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MONTHLY GK DIGEST

OCTOBER 2023

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- The SSA provides detached workers, i.e., employees working in another country on a temporary basis, and their family members with rights to contributory benefits such as cash allowance for retirement or pension, rent, subsidy or lump sum payments as per local legislation without being subject to any reduction, modification, suspension, suppression or retention.
- The SSA establishes the legal framework regulating insurance period i.e., period of services credited with contributions, contributory benefits and export thereof, in respect of detached workers, including crew members of airlines and ships.

MONTHLY GK DIGEST: OCTOBER 2023

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSIOLOGY OR MEDICINE 2023

- Their research, which began in the 1990s, has fundamentally changed our understanding of how mRNA interacts with our immune system and how it can be used to stimulate an immune response against a specific pathogen.
- Their groundbreaking findings paved the way for the rapid development of mRNA vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic, which have proven to be highly effective and safe in preventing severe disease and death.
- The Nobel Prize committee praised their work as “one of the greatest threats to human health in modern times” and “a victory for vaccines and the potential for vaccines to advance health and improve equity”.

INDIA, ARGENTINA SIGN SOCIAL SECURITY AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONALS

Monthly One Liner GK Digest October 2023

WHO AND WADA SIGNS MOU TO COLLABORATE ON CLEAN, DRUG-FREE SPORT

- The MoU, signed in Geneva, Switzerland by WADA President, Witold Bańka, and WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, and which will run until October 1, 2027, aims to bolster efforts towards the prevention of substance abuse and emerging drugs, and the promotion of clean sport.
- The agreement reflects the commitment of both WHO and WADA to work closely with the sport sector to encourage increased physical activity globally in order to promote healthier lives for all.

INDIA AND THE UAE DISCUSSED A BILATERAL INVESTMENT TREATY

- The Indian side shared opportunities for investments in priority sectors such as renewable energy, health, semi-conductors and asset monetisation sectors in the country.
- The bilateral investment treaty is expected to boost trade and investment ties between India and the UAE, which are fast moving towards the target of USD 100 billion non-oil trade by 2030.

THE 10TH ” INDIA-SWEDEN INNOVATION DAY” MEET

- The event was attended by prominent ministers, ambassadors, and business leaders from both countries, who discussed the potential and challenges of the India-Sweden innovation partnership in addressing global issues such as

climate change, sustainable development, and green transition.

- The **event aimed to showcase the best practices and success stories of the collaboration between India and Sweden in innovation and technology, and to explore new opportunities** for co-funding, co-development, and co-creation.

IOC & RELIANCE FOUNDATION SIGNED AGREEMENT FOR OVEP

- The **agreement was signed by IOC President Thomas Bach and Nita Ambani, IOC Member in India and Reliance Foundation Founder Chairperson**, on 9 October 2023 in Mumbai.
- The **agreement also involves the Reliance Foundation Young Champs (RFYC) football academy, which is a residential football school that provides holistic education and training to talented young footballers.**

DUBAI BECOMES THE WORLD'S FASTEST-RECOVERING DESTINATION

- Some of the **key sectors that contributed to Dubai's growth are transportation, wholesale and retail trade, financial and insurance, accommodation and food services, real estate, information and communication, and manufacturing.**
- Dubai's success in the **services sector showcases its resilience and adaptability in a rapidly changing global landscape**, setting an inspiring example for recovery and growth.

CHRISTOPHER LUXON ELECTED AS THE 42ND PM OF NEW ZEALAND

- The **National Party won about 40% of the votes, and with the support of the ACT Party**, they had enough seats to form a government.
- The **incumbent Prime Minister, Chris Hipkins, conceded defeat in the elections. Hipkins had taken over from Jacinda Ardern in January 2023.**

4TH G20 FMCBG MEETING HELD IN MARRAKECH, MOROCCO

- This was the **fourth and final meeting of the G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors** under the Indian **Presidency.**

- **Over 370 delegates, including Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors from G20 member countries, Invitee Countries, and Heads of various International Organisations participated in the meeting.**

ACCORDING TO AN IMF OFFICIAL, INDIA WILL CONTRIBUTE 18% OF GLOBAL GROWTH IN FIVE YEARS

- **India and China will jointly account for half of the world's growth in 2023 and 2024.**
- **India's strong government capital expenditure, continued consumption growth, and moderating inflation.**
- The **IMF has projected India's real GDP growth at 6.3% for FY23/24.**

THE SRI LANKAN CABINET HAS APPROVED FREE TOURIST VISAS TO INDIANS

- **Sri Lanka is a beautiful island nation with rich cultural and natural heritage.**
- **It offers a variety of attractions for tourists, such as beaches, wildlife, temples, tea plantations, and historical sites.**
- Some of the **popular tourist destinations in Sri Lanka are Colombo, Kandy, Galle, Sigiriya, Anuradhapura, and Nuwara Eliya.**

INDIA'S HAL, FRANCE'S SAFRAN INK MOU TO MANUFACTURE COMMERCIAL ENGINE PARTS

- **Ring forging** is a manufacturing process for **shaping metal by hammering, pressing, or rolling, while the metal is in a molten state.**
- **HAL will produce LEAP (Leading Edge Aviation Propulsion) — powering Airbus A320 Neo family and Boeing 737 Max engine — forgings at its facility in Bengaluru.**

INTERNATIONAL NEWS- ONE LINER

- **Mohamed Muizzu**, the opposition candidate, has indeed been **elected as the new President of the Maldives.**
- The World Health Organization (WHO) has **recommended the use of the R21/Matrix-M malaria vaccine, which was developed by the University of**

- Oxford and the Serum Institute of India, leveraging Novavax's adjuvant technology.
- The **foreign ministers of the European Union (EU) member countries** recently met in Kiev, Ukraine, to **pledge their continuing support to Ukraine in its conflict with Russia.**
 - The **Nobel Prize in Physics 2023** was awarded to **Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz, and Anne L'Huillier.** They have been **recognized** for their experiments, which have given **humanity** new tools for **exploring the world of electrons inside atoms and molecules.**
 - The **2023 Nobel Prize in Chemistry** was indeed awarded to **Moungi G. Bawendi, Louis E. Brus, and Alexei I.**
 - The **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIFL) and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)** have indeed entered into a partnership. They have **signed** a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to **promote environmental preservation, low carbon emission strategies, and growth of the Indian economy.**
 - The **Norwegian author Jon Fosse** has been awarded the **2023 Nobel Prize in Literature.**
 - Bangladesh has indeed received **its first uranium consignment for its Russian-built nuclear power plant**
 - **Narges Mohammadi**, the Iranian activist, has **been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize 2023.**
 - **India** has been **re-elected as the President of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD)** for the third successive term.
 - **Sri Lanka** is set to **take over as Chair of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).**
 - The **International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the Reliance Foundation** have indeed **signed an agreement to promote Olympic values through sport among children in India.**
 - **Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina** inaugurated the **82-km Padma Bridge Rail Link**, the country's largest **infrastructure project** built under **China's Belt and Road Initiative.**
 - An **eight-foot-tall statue of Mahatma Gandhi** was recently unveiled at **Tolstoy Farm in South Africa.**
 - The **Passport to Earning (P2E) Initiative** by **UNICEF** has achieved a significant milestone by certifying over one million young people in India in the areas of **financial literacy and digital productivity.**
 - The **passenger ferry service between Nagapattinam, Tamil Nadu, and Kankesanthurai in Sri Lanka** has indeed commenced. The **high-speed craft, Cheriyanani, embarked on its journey from the Nagapattinam port with 50 passengers and 12 crew members.**
 - The **Annular Solar Eclipse**, also known as the **"Ring of Fire,"** is set to occur on **October 14, 2023.** This eclipse will be **visible from the USA, followed by parts of Mexico, Central America, Colombia, and Brazil.**
 - **NTPC Limited**, India's **largest integrated energy conglomerate**, has indeed been recognized as one of the **"World's Best Employers 2023"** in the **Forbes World's Best Employers** list 2023.
 - **Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch,** and 10 other **international rights groups** have indeed expressed their concerns about the Indian government's actions.
 - **Armenia's President Vahagn Khachaturyan** has indeed **signed the ratification of the Rome Statute**, recognizing the **jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC)** despite warnings from Russia. This makes **Armenia the 124th member state of the statute.**
 - **Dhordo**, a village located in the **Kutch district of Gujarat**, has indeed been awarded the **prestigious title of the 'Best Tourism Village' by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).**
 - During the **maiden visit of interim Prime Minister Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar**, **Pakistan and China** have indeed **signed 20 agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)** to enhance cooperation under the Beijing-backed Belt and Road Initiative.
 - **South Korea, Japan, and the United States** held their **first-ever joint aerial exercise** on Sunday, October 22, 2023. The drill was **aimed at enhancing their defense cooperation and response capabilities against North Korea's nuclear and missile threats.** The exercise involved a U.S. B-52 strategic bomber and fighter jets from the three countries.
 - The **European Commission (EC)** has recently issued a notice **for information to Meta**, the parent company of Facebook and Instagram, under the European Union's Digital Service Act (DSA).

- **China** has recently announced the **removal of its Defense Minister, General Li Shangfu**, who had been out of public view for almost two months.
- **Max Verstappen won his 50th Formula 1 race at the United States Grand Prix in 2023.** Despite starting from sixth on the grid due to a penalty in qualifying for exceeding track limits, Verstappen managed to secure the victory.
- The **Asian Para Games 2023 is a multi-sport event for athletes with disabilities** that is being held in Hangzhou, China from October 22 to 28. It is the **fourth edition** of the Asian Para Games and the first time that China is hosting it.
- **Japan** has successfully **test-fired a medium-caliber maritime electromagnetic railgun** from an offshore platform, making it the first publicly disclosed test firing of a railgun at sea anywhere in the world.
- **Pakistan** has successfully conducted a **training launch of the Ghauri Weapon System**. This follows the recent flight test of the Ababeel Weapon System. The purpose of the launch was to test the operational and technical readiness of the Army Strategic Forces Command.
- The **Union Cabinet** has indeed approved a **memorandum of cooperation** between India and Japan on **developing a semiconductor supply chain partnership**. This partnership will focus on research and development (R&D), manufacturing, design, and talent development for the industry.
- According to a recent **Pentagon report**, **China has launched** its first **nuclear-powered guided missile submarines**. This makes China the third country after the US and Russia to achieve this.
- **China launched the Shenzhou-17 manned spacecraft** to its space station, Tiangong, on 26th October 2023. The mission is the twelfth crewed and seventeenth flight overall of the Shenzhou program.
- On October 24, 2023, a significant **number of women in Iceland, including the Prime Minister, participated in a 24-hour strike**. This event, **known as the "Women's Day Off" or "Kvennafri" in Iceland**.
- **Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar**, the fifth Sultan of Johor state, has been named as the 15th king of Malaysia. He will take over from the current King Al-Sultan Abdullah on January 31, 2024.
- The **US has recently imposed a new round of sanctions on Hamas and members of Iran's**

Revolutionary Guard. These sanctions were issued following an attack by Hamas on Israel earlier this month.

- The **United Nations General Assembly adopted a major resolution** on the Gaza crisis on Friday, October 27, 2023. The **resolution called for an "immediate, durable and sustained humanitarian truce leading to a cessation of hostilities"**.
- **Scientists in Brazil** have developed a **vaccine** named Calixcoca that could potentially treat addiction to cocaine and its powerful derivative, crack.
- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has indeed become a member of the **steering group of the International Competition Network (ICN)**. This prestigious group is composed of 140 competition agencies and is guided by its apex body – the Steering Group of 18 members.
- **The Cayman Islands has been removed from the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) anti-money laundering grey list**. This decision was made as a result of the Cayman Islands' adherence to the globally accepted standards of the anti-money laundering (AML) regime.

NATIONAL NEWS

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI LAUNCHED 'SANKALP SAPTAAH'

- The **programme aims to improve governance at the block level and enhance the quality of life of citizens**. It is being implemented in 500 Aspirational Blocks across 329 districts in the country.
- The **themes for the first six days include 'Sampoorna Swasthya', 'Suposhit Pariwaar', 'Swachhta', 'Krishi', 'Shiksha', and 'Samridhi Diwas'**.
- The **Prime Minister also launched the Aspirational Blocks Programme Portal and inaugurated the exhibition** showcased on the occasion.

INDIA WILL HOST THE 46TH EDITION OF THE PACIFIC ASIA TRAVEL ASSOCIATION TRAVEL MART

- It is **Asia Pacific's international travel trade exhibition featuring unparalleled networking and contracting opportunities to help travel and tourism organisations access decision makers, meet new clients, expand their networks, establish new**

relationships and consolidate existing business partnerships.

- The delegates will also have the chance to explore the fascinating history and culture of Delhi, the capital of India, through complimentary half-day city tours.

INDIA'S FIRST SOLAR ROOF CYCLING TRACK HAS BEEN INAUGURATED

- The track is unique as it has 16,000 solar panels installed on its roof, capable of generating 16 megawatts of electricity.
- The track also features various amenities such as docking stations, health emergency facility, food stalls, bike repair stations, and car parking at the access points. The track is open 24/7 and accessible for night cycling as well.

DELHI GOVERNMENT LAUNCHED THE GREEN WAR ROOM

- The Green War Room is a team of experts who monitor all sources contributing to Delhi's air pollution and ensure that the city administration is on track regarding implementing its action plan.
- Some of the measures that are part of the Winter Action Plan are:
 - Spraying PUSA bio-decomposer on stubble on around 5,000 acres this year.
 - Identifying 13 hotspots where pollution is high and making a specific action plan for each hotspot.
 - Deploying 530 water sprinklers to prevent dust pollution at 13 hotspots.
 - Forming 385 teams to check vehicles' pollution certificates and prevent the plying of overage cars.

TRIPURA LAUNCHES "YUBA TRIPURA, NATUN TRIPURA, ATMANIRBHAR TRIPURA"

- It is an initiative of the Tripura Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCL) to encourage and support the young generation towards setting up industrial and business units in the state.
- The initiative will target 100 youths from each district of the state, who will get opportunities to visit the industrial estates and gather knowledge on various matters.

RAKSHA MANTRI RAJNATH SINGH LAUNCHED SWAVALAMBAN 2.0

- Swavalamban 2.0 is an updated indigenization roadmap of the Indian Navy that aims to foster self-reliance in technological capabilities and promote domestic innovation.
- Swavalamban 2.0 is a significant step towards achieving the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat in the defence sector.

PM LAUNCHED SANKALP SAPTAAH TO IMPROVE GOVERNANCE

- The programme aims to improve governance at the block level in order to enhance the quality of life of citizens. It is being implemented in 500 Aspirational Blocks across 329 districts in the country.
- The themes for the first six days include 'Sampoorna Swasthya', 'Suposhit Pariwaar', 'Swachhta', 'Krishi', 'Shiksha', and 'Samridhi Diwas'. The last day of the week i.e. October 9, 2023 will be a celebration of the work conducted during the entire week, as 'Sankalp Saptah – Samavesh Samaroh'.

FAMOUS PASHMINA OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR RECEIVED GI TAG

- The GI tag will help protect the identity and authenticity of Basohli Pashmina and promote its market value.
- Basohli Pashmina products include shawls, mufflers, blankets, and baskets. Basohli Pashmina is a more than 100-year-old craft that originated in the Basohli town of Kathua district. It is a part of the rich cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

TAMIL NADU'S SHORE TEMPLE BECAME INDIA'S FIRST GREEN ENERGY ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE

- The Green Heritage Project is a collaborative effort between Renault Nissan Technology & Business Centre India (Renault Nissan Tech) and Hand in Hand India (HiH).
- The project also focuses on reducing the ecological impact of visitors while enhancing their experience. This involves the use of solar-powered essential amenities, such as a reverse osmosis plant providing drinking water to travellers.

