



CURRENT AFFAIRS – NOVEMBER 1-30, 2023

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APP LO STUDY CENTRE

TNPSC EXAMS
24 YEARS OF
EXCELLENCE

Foot Prints (Compilation of Current Events)

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| SCHEMES | DEFENCE | SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY | EVS | ECONOMY |
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| SPORTS | RANKS & REPORTS | DAYS | OBITUARY | NEWS OF THE MONTH |
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TAMIL NADU

➤ India's First Net Zero Business Park

- ✓ CapitaLand Investment Limited (CLI) has commenced operations for Phase 1 of International Tech Park Chennai, Radial Road (ITPC-Radial Road), the first business park in India to be certified by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) as Net Zero for energy efficiency, water conservation and waste management.



- ✓ It first intends to invest over Singapore \$500 million in Chennai over the next five years across multiple asset classes.
- ✓ We hope to further contribute to the government's efforts in enhancing the state's infrastructure."

➤ IIT Madras Sets Its First International Campus

- ✓ IIT Madras has become the first Indian Institute of Technology to establish an international campus on the picturesque Zanzibar Island in East Africa.



- ✓ To kickstart its operations, the IIT Madras Zanzibar Campus is offering Bachelor of Science (BS) and Master of Technology (MTech) programs, with a focus on Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- ✓ The courses offered at IITM Zanzibar are open to students of all nationalities, including Indians.
- ✓ This openness encourages a diverse learning environment that fosters global perspectives and cross-cultural collaboration.

➤ **IIT Madras Launches Incubator Information Platform**

- ✓ In a game-changing move, the Centre for Research on Startups and Risk Financing (CREST), an Institute of Eminence Research Centre at IIT Madras, has introduced an exclusive information platform tailored for incubators and accelerators.



- ✓ India's first information platform on Incubators & Accelerators. With approximately 1,000 active incubators in India, the platform addresses the historical challenge of scattered information by providing a centralized hub for comprehensive details.
- ✓ The newly launched platform is designed to streamline the startup ecosystem by acting as a one-stop-shop for relevant data.

➤ **Intelligent Transport System**

- ✓ The pilot project of the Intelligent Transport System for the city, with funding from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), is set to be implemented by the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) in January.



- ✓ The project, valued at 530 crore, involves the implementation of adaptive traffic signal control, red light violation detection, and traffic incident detection systems at various locations.
- ✓ The initiative aims to enhance traffic management and reduce signal stopping times, contributing to improved commuter and motorist experiences.
- **Ungalai Thedi, Ungal Ooril**
- ✓ Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin is set to launch a novel scheme Ungalai Thedi, Ungal Ooril (In your town, looking for you) next month, which aims to redress the grievances of the general public expeditiously.



- ✓ Under the Ungalai Thedi, Ungal Ooril initiative, every District Collector will visit and stay in a taluk for one day in a month to inspect government offices in that area and listen to the grievances of the general public.
- ✓ The officials will also check whether the State government's various welfare programmes are reaching the people in that area.
- ✓ The initiative is expected to bridge the gap between the people and the District Collectors.

STATE

➤ Hostile Activity Watch Kernel (HAWK) System

- ✓ The Karnataka Forest Department and Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) have launched the Hostile Activity Watch Kernel or the HAWK system, a specialised software system to monitor all aspects of forest and wildlife crimes.



- ✓ Crimes such as killing of wildlife, suspected criminal activities and movement of suspicious vehicles will be monitored through this system.
- ✓ The system has built-in analytical capabilities which will help officials to monitor wildlife crimes across Karnataka.

➤ India's First 'City Of Literature & Music' By UNESCO

- ✓ Kozhikode, a city located in the southern Indian state of Kerala, has made its mark on the global stage by being named one of the latest entrants into the UNESCO Creative Cities Network.
- ✓ **Kozhikode's new title as the 'City of Literature'** marks a significant milestone, as it's the first city in India to hold this coveted distinction.



- ✓ This prestigious recognition was bestowed upon Kozhikode on World Cities Day, alongside **Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh, which was recognized as a 'City of Music'**. Prague was the first city to receive the City of Literature title in 2014.

➤ **Uniform Civil Code (UCC) - Uttarakhand**

- ✓ Uttarakhand is on the brink of making history as it prepares to become the first state in India to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC).



- ✓ The move is part of a broader effort to create a legal framework that ensures fair treatment and opportunities for all citizens, regardless of their gender, sex, religion, or sexual orientation.
 - ✓ As of now, Goa stands as the only state with a civil code, introduced during Portuguese rule.
 - ✓ Kerala is the first state in the country to formally oppose the UCC, showcasing the diversity of opinions and perspectives on this crucial legal reform.
- **Ladakh Secures 4th GI Tag For 'Sea-buckthorn'**
- ✓ The Geographical Indication Registry, operating under the Department for the Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, has granted the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag to the Department of Industries & Commerce, Ladakh.



- ✓ The approval designates them as the Registered Proprietor for '**Ladakh Seabuckthorn**' in Class 31.
- ✓ This latest GI tag underscores Ladakh's commitment to preserving and promoting its unique and healthful products.
- ✓ The GI tag serves as a mark of authenticity, ensuring that consumers can identify and trust the origin of 'Ladakh Seabuckthorn.'

✓ This acknowledgment on the national stage highlights Ladakh's contribution to the promotion of indigenous products.

➤ **Conde Nast List of Best Places To Visit In 2024**

✓ London-based luxury travel magazine Conde Nast **has listed** Kochi as one of the best places to visit in Asia in 2024.



✓ Heaping praise on the city for its sustainable initiatives and local festivals, the magazine also highlights the city's tourist attractions such as waterways, lagoons and rivers.

✓ The magazine referred to the renovation that is underway at Kochi's 150-year-old Ernakulam Market.

✓ The recognition is a nod to the city's commitment to providing enriching experiences for travelers while embracing eco-friendly practices and preserving its cultural heritage.

➤ **Best State Award for Inland Fisheries**

✓ Uttar Pradesh has won an award for inland fisheries (plain areas) and will receive it at Global Fisheries Conference-2023 place in Delhi on November 21 and 22.



- ✓ November 21 is also celebrated as World Fisheries Day.
- ✓ As of now, 31 projects are being implemented under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana in U.P.
- ✓ Fishermen Accident Insurance Scheme has benefited 1,16,159 fishermen in U.P.
- **Bihar Reservation Amendment Bill**
- ✓ In a significant move towards addressing social inequality, the Governor of Bihar, Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, approved the 'Bihar Reservation Amendment Bill' on November 17.



- ✓ The bill raises the reservation quota for Backward, Extremely Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes from 50% to 65%, surpassing the 50% ceiling set by the Supreme Court.
- ✓ The 'Bihar Reservation Amendment Bill' brings about a comprehensive reevaluation of reservation quotas across various categories.
- **Saffron From Kishtwar Gets GI Tag**
- ✓ Kishtwar saffron, a highly coveted spice that is grown and harvested in the Kishtwar Region of Jammu and Kashmir, was recently awarded the famous

Geographical Indication (GI) label by the Geographical Indications Registry – a designation that is considered to be among the most prestigious in the world.



- ✓ The saffron that is grown in the Kishtwar district of Jammu is already renowned for its exceptional quality and distinctive individuality, but this recognition strengthens and strengthens its reputation even further.
- **India's First Telecom Center Of Excellence**
- ✓ Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has given approval for the establishment of the country's inaugural Telecom Center of Excellence in Saharanpur.



- ✓ The foundation stone for this ground-breaking initiative is set to be laid on December 5, 2023, marking a significant leap in telecom and technology innovation.
- ✓ The primary objective is to develop and promote cutting-edge technology in the telecom sector.
- ✓ This state-of-the-art center will be constructed at a cost of Rs 30 crore, fostering innovation and growth in the telecommunications sector.
- ✓ The choice of the IIT Roorkee campus in Saharanpur is strategic, promising opportunities for employment for the youth of the state.

NATIONAL

➤ “One Nation, One Registration Platform” For Doctors

- ✓ The National Medical Commission (NMC) has embarked on a mission to assign a unique identification number to every doctor in the country by the end of 2024.



- ✓ The cornerstone of this initiative is the creation of the National Medical Register (NMR).
- ✓ National Medical Register (NMR) will serve as a centralized repository for doctors practicing in India. This move is expected to streamline the healthcare sector and enhance transparency.
- ✓ The NMR will replace the existing Indian Medical Register (IMR) and will be accessible to the public through the NMC’s website.
- ✓ It will offer below mentioned comprehensive information about registered doctors.

➤ Cruise Liner ‘COSTA SERENA’

- ✓ Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, **Sarbananda Sonowal** will launch the domestic sailing of the first International Cruise Liner ‘COSTA SERENA’ in Mumbai.



- ✓ Costa Cruises is expected to carry approximately **45,000 passengers** in its next **2 months** voyages.
- ✓ Such cruise initiatives are part of '**Dekho Apna Desh**', launched on Prime Minister's appeal to the middle class to prefer domestic tourism over international.

➤ **World Food India 2023**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the second edition of the Mega food event '**World Food India 2023**' at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.



- ✓ On the occasion, the Prime Minister disbursed Seed Capital Assistance for over one lakh Self Help Groups SHG members. This support will help SHGs to improve packaging and quality manufacturing and gain better price realization in the market.
- ✓ The Prime Minister also inaugurated Food Street, as part of World Food India 2023. It will feature regional cuisines and royal culinary heritage.

➤ **Jal Diwali - "Water For Women, Women For Water Campaign"**

- ✓ The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) is poised to introduce a groundbreaking initiative called the "Women for Water, Water for Women Campaign."



- ✓ This campaign, known as “Jal Diwali,” is scheduled to kick off on November 7, 2023, and run through November 9, 2023 in collaboration with the Ministry’s National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM) and in partnership with the Odisha Urban Academy.
 - ✓ The primary aim of the campaign is to provide a platform for the active participation of women in water governance.
- **India’s Largest Cold Oil Production Facility**
- ✓ Bharat Botanics is a leading brand of wood-pressed edible oil, offering pure, natural, and chemical-free products.



