

CURRENT AFFAIRS – SEPTEMBER 2023

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Awards and Honours

Awardee Name	Award Name	Extra Information
Korvi Rakshand from Bangladesh, Eugenio Lemos from Timor-Leste, Miriam Coronel-Ferrer from the Philippines, and Dr Ravi Kannan R. from Indi	65th Ramon Magsaysay Awards 2023	The Ramon Magsaysay Award, often called the ‘Nobel Prize of Asia’, is a notable accolade that represents exceptional spirit and influential leadership.
Tharman Shanmugaratnam	Singapore’s presidential election	Tharman Shanmugaratnam, an economist of Indian origin, emerged victorious in Singapore’s recent Presidential election, marking the country’s first competitive presidential race since 2011.
Satyajit Majumdar	Dr V G Patel Memorial Award 2023	Mumbai Professor Satyajit Majumdar, dean of School of Management and Labour Studies from Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), has received the ‘Dr V G Patel Memorial Award-2023
Praveena Anjana	Miss International India 2023	Praveena Anjana of Udaipur has been crowned Miss International India 2023, gaining her position to represent India at the Miss International pageant in Japan this October.
Dr Siddhartha Mukherjee	UK’s top non-fiction prize longlist	A book by Indian-American cancer physician and researcher Dr Siddhartha Mukherjee has been longlisted for the prestigious 50,000 pound Baillie Gifford Prize for Non-Fiction in London.
Satyajit Majumdar	Dr V G Patel Memorial Award 2023	Mumbai Professor Satyajit Majumdar, dean of the School of Management and Labour Studies from Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS)
Najma Akhtar	lifetime achievement award in academia	Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) Vice Chancellor, Professor Najma Akhtar, was recently presented ‘Lifetime Achievement Award-Academia.



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RITES	Safety Innovation Award 2023	RITES Limited has been honoured with the ‘Safety Innovation Award 2023’, under the ‘Construction’ category, for implementing ‘Innovative Safety Management Systems’ in its operations.
Erica Robin	Miss Universe Pakistan 2023	Erica Robin, a model from Karachi has been crowned “Miss Universe Pakistan 2023”, becoming the first-ever woman from the country to win the title.
Rahul Mishra	France’s “Chevalier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres” award	Rahul Mishra, the visionary Indian designer was honored with the Chevalier de l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters) by the French government, joining a distinguished list of fellow countrymen and women including Ritu Kumar, Ritu Beri, Wendell Rodricks, and Manish Arora who have previously received this award.
Swati Nayak	2023 Norman Borlaug Field Award	In a momentous recognition of her exceptional contributions to the field of agriculture and food production, Odia scientist Swati Nayak is set to receive the prestigious Borlaug Field Award for 2023.
Waheeda Rehman	Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award	Her contributions to the world of cinema have left an indelible mark that resonates with audiences across generations.
Ruixiang Zhang	SASTRA Ramanujan Prize in Mathematics	Mathematician Ruixiang Zhang, an Assistant Professor at the University of California, Berkeley, USA, has been selected as the recipient of the prestigious 2023 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize. This



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		award recognizes his remarkable contributions to the field of mathematics.
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Appointments

Name	Designation Name	Extra Information
MS Dhoni	Brand ambassador of Swaraj Tractors	Industrialist Anand Mahindra has welcomed Mahindra Singh Dhoni as the cricketer became a brand ambassador of his Swaraj Tractors. There have been times when Mahendra Singh Dhoni has expressed his passion for farming. And now, he has become a brand ambassador of Swaraj Tractors.
Jaya Verma Sinha	Woman Chairperson - Head the Railway Board	The government appointed Jaya Verma Sinha as the first woman Chairperson of the Railway Board, the top decision-making body for the Ministry of Railways. Ms. Sinha is the first ever woman to head the Board in its 118-year-old history.
Dr. Vasudha Gupta	Principal DG Of Akashvani	Dr. Vasudha Gupta, a seasoned Senior Indian Information Service officer, has taken charge as the Principal Director General of Akashvani and News Services Division.
Lokesh Suji	IESF membership committee	The election marks the first time that an Indian has become a part of the membership committee of the International Esports Federation.
Shyam Sunder Gupta	Central Railway's Principal Chief Operations Manager	Shyam Sunder Gupta took over as the Principal Chief Operations Manager of Central Railway on Tuesday, September 5, 2023.
MD Rajesh Nambiar	Nasscom Chairperson	Nambiar takes on the new role from his previous role



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		as Vice Chairperson succeeding Anant Maheshwari, Former President, of Microsoft India.
Neeraj Mittal	DoT Secretary	The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has appointed Neeraj Mittal, a seasoned 1992 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer as the secretary in the Department of Telecommunications.
Sindhu Gangadharan	Nasscom Vice-Chairperson	Sindhu Gangadharan, who holds the position of Senior Vice President and Managing Director at SAP Labs India and is also responsible for SAP User Enablement, has been named the Vice-Chairperson of The National Association of Software and Service Companies (Nasscom).
Hrithik Roshan	new face of leading lubricants brand Mobil	Exxon Mobil, with a rich legacy spanning 150 years in developing cutting-edge technologies to meet global energy demands, has made a significant announcement by appointing Bollywood actor Hrithik Roshan a
Rajnish Kumar	Chairman of Mastercard India	Mastercard, the global financial services corporation, has made a significant appointment in its Indian operations by naming Rajnish Kumar as the Chairman of Mastercard India.
Srinivasan K. Swamy	Chairman of the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) for 2023-2024	In a unanimous decision, Srinivasan K. Swamy, the Executive Chairman of R.K. Swamy Hansa Group, has been elected as the Chairman of the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) for the term 2023-2024.
Rahul Navin	Director of Enforcement Directorate	IRS (Indian Revenue Service) officer Rahul Navin



