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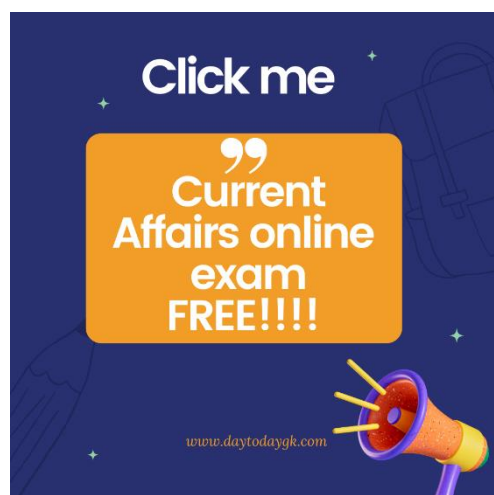
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Awards and Honours

Awardee Name	Award Name	Extra Information
Ambikasuthan Mangad	Odakkuzhal Award 2022	Writer Ambikasuthan Mangad has been selected for Odakuzhal Award 2022 for his collection of short stories titled Pranavayu.
Odisha Government	UN-Habitat's World Habitat Awards 2023	Odisha won the UN-Habitat's World Habitat Awards 2023 for the Jaga mission. The mission is a 5T initiative of the state.
R'Bonney Gabriel	Miss Universe 2023	R'Bonney Gabriel of the United States was crowned Miss Universe 2022 on January 15, 2023. Divita Rai of India, who finished in the top 16, was unable to advance in the beauty contest held in New Orleans.
Naanera	'Golden Kailasha' Award in Ajanta-Ellora Film Festival	Rajasthani film, Naanera, directed by Deepankar Prakash bagged the 'Golden Kailasha' award for the best movie at the Ajanta-Ellora Film Festival.
K Venu	Federal Bank Literary Award 2023	Noted writer K Venu was conferred with Federal Bank Literary Award 2022 for his autobiography 'Oranweshananthinte Katha.'
Tamilnadu Mercantile Bank	Best Small Bank award	Tamilnadu Mercantile Bank Limited (TMB) has bagged the Best Small Bank award in the Best Banks survey for the year 2022. The Best Banks survey was conducted by Business Today- KPMG (BT-KPMG Best Banks Survey).
Dr Sanduk Ruit	Isa Award for Service to Humanity, a top civilian award of Bahrain	Dr Ruit is pioneer in delivering high-quality microsurgical procedures in remote eye camps. The award carries a cash prize of USD 1 million, a



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		certificate of merit and a gold medal.
Goa Manohar International Airport	Best sustainable greenfield airport award	“Best Sustainable Greenfield Airport” award under Aviation Sustainability and Environment at ASSOCHAM 14th International Conference-cum-Awards for Civil Aviation 2023 at New Delhi.
ESAF Small Finance Bank	Inclusive Finance India Awards 2022	ESAF Small Finance Bank has bagged the prestigious Inclusive Finance India Awards 2022 for its contributions in advancing the goal of financial inclusion and supporting inclusive growth.
R Vishnu Prasad	“The most distinguished scientist of the year 2022”	Prasad, a scientist with 69 patents has been honored with the Indian Achievers Award as the most distinguished scientist of the year.
Aska Police Station of Odisha	Best Police Station in India	Aska Police station was awarded in the annual ranking of Police station for 2022. Aska Police station received the prestigious award along with the certificate of appreciation from Union Minister Amit Shah.
Suryakumar Yadav	ICC Men’s T20I Cricketer of the Year 2022 award	Suryakumar scored 1,164 runs in 31 T20I matches in 2022 at an average of 46.56 and a strike-rate of 187.43.
Dr. Prabha Atre	Pt Hariprasad Chaurasia Lifetime Achievement Award	Shinde presented Dr Atre with a citation and Rs 1 lakh at the program, during which a symphony of 90 flutists was performed to mark her 90th birthday.
Visakhapatnam Railway Station	Green Railway Station Certificate	The certificate has been awarded by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) for adopting green concepts. It secured 82 out of 100



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		points in six environmental categories.
Uttarakhand	Republic Day 2023 – Tableau 1 st prize	Uttarakhand tableau which showcased the state's wildlife and religious sites at the 74th Republic Day parade has won the top prize.

Appointments

Name	Designation Name	Extra Information
Ajay Kumar Srivastava	MD and CEO of Indian Overseas Bank	In 1991, he began his banking career as a probationary officer with Allahabad Bank. He served as Executive Director of IOB and Executive Director at Indian Overseas Bank.
Laxmi Singh	UP's first woman commissioner	Uttar Pradesh's first woman commissioner Laxmi Singh took charge as Gautam Buddh Nagar's new police chief at the Commissionerate Headquarters in Noida's Sector 108.
Lula Da Silva	Brazil's President For 3rd Time	Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva took office Sunday for a third term as Brazil's president, vowing to fight for the poor.
Qin Gang	China's New and Youngest Foreign Minister	China has appointed Qin Gang, its ambassador to the United States and a trusted aide of President Xi Jinping, to be its new foreign minister, as Beijing and Washington seek to stabilize rocky relations.
Shiva Chauhan	Becomes the 1st women officer to be operationally deployed in Siachen	Captain Shiva Chauhan from the Corps of Engineers has been posted at a frontline post in Siachen Glacier, in first such



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		operational deployment of an woman Army officer at the world's highest battlefield.
Hong Ju Jeon	Managing director of LG Electronics India Pvt Ltd	LG Electronics, a South Korean electronics conglomerate, announced the appointment of Hong Ju Jeon as the company's new managing director for LG Electronics India Pvt. Ltd. on January 4, 2023.
Sundaraman Ramamurthy	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of BSE	The appointment comes after BSE's erstwhile MD & CEO Ashish Chauhan resigned from the stock exchange in July 2022 and moved to the National Stock Exchange (NSE).
Kuldeep Singh Pathania	Himachal Pradesh Assembly	Kuldeep Singh Pathania, a senior Congress lawmaker and five-time MLA, was unanimously elected Speaker of the Himachal Pradesh Assembly by voice vote on January 5, 2023.
Jason Moo	CEO - Bank of Singapore	Bank of Singapore (BoS), the private banking arm of Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation (OCBC), announced that it has appointed Jason Moo as its new CEO.
Vinaya Prakash Singh	Asian Pacific Postal Union Secretary General	The Asian Pacific Postal Union (APPU), which has its headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand, will be led by India starting this month.
Surinder Chawla	CEO - Paytm bank	Paytm Payments Bank has received banking regulator RBI's nod to appoint Surinder Chawla as its Managing Director and CEO. The RBI, however, continues to bar Paytm Payments Bank from on-boarding new customers.
Benjamin Netanyahu	Israel Prime Minister	It was the first phone conversation between them



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		after Netanyahu's election win last month.
Vikas Purohit	Global business head of Meta in India	Meta announced the appointment of former Tata CLiQ CEO Vikas Purohit as the director of global business group in India.
Smriti Mandhana	Herbalife Nutrition - 'nutrition sponsor'	She has had an incredible journey, taking the cricket world by storm with her batting performances.
Anurag Kumar	CMD of Electronics Corporation of India Limited	The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved Kumar's appointment to the post till the date of his superannuation i.e 31.01.2026.
AC Charania	Chief Technologist of NASA	AC Charania, an Indian-American, has been designated NASA's next Chief Technologist and will oversee the space agency's technological innovation. He previously worked with Reliable Robotics, Blue Origin, and Virgin Galactic before joining NASA.
Ravi Kumar S	CEO – Cognizant	He joins Cognizant after a 20-year career at Infosys, where he held various leadership roles, most recently serving as President from January 2016 through October 2022.
Santhi Kumari	First Woman Chief Secretary of Telangana	Santhi Kumari is a 1989 batch officer who hails from Andhra Pradesh and has become the first woman to be Chief Secretary of Telangana.
RRR	Critics Choice Awards 2023 for Best Foreign Language Film	RRR won Best Song for Naatu Naatu and Best Foreign Language Film. In addition, RRR received nominations for Best



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		Director, Best Picture, and Best Visual Effects.
Pankaj Kumar Singh	Deputy of National Security Agency(NSA)	Singh stepped down as BSF chief on December 31, 2022. When Singh took command of the BSF on August 31, 2021, he made history as the first son and father to hold the top post in a paramilitary force during their careers.
Sibi George	Ambassador to Marshall Island	Sibi George (IFS: 1993), the current Indian Ambassador to Japan, has been concurrently accredited as the next Indian Ambassador to the Republic of the Marshall Islands, with residence in Tokyo.
Nick Walker	CEO - Cairn Oil & Gas	Cairn Oil & Gas, owned by Anil Agarwal's Vedanta, announced Nick Walker's appointment as its new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). In his previous stint, Walker was President and CEO at Lundin Energy.
Aruna Miller	Maryland's first Indian-American Lieutenant Governor	Aruna, 58, a former delegate to the Maryland House, made history when the Democrat became the 10th Lieutenant Governor of the state.
Praveen Sharma	National Health Authority – Director	Praveen Sharma (IDSE) has been appointed as Director of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare's National Health Authority (Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission).
Chris Hipkins	Prime minister of New Zealand	The 44-year-old senior politician must be formally backed by Labour members of parliament to take over as the country's 41st prime minister, following Ardern's shock resignation.



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Vikram Dev Dutt	Directorate of General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) – Director general	Earlier, Dutt had also served as the CMD of Air India. He had taken charge in January last year.
Shamalbhai B Patel	Chairman of Amul	The announcement was made after an election was carried out by the deputy collector, Anand, in presence of 17 out of 18 members
Naresh Lalwani	General Manager of Central Railway	He was Senior Deputy General Manager and Chief Vigilance Officer of Western Railway before becoming General Manager of Central Railway.
Nikhat Zareen	Brand Ambassador – NMDC	Nikhat Zareen represents the strength, courage, agility and national pride that goes with the brand of the NMDC.
A.P. Singh	Vice Chief of Indian Air Force	Air Marshal A P Singh has been appointed as the new Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force. He will succeed Air Marshal Sandeep Singh, who will retire from service.
Hein Schumacher	Unilever – CEO	Unilever has announced the appointment of Hein Schumacher as its new Chief Executive Officer. Hein will replace Alan Jope, who announced in September 2022 his intention to retire from Unilever.



Banking & Finance

Indigenous Payment Application BHIM Celebrates Sixth Anniversary

Indigenously developed payment application BHIM (Bharat Interface for Money) celebrated its sixth anniversary. BHIM App was launched on 30th December 2016 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

BHIM stands for Bharat Interface for Money. It is a biometric payment systems app using the Aadhar platform and is based on a Unified Payment Interface (UPI) to facilitate e-payment directly through the bank.