- ✓ The company has announced the opening of a 16,000 square feet automated facility in Rajkot, Gujarat, to meet the rising demand for its products.
 - ✓ The facility aims to promote 100% hygiene and transparency, as well as sustainability and wellness, by providing healthy edible oils for customers.
 - ✓ The company is also a symbol of Atmanirbharta, as it supports local communities, translates literary works from Tamil, and publishes papers and books on Indian music.
- **Digital Advertisement Policy, 2023**
- ✓ In a rapidly evolving media landscape, the Information and Broadcasting Ministry of India unveiled the ‘Digital Advertisement Policy, 2023,’ a significant move to harness the potential of digital media for government communication.



- ✓ This policy empowers the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), the Central government's advertising wing, to conduct campaigns effectively in the digital realm.
 - ✓ The 'Digital Advertisement Policy, 2023' represents a pivotal moment for the CBC, aligning its mission with the changing media landscape and the increasing digitalization of media consumption.
 - ✓ With the policy's implementation, the CBC aims to disseminate information and raise awareness about various government schemes, programs, and policies in response to evolving media trends.
- **Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill 2023**
- ✓ On November 10, 2023, the Information & Broadcasting Ministry unveiled the draft Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill, 2023, signaling a significant step towards modernizing and regulating India's broadcasting sector.



- ✓ This proposed legislation aims to replace outdated Acts, Rules, and Guidelines with a unified framework that adapts to the changing landscape of the media industry, encompassing Over-the-Top (OTT) content, digital news, and current affairs.
- ✓ The draft Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill, 2023, seeks to establish a consolidated legal framework for the broadcasting sector in India.

- ✓ It is designed to streamline and replace existing regulations, including the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act of 1995, to provide a more comprehensive and up-to-date approach.

➤ **Nayi Chetna - 2.0**

- ✓ National Campaign against Gender Violence 'Nai Chetna' to be launched.
- ✓ Ministry of Rural Development announced its plans for the second year of its National Campaign Against Gender-Based Violence - 'Nayi Chetna - 2.0'.



- ✓ It will be launched on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women i. e. 25 November.
- ✓ It will be observed across 34 states and UTs till 23 December 2023. Campaign activities will deepen awareness on gender violence.

➤ **PM-PVTG Mission And Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra**

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to launch the PM-PVTG Development Mission, a groundbreaking scheme aimed at fostering the comprehensive development of approximately 28 lakh people belonging to Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).



- ✓ This significant event is scheduled to coincide with the birth anniversary celebration of the revered tribal freedom fighter, Birsa Munda, observed as Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas for the past three years.
- ✓ Simultaneously, Prime Minister Modi is expected to launch the “Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra” from Khunti, with the ambitious goal of achieving saturation of flagship government schemes across the country.

➤ **International Trade Fair - 2023**

- ✓ The 42nd edition of the India International Trade Fair -2023 will begin at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.



- ✓ The theme of the fourteen day fair is Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam which emphasizes the significance of interconnectedness and cooperation in trade for achieving sustainable growth and well-being.
- ✓ Over three thousand exhibitors from India and abroad will participate in the fair.
- ✓ Representatives from 13 countries including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Oman, Egypt, Nepal, Thailand, Turkiye and Vietnam.

➤ **Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train**

- ✓ Indian Railways in collaboration with IRCTC to launch Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train.



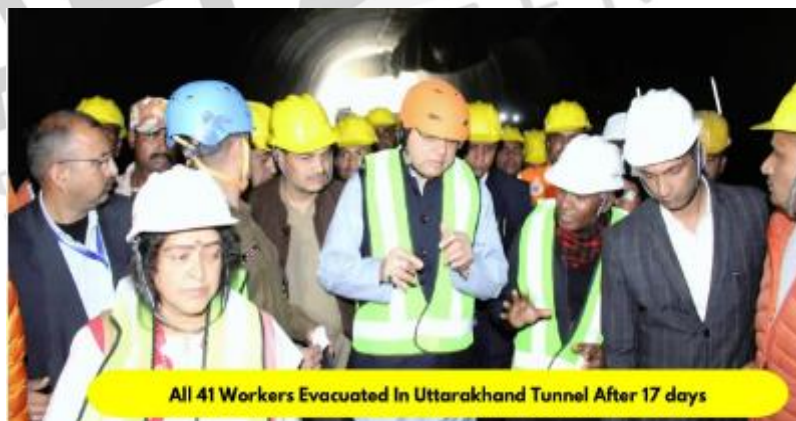
- ✓ In a move to promote Dekho Apna Desh and Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat initiatives, Indian Railways, in collaboration with IRCTC, is set to launch the Bharat Gaurav Tourist Train.
 - ✓ Departing from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus on Friday, the circular route will cover iconic destinations such as Mumbai, Pune, Solapur, Guntakal, Renigunta, Rameshwaram, Madurai, Kanyakumari, Kochuveli, and back to CSMT on 25th of this month.
- **New Education for New India**
- ✓ On the third day of her visit to her home state Odisha, President Droupadi Murmu launched a National Education Campaign, titled, “New Education for New India” organized by Brahma Kumari Iswariya University, Sambalpur.



- ✓ New National Education Policy will play an important role in building a New India.
This campaign is envisaged to inculcate values and uplift the consciousness of the students for better society.
- **Barda Wildlife Sanctuary**
- ✓ After Gir National Park and Sanctuary, the **Barda Wildlife Sanctuary (BWLS)** is set to become the second home to Asiatic lions.
 - ✓ The Gujarat Forest Department presented its proposal to make BWLS the second home to the lions as part of “**Project Lion @ 2047**”.



- ✓ Project Lion is an initiative launched by the **Government of India in 2021** to conserve and protect the Asiatic Lion and its habitat.
- ✓ The project aims to address the threats faced by the Asiatic lion population in India, which is found only in the Gir National Park and Sanctuary in Gujarat.
- **Silkyara-Barkot Tunnel in Uttarakhand**
- ✓ On November 23, 2023, after **17 harrowing days** trapped underground, all **41 workers** were successfully rescued from the collapsed **Silkyara-Barkot tunnel in Uttarakhand, India.**



- ✓ The rescue operation, which involved a combined effort of the Indian Army, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), and local authorities, became a symbol of human resilience and determination in the face of adversity.
- ✓ The **4.5 km-tunnel** is part of the Centre's ambitious Char Dham project aimed at providing all-weather connectivity between four prominent Hindu shrines in **Uttarakhand – Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri.**

SCHEMES

➤ PM Kisan Bhai Scheme

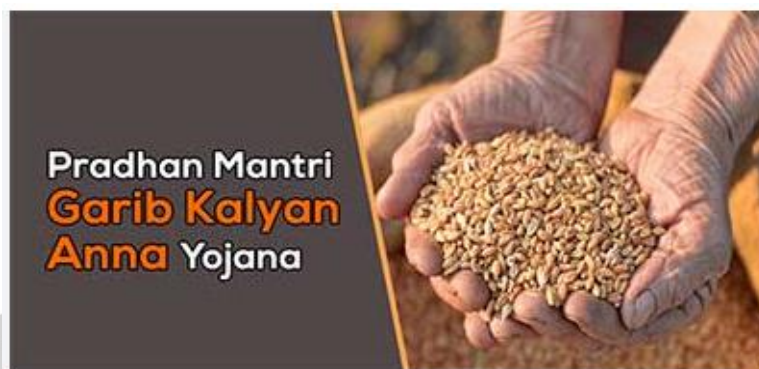
- ✓ The Ministry of Agriculture is planning to launch the **PM Kisan Bhai** scheme by the end of December to support **small and marginal farmers** who face challenges in storing and selling their produce.



- ✓ **Warehousing Rental Subsidy and Prompt Repayment Incentive:** The scheme has two components – **WRS** and **PRI**.
 - ✓ WRS provides farmers with a subsidy of 4 per quintal per month for storing their crops in scientifically built warehouses for up to three months.
 - ✓ PRI reduces the interest rate on pledge finance availed against eNegotiable Warehouse Receipts (eNWRs) traded via the eNational Agriculture Market (eNAM) platform or other registered e-trading platforms.
- **India's Largest Tiger Reserve To Be Set Up In Damoh**
- ✓ Damoh district in Madhya Pradesh is poised to become the home of the country's largest tiger reserve, marking a significant stride in wildlife conservation efforts.



- ✓ The central government has green-lit the merger of **Noradehi Sanctuary with the Durgavati Sanctuary in Damoh**, creating an expansive tiger reserve spanning an impressive **2,300 square kilometers**.
 - ✓ The central government's issuance of a notification approving the merger reflects a commitment to preserving and protecting India's rich biodiversity.
 - ✓ The amalgamation of these two sanctuaries underscores the nation's dedication to creating substantial habitats for its tiger population.
- **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana**
- ✓ The Government has extended the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana (PMGKAY) for another five years from 1st of January 2024.



- ✓ Under the scheme, five kg of free food grains are being provided per month to over 81 crores poor in the country and Antyodaya households get 35 kg of free food grains per month.
 - ✓ PMGKAY is the World's biggest social welfare schemes aimed at ensuring food and nutrition.
- **Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra**
- ✓ An impressive launch marked the initiation of the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra in South West Garo Hills, orchestrated by the District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) at MFC, Ampati.



- ✓ The nationwide initiative, a pivotal component of the Hamara Sankalp Viksit Bharat campaign, aims to inform and empower citizens about the various flagship schemes programs introduced by the Central Government.
 - ✓ The core objective of the Viksit Bharat Yatra is to raise awareness and facilitate the delivery of welfare scheme benefits to the vulnerable population..
- **Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan**
- ✓ The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has recently approved the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyaya Maha Abhiyan (PM-JANMAN), a comprehensive initiative aimed at addressing the challenges faced by Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs).