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		assumed the role of In-Charge Director of the Enforcement Directorate (ED), succeeding the outgoing Director Sanjay Kumar Mishra.
Dhananjay Joshi	chairman of telecom industry body DIPA	DIPA named Sandeep Girotra, CEO of American Tower India, as the new vice chairman of the association.
Katrina Kaif	Uniqlo India's brand ambassador	The 40-year-old actress will feature in campaign films, showcasing Uniqlo's fashion offerings across various media channels, including digital and offline platforms.
K.N. Shanth Kumar	Chairman of the Press Trust of India (PTI) Board	In a significant development within the realm of Indian journalism, K.N. Shanth Kumar, a seasoned media professional, has been elected as the Chairman of the Press Trust of India's Board of Directors for a one-year term.
Dr Dinesh Dasa	Office and Secrecy as a Member, of UPSC	Dr. Dinesh Dasa, an eminent scholar with a rich background in forestry and public service, recently took the oath of office and secrecy as a Member of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
Saugata Gupta	ASCI Chairman	Partha Sinha, president of response, Bennett Coleman & Company Limited, was elected vice chairman, and Sudhanshu Vats, deputy managing director, Pidilite Industries Ltd, was appointed honorary treasurer.



Banking & Finance

PNB Launches App To Enable MSMEs Access Instant Loans Using GST Invoices

Punjab National Bank (PNB) has become the first public sector bank to facilitate effortless credit availability for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) via GST invoices. The bank has unveiled a dedicated mobile application for the GST Sahay scheme.

This innovative digital solution facilitates comprehensive lending procedures based on GST invoices, ensuring a seamless end-to-end process.

SBI announces interoperability of CBDC and UPI for seamless transactions

New Delhi – The State Bank of India (SBI) has taken a significant leap in the world of digital currency by announcing the successful implementation of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) interoperability with its Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), also known as the Digital Rupee.

This development is poised to revolutionize the way transactions are conducted, making digital currency more accessible and user-friendly.

SBI Card unveils additional features on its super-premium card ‘AURUM’

SBI Card, India’s largest credit card issuer, launched new features of its super-premium card ‘AURUM’, targeted at the premium section of society, such as high-net-worth individuals.

With the enhancements, AURUM cardholders will be able to avail benefits worth up to Rs 2 lakh annually, based on their spending.

The card offers unlimited international lounge access to cardholders, as well as four international lounge visits for accompanying guests. In addition, the card also offers a one-year Club Marriott membership as a welcome gift.

RBI Approved Poonawalla Fincorp To Issue Credit Cards With IndusInd Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted its approval for Poonawalla Fincorp’s collaboration with IndusInd Bank to issue a co-branded credit card.

This initiative is expected to have a profound impact on the financial landscape in India.

Poonawalla Fincorp Limited, under the dynamic leadership of Abhay Bhutada, Managing Director, has consistently strived to innovate and provide cutting-edge financial solutions to its customers.

The company’s latest venture involves the introduction of a co-branded credit card in partnership with IndusInd Bank.

RBI Cancels Licence Of The Kapol Co-operative Bank Over Inadequate Capital



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken a significant step by canceling the license of The Kapol Co-operative Bank Limited, a Mumbai-based cooperative bank.

This decision was made primarily due to concerns regarding the bank's inadequate capital and earning prospects, which raised questions about its ability to fulfill its commitments to depositors.

The RBI, in a statement, announced the cancellation of The Kapol Co-operative Bank Limited's license.

According to the central bank, this cancellation means that the cooperative bank is prohibited from conducting banking activities, which encompass functions such as accepting deposits and repaying deposits.

This decision was made effective immediately, leaving the bank unable to perform its core functions.

Cashfree Payments Partners with NPCI for 'AutoPay on QR'

Cashfree Payments, a prominent player in the payments and API banking solutions sector has joined forces with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to unveil a groundbreaking solution called 'AutoPay on QR.'

This innovative offering is poised to empower subscription-based businesses, boosting their customer acquisition, retention, and overall growth prospects.

One of the standout features of Cashfree Payments 'AutoPay on QR' is its ability to simplify the process of mandate creation for subscription services.

This two-click solution not only enhances user convenience but also promises to significantly improve return on investment (ROI) for businesses investing in advertising campaigns.

Yes Bank And BriskPe Partner To Enable Seamless Cross-Border Payments For MSMEs

In a groundbreaking collaboration, BriskPe, a pioneering cross-border payments FinTech company, has teamed up with YES BANK to introduce "BriskPe A2A," a cutting-edge suite of solutions designed to empower exporters and importers.

This strategic partnership marks a significant milestone in the realm of cross-border payments, offering a seamless and efficient platform for Indian businesses to navigate the complexities of international trade and bolster their global competitiveness.



Indian Affairs

India Forms Committee To Explore Possibility Of ‘One Nation, One Election’: Report

On 1st September, the Indian government announced the formation of a committee led by former President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, to delve into the feasibility of ‘**One Nation, One Election.**’

This development follows the government’s announcement to hold a special parliamentary session from September 18th to 22nd, 2023, which has led to curiosity about the session’s purpose.

‘One Nation, One Election’ is a concept aimed at synchronizing elections for the **Lok Sabha (the lower house of India’s Parliament)** and all state assemblies.

The central idea is to hold these elections simultaneously on a single day or within a specific time frame.

This proposal has garnered strong support from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, reflecting the government’s seriousness as a series of elections loom.

Notably, assembly polls in five states are scheduled for November or December this year, followed by the expected Lok Sabha elections in May and June 2024.