GST collections in December up by 15 percent to Rs 1.49 lakh cr

According to a government announcement, India's goods and services tax receipts increased 15% year over year in December to Rs 1.49 lakh crore (\$18.07 billion), suggesting robust economic activity throughout the holiday season. In November, revenue from goods and services taxes totaled Rs. 1.46 lakh crore.

LIC unveils Jeevan Azad limited premium payment plan

The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has launched **LIC Jeevan Azad Plan**. It is a limited period premium payment plan that offers financial support for the family in case of unfortunate death of the life assured during the policy term.

If the LIC **policyholder survives the maturity term**, then the plan offers a **guaranteed base sum-assured amount**.

The minimum basic sum assured under LIC Jeevan Azad Plan is **Rs 2 lakh** and the maximum basic sum assured is Rs 5 lakh. The policy can be taken for term of **15 to 20 years**.

SBI Card And Punjab & Sind Bank Join Hands To Launch Co-Branded Credit Cards

Public sector bank Punjab and Sind Bank (PSB) has partnered with SBI Card to launch co-brand credit cards for the bank's customers. PSB has also entered the credit card market as a new product segment in its portfolio as a result of this collaboration.

Three card variants—the PSB SBI Card ELITE, PSB SBI Card PRIME, and PSB SimplySAVE SBI Card—have been launched by both partners.

Indian Stock Markets Migrating to T+1 Settlement Cycle

India will become the first major economy to move to a **T+1(trade plus one)** market settlement cycle when it finally makes the transition on January 27. The Chinese market is currently partly T+1. With the move, all stock settlements will be done the next day, making financial transactions faster in the stock market.

- **T refers to the trading day.** Starting January 27 all large-cap and blue-chip companies will switch to the T+1 system.



- **Currently the market follows a T+2 settlement cycle**, which means the **investors receive** shares or dividends as well as bonus shares in their accounts within **two days after the transaction**.

RBI Keeps SBI, ICICI, HDFC as Domestic Systemically Important Banks

The Reserve Bank of India said SBI, ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank remain domestic systemically important banks (D-SIBs). D-SIBs are those interconnected entities whose failure can impact the whole of the financial system and create instability. In addition to the usual capital conservation buffer, D-SIBs will need to maintain additional Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1).

Election Commission Launches ‘Mission-929’ to Take Voter Turnout in Tripura to over 90%

The Election Commission (EC) is focusing on 929 polling booths across Tripura, setting a target of 92 per cent voter turnout in the assembly elections due early this year.

These booths recorded a voter turnout of less than 89 per cent, which was the average across 3,328 booths in the 2018 assembly polls. The EC is also working on ‘Mission Zero Poll Violence’ to make the assembly elections peaceful.

NPCI Allows NRE/NRO Accounts With International Mobile Numbers To Use UPI

NPCI has instructed members of the UPI ecosystem to allow non-resident account types such as **NRE/NRO** accounts having international mobile numbers to get onboarded and transact through UPI.

- To begin with, NPCI will be enabling transactions from mobile numbers having country codes of **Singapore, Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Oman, Qatar, USA, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom**, along with the current domestic country code.

SBI launched e-Bank Guarantee facility in association with NeSL

State Bank of India (SBI) has launched e-Bank Guarantee (e-BG) facility in association with **National e-Governance Services Limited (NeSL)**. India’s largest lender said this facility will bring about a revolutionary change in the banking ecosystem, where bank guarantee is frequently used in large volumes. By using the NeSL’s platform, the bank customers and other beneficiaries will **instantly get an e-Bank Guarantee** without additional verification.

Incentive scheme for promotion of RuPay Debit Cards

The Indian government has recently approved an incentive scheme worth **Rs 2,600 crore** to **promote Rupay debit card** and **low-value BHIM-UPI** transactions in the current financial year. The decision was made during a meeting of the **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)**, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.



Cards, Mobile, Net banking top Complaint Areas at Banking Ombudsman: RBI

Issues related to ATM/debit cards and mobile/electronic banking were the top grounds of complaints received at the Office of Banking Ombudsman (OBO), said an RBI report. The coverage of RBIOS was extended to include the non-scheduled Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) with a deposit size of Rs 50 crore or above as at the end of the previous Financial Year.

Credit Information Companies (CICs) were brought under RBI-IOs with effect from September 1, 2022. Between November 12, 2021 and March 31, 2022, a total of 1,86,268 complaints were received under the RBIOS.

SBI MF Gets RBI's Nod to Buy 10% Stake in Equitas Small Finance Bank

The Reserve Bank of India gave its approval to SBI Funds Management Ltd to acquire up to 9.99% stake in Equitas Small Finance Bank through the schemes of SBI Mutual Fund, the bank said in an exchange filing. Franklin Templeton Mutual Fund and DSP Mutual Fund have also received RBI's approval to buy 9.99% stake each in the bank.

Reserve Bank of India to Issue Sovereign Green Bonds

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced its plans to issue Sovereign Green Bonds worth Rs 8,000 crore in two tranches on January 25 and February 9. The proceeds of the bonds will be used to fund public sector projects aimed at reducing the carbon intensity of India's economy.

SEBI Proposes Blocking of Funds Facility

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) releases consultation paper proposing to introduce a blocking of funds facility for trading in secondary markets. Aimed at protecting investors' money from misuse and default by stock brokers.

SEBI seeks comments from market participants until February 16 on operational challenges on the proposed concept, associated processes, transaction flow, and risk management.

Canara Bank to sell its stake in Russian joint venture to SBI for Rs 114 crore

Canara Bank said it plans to **sell its stake in Russian joint venture Commercial Indo Bank LLC (CIBL)** to another venture partner, State Bank of India (SBI), for about **Rs 114 crore**.

CIBL was established in 2003 as a joint venture in **Russia between SBI (60%) and Canara Bank (40%)**.

Canara Bank has entered into a share sale agreement with SBI for the sale of its stake in Moscow-based CIBL, the bank said in a regulatory filing.



Indian Affairs

India's second longest cable-stayed eight-lane Zuari Bridge opens in Goa

Union Minister of Roads Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has inaugurated the country's second longest cable-stayed eight-lane Zuari Bridge in Goa. Right-hand side (4-lane corridor) across the Zuari River and approaches from Bambolim to Verna were thrown open for vehicular traffic.

Gadkari also launched the PWD Goa App for integrated operations management.

India's first underwater metro to become operation by December 2023

India's first underwater metro service, The Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation (KMRC) said that the East-West Metro Corridor project, is expected to be completed by December 2023. With this, another feather is being added to the crown of Kolkata Metro, the first metro railway in the country.

Kolkata Metro, which started its journey in 1984, is being expanded to cover the whole city and its outskirts. The underwater metro, which will be running through the Hoogly river will connect the twin cities of Howrah and Kolkata.

Ministry of Environment Included Neelakurinji on the List of Protected Plants

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF) has listed Neelakurinji under Schedule III of the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**, including it on the list of protected plants. Neelakurinji has been included in the list after the Center increased the earlier protected list of six plant species to 19.

- It has also given the name Nilgiris to the mountains of the region owing to its blue color.
- Neelakurinji takes **12 years to grow and bloom** covering the whole valley.

Government e Marketplace (GeM) has launched a new initiative "Womaniya on GeM"

The Government e Marketplace (GeM) has launched a new initiative called "**Womaniya on GeM**" to empower women entrepreneurs and women self-help groups (WSHGs) to sell their products directly to various government ministries, departments, and institutions.

The initiative aims to develop women entrepreneurship on the margins of society to achieve gender-inclusive economic growth.

India's First School of Logistics, Waterways, and Communication

India's first **School of Logistics, Waterways, and Communication** was launched in **Agartala**. The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal, along with **Dr. Manik Saha, Chief Minister of Tripura**, jointly inaugurated the school.



The school aims to enable the rich pool of talent in the region to become world-class experts in the transportation and logistics sector.

“VIRAASAT’ – Celebrating Handloom Home Décor to begin from January 20, 2023

The Ministry of Textiles is going to organize “VIRAASAT’ – Celebrating Handloom Home Décor – Special Handloom Expo – at Handloom Haat, New Delhi from 20.01.2023 to 30.01.2023 to showcase the Home Décor products made by Handloom.

Meanwhile, nearly month-long exclusive handloom sari exhibition “VIRAASAT’- Celebrating 75 handwoven Saris of India’, concluded on Tuesday. The **Ministry of Textiles** organized the exhibition in which 160 participants from different parts of the country exhibited famous Handcrafted varieties of Saris.

Next Khelo India Youth Games to begin in Madhya Pradesh

The next **Khelo India Youth Games** will occur in Madhya Pradesh on 30 January 2023, with many **Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS)** Development athletes competing. This increases the significance of the games since the TOPS athletes, who are already worldwide performers, will motivate grassroots players to lift the ante and give fierce competition.

Rashtrapati Bhavan’s Mughal garden to be renamed Amrit Udyan

- The Mughal Gardens in New Delhi’s Rashtrapati Bhavan were christened ‘Amrit Udyan’ by the Central Government on January 28, 2023. In keeping with the concept of ‘**Amrit Mahotsav,**’ which marks the **75th anniversary of India’s independence,** the Central government renamed Mughal Gardens Amrit Udyan.

International Year of millets 2023

The Government of India sponsored the proposal for International Year of Millets (IYM) 2023 which was accepted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). The declaration has been instrumental for the Government of India to be at the forefront in celebrating the IYM.

PM Narendra Modi has also shared his vision to make IYM 2023 a ‘People’s Movement’ alongside positioning India as the ‘Global Hub for Millets’.

‘SMART’ program for Ayurveda professionals to boost R&D in Ayurveda in the country

Ayush aims to open new avenues with ‘SMART’ initiative for quality research in Ayurveda.

Government of India for regulating medical education and conducting scientific research respectively, have launched ‘SMART’ (Scope for Mainstreaming Ayurveda Research in Teaching Professionals) program aimed to boost scientific research in priority healthcare research areas through Ayurveda colleges and hospitals.



IMF: India's Inflation will fall to 5% in 2023, 4% in 2024

The International Monetary Forum recently released the World Economic Outlook. According to the report, the **Inflation in India is to reduce to 6.8% in March 2023**. Further by the end of 2023, the inflation will reduce to **5%**. **In 2024**, Indian Inflation will be 4%. The report also said that global inflation is to reduce to **6.6% in 2023**. It was 8.8% in 2022.

PM Modi Inaugurated Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee National Institute of Water and Sanitation

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee National Institute of Water and Sanitation (SPM-NIWAS) at Joka in Kolkata via video conferencing.

SPM-NIWAS has been set up with a budget of Rs 100 crore, on 8.72 acres of land at Joka, Diamond Harbour Road, Kolkata, West Bengal.