- ✓ The PM-JANMAN is designed to implement 11 critical interventions, spanning across nine ministries, including the Ministry of Tribal Affairs..
- ✓ The Ministry of Ayush plays a pivotal role in the PM-JANMAN initiative by establishing Ayush Wellness Centres in line with existing norms.
- ✓ These wellness centres aim to provide traditional Ayush healthcare facilities to PVTG habitations.

INTERNATIONAL

➤ 6th India OPEC Energy Dialogue

- ✓ The 6th High-Level Meeting of the India-OPEC Energy Dialogue took place at the OPEC Secretariat in Vienna, Austria, underscoring a mutual commitment to global energy stability and prosperity.



- ✓ Recognizing the pivotal role of India in global economic growth and energy demand, the parties acknowledged the World Oil Outlook 2023.
- ✓ This forecasted India as the fastest-growing major developing economy, projecting long-term growth of 6.1% between 2022-2045 and accounting for over 28% of incremental global energy demand during the same period.
- ✓ As India stands as the third-largest energy consumer, crude oil importer, and the fourth-largest global refiner, the collaboration between India and OPEC becomes not only essential but also natural.

➤ ASEAN India Millet Festival 2023

- ✓ The Indian Mission to ASEAN in collaboration with Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare is organizing the ASEAN-India Millet Festival 2023, in Indonesia.
- ✓ A Millet-centric exhibition is being held as part of the festival featuring participation from Millet-based FPOs, start-ups and Indian chefs.



- ✓ Aligned with **the International Year of Millets (IYM)** celebrations, an aim of this festival is to raise awareness and create a market for millets and millets-based products among the ASEAN Member states i.e. Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.
- ✓ During the festival, the **Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare** is leading a delegation from India.
- **India To Chair International Sugar Organisation**
- ✓ India is set to take the helm as the chairman of the International Sugar Organisation (ISO) in 2024, marking a significant milestone for the country.



- ✓ As the world's largest consumer and second-largest producer of sugar, this leadership role reflects India's growing influence in the global sugar sector.
- ✓ The chairmanship for 2024 brings a unique opportunity for India to lead the global sugar sector towards more sustainable practices.
- ✓ The focus will be on uniting member countries to adopt environmentally friendly approaches in sugarcane cultivation, sugar and ethanol production, and the efficient utilization of by-products.

- **4th edition of ASEAN India Grassroots Innovation Forum (AIGIF)**
- ✓ India along with 10 ASEAN Member States were represented by 200 participants, at the 4th edition of the annual ASEAN India Grassroots Innovation Forum (AIGIF) that was launched in Langkawi, Malaysia.



- ✓ The AIGIF is an annual programme focused on fostering a strengthened relationship between India and AMS on the premise of cooperation in Science, Technology and Innovation.
- ✓ While on one side it aims to give exposure to social innovations in different countries, it also strengthens governance in the grassroots innovation ecosystem.

INDIA & OTHER COUNTRIES

➤ India & Italy

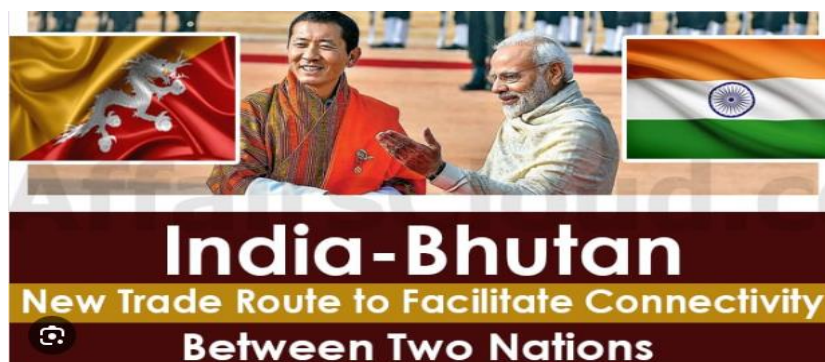
- ✓ India and Italy held a productive meeting in Rome to strengthen their strategic partnership and explore opportunities in various sectors.



- ✓ They also discussed global issues such as the situation in West Asia, the conflict in Ukraine, and the evolving Indo-Pacific landscape.
- ✓ They signed two agreements: **the Mobility and Migration Partnership Agreement and the Cultural Exchange Programme.**
- ✓ These agreements aim to facilitate the smooth movement of workers, students, and professionals while also addressing the challenges associated with illegal migration.
- ✓ India expressed its appreciation for Italy's support of its initiatives and its role during the G20 Presidency.

➤ India and Bhutan

- ✓ India and Bhutan boost trade and connectivity ties.
- ✓ Bhutan King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck visits India for a week-long trip with a delegation of senior officials.



- ✓ The two leaders positively assessed expanding partnership between the two countries, including in new areas of connectivity in its broadest form.
 - ✓ It was decided to undertake the Final Location Survey (FLS), in consultation with the Bhutanese side, of the proposed cross-border rail link connecting Kokrajhar in Assam to Gelephu in Bhutan through Indian support, according to a joint statement issued after the talks.
 - ✓ The two sides also agreed to consider establishing rail-link between Banarhat (West Bengal) and Samtse (Bhutan).
- **India-US initiative for Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET)**
- ✓ India And US Strengthen Innovation Ties With Landmark Pact.
 - ✓ India and the United States have taken a significant step to boost collaboration among startups and promote innovation through a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed on November 14 in San Francisco.



- ✓ The MoU focuses on fostering collaboration between India and the US in the startup ecosystem, addressing regulatory obstacles, and sharing best practices for fundraising by entrepreneurs.
 - ✓ The ultimate goal is to promote innovation and job growth, particularly in critical and emerging technologies (CET) as identified under the India-US initiative for Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET).
- **India- Australia 2+2 Dialogue**



- ✓ India and Australia are set to hold the second 2+2 Ministerial dialogue on Monday where the upcoming Quad summit is expected to figure prominently while the sides will also take stock of the on-going negotiations for a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA).
- ✓ The dialogue comes shortly after the IndiaU.S. 2+2 dialogue last week and will be an opportunity to discuss regional developments including the crisis in West Asia.

APP
STUDY CENTRE

CONFERENCES & SUMMITS

➤ AI Safety Summit 2023

- ✓ India, along with 27 other countries and the European Union have signed world's first agreement on artificial intelligence (AI) safety at a meeting in the United Kingdom.
- ✓ The agreement pledges to work together to assess the risks associated with artificial intelligence.



- ✓ A two-day 'AI Safety Summit 2023' began at United Kingdom's World War II code-breaking centre in **Bletchley Park**.
- ✓ In a statement, the UK government said, the agreement will be known as the **Bletchley Declaration**.
- ✓ Addressing the gathering at world's first global summit on Artificial Intelligence, Union Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar said, India looks at AI with a prism of openness, safety, trust and accountability.

➤ World Telecommunication Standardisation Assembly

- ✓ India will host the **World Telecommunication Standardisation Assembly (WTSA)** in **2024**, a quadrennial event that sets global telecommunication standards.



- ✓ The announcement was made by **Union Communication & IT Minister, Ashwini Vaishnaw**, at the **India Mobile Congress 2023**, highlighting India's growing importance in the global technology landscape.
- ✓ India has developed the **5Gi standard**, which has been recognized by the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** as one of the key technologies for **5G networks**.
- ✓ The **WTSA** will focus on the advancements of **5G and 6G networks** and address the connectivity challenges, particularly in remote and underserved areas.
- **ISA Steel Conclave 2023**
- ✓ **Commerce and Industry Minister, Piyush Goyal** today said that India is moving towards massive investments in infrastructure to meet the aspirations of its growing population.



- ✓ While addressing the 4th edition of 'ISA Steel Conclave 2023' held in New Delhi today, the Minister acknowledged that the steel sector is vital to achieving this goal, with an aspiration to produce 300 million tonnes of steel annually by 2030.
- ✓ During the address, he emphasized the importance of fair treatment for Indian producers and exporters and reaffirmed India's commitment to opposing unfair taxes or levies that may harm the steel industry.

➤ **14th International Conference of NHRIs**

- ✓ National Human Rights Commission Chairperson Justice Arun Mishra addressed the 14th International Conference of the National Human Rights Institutions at Copenhagen, Denmark.



- ✓ The theme of the summit is 'Torture and other ill-treatment: The role of NHRIs.' Cooperation to make societies more humane and civil to eradicate the menace of torture was the objectives of the summit.

➤ **Annual Naval Academy Conference 2023**

- ✓ Annual Naval Education Society (NES) Conference - 2023 was held on 09th and 10th November 2023 at Porbandar, Gujarat with its headquarters.



- ✓ Administrators of naval schools across the country participated in the conference.
- ✓ Implementation of the National Education Policy 2020 was discussed in the Executive Committee, Management Advisory Committee and Education Advisory Committee meetings held as part of the conference.
- ✓ For the first time, representatives of Naval Kindergartens from various Naval Stations also participated in the conference.

- **33rd Conference - The WOAHA Regional Commission For Asia And Pacific**
- ✓ In a significant stride towards advancing animal health and husbandry, India is playing host to the 33rd Conference of the **World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) Regional Commission for Asia and the Pacific**.



- ✓ The event, slated from November 13 to 16, 2023, is unfolding in the city of New Delhi. The conference will foster valuable discussions and build essential networking relationships for a week.
 - ✓ The conference serves as a platform for exchanging insights, sharing best practices, and collectively strategizing for a more robust future in animal health and husbandry.
- **INDO-PACIFIC REGIONAL DIALOGUE 2023**
- ✓ The annual apex-level international conference of the Indian Navy - the Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) - will be held in New Delhi from 15 to 17 November 2023.



- ✓ The overarching theme of IPRD-2023 is “Geopolitical Impacts upon Indo-Pacific Maritime Trade and Connectivity”.
- ✓ This year’s edition of the IPRD builds upon ‘Operationalising the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative.’

- **Conference On 'Aerospace And Aviation In 2047'**
- ✓ President Droupadi Murmu will inaugurate a two-day International Conference-cum-Exhibition on 'Aerospace and Aviation in 2047' in New Delhi.