VICCR & SPPU PARTNERED TO LAUNCH UTIKS, AN ONLINE PORTAL

- **UTIKS, which stands for Universalization of Traditional Indian Knowledge System, is an e-learning platform designed to take Indian culture to a global audience.**
- **The UTIKS portal offers short courses on Traditional Indian Knowledge and provides an authentic single window source of introductory level knowledge on a range of subjects under the Traditional Indian Knowledge System.**

MUMBAI AIRPORT IS 1ST IN ASIA TO COMMISSION 'DISABLED AIRCRAFT RECOVERY KIT'

- **It can lift, de-bog, and tow the aircraft to a safe location, minimizing the disruption to the airport operations and the damage to the aircraft.**
- **The DARK facility at Mumbai Airport can handle various types of aircraft, including the heavy widebody Boeing B777-300, which weighs 390 metric tonnes.**

CM PUSHKAR DHAMI LAUNCHES ROZGAR PRAYAG PORTAL

- **The portal was launched on October 9, 2023, during the Uttarakhand Youth Mahotsav 2023 program organized at Parade Ground in Dehradun.**
- **He also inaugurated self-employment centres in the employment offices of Dehradun and Udham Singh Nagar, where virtual conference rooms will be set up to connect remote youth with experts.**

TAMIL NADU GOVERNMENT LAUNCHED 'PROJECT NILGIRI TAHR'

- **The project has a budget of 25 crore and aims to develop a better understanding of the Nilgiri Tahr population, distribution and ecology, re-introduce the Nilgiri Tahr to their historic habitats, address the threats to the species, increase public awareness and promote eco-tourism.**
- **The in 1975.**

UNION HEALTH MINISTER INAUGURATED NAGALAND'S FIRST MEDICAL COLLEGE

- **The inauguration of the NIMSR fulfilled a long-held aspiration of the people of Nagaland, who had been waiting for a medical college for 60 years since attaining statehood.**
- **He also encouraged the students and other stakeholders to not limit their scope of research within national borders and to explore opportunities abroad as well.**

FERRY SERVICE BETWEEN INDIA AND SRI LANKA STARTED FROM NAGAPATTINAM TO KANKESANTHURAI

- **It is a significant milestone in enhancing connectivity, tourism, trade, and people-to-people ties between the two countries.**
- **The fare for the ferry service is ₹3,000 per person for economy class and Rs.6,000 per person for business class. The ferry service will operate twice a week on Wednesdays and Saturdays.**

UP CM YOGI ADITYANATH LAUNCHED THE 4TH PHASE OF MISSION SHAKTI

- **The Chief Minister emphasized that women are capable of achieving remarkable feats with willpower and support from the government.**
- **He also mentioned that Mission Shakti has become a popular scheme in the state as it has led to a reduction in crimes against women.**
- **The state government has taken significant steps in this phase of Mission Shakti to promote the well-being of women.**

RAILWAY'S IRCON & RITES BECOMES 15TH & 16TH 'NAVRATNA CPSE'

- **IRCON International Limited, a specialized construction company that covers the entire range of construction activities and services in the infrastructure sector, is now the 15th company to be granted Navratna status.**
- **RITES Limited, a multidisciplinary engineering and consultancy organization, is the 16th Navratna amongst CPSEs. RITES Limited is entering its 50th year of incorporation in 2024.**

A REPORT ON SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SMES) IN INDIA HAS BEEN RELEASED BY FICCI

- The report is based on a nationwide survey of more than 600 SMEs across 14 cities, followed by focused group discussions.
- It highlights how SMEs are adapting to the digital transformation taking place and adopting sustainability practices.
- This includes the use of e-commerce platforms, digital marketing, cloud computing, and automation tools.

- During the event, he unveiled the “Amrit Kaal Vision 2047”, a long-term blueprint for the Indian maritime blue economy.
- This visionary blueprint sets the stage for various maritime projects worth over Rs 23,000 crores.
- The “Amrit Kaal Vision 2047” outlines strategic initiatives aimed at enhancing port facilities, promoting sustainable practices, and facilitating international collaboration.

ISRO SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED THE CREW MODULE OF GAGANYAAN

- The TV-D1 module lifted off from the first launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC).
- The Gaganyaan project aims to send a crew of three members into an orbit of 400 km for a 3-day mission and bring them safely back to Earth by landing in Indian waters.
- Sending a manned mission with three astronauts into low-Earth orbit will happen only after the successful completion of all these tests.

HOME MINISTER AMIT SHAH INAUGURATES INDIA'S 1ST NANO DAP PLANT

- The plant was set up by the Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) at a cost of Rs 300 crore.
- The Nano DAP (Liquid) is a groundbreaking product that contains 8 percent nitrogen and 16 percent phosphorus.
- The plant will produce approximately 42 lakh bottles of environmentally-friendly Nano DAP, benefiting farmers across the country.

KASARAGOD BECOMES 1ST DISTRICT IN INDIA TO DECLARE OFFICIAL TREE, FLOWER, BIRD, SPECIES

- **Official Tree:** ‘Kanjiram’ (Strychnos nux-vomica Linn), a species deriving its name from ‘kasara’, meaning wormwood, from which the name of the district originates.
- **Official Flower:** ‘Periya Polathali’ or Crinum malabarica, with its distinctive white flowers tinged with red. This plant is found exclusively in the streams originating from the laterite hills in Kasaragod.
- **Official Bird:** The White Bellied Sea Hawk (Haliaeetus leucogaster), which is native to the region spanning from Mahe to Manjeswaram. It is listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act.
- **Official Species:** The Cantor’s Giant Softshell Turtle (Pelochelys cantorii gray), locally known as ‘Bheemanama’. This rare species is listed on the Red List of Endangered Freshwater Turtles and relies on estuaries for laying eggs.

KERALA BECOMES THE FIRST STATE TO HAVE HALLMARKING CENTRES IN ALL DISTRICTS

- The Bureau of Indian Standards made hallmarking compulsory to protect customers, especially those not aware of the market, from being taken for a ride by jewellers.
- Hallmarking ensures accurate determination and official recording of the proportionate content of precious metal in jewellery, artefacts or bullion, and coins.

AP'S INDIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY SIGNS MOU WITH NCC TO ENROLL NCC STUDENTS AS YRC VOLUNTEER

- The signing ceremony took place at Andhra Loyola College (ALC) in Vijayawada.
- The Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), Andhra Pradesh (AP), has indeed signed a first of its kind Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Cadet Corps (NCC) to enroll NCC students as Youth Red Cross (YRC) Volunteers in Andhra Pradesh.

PM MODI INAUGURATES THE 3RD EDITION AND UNVEILS ‘AMRIT KAAL VISION 2047

77TH INFANTRY DAY – 27TH OCTOBER 2023

- The aim of celebrating Infantry Day is to commemorate the courage, valor, and sacrifices made by the Indian Infantry regiments during various battles.
- Over the years, this day has become an important occasion to pay tribute to all Indian Infantry soldiers, past and present, for their courage, dedication, and service to the nation.

INDIGENOUS ATMAS INAUGURATED AT BIJU PATNAIK AIRPORT, ODISHA

- The ATMAS is a collaboration between the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).
- It supports controllers with conflict prediction and alert warnings, as well as decision-making tools to ensure safe and efficient air traffic control at BPIA.

NATIONAL NEWS- ONE LINER

- The Union Ministry of Education has indeed launched the Bharatiya Bhasha Utsav and the two-day Technology & Bharatiya Bhasha Summit.
- The Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) has indeed increased the interest rate on the 5-year Recurring Deposit Scheme to 6.7% for Q3FY24.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved capital management reforms that will unlock \$100 billion in new funding over the next decade.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has extended the deadline for existing demat account holders to provide a choice of nomination or formally opt out of nomination through a declaration form. The new deadline is now December 31, 2023.
- Air India has indeed completed the acquisition of its first A350-900 aircraft through GIFT City. This is the first wide-body aircraft to be leased through the GIFT City, which is India's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC).
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) has recently inducted the first of six new Dornier Do-228 aircraft, which are exclusively manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- The Param Vir Chakra recipient Captain Bana Singh, a dedicated and decorated former soldier, has been

nominated as the ambassador for the 'War Against Waste' initiative in Jammu & Kashmir. This initiative aims to address the pressing issues of waste management and environmental conservation in rural J&K.

- The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, presented the National Service Scheme Awards for the year 2021-2022 at Rashtrapati Bhavan on September 29, 2023. The NSS Awards, instituted by the Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, are presented every year to recognize the voluntary service of NSS Volunteers, Programme Officers, NSS Units and the Universities/+2 Councils.
- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has announced the winners of the inaugural Climate Action Awards. These awards recognize athletes, International Federations (IFs), and National Olympic Committees (NOCs) who are taking tangible steps to tackle the climate crisis.
- The Assam Police has announced that the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, or AFSPA, has been extended for six more months in four districts of Assam. These districts are Dibrugarh, Tinsukia, Sivasagar, and Charaideo.
- The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), in collaboration with the Ministry of Women and Child Development, is organizing a cross-country bike expedition with "Yashaswini", a group of CRPF women bikers. This expedition is being organized to celebrate women power or 'Nari Shakti' of the country.
- The Defence Ministry has issued new entitlement rules for the grant of disability pensions to military personnel. These rules, which came into effect from September 21, 2023, have tightened some of the provisions and introduced a new 'impairment relief' in lieu of the 'disability element'.
- The Ministry of Civil Aviation observed a Shramdaan event under the Swachhata Hi Seva Abhiyaan (SHS) 2023. The Union Minister for Civil Aviation and Steel, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, participated in Swachhata Shramdaan in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh. The event was also led by Shri Vumlunmang Vualnam, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation at Rajiv Gandhi Bhawan, New Delhi.
- Tripura has indeed become the fourth state in India to introduce the e-Cabinet system. This initiative was launched by Tripura's Chief Minister, Prof Dr Manik Saha. The e-Cabinet system will enable the

Cabinet memos and minutes to be prepared and circulated online.

- **The Bihar government released the caste survey report on October 2, 2023. The report provides a deep insight into Bihar's population distribution and reveals that Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs) together constitute over 63% of the state's population.**
- **The Madras High Court has ruled that educational institutions run by religious and linguistic minorities are not obligated to adhere to reservation quotas for Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and Other Backward Class (OBC) students.**
- **The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, M.K. Stalin, has announced a cash reward of 25 lakh each for nine space scientists from Tamil Nadu, including former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairperson K. Sivan.**
- **The Kerala government has announced a vaccination programme to prevent cervical cancer among women in the state.** The Chief Minister, Pinarayi Vijayan, stated that the vaccination drive will be carried out in a model similar to that of developed nations.
- **The Karnataka government has announced plans to set up a 'Grama Nyayalaya' (village court) in each gram panchayat to resolve disputes within its jurisdiction.** This initiative was proposed by the Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister, H.K. Patil.
- **The Warehousing Development Regulatory Authority (WDRA) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Bank of India was signed on September 27, 2023 to provide funding against electronic negotiable warehouse receipts (e-NWRs).** The agreement aims to facilitate farmers and traders by offering low-interest rate loans.
- **The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, dedicated the first 800 MW Unit of phase 1 of the Telangana Super Thermal Power Project of NTPC to the nation.** This event took place in Nizamabad, Telangana.
- **The Ministry of Railways has released its new All India Railway Time Table known as "Trains At A Glance (TAG)" effective from October 1, 2023.** The new timetable includes 64 services of Vande Bharat Trains and 70 other train services
- **The unemployment rate in India has seen some fluctuations over the past year. As of July 2023, the overall unemployment rate in India was reported to be 7.95 percent.** However, it decreased to 7.10 percent in September 2023.
- **The Assam government has indeed given its in-principle approval to initiate the process for a socio-economic assessment of the state's five indigenous Muslim communities.** These communities include Gorias, Morias, Deshis, Syeds, and Jolhas.
- **The central government has declared the National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) and the All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF), along with all their factions, wings, and front organizations, as unlawful associations under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.**
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi has indeed launched development projects worth 27,000 crore in Chhattisgarh.** These projects include the **NMDC Steel Ltd's steel plant at Nagarnar, which is a greenfield project that will produce high-quality steel.**
- **The tallest statue of Dr. B R Ambedkar, named the 'Statue of Equality', is set to be unveiled in Accokeek city, Maryland, USA on October 14.** This 19-foot statue is part of the Ambedkar International Centre (AIC) being constructed on a 13-acre land.
- **The National Health Authority (NHA) and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) organized a two-day event called 'Arogya Manthan' to celebrate the anniversaries of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) and Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).**
- **The 276th Annual Day Celebrations of the Defence Accounts Department (DAD) were marked by the launch of several digital initiatives by Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.** These initiatives aim to enhance transparency and efficiency in defence finance.
- **The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) raised Rs 1,041 crore through its social impact bond, which matures in five years, at a coupon of 7.63 percent.**
- **The Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has approved two joint ventures for setting up compressed biogas (CBG) plants.** The joint ventures will be formed with IOCL or one of its subsidiaries. In both cases, the two partners will have an equal stake of 50 per cent each.

- The **International Day of Non-Violence is observed globally on October 21**. This day commemorates the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the pioneer of non-violence philosophy.
- The **Union Cabinet has indeed increased the subsidy given on LPG cylinders under the Ujjwala scheme to 300 from the current 200**. This decision was made ahead of Assembly elections in crucial States.
- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh released the fifth positive indigenisation list at a Navy seminar in New Delhi. The list includes complex systems, sensors, weapons, and ammunition, all to be procured from indigenous sources** over time, following the Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020.
- The **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has indeed handed over the twin-seater variant of the LCA Tejas fighter aircraft to the Indian Air Force (IAF)**. This is a significant milestone for India as it adds the country to the list of a few elite nations with such capabilities.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for multiple key projects worth approximately Rs 5,000 crore in Jodhpur, Rajasthan. These projects include a 350-bedded trauma centre and critical care hospital block at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Jodhpur.**
- The **Bihar government has announced a 10% reservation for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) in both the judicial services and state-run law colleges. This decision was made during a cabinet meeting led by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.**
- The **Mukhya Mantri Lok Sevak Arogya Yojana is a health insurance scheme launched on 2 October 2023, by the state government for the state government employees of Assam. Under this scheme, the employees of the Assam Government will get reimbursement as per CGHS approved rate.**
- The **Karnataka government has introduced a policy to provide compensation for unnatural deaths in prisons. The policy is applicable to prisoners who have suffered unnatural deaths in prisons across the state from January 1, 2012, onwards, In case of an unnatural death in prison due to conflicts or disputes among inmates, the kin of the deceased prisoner will be compensated 7.5 lakhs.**
- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah has indeed called for a uniform anti-terrorism structure under the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in all** states. Speaking at the Anti-Terror Conference hosted by the NIA, he suggested that a model anti-terrorism structure should be established under the purview of NIA
- The **Ministry of Civil Aviation in India has introduced the Drone (Amendment) Rules 2023, which came into effect from September 27, 2023. These amendments aim to liberalize, promote, and streamline drone operations across the country, with a vision to establish India as a global drone hub by 2030.**
- The **Madhya Pradesh government has announced that 35% of government jobs in the state will now be reserved for women at the stage of direct recruitment. This reservation will be applicable to all government departments except the Forest Department.**
- The **Seventh India-EU Cyber Dialogue was held on 05 October 2023 in Brussels. The Indian Delegation was led by Ms. Muanpui Saiawi, Joint Secretary, Cyber Diplomacy Division, Ministry of External Affairs. The EU delegation was led by Ambassador (Ms.) Joanneke Balfoort, Director Security and Defence, European External Action Service.**
- The **Government of India has maintained the General Provident Fund (GPF) interest rate at 7.1%. This rate is applicable for the period from October to December 2023.**
- **Dr. Joyeeta Gupta, a professor of Indian origin, was honored with the prestigious Spinoza Prize, the highest accolade in Dutch science, during a ceremony in the Netherlands. This recognition was for her outstanding work in the field of climate change.**
- **India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have indeed signed a strategic partnership agreement. This agreement is aimed at developing and launching the UAE's payment card scheme based on the RuPay card.**
- **The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV) was signed on October 4, 2023 to advance the Pradhan Mantri Gati Shakti (PMGS) National Master Plan (NMP).**
- **Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has indeed inaugurated India's largest pumped storage project at Neemuch. This project is**

being developed by Greenko Group, India's largest energy storage company

- The **Indian men's hockey team has indeed reclaimed the Asian Games gold medal after nine years. They achieved** this feat by defeating the defending champions, Japan, with a score of 5-1.
- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has approved standards for the construction of bus bodies. These **standards will be uniformly applicable** to both original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and bus body builders
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to include the beneficiaries of the PM Vishwakarma Scheme** under the Payments Infrastructure Development Fund (PIDF) Scheme. This decision is expected to boost the RBI's efforts towards promoting digital transactions at the grassroots level.
- The **Indian government has banned the Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (JKDFP) for five years due to its anti-India and pro-Pakistan activities. The ban was ordered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.**
- The **Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, approved the establishment of the Sammakka Sarakka Central Tribal University** in Mulugu district, Telangana. This decision was made through an amendment to the Central **Universities Act, 2009.**
- The **Supreme Court has indeed refused to stop the Bihar government from making decisions based** on the recent caste survey conducted in the state. The court issued a notice to the Bihar Government regarding a plea concerning this caste-based survey.
- The **Sagar Parikrama, Phase- IX started from Thiruvandanai, Tamil Nadu1. This event was led by Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying Shri Parshottam Rupala** along with Dr L Murugan, Minister of State, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
- The **49th All India Police Science Congress was held in Dehradun, Uttarakhand. The event was organized by the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D)** and focused on various themes such as Policing in the 5G Era, Narcotics:
- **Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, inaugurated the Aadi Mahotsav, the National Tribal Festival,** in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand. This grand event is being organized by the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED), Ministry of Tribal Affairs. The festival is taking place from October 7th to October 16th, 2023.
- The **Geographical Indications Registry, operating under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in Chennai,** has recently awarded geographical indication (GI) tags to a collective of distinct products. Arunachal Pradesh: Yak Churpi (Food Stuffs), Khaw Tai" (Khamti Rice) (Agriculture), Tangsa Textile Product (Textiles), Odisha: Kendrapara Rasabali (Food Stuffs).
- The **Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) in India has introduced the new Drone (Amendment) Rules 2023. These amendments** aim to liberalize, promote, and streamline drone operations across the country. The new rules remove the requirement for drone pilots to possess a passport for obtaining a Remote Pilot Certificate.
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$200 million loan to strengthen flood and riverbank erosion risk** management along the 650 kilometers (km) long main stem of the Brahmaputra River in Assam, India.
- The **52nd GST Council meeting was indeed chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman at the Sushma Swaraj Bhawan** in New Delhi.
- **Ayodhya is on track to become the first 'solar city' in Uttar Pradesh. The Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Department (UPNEDA)** is working tirelessly to transform the historic town into the state's first solar city.
- **REC Limited, the Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise under the Ministry of Power, has launched a mobile application** named 'SUGAM REC'. This app is exclusively for current and future investors in REC's 54EC Capital Gain Tax Exemption Bonds.
- The **Nobel Prize in Literature 2023 was awarded to Jon Olav Fosse,** a Norwegian author and playwright. The Swedish Academy awarded him the Nobel Prize for his innovative plays and prose which give voice to the unsayable.
- The **Rajasthan government has announced the formation of three new districts: Malpura, Sujangarh, and Kuchaman City.** This decision was made based on public demand and recommendations from a high-level committee.

