

Monthly G.K Capsule

November, 2023

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NATIONAL NEWS

1. Nationwide platform 'Mera Yuva Bharat' to be launched on Sardar Patel's birth anniversary

- MYBharat will provide an opportunity to the youth of India to play an active role in various nation building events. This is a unique effort of integrating the youth power of India in building a developed India.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that a nationwide 'Mera Yuva Bharat' platform will be launched on Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary on October 31 to give the youth an opportunity to play an active role in various nation.

2. BSP MP supports demand for West U.P. Statehood

- Several BJP leaders in west UP dismiss the Union Minister and Muzaffarnagar MP's demand as just 'an attempt in his personal capacity to appease Jat voters' ahead of 2024 Lok Sabha polls
- Union Minister of State Sanjeev Balyan, the BJP's Muzaffarnagar MP, has created a stir in Uttar Pradesh politics by calling for the state's division to enable the creation of west UP as a separate state with Meerut as its capital.

3. President Murmu launches Bihar's 4th agri road map budgeted at ₹1.62 lakh crore

- President Droupadi Murmu launched the fourth Krishi Road Map (2023-2028) of Bihar worth ₹1.62 lakh crore. The Agriculture Road Map focuses on increasing agricultural production in the State, while also increasing farmers' incomes in the next five years.
- The President launched the Agriculture Road Map at Babu Sabhagar in the presence of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, Agriculture Minister Kumar Sarvjeet, Bihar legislative assembly Speaker Awadh Bihar Choudhary and Ministers of several other departments.

4. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Launches Fleet of 51 Buses Exclusively Operated by Women

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the 'Mission Mahila Sarathi' initiative under the state's Mission Shakti Abhiyan and flagged 51 buses that will be operated exclusively by women as drivers and conductors.
- During the programme in Ayodhya, the chief minister said, "There could not be a more appropriate occasion when the date of 'Maha Ashtami' is being linked with Mission Shakti along with the launch of Mission Mahila Sarathi. The initiative seeks to connect and empower women drivers and conductors."

5. ADB Grants \$200 Million Loan for Strengthening Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management in Assam

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$200 million loan to strengthen flood and riverbank erosion risk management along the 650 kilometers (km) long main stem of the Brahmaputra River in Assam, India.
- The project builds on the success and lessons from the ADB-financed Assam Integrated Flood and Riverbank Erosion Risk Management Investment Program (2010–2020) and similar investments in Bangladesh and will continue to tackle recurrent flooding and continual riverbank erosion of the Brahmaputra River.

6. Haryana is among top 5 states in GST collection for Sept

- As per the official statement in the first six months of the current financial year (April–September 2023), Haryana's total tax collection has surged to ₹32,076 crore, against ₹27,155 crore collected during this period previous year.
- Haryana has collected Rs 32,076 crore in GST in the first two quarters, a growth of 18.3% compared to the same period last year. The state aims to surpass the target of Rs 57,831 crore for the year.

7. Softbank Sells 1.09% Stake in Zomato for Rs 1,040 Crore via Open Market Transaction

- Japanese conglomerate Softbank divested a 1.09% stake in online food delivery platform Zomato for Rs 1,040 crore through an open market transaction.
- Softbank through its affiliate SVF Growth (Singapore) Pte Ltd offloaded shares of Zomato on the National Stock Exchange (NSE).

8. Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurates and lays the foundation stone for 26 National Highway Projects worth Rs.17,500 Crore in Guwahati, Assam

- The Union Minister for Roads Transport and Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for 26 National Highway Projects with an investment of more than Rs. 17,500 Crore in Guwahati, Assam.
- The Union Minister of State for Roads Transport and Highways, General Shri VK Singh, the Chief Minister of Assam, Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma, State Cabinet Ministers, Member of Parliaments, MLAs, and NHIDCL officials were also present on the occasion.

9. Congress accuses BJP of first criticising its allies and later supporting them

- New Delhi, Oct 31 (PTI) The Congress accused the BJP of first criticising its allies and later supporting them, and called upon people of the northeast not to vote for the regional parties like the MNF and the ZPM.
- Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said a vote for the Mizo National Front (MNF) or the Zoram People's Movement (ZPM) is actually a vote for the BJP.