NCERT Gets Deemed University Status: Education Minister

In a significant development in the realm of education, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan announced on September 1 that The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has been conferred with the status of a deemed university.

This momentous announcement was made during an event commemorating the 63rd foundation day of NCERT in the national capital.

Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize 2022 Winners Name

Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has publicized the list of awardees for the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) awards for 2022, considered among the prestigious prizes for science in India.

After an unexplained delay of nearly a year the announcement was always made on September 26, the CSIR’s foundation day. The CSIR had announced the Bhatnagar winners for 2021 nearly two years ago.

All the 12 winners for 2022 are men just as they were for 2021. The 2020 winners included two women scientists.

About the award Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) awards



The Bhatnagar prizes are named after S.S. Bhatnagar, who was the CSIR's first director general from 1942 to 1954. The SSB Prize, instituted in memory of the first Director General of the CSIR, is usually announced on the foundation day of the institution on September 26.

E-rupee worth ₹16.39 crore in circulation as of March 2023: RBI

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has disclosed that as of March 2023, the circulation of the E-rupee, India's Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC), has reached ₹16.39 crore.

This digital currency, which mirrors the country's physical legal tender, comes in different denominations and serves both wholesale and retail purposes.

Cabinet Approves Funding for IDS, 2017 in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand

The Union Cabinet has granted approval for an allocation of Rs. 1164.53 crore for the Industrial Development Scheme (IDS) 2017 in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand.

The IDS 2017 was initially introduced in 2018 with a financial outlay of Rs. 131.90 crore, which was fully utilized by the fiscal year 2021-22.

To fulfill committed obligations until 2028-29, an additional fund was required, prompting the Cabinet's approval.

Under the IDS 2017, new and expanding industrial units in the manufacturing and service sectors in these states will receive incentives such as Central Capital Investment Incentive for Access to Credit (CCIIAC) and Central Comprehensive Insurance Incentive (CCII).

These measures aim to stimulate industrial growth and create job opportunities.

Birth certificate to be a single document for Aadhaar, driving license, jobs from next month

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has unveiled a noteworthy modification in the utilization of birth certificates for essential services, set to take effect on October 1, 2023.

These alterations, driven by the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, of 2023, are designed to enhance the efficiency and transparency of public service delivery.

Both houses of Parliament, the Rajya Sabha, and the Lok Sabha passed the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2023 during the Monsoon Session.

India's First Green Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus

In a groundbreaking move towards sustainable transportation, India is set to inaugurate its first Green Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus, marking a significant step in the country's efforts to embrace eco-friendly and low-carbon mobility solutions.

The launch, scheduled for September 25, 2023, holds great promise for India's transition to cleaner and more self-reliant economic development.



Old Parliament Building To Be Called As ‘Samvidhan Sadan’

As the proceedings of the Indian Parliament shift to a new, state-of-the-art building, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the new name for the old Parliament building: “Samvidhan Sadan” or “Constitution House.”

This iconic structure, designed by British architects Sir Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker and completed in 1927, has witnessed some of the most pivotal moments in Indian history, including the drafting and passing of India’s constitution.

Hoysala Temples now India’s 42nd UNESCO’s World Heritage site

The Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala, the famed Hoysala temples of Belur, Halebid and Somananthpura in Karnataka have been added to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage list.

This inclusion marks the 42nd UNESCO World Heritage Site in India and comes just a day after Rabindranath Tagore’s Santiniketan also received this distinguished recognition.

The temples were finalised as India’s nomination for consideration as World Heritage for the year 2022-2023. The ‘Sacred Ensembles of the Hoysala’ have been on UNESCO’s Tentative list since April 15, 2014. All these three Hoysala temples are already protected monuments of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

India Post Partners with Shiprocket to Enhance E-commerce Exports

India Post, as part of its efforts to bolster the country’s e-commerce export ecosystem, has entered into a collaboration with Bigfoot Retail Solution Pvt Ltd (Shiprocket), a leading e-commerce enablement platform.

This agreement facilitates technical integration between Dak Ghar Niryat Kendra (DNK) and Shiprocket, enabling India-based sellers using Shiprocket to generate electronic Postal Bill of Export (PBE) and shipping labels directly from the Shiprocket platform.

Additionally, exporters can access packaging, label printing, pickup services, and send their shipments to the nearest DNK across the country.

Country’s First Underground Power Transformer In Bengaluru Installed

In a groundbreaking moment for the city of Bengaluru, Energy Minister KJ George inaugurated the country’s inaugural underground transformer center, a significant step towards modernizing the city’s power distribution infrastructure.

This monumental achievement reflects Bengaluru’s commitment to the safety, reliability, and aesthetic enhancement of its urban landscape.

Moon Man Of India’ Myswamy Annadurai Joins The Board Of SS Innovations



SS Innovations, India's renowned surgical robotic firm, has made a groundbreaking announcement by appointing Padmashri Dr. Mylswamy Annadurai, famously known as the Moon Man of India, as a Director on its Board of Directors.

This appointment encompasses both the Indian entity, SS Innovations Private Limited, and the global entity, SS Innovations International.

This strategic move aims to further strengthen the company's position in the field of surgical robotics and cutting-edge technologies.

What is Women's Reservation Bill 2023?

The Women Reservation Bill 2023, formally known as the 128th Constitutional Amendment Bill or the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, has recently taken center stage in Indian politics.

This landmark legislation aims to reserve one-third of seats in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies for women.

However, the bill's implementation is tied to the conduct of a Census and a delimitation exercise, raising questions about its timeline and implications for the upcoming elections.

The Women's Reservation Bill, passed by the Lok Sabha, seeks to bring about significant changes in Indian political representation.