- **Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has indeed declared the Gangetic Dolphin** as the state aquatic animal. These dolphins are found in rivers like Ganga, Yamuna, Chambal, Ghaghra, Rapti, and Gerua.
- **On its 91st anniversary, the Indian Air Force (IAF) unveiled a new ensign.** The new ensign was unveiled by the IAF Chief, Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari at the Bamrauli Air Force Station in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. The new feature of this ensign is the addition of the Air Force crest in the top right corner, towards the fly side.
- **The GST Council has indeed decided to reduce the GST on molasses from 28% to 5%. This decision is expected to benefit** sugarcane farmers. The reduction in GST will likely increase liquidity with mills and enable faster clearance of cane dues to sugarcane farmers.
- **Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot announced the formation of three new districts in the state – Malpura, Sujangarh and Kuchman City.** This decision was made in accordance with public demand and the recommendations of a high-level committee.
- The **Ministry of Culture organized the curtain raiser event for the India Art Architecture Design Biennale (IAADB '23) at the National Gallery of Modern Art, Delhi** along with the Logo launch for the Biennale.
- **India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have signed a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) during the 11th high-level task force on October 5.**The primary objective of this historic agreement is to facilitate industrial investments, the transfer of technology, and the implementation of key innovations across diverse industries.
- **Claudia Goldin, a professor at Harvard University, won the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences in 2023. She was awarded for her pioneering research that has significantly advanced our understanding of women's labour market outcomes.**
- The Ministry of Culture organized a curtain raiser and logo launch event for the inaugural India Art Architecture Design Biennale (IAADB 2023) at the National Gallery of Modern Art, Delhi.
- The **Eternal Gandhi Museum Houston (EGMH) is the first museum in the Americas dedicated to preserving and promoting Mahatma Gandhi's legacy of nonviolent conflict resolution.** The museum is located at 12379 Riceville School Rd, Houston, TX, 77031.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted an external Working Group on Expected Credit Loss (ECL) based Framework** for Provisioning by Banks. The ECL approach to provisioning is a paradigm shift from the current incurred loss-based provisioning regime.
- The **Chennai-based company KCP Ltd has delivered an integrated air drop test - crew module structure to ISRO for the Gaganyaan mission.** The first module, made of aluminium and weighing 3,120 kgs, will be used to demonstrate the technology readiness for the human space flight programme.
- **The European Union has indeed approved the world's first green bond standards. After years of debates and discussions, the European Green Bond Regulation 1, introducing the European Green Bond Standard (EU-GBS) was adopted on 5 October 2023 by the European Parliament.**
- The **16th Agricultural Science Congress (ASC) is being held in Kochi from 10th to 13th October 2023. The event is hosted by the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) and organized by the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS), New Delhi.**The theme of the congress is 'Transformation of agri-food systems for achieving sustainable development goals (SDGs)'.
- The **Indian Navy has indeed launched a '360 Degree Appraisal Mechanism'.** This new system is a **transformative initiative that aims to address the limitations** of the existing assessment process by incorporating feedback from peers and subordinates.
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully performed a Trajectory Correction Manoeuvre (TCM) on the Aditya-L1 spacecraft on October 6.** The spacecraft is healthy and on its way to the Sun-Earth L1 point.
- The **Dakar Declaration on Climate Change 2023 was issued by the Ministers of the Least Developed Countries (LDC) in preparation for the 28th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28).**
- **Kerala's first 3D-printed building, a 380 sq ft, one-room summer house named AMAZE-28, was set for a formal inauguration on October 10.** This building is

located on the Kerala State Nirmithi Kendra (Kesnik) campus at PTP Nagar in Thiruvananthapuram.

- **According to a report, the number of people who die from stroke worldwide is estimated to increase by 50% by 2050 to 9.7 million deaths per year.** This surge in stroke deaths is primarily expected to affect low- and middle-income countries.
- **Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has ordered a verification of all madrasas across the state.** This decision came in light of allegations of ill-treatment, sexual harassment, and poor health conditions of students in a madrasa in Nainital.
- The Ministry of Commerce & Industry (MoCI) has launched a new initiative for issuing system-based automatic 'Status **Holder**' certificates under the **Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023.** This initiative was unveiled by Union Minister Piyush Goyal on **October 9, 2023.**
- **The Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) has indeed set up South Asia's first-of-its-kind Aircraft Recovery Training School (ARTS) at the Kempegowda International Airport Bengaluru (KIAB/BLR Airport).**
- **Star Health and Allied Insurance Company, a pioneering standalone health insurance provider in India, has introduced Surrogacy Cover and Oocyte Donor Cover to its Star Women Care Insurance Policy.**
- The India Infrastructure Finance Company Limited (IIFCL) has sanctioned **loans worth Rs 8,800 crore for the development of airports and civil aviation infrastructure in India.**
- **Nandini Azad, president of the Indian Co-operative Network for Women (ICNW) and the Working Women's Forum (India),** has been re-elected to the International Raiffeisen Union (IRU) Board for the second term.
- The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, unveiled a 108-foot-tall statue of Adi Shankaracharya at **Omkareshwar on September 21, 2023**
- **The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is indeed planning to set up its second spaceport in Tamil Nadu.** The new spaceport will be located in **Kulasekarapattinam, in the Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu.**
- **The 9th edition of the G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit (P20 Summit) is set to be held in India.** The **P20 Summit will be held** from 13th to 14th October 2023 at the newly constructed India International Convention and Expo Center (IICC), Yashobhoomi, Dwarka, New Delhi.
- **The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is set to launch the Gaganyaan Test Vehicle Space flight (TV-D1) on October 21, 2023.** This test flight is a crucial step in preparation for India's human spaceflight mission.
- Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Parshotham Rupala inaugurated the **16th Agricultural Science Congress in Kochi.** During the congress, he urged agricultural scientists and researchers to focus more on challenges posed by climatic changes, which affect agriculture the most.
- **The World Food India 2023 event is scheduled to take place from November 3rd to 5th, 2023 at Pragati Maidan, Delhi.** This event is organized by the **Ministry of Food Processing Industries and is part of the International Year of Millets celebrations.**
- **Union Minister Anurag Thakur has indeed launched an animated series called 'KTB- Bharat Hain Hum'.** This series is aimed at highlighting the stories of the unsung heroes of India's freedom struggle.
- **The net direct tax collections in India, after issuing refunds worth Rs 1.5 lakh crore (\$19.9 billion), reached Rs 9.57 lakh crore (\$127 billion), marking a significant year-on-year growth of 21.8%**
- **The 16th edition of the Landscape & Gardening Expo 2023 was indeed inaugurated** by actress Varsha Usgaonkar. The expo was held at the Bombay Exhibition Center in Mumbai, India from October 10 to October 12, 2023
- **The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has announced that it will deploy Bima Vahak in every Gram Panchayat before the end of 2024.**
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has raised its 2023-24 GDP growth forecast for **India to 6.3%.** This is an increase of **20 basis points from the previous forecast.** The upward revision is due to stronger-than-expected consumption demand.
- **Sri Lanka assumed the chairmanship of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) at the 23rd IORA Council of Ministers which concluded in Colombo on**

11 October 2023. The meeting was chaired by Foreign Minister Ali Sabry.

- **The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (MoC&F) has indeed launched a web portal to provide statistical data related to the chemical sector.** The portal, www.charak.chemicals.gov.in, was developed by the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals along with the National Informatics Center.
- **The European Parliament voted in favor of the new voluntary standard for the use of a “European Green Bond” label,** calling it the first of its kind in the world. Europe is the world’s biggest issuer of green bonds, accounting for more than half of global volume in 2021, though issuance is still only 3% to 3.5% of the overall bond market.
- **Mahindra Last Mile Mobility Ltd. (MLMML) has received the first installment of 300 crore from the International Finance Corporation (IFC)** for its electric vehicle division. The IFC had committed to investing 600 crore in the division.
- Mukesh Ambani, the chairman of Reliance Industries, has secured the top position as India’s richest person on the 360 ONE Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2023. His wealth has surged from 1,65,100 crore in 2014 to nearly ₹8,08,700 crore in 2023.
- **Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, launched the Intelligent Grievance Monitoring System (IGMS) 2.0 Public Grievance portal.** This portal has been developed by the team at IIT Kanpur.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of multiple development projects worth about Rs 4,200 crore in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand.** These projects, numbering 23 in total, are aimed at boosting infrastructure, education, health, electricity, drinking water, sports, tourism, disaster mitigation and horticulture sectors in the hill state.
- **India launched ‘Operation Ajay’ to facilitate the return of Indian nationals from Israel amidst the ongoing conflict with Hamas.** The operation was planned by the Indian Armed Forces and Ministry of External Affairs.
- **The Union Cabinet of India has indeed approved Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with Papua New Guinea and Trinidad & Tobago in the field of digital technologies.** These MoUs aim to promote closer cooperation and exchange of

experiences and digital technologies-based solutions in the implementation of digital transformational initiatives of both countries.

- **A new standardised Protocol for Management of Malnutrition in Children was indeed launched by Smt Smriti Zubin Irani.** This protocol has been jointly prepared by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Govt of India.
- **The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the establishment of an autonomous body called ‘Mera Yuva Bharat’ (MY Bharat) on October 11, 2023.** The primary objective of Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) is to make it a whole of Government platform for youth development.
- According to the International Energy Agency’s (IEA) recent medium-term forecast, India’s natural gas demand is expected to grow by 4% in 2023. The report also projects an average annual growth rate of over 8% in India’s natural gas demand between 2022 and 2026.
- **The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) released the 6th Annual Report ‘Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) [July, 2022 – June, 2023]’ on October 9, 2023.**
- **The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of certain shareholding in Hitachi Astemo Ltd. (HAL) by JICC-01 Limited Partnership and Honda Motor Co. Ltd. (HMCL); and acquisition of certain shareholding of Hitachi Astemo Electric Motor Systems (HAEMS) by Hitachi Astemo Ltd.**
- **The Spanish company PLD Space successfully launched its reusable Miura-1 rocket,** marking Europe’s first fully private rocket launch. The launch took place early on Saturday from a site in south-west Spain.
- **The Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) has written letters to the CEOs of Meta and Google, Mark Zuckerberg and Sundar Pichai respectively.** The letters urge them to ensure that their platforms remain “neutral” ahead of the upcoming Lok Sabha Polls.
- **Tamil writer Sivasankari was indeed presented with the ‘Saraswati Samman’ 2022 for her book of memoirs Surya Vamsam.** This remarkable feat marks a significant milestone in her literary career.

- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his French counterpart Sebastien Lecornu held the fifth annual defence dialogue in Paris. The dialogue took place on October 11, 2023.**
- **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and his French counterpart, Sebastien Lecornu, held the fifth annual defence dialogue in Paris. During this dialogue, they reviewed ongoing defence projects and discussed ways to deepen collaboration between the defence industries of both countries.**
- **The retail inflation, or Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation, for September 2023 in India has indeed declined to 5.02%. This is a significant decrease from the previous month's inflation rate of 6.83%.**
- **Film director Vivek Agnihotri, known for his critically acclaimed film 'The Kashmir Files', launched his latest book titled "The Book of Life: My dance with Buddha for Success" in Lucknow.**
- **The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER) launched the "MDoNER Data Analytics Dashboard" and "Poovottar Sampark Setu" portal on October 12, 2023. The MDoNER Data Analytics Dashboard contains data from 112 schemes across 55 Departments and Ministries.**
- **The 12th City Gas Distribution (CGD) Bidding Round was officially launched on 12th October 2023. In this round, the government has offered seven geographical areas (GAs) spread over five states and two union territories, covering 92 districts**
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate the 141st International Olympic Committee (IOC) Session at Mumbai's Jio World Centre today, on 14th October 2023. This session serves as a key meeting of the members of the IOC, where important decisions regarding the future of Olympic games are made.**
- **NASA's Parker Solar Probe has indeed set a new record as the fastest man-made object in history. On September 27, during its 17th loop around the sun, it achieved a speed of 394,736 miles per hour (mph) or 635,266 kilometers per hour (kph).**
- **A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Pusa Krishi, ICAR- Indian Agricultural Research Institute and Start-up Incubation & Innovation Centre (SIIC), IIT Kanpur on 13th October 2023 to provide vital support to incubators and start-ups, fostering their growth and success.**
- **The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has indeed accepted the proposal to include cricket in the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics. This marks the return of cricket to the Olympics after an absence of 128 years.**
- **According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey Report 2022-23 released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on October 9, 2023, the FLFPR has improved significantly by 4.2 percentage points to reach 37.0%.**
- **The tenth phase of Sagar Parikrama was indeed started by the Union Minister for Fisheries, Parshottam Rupala, from Chennai on 13 October 2023. Sagar Parikrama is an ambitious project that aims to understand the needs and challenges of fishermen.**
- **The International Council on Archives (ICA) Congress Abu Dhabi 2023 has indeed commenced at the Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC). The Congress is being held under the theme "Enriching Knowledge Societies".**
- **The Department of Public Enterprises has recently granted the 'Navratna' status to two Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in India, IRCON International and RITES. IRCON International and RITES informed in the exchange filing on Thursday, October 12, that they have been granted the 'Navratna' status by the Government of India.**
- **Union Minister Shri Anurag Thakur launched the trailer of "Krish, Trish and Baltiboy – Bharat Hain Hum" on October 11, 2023. This animated series, consisting of two seasons, is produced by the Central Bureau of Communication, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and Graphiti Studios.**
- **An expert panel set up by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has indeed recommended an island-specific sustainable development and tourism policy. This recommendation was made in response to the rising sea levels and global warming, which pose a significant threat to islands.**
- **Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla handed over the P20 Presidency to the Parliament of Brazil on Saturday. This happened after the successful conclusion of the Ninth P20 Presidency at Yashobhoomi in Delhi.**
- **The Indian Space Conclave 2023 was held at the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi, Delhi from**

October 9 to 11, 2023. The conclave was organized by the Indian Space Association (ISpA) and co-hosted by the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe), an autonomous agency in the Department of Space (DOS).

- **Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, inaugurated new facilities at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) and launched the new logo of Tele-MANAS on World Mental Health Day, 2023.**
- **The Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully test-fired an extended-range version of the BrahMos air-launched missile. This test showcased India's expanding military capabilities. The missile was fired from a Sukhoi fighter jet.**
- **U.K. and Tamil Nadu are indeed collaborating on a smart technology project for sustainable water, waste, and resource management. This initiative is titled 'Smart district administration using IoT technologies for better quality of life'.**
- **The Vizhinjam International Seaport in Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram welcomed its first-ever ship, Zhen Hua 15. The ship began its journey from China at the end of August. It was scheduled to dock at Vizhinjam on October 4, but got delayed due to bad weather conditions along its route.**
- **The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) in India has directed YouTube to put disclaimers on channels that are likely to be spreading 'fake' news. This move is an attempt to crack down on online "misinformation" ahead of the upcoming Assembly and Lok Sabha elections.**
- **The latest Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) shows that the share of women in regular wage work has declined sharply to 15.9% in 2022-23, from 21.9% in the pre-pandemic period of 2018-19.**
- **The Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal released a "Compendium of PM GatiShakti" in New Delhi. This was done to mark the completion of two years of PM GatiShakti.**
- **The Green Credit Program (GCP) was notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on 13th October, 2023. The GCP is an innovative market-based mechanism designed to incentivize voluntary environmental actions across diverse sectors by various stakeholders like individuals,**

communities, private sector industries, and companies.