10. PM Modi urges citizens to strive and make India a developed nation by 2047

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi called for moving forward with 5 pledges to fulfill freedom fighters' dreams by 2047.
- Addressing the nation for the 9th time from the historic ramparts of Red Fort, PM Modi said "India must be a developed nation in 25 years". Modi said India will have to move ahead with big goals to fulfil the vision of a developed India in the centenary year of its Independence.

11.22nd Annual Conference of IASSI to be held

- The Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS) will host the 22nd annual conference of the Indian Association of Social Science Institutions (IASSI). Revathi, director, CESS, is the chairperson of the organising committee and Dr B. Suresh Reddy, associate professor, CESS, organising secretary.
- Mahendra Dev, distinguished professor, ICFAI Faculty of Social Sciences, IFHE, Hyderabad, and former director and vice chancellor of the Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR) in Mumbai, is the conference president.

12. Union Minister of State Sushri Shobha Karandlaje inaugurates the International Workshop on Food Loss and Waste Prevention in the South Asian Region in New Delhi

- Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Sushri Shobha Karandlaje inaugurated the International Workshop on Food Loss and Waste Prevention in the South Asian Region here.
- She stated that approximately 3 billion tonnes of food go to waste across the globe. The Minister opined that the proven technologies and practices of developed as well as developing countries should be brought forward so that the losses and wastage across the globe could be reduced using methods acceptable to society.

13. Central Railways commissions the BPAC system in the Vasind - Asangaon section

- The Central Railway has commissioned the block proving by axle counter (BPAC) system in the Vasind-Asangaon section of Mumbai Division. As per a release issued by the Central Railway, the BPAC system plays a pivotal role in maintaining the utmost safety of train operations.
- Specifically, it meticulously examines the last vehicle of a section, subsequently confirming the section's clearance before granting authorization for another train to enter.

14. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates State Bank of India's branch in Trincomalee, Sri Lanka

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman visited Sri Lanka's eastern port town of Trincomalee where she opened a branch of the State Bank of India and appreciated its role in supporting corporates in international trade.

- Sitharaman, who is in the country on a three-day visit, started her day by visiting the main Hindu Temple in the multi-ethnic city to pay homage to it before opening a branch of the State Bank of India in Trincomalee.

15. Indian envoy slams Canada on Nijjar killing: 'Direction came from high level'

- Indian high commissioner to Canada Sanjay Kumar Verma said that neither Canada nor its allies have shown concrete evidence related to Hardeep Nijjar's killing.
- Amid New Delhi's stand on the diplomatic standoff with Canada, Indian high commissioner to Canada Sanjay Kumar Verma has urged Ottawa to release evidence to back up its allegation in connection with the killing of pro-Khalistan militant Hardeep Singh Nijjar.



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16. National medical commission may form experts' panel to decide on live broadcast of operations

- New Delhi, Nov 1 (PTI) The National Medical Commission (NMC) will constitute a committee to assess the implications of live broadcast of surgical procedures on patients, the issue of consent and the importance of dissemination of knowledge through such exercises.
- The various aspects of live surgeries will be debated upon and assessed and the committee will have stakeholders from patient groups, associations, doctors and academics, Dr Yogendra Malik, member of NMC's Ethics and Medical Registration Board.

17. India's first 50-year bond fully sold on growing insurer demand

- India's auction of the debut 50-year bond met with strong demand, underscoring growing interest from insurance and pension funds for ultra-long papers. Insurers probably lapped up the paper as they had expressed strong interest before the auction to lock in higher yields to take care of long-term commitments.
- The government sold 100 billion rupees (\$1.2 billion) of the 2073 bond as planned at a cutoff yield of 7.46%, the Reserve Bank of India said in a statement. That's lower than the 7.48% forecast in a Bloomberg survey.

18. Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik Introduces Affordable Bus Service in Gajapati District

- Odisha Chief Minister (CM) Shri Naveen Patnaik launched the affordable bus service under the Location Accessible Multimodal Initiative (LAccMI) scheme in the tribal-dominated Malkangiri district.
- Alongside the LAccMI scheme, the Chief Minister also inaugurated projects with a total worth of Rs 793 crore for the Malkangiri district. These projects are aimed at enhancing infrastructure and services in the region.