- ✓ The inaugural session will include the release of a Compendium on 75 years of aerospace and aviation journey in India as well as Vision Document 2047.
- ✓ The event will focus on India's journey in the field over the last 75 years, showcasing the achievements, technological advancements, and the role of great visionaries.
- **2nd Voice Of Global South Summit**
- ✓ The recently concluded Second Voice of Global South Summit marked a significant virtual gathering hosted by India on November 17.



- ✓ The summit functioned as a platform for member countries to share their perspectives and priorities, emphasizing the theme "Together for Everyone's Growth with Everyone's Trust."
- ✓ The summit provided a platform to address global challenges arising from recent developments and discussed strategies to sustain momentum for a more inclusive, representative, and progressive world order.

- **Global Fisheries Conference India 2023**
- ✓ Union Minister of Fisheries Parshottam Rupala inaugurated 'Global Fisheries Conference India 2023' at Science City in Ahmedabad.



- ✓ Theme: **Celebrating Fisheries and Aquaculture Wealth.**
 - ✓ Organized by the Union Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairy Department.
 - ✓ It serves as a platform to forge partnerships with national and international stakeholders for growth in India's fisheries sector.
- **8th India Water Impact Summit**
 - ✓ Shri Nitin Gadkari, the MoRTH minister inaugurated the 8th Edition of the India Water Impact Summit at the Dr Ambedkar International Centre in New Delhi.



- ✓ The summit, organized by the National Mission for Clean Ganga and the Center for Ganga River Basin Management and Studies.
 - ✓ The theme of IWIS 2023 is 'Development vis-à-vis Land, Water and Rivers.'
- **India-Nordic Baltic Business Summit**
 - ✓ India-Nordic Baltic Business Summit was organized in New Delhi in November 2023.

- ✓ This was the second edition of the India-Nordic Baltic Business Conference.
- ✓ It was organized by the Competition Commission of India.



- ✓ India announced in this conference that India will soon establish its embassy in the region's country Latvia.
 - ✓ Nordic - Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Iceland in the Baltic countries. Latvia, Lithuania, Norway and Sweden participated.
 - ✓ The event will lay the groundwork for potential policy changes and foster an environment conducive to effective cooperation.
- **World Climate Action Summit**
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the World Climate Action Summit (WCAS) in Dubai during the 28th Conference of Parties (CoP28), the Ministry of External Affairs confirmed on Sunday.



- ✓ Mr. Modi will be present on November 30 and December 1 as part of the WCAS proceedings.
- ✓ CoP28 is being held from November 28 to December 12, under the Presidency of the UAE.

COMMITTEES

➤ 6th Session of India-Ethiopia Joint Trade Committee

- ✓ The 6th Session of India-Ethiopia Joint Trade Committee (JTC) was conducted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.



- ✓ The meeting was co-chaired by the Economic Advisor, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry Priya P. Nair.
- ✓ The Indian side invited the Ethiopian side to collaborate on the Unified Payment Interface (UPI) of India with Ethswitch of Ethiopia.
- ✓ Further, the Indian side also urged Ethiopia to explore the possibility of settlement of trade transactions in local currency which will help boost bilateral trade and conserve foreign exchange.

DEFENCE

- **'Surat', the First Navy Warship Named After a City in Gujarat**
- ✓ 'Surat' is the latest and most advanced warship of the Indian Navy, under construction at the Mazagon Dock Limited in Mumbai.



- ✓ It is the first warship named after a city in Gujarat, honoring Surat's rich maritime heritage and legacy of shipbuilding.
 - ✓ It is part of the Project 15B program, which involves building four stealth guided missile destroyers with cutting-edge technology and features.
 - ✓ The crest of 'Surat' depicts a lion, a diamond, and a ship, symbolizing the strength, prosperity, and seafaring spirit of the city.
- **Saab**
- ✓ Sweden's Saab has become the first foreign company to bag 100% FDI in India's Defence projects.



- ✓ Currently, India allows only 74% FDI in the Defence sector under the automatic route. After that, clearance can be obtained on a case-by-case basis.
- ✓ The rules for clearance were relaxed in 2015. Saab has set up a new company - Saab FFV India to make the new generation of the Cal-Gustaf M4 system.

- ✓ A new facility to manufacture shoulder-fired rockets will be set up by Saab in Haryana.
- ✓ It will be the first time that Saab will manufacture shoulder-fired rockets outside Sweden.

➤ **Exercise Poorvi Akash**

- ✓ The Indian Air Force recently conducted the 'Poorvi Akash' mega aerial exercise to test its major weapon systems.



- ✓ The exercise featured the S-400 air defence missiles, indigenous fighter aircraft Tejas, and the LCH Prachand.
- ✓ The Indian Air Force has acquired three squadrons of S-400 air defence missile systems from Russia, naming them Sudarshan after Lord Krishna's Sudarshan chakra weapon.
- ✓ This exercise involved the S-400 missiles, fighter jets like Su-30, Rafales, and Tejas, along with ground troops.

➤ **Exercise CORPAT & BONGOSAGAR**

- ✓ The 4th edition of the Bilateral Exercise, BONGOSAGAR-23, and the 5th edition of the Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) between the Indian and Bangladesh Navies took place in the Northern Bay of Bengal from November 7 to 9, 2023.



- ✓ During this exercise, ships and aircraft from both navies jointly patrolled along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) and engaged in maritime exercises to boost interoperability.
- ✓ BONGOSAGAR is a bilateral naval exercise between India and Bangladesh. The name “BONGOSAGAR” is a combination of the Bengali words “Bongo” (meaning Bengal) and “Sagar” (meaning Sea).
- ✓ The exercise aims to promote interoperability and cooperation between the Indian and Bangladesh Navies.

➤ **Exercise MITRA SHAKTI 2023**

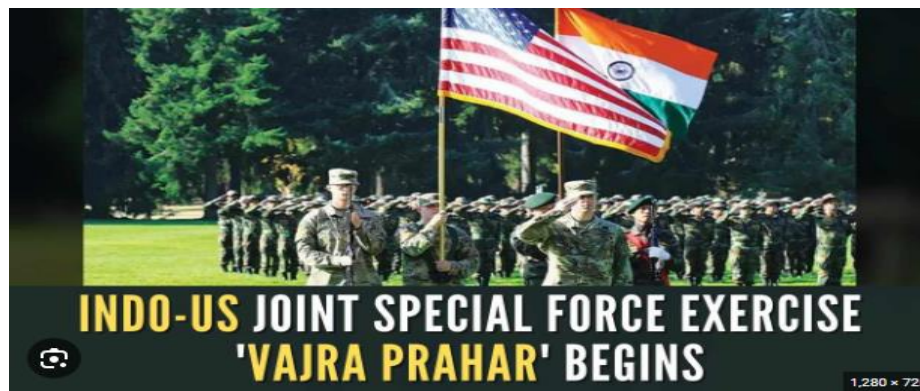
- ✓ India - Sri Lanka Joint Exercise MITRA SHAKTI 2023 Commenced.
- ✓ The ninth edition of the Joint Military exercise, “Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-2023,” has commenced today in Aundh, Pune. The exercise is scheduled to take place from the 16th to the 29th of November 2023.



- ✓ The Indian contingent, comprising 120 personnel, is primarily represented by troops from the MARATHA LIGHT INFANTRY Regiment.
- ✓ The Sri Lankan side is represented by personnel from the 53 Infantry Division. Additionally, 15 personnel from the Indian Air Force and five personnel from the Sri Lankan Air Force are also participating in the exercise.

➤ **Exercise VAJRA PRAHAR 2023**

- ✓ The 14th Edition of the Indo-US Joint Special Forces exercise, known as “VAJRA PRAHAR 2023,” kicked off at the Joint Training Node in Umroi, Meghalaya, on November 21.



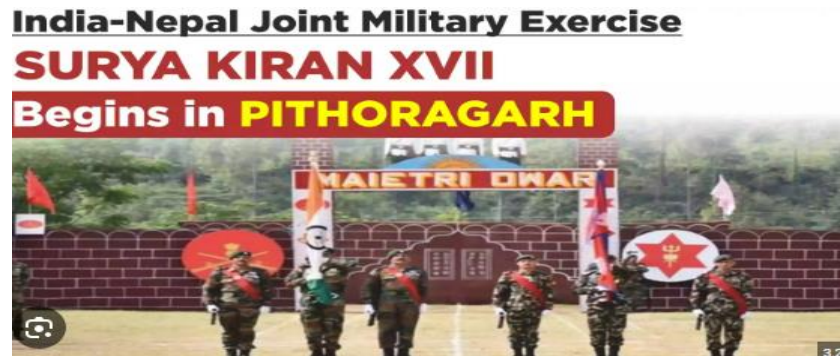
- ✓ Exercise VAJRA PRAHAR is a collaborative effort between the Indian Army and the US Army Special Forces.
 - ✓ Its primary objectives include the exchange of best practices and experiences, particularly in joint mission planning and operational tactics.
 - ✓ The exercise plays a crucial role in improving interoperability and fostering stronger defense cooperation between the armies of India and the United States of America.
- **AUSTRAHIND-23 Exercise**
- ✓ The Indian Armed Forces, consisting of 81 personnel, are en-route to Australia for the second edition of the Joint Military Exercise AUSTRAHIND-23, scheduled from November 22nd to December 6th, 2023, in Perth.



- ✓ Comprising 60 personnel from the GORKHA Rifles Battalion, the Indian Army contingent, along with representatives from the Indian Navy and Air Force, will engage with their Australian counterparts from the 13th Brigade, Royal Australian Navy, and Royal Australian Air Force.
- ✓ AUSTRAHIND-23, initiated in 2022 and set to be an annual event alternating between India and Australia, aims to foster collaboration, enhance interoperability, and strengthen Defence cooperation.

➤ **Military Exercise Surya Kiran- XVII**

- ✓ The Nepal Army contingent comprising of 334 personnel arrived in India to participate in 17th edition of Joint Military Exercise SURYA KIRAN.