India's Largest Home-Built Nuclear Plant Starts Operations

In a significant development for India's energy sector, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the 700 MW nuclear power plant located in Kakrapar, Gujarat, has commenced its operations at maximum capacity.

This milestone marks a pivotal moment in India's quest for energy self-sufficiency and underscores the nation's commitment to harnessing indigenous nuclear technology.

The **Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP)** initiated its commercial operations on June 30, 2023, but initially operated at only 90 percent of its capacity. On August 31, 2023, the plant finally achieved its full operational potential.

Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Gets Navratna Status

The Department of Public Enterprise (DPE) conferred 'Navratna Status' upon Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers (RCF).

Navratnas constitute a group of public sector firms endowed with the financial independence to invest up to Rs 1000 crore without necessitating approval from the central government.

Prior to this, the company had attained 'Miniratna Status' from the Department of Public Enterprise.



Navratna Companies, a select group of nine esteemed public sector enterprises in India, are renowned for their outstanding performance and significant contributions to the nation's economy.

These companies enjoy substantial financial independence, granting them the authority to make investment decisions for projects up to a specific threshold without requiring government approval.

India Unveils World's First Portable Hospital Arogya Maitri Cube

India has unveiled the world's first portable disaster hospital, a groundbreaking facility that can be airlifted and consists of 72 cubes.

This extraordinary endeavor is a component of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious "Project BHISHM" (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri), unveiled in February 2022. The project was officially inaugurated during the MedTech Expo in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

'Green Hydrogen Pilots in India' Conference

In preparation for the 18th G20 Summit, a day-long conference titled "Green Hydrogen Pilots in India" is scheduled to take place in New Delhi on September 5, 2023.

The event, hosted by NTPC Ltd., India's leading integrated power producer, highlighted various green hydrogen pilot projects undertaken by both public and private sector companies across India.

Participants will have the opportunity to explore these projects, gain insights into clean energy's future, and engage in discussions to address technological challenges, establish local supply chains, and enhance techno-economic feasibility.

BRO to Build the World's Highest Fighter Airfield

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has announced plans to construct the world's highest fighter airfield in the Nyoma region of Ladakh. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will lay the foundation stone for this project from Devak Bridge on September 12.

The BRO aims to enhance India's infrastructure along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), aimed at surpassing China in infrastructure development along the LAC within the next two to three years.

The Indian government has significantly increased the budget for border infrastructure development in recent years, supporting the BRO's efforts to improve connectivity and defense capabilities in border areas.



State-related Affairs

Bhaderwah Rajma & Ramban Sulai Honey Of Jammu And Kashmir Get GI Tag

In a significant development for the region, Bhaderwah Rajmash and Sulai honey, both hailing from the picturesque districts of Doda and Ramban in Jammu and Kashmir, have been granted coveted Geographical Indication (GI) tags.

These tags serve as a testament to the unique qualities and characteristics of these local specialties and open up doors for their promotion and recognition on an international scale.

Odisha: GI Tags For Rayagada Shawls And Koraput's Kala Jeera Rice

In a significant development for the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) Dongria Kondhs of Rayagada district in Odisha, their exquisite handwoven shawls, known as Kapdaganda, are on the verge of acquiring the prestigious Geographical Indicator (GI) tag while Koraput district's 'Koraput Kalajeera Rice,' often referred to as the 'Prince of Rice,' has obtained Geographical Indications (GI) status.

Vijayawada Railway Station gets IGBC's 'Green Railway Station' certification

Vijayawada Railway Station was awarded the 'Green Railway Station' certification with the highest rating of Platinum by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) for its efforts in improving environmental standards and providing eco-friendly services to passengers.

This is an upgrade of the station's ratings, from gold in 2019 to platinum in 2023.

Some of these measures include the use of star-rated electrical appliances, LED lights, installation of a sewage treatment plant to recycle wastewater, periodic testing to check smoke emission, increasing green coverage, improvement in amenities for passengers, provision of medical facilities, proximity to bus stops, avoidance of single-use plastic, use of comprehensive mechanized cleaning for effective waste segregation and its disposal, among others.

Haryana Govt Appoints Actress Mita Vashisth as Chair of Entertainment Policy Council

In a significant development for the entertainment industry in Haryana, the state government has appointed renowned film actress Mita Vashisth as the chairperson of the governing council tasked with overseeing the implementation of the Haryana Film and Entertainment Policy.

This appointment follows the untimely demise of the beloved actor, director, and producer Satish Kaushik, who previously held the position. Mita Vashisth's extensive experience in the world of entertainment and her dedication to the craft make her a fitting choice for this prestigious role.

Assam Governor Unveils 'Sarpanch Samvad' Mobile App



In a significant step towards empowering grassroots leaders, Assam Governor Gulab Chand Kataria unveiled the ‘Sarpanch Samvad’ app in a grand launch ceremony held at the Raj Bhavan.

This groundbreaking initiative is set to revolutionize the way Sarpanchs, who are village headmen, communicate, collaborate, and access vital resources. The event witnessed the participation of more than 30 Sarpanchs from various corners of the country, signifying the app’s importance in fostering community development.

International Affairs

Russia Launches Islamic Banking Pilot Program: Exploring Shariah-based Finance

Russia is set to embark on a historic journey by launching its first Islamic banking pilot program on September 1.

With a considerable Muslim population of approximately **25 million**, the move aims to tap into the potential of Islamic finance, which has already had a presence through institutions but lacked official recognition.

President Vladimir Putin’s recent endorsement of the initiative signifies a significant step towards embracing Islamic banking principles in the country.

Afghani Currency Has Emerged As The Best Performing Currency In The Current Quarter

The Afghani, the currency of conflict-ridden Afghanistan, has taken the financial world by surprise by emerging as the best-performing currency of the September quarter in 2023.