19. Centre launches sale of 'Bharat' Atta at an MRP of ₹ 27.50/Kg

- The Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Textiles and Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal flagged off 100 mobile vans for sale of wheat flour (Atta) under 'Bharat' brand, from Kartavya Path, New Delhi.
- The atta will be available at an MRP not exceeding ₹ 27.50/Kg. This is the latest among a series of steps taken by the GoI for the welfare of ordinary consumers.

20. Global Solar Facility of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) to Receive \$35 Million in Capital Contribution

- The International Solar Alliance's Global Solar Facility is set to receive a capital contribution of \$35 million. Additionally, the International Solar Alliance itself will contribute \$10 million to the Global Solar Facility.
- India, as the host of the 6th assembly of the International Solar Alliance, will make a significant investment of \$25 million as a capital contribution to the Global Solar Facility.

21. Skill India Collaborates with Coca-Cola India to Introduce Retailer Skill Development Program for Empowering Retailers in Odisha

- The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), operating under the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), has partnered with Coca-Cola India to launch the Super Power Retailer Program.
- To empower retailers in the states of Odisha and Uttar Pradesh under the Skill India Mission. The Super Power Retailer Program is initially being piloted in the state of Odisha, focusing on the retailer community in the region.

22. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates State Bank of India's branch in Trincomalee, Sri Lanka

- Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated a branch of the State Bank of India (SBI) in Trincomalee, Sri Lanka.
- The occasion was graced by the Governor of the Eastern Province of Sri Lanka Senthil Thondaman, High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka Gopal Baglay, and SBI Chairman Dinesh Khara.

23. CDSCO approves India's first CAR-T cell therapy against certain blood cancer

- NexCAR19 is India's first indigenously-developed CAR-T cell therapy. Recently, the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) granted market authorisation for NexCAR19 to ImmunoACT, a company incubated by IIT Bombay.
- This paves the way for the commercial launch of this therapy in India, where it is expected to be available to cancer patients at a tenth of the cost abroad.

24. India extends free ration scheme for 5 years

- In late 2022, ahead of Gujarat and Himachal polls, PMGKAY was extended until Dec 2022 and then for another year, merging it with the NFSA. With the scheme nearing expiry, the govt has again extended it, this time for 5 yrs more.
- In the midst of the election season, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced an extension of the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) free ration scheme for another five years, while addressing poll rallies in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

25. Uttarakhand Cabinet Approves Establishment of Rajaji Tiger Reserve Conservation Foundation

- The Uttarakhand government has announced the establishment of the Rajaji Tiger Reserve Conservation Foundation with the aim of promoting ecological, economic, social, and cultural development in and around the Rajaji Tiger Reserve.
- This decision was made during a state Cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami.

26. BJP's Raja Singh confident of 'hat-trick victory' from Goshamahal seat in Hyderabad

- In August last year, Raja Singh was suspended from the party following his alleged controversial remarks against "Islam and Prophet Mohammed".
- BJP leader T Raja Singh expressed confidence of winning from the Goshamahal constituency in the city for a third time in the upcoming Telangana assembly elections.

27. CM Baghel's ₹15,000 annual assistance sop for women

- Earlier on November 5, the Congress launched its poll manifesto titled 'Bharose ka Ghoshna Patra 2023-28' for the upcoming elections.
- Chhattisgarh chief minister Bhupesh Baghel assured an annual financial assistance of ₹15,000 to women under the 'Chhattisgarh Gruha Lakshmi Yojana' if Congress retains power in the state. This comes as a counter to the BJP's promise in its poll manifesto of giving ₹12,000 per year to married women.

28. Karnataka BJP leader Ravi says BY Vijayendra too is haunted

- The BJP appointed Vijayendra, the younger son of Yediyurappa, as its state unit president. He was earlier state vice president of the party.
- With BJP facing "dynasty politics" criticism, following the appointment of veteran leader B S Yediyurappa's son B Y Vijayendra as its Karnataka unit president, party's senior leader C T Ravi tried to dodge related questions, and in a cryptic remark said he too is being haunted by certain "questions".

29. Languishing share of GST revenue in GSDP

- States continue to have a high level of committed expenditure, and persistent revenue deficit. Increase in non-merit subsidies, reversal of pension reforms, and poor financial conditions of state-owned discoms are some of the key challenges for state finances, the report said.
- With the GST compensation grants having ended in June 2022, there has been an adverse impact on some states, it said, adding that increasing the level of GST revenue may require rationalisation in tax slabs.