- ✓ The exercise will be conducted in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand from 24th November to 07th December 2023.
- ✓ It is an annual event and conducted alternatively in the two countries.
- ✓ The Indian Army contingent of 354 personnel is being led by a battalion of the **Kumaon Regiment**.

➤ **NATPOLREX-IX**

- ✓ The 9th National Level Pollution Response Exercise (NATPOLREX-IX) was conducted by the Indian Coast Guard on November 25, 2023, off Vadinar, Gujarat.



- ✓ Director General Rakesh Pal, the head of the Indian Coast Guard and Chairman of the National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOSDCP) reviewed the preparedness of all agencies involved in the exercise.

➤ **Crest of Stealth Guided Missile Destroyer INS Imphal**

- ✓ Indian Navy unveils the crest of Yard 12706 (Imphal), its third stealth guided missile destroyer.



- ✓ INS Imphal is a potent and versatile platform equipped with state-of-the-art weapons and sensors.
- ✓ The ship boasts a high indigenous content of approximately 75%.
- ✓ The delivery of INS Imphal is an affirmation of India's commitment to 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India).
- ✓ INS Imphal is the first capital warship to be named after a city in the northeastern region.

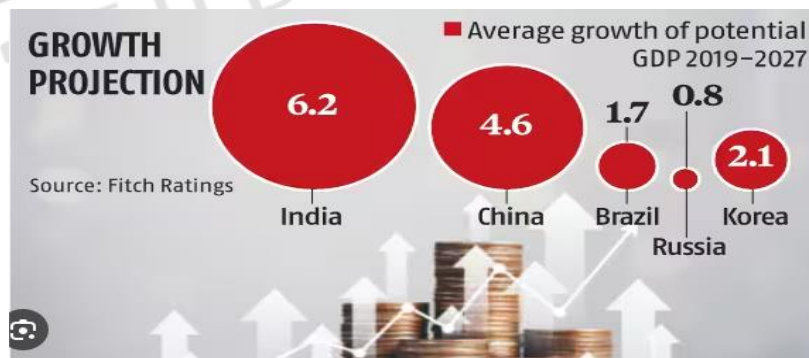
ECONOMY

➤ GST Collections Reach 1.72 Lakh Crore - October

- ✓ In October, India witnessed a significant rebound in its Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections, reaching a 10-month high of 1.72 lakh crore.



- ✓ This growth of 13.4% year-on-year is the sharpest uptick since December 2022, reversing a three-month trend of deceleration.
 - ✓ This growth marked a 5.7% increase compared to September, which saw a slowdown in indirect tax growth.
 - ✓ The average monthly GST collection for FY 2023-24 stands at 1.66 lakh crore, representing an 11% increase over the previous financial year.
- ## ➤ Fitch Upgrades India's Mid-Term GDP Growth Forecast to 6.2%
- ✓ Fitch, a rating agency, has revised India's GDP growth projection for the mid-term from 5.5% to 6.2%, reflecting confidence in India's economic potential.



- ✓ The revision is based on a more optimistic outlook for India's economic trajectory, while China's slowdown has a negative impact on the emerging market outlook.
- ✓ Fitch has also reduced the growth forecasts for several other emerging markets, such as Russia, Korea, and South Africa, due to demographic trends and pandemic disruptions.
- ✓ Fitch expects India to grow at 6.3% in 2023-24, indicating continued optimism in the country's economic prospects.

- **India's GDP Surpasses \$4 Trillion Mark: A Historic Milestone**
- ✓ In a significant economic achievement, India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has crossed the \$4 trillion mark in nominal terms.



- ✓ India's consistent efforts across various sectors, coupled with strategic policies and a thriving entrepreneurial spirit, have played a pivotal role in achieving this historic milestone.
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) November bulletin revealed a stronger-than-expected GDP growth in the second quarter, surpassing the RBI's initial forecast of 6.5%.

APPOINTMENT

➤ Heeralal Samariya

- ✓ Information Commissioner Heeralal Samariya was on Monday sworn in as the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) by President Droupadi Murmu.



- ✓ He is the first person from the Dalit community to hold the post.
- ✓ Mr. Samariya has held positions as Secretary in the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, and Commissioner of Commercial Taxes, Telangana.
- ✓ He was sworn in as an Information Commissioner in the Central Information Commission on November 7, 2020.

➤ Alok Sharma

- ✓ Senior IPS officer Alok Sharma has been appointed the director of the Special Protection Group (SPG), the elite security unit responsible for the security of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

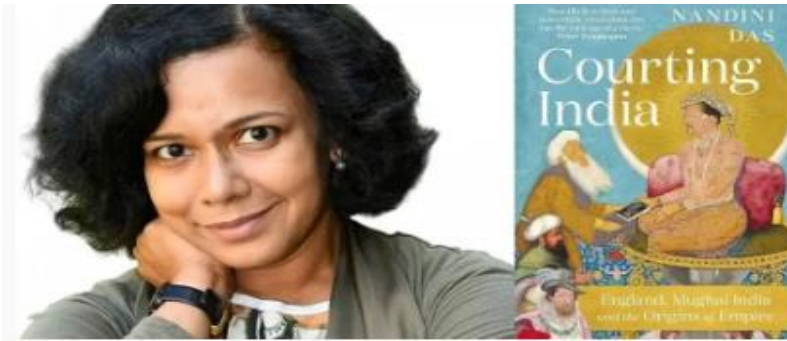


- ✓ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the appointment of Alok Sharma, a 1991-batch IPS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre who is currently working as Additional Director General in the SPG, to the post of director from the date of assumption of charge until further orders.

AWARDS

➤ **British Academy Book Prize**

- ✓ The British Academy Book Prize for Global Cultural Understanding, a prestigious international non-fiction award has been claimed by India-born author Nandini Das for her debut book, 'Courting India: England, Mughal India, and the Origins of Empire.'



- ✓ This book delves into the historical account of the arrival of the first English ambassador in India, Sir Thomas Roe, during the early 17th century.
- ✓ In doing so, Das provides a unique lens through which to examine the intricate interactions between England and Mughal India, laying the groundwork for the empire that would eventually come into being.

➤ **Wildlife Photographer of the Year**

- ✓ A 10 year-old-Bangalore kid, Vihaan Talya Vikas, won the Wildlife Photographer of the Year (WPY) competition in the under-10 category.



- ✓ Vihaan's photograph captured a spider in an intriguing position with a sculpture of Lord Krishna, nestled on the outskirts of Bangalore.
- ✓ This photograph has been selected among the 50,000 entries from 95 countries.
- ✓ Vihaan's photograph will become part of the prestigious WPY59 collection and will be showcased in the upcoming Wildlife Photographer of the Year Exhibition at the Natural History Museum.

➤ **Global Responsible Tourism Award 2023**

- ✓ For promoting sustainable and women-inclusive initiatives, Kerala Responsible Tourism Mission received the Global Responsible Tourism Award 2023.



- ✓ Kerala received the award in the 'Best for Local Sourcing - Craft and Food' category.
- ✓ The Kerala Responsible Tourism Mission has been selected for this award along with Eswatini, a landlocked country in southern Africa.
- ✓ The Kerala Responsible Tourism Mission is implementing women-friendly tourism projects with the help of the UN.

➤ **Abundance in Millets**

- ✓ A song on millets featuring Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been nominated for a Grammy award in the best global music performance category.



- ✓ The song "**Abundance in Millets**" celebrates the International Year of the Millets, which was declared by the United Nations this year.

✓ It is composed by Mumbai-born singer-songwriter Falguni Shah and her husband and singer Gaurav Shah.

➤ **Lifetime Disturbing The Peace Award**

✓ World-renowned author Salman Rushdie, received the inaugural 'Lifetime Disturbing the Peace Award' from the Vaclav Havel Center.



✓ Having recently received the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade, Rushdie humorously pondered on which side of "the fence" this new accolade placed him.

✓ The Vaclav Havel Center also bestowed the 'Disturbing the Peace Award to a Courageous Writer at Risk' upon Egyptian activist Alaa Abdel-Fattah.

➤ **Perumal Murugan wins JCB Prize for Literature**

✓ Tamil writer Perumal Murugan won the coveted JCB Prize for Literature for his novel, Fire Bird, an English translation of his Tamil novel Aalanda Patchi.



✓ Tamil writer Perumal Murugan won the coveted JCB Prize for Literature for his novel, Fire Bird, an English translation of his Tamil novel Aalanda Patchi.

✓ The award carries 25 lakh cash prize. The translator is Janani Kannan and the work was published by Penguin.

- ✓ The prize aims to celebrate Indian writing and to help readers across the world discover the very best of contemporary Indian literature.
- ✓ It makes significant awards also to translators; without whose work no reader can appreciate the scale and diversity of literature written in over 20 languages.

➤ **IITM Professor Bags National Award**



- ✓ Rajnish Kumar, a faculty member in the chemical engineering department of the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM), who has bagged the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar award in the field of engineering for the year 2022, has been pursuing research on sequestering carbon dioxide (CO₂), a process by which carbon is returned to earth.
- ✓ Prof. Kumar has been working on the project for the last three years and his research got him the award.

➤ **Indira Gandhi Peace Prize**

- ✓ On 19th 2023, the **Indira Gandhi Peace Prize** for Peace, Disarmament and Development, 2022 was jointly awarded to the **Indian Medical Association (IMA)** and **Trained Nurses Association of India (TNAI)** as representatives of the Covid warriors in the country.



- ✓ Former Vice President M Hamid Ansari presented the award to Indian Medical Association President Sharad Kumar Agarwal and Trained Nurses Association of India President Roy K George.

➤ **2023 Booker Prize**

- ✓ **Irish author Paul Lynch** won the **2023 Booker Prize for fiction** on Sunday for his novel *Prophet Song*, a dystopian work about an Ireland that descends into tyranny.



- ✓ He becomes the fifth Irish writer to win the high-profile literary prize, which has propelled to fame countless household names, including past winners Salman Rushdie, Margaret Atwood and Hilary Mantel.