President Draupadi Murmu inaugurates 18th National Scout and Guide Jamboree

President Droupadi Murmu kicks off the 18th National Scout and Guide Jamboree in Rohat, Rajasthan's Pali district. The President arrived in Jaipur on January 3, 2023, on a two-day visit.

Rajasthan is hosting the Jamboree for the first time in 66 years. This 7-day mega-event will bring together over 35,000 scouts and guides from throughout the country.

Global South Centre of Excellence

Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that India will establish a **Global South Centre of Excellence** to undertake research on development solutions for developing countries.

- He also called for a **human-centric globalisation** to address the concerns of these countries.
- The announcement was made during his opening address at the concluding session of the Voice of Global South virtual summit.

"Soul of Steel" High-Altitude Endurance Challenge to be launched in India

In an effort to test one's high-altitude endurance, a new challenge called "**Soul of Steel**" will be launched in India. Spearheaded by venture CLAW Global, which is run by veterans and **supported by the Indian Army**, the challenge will take place in the state of Uttarakhand and is similar to the "**Ironman triathlon**" **long-distance triathlon challenge in Europe**.

- The expedition will officially launch on January 14th, and will include 12 Indian participants and six international teams, with the age group for applicants being between 18 and 30 years.



India's First Green Hydrogen Blending Project

NTPC Limited and Gujarat Gas Limited (GGL) have commissioned India's first green hydrogen blending project in the piped natural gas (PNG) network of NTPC Kawas township, Surat.

The project, which aims to supply H₂-NG (natural gas) to households in the Kawas township, was made possible through the electrolysis of water using power from a 1 MW floating solar project.

The first molecule of green hydrogen from the project was set in motion by P. Ram Prasad, head of the project Kawas, in the presence of other senior executives of NTPC Kawas and GGL.

Union Minister Narendra Singh Tomar Inaugurated 'North East Krishi Kumbha-2023'

Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar inaugurated the three-day 'North East Krishi Kumbhar-2023' and took part in the 49th Foundation Day celebration of the ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Umiam.

The Minister inaugurated the administrative cum academic block office and Girl's Hostel of the College of Agriculture at Kyrdemkulai, Ri Bhoi district.

Cabinet approves Rs 19,744-cr National Green Hydrogen Mission

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the National Green Hydrogen Mission with an outlay of Rs 19,744 crore with an aim to make India a global hub for manufacturing of this clean source of energy.

"The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved National Green Hydrogen Mission," Union Minister Anurag Thakur said while briefing reporters about the Cabinet decisions.

India's first Stack Developer Conference to be held in New Delhi

The first **India Stack Developer Conference** will be hosted in New Delhi on January 25, 2023. The conference will focus on strategies and techniques to increase global acceptance of India's digital goods.

- Over 100 digital leaders from **industry, government, start-ups and unicorns, and academia** will attend the conference.
- **G20 delegates and the G20 Secretariat** have also been invited to the Conference.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention in Indore

Prime Minister Narendra Modi formally launched the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. On the occasion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged Pravasi Bhartiya to reinforce India's distinctive global perspective and its critical role in the global order.

Prime Minister Modi stated that because the world is turning to India with hope and trust, the Indian diaspora can play an essential role as our country's brand ambassador.

Vivek Agnihotri's 'The Kashmir Files' selected for Oscars 2023

Vivek Agnihotri's film 'The Kashmir Files' has been **shortlisted for Oscars 2023**. That means now this film has qualified to get an Oscar. Actors Anupam Kher, Mithun Chakraborty, Darshan Kumar and Pallavi Joshi are also shortlisted for the best actor category.

- The story of Kashmir Files revolves around the mass exodus of Kashmiri Pandits in the year 1990 following systematic killings of people from the community by **Pakistan-backed terrorists**.
- The film was released in theatres in **March 2022**.

Pune to get India's deepest underground metro station

The underground metro station coming up at Pune's Civil Court will be the deepest metro station in India, **Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation's** MD said.

- The station will be **33.1 metres deep (108.59 feet)** and will have its **roof at a height of 95 feet**. According to reports, the metro station will be operational by the end of March this year.

PM Modi to Launch World's Longest River Cruise "Ganga Vilas"

Prime Minister Narendra Modi to launch the world's longest river cruise, "Ganga Vilas" from Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh to Dibrugarh, Assam on 13th January 2023.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has informed us that all preparations for the arrival of the Prime Minister and the launch ceremony in Varanasi should be finished.

Cabinet approves renaming of Goa's Mopa airport after Manohar Parrikar

The Union Cabinet has given ex-post facto approval for renaming the greenfield airport at Goa's Mopa as Manohar International Airport after late Goa CM Manohar Parrikar. The airport was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in December last year.

The airport has been named after Parrikar in recognition of his contribution in building up modern Goa, an official statement said.



Second Phase of Sari Festival “VIRAASAT” Begins in New Delhi

The second phase of the Sari Festival “VIRAASAT”-Celebrating 75 handwoven Saris of India will begin from 3rd to 17th January 2023 at Handloom Haat, Janpath, New Delhi. The Sari Festival VIRAASAT is organized by the Ministry of Textile. In the second stage phase, there are 90 participants from different parts of the country.

There are several Handcrafted varieties of Saris to be displayed in the festival including Tie and Dye, Chikan embroidered Saris, Hand Block Saris, Kalamkari printed Saris, Ajrakh, Kantha, and Phulkari.

There is an addition to the exclusive handloom Saris of Jamdani, Ikat, Pochampally, Banaras Brocade, Tussar Silk (Champa), Baluchari, Bhagalpuri Sik, Tangail, Chanderi, Lalitpur, Patola, Paithani, etc.

PM to inaugurate 26th National Youth Festival in Hubballi, Karnataka on 12th January

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 26th National Youth Festival in Hubballi, Karnataka on 12th January 2023 at around 4 PM. The programme is being held on National Youth Day, which is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekanand, to honour and cherish his ideals, teachings and contributions.

- Theme of the Festival: **Viksit Yuva – Viksit Bharat**
- Youth Summit to witness discussions on five themes covering diverse areas of work, industry and innovation; climate change; health; peace; and shared future.

PM Modi to flag off World’s Longest River Cruise-MV Ganga Vilas at Varanasi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will flag off **World’s Longest River Cruise-MV Ganga Vilas** and will inaugurate Tent City at Varanasi via video conferencing.
- MV Ganga Vilas will begin its journey from Varanasi and travel around **3,200 km in 51 days** to reach **Dibrugarh in Assam via Bangladesh**, sailing across 27 river systems in India and Bangladesh.

RailTel to launch IPTV services over Railwire

- RailTel, a Mini Ratna PSU **under the Ministry of Railways**, is launching Internet Protocol Television (IPTV) services to RailWire users in an effort to give significant **value-added services to its consumers**.
- IPTV is a service that uses the **Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP)** suite to **broadcast television shows and other visual material**.



India's first 3x platform wind turbine generators (WTG) installed in Karnataka

In Gadag, Karnataka, **ReNew Power** erected India's first 3x platform wind turbine generators (WTGs).

- The new wind turbine generators will be used in the country's first "Round the Clock" renewable energy project, which will combine wind, solar, and **battery energy storage technology (BESS)**.
- This project will generate enough energy to power over 1 million Indian households annually.

Indian Railways Launches 'Ideal Train Profile' Maximize Seat Utilization

The Indian Railways has successfully concluded the trial of an Artificial Intelligence Programme it built to fix the endless problem of the Waiting list.

The Indian Railways has also introduced the **Ideal Train Profile** to **maximize the capacity utilization** and **revenue generation** in reserved mail express trains by regularly analyzing the demand pattern of every single train.

The AI module has been developed by an in-house team led by R Gopalakrishnan of the Centre of Railways Information System (CRIS). The module is completed after an extensive effort by the team for over two years.

IPA and RIS Signed an Agreement to Set Up Centre for Maritime Economy and Connectivity

The **Indian Ports Association (IPA)** and **Research & Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)** signed a Memorandum of Agreement for setting up a **Centre for Maritime Economy and Connectivity** in the presence of the **Minister for Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush Shri Sarbananda Sonowal**. During the function, various other dignitaries were also present including senior officials from MoPSW, RIS, and IPA.

PM Modi Launched Development Programs in Karnataka and Maharashtra

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated several development programs in **Karnataka and Maharashtra** ahead of the elections.

PM Modi visited the **Yadgiri and Kalaburagi districts of Karnataka** and laid the foundation stone and inaugurated various developmental projects related to **irrigation, drinking water, and a National Highway development project** at Kodeka in the Yadgir district.

Business 20 inception meeting to be held in Gujarat

The Business 20 (B20) inaugural meeting, which is part of the G20, began on January 23, 2023, in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.



- The inaugural meeting is attended by **Union ministers Piyush Goyal and Ashwini Vaishnaw, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel**, India's Sherpa for the G20, **Amitabh Kant, Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran**, and a slew of national and international business executives.

21 islands of Andaman and Nicobar islands have been named after Paramveer Chakra awardees

To commemorate Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's birth anniversary, Prime Minister Narendra Modi named **21 of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands'** biggest nameless islands after **21 Param Vir Chakra recipients** on January 23, 2023.

- During a **ceremony in Port Blair**, the Prime Minister revealed a **model of the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Memorial**, which will be constructed on **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep**.

Jal Jeevan Mission Provides Tap Water to 11 Crore Rural Households

Over 11 Crore rural households in the country have access to tap water connections as India celebrates its 74th Republic Day. **123 districts** and more than **1.53 lakh villages** of India have reported '**Har Ghar Jal**' which means every household has access to clean drinking water through the tap.

Jal Jeevan Mission was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 15th August 2019 to provide every rural household with a tap water connection by 2024.

iNNCOVACC – India's first intranasal Covid vaccine launched

The first nasal vaccination produced in India against Covid-19, the **iNCOVACC**, was introduced by **Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh** and **Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**. Bharat Biotech has created the vaccine. At Mandaviya's house, the **first intranasal vaccine produced in India** was introduced to the world.



State related Affairs

Dhanu Yatra 2022 in Odisha at Bargarh – Dhanu Jatra

Dhanu Yatra is one of the biggest open air theater festivals in the world and is held in the Pushya month (December – January) at Bargarh District in Odisha. It will be held from December 28, 2022 to January 6, 2023.

The theatrical performance is based on the stories of Lord Krishna – for the performance Bargarh and nearby places are transformed into Mathura and other places in Lord Krishna stories.

Nijaat Campaign: A mission on its way to achieve drug-free society in Chhattisgarh's Koriya

Nijaat (Riddance) as a crusade has gained ground against drug abuse and trafficking, strengthened actions to make choices to live a healthy life and secure an ultimate objective to achieve a drug-addiction free Koriya district in north Chhattisgarh.

First Nilgiri tahr conservation project at cost Rs 25.14 cr soon

The first Nilgiri Tahr project in India, which would cost Rs 25.14 crore, will be undertaken to protect Tamil Nadu's state animal. The state administration issued an order approving the project.