30. Amit Shah to Rahul Gandhi, covering the last mile in MP poll campaign

- With the Madhya Pradesh polls and the second phase of the Chattisgarh elections days away, senior BJP and Congress leaders are putting every ounce of effort into the last leg of the campaign in these states.
- Both parties have planned several rallies, public meetings, and roadshows. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who is on a two-day visit to the state, will also be in Vidisha. He will address a rally in Tikamgarh district as well. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge is scheduled to go to Sevda and Sheopur districts.

31. Bihar Assembly Unanimously Passes Resolution to Raise Reservation Quota from 50% to 65% for Scheduled Tribes (ST), Scheduled Castes (SC), and Backward Classes

- The Bihar Legislative Council unanimously passed the amendment bill on Friday related to increasing the quota of reservation in the state government jobs for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Extremely Backward Caste and other Backward Castes from 50% to 65%.
- It was passed unanimously by Lower House of the State Legislature. Like State Assembly the opposition BJP also supported the amendment bill in Upper House. The Bill will be now sent to Governor for consent and after the nod of the Rajbhavan it will become an act.

32. Centre for Advanced Financial Research and Learning Unveils Inaugural India Finance Report (IFR) Centered on Non-Bank Financial Companies (NBFCs) Sector

- The Centre for Advanced Financial Research and Learning (CAFRAL), an independent body established by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), releases the first edition of the India Finance Report (IFR) focusing on the non-bank financial companies (NBFCs) sector.

- The report provides a comprehensive evaluation of the NBFC sector, commonly known as the shadow banking sector, highlighting ongoing improvements and identifying emerging risks.

33.Icrisat joins hands with Assam Millet Mission

- The International Crop Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (Icrisat) and the Government of Assam have joined hands to collaborate on climate-resilient and nutritionally enhanced food systems through the Assam Millet Mission.
- The collaboration would focus on the State's target to boost the cultivation, production and consumption of three native millet crops – finger millet, foxtail millet, and proso millet.

34.Data from Caste Survey Reveals 94 Lakh Bihar Households Living on Rs 6,000 per Month

- The chief minister announced a one-time benefit of Rs 2 lakh to the 94 lakh families that earn less than Rs 6,000 a month. He also declared plans to increase reservations for SCs, STs and OBCs to 65%, which the Supreme Court has capped at 50%.
- The chief minister also said that Rs 2 lakh will be provided as a one-time financial assistance to the 94 lakh families who earn less than Rs 6,000 per month. The state government will spend Rs 2.5 lakh crore over the next five years for the economically poor, he said. Of these families, those who are homeless will be provided an additional Rs 40,000.

35.Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurates Viksit Bharat Yatra from Khunti, Jharkhand to ensure saturation of flagship government schemes

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi released the 15th instalment of over Rs 18,000 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme from Khunti, Jharkhand.
- This significant release aims to provide financial support to farmers across the country. The instalment was released on the birthday of the 'father of the land' Shri Bhagwan Birsa Munda, which is celebrated as the JanJaatiya Gaurav Divas every year.

36. 7 changes in Senior Citizens Savings Scheme rules: More people can invest, more time for retirees, stricter penalty

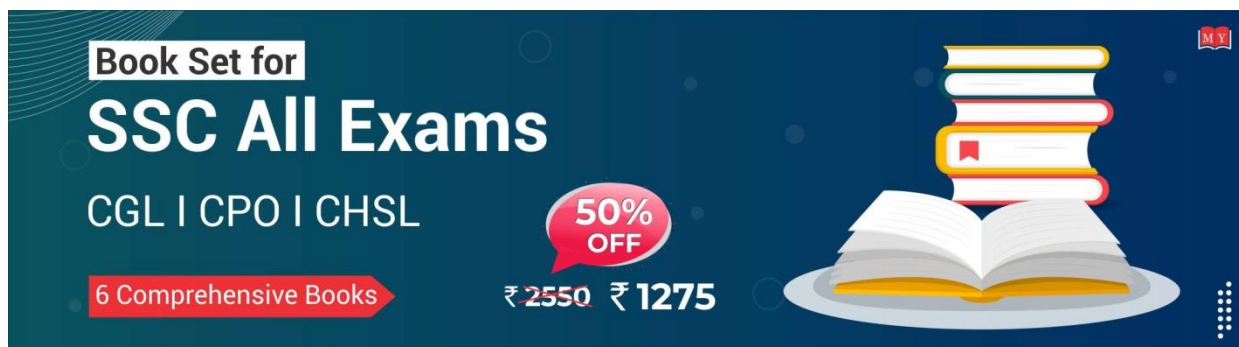
- The Finance Ministry has introduced changes to the Senior Citizen Savings Scheme in a notification dated 7 November. The Centre has allowed the spouses of the deceased government employees to open Senior Citizen Saving Scheme (SCSS) accounts.
- Earlier, the spouses of deceased government employees were not allowed to open SCSS accounts. The spouse of the government employee can open an account under the scheme, if the government employee who has attained the age of 50 years has died in harness.