➤ **PRSI National Award**

- ✓ Suganthy Sundararaj received the PRSI National Award for Outstanding Contributions to Healthcare Communications.
- ✓ She received the honour for Outstanding Contributions to the Public Relations Society of India and the public relations industry.



- ✓ He played a key role in the strategic management of public relations in the healthcare sector.
- ✓ Suganthy Sundararaj received the Award at the International Public Relations Festival in New Delhi.
- ✓ For more than 40 years, Suganthy Sundararaj executed PR mandate for Apollo Hospitals.

✓ She launched many initiatives during her career to build relationships with the media.

➤ **Golden Peacock for Best Film at IFFI54**

✓ The coveted 'Golden Peacock' for Best Film was conferred upon the Persian masterpiece, 'Endless Borders,' directed by Abbas Amini.



✓ An emotionally charged narrative set against the backdrop of an Iranian teacher's odyssey amidst the turmoil ignited by the rise of the Taliban in Afghanistan.

✓ The film intricately delves into the complexities of prejudice, moral dilemmas, and forbidden love.

✓ The jury praised the film's ability to transcend physical and emotional borders, lauding director Abbas Amini's courageous storytelling.

➤ **Nansen Award**

✓ Abdullahi Mire has been named the winner of the UNHCR's prestigious Nansen Award. Abdullahi Mire has received the award for giving 1,00,000 books to the hands of children in Kenya's crowded Dadaab refugee camps.



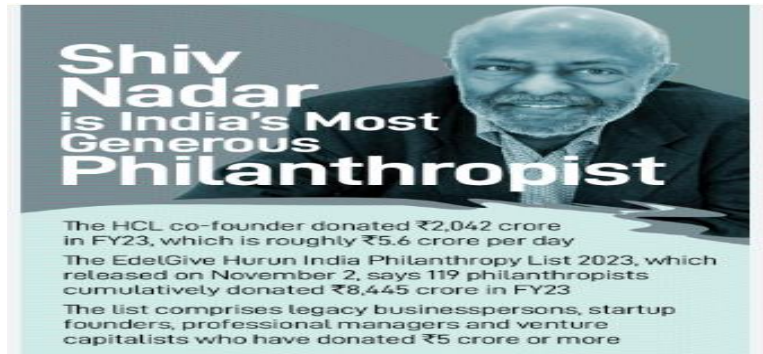
- ✓ Abdullahi Mire has spent 23 years in Dadaab, where 90,000 refugees reside. Abdullahi Mire is a journalist and former refugee from Somalia.
- ✓ Abdullahi Mire set up the Refugee Youth Education Hub to raise awareness about the refugees' educational needs and promote book donations.
- ✓ This organization has distributed more than 1 lakh books in the camps and has opened three libraries.



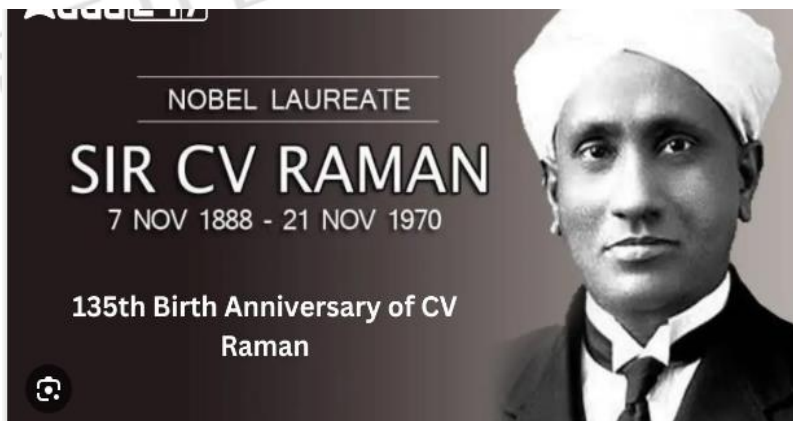
PERSONALITIES

➤ Hurun India Philanthropy List 2023

- ✓ HCLTech founder Shiv Nadar and his family have retained the top spot on the EdelGive Hurun India Philanthropy List 2023.



- ✓ For the fiscal year 2022-23, they made a substantial donation of Rs 2,042 crore, marking the fifth consecutive year that Nadar, aged 78, has claimed this distinguished rank.
- **CV Raman's 135th Birth Anniversary: A Tribute to the Nobel Laureate**
- ✓ On 7 November, we commemorate the 135th birth anniversary of Dr. CV Raman. CV Raman was a pioneering Indian physicist who discovered the Raman Effect, the scattering of light by molecules, in 1928.



- ✓ He was the first Indian and the first Asian to win the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930 for his discovery, which opened new avenues for research in spectroscopy and molecular physics.
- ✓ He published over 450 papers and founded the Raman Research Institute in Bengaluru.

- ✓ He was a recipient of many awards and honors, both national and international, such as the Bharat Ratna, the Lenin Peace Prize, the Franklin Medal, and the Knighthood.

➤ **Shital Mahajan**

- ✓ Indian skydiver **Shital Mahajan** jumped off a helicopter from the height of 21,500 ft in front of the **world's highest peak, Mt Everest.**



- ✓ She became the first woman to do so.
- ✓ Mahajan landed at Kalapatthar peak at an altitude 17,444ft.
- ✓ Mahajan is a well-known Indian skydiver who holds several skydiving records and is the recipient of the fourth highest civilian award, the Padma Shri in 2001.

➤ **Miss Universe 2023**

- ✓ Sheynnis Palacios from Nicaragua crowned Miss Universe 2023
- ✓ At the Jose Adolfo Pineda Arena in San Salvador, El Salvador, on Saturday night, the 72nd edition of the Miss Universe pageant was conducted. The event was celebrating its 72nd year.



- ✓ R'Bonney Gabriel of the United States of America, who held the title of Miss Universe for 2022, was the one to bestow the crown upon Palacios.

✓ According to the website for the Miss Universe pageant, Palacios is a mental health activist and audio-visual producer from Managua, Nicaragua. She is 23 years old.

➤ **Four Indian women - BBC 100 Women 2023 List**

✓ Not only does the BBC 100 Women 2023 list acknowledge the accomplishments of these four Indian women, but it also acknowledges the major contributions they have made in a variety of professions, which has inspired people all around the world.

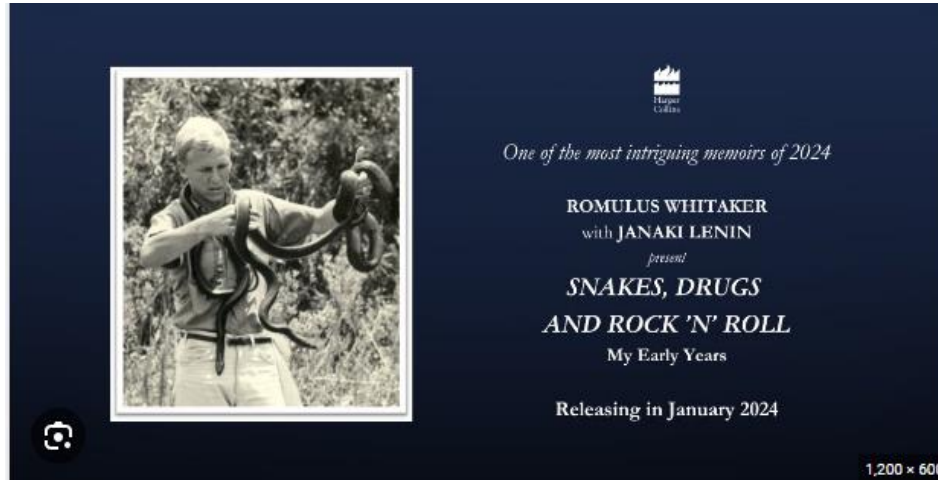


✓ Indian actress Dia Mirza, cricketer Harmanpreet Kaur, photographer Arati Kumar Rao, and Tibetan Buddhist nun Jetsunma Tenzin Palmo are among the women who have been selected for the BBC 100 Women 2023 list.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

➤ Snakes, Drugs and Rock 'n' Roll

- ✓ 'Snakeman of India' Romulus Whitaker's memoir to release in January.

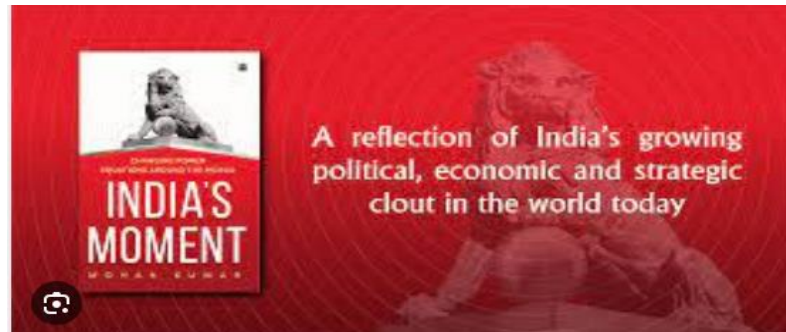


- ✓ Wildlife conservationist Romulus Whitaker will come out with his memoirs in January in which he talks about how his love affair with 'fierce creatures' began at a tender age when he kept a pet python in a tin trunk under his bed in boarding school.
 - ✓ "Snakes, Drugs and Rock 'n' Roll" is the name of his memoir. The book is being published by HarperCollins India.
- **'Pranab, My Father: A Daughter Remembers'**
- ✓ The book, titled 'Pranab, My Father: A Daughter Remembers' authored by Sharmishtha Mukherjee is being brought out by Rupa Publications.



- ✓ The book is a mirror to the father-daughter relationship between Pranab Mukherjee and Sharmishtha.

- ✓ Mukherjee's life from an unprepossessing village in West Bengal's Birbhum district to a roller-coaster career thereafter are the highlights of an about-to-be-released biography penned by his daughter, classical dancer Sharmishtha Mukherjee.
- **India's Moment: Changing Power Equations Around the World**
- ✓ "India's Moment: Changing Power Equations Around the World" by Professor (Dr.) Mohan Kumar was launched in London.