Wayanad becomes first district in country to provide basic documents to all tribal

Kerala's Wayanad becomes the first district in the country to provide basic documents and facilities such as **Aadhaar cards, ration cards, birth/death certificates, election ID cards, bank accounts and health insurance** to all tribes people.

Apart from the basic documents, other services such as **income certificates, ownership certificates, age certificates, and applications for new pensions** are also provided at the camps.

India's First Green Solar Panel Factory to Build by Luminous in Uttarakhand

Luminous Power Technologies revealed that it has planned to build India's first green energy-based solar panel manufacturing plant in Uttarakhand which will be operational by the end of this year.

The location of the new **India's first green energy-based solar panel is Rudrapur** which will be equipped with the latest technology to design and produce high-quality solar panels that will be used for both residential and commercial applications.

Indian Library Congress Inaugurated by Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan in Kannur



Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated Indian Library Congress in Kannur, Kerala. The inauguration event of the Indian Library Congress was organized by the People's Mission for Social Development and Library Council.

'Didir Suraksha Kawach' and 'Didir Doot' Initiatives in West Bengal

Trinamool Congress (TMC) Chief and West Bengal Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee, has launched two initiatives ahead of the panchayat elections this year – 'Didir Suraksha Kawach' and 'Didir Doot'.

An app, 'Didir Doot', has also been developed for people to register their problems. This initiative follows Banerjee's 'Didi ke Balo' programme in 2019, which aimed to reach out to common people and was successful.

Zeliangrong Community Celebrated Gaan Ngai Festival in Manipur

The Gaan Ngai of the Zeliangrong Community celebrated in Manipur. The Gaan Ngai festival is one of the major festivals of Manipur which is celebrated every year after harvesting.

The festival also marks the end of the year when the farmers have stored their foodgrains in their granaries. During the festival, the Zeliangrong Community shows their gratitude by offering the Almighty a good harvest and praying for a better and prosperous life in the coming year.

It is a custom to produce new fire by rubbing dry wood and split bamboo pieces and distributing them to every household on the day of the festival to mark the beginning of the new year.

Hyderabad to host first-ever Formula E World Championship race on Feb 11

The countdown to the first-ever **ABB FIA Formula E World Championship race in India** to be held in Hyderabad on February 11 kicked off on Wednesday with the sale of tickets for the prestigious event getting underway.

Telangana Special Chief Secretary (Municipal Administration) Arvind Kumar booked the first ticket at an event here.

Akbar Ebrahim, president Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India, and other dignitaries were present.

Kerala becomes first fully digital banking state in India

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan proclaimed Kerala the **first state in the country to go totally digital in its banking services** on January 7, 2023.

He said the distinction will benefit the state's economy. Vijayan stated at an event here that this feat was made possible through social interventions through local self-government organizations, as well as infrastructural development and technology improvements in the banking industry.



Kerala Higher Education Minister Allows 60 days Maternity Leave for Female Students

Higher Education Minister in Kerala R Bindu announced that girls students **above the age of 18 years** will get maternity leave of **60 days**. The required attendance percentage for female students will be **73 percent including menstrual leave**. The attendance percentage required earlier was 75 percent.

Third Edition of Annual Orange Festival 2023 Celebrated in Nagaland

The third edition of the two-day Orange Festival has been organized in **Nagaland's Rusoma village** to mark the harvest of **organic oranges in the district**. The orange festival was held from 24th to 25th January 2023. The orange festival is held to display the harvested oranges from the village.

Mascot, torch and anthem of Khelo India Youth Games 2022 unveiled in Bhopal

The anthem, mascot and a 'smart torch' for the fifth edition of the youth games were unveiled by chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union MoS sports Nisith Pramanik and state sports minister at a glittering event in Bhopal on Saturday evening.

- The 5th KIYG 2022 will be held from January 30 to February 11. There are 27 sporting disciplines on the schedule, with over 6,000 athletes competing.
- **'Hindustan Ka Dil Dhadka Do'** – this is the heartpounding anthem of the Khelo India Youth Games 2022. And cheetah Asha, who was named by PM Narendra Modi, the Games mascot.

Supreme Court on IT relief of Sikkimese women

The Supreme Court of India has recently ruled that the **exclusion of Sikkimese women who marry non-Sikkimese men** after April 1, 2008 from exemptions under the Income Tax Act is unconstitutional and amounts to gender discrimination.

The court, in its judgment, held that this discrimination is based on gender, which is violative of Articles 14, 15, and 21 of the Constitution. This decision comes as a victory for **women's rights and gender equality**.

Uttarakhand Govt decide to abolishes revenue police system

The Uttarakhand government has decided to abolish the revenue policing system in the state. The Pushkar Singh Dhami government has also announced that revenue villages will be brought under the regular policing system. Law and order in 1,800 revenue villages of Uttarakhand will now be handled by the state police, according to a statement by the Chief Minister's Office.

Madhya Pradesh Government Launch Chief Minister's Residential Land Rights Scheme

Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the Madhya Pradesh Residential Land Rights scheme (Mukhyamantri Awasiya Bhu Adhikar Yojana) to distribute free leases of residential land to selected beneficiaries. The scheme aims to provide free plots to the poor living in rural



areas for building their houses. The land will be offered completely free of cost and along with the plot, the benefits of all other schemes will also be delivered.

Tamil Nadu Governor Inaugurated Octave 2023 at Thanjavur

Octave 2023 is a festival being held under the aegis of the South Zone Culture Centre, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu to showcase the indigenous art and culture of Northeast India. Octave 2023 was inaugurated by Tamil Nadu Governor R N Ravi.

The Governor of Tamil Nadu said that the perspective of the nation towards the Northeast has changed with the passage of time and the state have involved in the growth stories of India. The Northeast is moving towards development and advancement and is bubbling with capacities and aspirations.

Assam to Celebrate Mongeet Festival of Music, Culture, and Food

Mongeet is a festival of **music, poetry, art, craft, food, culinary techniques, indigenous herbs, and culture celebrated in Majuli, Assam**. The Mongeet festival **started in the year 2020** as a movement of arts and music and it aims to nurture the **upcoming musical talents of Assam**.

- It was started by **actor Adil Hussain and Kaushik Nath**, an actor-director-turned-entrepreneur.
- It is the only festival from Assam that is designed to **promote music, art, culture, and food**.
- This Festival aims to educate people about the culture of Assam and introduce the **rich musicians of the state to the world**.

Kerala ‘Year of Enterprises’ Project

The Kerala government’s ‘Year of Enterprises’ project has been selected as a **best practices model** in the thrust on **Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)** session during the recent Chief Secretaries National Conference held in the national capital.

The project, which began in the current fiscal, aimed at creating one lakh enterprises in one year. However, the state government achieved this goal in just eight months, setting a new benchmark for promoting small and medium-sized enterprises in India.

Vidisha becomes the 1st Indian district to implement cutting-edge 5G use cases

A joint initiative by the Vidisha District Administration and the Centre for Development of Telematics (**C-DOT**), Department of Telecommunications (**DoT**), under the direction of Additional Secretary (**Telecom**) & Administrator **USOF**, made Vidisha, a district of Madhya Pradesh, the first district ever in India for on-ground implementation of groundbreaking **5G use cases** proposed by startups.



DotFEST Festival has been organized in Odisha

The second edition of ‘Dot Fest,’ a part of city festivals commemorating the **FIH Men’s Hockey World Cup 2023**, will be held in Odisha from January 15 to 29, 2023.

- As part of the festival, **six main festivals** and activities will be held, including Bhubaneswar live, an international cuisine festival, the **story-telling festival BhuFesto**, Ekamra walks, a **night flea market**, and the ‘Sebe-O-Ebe’ picture show.

Himachal Pradesh Govt Restores Old Pension Scheme in First Cabinet Meeting

The Himachal Pradesh government restored the **old pension scheme in its first cabinet meeting**. The cabinet decided to provide OPS to all government employees who are presently covered under the defined contributory pension scheme, also referred to as NPS. This scheme will benefit about **1.36 lakh NPS employees in the state**.

Kerala’s Kollam to be considered as first Constitution Literate District of India

Kerala’s Kollam district has been declared the **first constitution-literate district of India**.

- The chief minister declared Kollam to be India’s first constitution-literate district, saying that constitutional ideals must be **integrated into our daily lives and government in order to attain comprehensive constitutional literacy**.
- As part of the initiative, **about 16.3 lakh persons over the age of ten** in the area have been taught various elements of the Constitution.

Rajasthan’s Blindness Control Policy

The state of Rajasthan has made history by implementing the first-ever policy for blindness control in the country, with the objective of “**Right to Sight**.”

- Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has taken an innovative initiative towards realizing the concept of “**Nirogi Rajasthan**” (**Healthy Rajasthan**) in the state.
- The policy aims to **bring light in the lives of more than 3 lakh people suffering from visual impairment in the state**. The prevalence rate of blindness in the country was 1.1% in 2020, and the government aims to bring it down to 0.3% through the Blindness Control Policy.

Odisha CM Patnaik inaugurates Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Thursday inaugurated one of the largest hockey stadiums in India in Rourkela ahead of the Men’s Hockey World Cup 2023. Built at an estimated cost of ₹261 crore, the stadium, located in Sundargarh district, has been christened as Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium Complex.

It has been built in 50 acres in a record 15 months-time with a seating capacity of 20,000. The stadium also has practice centres adjacent to it with certified turfs and lighting. The State has



also built a World Cup village, which has 225 rooms to house the players and officials, within nine months.

World's first Palm-leaf Manuscript Museum in Kerala capital

Kerala Chief Minister (CM) Pinarayi Vijayan has inaugurated the Palm leaf Manuscript Museum with modern audio-visual technology at the renovated Central Archives, Fort area in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The Museum, promoted as “**World's First Palm-Leaf Manuscript Museum**” was set up by the Archives Department in association with the Kerala Museum of History and Heritage at a cost of Rs 3 crore.

The museum is a repository of curious nuggets of administrative, socio-cultural and economic facets of the Travancore kingdom which lasted for 650 years till the end of the 19th century. It had been the Central Vernacular Records Office since 1887 before becoming a museum.

Odisha: First-Ever Coal Gasification Based Talcher Fertilizer Plant to be Ready in 2024

Union Health and Family Welfare and Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya announced that India's first-ever coal gasification-based Talcher Fertilizer Plant in Odisha will be ready to be dedicated to the nation by October 2024. Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya visited the site on the second day and noted that the work in the plant in Talcher is in progress.

Along with Union Health and Family Welfare and Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan was also present during the occasion.

Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, five out of four urea plants have become functional.