37. 33rd Conference of WOA Regional Commission explores ways to fight infectious animal disease

- The 33rd Conference of the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) Regional Commission for Asia and Pacific started in New Delhi.
- Delegates from 36 countries are participating in the conference. Senior officers from regional and international organizations and representatives from the private sector and private veterinary organizations are participating in the conference.

38. Uttarakhand is set to become the first state to implement a Uniform Civil Code

- Uttarakhand is reportedly set to become the first state in the country to implement the Uniform Civil Code next week. A report will be submitted to Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami in the next couple of days by a committee formed under the leadership of Justice (retired) Ranjana Desai, India reported citing sources.
- The UCC is a proposal to formulate and implement personal laws which will apply uniformly to all citizens regardless of their religion, gender or sexual orientation. The code comes under Article 44 of the Constitution.



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39. MoU between India and USA to Enhance Innovation Ecosystems through an Innovation Handshake under the framework of India – U.S. Commercial Dialogue

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on “Enhancing Innovation Ecosystems through an Innovation Handshake” under the framework of India – U.S. Commercial Dialogue was signed between the two countries on the 14th of November 2023 in San Francisco.
- India Business Council (USIBC) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and supported by National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) and Startup India, CEOs from major ICT companies, executives from venture capital firms, and founders of startups in the critical and emerging technology space discussed how to enhance U.S.-India technology collaboration.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1. India explains why it abstained in UN vote on Israel-Hamas conflict

- India is concerned over the unfolding humanitarian crisis in Gaza but at the same time strongly considers that there can be no equivocation on terror, sources said on Saturday explaining New Delhi's decision to abstain on a UN General Assembly .
- The resolution did not include any explicit condemnation of the October 7 terrorist attacks by Hamas, they said, adding India abstained in the vote in absence of all elements of its approach not being covered in the final text of the resolution.

2. Donald Trump promises to revive Muslim ban, gets slammed by White House

- Former US President Donald Trump has vowed to revive a controversial travel ban on people from some Muslim-majority countries if he is elected to a second White House term.
- "On day one, I will restore our travel ban. We had a travel ban because we didn't want people coming into our country who really love the idea of blowing our country up." He said the travel ban imposed during his administration was an amazing success.

3. Gwalior, Kozhikode join UNESCO's list of creative cities

- Two Indian cities, Gwalior and Kozhikode, have been added to the prestigious list of UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN). The cities featured among other 55 new cities from around the world and were added to the list.
- Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior made the cut in the 'Music' category, while Kerala's Kozhikode has earned its place in the list in the 'Literature' category.

4. PM Modi, Sheikh Hasina inaugurate key rail link, 2 other India-backed projects

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina jointly inaugurated three projects via virtual mode, including a key rail link between Tripura's Nischintapur and Gangasagar in the neighbouring country.
- Three Indian-assisted development projects were jointly inaugurated by Prime Ministers of India and Bangladesh via video conferencing.

5. Turkey recalls envoy to Israel, 'writes off' Netanyahu

- Turkey said it was recalling its ambassador to Israel and breaking off contacts with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in protest at the bloodshed in Gaza. Ankara announced the decisions on the eve of what promises to be a difficult visit to Turkey by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

- Palestinian ally Turkey had been mending torn relations with Israel until last month's start of the Israel-Hamas war. But its tone hardened against both Israel and its Western supporters -- particularly the United States -- as the fighting escalated and the death toll among Palestinian civilians soared.