- **The 5th India STEM Summit & Awards 2023 is being organized by the All India Council for Robotics and Automation (AICRA) at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi. The event took place on 16th October, 2023.**
- **The inaugural India-UK 2+2 Foreign and Defence Dialogue was held in New Delhi on 16 October 2023. The Indian delegation was co-chaired by Shri Piyush Srivastava, Joint Secretary Europe West, Ministry of External Affairs and Shri Vishwesh Negi, Joint Secretary, International Cooperation, Ministry of Defence.**
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the third edition of the Global Maritime India Summit 2023. During the summit, he unveiled the 'Amrit Kaal Vision 2047', a blueprint for the Indian maritime blue economy. He also laid the foundation stone and dedicated to the nation projects worth more than Rs 23,000 crores.**
- **The 51st meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) approved 7 projects worth around Rs. 285 crore. The meeting was held on 12th October 2023 under the chairmanship of G. Asok Kumar, Director General (DG) of NMCG.**
- **Sri Lanka has assumed the chairmanship of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) at the 23rd IORA Council of Ministers which concluded in Colombo. Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Ali Sabry chaired the meeting.**
- **The 3rd Battalion of the Naga Regiment was presented with the prestigious President's Colours by the Chief of Army Staff, General Manoj Pande. The ceremony took place during an impressive Colour presentation parade held at Kumaon Regimental Centre, Ranikhet (Uttarakhand) on 13th October 2023.**
- **The Indian Army, in collaboration with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), has established the first-ever BSNL base transceiver station (BTS) on the world's highest battlefield, Siachen Glacier.**
- **Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched the Location Accessible Multimodal Initiative (LAccMI) scheme from Malkangiri on October 12, 2023. The scheme aims to connect panchayat and block headquarters with district headquarters by bus.**

- **The 18th India-Vietnam Joint Commission Meeting** was held in Hanoi on **October 16, 2023**. The meeting was co-chaired by India's External Affairs Minister **S Jaishankar** and Vietnam's Foreign Minister **Bui Thanh Son**.
- **The Sagar Kavach 02/23** was a two-day comprehensive coastal security exercise conducted by the Indian Navy. It involved all maritime security agencies and was held in **Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and the Union Territory of Puducherry** from **October 11-12, 2023**.
- **NASA's Psyche spacecraft** was launched on a **SpaceX Falcon Heavy rocket** from **Launch Complex 39A** on **Friday, Oct. 13, 2023**, at **NASA's Kennedy Space Center** in Florida. The mission is to travel to a metal-rich asteroid named **Psyche**, which orbits the Sun between **Mars and Jupiter**.
- **The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)** released a report titled **'The High Cost of Cheap Water'** on **World Food Day**. The report uncovers a stark reality: the annual economic value of water and freshwater ecosystems is estimated to be **USD 58 trillion**, equivalent to **60%** of global **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**.
- **The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Department of Land Resources (DOLR) and the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC)** was signed on **Tuesday, October 17, 2023**. The main objective of this collaboration is to monitor **WDC-PMKSY 2.0** projects through high-resolution satellite data for all **the WDC 2.0 projects in States/UTs across the country**.
- **The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE),** has announced a collaboration with **Coca-Cola India** to launch the **Super Power Retailer Program** as part of **the Skill India Mission**.
- **The Union Minister for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Shri R. K. Singh,** launched a new **EV-Ready India Dashboard (evreadyindia.org)** in **New Delhi**. This dashboard is a free digital platform that focuses on near **real-time Electric Vehicle adoption and forecasts, associated battery demand, charging density, and market growth trends**.
- **The Ministry of Defence (MoD)** has signed a contract with **Cochin Shipyard Limited** for the mid-life upgrade and re-powering of **INS Beas**. The contract, signed on **October 16, 2023**, is valued at an overall cost of **Rs. 313.42 crore**.
- **The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations** recently released a report titled **'The Impact of Disasters on Agriculture and Food Security 2023-Avoiding and reducing losses through investment in resilience'**.
- **The 3/5 Gorkha Rifles (Frontier Force) team of the Indian Army** has indeed won a gold medal at the **Cambrian Patrol Competition 2023 International Military Exercise in Wales, UK**.
- **The Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has approved a **USD 181 million loan** to enhance the quality of urban infrastructure and services in the peri-urban areas of **Ahmedabad city in Gujarat**. This project is known as the **Ahmedabad Peri-urban Livability Improvement Project**.
- **Bharti Group** has entered into a binding agreement with its joint venture partner **AXA** to acquire its **49%** stake in **Bharti AXA Life Insurance**. This acquisition will make **Bharti AXA Life Insurance** a wholly-owned subsidiary of **Bharti Enterprises**.
- **The Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)** has announced that it will invest **Rs 1,660.15 crore** in a joint venture with **NTPC Ltd** to set up renewable power plants. The joint venture, named **IndianOil NTPC Green Energy Pvt Ltd**, aims to meet the energy requirements of **IOC refineries** by generating a **minimum capacity of 650 MW of round-the-clock renewable power**.
- **The occurrence of tilapia parvovirus (TiPV)** affecting farm-bred tilapia, a freshwater fish species, and causing a huge mortality rate has been reported for the first time in India at ponds in **Walajah in Ranipet district of Tamil Nadu**.
- **The Andhra Pradesh** government is set to start a caste census for **Backward Classes communities** from **November 15**. The census aims to better serve the **139 communities falling under this category**.
- **The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs,** chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi**, has approved the increase in the **Minimum Support Prices (MSP)** for all mandated **Rabi Crops for Marketing Season 2024-25**.
- **The Central Government** has approved the establishment of the **Khelo India State Excellence Centre (KISCE)** at the newly constructed open

stadium located at Spithuk in the Leh district of Ladakh.

- **The Uttar Pradesh government will organize the three-day 'Sri Anna Mahotsav' and a state-level millet workshop in Lucknow from October 27 to 29.** The event is aimed at creating awareness among people and farmers **with regard to the cultivation and consumption of millets in the state.**
- **The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, launched the fourth Krishi Road Map (2023-2028) of Bihar at Patna on October 18, 2023. The roadmap focuses on increasing agricultural production in the state and raising farmers' incomes over the next five years.**
- **The Union Cabinet approved a 4% increase in the Dearness Allowance (DA) for central government employees on October 18, 2023. This increase is applicable from July 1, 2023.**
- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty on ICICI Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank for violation of certain banking regulatory norms.**The penalty on ICICI Bank, amounting to Rs.12.19 crore, has been imposed **for contravention of norms related to 'Loans and Advances-Statutory and Other restrictions' and 'Frauds classification and reporting'.**
- **The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) has approved India's self-declaration of freedom from Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in specific poultry compartments.**
- **The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), the National Standard Body of India, has approved IS17017 (Part 2 / Sec 7): 2023, India's first-ever indigenously developed Alternating Current (AC) and Direct Current (DC) Combined Charging connector standard for Light Electric Vehicles (LEVs).**
- **The Ministry of Civil Aviation in India has made an amendment to the Aircraft Rules, 1937. This amendment, known as the "Aircraft (First Amendment) Rules, 2023", was officially notified in the Gazette on October 10, 2023.**
- **Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, launched the IndiaSkills 2023-24 and felicitated the World Skills 2022 Winners on October 17, 2023.**
- **The 141st International Olympic Committee (IOC) Session was held in Mumbai, India from 15 to 17 October 2023. The Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurated the session.**
- **Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah launched the emblem of 'Karnataka Sambrama-50' to mark the golden jubilee of renaming the Mysore State as Karnataka. The event took place at the Banquet hall of Vidhana Soudha (State secretariat) on October 17, 2023.**
- **The Governor of Punjab, Banwarilal Purohit, has withheld approval for three money bills that were to be presented in the Special Session of the Punjab State Assembly.**
- **The Jammu and Kashmir administration has indeed set up a six-member committee to identify foreign nationals who have been illegally residing in the Union Territory since January 2011.**
- **The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in India has launched Operation Chakra-II, a crackdown on transnational organized cyber-enabled financial crimes.**
- **Air India Express has unveiled a new brand identity and aircraft livery. The unveiling was done by Air India Express's chairperson Campbell Wilson and managing director Alope Singh.**
- **The Arunachal Pradesh State Cabinet approved the constitution of a Special Tiger Protection Force (STPF) for three Tiger Reserves of the State namely- Namdapha, Pakke and Kamlang.**
- **The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has recently issued a directive mandating general insurers to provide motor insurance coverage to employees travelling in their employer's vehicles.**
- **Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has been ranked as the world's most punctual airport for the past three consecutive months according to the 'On-Time Performance Monthly Report' published by data analytics firm Cirium.**
- **There is a Marathi biopic titled "Gadkari" based on the life of Union Minister Nitin Gadkari. The film aims to showcase the inspirational life story of Nitin Gadkari without giving him the "superman treatment".**
- **The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has developed the "Sagar Se Saransh – Vidya Samiksha Software" as part of the Vidya Samiksha Kendra initiative.**

- **The third stealth destroyer of Project 15B, named 'IMPHAL', was indeed handed over to the Indian Navy. This significant event took place at the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited in Mumbai.**
- **The Supreme Court of India has indeed directed all states and Union Territories to appoint an officer in every district within four weeks to oversee the effective implementation of the Sexual Harassment at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.**
- **The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) and the Skill Council for Persons with Disability (SCPwD) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the 'Job Coach for Inclusivity Programmes. The primary goal of these programmes is to foster diversity and inclusion within the workforce.**
- **The Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) in India has launched an indigenous technology of a 2KW DC Portable Charger to boost electric vehicle adoption in the country.**
- **Prasthan' is a biannual exercise that aims to ensure the security of offshore development areas (ODAs) in the Krishna Godavari Basin, where various oil and gas operators are located.**
- **The "Ghar-Ghar KCC Abhiyaan" is a transformative initiative launched by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare to ensure Kisan Credit Card (KCC) access for fish farmers across India.**
- **Google has partnered with the Fintech Association for Consumer Empowerment (FACE) to take down illegal loan apps from Play Store in India.**
- **Optima Secure is a new health insurance product launched by HDFC ERGO General Insurance, one of the leading non-life insurance companies in India. The product offers customers up to 4 times their sum insured at no additional charge while guaranteeing coverage for listed non-medical expenses.**
- **DFC's loan to Dalmia Polypro Industries for setting up a greenfield recycling facility in Nashik. DFC is the US International Development Finance Corporation, a development finance institution that provides financing for private sector projects in low and middle-income countries.**
- **CM Yogi inaugurated the first Mission Shakti Cafe in Gonda on Oct 22. This cafe is a part of the Mission Shakti campaign for women empowerment, which aims to provide livelihood opportunities and nutritious food to women and students.**
- **The Anthurium Festival started at Reiek in Mamit District on October 21 and 22, 2023. It was a two-day-long event organized by the Tourism Department of Mizoram to showcase the rich cultural heritage and traditions of the Mizo people.**
- **The Chief Minister of Uttarakhand has launched the Nandagaura Yojana Portal for girls. This online portal will be available to about 50 thousand girls every year. The scheme provides financial assistance to the girl child from birth till her marriage to ensure she can get the best education and become independent.**
- **Cyclone 'Hamoon' intensified into a severe cyclonic storm. The Indian Meteorological Department confirmed on October 24 that the cyclonic storm 'Hamoon' escalated to a severe storm in the northwest Bay of Bengal.**
- **A three-member delegation from the European Investment Bank (EIB) recently visited Agra, Kanpur, and Lucknow to examine the Metro rail works being constructed under the Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation (UPMRC). The visit concluded with a meeting in Lucknow on October 21.**
- **Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah, inaugurated IFFCO's Nano DAP (Liquid) Plant at Kalol in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. This is a significant development as it promotes natural farming practices and the reduction of urea usage among Indian farmers.**
- **The Uttar Pradesh government has set up the Urban Road Infrastructure Development Agency (URIDA) to implement the Chief Minister Green Road Infrastructure Development Scheme (Urban), also known as the 'CM Grids Scheme'. This scheme is worth Rs 500 crore.**
- **According to the latest report by S&P Global Market Intelligence, India's nominal GDP is forecast to rise from \$3.5 trillion in 2022 to \$7.3 trillion by 2030. This rapid pace of economic expansion would result in the size of the Indian GDP exceeding Japanese GDP by 2030, making India the second largest economy in the Asia-Pacific region.**
- **According to the Coal Ministry, pan-India coal stocks has grown by over 18% Y-o-Y to 71.35 million tonnes (MT) as on October 21, 2023.**

- **India is one of the world's fastest-growing markets for solar energy. According to the World Energy Outlook 2022, India's solar PV capacity could reach 430 GW by 2030 and 1,200 GW by 2050 in the Net Zero Emissions scenario.**
 - The Government of Rajasthan has launched the iStart Talent Connect Portal. This platform is designed to bridge the gap **between Startups, Job Seekers, Students, Academia, and Corporates.**
 - The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) celebrated its 6th Foundation Day on **October 20, 2023. On this occasion, a new molecular biology lab for advanced research, a Manuscript Unit, and a Center of Excellence Dakshya were launched.**
 - **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** launched the logo, website, and brochure of the newly established National Cooperative for **Exports Limited (NCEL) on Monday. The Union Cooperation Minister distributed membership certificates to NCEL members at the National Symposium on Cooperative Exports organised by the body** in New Delhi.
 - The "International Migration Outlook: 2023" published by the Organisation for **Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), India has retained its position as the top country of origin for new migrants to the member countries of OECD in 2021.**
 - **NLC India Limited, a Navratna Central Public Sector Undertaking headquartered at Neyveli, Tamilnadu, has incorporated a new wholly-owned subsidiary called "NLC India Green Energy Limited" (NIGEL).**
 - **Paras Aerospace Private Limited, a subsidiary of Paras Defence and Space Technologies Limited, has indeed received its second Type Certificate from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Drone Directorate, Government of India. This certification is for its Agri Drone – "Paras-AgriCopter V2.1".**
 - **India has resumed visa services for some categories of Canadian citizens. This decision came after a month-long suspension due to a diplomatic dispute related to the killing of a Sikh separatist. The resumed services, effective from October 26, 2023.**
 - The "National Symposium on Production of Improved and **Traditional Seeds through Cooperative Sector" was organized by the**
- Bharatiya Beej Sahakari Samiti Limited (BBSSL) in New Delhi on October 26, 2023.**
 - **The High-Level Committee (HLC) on One Nation, One Election (ONOE) under the chairmanship of Former President Ram Nath Kovind held its second meeting in New Delhi, on 25th October 2023. During this meeting, a website www.onoe.gov.in was launched.**
 - **The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$400 million policy-based loan to India for Subprogram 2 of the Sustainable Urban Development and Service Delivery Program.**
 - Amitava Mukherjee, the Director of Finance at NMDC, has had his tenure extended as the acting Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) of NMDC. Mukherjee, **has been extended for a further period from 01.09.2023 to 19.11.2023.**
 - **The Indian Army has inaugurated its first vertical wind tunnel (VWT) at the Special Forces Training School (SFTS) in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh. This state-of-the-art facility will simulate real-life free fall conditions, allowing military trainees to enhance their skills in combat free fall (CFF).**
 - **Skyroot Aerospace, an emerging player in the Indian private space industry, recently unveiled Vikram I, its rocket designed for delivering satellites to low earth orbit.**
 - **The 7th India Mobile Congress 2023 was inaugurated by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Bharat Mandapam on 27th October, in New Delhi. This event is Asia's biggest telecom event.**
 - **The 16th Urban Mobility India Conference** has indeed begun in New Delhi. The conference was inaugurated by Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri.
 - The Vimarsh 2023, a National Hackathon on 5G technology use for police, **was indeed conducted in New Delhi. The event was open to teams, startups, etc., who could work on solutions and present use cases for the 5G products/solutions.**
 - **The Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) - UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik), a government-backed initiative to improve infrastructure and connectivity in India, especially in remote and underserved regions, has successfully completed six years.**
 - **Sporanaerobium hydrogeniformans is a newly discovered genus of anaerobic lignocellulose-**

degrading bacteria. It was found in the hot spring of Aravali in the Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra.

- The Election Commission of India has provided an alternative facility of postal ballot to the elderly aged 80 years and above, the disabled, and Corona-infected voters. This facility allows these voters to vote from their homes through postal ballot.
- The cities of Amritsar and Kapurthala in Punjab have been included in the list of 30 cities of historical and religious tourism importance across 15 states of India.
- The Shri Anna Mahotsav was inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath. This three-day state-level event was organized at the Indira Gandhi Pratishthan in Lucknow from October 27 to 29, 2023.
- The 6th Indian Coast Guard Subordinate Officers' Conclave was indeed organised in New Delhi on October 26 & 27, 2023. The theme of the conclave was 'Towards an Inclusive Approach'.
- The Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has launched India's first indigenously developed gasoline and diesel reference fuels. This significant achievement was marked by the Petroleum Minister Hardeep S Puri.
- The Ministry of Coal and the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) have decided to collaborate to promote green energy.
- Escrowpay, a leading innovator in the Escrow Banking – Fintech industry, has secured India's first digital escrow regulatory fintech authorization from the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA).
- Three eminent technology experts from India have been named to the United Nations' High-Level Multistakeholder Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence.
- The Karnataka Forest Department has launched a cloud-based information management system called Hostile Activity Watch Kernel (HAWK).
- Reliance Jio has tested its satellite internet service, JioSpaceFiber, in four of the remotest districts in India. The tests have happened in Nabarangpur district in Odisha, Gir in Gujarat, Korba in Chhattisgarh, and Jorhat in Assam.
- Mizoram, despite being India's second least populated state, has the highest incidence of cancer cases in the country. An 18-year trend study has

noted a consistent increase in cancer incidence and mortality in the state.