- ✓ The book examines India's evolving role in international negotiations and its growing influence on the global stage.
- ✓ It highlights India's unique approach to diplomacy and its commitment to protecting its national interests.
- ✓ The book traces India's changing positions in international negotiations over time. It offers insights into India's future role as a major global power.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

➤ **Aditya-L1 Recorded First-Ever Sight Of Solar Flares**

- ✓ ISRO's maiden solar mission, Aditya L1, has captured its first high-energy X-ray glimpse of solar flares.



- ✓ The High Energy L1 Orbiting X-ray Spectrometer (HEL1OS) on board the Aditya-L1 spacecraft recorded the impulsive phase of solar flares, as announced by the space agency.
- ✓ A solar flare is a sudden brightening of the solar atmosphere, and the recorded data from Aditya L1 is consistent with the X-ray light curves provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellites (GOES).

➤ **Mika' Becomes World's First AI Human-Like Robot CEO**

- ✓ Hanson Robotics and Dictador, a Polish run company, have appointed the world's first humanoid robot CEO named Mika.



- ✓ This innovative project aims to blend advanced artificial intelligence and machine learning with the unique values of the company.
- ✓ Mika utilizes advanced AI and machine learning algorithms to swiftly and accurately process data.

➤ **Taeniogonalos dhritiae : New Species Of Wasp**

- ✓ Scientists of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) recently discovered a new species of wasp named 'Taeniogonalos dhritiae' in the Western Ghats of Kerala.



- ✓ Taeniogonalos dhritiae is a new species of wasp discovered in the Ranipuram Hills area in the Western Ghats of Kerala.
- ✓ It is named after Dr. Dhriti Banerjee, a noted entomologist.
- ✓ It is a species in the family Trigonalidae.
- ✓ These insects are hyperparasitoids (parasites of parasites) where females lay eggs on other parasitic wasps.
- ✓ The Trigonalidae family is found in abundance in parts of Europe, Northern Africa, and Asia.

➤ **First Chikungunya Vaccine - Ixchiq**

- ✓ Ixchiq, the first chikungunya vaccine, has been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for individuals 18 years of age and older who are at increased risk of exposure to mosquito-borne virus.



- ✓ Chikungunya is an emerging global health threat with at least 5 million cases of chikungunya virus infection reported during the past 15 years.

- ✓ Containing a live, weakened version of the chikungunya-causing virus, Ixchiq is administered as a single dose by injection into the muscle and may cause symptoms in the recipient.
- **Scomberomorus avirostrus & Scomberomorus leopardus**
- ✓ Researchers at the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) have made a significant discovery by identifying two new species of seer fish.



- ✓ Led by principal scientist E M Abdussamad, the team of taxonomists unveiled the Arabian sparrow seer fish (*Scomberomorus avirostrus*), a previously unknown species, and resurrected Russell's spotted seer fish (*Scomberomorus leopardus*).
- ✓ These findings have expanded the number of top-demanding seer fish species in Indian waters from four to six, enhancing our understanding of marine biodiversity.
- **Deep Space Optical Communications (DSOC)**
- ✓ A NASA experiment called Deep Space Optical Communications (DSOC) has marked a key milestone in achieving "first light," successfully transmitting and receiving data to and from far beyond the Moon using a near-infrared laser.



- ✓ The experiment, which is seeking to revolutionise spacecraft communication, is part of the recently launched Psyche spacecraft.

- ✓ A **near-infrared laser encoded** with test data was sent from a distance of nearly 10 million miles to the **Hale Telescope** at Caltech's Palomar Observatory in San Diego County, California.
 - ✓ The distance even surpassed the **Moon-Earth distance by about 40 times**. This marked the farthest-ever demonstration of optical communications.
 - ✓ This ground-breaking achievement signified a leap forward in high-bandwidth data transmission, crucial for future space missions.
- **IISR Chandra - New Pepper Variety**
- ✓ The Indian Institute of Spices Research (IISR) in Kozhikode has achieved a significant milestone in the field of agriculture with the successful development of a ground-breaking black pepper variety named 'IISR Chandra.'



- ✓ The research team at IISR took a unique approach in developing '**IISR Chandra**' by crossing two distinct pepper varieties - **Cholamundi and Thommankodi**.
 - ✓ The resulting hybrid was then back-crossed with Thommankodi to ensure the retention of all desired parental traits.
 - ✓ This novel approach has given rise to a **high-yielding black pepper** variety that possesses unparalleled potential in both quality and yield.
- **Rare Metal Tantalum**
- ✓ Tantalum, a rare metal, was found at the Sutlej River in the soil of Punjab by a group of researchers led by Dr. Resmi Sebastian, who is an assistant professor in the institute's Civil Engineering Department.



- ✓ Not only is this discovery significant for Punjab, but it is also significant for India as a whole because tantalum is widely used in the electronics and semiconductor industries.
 - ✓ Tantalum is a grey metal that is heavy and has a strong resistance to corrosion. Its atomic number is 73, and its characteristics include being a highly resistant to corrosion.
 - ✓ Tantalum's resistance to corrosion can be linked to the material's ability to develop an oxide layer that is extremely resistant to corrosion when it is exposed to air.
- **Measles & Rubella Vaccine - 'Mabella'**
- ✓ Indian Immunologicals, IIL, launched the measles and rubella vaccine 'Mabella' for children.



- ✓ A live-attenuated **MR vaccine** developed in partnership with **Polyvac Institute of Vietnam** was launched as part of the 25th celebrations of the IIL division Human Biologicals Institute (HBI) in Udhagamandalam (Ooty), Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The IIL said, the vaccine has been proven to be safe and effective through extensive human clinical trials.
- ✓ It stated that the launch addresses the urgent need for control of deadly measles and rubella that claim about one lakh lives of children globally.

- **NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar)**
- ✓ India & US to Launch Joint Microwave Remote Sensing Satellite for Earth Observation.



- ✓ The satellite will be named NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar).
- ✓ NISAR is targeted for launch onboard India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV).
- ✓ NISAR will be highly suitable for studying the land ecosystems, deformation of solid earth, mountain and polar cryosphere, sea ice and coastal oceans on a regional to global scale.

SPORTS

➤ FIDE Grand Swiss Chess Event



- ✓ On November 5, India celebrated a historic moment as both Vidit Gujrathi and R. Vaishali emerged victorious at the Grand Swiss tournament held at the Isle of Man, securing coveted spots in the Candidates tournament, set to take place in Toronto early next year.
- ✓ The Grand Swiss tournament is a prestigious chess event that garners worldwide attention due to the coveted qualifying spots it offers.

➤ Asian Champions Trophy 2023

- ✓ The Indian women's hockey team has emerged victorious in the Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2023, securing the gold medal for the second time in the competition's history.



- ✓ The tournament's final match, which sealed India's triumphant moment, took place on 5th November 2023, at the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Mundra Astroturf Hockey Stadium in Ranchi.
- ✓ India displayed exceptional prowess by defeating Japan 4-0 in the final match.

➤ **World Billiards Championship**

- ✓ Indian cueist Pankaj Advani rallied to win the IBSF World Billiards Championship title for a staggering 26th time.



- ✓ He defeated his compatriot Sourav Kothari in the final.
- ✓ Trailing 26-180 in the first hour, Advani rallied to defeat the 2018 world champion Kothari 1000-416 in a rematch of last year's title clash in Kuala Lumpur.

➤ **Davis Cup - Tennis**

- ✓ Italy beats Australia, reclaims Davis Cup title after 47 years.



- ✓ Jannik Sinner took his record to 5-0 this week by beating Alex de Minaur 6-3, 6-0 in the second singles match of Sunday's final, giving Italy a 2-0 win over Australia for its first Davis Cup title since 1976.
- ✓ The Italians, who had never won the title other than in 1976, had lost the three finals it played against Australia, which was last year's runner-up to Canada.

OBITUARY

➤ Leela Omchery

- ✓ A Tribute to the Padma Shri Awardee and Music Scholar.



- ✓ Leela Omchery was a renowned classical musician and accomplished musicologist who passed away at the age of 94.
- ✓ She was the head of the music department at Delhi University for 28 years. She also translated literary works from Tamil, such as Kalki's Parthiban Kanavu.
- ✓ She published over 450 papers and several books on various aspects of Indian classical and folk music.
- ✓ She received the Padma Shri in 2005 and many other awards and honors for her invaluable contributions to the field of music.

➤ N. Sankaraiah



- ✓ N. Sankaraiah, one of the oldest communist leaders in the country, passed away in a Chennai hospital after a brief illness on Wednesday morning.
- ✓ At the age of 102, he had dedicated his life to the principles of communism and the struggle for a just society.
- ✓ Elected to the state assembly thrice in 1967, 1977, and 1980, he also served as the CPI-M state secretary of Tamil Nadu from 1995 to 2002.

➤ **Justice Fathima Beevi**

- ✓ Justice Fathima Beevi, India's first woman judge of the Supreme Court, died in Kerala's Kollam at the age of 96.



- ✓ She will be remembered for her contributions to public service.
- ✓ She was the first woman from the Muslim community in the higher judiciary.
- ✓ She became a Supreme Court judge in 1989 and retired in 1992.
- ✓ She also served as a member of the National Human Rights Commission from 1993 to 1997.
- ✓ She was the governor of Tamil Nadu from 1997 to 2001.

➤ **Dr. SS Badrinath**

- ✓ Founder and Chairman Emeritus of Sankara Nethralaya, SS Badrinath, passed away at the age of 83.



- ✓ SS Badrinath, born in Triplicane, a suburb of Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India.
- ✓ He was the founder of one of India's biggest charitable eye hospitals, Sankara Nethralaya, in Chennai.
- ✓ Dr Badrinath founded the organisation in 1978, after completing his studies and research overseas.

➤ **Henry Kissinger**

- ✓ Henry Kissinger, a towering figure in American foreign policy, passed away on November 29, 2023, at the age of 100.
- ✓ He served as the United States Secretary of State under Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford, and played a pivotal role in shaping US foreign policy during the 1970s.