6.NMC Will Launch Its One Nation, One Registration Platform For Doctors Across India

- The medical practitioners' details will be open for public viewing on the NMC website, which will help maintain transparency about their credentials and prevent duplication. With an aim to transform medical education in India, the National Medical Commission (NMC) is all set to launch the 'one nation one registration platform' called the National Medical Register (NMR).
- The medical education regulator has plans to start a pilot project on the NMR within the next six months when doctors will be provided a Unique Identification Number (UID) by 2024-end/ 2025, following which they can also apply for licence to work in multiple states.

7.India-Australia JWG Meeting on Cooperation in Water Resources held

- The 6th India-Australia Joint Working Group Meeting on Water Cooperation between Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India and Department of Climate Change, Energy and Water, Government of Australia was held on 8th November, 2023.
- The event brought together representatives from both Indian and Australian Governments for a productive discussion on enhancing cooperation in water sector and charting the way forward with respect to various ongoing and proposed activities.

8.Israel offers to evacuate babies from main Gaza hospital amid war

- Israel's military said it was ready to evacuate babies from Gaza's largest hospital on Sunday, where Palestinian officials said two newborns died and dozens more were at risk after fuel ran out amid intense fighting in the area.
- As the humanitarian situation worsened, Gaza's border authority said the Rafah crossing into Egypt would reopen on Sunday for foreign passport holders after closing.

9.WHO loses communication with its contacts in Gaza's Al Shifa hospital, expresses 'grave concern'

- The World Health Organization said it has lost communication with its contacts in Al Shifa hospital in northern Gaza, and expressed "grave concerns" for the safety of everyone trapped there by the fighting while calling for an immediate ceasefire.
- The spokesperson for the Gaza health ministry said that operations in Al Shifa hospital complex, the largest in the Palestinian enclave, were suspended after it ran out of fuel.

10.Former Prime Minister David Cameron appointed U.K. Foreign Secretary

- James Cleverly replaces Suella Braverman as U.K. Home Secretary; ex-PM David Cameron back in govt as new Foreign Secretary. Returning from Deepavali celebrations in his hometown of Southampton, U.K. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak kicked off the week by reshuffling his Cabinet on morning, sacking controversial Home Secretary Suella Braverman .
- Resurrecting the political career of former U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron, whom he appointed Foreign Secretary. Former (outgoing) Foreign Secretary James Cleverly was appointed Home Secretary.

11.Ranil presents Budget aimed at aiding economic recovery in Sri Lanka

- The largest component of government expenditure went towards public sector salaries, pensions and public welfare, and payment of interest on the government's debt.
- Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe on Monday unveiled the country's Budget for the fiscal year of 2024, outlining a significant increase in expenditure while setting ambitious revenue targets as he attempts to steer the island nation out of last year's debilitating economic crisis.

12.Norway to Support India's 'Hunger Project' for Women Leaders, Environmental Protection, and Food Security in Uttarakhand

- Norway commits to providing financial support for India's 'Hunger Project' aimed at strengthening women leaders, environmental protection, and promoting food security in Uttarakhand. The duration of the project would be 3 years, until September 2026 with a budget of ₹44.7 million.
- The Hunger Project is primarily focused on building the capacity of elected women representatives (EWRs) and federations. These women play a vital role in strengthening local governance and, in turn, improving food security and livelihood opportunities for marginalized households. The project's emphasis on strengthening van panchayats, or forest councils, is key to achieving these objectives.

13.Union Minister Anupriya Patel inaugurates the 42nd edition of India International Trade Fair 2023 in New Delhi

- The 42nd edition of the India International Trade Fair -2023 was inaugurated at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi. The fair will continue till 27th of this month.
- Inaugurating the Trade Fair, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel said that the participation of over 3500 exhibitors shows the confidence of the world in India. She said, the 42nd edition of the India International Trade Fair will facilitate trade and investment which will further promote economic growth and development of the country.

14.India's overall exports in October 2023 were estimated at USD 62.26 Billion; an increase of 9.43 percent over USD 56.90 Billion in October 2022.

- Merchandise Exports in October 2023 registered 6.21 percent growth at USD 33.57 over USD 31.60 Billion in October 2022. The estimated services

export for April-October 2023 is USD 192.65 Billion as compared to USD 181.37 Billion in April-October 2022, projecting to grow by 6.22 percent.

- Overall Trade Deficit during April-October reduces by 35.86 percent from USD 89.86 Billion in 2022 to USD 57.64 Billion in 2023; Merchandise Trade deficit also improves from USD 167.14 Billion in April-October 2022 to USD 147.07 in April-October 2023.