- The 15th Tribal Youth Exchange Program was inaugurated in Mumbai. This program is organized by the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- The Indian government's decision to impose a minimum export price of \$800 per tonne on onions until December 31 is likely a measure to control domestic prices and ensure sufficient supply within the country.
- REC Power Development and Consultancy Limited (RECPDCL), a wholly owned subsidiary of REC Limited, handed over the project-specific SPV (Special Purpose Vehicle), formed for the construction of Transmission Project viz., 'Ramgarh II Transmission Limited to Power Grid Corporation of India (PGCIL) Limited on 26th October 2023.
- Ericsson has indeed set up a 6G Research and Development Centre in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- International Energy Agency released World Energy Outlook 2023.
- The India Pavilion at the B2B Food Exhibition, held under the banner of InFlavourExpo in Riyadh, was officially opened by Ambassador Dr. Suhel Khan on 30 October 2023. This marks a significant step towards strengthening bilateral trade ties between India and Saudi Arabia.
- The International Workshop on 'Food Loss and Waste Prevention in the South Asian Region' was inaugurated in New Delhi on 30th October 2023. The workshop was a joint effort by the Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) and the Thünen Institute in Germany.
- According to the Fairwork India Ratings 2023 report, BigBasket has been rated as the best platform for gig workers in India. BigBasket scored the highest overall score of 6 out of 10 points.
- The Jharkhand government has approved the 'Abua Awas Yojana' (AAY), a housing scheme for the poor. The plan is to provide eight lakh pucca houses to the homeless in the state. The total budget for this scheme is Rs 16,320 crore.

BANKING

IFC RECEIVED RBI'S APPROVAL FOR ACQUIRING 9.7% STAKE IN FEDERAL BANK

- In July 2023, Federal Bank raised 959 crore from IFC through a preferential issue of shares, which amounted to 4.99% of the bank's post-issue paid-up capital.
- The RBI's approval is in response to IFC's application and is contingent on compliance with several regulatory provisions, such as the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, and the RBI's guidelines on foreign investment in India.

SBI LAUNCHED A 'MOBILE HANDHELD DEVICE'

- The device will provide five core banking services in its initial phase, such as cash withdrawal, cash deposit, fund transfer, balance inquiry and mini statement.
- The bank also plans to expand its offerings by including services such as enrolments under social security schemes, account opening, remittance and card-based services shortly.
- The device is set to revolutionize banking accessibility by bringing kiosk banking directly to customer's doorstep. The initiative was unveiled by the Chairman of SBI, Shri Dinesh Khara.

OUTLOOK GROUP & IDFC FIRST BANK LAUNCHED "OUTLOOK MONEY 40 AFTER 40"

- The event is designed to be a one-stop shop for all conversations around timely retirement, featuring panel discussions, chats, masterclasses, interactions with planners, product presentations, and more.
- The aim is to spread awareness and create conversations around the important but often-ignored need for retirement planning.
- The event is an extension of Outlook Money's drive towards spreading awareness and creating conversations around the important but often-ignored need for retirement planning.
- It aims to provide invaluable insights and expert guidance to individuals, helping them make informed decisions to secure a prosperous retirement.
- Together, Outlook Group and IDFC FIRST Bank aim to equip attendees with the necessary knowledge and tools to embark on a secure and fulfilling retirement journey.

ANIRBAN MUKHERJEE PROMOTED AS GLOBAL CEO OF PAYU GPO

- He will join the Prosus leadership team and report directly to Ervin Tu, Prosus and Naspers Interim CEO. He will be responsible for the overall business operations of PayU.
- Laurent Le Moal, the previous global CEO of PayU, will step back from operational management but remain with Prosus and PayU in an advisory role.
- Mukherjee said that PayU aims to drive digitisation and financial inclusion especially for small Indian merchants.

YES BANK BECOMES THE FIRST LENDER TO OFFER 'ONDC NETWORK GIFT CARD'

- Unlike traditional gift cards, this concept empowers customers to utilise the gift card for purchasing products from any brand and any seller across a wide array of segments, including food, fashion, handicrafts, electronics, home essentials, health and wellbeing.
- This card leverages the RuPay network and offers the flexibility to load up to Rs 10,000. It's indeed a transformative shift in the way India shops and aims to revolutionize the shopping experience for Indian consumers.

AXIS BANK AND FIBE PARTNER TO LAUNCH INDIA'S FIRST NUMBERLESS CREDIT CARD

- The card is powered by RuPay and can be linked to UPI, which allows the customer to make payments using their mobile phone.
- The card also provides access to four domestic airport lounges per quarter, fuel surcharge waiver, and other benefits from Axis Bank and RuPay.

RBI HALTS NEW SIGN-UPS ON BOB'S MOBILE APP OVER SECURITY ISSUES

- The RBI has asked BoB to suspend the onboarding process with immediate effect and rectify the deficiencies observed by the regulator.
- The bank has said that it has already carried out corrective measures and initiated further steps to plug any remaining gaps.
- It has also assured its existing customers that they will not face any disruption and will continue to

enjoy uninterrupted **services on bob World**. The **bank hopes that the RBI will revoke the suspension before Diwali**.

ICICI BANK INTRODUCES 'IFINANCE', A ONE-STOP

- **Linking and Viewing of All Accounts:** Users can securely link their savings and current accounts with all banks and view account balances at one place.
- **Summary of Income and Expenditure:** The facility allows users to get an insightful summary of their income and expenditure which helps them monitor their finances properly.
- **Track Spending/Payments:** Users can track their spends and get category-wise information of their expenses. This helps them in managing their expenses and overall financial health.
- **Complete User Control:** The facility also provides increased convenience as the users can link and de-link accounts on a real-time basis.
- **Detailed Statement(s):** With this facility, users can also download consolidated account statement(s) of all linked Bank accounts.
- **This feature is available across ICICI Bank's mobile banking and internet banking platforms. It leverages the Account Aggregator ecosystem to enable users to link their accounts.** This initiative is part of ICICI Bank's effort to introduce the convenience of open banking for customers.

STAR CCI APPROVES IDFC MERGER PLAN WITH IDFC FIRST BANK

- **However, the merger is still subject to various statutory and regulatory approvals including from the Stock Exchanges, Securities and Exchange Board of India, Reserve Bank of India, National Company Law Tribunal, and other statutory and regulatory authorities, and the respective shareholders and creditors.**
- **The proposal for the merger was approved by the board of directors of IDFC and IDFC First Bank on July 3.**

SBERBANK BECOMES FIRST RUSSIAN BANK TO REGISTER WITH SEBI

- **This state-owned bank**, which already has a presence in India, registered with the **Indian markets regulator for a Category I FPI license**.
- **Category I FPI registration** is only granted to government or government related foreign investors or regulated entities such as banks, sovereign wealth funds, investment trusts, pension funds, asset management companies.
- **Sberbank's registration takes the total number of Russia-based FPIs in India to five**, with all others being non-banks.
- **Sberbank received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in May 2010 to set up a branch in India and commenced its banking business from January 2011.**

RBI STARTS WHOLESALE DIGITAL RUPEE PILOT IN CALL MONEY MARKET

- **The call money market is where banks borrow from or lend to each other for short term, usually a day, at market-determined rates.**
- Nine banks, including four public sector banks and five private sector banks, are participating in this e-rupee call money pilot.
- **This initiative follows the launch of a wholesale CBDC pilot for the government securities market in November 2022.**
- **The use case for this pilot was limited to the settlement of secondary market transactions in government securities.**
- The new pilot project expands **the use case of the CBDC to include transactions in the call money market.**

APIPL PARTNERS NPCI TO LAUNCH EMIS ON RUPAY CREDIT CARDS

- **EMIs, or "equated monthly installments"**, are a convenient way of paying for purchases over a period of time by dividing the total amount **into smaller and fixed monthly payments**.
- This feature is especially useful for customers who want to buy expensive items or services without paying the full amount upfront.
- **The new feature, called "RuPay Credit Card on UPI", enables customers to link their RuPay credit cards to their UPI IDs and make payments using the UPI platform.**

- **UPI, or “Unified Payments Interface”,** is a real-time payment system that allows users to send and receive money using their mobile phones and a unique identifier called a **VPA, or “Virtual Payment Address”**.

HDFC BANK LAUNCHES ‘XPRESSWAY’ DIGITAL BANKING PLATFORM

- **With over “30 banking products” and more than “14 services”,** it covers a range of financial offerings, from personal loans to credit cards and savings accounts.
- XpressWay offers a range of services, including Xpress Personal Loan, Xpress Business Loans, Xpress Car Loan, Xpress Home **Loan, Xpress Loan on cards, Xpress Credit Card, Xpress Savings Accounts.**
- **These services are designed to provide a fast, seamless, paperless, and self-service experience for new and existing customers.**

NBBP LAUNCHES B2B SERVICES, PARTNERS WITH AXIS BANK

- **This initiative aims to reshape the landscape of business payments and collections.**
- The B2B category is going live for the first time on the **MyJio app for the Biller Arzoo, with Axis Bank as the Biller Operating Unit (BOU).**
- The platform will offer multiple payment modes like **UPI, net banking, cards, wallets, IMPS, cash, etc., along with multiple payment channels like mobile apps, websites, agents, branches, etc.**
- In order to **cater to the cash flow needs of the B2B segment, Bharat BillPay will also allow partial payments in this category.**

RBI HAS IMPOSED A FINE OF RS 2.5 CRORE ON L&T FINANCE LTD

- **The RBI’s decision came after a statutory inspection of L&T Finance Limited, which covered its financial position as of March 31, 2021, and March 31, 2022.**
- **Additionally, the company did not notify borrowers of changes in penal interest rates when rates were higher than initially communicated.**
- **It also failed to provide notice of changes in loan terms and conditions when charging an**

annualized interest rate higher than what was communicated at the time of sanction.

SEBI EMPANELS 12 ENTITIES TO PROVIDE DIGITAL FORENSIC SERVICES

- **These entities, which include Ernst & Young LLP and KPMG Assurance and Consulting Services LLP, will assist SEBI’s search team for onsite data acquisition during search and seizure operations.**
- **The other empanelled entities are:**
 - Baker Tilly Business Advisory Services
 - Cybermate Forensics & Data Security Solutions
 - Cyint Technologies
 - ECS Info Tech
 - Innefu Labs
 - Mahen Technologies
 - Nangia & Co LLP
 - Netrika Consulting India
 - Pelorus Technologies
 - Systools Software
- **These entities have been empanelled to provide digital forensic services for a period of two years.**
- **Their responsibilities will include the acquisition, extraction, and analysis of digital evidence from mobile devices, computers, tablets, and other digital devices on an ongoing basis.**

KOTAK MAHINDRA BANK PARTNERS WITH NESL TO ISSUE E-BANK GUARANTEES

- **This partnership aims to digitize trade and eliminate the paper-based issuance of Bank Guarantees.**
- The digitization process includes issuance, amendment, closure, digital stamping, and signing, which significantly reduces the Guarantee turnaround time (TAT) to a few hours compared to 2-3 working days for the paper-based process.
- The e-BG also mitigates authentication risks.
- **Paritosh Kashyap, President & Head Wholesale Banking, Kotak Mahindra Bank, and Debajyoti Ray Chaudhuri, MD & CEO, NeSL, exchanged a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).**
- They believe that e-BG brings a paradigm shift in the way we do trade finance and is a milestone in the digitization of banking services.
- **With the help of NeSL- Digital Documents Execution (DDE) technology, the beneficiary can view digitally**

issued bank guarantees on the NeSL portal in real-time.

RBI PROPOSES TO BAR RECOVERY AGENTS FROM CALLING BORROWERS BEFORE 8 AM, AFTER 7 PM

- This proposal is part of the RBI's effort to protect borrowers from harassment by recovery agents.
- The RBI has also suggested that regulated entities should put in place a board-approved code of conduct for direct sales agents (DSA), direct marketing agents (DMA), and recovery agents.
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ZERODHA FUND HOUSE LAUNCHES ITS MAIDEN MUTUAL FUND SCHEMES

- It aims to build simple, transparent, and affordable mutual funds that leverage technology at every touchpoint.
- They are:
 - **Zerodha Nifty LargeMidcap 250 Index Fund:** An open-ended scheme that replicates the Nifty LargeMidcap 250 Index, which consists of the top 250 companies by market capitalization in India.
 - **Zerodha ELSS Tax Saver Nifty LargeMidcap 250 Index Fund:** An open-ended equity-linked savings scheme (ELSS) that also replicates the Nifty LargeMidcap 250 Index, but with a statutory lock-in period of three years and tax benefit under Section 80 © of the Income-tax Act, 1961.

SANDIP GARG TAKES OVER AS WHOLE-TIME MEMBER OF IBBI

- During his tenure as **Executive Director at IBBI, Shri Garg managed a wide-ranging portfolio encompassing Corporate Insolvency, Corporate Liquidation, Individual Insolvency, Individual Bankruptcy, and Data Dissemination.**
- Additionally, he oversaw **IBBI's IT functions and actively participated in the Steering Committee for Integrated Information Technology Platform for the IBC (Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code) Ecosystem.**

BANK OF BARODA LAUNCHES BOB LITE SAVINGS ACCOUNT

- It was **introduced** as a part of its "**BOB Ke Sang Tyohaar Ki Umang**" festive campaign.
- The bob LITE Savings Account offers customers a **hassle-free banking experience without any minimum balance requirement.**
- It also **offers lifetime free access to debit or credit cards.**

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA (RBI) PUBLISHES NBFC – SBR MASTER DIRECTIONS 2023

- The **Master Directions** were issued as part of a **revised regulatory framework** for NBFCs known as the **Scale Based Regulation (SBR).**
- The **SBR framework, which was introduced on October 22, 2021, categorizes NBFCs into four layers based on their asset size and scoring methodology:** Base Layer (NBFC-BL), Middle Layer (NBFC-ML), Upper Layer (NBFC-UL), and Top Layer (NBFC-TL).

INDUSIND BANK COLLABORATES WITH VIAMERICAS TO OFFER INWARD REMITTANCE SERVICES TO NRIS IN USA

- This **collaboration operates under the Rupee Drawing Arrangement scheme of the RBI, allowing NRIs to efficiently transfer** funds to their beneficiaries in India via the reliable Indus Fast Remit platform.
- The **service will offer competitive exchange rates** on remittances to India.
- The **Indus Fast Remit platform will allow NRIs to book remittance transactions** through auto debit payment mode (Automated clearing House - ACH) as well as transfer funds through the overseas Bank account.

BANKING- ONE LINER

- **HDFC Pension has launched a first-of-its-kind National Pension System (NPS) Preference Index.** This index highlights the preference of NPS amongst different consumer groups. The NPS is a government-backed retirement savings program

designed to provide financial security to Indian citizens during their retirement years.

- **SBI Life Insurance, one of the most trusted private life insurers in India, has signed a bancassurance pact with the State Bank of Sikkim (SBS)** at the bank's headquarters in Gangtok, Sikkim.
- **RBI has made the search facility under its UDGAM portal available for 30 banks as of September 28, 2023.** UDGAM is a centralized web portal that helps people to find and claim their unclaimed deposits across different banks at one place.
- **Indel Money, a non-banking finance company specializing in gold loans, has received an Authorized Dealer (AD) Category-II license** from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to start foreign exchange business.
- **The S&P Global India Services PMI (Purchasing Managers' Index) increased to 61.0 in September 2023 from 60.1 in August. This beat market forecasts of 59.5, signaling a sharp upturn in output** that was one of the strongest in over 13 years.
- **The fintech company Slice has announced a merger with the North East Small Finance Bank (NESFB). This merger** has received a no-objection certificate from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), and is currently awaiting shareholder consent and other regulatory approvals
- **The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and the Shell Foundation have launched a \$6-million Risk Sharing Facility (RSF) to improve access to finance and ramp-up the adoption of electric two- and three-wheelers across India.**
- **IndusInd Bank has launched a new digital banking app called 'INDIE'. This app is designed to offer a completely differentiated experience to customers who are digitally savvy and looking for a superlative digital experience.**
- **The fintech credit and payments startup slice and Guwahati-based North East Small Finance Bank (NESFB) have announced a merger.** The Reserve Bank of India has approved the deal. This is a first-of-its-kind development in the fintech and banking space.
- **The Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) and Digital India Bhashini Division (DIBD) have indeed collaborated to foster linguistic inclusivity in financial services.** This strategic partnership aims to

break down language barriers prevalent in the financial services landscape.