This unexpected surge is attributed to a combination of factors, including massive dollar inflow in the form of humanitarian aid and currency control measures imposed by the ruling Taliban. As of September 26th, the Afghani was trading at approximately 78.25 against the US dollar.

Georgia Declares October as ‘Hindu Heritage Month’

In a significant move, Governor Brian Kemp of the U.S. state of Georgia has officially declared that the month of October will be celebrated as ‘Hindu Heritage Month’ within the state.

This proclamation aligns Georgia with several other states across the United States that have taken similar steps to honor and commemorate Hindu heritage, culture, values, and traditions.

Georgia joins a growing list of states that have recognized the importance of Hindu heritage and culture. These states include Texas, Ohio, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Florida, Minnesota, Virginia, and others.



The declaration of ‘Hindu Heritage Month’ serves as a way to celebrate and acknowledge the contributions and significance of Hinduism in American society.

Kathmandu-Kalinga Literature Festival Concludes In Lalitpur, Nepal

The three-day long Kathmandu-Kalinga Literary Festival, a vibrant and culturally enriching event concluded in Lalitpur, Nepal.

The festival, which was inaugurated by Nepal’s Minister for Foreign Affairs, NP Saud, served as a platform for the exchange of culture in South Asia, while promoting literary and cultural activities in the region.

This gathering of literary minds and artists from India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka showcased the diversity and richness of South Asian literature and arts.

African Union Becomes Permanent Member Of G20 Under India’s Presidency

During the opening session of the two-day G20 Summit, the African Union (AU) received an official invitation to join the Group of 20 largest economies (G20) as a permanent member.

This momentous declaration was made by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, marking a significant stride towards a more inclusive and equitable global economic landscape.

Australia’s Navy Pursues Nuclear Submarines and AI-Powered Ghost Sharks

Australia’s Navy is adopting two contrasting approaches to advanced submarine technology to address the challenges posed by a rising China. On one hand, Australia is investing in a costly and slow project to acquire up to 13 nuclear-powered attack submarines.

On the other hand, Australia is rapidly developing AI-powered unmanned submarines called “Ghost Sharks,” AI-powered subs will be delivered in the near future, offering a cost-effective and swift solution to enhance naval capabilities.

The divergent approaches highlight the transformative impact of automation and AI on modern warfare.

Foreign Relations

Indo-US Task Force Aims to Boost Electronics Trade to \$100 Billion by 2033

In a remarkable endeavor to strengthen trade relations between India and the United States within the electronics sector, the Indian Cellular & Electronics Association (ICEA) has established a dedicated task force.

With a goal to elevate the current Indo-US electronics trade, currently at \$8 billion, to an ambitious \$100 billion within the next decade, this initiative follows collaborative efforts initiated after Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s state visit to the United States last month.



Amul is official sponsor of Indian contingent at Hangzhou Asian Games

Amul is named as the official sponsor of the Indian Contingent for the 19th Asian Games 2022 to be held in Hangzhou, China from September 23 to October 8, 2023.

As part of this association, Amul will use the integrated logo in its communication to celebrate the efforts of the sportsperson.

Amul has partnered with Indian sportspersons through the Indian Olympic Association since the London 2012 Olympics for all Indian contingent to Olympics, Commonwealth Games and Asian Games and we are pleased to further strengthen our decade long relationship.

Delhi In Dili: India To Open Embassy In Timor-Leste

During the annual ASEAN-India summit in Jakarta, Indonesia, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a significant announcement regarding India's diplomatic relations with Timor-Leste.

India has decided to open an embassy in Timor-Leste, reflecting its commitment to strengthening ties with the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) region.

India and Saudi Arabia sign an Agreement on Cooperation in Energy Sector

India and Saudi Arabia have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of energy.

The MoU between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was signed in New Delhi on 10th September 2023, by Union Minister for New & Renewable Energy and Power, Government of India, Shri R. K. Singh for the Indian side and Minister of Energy for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, His Royal Highness Abdulaziz bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud for the Saudi side.

India and UK Launch Infrastructure Financing Bridge

India and the United Kingdom have jointly announced the launch of the Infrastructure Financing Bridge during the 12th Economic and Financial Dialogue (EFD).

This collaborative initiative signifies the continued commitment of both nations to work closely together to unlock substantial infrastructure investment opportunities in India.

The formal launch of the UKIIFB, led jointly by Niti Aayog (a policy think tank in India) and the City of London, is a centerpiece of this collaboration.

The UKIIFB's primary objective is to unlock infrastructure investment opportunities and utilize the City of London's expertise in structuring and phasing major infrastructure projects.

India Allows Export Of 75,000 Tons Of Non-Basmati White Rice To The UAE



The Government of India has recently made a significant decision to permit the export of 75,000 tons of non-basmati white rice to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

This move comes at a time when India had imposed restrictions on the export of non-basmati white rice, aiming to bolster domestic supplies amidst concerns over inflation and the unpredictability of the monsoon season.

The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) made this announcement on Monday, signaling a shift in India's export policies.

Business News

Viacom 18 Secures BCCI TV and Digital Media Rights in a 5-Year Deal Worth Rs 5,963 Crore

Viacom 18, a Reliance-owned media outlet, has emerged victorious in the auction for media rights, encompassing both digital and TV broadcasting, of India's domestic matches and BCCI-hosted domestic tournaments for the next five years.

The auction took place on August 31, 2023. This significant acquisition complements Viacom 18's existing digital rights for the **Indian Premier League (IPL) and the FIFA World Cup** rights for India. Let's delve deeper into the details.

Indian Railways and Airbus sign MoU for aerospace teaching and research

Indian Railways' Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV) Vadodara and Airbus today entered into collaboration to significantly strengthen the Indian aviation sector.

An MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) was signed at Rail Bhawan, New Delhi between Mr. Rémi Maillard (President and Managing Director, AIRBUS India and South Asia) and Prof. Manoj Choudhary (Vice-Chancellor, Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya).

The MoU was signed in the presence of Shri Ashwini Vaishnav, Minister of Railways, Communications, Electronics and IT who is also the First Chancellor of Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya.

Ms. Jaya Varma Sinha, the Chairperson and CEO, the Railway Board and senior officials of the Railway Board were present on the occasion.

Infosys And Microsoft Collaborate For Adoption Of Generative Artificial Intelligence

In a significant move towards revolutionizing the landscape of artificial intelligence (AI) applications, Infosys, one of India's leading IT majors, has announced a strategic collaboration with tech giant Microsoft.

The partnership aims to develop cutting-edge solutions harnessing the combined prowess of Infosys Topaz, Azure OpenAI Service, and Azure Cognitive Services. This collaborative



effort seeks to bring AI capabilities to the forefront of enterprise functions across various industries, promising to enhance productivity and drive new revenue growth.

Women's fashion brand W roped Anushka Sharma as a Brand Ambassador

Women's fashion brand W on-boarded Anushka Sharma as its brand ambassador. With this partnership, the brand prepares to launch its high-decibel festive campaign that beautifully merges the warmth of festivities with the spirit of modernity.

The campaign talks about every festival having a story that is synonymous with the story of women.

It captures the essence of women being the center of every celebration, thereby urging women to cherish their individuality and 'Celebrate your story'.

India Emerges as Bangladesh's Leading Export Partner

In a significant revelation, the Government of India has declared that it has surpassed Japan and China to become Bangladesh's largest export partner.

The growth in bilateral trade has been particularly noteworthy, with Bangladesh's exports to India surging from \$450 million to a remarkable \$2 billion.

This announcement was made during discussions centered on exploring new trade routes, specifically the Agartala-Akhaura rail link project, which promises to bolster connectivity and trade ties between the two nations.

BAE Systems, L&T Join Hands To Bring All-Terrain Vehicle To India

A groundbreaking collaboration between global defense and security company BAE Systems and India's Larsen & Toubro (L&T) is set to revolutionize the Indian defense landscape.

The partnership aims to introduce the world-leading Articulated All-Terrain Vehicle (AATV), known as the 'BvS10,' to the Indian armed forces. This venture, operating under the 'Make in India' program, holds the promise of enhanced capabilities and bolstered defense preparedness for the nation.

France Bans iPhone 12 Sales Over Radiation Concerns

France's radiation watchdog, the Agence Nationale des Frequences (ANFR), has prohibited the sale of Apple's iPhone 12 due to tests revealing that the smartphone exceeded European radiation exposure limits.

The Specific Absorption Rate (SAR) of the iPhone 12 was found to be higher than legally allowed. France's junior minister for the digital economy, Jean-Noel Barrot, suggested that a software update could potentially resolve the issue.



However, if Apple does not address the problem, ANFR may order a recall of the device in France. Apple disputes ANFR's findings, citing certification from international bodies that the iPhone 12 complies with global radiation standards.

Ranks

Indore Tops Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan 2023 Clean Air Survey

Union Environment, Forest, and Climate Change Minister Bhupender Yadav announced the results of the Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan 2023 (clean air survey) in Bhopal, with Indore, Madhya Pradesh, claiming the top spot among million-plus population cities.

The survey, in its second year, included 130 identified cities under the National Clean Air Programme.

Agra, Uttar Pradesh, secured the second rank, followed by Thane, Maharashtra, in third place.

The awards were categorized by city population size based on the 2011 census. Amravati, Maharashtra, secured the top rank in the three to ten lakh population category.

Himachal Pradesh towns Parwanoo and Kala Amb took the lead among cities with under three lakh population, with Angul, Odisha, in third place.

Cities were evaluated on various factors related to air quality, with a shift in rankings compared to the previous year.

World's Tallest Nataraja Statue

A towering 27-foot Nataraja statue, the world's tallest representation of Lord Shiva's dancing form, will greet G20 leaders at New Delhi's Pragati Maidan.

This magnificent ashtadhatu (eight-metal alloy) sculpture, weighing 18 tonnes, was painstakingly crafted by sculptors from Swamimalai, Tamil Nadu.

It draws inspiration from revered Nataraja idols found in Chidambaram, Konerirajapuram, and the Brihadeeswara Temple in Thanjavur, all constructed initially during the Chola dynasty's zenith in the 9th-11th centuries AD.

The Cholas, devoted Shaivites, left an indelible mark on Indian art, especially with their iconic Nataraja sculptures. This impressive work pays homage to Chola's artistry and the intricate lost-wax casting technique.

India Ranking for Best Country in the World by U.S. News & World Report's



India's global ranking experienced a positive shift in 2023, ascending from the 31st position it held in the 2022 rankings to the 30th rank. The overall score was 40.8, indicative of this upward trajectory.

According to the report, India encompasses an expanse of 3,287,263 square kilometers and is inhabited by a population of 1,417,173,173, boasting a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of USD 3.39 trillion.

India is renowned for its abundant and varied traditions. In terms of cultural influence and heritage, India secured the 29th and 10th positions, respectively.

India Ranks First Among 154 Nations in Grassroot Adoption of Crypto

India has achieved the top rank among 154 nations in grassroots crypto adoption, displaying remarkable resilience in the face of challenging regulatory conditions, as revealed by Chainalysis' 2023 Global Crypto Adoption Index.