Chhattisgarh CM Celebrated Traditional 'Cherchera' Festival in Raipur

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel celebrated the Cherchera festival at Dudhadhari Math in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. The Cherchera festival of Chhattisgarh is celebrated on the full moon night of the 'Paush' Hindu calendar month. It is to celebrate the happiness and joy of taking crops to their homes after cultivation. Chief Minister Baghel extended warm wishes to all the citizens of Chhattisgarh on the auspicious occasion

- According to the mythological belief, on this day **Lord Shankar begged Mata Annapurna**.
- People **celebrate the cultivation of crops** and spread joy among each other.
- People also donate green vegetables along with paddy on this day

Odisha: CAMPA New Action Plan for 2023-24

The Odisha government's State-level steering committee for the **Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA)** has approved an annual plan of **INR 1,086 crore** for the 2023-24 fiscal year, with a focus on **reducing man-animal conflicts**.



- The plan was approved during a meeting chaired by Chief Secretary S. C. Mohapatra on January 11th, where various issues related to **wildlife management and afforestation** were discussed.
- The CAMPA annual plan of operations (APO) for 2023-24, presented by the Chief Executive Officer, State Authority, CAMPA, Pradeep Raj Karat, mainly focuses on taking up plantations and other activities such as maintenance of old plantations, forest protection, fire protection, simultaneous silvicultural operations for bamboo forests, soil and moisture conservation activities in forest lands, wildlife management, relocation of villages from protected areas, and forest infrastructure development.

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik inaugurates World Cup Hockey 2023

Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik led the inaugural address of this global sporting Hockey carnival which is being held for the **second successive time in Odisha** by the Odisha Government.

In his inaugural address, the Odisha CM expressed his immense delight with the way that the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup has returned to Odisha! With the grand Celebrations lighting up the night sky, he officially welcomed hockey home!

- While the matches would be held at the **Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar** and **Birsa Munda Stadium in Rourkela** in Odisha, the inauguration was held today at Barabati Stadium, Cuttack.

Chhattisgarh's CM announced a monthly allowance for unemployed youth

Chhattisgarh Chief Minister **Bhupesh Baghel** announced on January 26, 2023, that **unemployed youngsters** in the state will be **paid a monthly allowance** beginning in the **next fiscal year**.

- The sum has yet to be determined, and a team is working on it.
- The chief minister also stated that beginning with the next fiscal year, each gram **panchayat** will be given **\$10,000 to organize tribal festivals** in the Bastar division, Surguja division, and scheduled regions of the state.

Ernakulam: First District to register 10,000 new MSMEs

The Kerala Government launched the Enterprises Campaign during its 2022-23 budget. Also, the state government declared the financial year 2022-23 as the Year of Enterprises. This was done to boost the development of the MSME sector in the state.

- The campaign was held in different parts of the state under the tagline "**My Enterprises, Nations Pride**". Because of the campaign the number of MSME companies in the state increased.
- Today **Ernakulam** has become the first district in the state to register **more than ten thousand new MSMEs**. The other districts such as **Thrissur and Malappuram** are **also moving close to the number**.



Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan announces ‘Ladli Bahna’ scheme

Shivraj Singh Chouhan, the chief minister of Madhya Pradesh, has made a significant statement for the women to launch the “**Ladli Bahna Yojana**” in the state following the success of the **Ladli Laxmi Yojana for the girls**. No matter their caste or status, underprivileged women would receive Rs 1,000 each month under this Yojna in order to gain financial independence.

International Affairs

Dhaka Literary Festival 10th edition to be on 5-8 January

The 10th edition of Dhaka Lit Fest (DLF), the largest international literary festival in Bangladesh, which was postponed three years in a row owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, is scheduled for January 5-8, 2023. The Bangla Academy in Dhaka’s historic grounds will serve as the venue for the event.

Croatia adopts the Euro

With the onset of 1 January 2023, Croatia has switched to the European currency – the euro – and joined Europe’s border-free Schengen zone.

Croatia, the 20th member of the eurozone, dropped its kuna currency on Saturday midnight (New Year).

SCO Film Festival to be organized in Mumbai from 27th to 31st January, 2023

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is organizing the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization Film Festival** from the **27th – 31st of January, 2023**, in Mumbai, through the National Film Development Corporation. The SCO Film Festival is being organized to mark India’s Presidency at SCO.

- Marathi Film ‘**Godavari**’ and Gujarati Film ‘**The Last Film Show**’ nominated under Competition Section from India

Europe’s Largest Deposit of Rare Earths Discovered in Sweden

Europe’s largest deposit of rare earths, which are used in everything from mobile phones to missiles, has been found in Sweden. The discovery is being hailed as a way to reduce the European Union’s (EU) dependence on China, which currently supplies **98% of the rare earths used in the EU**.

- The discovery is also being seen as crucial for the green transition, given the expected increase in demand for electric vehicles and wind turbines.



IMF 4.7 billion USD support program for Bangladesh

The Bangladesh Government has been **facing several macroeconomic issues**. The country holds a huge current account deficit. The **value of the Taka, the currency of Bangladesh has been declining**.

- Foreign Exchange reserves of the country have been decreasing.
- **To help Bangladesh** recover from these economic stresses, the **International Monetary Fund** recently sanctioned a **4.7 billion USD loan** to the country.

UK to be country Partner for BioAsia 2023

Hyderabad is the **Cybercity of India**. The Genome Valley, the **first world-class Biotech cluster** in India was established in the cyber city. Today, the State Government of Telangana, along with the Union Government, and several other international organizations organize the BIO ASIA forum in the Genome Valley.

- The forum is one of the largest international biotech forums in the world.
- And several leading biotech companies look forward to it.
- In 2023, **India joins** hands with the UK government in hosting the forum.
- This year, the **forum is to focus on the MSME sector**.

United States Sri Lanka CARAT or MAREX-2023

Sri Lanka and the United States are to conduct week-long joint **military exercises in January 2023** to prepare for disaster relief and maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific, amid China's increasing military manoeuvres in the strategic region.

The exercise, named Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (**CARAT**)/**Marine Exercise (MAREX) Sri Lanka 2023**, will involve participants from the Sri Lanka Navy, Sri Lanka Air Force, Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force and Maldives National Defence Force.

US launches Welcome Corps Scheme

The United States Government recently launched a scheme called **“Welcome Corps”** to **allow its citizens to offer sanctuaries to refugees**. The scheme is aimed at expanding the capacity of the **US Refugee Admissions Program (USRAP)** and will help the public cover the costs of refugees arriving in the US.

China Becomes First Country in Asia to Launch Hydrogen Powered Train

China's CRRC Corporation Ltd. Launched a hydrogen urban train, and it is the first in Asia and the second such train in the world. Germany introduced green trains a few months back. The hydrogen trains have a speed of 160 km per hour and the operational range without refueling is 600 km.

The trains launched by Germany have a record of 1175 km range set. The Indian Railway on the other hand is moving fast to induct the 'World's Greenest Train' soon.



India will get its first-ever Indigenous Hydrogen trains by December 2023. Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav informed that Indian Railways is working on new environment-friendly trains and the engineers are designing them.

India Takes Over Leadership of the Asian Pacific Postal Union

India has taken over the leadership of the Asia Pacific Postal Union (APPU) in January 2023. Dr Vinaya Prakash Singh will take over the charge of Secretary General of the Union for a tenure of 4 years. This is the result of the elections during the 13th APPU Congress held in August-September 2022.

There are 32 members in this international organisation from the Asia-Pacific. It is a specific department inside the UN. The sole Restricted Union of the Universal Postal in the area is this one. The Asia Pacific Postal Union's headquarters are in Bangkok, Thailand.

US Approves World's First Vaccine for Declining Honey Bees

US has approved the first-ever vaccine for honey bees which will confer protection from the American foulbrood disease, raising hopes of a new weapon against diseases that routinely ravage colonies that are relied upon for food pollination.

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) has permitted a conditional license for a vaccine, developed by Dalan Animal Health, a US-based biotech company. The vaccine will be supplied on a "limited basis" to commercial beekeepers in the US and is expected to be available this year

G20 Foreign ministers to meet in Delhi in March 2023

The G20 foreign minister meet is scheduled to take place in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi in March 2023. The government has issued an expected guest list that includes Joe Biden (US President), Vladimir Putin (Russia President), Rishi Sunak (UK Prime Minister), Xi Jinping (China President), among others.

India is taking charge of the G20 at a time when the world is simultaneously grappling with geopolitical tensions, economic slowdown, rising food and energy prices, and the long-term ill-effects of the pandemic," Prime Minister Narendra Modi had said at the G20 Bali summit last year.

International Kite Festival 2023

The International Kite Festival 2023 officially started on January 7th in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, with a theme centered around the G20 countries. Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel inaugurated the event, which runs from January 8th to 14th and marks the first time the festival has been held in two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the inauguration, Chief Minister Patel praised the progress made by India under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, specifically citing the country's strengthening defense system and digital economy which have helped it become the 5th largest economy in the world.



School Students In Australia To Soon Learn Punjabi

Now Punjabi is all set to be taught in public schools in Western Australia. The language is all set to be introduced into the school curriculum. The **Australian government** is adopting **Punjabi as the newest language** after a 2021 census showed that it was the **fastest-growing language in Australia** with more than **239,000 people** using it at home, an increase of over 80 per cent from 2016, reported SBS Punjabi.

- The number of Punjabi speakers in Australia is continuously increasing. Punjabi language has become the **fastest growing language** in this country.
- In comparison to the year 2016, there has been an increase of 80 percent in the number of Punjabi speakers in Australia in the year 2021.

Canada to Commercialise World's First Photonic-based Quantum Computer

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has announced a **new federal investment** to build and commercialise the **world's first photonic-based, fault-tolerant quantum computer**.

According to a news release from the Prime Minister's website, the **investment of 40 million Canadian dollars (\$32 million)** will enable Xanadu Quantum Technologies Inc.,

Prince Harry released his Memoir titled "Spare"

Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex, a member of the **British royal family**, has released his memoir titled **"Spare"**. The book was written with the assistance of American **novelist J. R. Moehringer**. The book is published by Transworld Publishers Ltd, a division of Penguin Random House.

Business News

Adani group acquires NDTV founders Roys' 27.26% equity stake

Prannoy Roy and Radhika Roy had announced to sell 27.26 per cent out of their remaining 32.26 per cent shareholding in the NDTV to the Adani Group. Vishvapradhan Commercial Private Limited (an indirect subsidiary of the company) holds 8.27 per cent equity stake in NDTV and RRPR (prior to the present acquisition) held 29.18 per cent equity stake in NDTV

Hindustan Copper Ltd Signs MoU with IIT (ISM), Dhanbad for Technical Collaboration

Hindustan Copper Limited and Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines), Dhanbad signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the HCL Corporate Office in Kolkata in the presence of Arun Kumar Shukla, HCL's CEO, and Professor Rajiv Shekhar, IIT (ISM) Director.