- **Axis Bank has launched its digital banking proposition called 'Open by Axis Bank'.** This platform is designed to provide a user-friendly, modern interface for both existing and new customers. The 'Open by Axis Bank' app is a safe and secure **mobile banking application that offers over 100 features and services, satisfying more than just banking needs**
- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed to allow banks to tokenise debit or credit cards. This proposal is part of the RBI's efforts to enhance data security and give customers greater control over managing their card tokens.**
- **The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointments of 12 general managers and chief general managers as Executive Directors (EDs) of various public sector banks.**
- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has indeed increased the existing limit of gold loans under the bullet repayment scheme** from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 4 lakh for certain urban co-operative banks.
- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has indeed constituted an external Working Group on Expected Credit Loss (ECL) based Framework for Provisioning by Banks**
- **The gross GST revenue collected in September 2023 was Rs 1,62,712 crore, which is a 10% increase compared to the same month last year.** This is the highest GST collection ever in a month.
- **The interest rate on General Provident Fund (GPF) savings has been kept at 7.1% for the October-December quarter.** This rate is set by the government and is subject to change every quarter.
- **Federal Bank has indeed extended UPI (Unified Payments Interface) services to its NRI (Non-Resident Indian) clients.** This service is available through its mobile banking platform, FedMobile.
- **Paysharp Private Limited, an RBI in-principle approved payment aggregator based out of Chennai, has recently received the ISO/IEC 27001:2022 certification.** This is an international standard in information security management systems.
- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given approval to SBI Mutual Fund (SBIMF) for acquiring up to 9.99% of paid-up share capital in IndusInd**

Bank. This acquisition will also give SBI MF the right to 9.99% voting rights in the bank.

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** imposed a **monetary penalty of Rs 5.39 crore on Paytm Payments Bank** for violating several norms, including **Know Your Customer (KYC) norms**. The bank failed to identify beneficial owners, monitor transactions, and breached the regulatory ceiling of end-of-day balances.
- The **Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS)** conducted by the **National Sample Survey Office (NSSO)** reported a decrease in India's unemployment rate for the period between April and June 2023.
- **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has received approval from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** for its acquisition of microlender **Sonata Finance for Rs 537 crore**. The RBI has allowed Kotak to make Sonata its business correspondent subsidiary, making it a wholly-owned subsidiary of the bank.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has enabled subscription to **Floating Rate Savings Bonds, 2020 (Taxable) – FRSB 2020 (T)** through its **Retail Direct Portal**. This was announced on October 23, 2023.
- According to a report by the **State Bank of India (SBI)**, the total asset/liabilities growth of the banking system in the last nine years (FY14-FY23) was 1.3 times higher than the growth in the last 63 years (FY1951-2014).
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has indeed issued a directive requiring private sector banks to have at least two **Whole Time Directors (WTDs)**, including the **Managing Director (MD)** and **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)**, on their boards.
- **Zaakpay**, the payment gateway arm of **MobiKwik**, has received in-principle approval from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to operate as a **payment aggregator**. This approval will allow Zaakpay to onboard new merchants onto its platform for online payment processing
- **AU Small Finance Bank** has launched a new product called '**Planet First - AU Green Fixed Deposit**'. This innovative financial product not only secures your finances but also ensures that your deposits are deployed towards making a positive impact on the environment.
- **RBL Bank** has recently launched a new product called the **GO Savings Account**, which is a zero-

balance digital banking option that offers various benefits to the customers.

- **Yes Bank** has indeed reinstated its stake in **JC Flowers Asset Reconstruction (JC Flowers ARC)** to 9.9%.

APPOINTMENTS

Name of the Person	Designation
Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti, AVSM, VSM	Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff
Pankaj Bohra	National President of the (IACC)
Mohamed Muizzu	President of Maldives
Arindam Bagchi	Permanent Representative of India to the UN
Neeraj Chopra	Laureus Ambassadors
Shanth Kumar	Chairman of the Press Trust of India's Board of Directors
Ramaswamy Narayanan	Chairman and Managing Director of the General Insurance Corporation of India
Sandip Garg	Member of the (IBBI)
Muneesh Kapur	Executive Director by RBI
Manoranjan Mishra	Executive Director by RBI
Dinesh Khara	Chairman of State Bank of India
Navneet Munot	Chairman of the Association of Mutual Funds
Anthony Heredia	Vice-Chairman of the Association of Mutual Funds
Shiv Bajrang Singh	Executive Director of the Indian Bank123
Raghubar Das	Chief Minister of Jharkhand
Siddharth Mridul	Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court
Ashok Vaswani's	MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank
Sanjay Kumar Jain	Chairman and Managing Director IRCTC
Ipsita Dasgupta	Senior Vice President & Managing Director of HP's India market
Munish Sharda	Executive Director of Axis Bank.
Robert Fico	Member of Slovakia's Prime Minister
Mr. Swarup Anand Mohanty	Vice Chairman of the AMC
Professor Sarang Deo	Member of the Strategic and Technical Advisory Group for Tuberculosis
Lieutenant General Raghu Srinivasan	Director General of the Border Roads Organisation
Sandeep Shandilya	Hyderabad Police Commissioner
B K Mohanty	Director (Finance) of the IREDA
Dr. Meenesh Shah	Board of the International Dairy Federation

Sanjay Kulshrestha	Chairman & Managing Director of the HUDCO
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INDEX AND RANKING

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.
- It also **identifies the top 100 science and technology innovation clusters** in the world. The **theme** of this year's GII is **"Innovation in the face of uncertainty"**.
- India has **retained its 40th spot, which is a remarkable improvement from its 81st position in 2015.**

INDIA MOVED TO 47TH POSITION IN THE GLOBAL MOBILE SPEED RANKING

- India has made significant strides in mobile download speed rankings, securing a position within the top 50. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is ranked first in the world for mobile internet speed.
- This enhancement in download speeds propelled India's elevation in the Speedtest Global Index, propelling it from the 119th position to a commendable 47th position.

INDIA RANKS 111 OUT OF 125 COUNTRIES IN GLOBAL HUNGER INDEX 2023

- The **GHI scores are calculated based on four indicators: undernourishment, child wasting, child stunting, and child mortality.**
- India **ranks 111th out of the 125 countries with sufficient data to calculate 2023 GHI scores.** With a **score of 28.7, India** has a level of hunger that is serious.

THE GLOBAL RESIDENTIAL CITIES INDEX Q2 2023

- According to the **Q2 2023 report**, the average annual price growth has slowed across world cities, falling to 1.7% from 3.2% in Q1. However, more timely quarterly price change data reveals the beginnings of a revival in some key global markets.
- Here are some specific details for Indian cities:
 - **Mumbai:** 6.00% annual change, Global Rank: 19

- **Bengaluru:** 5.30% annual change, Global Rank: 22
- **Delhi:** 4.50% annual change, Global Rank: 25

INDIA'S RANK ON THE GLOBAL PENSION INDEX 2023

- India's rank on the Global Pension Index 2023 has fallen to **45th position out of 47 countries, according to a report by Mercer and CFA Institute.**
- **Netherlands** with a score of **85** and a rating of **A**, **Iceland** with a score of **83.5** and a rating of **A**, **Denmark** with a score of **81.3** and a rating of **A**.

INDIA'S TAX-TO-GDP RATIO RISES THIRD YEAR IN A ROW

- The **direct tax-to-GDP ratio increased from 5.1% in 2020-21 to 6.1% in 2021-22, while the indirect tax-to-GDP ratio rose from 5.2% to 5.6%.**
- Within **direct taxes, the personal income tax-to-GDP ratio went up from 2.11% in 2014-15 to 2.94% in 2021-22,** indicating that the taxpayer base is widening as a result of the **steps taken by the present government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.**
- The **gross corporate taxes also showed a significant growth of 55.6%,** reflecting that the **new simplified tax regime with low rates and no exemptions has lived up to its promise.**

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Awardee	Awards
Pierre Agostini, Ferenc Krausz, and Anne L'Huillier	Nobel Prize in Physics
Sudha Murty	Global Indian Award for Excellence
Moungi G. Bawendi, Louis E. Brus, and Alexei I. Ekimov	Nobel Prize in Chemistry
Jon Fosse	Nobel Prize in Literature
Narges Mohammadi	Nobel Peace Prize
Michael Douglas	Lifetime Achievement Award
Guidance Tamil Nadu	United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) Award for Excellence
Shaktikanta Das	'A+' ranking in the Global Financial Literacy Index
Mr. V. K. Singh, Mr. Daljeet Singh Khatri	Golden Peacock Award for Excellence
Institute of Chartered Accountants of India	ISAR Honours
Kerala Gramin Bank	Assocham Award for Excellence
Udhampur military station	'Best Green Military Station' award
Ashok Gadgil and Subra Suresh	National Medal of Science
Dhananjaya Y. Chandrachud	Global Leadership Award
Yogender Chaudhry	Anubhav Award
Smita Sharma	Mahatma Award

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme
October 1st, 2023	International Day of Older Persons	Theme: "Fulfilling the Promises of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for Older Persons: Across Generations"
October 1st-31st, 2023	Breast Cancer Awareness Month	Theme: Thrive365
October 1st, 2023	International Coffee Day	Theme: Sustainability in Every Cup'.
October 1st, 2023	World Vegetarian Day	Theme: "Eat Green for a Healthier Planet".
October 2nd, 2023	World Habitat Day	Theme: "Resilient urban economies
October 2nd-8th, 2023	69th Wildlife Week	Theme: "Partnerships for wildlife conservation",
October 4th, 2023	World Animal Day	Theme: 'Big or small, we love them all'
October 4th-10th, 2023	World Space Week	Theme: "Space and Entrepreneurship"
October 5th, 2023	World Teachers' Day	Theme:"The teachers we need for the education we want: The global imperative to reverse the teacher shortage".
October 6th, 2023	World Smile Day	Theme: -"Radiate Joy"
October 6th, 2023	World Cerebral Palsy Day	Theme: -"Together Stronger"
October 6th, 2023	Indian Air Force Day	Theme: "IAF - Airpower Beyond Boundaries"
October 7th, 2023	World Cotton Day	Theme: "Making cotton fair and sustainable for all, from farm to fashion".
October 8th, 2023	World Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Day	Theme: - "Hydrogen: Building a Sustainable and Prosperous Future"
October 8th, 2023	World Dyslexia Day	Theme: 'Uniquely You'
October 9th, 2023	World Post Day	Theme: 'Together for Trust: Collaborating for a safe and connected future'.

October 10th, 2023	World Day Against the Death Penalty	Theme: -"The death penalty: An irreversible torture".
October 10th, 2023	World Mental Health Da	Theme:"Mental health is a universal human right"
October 10th, 2023	Current Good Manufacturing Practice	Theme: -
October 11th, 2023	International Day of the Girl Child	Theme: "Invest in Girls' Rights: Our Leadership, Our Well-being"
October 12th, 2023	World Arthritis Day	Theme: "Living with an RMD at all stages of life"
October 12th, 2023	World Sight Day	Theme:"Love Your Eyes at Work"
October 13th, 2023	International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction	Theme: "Fighting inequality for a resilient future"
October 13th, 2023	World Egg Day	Theme: "Eggs for a Healthy Future"
October 14th, 2023	World Migratory Bird Day	Theme: "Water: Sustaining Bird Life"
October 15th, 2023	International Day of Rural Women	Theme:"Rural Women Cultivating Good Food for All"
October 15th, 2023	World Food Day	Theme:"Water is life, water is food. Leave no one behind.
October 15th, 2023	World White Cane Day	Theme:-
October 15th, 2023	World Students Day	Theme: "Innovation for a Sustainable Future"
October 17th, 2023	International Day for the Eradication of Poverty	Theme:- "Decent Work and Social Protection: Putting Dignity in Practice for All"
October 17th, 2023	World Trauma Day	Theme:- "Embracing Resilience, Overcoming Trauma's Impact"
October 18th, 2023	Kati Bihu	Theme:-
October 20th, 2023	World Osteoporosis Day	Theme:"Step Up for Bone Health-Build Better Bones"
October 20th, 2023	International Chefs Day	Theme:-"Growing Great Chefs"
October 20th, 2023	National Solidarity Day	Theme:-
October 21st, 2023	National Police Commemoration Day	Theme:-

October 21st, 2023	Global Iodine Deficiency Disorders Prevention Day	Theme:- "Nurturing Health with Iodine Deficiency Prevention for All"
October 22nd, 2023	International Stuttering Awareness Day	Theme:- "One Size Does NOT Fit All"
October 22nd-28th, 2023	International Lead Poisoning Prevention Wee	Theme:- "End Childhood Lead Poisoning"
October 23rd, 2023	International Snow Leopard Day	Theme:-
October 24th, 2023	World Development Information Day	Theme:- "Action for Sustainable Development Goal"
October 24th, 2023	United Nations Day	Theme:-"Building Back Together for Peace and Prosperity"
October 24th, 2023	World Polio Day	Theme:"A healthier future for mothers and children"
October 24th, 2023	Indo-Tibetan Border Police Raising Day	Theme:-
October 24th-31st, 2023	Global Media and Information Literacy Week	Theme: "Media and Information Literacy in Digital Spaces: A Collective Global Agenda"
October 25th, 2023	International Dwarfism Awareness Day	Theme:
October 26th, 2023	Accession Day	Theme:
October 27th, 2023	World Day for Audiovisual Heritage	Theme: "Your Window to the World"
October 27th, 2023	77th Infantry Day	Theme:
October 31st, 2023	World Occupational Therapy Day	Theme: "Unity through Community"
October 28th, 2023	International Animation Day	Theme:
October 29th, 2023	International Day of Care and Support	Theme: "Care: Driving a Fair and Inclusive Recovery"
October 29th, 2023	World Stroke Day	Theme:"Together we are Greater Than Stroke"
October 31st, 2023	National Unity Da	Theme: "Fostering unity"
October 31st, 2023	World Cities Day	Theme:"Financing a sustainable urban future for all"

October 31st, 2023	World Savings Day	Theme: "Conquer your Tomorrow" through savings.
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MOUS SIGNED

Signed Between	Date Signed	Purpose
WHO and WADA	2nd October 2023	To collaborate on clean, drug-free sport
DPIIT and GSV	4th October 2023	To advance the Pradhan Mantri Gati Shakti , National Master Plan
India and Dominican Republic	4th october 2023	Focused on enhancing cooperation in diverse sectors
India and the United Arab Emirates	5th October 2023	To facilitate industrial investments
ARAI & IIT Guwahati	6th October 2023	To set up a digital twin center for emerging automotive systems.
India and Saudi Arabia	8th October 2023	To establish a general framework for cooperation b/w the two countries in the field of electrical interconnection.
Assam Govt & Indian Army	9th October 2023	For the upskilling of ex-servicemen and their dependents
DAHD with NRLM	10th October 2023	To empower women by engaging them as Accredited Agents
Skyroot with French Space Firms	10th October 2023	Develops and launches orbital rockets for small satellite.
India and France	11th October 2023	To promote closer cooperation and exchange of information pertaining to digital technologies
Pakistan and China	16th October 2023	To enhance cooperation under the Beijing-backed Belt and Road Initiative
DOLR and NRSC	17th October 2023	To monitor WDC-PMKSY 2.0 projects

IICA and SCPwD	20th October 2023	To foster diversity and inclusion within the workforce
IAF and Indian manufacturer	26th October 2023	For the procurement of Automatic Weather Stations at 82 IAF

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

HP CM LAUNCHED SUKH ASHRAYA YOJANA FOR ORPHANS

- The scheme aims to provide proper care, protection, development, and self-reliance to these vulnerable sections of society and help them reintegrate into the mainstream of society.
- The scheme offers various benefits such as monthly financial assistance, education and coaching fees, laptops, land and housing assistance, marriage and startup assistance, foster care and sponsorship, and monthly picnics.
- The scheme is the first-of-its-kind initiative in the country to adopt the orphans and specially-abled children as the 'children of the state' and work for their upliftment and wellbeing.

“CHIEF MINISTER’S BREAKFAST SCHEME” LAUNCHED BY TELANGANA GOVERNMENT

- The scheme was launched on Friday, October 6, 2023, and it aims to provide nutritious breakfast to about 23 lakh government school students. The main objective of the scheme is to improve enrollment rates and nutritional standards.
- It is applicable to all students studying in government primary and high schools (from classes 1 to 10) across the state on all working days. The government is going to spend Rs. 400 crore annually on this new scheme.
- It also aims to alleviate the burden on working mothers along with providing students nutritious food.

GOVERNMENT INTRODUCED THE SHRESHTA SCHEME

- The scheme aims to achieve this through the collaboration of grant-in-aid institutions run by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and residential high schools offering high-quality education.

- SHRESHTA envisions creating an environment conducive to the socio-economic upliftment and holistic development of SC students while securing their future opportunities.
- The scheme covers the entire fee for each student, including school fees (tuition fees) and hostel fees (mess charges). The scheme also incorporates a bridge course within the selected schools, targeting the individual academic requirements of students and aiding their adjustment to the school environment.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSIOLOGY OR MEDICINE 2023

- Their research, which began in the 1990s, has fundamentally changed our understanding of how mRNA interacts with our immune system and how it can be used to stimulate an immune response against a specific pathogen.
- Their groundbreaking findings paved the way for the rapid development of mRNA vaccines during the COVID-19 pandemic, which have proven to be highly effective and safe in preventing severe disease and death.
- The Nobel Prize committee praised their work as “one of the greatest threats to human health in modern times” and “a victory for vaccines and the potential for vaccines to advance health and improve equity”.

