to bring happiness in the lives of people around the world who are fighting with cancer.

Q.29 Who has been named the permanent CEO of Penguin Random House?

- a) Nihar Malaviya
- b) Thomas Rabe
- c) Markus Dohle
- d) Simon Schuster
- e) None of these

Answer(b): Nihar Malaviya, an Indian-origin publishing executive, has been named the permanent CEO of the New York-based international publishing group Penguin Random House.

Q.30 What is the Interoperable Cardless Cash Withdrawal (ICCW) service launched by Utkarsh Small Finance Bank?

- a) service that allows customers to deposit cash without a card
- b) service that allows customers to transfer money without a card
- c) service that allows customers to withdraw cash without a card using UPI on ATMs
- d) service that allows customers to check their balance without a card
- e) None of these

Answer(c): Utkarsh Small Finance Bank has indeed launched an innovative service called Interoperable Cardless Cash Withdrawal (ICCW) that uses UPI on its ATM networks. This service is in line with the Reserve Bank of India's directive in May 2022, urging all banks to provide ICCW options at their ATMs.

Q.31 Who organized the India Smart Cities Conclave 2023?

- a) Ministry of Home Affairs
- b) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- c) Ministry of Urban Development
- d) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- e) None of these

Answer(b): The India Smart Cities Conclave 2023 was organized by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

(MoHUA), Government of India. It took place at the Brilliant Convention Centre, Indore, Madhya Pradesh on 26-27th September 2023.

Q.32 Who has been appointed as the Vice-President for Market Solutions at the Asian Development Bank (ADB)?

- a) Ratan Tata
- b) Anand Mahindra
- c) Mukesh Ambani
- d) Bhargav Dasgupta
- e) None of these

Answer(d): The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has indeed appointed Bhargav Dasgupta as Vice-President for Market Solutions.

Q.33 When is World Contraception Day observed?

- a) September 25
- b) September 26
- c) September 27
- d) September 28
- e) None of these

Answer(b): World Contraception Day in 2023 falls on Tuesday, September 26. This day is a global observance dedicated to promoting awareness, education, and access to contraception to improve reproductive health and empower individuals to make informed decisions about their family planning.

Q.34 Who is the 2023 recipient of the prestigious Norman E Borlaug Award for Field Research and Application?

- a) Dr. Mahalingam Govindaraj
- b) Dr. Aditi Mukherji
- c) Dr. Swati Nayak
- d) Dr. Norman E Borlaug
- e) None of these

Answer(c): Dr. Swati Nayak, an Indian scientist at the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), has indeed been named the 2023 recipient of the prestigious Norman E Borlaug Award for Field Research and Application.

Q.35 When is World Tourism Day celebrated annually?

- a) September 25
- b) September 26
- c) September 27
- d) September 28

- e) None of these

Answer(c): World Tourism Day is celebrated annually on September 27. The theme for World Tourism Day 2023 is "Tourism and Green Investments".

Q.36 Who has been announced as Uniqlo's first Indian brand ambassador?

- a) Katrina Kaif
- b) Deepika Padukone
- c) Priyanka Chopra
- d) Alia Bhatt
- e) None of these

Answer(a): Katrina Kaif has been announced as Uniqlo's first Indian brand ambassador. This is a significant moment in Indian representation on the global stage.

Q.37 When is World Rabies Day observed annually?

- a) September 27
- b) September 28
- c) September 29
- d) September 30
- e) None of these

Answer(b): World Rabies Day 2023 was observed on September 28. The theme for World Rabies Day 2023 was "All for 1, One Health for all". This theme emphasizes that One Health is not for a select few but rather something that should be available to everyone.

Q.38 Which country did India beat to win the gold medal in the men's 50m rifle three-positions team event at the 19th Asian Games?

- a) Iran
- b) South Korea
- c) Japan
- d) China
- e) None of these

Answer(d): The Indian football team was knocked out of the Asian Games after a 0-2 defeat against Saudi Arabia. The match took place at the Huanglong Sports Center Stadium in Hangzhou, China.