As the only copper miner in India, HCL owns all the operating mining leases of copper ore in the country, so the first technical collaboration with IIT (ISM), Dhanbad, is a big deal for HCL. The majority of ore production happens underground right now, and the annual production hovers at around four million tons.

Tata Power sets up India's 1st solar plant for housing society in Mumbai

Tata Power Renewable Energy has secured a deal with **Mumbai's Vivarea Condominium** to make it the country's first housing society to operate a captive **solar energy plant for residential consumption**.

- To power the society, a 3.125-megawatt solar facility will be built in **Maharashtra's Himayatnagar by Tata Power subsidiary**.
- It will supply green electricity at **40% less than the current cost**.

Viacom18 bagged Women's IPL media rights for Rs 951 cr for next 5 years

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has announced that **Viacom 18** have grabbed the media rights for the upcoming Women's IPL for a whopping **Rs 951 crore for five years**, pipping other bidders, including Disney Star and Sony, in the auction.

The auction for the T20 League was conducted by the cricket board in Mumbai. The global rights comprise three categories linear (TV), digital and combined (TV and digital).

Microsoft Invests \$10 Billion in ChatGPT Maker OpenAI

Microsoft announced a new multiyear, multibillion-dollar investment with ChatGPT-maker OpenAI. Microsoft Corp. will be making a **\$10 billion** worth investment in OpenAI, the research lab behind the famous **ChatGPT and DALL-E**.

The deal marks the third phase of the partnership between the two companies, following Microsoft's previous investments in 2019 and 2021. Microsoft said the renewed partnership will accelerate breakthroughs in AI and help both companies commercialize advanced technologies in the future.

Ranks

Tamil Nadu information commission worst performing in RTI responsiveness

The State Information Commission of Tamil Nadu has been the worst performing as far as responsiveness under the RTI Act is concerned, furnishing only 14% of the information sought.

Maharashtra was second-worst, sharing 23% of the information asked for, according to a report card on the performance of Information Commissions (ICs) in India for 2021-22 by the Satark Nagrik Sangathan.



ONGC Top Profit-Making Public-Sector Enterprises in 2021-22

The net profit of operating public sector enterprises jumped 50.87 per cent to ₹ 2.49 lakh crore during 2021-22, with ONGC, Indian Oil Corp, Power Grid, NTPC and SAIL emerging as the top five performers. The net profit of operating central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) stood at ₹ 1.65 lakh crore in the previous fiscal.

The Public Enterprises Survey 2021-22 also revealed that the net loss of loss-making CPSEs narrowed to ₹ 0.15 lakh crore in FY 2021-22 from ₹ 0.23 lakh crore in FY 2020-21, showing a decrease of 37.82 per cent. Major loss-making CPSEs include Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL), Mahanagar Telecom Nigam Ltd (MTNL), Air India Assets Holding Ltd, Eastern Coalfields Ltd and Alliance Air Aviation Ltd.

Varanasi Cantt Railway Station gets 5-star certification for providing high-quality, nutritious food

Varanasi Cantt Railway Station has been awarded a five-star 'Eat Right Station' certification for providing high-quality, nutritious food to passengers, the Railways said in a statement on Thursday. The certification is awarded by FSSAI to railway stations that set benchmarks in providing safe and wholesome food to passengers.

The station is awarded a certificate upon a conclusion of an FSSAI-empanelled third-party audit agency with ratings from one to five. The five-star rating indicates full compliance by the station to ensure safe and hygienic food is available to passengers.

Dirtiest Railway Stations in India list

Indian railway is well-known not just in India but even outside. Some railway stations, in addition to trains, are well-known worldwide. India is home to the second-largest platform in the world. In addition, one of the main train stations in India are the New Delhi Railway Station and Mumbai Central Railway Station. Usually, the question is that which are the cleanest railway stations in India, but here we will see the dirtiest railway stations in India.

The top 10 dirtiest railway stations in India are:

Perungalathur (Tamil Nadu),
Guindy (Tamil Nadu),
Delhi Sadar Bazar,
Velacheri (Tamil Nadu),
Guduvancheri (Tamil Nadu),
Singaperumalkoil (Tamil Nadu),
Ottappalam (Kerala),
Pazhavanthangal (Tamil Nadu),
Araria Court (Bihar), and
Khurja (Uttar Pradesh), among several others.



Delhi, Bangalore one of Top-Performing Global Airports of 2022

According to the Cirium Aviation Analytics study, a number of airports worldwide have been Top-performing Global Airports in 2022. According to the data, while 84.08% of the 201,897 flights that departed on time from Bangalore's Kempegoda International Airport and 81.84% of the 411,205 flights that departed on time from Delhi's IGI Airport.

The top 10 top-performing global airports according to Cirium were:

1. Haneda Airport-Tokyo, Japan
2. Kempegowda International Airport-Bangalore,India
3. Salt Lake City International Airport-Utah, US
4. Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport-Michigan, US
5. Philadelphia International Airport-Pennsylvania, US
6. Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport-Minnesota, US
7. Indira Gandhi International Airport-Delhi, India
8. Seattle-Tacoma International Airport-Washington, US
9. El Dorado International Airport-Bogota, Colombia
10. Charlotte Douglas International Airport-North Carolina, US

After China and US, India becomes world's 3rd largest auto market: Report

In a major development, India has surpassed Japan in terms of auto sales last year to become the third-largest auto market globally for the first time. India's total sales of new vehicles stood at around 4.25 million units, based on preliminary results, topping the 4.2 million sold in Japan.

While new vehicles that got delivered in India totaled 4.13 million during the period of January – November 2022, according to Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers' data, December's sales volume reported by Maruti Suzuki, India's largest carmaker, led the total to hit the 4.25 million unit's mark.

Chennai, Southern cities have highest rates of women employment

According to a survey by Avtar, a company that specializes in workplace inclusion, Chennai is India's top city for women's employment. Pune, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Mumbai are the next best cities for women's employment.

The remaining Top 10 cities for women's employment are Ahmedabad, Visakhapatnam, Kolkata, Coimbatore, and Madurai; each has a population of over a million people.

Power Grid Ranked 1st in Services Sector in PE Survey 2021-22

Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID) has been ranked 1st in Services Sectors across categories Gross Block, Value Addition, Net Profit, Net Worth, Dividend Declaration, and Contribution to the Central Exchequer and has also been ranked 3rd among the Top 10 profit-making Cluses.



The results were published in the Public Enterprises Survey 2021-2022 by the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), Ministry of Finance, Government of India.

Tata could be India's first homegrown iPhone maker: Reports

Tata Group is nearing the takeover of a major plant in Karnataka in a ₹4,000-₹5,000 crore deal to become India's first homegrown maker of Apple's iPhones, reports said.

- Tata is looking to take over **Taiwan-based Wistron's iPhone factory** in Karnataka.
- Tata has been in talks with Wistron for months and is looking to complete the **purchase by March-end**, Bloomberg reported.

Henley Passport Index 2023, Japan retained its top position

According to the latest Henley Passport Index, **Japan** has retained its position as the most favourable passport in the world, allowing visa-free entry to 193 global destinations. which the country tops for the fifth consecutive year. **Singapore and South Korea** came in a joint **second on the ranking**, followed by Germany and Spain, and then a slew of other European nations.

- The **Indian passport** was ranked **85th**.

Most Polluted City in India in 2022, Report says

Delhi was the most polluted city in India in 2022 with PM 2.5 levels more than double the safe limit and the third highest average PM10 concentration, according to an analysis of Central Pollution Control Board data.

Among the most polluted cities with respect to PM2.5 levels,

- **Delhi** (99.71 micrograms per cubic metre) ranked first
- **Haryana's Faridabad** (95.64 micrograms per cubic metre) ranked second
- **Uttar Pradesh's Ghaziabad** (91.25 micrograms per cubic metre) third

Gujarat and Rajasthan Emerge as Top Investment Destinations in India

According to data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), Gujarat has surpassed all other Indian states in attracting new investments from both domestic and foreign corporations.

- **Fresh investments worth Rs 3.98 trillion** were announced for Gujarat during the financial year (FY) 2022, representing a 273 percent increase over the FY 2021 figure of Rs 2.91 trillion.
- **Rajasthan**, on the other hand, emerged as the **second** most attractive destination for investments in India in FY 2022. Interestingly, the state witnessed the highest rate of growth during the period, soaring by almost 535 percent and attracting new investments **worth Rs 2.37 trillion**.



Bengaluru Dominates Startup Funding in India with \$10.8 Billion in 2022

In 2022, **Bengaluru**, the technology capital of India, has **topped the startup funding chart** with a whopping 3.9 billion, while **Gurugram took the third spot** with 1.2 billion in funding, and Pune had \$1 billion in funding.

- **LetsVenture, AngelList, and Y Combinator** have topped the list of most active investors in 2022 to date, according to Tracxn.

World's richest actor list, Shah Rukh Khan beats Tom Cruise

Bollywood actor Shah Rukh Khan with his more than three decades of work in the film industry has garnered millions of fans all over the world and an estimated net **worth of ₹627 million (\$770 million)**, making him the richest actor in Asia and fourth richest actor all over the world.

Beating fellow immensely famous and cult actors like **Tom Cruise, Jackie Chan, and George Clooney, Shah Rukh Khan** took the fourth position in the list of eight richest actors of the world released by World of Statistics.

Richest actors in the world:

- **Jerry Seinfeld (US): \$1 Billion**
- **Tyler Perry (US): \$1 Billion**
- **Dwayne Johnson (US): \$800 million**
- **Shah Rukh Khan (Indian): \$770 million**
- **Tom Cruise (US): \$620 million**
- **Jackie Chan (Hong Kong): \$520 million**
- **George Clooney (US): \$500 million**
- **Robert De Niro (US): \$500 million**

Uttar Pradesh tops charts for mobile gaming destination in India

Uttar Pradesh (UP) has emerged as the top location for **mobile gamers**, followed by **Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Bihar, and West Bengal**, according to the India Mobile Gaming Report 2022 issued by the gaming platform **Mobile Premier League (MPL)**.

- According to the research, 36% of all games in the state were played in **Lucknow, Kanpur, Varanasi, Ghaziabad, and Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh**. The second year, 2022, saw Lucknow rank among the top cities and outperform all major cities.

Which are the world's 10 most valuable brands?

Amazon has beaten Apple to become the **world's most valuable brand** with a brand value of **\$299.3 billion**, Brand Finance reported.

Apple was ranked as the world's second most valuable brand, followed by **Google, Microsoft, Walmart, Samsung, ICBC, Verizon, Tesla and TikTok**. **Tata Group, ranked 69th**, is the **only Indian company** to feature among the **top 100 most valuable brands**.