India has secured the first position in four critical parameters:

- Centralized Service Value Received
- Retail Centralized Service Value Received
- DeFi
- Value Received
- Retail DeFi Value Received

Singapore Overtakes Hong Kong as World's Freest Economy

In a significant shift, Singapore has surpassed Hong Kong to claim the title of the world's freest economy, marking the end of Hong Kong's 53-year reign at the top. This shift is according to a report released by the Canadian think tank Fraser Institute.

The Economic Freedom of the World Index, which has been tracking economic freedom since 1970, placed Hong Kong in second place for the first time.

India slipped from the 86th position to 87th out of 165 countries on the Economic Freedom Index.

Infosys in TIME's 'The World's Best Companies of 2023' List

In a remarkable achievement, Infosys, the Bengaluru-headquartered IT services provider, has secured a coveted spot on TIME magazine's 'The World's Best Companies of 2023' list.

Infosys stands out as the only Indian company to make it into the top 100 rankings, claiming the 64th position with an impressive overall score of 88.38. Notably, the company has earned a 'very high' growth rate, a testament to its commitment to excellence.

On sustainability, Infosys ranked 135, and 103 for employee satisfaction.

India ranks 40th in the Global Innovation Index 2023



India has maintained the 40th position out of 132 economies in the Global Innovation Index 2023 rankings published by the World Intellectual Property Organization.

India has performed well on the innovation parameter in WIPO's annual GII for the 13th consecutive year.

The GII is a reliable tool for governments across the world to assess the innovation-led social and economic changes in their respective countries. Over the years, the GII has established itself as a policy tool for various governments and helped them to reflect upon the existing status quo.

TCS Tops Kantar BrandZ Top Most Valuable Indian Brands Report 2023

In the latest edition of the Kantar BrandZ Top 75 Most Valuable Indian Brands Report for 2023, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has retained its prestigious position at the top of the list with an impressive brand value of \$43 billion.

This article delves into the key findings and rankings of the report, shedding light on the Indian brands that continue to thrive despite economic challenges.

Defence News

INS Sumedha at Alexandria, Egypt for Ex-Bright Star – 23

INS Sumedha arrived at Port Alexandria, Egypt on 06 September 2023 to participate in 'Exercise BRIGHT STAR- 23'. This edition of the multinational Tri-Services military exercise will see participation from 34 countries.

It is the largest-ever joint military exercise in the Middle East & North Africa region.

Ex Bright Star 23 is scheduled to be conducted in two phases. The Harbour Phase involves wide-ranging activities such as cross-deck visits, professional exchanges, sports fixtures, and interactions for planning and conduct of the Sea Phase.

Maruti Suzuki Partners With Indian Navy For Northeast Outreach Programme

Maruti Suzuki India, the leading automobile manufacturer in the country, has embarked on a unique journey of collaboration and empowerment by teaming up with the Indian Navy.

Their joint mission is to create awareness about career opportunities among the youth of Northeastern India through the 'Khamree Mo Sikkim outreach programme.

This partnership not only reflects the commitment of all stakeholders to the Northeast region but also demonstrates the potential for positive change through collective efforts.

Indian Navy, Uber Team Up For Private Travel Of Naval Personnel, Families



The Indian Navy has taken a significant step towards enhancing the travel experience of its personnel and their families by collaborating with Uber, a leading global cab aggregator service.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in the presence of Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar and senior officials from Uber, marking a milestone in providing reliable, convenient, safe, and economical mobility solutions for naval personnel and their families across the country.

North Korea Launches New ‘Tactical Nuclear Attack Submarine’

North Korea has made headlines by launching its first operational “tactical nuclear attack submarine,” designated Submarine No. 841 and named Hero Kim Kun Ok, an ex-commander of the North Korean navy.

The launch ceremony took place with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in attendance, where he highlighted the significance of this new addition to their naval force.

NATO’s Largest Military Exercise Since the Cold War: “Steadfast Defender”

NATO member countries are gearing up to conduct their most extensive military exercise since the Cold War era.

Set to commence in the spring of the following year, this ambitious undertaking is aimed at simulating various military scenarios, with a primary focus on defense against a hypothetical adversary resembling a Russian-led coalition known as Occusus.

This expansive military exercise is expected to encompass a multitude of elements, showcasing NATO’s commitment to readiness and collective defense.

Indian Navy’s INS Nireekshak Conducts Joint Dive Training in Sri Lanka

The Indian Navy’s Diving Support and Submarine Rescue Vessel, INS Nireekshak, arrived at Sri Lanka’s Trincomalee port on September 14, 2023, for joint dive training with the Sri Lankan Navy (SLN). Over the course of a week, diving teams from both navies will engage in exercises aimed at enhancing interoperability, cohesiveness, and the exchange of best practices.

Upon arrival, INS Nireekshak received a warm welcome, with officials from HCI, Colombo, and the SLN band playing ‘Sare Jahan Se Achha.’ The Commanding Officer of INS Nireekshak held discussions with Rear Admiral PS De Silva, Commander of Eastern Naval Area, covering various mutual interests.

In addition to professional interactions, the visit includes social exchanges, sports fixtures, and joint yoga sessions to strengthen the bonds of friendship and camaraderie between the two navies.

India’s First C-295 Aircraft Formally Introduced Into IAF



On a momentous day in the history of the Indian Air Force (IAF), Defence Minister Rajnath Singh formally inducted the first C-295 medium tactical transport aircraft into the IAF's arsenal.

This landmark event took place in the presence of Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari and other top military officials in Ghaziabad. The C-295 aircraft represents a significant upgrade for the IAF, offering versatility and modern capabilities for a wide range of missions.

Science related Affairs

ISRO Successfully Launches Aditya L1 Sun Observatory

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has achieved a significant milestone by successfully launching the Aditya L1 spacecraft, an observatory designed to study the Sun from a distance of 1.5 million kilometers.