AMAZON LAUNCHED FIRST TEST SATELLITES FOR PROJECT KUIPER SATELLITE SYSTEM

- The prototype satellites, named Protoflight 1 and Protoflight 2, were launched on a Blue Origin New Glenn rocket from Cape Canaveral, Florida.
- They will test the performance and functionality of the Kuiper System, which includes advanced LEO broadband satellites, small customer terminals, and a secure ground-based communications network.
- Amazon plans to deploy a constellation of 3,236 satellites in low Earth orbit, operating in 98 orbital planes in three orbital shells.
- The company has secured 77 heavy-lift launches from Arianespace, Blue Origin, United Launch Alliance, and has options for additional launches

with Blue Origin. **Amazon expects to provide service to the earliest Project Kuiper customers by the end of 2024.**

NATIONAL CYBER SECURITY EXERCISE 'BHARAT NCX 2023'

- The exercise aimed to train senior management and technical personnel of government, critical sector organizations and public and private agencies on contemporary cyber threats and handling cyber incidents and response.
- The exercise was inaugurated by Dr. Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India, along with Deputy National Security Advisor Shri Rajinder Khanna and National Cyber Security Coordinator Lt Gen MU Nair.
- The exercise also helped strategic leaders to better understand cyber threats, assess readiness, and develop skills for cyber crisis management and cooperation.

TAMIL NADU'S FIRST AI-BASED EARLY WARNING SYSTEM (EWS)

- The system involves installing 12 e-surveillance towers equipped with thermal imaging cameras along the Ettimadai–Walayar railway section, which links Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- The AI-based early warning system is expected to be completed soon and will undergo trial runs to check its functionality.
- The forest department staff and the railway officials can then take appropriate action to prevent any accidents.

SPORTS

AYUSH SHETTY WINS BRONZE MEDAL IN BWF WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS 2023

- He became the 10th Indian to win a medal at the BWF World Junior Championships and the 8th Men's singles shuttler to do so.
- He is also the top-ranked Indian boys' singles player in BAI rankings. Ayush Shetty faced a tough challenge from his opponent, Alwi Farhan of Indonesia, who was the fourth seed in the tournament.

- Ayush Shetty lost the semifinal match 18-21, 15-21 in 45 minutes. However, he showed great resilience and skill throughout the tournament, winning four of his five matches in straight games before the semifinal.

RAUNAK SADHWANI HAS WON AT THE FIDE WORLD JUNIOR RAPID CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP 2023

- He was the 9th youngest player and 4th Indian to achieve GM at youngest age.
- The championship was held from 9th to 16th October 2023 in Pula (Sardinia), Italy. On his way to become world junior rapid champion, Raunak won eight rounds, suffered two losses and drew a board to top of the table pocketing 8.5 points.

SPORTS- ONE LINER

- In the Asian Games 2023, India's Abhay Singh put up a remarkable performance against Pakistan's Noor Zaman in the men's team squash final. Abhay Singh showcased incredible resilience, snatching victory from the jaws of defeat.
- The Indian shooting duo of Sarabjot Singh and Divya Subbaraju did indeed secure a silver medal in the mixed 10m air rifle pistol team event at the ongoing Asian Games.
- The Indian tennis duo of Rohan Bopanna and Rutuja Bhosale clinched the gold medal in the mixed doubles event at the 2023 Asian Games held in Hangzhou, China.
- The Indian Men's Badminton Team won the Silver Medal at the Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou, China. This was a historic achievement as it was India's first medal in the men's team badminton event at the Asian Games since 1976
- Parul Chaudhary won the silver medal in the women's 3000m steeplechase at the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China. She finished second with a timing of 9:27.63s.
- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has indeed announced the legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar as the Global Ambassador for the Men's Cricket World Cup 2023.
- The Indian women's compound archery team clinched a gold medal at the Asian Games. The team, consisting of Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Aditi

Gopichand, and Parneet Kaur, defeated the Chinese Taipei team in a closely contested match.

- **Neeraj Chopra, the world’s number one javelin thrower from India, achieved yet another historic moment on October 4th, 2023. He secured a gold medal at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou with a season-best throw of 88.88m.**
- India’s Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty created history by winning the first ever gold medal for India in men’s **doubles event in badminton at the Asian Games 2023.**
- India **indeed made history at the 19th Asian Games in Hangzhou by securing a record-breaking tally of 107 medals**, including 28 gold, 38 silver, and 41 bronze.
- Prime **Minister Narendra Modi has announced that the Indian government will spend Rs 3000 crore** towards the promotion of sports in the country over the next five years.
- **Rohit Sharma has indeed broken Chris Gayle’s record for the most sixes in international cricket. During the ICC World Cup 2023 match against Afghanistan, Rohit Sharma hit his 554th six**, surpassing Chris Gayle’s previous record of 553 sixes.
- **Max Verstappen has indeed won his third Formula One world championship. He secured the title during the Qatar Grand Prix sprint race. This victory marks Verstappen’s third consecutive world championship.**
- The **Chief Minister of Jharkhand, Hemant Soren, unveiled the mascot and trophy for the Asian Women’s Hockey Championship in Ranchi. The mascot, named ‘Juhi’, is inspired by a popular elephant at Betla National Park.**
- **The Hyderabad EPrix is indeed a thrilling event. The second edition being held on February 10, 2024, will surely bring more excitement and intense competition.**
- The 24-year-old Indian chess grandmaster, Karthikeyan Murali, delivered a stunning blow to the world’s number one player, **Magnus Carlsen. This remarkable victory occurred during the Qatar Masters Tournament 2023.**
- **Unnati Hooda won the women’s singles title at Abu Dhabi Masters 2023. She is an Indian badminton player from Haryana. She is the youngest Indian to win a BWF Super 100 title. She defeated her compatriot Samiya Imad Farooqui in the final with**

a score of 21-16, 22-20. It was her second BWF Super 100 title after winning the Odisha Open in 2022.

- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI) has indeed become a member of the steering group of the International Competition Network (ICN). This is a significant achievement as it’s the first time that the CCI has secured this membership.**
- The **Indian para contingent made history at the Para Asian Games 2023 by winning a record-breaking 111 medals. This is the first time India has hit the 100-medal mark. The medal tally includes 29 golds, 31 silvers, and 51 bronze medals.** This is a significant improvement from the 2018 Para Asian Games, where India won 72 medals.

DEFENCE

THE ANNUAL JOINT HADR EXERCISE 2023 (CHAKRAVAT 2023)

- This **exercise has been conducted by the Indian Army, Indian Navy, and Indian Air Force in rotation since 2016.**
- It’s a **multi-agency endeavor involving participation of all three Services, Paramilitary Forces, as well as several disaster response organizations, NGOs, academic institutions, and international organizations.**

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCE

Name of the Summit	Organized/Led by	Venue	Aim/Theme
Good Governance	Government of Rajasthan	Jaipur	To bring together national and state level public administration organizations
“Anti-Terror Conference”	Amit Shah	New Delhi	To discuss the recent challenges posed by terrorism,
International Research Conference	CGIAR GENDER Impact Platform and ICAR	New Delhi	To promote the sharing of cutting-edge knowledge on gender and inclusion in food systems
8th BRICS International	CCI	New Delhi	Theme-"New Issues in Competition Law

Competition			and Policy - Dimensions, Perspectives, Challenges".
Shramdaan Event'	MSME	New Delhi	Theme- 'Garbage-Free India'
9th P20 Summit	Indian Parliament and IPU	New Delhi	Theme- "Parliaments for One Earth, One Family, One Future."
Annual Tourism Summit	CCI	Mumbai	To discuss and deliberate the challenges and path forward for the tourism sector.
Dakar Declaration on Climate Change	Ministers of LDC	Dakar, Senegal	Outline the expectations and priorities of the LDCs for COP28
National Intellectual Property Awards	Union Minister for Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal	New Delhi	Focus on "Nurturing Growth of IP Driven Knowledge Economy"
ISAR Honours 2023	UNCTAD	Abu Dhabi	To recognize policy, institutional, and capacity-building initiatives
16th Urban Mobility India Conference	Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri	New Delhi	Theme- "Integrated and Resilient Urban Transport"

ECONOMY- ONE LINER

- The Union Ministry of Textiles has introduced **Quality Control Orders (QCOs) for six medical-textile and 20 agro-textile products. These orders will come into effect from April 1, 2024.** The medical textile products covered under this order include sanitary napkins, medical textile shoe covers, and disposable baby diapers.
- Starting from **October 1, online gaming companies in India will charge a 28% Goods and Services Tax (GST) on the full value of bets. This move comes with the consensus of all Indian states and follows the recent passage of amendments to GST laws in the Lok Sabha.**
- The **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) celebrated its Seventh Annual Day on 1st October**

2023 at 11:30 AM in Hall No. 5, Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The event was presided over by Justice Shri Ashok Bhushan, Chairperson, National Company Law Appellate Tribunal.

- The Finance Ministry has indeed announced that the five-year recurring deposit under the small savings scheme will now fetch an **interest rate of 6.7 percent. This is part of the government's efforts to encourage savings and investment among individuals.**
- Prime Minister Narendra **Modi announced the formation of a National Turmeric Board during his visit to Telangana. The board aims to support turmeric farmers in India, which is a major producer and exporter of turmeric.**
- The World **Bank has retained its GDP growth forecast for India at 6.3 percent for 2023-24 even amid persistent and intensifying global headwinds.**
- India's **cumulative coal production has risen by 15.81% during the month of September 2023, attaining 67.21 million tonne (MT) production.**
- The **latest bi-monthly meeting of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) was held from October 4 to October 6, 2023. The six-member MPC unanimously decided to keep the repo rate, which is the key interest rate at which the RBI lends money to commercial banks, unchanged at 6.5%.**
- **The Indian government has issued a notification stating that certain provisions of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) will no longer apply to aircraft, their engines, airframes, and helicopters.**
- **Tata Motors, a leader in the four-wheeler passenger Electric Vehicles (EV) segment in India, is implementing a multi-pronged strategy to upskill its workforce to be future-ready to transition to the EV landscape.**
- The World Trade Organization (WTO) has indeed lowered its global merchandise trade growth forecast for 2023 to 0.8%.
- **Saint-Gobain, the French construction and industrial materials company, has announced that it will be investing an additional 3,400 crores in Tamil Nadu. This investment will be spread across different business verticals such as glasswool, gypsum plasterboard, plaster, acoustic ceiling, float glass, solar glass, adhesives, sealants, mortars and ceramics.**

- The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has announced that it will introduce options contracts on underlying WTI crude oil and natural gas **futures in the commodity derivatives segment from October 9.**
- **The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has decided to keep the Policy Repo Rate unchanged at 6.5%.** This decision was made after a detailed assessment of the evolving macroeconomic and financial developments and the outlook.
- **The automotive retail sales in September 2023 showcased a robust double-digit year-on-year growth of 20%. This growth was driven by rising demand across vehicle segments during the onset of the festival season**
- In September 2023, over 3 million dematerialised (demat) accounts were opened for the second consecutive month. This underscores the continued allure of the domestic equity market for direct investors.
- **The Israel-Hamas conflict could potentially spur oil prices beyond India's comfort zone. While Israel and Gaza are not significant oil producers, markets have been jolted by fears that the conflict could lead to wider regional instability**
- **The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has indeed raised India's GDP growth forecast for the fiscal year 2023-24 (FY24) to 6.3% from the earlier estimate of 6.1%. This upward revision reflects stronger-than-expected consumption during April-June.**
- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has directed Bank of Baroda (BoB) to suspend any further onboarding of their customers onto the 'bob World' mobile application.**
- **The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the amendment of the Second Schedule of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 ('MMDR Act') for specifying the rate of royalty in respect of three critical and strategic minerals: Lithium, Niobium, and Rare Earth Elements (REEs).**
- **The Finance Ministry has amended the Income Tax Rules, which now exempt non-residents and foreign companies from the requirement of submitting their Permanent Account Number (PAN) when opening a bank account in IFSC Gift City.**
- **India's retail inflation did indeed drop to 5.02% in September 2023, down from 6.83% in the previous month. This decrease in inflation rate is primarily due to a significant slowdown in food inflation.**
- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has indeed initiated a pilot programme for the wholesale digital rupee in the interbank call money market. This pilot programme involves nine banks, including four public sector banks and five private sector banks.**
- **"Global Policy Agenda" unveiled at Marrakesh, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has indeed called for urgent support from its members to increase its quota resources. The IMF aims to secure funding for the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust (PRGT) and Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST) to benefit the poorest members.**
- **The Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture of public sector undertakings (PSU) under the Ministry of Power, is planning to set up an e-commerce portal that will exclusively feature electric appliances with the highest efficiency ratings.**
- **The Walmart Foundation has indeed invested \$39 million in a farmer livelihood enhancement program in India. The investment is aimed at reaching 500 Farmer Producer Organizations/Farmer Producer Groups, targeting 800,000 farmers, more than half of whom are women.**
- **The board of the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has approved an equity contribution of up to 1,660.15 crore for a 50% stake in the joint venture company IndianOil NTPC Green Energy Pvt Ltd.**
- **Qatar Airways has indeed entered into an agreement with SpaceX to provide complimentary Starlink WiFi services in-flight. This collaboration positions Qatar Airways as the largest airline partner to join forces with Starlink..**
- **The Indian government has extended the 20% export duty on parboiled rice until March 31, 2024. This move aims to maintain sufficient local stock and control domestic prices.**
- **The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has projected that the share of natural gas in India's total energy mix will reach 10.6% by 2045. This is compared to the Indian government's target of 15% by 2030.**

- The production halt in the Parsa East & Kanta Basan block in Chhattisgarh has resulted in a scarce fuel supply in Rajasthan. The 15 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) coal mine in Chhattisgarh is owned by Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited (RRVUNL).
- In September 2023, India's wholesale inflation remained in the deflation zone for the sixth consecutive month. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation was -0.26%.
- The Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change notified the 'green credit' programme on October 13, 2023. This is a first-of-a-kind market-based instrument designed to incentivise individuals, industries and local bodies for their voluntary environmental actions across diverse sectors.
- The drop in new investment by 13% in Q2 of FY24 could be due to a variety of factors. It could be influenced by the overall economic climate, changes in government policies, market demand, or even global events.
- The retail inflation in India, measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), eased to 5.02% in September from 6.83% in August. This is a significant decrease and could have various implications for the economy, such as potential changes in monetary policy.
- India is set to spend nearly Rs 143 lakh crore on infrastructure between the fiscal years 2024 and 2030. This is more than double the amount spent in the previous seven years.
- Krishna Srinivasan, Director of the IMF Asia & Pacific Department, India's contribution to global growth is currently 16%, and this is expected to grow to 18% in the next five years. This increase is due to the fact that India's economy is projected to grow faster in the coming years.
- The Union Government's licensing requirement for imports of IT hardware such as laptops, PCs, and tablets will not come into force until September 2024.
- Google has announced plans to start manufacturing its Pixel line of smartphones in India from 2024. The company will begin with the production of the Pixel 8.
- The PM SVANidhi Scheme has seen a 43% participation from female entrepreneurs. This

statistic reflects the empowerment of entrepreneurial capabilities among urban women.

- According to a research report by the State Bank of India (SBI), nearly 75% of the beneficiaries of the PM SVANidhi scheme, a micro-credit initiative for street vendors, come from the non-general category. The report highlights that the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) account for 44% of the beneficiaries.

OBITUARY- ONE LINER

- Padma Shri Awardee Dr. Dahyabhai Karunashankar Shastri, a renowned Indian Sanskrit scholar and founder of Brahmarshi Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya, Nadiad(Gujarat), passed away at the age of 98 in Nadiad, Gujarat. Dr. Manohar Singh Gill, former Chief Election Commissioner of India, passed away at the age of 86. He served as the Chief Election Commissioner between December 1996 and June 2001.
- Veteran journalist K S Sachidananda Murthy, who had served as the former Delhi Resident Editor of The Week magazine and Malayala Manorama daily, passed away at the age of 68.
- Karthyayani Amma passed away at her residence in Cheppad village in the coastal Alappuzha district of Kerala on October 10, 2023. At the age of 96, she topped the state literacy mission's flagship adult literacy programme. She was also a recipient of the prestigious Nari Shakti Puraskar.
- Martti Ahtisaari, the former President of Finland and a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, passed away at the age of 86. He was a renowned peace broker and had a global reputation as a peace mediator. He served as Finland's President from 1994 to 2000.
- Manohar Singh Gill, the 11th Chief Election Commissioner of India and a Padma Vibhushan awardee, passed away at the age of 87. He served as the Chief Election Commissioner between December 1996 and June 2001.
- Three-time Oscar-nominated and Emmy winner actor Piper Laurie has passed away at the age of 91. She was known for her performances in 'The Hustler' and 'Carrie'.
- Louise Glück, the American poet and essayist who won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2020, has passed away at the age of 80. Her death was confirmed by her editor at Farrar, Straus & Giroux.