Mukesh Ambani Number 1 Among Indians And 2 Globally On Brand Guardianship Index

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani ranked **No.1 among Indians** and second globally on the **Brand Guardianship Index 2023**, overtaking the likes of Satya Nadella of Microsoft and Google's Sundar Pichai. **Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang topped the list globally**, with Microsoft's Satya Nadella occupying third place.

Jio is India's Strongest Brand, Ranked Ninth Globally

Reliance Jio has been ranked as the **strongest brand in India** and **placed ninth among the world's strongest brands**, according to the latest report 'Global 500 – 2023' published by Brand Finance.

'Jio' was placed ninth among the world's strongest brands ahead of brands like EY, Coca Cola, Accenture and Porsche, and behind the likes of Google, YouTube, Deloitte and Instagram. With a Brand Strength Index of 90.2, Jio is the only brand of India among the **world's strongest 25 brands**, according to the Brand Finance listing.

Foreign Relations

Tripura signs Rs 2,275 crore pact with ADB on power supply

The Tripura government has signed an agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) amounting to Rs 2,275 crore to strengthen and improve power distribution efficiency in the northeast state, deputy chief minister Jishnu Dev Varma said.

India, Panama Signed MoU on Cooperation in Training Diplomats

India and Panama have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to encourage cooperation in the training of diplomats. The **MoU between India and Panama** was signed by the **External Affairs Minister of India Dr. Subramanyam Jaishankar** and the Foreign Minister of Panama Janaina Tewaney Mencomon.

The MoU was **signed in Indore** and the External Affairs Minister has noted that they have discussed the opportunities for greater economic, health, finance, and people-to-people linkage. Both leaders have also shared their perspectives on global situations.

Indian High Commission Signed MoU with Sabaragamuwa University to Establish Hindi Chair

The Indian High Commission signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the **Sabaragamuwa University of Sri Lanka** to establish a **Hindi Chair**. The MoU was signed by **High Commissioner Gopal Baglay**, and Vice Chancellor of Sabaragamuwa University **Professor Udaya Rathnayake**.



- The MoU aims to establish the Hindi Chair as a part of India's cultural connection through the Indian Council for Cultural Relations. The Hindi chair will help in familiarizing students of Sabaragamuwa University with India, its history, and its culture.
- The **High Commission of India** and the **Vice Chancellor of Sabaragamuwa University** signed an MoU for establishing Hindi Chair for the cultural engagement between the two countries.
- The MoU was signed between **India and Sri Lanka after World Hindi Day**.

Prasar Bharti signed an MoU to facilitate content exchange between National Media Authority of Egypt

Prasar Bharati and the **National Media Authority of Egypt** inked an MoU to promote **content sharing, capacity building, and co-productions** on January 25, 2023.

- The agreement was signed by **Anurag Singh Thakur**, Minister of Information and Broadcasting, and **Sameh Hassan Shoukry**, **Minister of Foreign Affairs, Government of Egypt**.
- The agreements were signed in New Delhi in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi.

India Signed MoU Between Prasar Bharati and National Media Authority of Egypt

India and Egypt signed an MOU to facilitate content exchange, capacity building, and Co-Productions between **Prasar Bharati** and the **National Media Authority of Egypt**. The MoU was signed by Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting, Youth Affairs, and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur, and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Government of Egypt, Sameh Hassan Shoukry.

The MoUs were exchanged between the two countries in the presence of the Prime Minister of India and the President of Egypt following the **delegation-level talks between the two sides** at Hyderabad House in New Delhi.

Defence News

Bharat Petroleum launches low smoke superior kerosene oil for the Indian Army

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), a Maharatna and a Fortune Global 500 Company, has announced the launch of Low Smoke Superior Kerosene Oil (SKO) for the Indian Army in Jammu.

BPCL has emerged as the first OMC to commence the supply of the new LSLA grade SKO supplies to the Army, which will go a long way in improving the serving environment and alleviate the issues related to smoke and smell in use of SKO.

Indian Navy 'SPRINT' initiative



The Indian Navy has recently announced a collaboration with Sagar Defence Engineering Private Limited for the development of armed autonomous boat swarms as part of the “SPRINT” initiative.

Launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in July of last year, SPRINT (Supporting Pole-Vaulting in R&D through Innovations for Defence Excellence) aims to promote the development and usage of indigenous defense technologies by domestic companies.

The task of developing this technology is one of the 75 challenges introduced by the Indian Navy under the “Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav” celebrations.

Varuna 2023: India-France Bilateral Naval Exercise

The 21st edition of the bilateral naval exercise between India and France, **Exercise Varuna**, has begun on the Western Seaboard on January 16th, 2023. The bilateral exercise, which was initiated in 1993, was **named ‘Varuna’ in 2001** and has become a defining feature of the India-France strategic bilateral relationship.

- This edition of the exercise will see the participation of the **Indian Navy’s indigenous guided missile stealth destroyer INS Chennai**, guided missile frigate **INS Teg**, maritime patrol aircraft **P-8I and Dornier**, integral helicopters, and **MiG29K fighter aircraft**.

Border Security Force (BSF) starts ‘Ops alert’ exercise

India is to celebrate its 74th republic day on January 26, 2023. Several anti-national elements try to cause trouble in the country during such nationwide celebrations. To put them under control and to increase security at the border, the BSF is conducting a seven-day long exercise called the “**OPS ALERT**”.

- During the exercise, the security personnel will hold drills in the **India – Pakistan border** that extends between **Rann of Kutch and Sir Creek** and also in the Barmer district of Rajasthan. The border is highly vulnerable in these regions.

Indian Air Force to Conduct Exercise ‘PRALAY’ in Northeastern Part of India

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is set to conduct **Exercise PRALAY** in the northeastern sector of India amid the unresolved contention with China about differing perceptions regarding the **Line of Actual Control (LAC)** between the two nations. The exercise will involve major air bases of the IAF in the northeast in addition to the recently deployed drone squadron.

Indian Navy’s “TROPEX 2023” maritime exercise held in the Indian Ocean

The 2023 edition of **Indian Navy’s major maritime exercise Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise (TROPEX)**, is currently underway in the **Indian Ocean Region**.

- This operational level exercise is conducted biennially and witnesses participation not only by all Indian Navy units but also of Indian Army, Indian Air Force and Coast



Guard assets. The **first exercise of maritime surveillance** was held in **January 2019**. It is also called the **biggest war game of the Indian Navy**.

Aero – India 2023

The Defence Ministry has been organizing the **Aero – India Show since 1996**. Other organizations such as DRDO, the **Indian Air Force, Civil Aviation, and the Department of Space** join the ministry to organize the show.

- The show is one of the largest air shows in Asia. Service providers of Indian aerospace and other manufacturers exhibit their products. Buyers from different countries participate in the show. It is to be held at the **Yelahanka Air Force Base near Bengaluru, Karnataka**.

India and Russia Joint Venture starts production of Kalashnikov AK-203

The **Indo-Russian** joint venture for the manufacturing of **Kalashnikov AK-203 assault rifles** is a testament to the strong partnership relations between the two countries.

The move to manufacture these rifles in India through a joint venture not only lends **greater firepower to the Indian armed forces** but also serves as a significant step in strengthening military-technical cooperation between the two nations.

Indo-Egypt Joint Training Exercise Cyclone-I

The **Indian and the Egyptian Armies** are to conduct the first-ever joint exercise Cyclone-I. It is to be held in **Jaisalmer, Rajasthan for 14 days**.

The exercise is the first of its kind as it brings the special forces of the countries to a common platform. Cyclone-I would help the armies **exchange their culture and ethos**. Also, they will foster interoperability and aid in boosting the diplomatic relation between the nations.

India & Japan concludes “Veer Guardian 2023” Air exercise

The inaugural edition of the 16-day bilateral air exercise between the Indian Air Force and the **Japan Air Self-Defence Force** has concluded in Japan. The exercise, ‘**Veer Guardian 2023**’, involved precise planning and skilful execution by both the air forces. The JASDF participated in the exercise with its **F-2 and F-15** aircraft, while the IAF contingent participated with the **Su-30 MKI aircraft**.



Science related Affairs

DRDO celebrates its 65th Foundation Day

DRDO Headquarters in New Delhi to mark the 65th Foundation Day of the Organisation, which is celebrated on 1st January every year.

Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman, DRDO Dr Samir V Kamat along with Director Generals and senior officials of DRDO paid floral tributes at the bust of Missile Man of India.

Microsoft to boost Indian space tech startups, signs MoU with ISRO

Tech giant Microsoft is all set to fuel space tech startups in India. At the future-ready technology summit 2023, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella showcased several cloud-based and AI-powered projects and also revealed its plans to foster Indian startups in the space tech domain.

The company has signed a memorandum of understanding with ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) to fuel space tech startups using technology tools and platforms.

Conservation of Endangered Species: Asian Elephants

According to the international journal ‘Conservation’, the endangered Asian Elephant has lost most of its “optimal” habitat, which is the flat terrain that is easily negotiable.

Asian elephants are listed as “Endangered” on the IUCN Red List of threatened species. The current population estimates indicate that there are about 50,000 -60000 Asian elephants in the world, of which More than 60 % of population is present in India.

DRDO Develops Unmanned Aerial Vehicle for Operations in Himalayan Frontier

The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has developed an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) to carry out logistic operations in the Himalayan frontier. The DRDO-developed UAV is capable of flying in the Himalayan Environment with 5kg of payload and even dropping bombs in the areas required.

India Conducts Successful Test Launch of Prithvi-II Ballistic Missile

India successfully carried out a test launch of the tactical ballistic missile Prithvi-II from a test range off the **Odisha coast** on January 10.

The missile successfully struck its target with “high accuracy”, according to the Defence Ministry. The test validated all operational and technical parameters of the missile, which is an integral part of India’s nuclear deterrence capabilities.

- Prithvi-II is a short-range ballistic missile, with a range of around 350 kilometres.



‘Saarang 2023’ India’s Largest Student-Run Festival Begins at IIT Madras

The 28th edition of Saarang, India’s largest student-run festival begins at **IIT Madras** on 11th January 2023. Saarang 2023 will feature more than 100 events with participation from **500 colleges** across the country. The Saarang 2023 is one of the **largest student-run festivals** held completely in physical mode. It is expected to see over 80,000 people at the festival. The fest will be held till 15th January 2023.

- The theme of this year’s Saarang edition is ‘**Mystic Hues**’ which celebrates how intertwined colors are with culture and tradition
- IIT Madras is hosting the Saarang 2023 after two years post Covid-19 pandemic
- Saarang 2023 launched ‘**Panacea**’ for this year’s **social cause**.

Skyhawk: India’s first 5G-enabled drone developed by IG Drones

- Skyhawk, India’s first **5G-enabled drone** capable of vertical take-off and landing, has been built by **Noida-based IG Drones**.
- The firm arose from the **Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology** in Odisha.
- Skyhawk can carry a **10-kilogram payload**, has a five-hour endurance, and can function through satellites if an internet connection is absent.