- ✓ Kissinger was born Heinz Alfred Kissinger in Fürth, Germany, on May 27, 1923. Kissinger entered government service in the 1960s, serving as a consultant to the National Security Council and the Council on Foreign Relations.
- ✓ He also taught at Harvard University and Columbia University.

REPORT

➤ WHO Global TB Report

- ✓ Number of people newly diagnosed with TB was 7.5 million in 2022: WHO Global TB Report.



- ✓ According to the report, India recorded 2.8 million (28.2 lakh) TB cases in 2022, with a case fatality ratio of 12 per cent. Officials stated that “The best estimate of the number of deaths in India from TB was 3,42,000 (3,31,000 among HIV-negative people and 11,000 among those with HIV).”
- ✓ India accounted for the highest number of tuberculosis (TB) cases in the world in 2022, representing a staggering 27 percent of the global burden, as revealed by the new World Health Organization (WHO) 2023 Global TB report released.

➤ UNEP’s 14th Emissions Gap Report 2023

- ✓ The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) recently released its 14th Emissions Gap Report 2023, revealing a bleak outlook for limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.



- ✓ With the most optimistic climate action projects, there is only a 14% chance of achieving.

- ✓ Despite efforts to deliver existing nationally determined contributions (NDCs) by 2030, the UNEP projects a warming of 2.5°C, surpassing the 2°C target set by the Paris Agreement.
- ✓ Current policy scenarios indicate a potential rise of 3°C due to an implementation gap, with only nine countries updating their NDCs since the 2022 climate conference.



RANKING

➤ State Food Safety Index 2022- 2023

- ✓ The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) recently released the State Food Safety Index (SFSI) 2022-2023, which assesses the performance of Indian states and union territories in ensuring food safety.

| Category- Union Territories | |
|-----------------------------|------|
| Name | Rank |
| Jammu & Kashmir | 1 |
| Delhi | 2 |
| Chandigarh | 3 |

| Category- Small States | |
|------------------------|------|
| Small State | Rank |
| Goa | 1 |
| Manipur | 2 |
| Sikkim | 3 |

| Category- Large States | |
|------------------------|------|
| Large State | Rank |
| Kerala | 1 |
| Punjab | 2 |
| Tamil Nadu | 3 |

- ✓ This annual evaluation employs a dynamic benchmarking model to measure food safety across all regions objectively.
- ✓ Tamil Nadu emerged as the leading state in consumer empowering initiatives, followed by Kerala and Madhya Pradesh.

➤ India ranks 2nd in employee well-being, Japan lowest

- ✓ A recent global survey has ranked Turkey at the top and India at second spot while keeping Japan at lowest for employees.



- ✓ The survey was conducted by McKinsey Health Institute, and it assessed employees' physical, mental, social and spiritual health before arriving at the conclusions.
- ✓ Turkey scored highest at 78%, followed by India at 76% and China at 75 %, way higher than the global average of 57 per cent.
- ✓ Japan scored a mere 25 per cent in the poll.

➤ **Inclusiveness Index**

- ✓ India is ranked 117th in the list of 129 countries in the world in the inclusiveness index published at California University, United States.



- ✓ New Zealand finished first in the index for the second consecutive year. Portugal recorded its best showing by securing second place followed by the Netherlands in third place.
- ✓ The index examines inclusivity in terms of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and the general population using several measures.

➤ **India Ranks Third In Global Unicorn Rankings**

- ✓ In the dynamic world of startups and unicorns, India has secured the third position globally with an impressive count of 72 unicorn companies.



- ✓ The first Indian company to make a mark on the global stage is BYJU'S, securing the 36th position with a noteworthy valuation of \$11.50 billion.
- ✓ The United States leads the global unicorn race with an unparalleled 668 unicorn companies, more than three times the count of China in the second position.
- ✓ China holds the second-highest number of unicorn companies, boasting a total of 172 with a combined valuation of \$641.67 billion.

IMPORTANT DAYS

| Date | Day | Theme |
|--------------------|---|---|
| November 01 | World Vegan Day | The theme of World Vegan Day 2023: 'Celebrating for a Good Cause'. |
| November 02 | International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists | Theme: Justice for Journalists: A Foundation for Freedom of Expression." |
| November 03 | International Day for Biosphere Reserves | Theme: #ItsAboutLife. |
| November 05 | World Tsunami Awareness Day | World Tsunami Awareness Day's 2023 theme, "Fighting Inequality for a Resilient Future." |
| November 06 | International Day For Preventing The Exploitation Of The Environment In War And Armed Conflict | Theme: Together for a more sustainable and peaceful future. |
| November 07 | National Cancer Awareness Day | Theme: "close the care gap" |
| November 07 | Infant Protection Day | Theme for 2023: 'Ensuring Every Child's Right to Thrive.' |
| November 08 | World Radiography Day | The theme chosen for World Radiography Day 2023 is "Celebrating Patient Safety." |
| November 09 | National Legal Services Day | Theme for 2023 is "Access to Justice for All: Empowering the Marginalised through Legal Awareness." |
| November 09 | World Usability Day | The theme for the day in 2023 is "Collaboration and Cooperation." |
| November 10 | World Science Day | In 2023, the theme for World |

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| | For Peace And Development | Science Day for Peace and Development is “Building Trust in Science.” |
| November 10 | National Ayurveda Day | The focal theme for Ayurveda Day 2023 is ‘Ayurveda for One Health’, with the tagline ‘Ayurveda for everyone every day’ |
| November 11 | National Education Day | Theme: "Embracing Innovation" |
| November 12 | World Pneumonia Day | Theme: "Every Breath Counts: Stop Pneumonia in Its Track". |
| November 13 | World Kindness Day | The theme for the year 2023 is a powerful reminder – “Be Kind Wherever Possible.” |
| November 14 | World Diabetes Day | The theme for World Diabetes Day 2023 is “Access to Diabetes Care.” |
| November 14 | Children’s Day | The theme of this year’s Children’s Day, ‘For every child, every right’, underscores the commitment to uphold the rights of every child worldwide. |
| November 16 | National Press Day | The theme for National Press Day 2023 is “Media in the Era of Artificial Intelligence.” |
| November 16 | International Day For Tolerance | In 2023, the theme is “Tolerance: A Path to Peace and Reconciliation” |
| November 16 | World Philosophy Day | The theme for World Philosophy Day 2023 is “Philosophical Reflection in a |

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|--------------------|---|---|
| | | Multicultural World”. |
| November 17 | World Prematurity Day | The global theme for this year’s World Prematurity Day is “Small actions, big impact: Immediate skin-to-skin care for every baby everywhere.” |
| November 18 | World Day For The Prevention Of And Healing From Child Sexual Exploitation, Abuse And Violence | The theme for the day in 2023 is "Prevention, protection, and healing." |
| November 19 | Women’s Entrepreneurship Day | |
| November 20 | World Children’s Day | Theme 2023 – For Every Child, Every Right. |
| November 21 | World Television Day | In 2023, the theme is 'Accessibility'. |
| November 21 | World Fisheries Day | Theme for 2023 “Build enabling policy environments for small-scale artisanal fisheries.” |
| November 25 | International Day For The Elimination Of Violence Against Women | The global theme: “UNITE! Invest to prevent violence against women and girls.” |
| November 26 | Constitution Day | Theme: “Freedom of mind is the real freedom. |
| November 26 | National Milk Day | The theme for National Milk Day is flexible and is a part of the broader concept of stressing the general importance of consuming milk. |
| November 26 | World Sustainable Transport Day | World Sustainable Transport Day 2023 focuses on the theme “Sustainable transport, sustainable development”. |

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| November 28 | Red Planet Day | Red Planet Day is celebrated on November 28 as it commemorates the launch of the Spacecraft Mariner 4 by NASA in 1964, which was the first craft to ever reach Mars. |
| November 29 | International Day Of Solidarity With The Palestinian People | Originating from a call by the United Nations General Assembly, this day symbolizes a collective commitment to champion the rights and aspirations of the Palestinian people. |
| November 29 | International Jaguar Day | International Jaguar Day celebrates the largest wild cat as an umbrella species for biodiversity conservation and an icon for sustainable development and centuries-old cultural heritage. |
| November 30 | Day Of Remembrance For All Victims Of Chemical Warfare | The primary objective of this day is to honour and mourn the lives lost due to chemical warfare, whether military or civilian. |

MISCELLANEOUS

➤ **'AI' named Collins Word of the Year for 2023**

- ✓ The abbreviation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) has been named the Collins Word of the Year for 2023.



- ✓ Lexicographers at Collins Dictionary said use of the term had “accelerated” and that it had become the dominant conversation of 2023.
- ✓ We know that AI has been a big focus this year in the way that it has developed and has quickly become as ubiquitous and embedded in our lives as email, streaming or any other once futuristic, now everyday technology.

➤ **World’s Biggest Iceberg On The Move After 30 Years**

- ✓ The world’s largest iceberg, named A23a, has embarked on a rare journey after being largely stationary for more than three decades.



- ✓ Weighing nearly a trillion metric tonnes and spanning an area of 4,000 square km, this colossal iceberg originated from West Antarctica’s Filchner-Ronne Ice Shelf in 1986.
- ✓ For the first time in more than 30 years, A23a is on the move. Strong winds and ocean currents are propelling it past the northern tip of the Antarctic Peninsula.

➤ **Angkor Wat Becomes The 8th Wonder Of The World**

- ✓ Angkor Wat, located in the heart of Cambodia, has recently earned the prestigious title of the 8th wonder of the world, surpassing Italy's Pompeii.



- ✓ This UNESCO World Heritage Site is not only the largest religious structure in the world but also a testament to architectural brilliance and cultural significance.
- ✓ Angkor Wat is an expansive temple complex that spans approximately **500 acres** and serves as the **largest religious monument in the world**.
- ✓ Originally constructed in the **12th century** by **King Suryavarman II**, the temple was dedicated to the **Hindu deity Vishnu**. Over time, it transformed into a major Buddhist temple, reflecting the transition from Hinduism to Buddhism.