The launch utilized the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), and the mission involved complex maneuvers, including firing the PSLV's fourth stage twice, to position the spacecraft precisely in its elliptical orbit.

Aditya L1 will gradually ascend through a series of maneuvers to reach its final destination—a halo orbit around the L1 point, 1.5 million kilometers away from Earth.

The mission aims to provide unique data on the Sun's outer atmosphere, radiation, particles, and magnetic fields, contributing to a deeper understanding of our closest star and its impact on Earth.

IIM Indore and NSDC Partner to Transform Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in India

In a significant stride towards advancing skill development and entrepreneurship in India, the prestigious Indian Institute of Management Indore (IIM Indore) has forged a strategic partnership with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).

This collaborative effort represents a shared commitment to fostering excellence and innovation in these crucial domains.

NASA's MOXIE Successfully Generates Oxygen on Mars

NASA announced the successful completion of its Mars Oxygen In-Situ Resource Utilization Experiment (MOXIE) aboard the Perseverance Mars Rover.

MOXIE's success marks a significant step toward enabling astronauts to "live off the land" on Mars by producing their own oxygen and rocket propellant, supporting long-term exploration and sustainability on the Red Planet.

Government Unveils AI Chatbot for PM-Kisan Scheme



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The Union Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India, took a significant step towards enhancing the efficiency and reach of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme with the launch of an AI Chatbot.

This groundbreaking development was announced during an event held in New Delhi, attended by dignitaries from the central and state governments.

Sports News

Name	Tournament & Title name	Extra Information
India	Hockey 5s Asia Cup 2023	In Hockey, India beat Pakistan in a penalty shootout in the final to win the inaugural Men's Hockey 5s Asia Cup 2023 in Salalah, Oman. The win also served as Asia's qualifying tournament for the FIH Men's Hockey5s World Cup Oman 2024.
Max Verstappen	Italian Grand Prix 2023	Max Verstappen has won the Italian Grand Prix and sets a new record for the most consecutive wins in Formula 1 history with 10.
Nattaya Boochatham	becomes 1st bowler from associate nation to pick up 100 Wickets in T20s	Thailand women's cricket team's star spinner Nattaya Boochatham created history with her three wickets against Kuwait in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup Asia Region Qualifier, September 4.
Maharashtra	5th National Wheelchair Rugby Championship	Maharashtra clinched the title of champions in the 5th National Wheelchair Rugby Championship 2023 by securing a convincing victory over Karnataka, concluding with a final score of 31-10.
Kiran George	Indonesia Badminton Masters Title	Indian badminton player Kiran George secured a remarkable victory at the Indonesia Masters 2023,



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		held in Medan, North Sumatra.
Carlos Sainz	Singapore Grand Prix 2023	Ferrari's Carlos Sainz won the Singapore Grand Prix to end Formula 1 leader Max Verstappen's record run of 10 wins in a row, shattering Red Bull's dream of going through the season unbeaten.
Neeraj Chopra	Second In Diamond League Final	Neeraj Chopra, India's star javelin thrower and the reigning World champion, displayed his skill and resolve at the Diamond League finals in Eugene.
Elavenil Valarivan	Air Rifle Gold In Rio World Cup	Indian shooter Elavenil Valarivan secured a remarkable victory in the women's 10m air rifle event at the ISSF World Cup 2023 held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on a thrilling Saturday.
India	5 Medals On Day One Of Asian Games At Hangzhou In China	The women's 10m air rifle team, comprising Ashi Chouksey, Mehuli Ghosh, and Ramita, set the tone for India by clinching the country's first medal at the Asian Games 2023.
Rohan Bopanna and Rutuja Bhosale	gold in Tennis	Dr. Dinesh Dasa, an eminent scholar with a rich background in forestry and public service, recently took the oath of office and secrecy as a Member of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

Obituary News

Name	Associated Field
Heath Streak	Former Zimbabwe captain
Dennis Austin	Powerpoint Creator
Gita Mehta	Renowned writer-filmmaker
K G George	National Award-Winning Malayalam Filmmaker
David McCallum	British actor
MS Swaminathan	father of India's Green Revolution



Important Days

Days	Date	Themes
World Coconut Day	September 02	
National Literacy Week	1st to 8th September	
International Day of Police Cooperation	September 07	
Teachers day	September 05	
World Physiotherapy Day	September 08	
International Literacy Day	September 08	Promoting literacy for a world in transition: Building the foundation for sustainable and peaceful societies
International Day to Protect Education from attack	September 09	
World EV Day	September 09	
United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation	September 12	
World Lymphoma Awareness Day	September 15	
National Engineer Day	September 15	
International Day of Democracy	September 15	
World Lymphoma Awareness Day	September 15	
International Day for Interventional Cardiology	September 16	
World Ozone Day	September 16	Montreal Protocol: Fixing the Ozone Layer and Reducing Climate Change
World Patient Safety Day	September 17	Engaging Patients for Patient Safety
Hyderabad Liberation Day	September 17	
World Patient Safety Day	September 17	
World Bamboo Day	September 18	
International Equal Pay Day	September 18	
World Alzheimer's Day	September 21	
World Rose Day	September 22	
World Rhino Day	September 22	
Daughters Day	every year on the fourth Saturday of the September month	
World Pharmacists Day	September 25	Pharmacy Strengthening Health Systems
World Environmental Health Day	September 26	Global Environmental Public Health: Standing up to Protect Everyone's Health Each and Every Day
World Tourism Day	September 27	



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World Maritime Day	September 28	MARPOL at 50 – Our commitment goes on
International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste	September 29	
World Heart Day	September 29	Use Heart, Know Heart
International Translation Day	September 30	