She died of cancer at her home in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

- **Spiritual leader Bangaru Adigalar, also known as 'Amma', passed away at the age of 82. He was a Padma Shri awardee and was known for his revolutionary reforms in spiritualism, particularly for allowing women to enter the sanctum sanctorum of Shakti temples.**
- **Spiritual leader Bangaru Adigalar, popularly known as 'Amma', passed away at his residence in Chennai due to ill-health. He was 82 years old. He was revered for his spiritual services to the nation and was conferred the Padma Shri Award in 2019.**
- **Sir Bobby Charlton passed away. He was one of the greatest footballers of all time and a legend of Manchester United and England. He was born on 11 October 1937 in Ashington, Northumberland, England.**
- **The legendary Indian spinner Bishan Singh Bedi passed away on October 23, 2023. He was 77 years old. Bishan Singh Bedi was a highly skilled left-arm orthodox spinner celebrated for his graceful bowling style. He played 67 Tests for India between 1967 and 1979, taking 266 wickets.**
- **Padma Shri Prof. Birendranath Datta, a revered academician, peacefully passed away on October 23, 2023. He was 88 years old. Prof. Datta had a profound connection with Tezpur University, where he was the founding head of the Department of Traditional Culture and Art Forms, later renamed as the Department of Cultural Studies.**
- **Li Keqiang, the former premier of China, has passed away at the age of 68. He died of a heart attack. His death has triggered a wave of emotions on Chinese social media and could potentially spur an anti-Xi campaign in China.**
- **Matthew Perry, renowned for his portrayal of Chandler Bing in the beloved series "Friends," tragically passed away at age of 54.**
- **Professor Saleemul Huq, a renowned climate change expert and director of the Dhaka-based International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCAD), passed away at his residence in Dhaka at the age of 71.**
- **Former Union Minister Babanrao Dhakne passed away at the age of 86. He was suffering from pneumonia and other illnesses, and was admitted to a local hospital three weeks ago.**

BOOKS

- **"The Professionals' Handbook to ChatGPT" is a book that was launched by Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, the Minister for IT & Digital Services, Government of Tamil Nadu, on October 9, 2023. The book was authored by V Pattabhi Ram and Dungar Chand U Jain, both chartered accountants.**
- **The BlueKraft Digital Foundation has recently launched a book titled 'Igniting Collective Goodness: Mann Ki Baat @ 100'. This book is a compilation of 100 episodes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's famous radio show 'Mann ki Baat'.**
- **The Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas in India, Hardeep Singh Puri, recently launched a book titled 'The Reverse Swing: Colonialism to Cooperation,' written by Ashok Tandon.**
- **The Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), S. Somanath, has written his autobiography. The book is titled "Nilavu Kudicha Simhangaal" and is written in Malayalam. The book is set to release in November.**

MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS QUESTION BANK: OCTOBER 2023

Q.1 Who has been nominated as the ambassador for the 'War Against Waste' initiative in Jammu & Kashmir?

- Captain Vikram Batra
- Captain Bana Singh
- Captain Manoj Kumar Pandey
- Captain Anuj Nayyar
- None of these

Answer(b) The Param Vir Chakra recipient Captain Bana Singh, a dedicated and decorated former soldier, has been nominated as the ambassador for the 'War Against Waste' initiative in Jammu & Kashmir.

Q.2 Which state in India recently introduced the e-Cabinet system?

- Kerala
- Tripura
- Bihar
- Madhya Pradesh
- None of these

Answer(b) Tripura has indeed become the fourth state in India to introduce the e-Cabinet system.

Q.3 When did Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti assume charge as Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff?

- a) 01 Jul 1988
- b) 01 Oct 2023
- c) 01 Jul 2021
- d) 01 Oct 2022
- e) None of these

Answer(b) Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti, AVSM, VSM has assumed charge as Deputy Chief of the Naval Staff on 01 Oct 2023.

Q.4 Who has SBI Life Insurance signed a bancassurance pact with?

- a) State Bank of Punjab
- b) Sate Bank of Haryana
- c) State Bank of Sikkim
- d) State Bank of Kerala
- e) None of these

Answer(c) SBI Life Insurance, one of the most trusted private life insurers in India, has signed a bancassurance pact with the State Bank of Sikkim (SBS) at the bank's headquarters in Gangtok, Sikkim.

Q.5 Who has been reappointed as the chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)?

- a) Ravi Shankar Prasad
- b) Amit Shah
- c) Nirmala Sitharaman
- d) Nitin Gupta
- e) None of these

Answer(d) The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has re-appointed Nitin Gupta as the chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).

Q.6 Who is the current CEO of MyGov?

- a) Ravi Shankar Prasad
- b) Narendra Modi
- c) Akash Tripathi
- d) Amitabh Kant
- e) None of these

Answer(c) Akash Tripathi, the current CEO of MyGov, has been assigned additional responsibilities as the CEO of the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM).

Q.7 Who was awarded the Spinoza Prize?

- a) Dr. Joyeeta Gupta
- b) Dr. Albert Einstein
- c) Dr. Marie Curie
- d) Dr. Isaac Newton
- e) None of these

Answer(a) Dr. Joyeeta Gupta, a professor of Indian origin, was honored with the prestigious Spinoza Prize, the highest accolade in Dutch science, during a ceremony in the Netherlands.

Q.8 When was Muneesh Kapur appointed as the Executive Director of RBI?

- a) October 1, 2023
- b) October 7, 2023
- c) October 5, 2023
- d) October 3, 2023
- e) None of these

Answer(d) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has appointed Muneesh Kapur as Executive Director with effect from October 3, 2023.

Q.9 Who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2023?

- a) Malala Yousafzai
- b) Narges Mohammadi
- c) Kailash Satyarthi
- d) Barack Obama
- e) None of these

Answer(b) Narges Mohammadi, the Iranian activist, has been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize 2023.

Q.10 What is the name of the digital banking proposition launched by Axis Bank?

- a) Digital by Axis Bank
- b) Axis Digital Bank
- c) Open by Axis Bank
- d) Axis Open Bank
- e) None of these

Answer(c) Axis Bank has launched its digital banking proposition called 'Open by Axis Bank'.

Q.11 What is the interest rate for the General Provident Fund (GPF) for the October-December quarter?

- a) 6.1%
- b) 7.1%
- c) 8.1%
- d) 9.1%
- e) None of these

Answer(b) The interest rate on General Provident Fund (GPF) savings has been kept at 7.1% for the October-December quarter.

Q.12 Who is the Managing Director of State Bank of India (SBI)?

- a) Ashwini Kumar Tewari
- b) Rakesh Sharma
- c) Uday Kotak
- d) Aditya Puri
- e) None of these

Answer(a) The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has extended the tenure of Ashwini Kumar Tewari, Managing Director of State Bank of India (SBI), by two more years.

Q.13 Who won the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences in 2023?

- a) Janet Yellen
- b) Esther Duflo
- c) Claudia Goldin
- d) Elinor Ostrom
- e) None of these

Answer(c) Claudia Goldin, a professor at Harvard University, won the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences in 2023.

Q.14 What is the theme for World Post Day 2023?

- a) 'The Future of Mail'
- b) 'Bridging the Digital Divide'
- c) 'Innovation in Postal Services'
- d) 'Together for Trust: Collaborating for a safe and connected future'
- e) None of these

Answer(d) The theme for World Post Day 2023 is 'Together for Trust: Collaborating for a safe and connected future'.

Q.15 Who topped the 360 ONE Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2023?

- a) Gautam Adani

- b) Cyrus S Poonawalla
- c) Mukesh Ambani
- d) Shiv Nadar
- e) None of these

Answer(c) Mukesh Ambani, the chairman of Reliance Industries, has secured the top position as India's richest person on the 360 ONE Wealth Hurun India Rich List 2023.

Q.16 Who has been elected as the new Chairman of the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI)?

- a) A Balasubramanian
- b) Navneet Munot
- c) Anthony Heredia
- d) All of these
- e) None of these

Answer(b) Navneet Munot, MD and CEO of HDFC Asset Management, has been elected as the new Chairman of the Association of Mutual Funds in India (AMFI).

Q.17 What was the theme for World Arthritis Day 2023?

- a) Living with an RMD at all stages of life
- b) Early diagnosis and treatment of arthritis
- c) The impact of arthritis on society
- d) The importance of a balanced diet for arthritis patients
- e) None of these

Answer(a) World Arthritis Day 2023 was celebrated on October 12th. The theme for this year was "Living with an RMD at all stages of life".

Q.18 What is the amount of the penalty imposed by RBI on Paytm Payments Bank?

- a) Rs 1.39 crore
- b) Rs 5.39 crore
- c) Rs 10.39 crore
- d) Rs 15.39 crore
- e) None of these

Answer (b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 5.39 crore on Paytm Payments Bank for violating several norms, including Know Your Customer (KYC) norms.

Q.19 Who will be honored with the Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award at the 54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI)?

- a) Catherine Zeta-Jones
- b) Michael Douglas
- c) Satyajit Ray
- d) All of these
- e) None of these

- a) United Nations Promotion Award
- b) United Nations Development Award
- c) United Nations Investment Award
- d) United Nations Commerce Award
- e) None of these

Answer (b) Hollywood veteran Michael Douglas will be honored with the prestigious Satyajit Ray Lifetime Achievement Award at the 54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI)

Answer (a) Guidance Tamil Nadu, the nodal agency for investment promotion under the Department of Industries, Investment Promotion and Commerce, Government of Tamil Nadu, has indeed received the prestigious United Nations Promotion Award 2023.

Q.20 When is the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction observed annually?

- a) October 10
- b) October 13
- c) October 15
- d) October 20
- e) None of these

Answer(b) The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction is observed annually on October 13.

Q.24 Who is the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) who has been awarded an 'A+' rating in the Global Finance Central Banker Report Cards 2023?

- a) Thomas J. Jordan
- b) Nguyen Thi Hong
- c) Shaktikanta Das
- d) Narendra Modi
- e) None of these

Answer(c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das has been awarded an 'A+' ranking in the Global Finance Central Banker Report Cards 2023.

Q.21 Who launched the book "The Professionals' Handbook to ChatGPT"?

- a) V Pattabhi Ram
- b) Dungar Chand U Jain
- c) Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan
- d) None of the above
- e) None of these

Answer(c) "The Professionals' Handbook to ChatGPT" is a book that was launched by Dr. Palanivel Thiaga Rajan, the Minister for IT & Digital Services, Government of Tamil Nadu, on October 9, 2023.

Q.25 When is World White Cane Day observed?

- a) October 10
- b) October 15
- c) October 20
- d) October 25
- e) None of these

Answer(b) World White Cane Day was observed on October 15, 2023.

Q.22 When is the International Day of Rural Women observed?

- a) October 15
- b) November 15
- c) September 15
- d) December 15
- e) None of these

Answer(a) The International Day of Rural Women is observed annually on October 15.

Q.26 Who has been appointed as the new governor of Odisha?

- a) Ganeshi Lal
- b) Raghubar Das
- c) Droupadi Murmu
- d) None of the above
- e) None of these

Answer(b) Raghubar Das, the former Chief Minister of Jharkhand, has been appointed as the new governor of Odisha by President Droupadi Murmu.

Q.23 Which award did Guidance Tamil Nadu receive in 2023?

Q.27 Who is the 24-year-old Indian chess grandmaster who defeated Magnus Carlsen in the Qatar Masters Tournament 2023?

- a) Viswanathan Anand
- b) Pentala Harikrishna
- c) Karthikeyan Murali
- d) Praggnanandhaa Rameshbabu
- e) None of these

Answer(c) The 24-year-old Indian chess grandmaster, Karthikeyan Murali, delivered a stunning blow to the world's number one player, Magnus Carlsen.

Q.28 What is another name for Kati Bihu?

- a) Rongali Bihu
- b) Bhogali Bihu
- c) Kongali Bihu
- d) Magh Bihu
- e) None of these

Answer(c) Kati Bihu marks the relocation of rice saplings and is also known as Kongali Bihu.

Q.29 Who was appointed as the Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court on October 16, 2023?

- a) Justice Dipak Misra
- b) Justice Ranjan Gogoi
- c) Justice Siddharth Mridul
- d) Justice Sharad Arvind Bobde
- e) None of these

Answer(c) Siddharth Mridul has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court.

Q.30 When is Global Iodine Deficiency Disorders Prevention Day observed every year?

- a) October 21
- b) October 22
- c) October 23
- d) October 24
- e) None of these

Answer (a) Global Iodine Deficiency Disorders Prevention Day 2023 – October 21 is a day to raise awareness about the importance of iodine for human health and development.

Q.31 Who has been appointed as the MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank by the RBI on October 21, 2023?

- a) Uday Kotak
- b) Ashok Vaswani
- c) Aditya Puri
- d) Sandeep Bakhshi
- e) None of these

Answer(b) Ashok Vaswani's appointment as MD & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank has been approved by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on October 21, 2023

Q.32 When is the International Snow Leopard Day celebrated?

- a) October 22
- b) October 23
- c) October 24
- d) October 25
- e) None of these

Answer(b) The International Snow Leopard Day in 2023 will be observed on Monday, October 23.

Q.33 Who has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)?

- a) Mahendra Pratap Maal
- b) Sanjay Kumar Jain
- c) Ramesh Kumar
- d) Suresh Prabhu
- e) None of these

Answer(b) Sanjay Kumar Jain, an Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) officer, has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC).

Q.34 When is the World Development Information Day celebrated?

- a) 15th October
- b) 24th October
- c) 31st October
- d) 1st November
- e) None of these

Answer(b) The World Development Information Day 2023 was celebrated on 24th October.

Q.35 Who presented the Anubhav Awards 2023?

- a) Prime Minister of India
- b) President of India
- c) Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh
- d) Chief Minister of Delhi
- e) None of these

Answer(c) The Anubhav Awards 2023 were presented by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh.

Q.36 Who has been appointed as the Executive Director of Axis Bank?

- a) Rakesh Makhija
- b) Amitabh Chaudhry
- c) Munish Sharda
- d) Rajiv Anand
- e) None of these

Answer(c) Munish Sharda has been appointed as the Executive Director of Axis Bank.

Q.37 Who inaugurated the 7th India Mobile Congress 2023?

- a) Akash Ambani
- b) Narendra Modi
- c) Sundar Pichai
- d) Mukesh Ambani
- e) None of these

Answer(b) The 7th India Mobile Congress 2023 was inaugurated by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Bharat Mandapam on 27th October, in New Delhi.

Q.38 Who has the Election Commission of India (ECI) appointed as its National Icon?

- a) Rajkumar Rao
- b) Shah Rukh Khan
- c) Amitabh Bachchan
- d) Akshay Kumar
- e) None of these

Answer(a) The Election Commission of India (ECI) has indeed recognized the talented actor Rajkumar Rao as its National Icon.

Q.39 On which date is World Osteoporosis Day observed each year?

- a) October 10
- b) October 20
- c) October 30
- d) October 4
- e) None of these

Answer (b) World Osteoporosis Day is observed every year on October 20th.

Q.40 Which village in Gujarat's Kutch district has been recognized as the 'Best Tourism Village' by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO)?

- a) Bhuj
- b) Mandvi
- c) Dhordo
- d) Anjar
- e) None of these

Answer (c) Dhordo, a village located in the Kutch district of Gujarat, has indeed been awarded the prestigious title of the 'Best Tourism Village' by the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO).

Q.41 When is International Dwarfism Awareness Day observed?

- a) October 15
- b) October 25
- c) November 25
- d) December 25
- e) None of these

Answer(b) International Dwarfism Awareness Day in 2023 is indeed on October 25th.

Q.42 Who has been appointed by the Indian government to develop the "Vision 2047" blueprint?

- a) McKinsey & Company
- b) Boston Consulting Group (BCG)
- c) Bain & Company
- d) Deloitte
- e) None of these

Answer(b) The Indian government has recently appointed the Boston Consulting Group (BCG) to develop a comprehensive blueprint called "Vision 2047".

Q.43 Who has been elected as the chairman of the World Steel Association (worldsteel) for the 2023/2024 period?

- a) Sajjan Jindal
- b) Leon Topalian
- c) Lakshmi Mittal
- d) Andrew Carnegie
- e) None of these

Answer(b) The World Steel Association (worldsteel) has elected new officers for its executive board of directors for the 2023/2024 period. Leon Topalian, the president and CEO of Nucor Corporation, will be the chairman, succeeding Sajjan Jindal from JSW Steel Limited.

Q.44 Which state in India has the highest incidence of cancer cases?

- a) Maharashtra
- b) Mizoram
- c) Kerala
- d) Punjab
- e) None of these

Answer(b) Mizoram, despite being India's second least populated state, has the highest incidence of cancer cases in the country.

Q.45 Who is honored on National Unity Day in India?

- a) Mahatma Gandhi
- b) Jawaharlal Nehru
- c) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- d) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
- e) None of these

Answer(c) National Unity Day, also known as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, is celebrated annually on October 31 in India. This day pays tribute to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, an Indian freedom fighter and the first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister of independent India.

Q.46 Who has been onboarded as the brand ambassador for the State Bank of India (SBI)?

- a) Virat Kohli
- b) Mahendra Singh Dhoni
- c) Sachin Tendulkar
- d) Rahul Dravid
- e) None of these

Answer(c) The former Indian cricket team captain, Mahendra Singh Dhoni, has indeed been onboarded as the brand ambassador for the State Bank of India (SBI).