Garuda Aerospace launched surveillance drone named Droni

- Garuda Aerospace and Former cricketer, **Mahendra Singh Dhoni** have launched a surveillance drone named ‘**Droni**’.
- MS Dhoni is an **investor-cum-ambassador of Garuda Aerospace**.
- Droni is a battery-operated **quadcopter surveillance drone**.
- Garuda Aerospace recently became the first-ever drone company in India to get dual DGCA approvals for both drone manufacturing type certificate and RTPO.
- In 2022, he unveiled the camera drone called Droni at the **Global Drone Expo in Chennai**.

JUICE Space Mission of Europe

The European Union is to launch the **JUICE Spacecraft** in April 2023. The spacecraft is to explore the moons of Jupiter. Specifically, the mission is to study the **three major moons of Jupiter namely Ganymede, Europe, and Callisto**.

- Out of the **80 moons of the planet**, these three were selected for their large oceans.
- The satellite is to be launched from **French Guiana**. Ariane 5 will carry the satellite. JUICE is the first satellite from the earth to **enter the orbit of Ganymede**.

Israeli Astro Physics Mission: ULTRASAT

NASA and Israel will soon sign an agreement on a space mission. Under the agreement, the United States will help Israel in its upcoming Astrophysics Mission called ULTRASAT. The mission is currently being developed by Israel Space Agency and Germany.



- ULTRASAT will operate in Geo Stationary orbit. It is to carry a UV telescope. The main objective of ULTRASAT is to look for **UV signatures in space**. Precisely it will look for UV emissions from mergers (collision of neutron stars) and supernova explosions.

BharOS: Indigenous Mobile Operating System

The **BharOS** is an operating system used in **mobile phones**. It was developed by JandK Operations Private Limited. **IIT Madras** was the pioneer in **developing the app**. And IIT Madras developed it through its JandK organization. Basically, JandK is a non-profit private organization.

- The IIT Madras **Pravartak Technologies** launched this private organization along with others. It is funded by the Science and Technology department of the Government of India.

DRACO: Nuclear Fission powered Spacecraft of NASA

DARPA of the USA is working on nuclear fission-powered spacecraft **along with NASA** called the **DRACO**. DARPA is **Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency**. And DARPA is the research and development wing of the US military.

- Just like the DRDO of India. DARPA is to launch the DRACO Spacecraft. DRACO stands for **Demonstration Rocket for Agile Cislunar Operations**. DRACO is to run on nuclear fission reaction.
- This is considered a big leap in the space industry as no nuclear rockets have been launched till 2021. The USA began testing the technology in 1955. Due to a lack of funds, the project was stalled.

SpaceX Launches 51 Starlink satellites from California

A **SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket** carried more than four dozen Starlink satellites into the low-Earth orbit in a launch **from the California coast**. The rocket lifted off at 7:43 a.m. California time from Vandenberg Space Force Base, located northwest of Santa Barbara.

Fifty-one Starlink satellites were on board. Onboard cameras showed the rocket burst through a cloud bank over the coast. After stage separation, Falcon 9's first stage returned to Earth and landed on the Of Course I Still Love You dronship stationed in the Pacific Ocean.

ISRO 'Shukrayaan I' mission to planet Venus reportedly shifted to 2031

P. Sreekumar, the Satish Dhawan Professor at the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** and advisor to its space science programme, stated that the organisation has not yet received approval from the Indian government for the Venus mission and that, as a result, the mission may be delayed until 2031.

Book News



A book title ‘COACHING BEYOND: My Days with the Indian Cricket Team’ by R. Kaushik, R. Sridhar

A book titled ‘**COACHING BEYOND: My Days with the Indian Cricket Team**’ authored by R. Kaushik & R. Sridhar. The book reflects primarily on **R. Sridhar’s seven-year** coaching tenure with the Indian cricket team as its fielding coach.

This book isn’t as technical as it is anecdotal. It throws light, for instance, on **how Virat Kohli overcame a dismal Test series in England in 2014** to smash four hundreds in as many matches in his next overseas outing, in Australia.

“India’s Knowledge Supremacy: The New Dawn” Book Written by Dr Ashwin Fernandes released

A book titled “**India’s Knowledge Supremacy: The New Dawn**” Written by international Indian expat, **Dr Ashwin Fernandes** has released globally.

- This book was launched by Honourable **Minister of Education of India Shri Dharmendra Pradhan**, at an event at **Dr Ambedkar International Centre**.
- This New book launched focuses on India’s knowledge supremacy, journey showcasing changing trends in newly emerging India.

Sports News

Name	Tournament & Title name	Extra Information
Koustav Chatterjee	India’s 78th Grandmaster	Nineteen-year-old Kolkata-based chess player, Koustav Chatterjee became India’s 78th Grandmaster. He is also the tenth GM from West Bengal. Koustav earned his first GM norm in October 2021 at a Grandmasters’ chess tournament in Bangladesh.
Koneru Humpy	Silver at the World Chess Blitz Championship	Former World rapid champion K. Humpy produced a superlative performance to claim India’s first-ever silver medal from the World blitz chess championship that concluded in Almaty, Kazakhstan.



CURRENT AFFAIRS – JANUARY 2023

Devon Conway	Becomes first cricketer to smash 1st hundred of 2 consecutive years	New Zealand opener Devon Conway has become the first cricketer to smash the first hundred of two consecutive years. Conway slammed 122(191) in New Zealand's first innings of the second Test against Pakistan in Karachi to record first international hundred of 2023.
Pranesh M	Became India's 79th Grandmaster	The 16-year-old from India, seeded 22nd, made a clean sweep of the field in Stockholm, winning eight games and finishing a full point ahead of IM Kaan Kukuksari (Sweden) and GM Nikita Meshkovs (Latvia).
Belinda Clark	Becomes first women cricketer to have statue cast at Sydney Cricket Ground	Clark played 15 tests and over 100 limited overs matches between 1991-2005, and became the first cricketer to score a double-hundred in one-day internationals when she made an unbeaten 229 against Denmark in 1997.
Anahat Singh	under-15 British open squash title	Anahat Singh, an Indian squash player on the rise, won the girl's under-15 title in the renowned British Junior Open in Birmingham on January 8, 2023.
Falak Mumtaz	Gold medal at 23rd National Sqay Championship	Falak Mumtaz, an 11-year-old girl from Jammu and Kashmir has bagged a gold medal in National Sqay Championship.
Virat Kohli	Becomes fifth highest run scorer in ODI cricket	Star cricketer Virat Kohli became the fifth-highest run-scorer in history of ODI cricket, overtaking Sri Lankan Mahela Jayawardene to enter into top-five. At the time of becoming the fifth-highest



CURRENT AFFAIRS – JANUARY 2023

		run-scorer, Virat had 12,652 runs
Laxman Rawat	NSCI Snooker Open Crown	Laxman Rawat of PSPB emerged victorious in the 'Baulkline' NSCI All India Snooker Open, beating fellow PSPB challenger Aditya Mehta 9-6 in a best-of-17-frame final.
Shubman Gill	youngest batsman to hit double centuries in one-day international cricket	Shubman Gill joined the prestigious list on January 18, 2023, becoming the fifth Indian batsman to score 200 in the 50-over format, only one month after Ishan Kishan hammered a double century in an ODI.
Kunlavut Vitidsarn	India Open Badminton title	Shuttler Kunlavut Vitidsarn from Thailand won the India Open Badminton Championship 2023 by defeating Denmark's Viktor Axelsen in the men's singles by 22-20, 10-21 and 21-12.
Mohammad Siraj	Becomes no.1 bowler in ICC Men's ODI player rankings	Other Indian bowlers to be No. 1 in the ODI rankings are Kapil Dev, Maninder Singh, Anil Kumble, Ravindra Jadeja, and Jasprit Bumrah.
Babar Azam	ICC Men's Cricketer of year 2022	In the 2022 ICC Awards, Babar won both the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy and the Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year, beating out tough fields in both categories.
India	U-19 Women's t20 World Cup 2023	On January 29, 2023, India defeated England by seven wickets in an entertaining one-sided final in South Africa.
Germany	Men's Hockey World Cup 2023 title	Germany won the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2023 on January 29, 2023, beating Belgium 5-4 in a penalty shootout at the



CURRENT AFFAIRS – JANUARY 2023

		Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, India.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N. Djokovic • Sabalenka • J. Kubler & R. Hijikata • Krejčíková & K. Siniaková • L. Stefani & R. Matos 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Open 2023 - Men's Singles • Australian Open 2023 - Women's Singles • Australian Open 2023 - Men's Doubles • Australian Open 2023 - Women's Doubles • Australian Open 2023 - Mixed Doubles 	The 2023 Australian Open was a Grand Slam level tennis tournament held at Melbourne Park, from 16–29 January 2023.
Murali Vijay	Announced his retirement from all forms of cricket	Murali Vijay, the India opener, announced his retirement from all forms of cricket on January 30, 2023, calling an end to a senior career that spanned more than 16 years.

Obituary News

Name	Associated Field
RK Krishnakumar	A Tata veteran
Satish Dhawan	Indian mathematician and aerospace engineer, widely regarded as the “father of experimental fluid dynamics research in India”
Dr Tehemton E Udawadia	“Father of laparoscopic surgery”
Rehman Rahi	Kashmir's first Jnanpith awardee
A.D. Damodaran	Scientist
Balkrishna Doshi	Pioneer of modernist architecture in India
Sabir Ali	Iron Man of India



Important Days

Days	Date	Themes
Global Family Day	January 01	
World Braille Day	January 04	
World Day of War Orphans	January 06	
World Hindi Day	January 10	Hindi: Traditional Knowledge to Artificial Intelligence'
Startup India Innovation Week	January 10 - 16	
National Human Trafficking Awareness Day	January 11	
Road Safety Week	January 11th to 17th	
National Youth Day	January 12	Viksit Yuva-Viksit Bharat
7th Armed Forces Veterans Day	January 14	
75th Indian Army Day	January 15	
Thiruvalluvar Day	January 16	
National Startup Day	January 16	
Netaji Jayanti or Parakram Divas	January 23	
National Girl Child Day	January 24	Self Defence Training for Girls
International Day of Education	January 24	to invest in people, prioritize education
National Tourism Day	January 25	
National Voters Day	January 25	Nothing Like Voting, I Vote for Sure
International Customs Day	January 26	Nurturing the next generation: Promoting a culture of knowledge-sharing and professional pride in Customs
Republic Day	January 26	
International Holocaust Remembrance Day	January 27	Home and Belonging
Data Privacy Day	January 28	Think Privacy First
World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day	January 30	Act Now. Act Together. Invest in Neglected Tropical Diseases
National Anti-Leprosy Day	January 30	Let us make Leprosy a History; Let us fight against leprosy