15.APEDA Facilitates Inaugural Shipment of Fresh Bananas to Netherlands

- In a significant boost to the prospects of fresh fruit exports, the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), operating under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, has facilitated the export of the first trial shipment of fresh bananas to the Netherlands, by InI Farms, via a sea route.
- The first export consignment of one container of bananas to the Netherlands was flagged off yesterday (9th November, 2023) by APEDA Chairman Shri Abhishek Dev from Baramati, Maharashtra.

16.Japan gets a new island after undersea volcano erupts

- Japan, famed for its numerous islands, including those that have been created through volcanic processes, has once again witnessed something remarkable. This remarkable event offers an intriguing insight into the Earth's dynamic and ever-changing geological processes.
- If reports are to go by, a new island has now emerged within the vicinity of Japan's Ogasawara island chain, after the eruption of an underwater volcano in late October 2023.

NEW APPOINTMENTS AND PERSON IN NEWS

1.Anant Nath elected president of Editors Guild of India

- At its annual general meeting, the editors guild also elected Ruben Banerjee, former editor-in-chief of Outlook, and K V Prasad, former senior associate editor of The Tribune, as its general secretary and treasurer, respectively.
- Prasad succeeds Shriram Pawar, editor of the Sakal Media Group, as the treasurer. The announcement was made by a three-member election committee comprising Rajdeep Sardesai, Vijay Naik and Kumkum Chadha.

2. Ministry of Home Affairs appoints Rashmi Ranjan Swain as 17th J&K Police chief

- The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in the Government of India (GoI) has appointed Rashmi Ranjan Swain, a senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the AGMUT 1991 cadre, as the 17th Director General of Jammu and Kashmir Police.
- Swain will take over as the DGP of Jammu and Kashmir Police from the outgoing incumbent, Dilbag Singh, who retired on October 31, 2023. Presently, Swain is serving as J&K intelligence chief, besides the

Director of the State Investigation Agency (SIA) and Terror Monitoring Group (TMG).

3.Kumar Sangakkara Appointed as New Chair of MCC's World Cricket Committee; Mark Nicholas to Take Over as President

- Former Sri Lanka cricketer Kumar Sangakkara has been appointed as the new Chair of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) World Cricket Committee. Nicholas will be replacing Stephen Fry in the role of MCC President.
- He takes over from former England captain Mike Gatting as the Chair of the committee. Meanwhile former Hampshire captain-turned-broadcaster Mark Nicholas would be taking over as the new President of the club.

4.Bangladesh PM's Daughter Saima Wazed Appointed as Head of WHO's South East Asia Region

- The World Health Organization selected the daughter of Bangladesh's prime minister to be its South-East Asia director, a month after she rejected criticisms of nepotism over her application.
- Saima Wazed, 49, daughter of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, was accused of using her mother's clout to get nominated to the position, allegations she has denied.

5.Information Commissioner Heeralal Samariya sworn in as Chief Information Commissioner

- Heeralal Samariya, an Information Commissioner, was sworn in as the Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) by President Droupadi Murmu. Heeralal Samariya became India's 1st Dalit Chief Information Commissioner.
- The top position of the Central Information Commission (CIC) had been vacant after the completion of K. Sinha's tenure on October 3, 2023. The oath of office was administered to Heeralal Samariya at a ceremony held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, with President Droupadi Murmu officiating the event.

BANKING

1.PNB Housing Finance looks to reduce cost of fund, maintain NIM at 3.95%

- PNB Housing Finance, a mortgage lender backed by General Atlantic Singapore, is eyeing to maintain net interest margin at a little below 4% and while putting a curb on the rising cost of funds. The lender is now eligible to access refinance from the National Housing Bank at a lower-than-market rate following the improvement in asset quality while an expected rating upgrade would help it borrow funds from the market at a lower rate.

2.Reserve Bank of India Grants In-Principle Approval to MobiKwik's Zaakpay for Payment Aggregator Operations

- Zaakpay, the payment gateway arm of Mobikwik, has recently secured in-principle authorization from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to function as a payments aggregator. This development comes after a two-year wait since

the Gurugram-based payments company first filed its application with the RBI.

- Initially rejected in 2021, Mobikwik reapplied for the payments aggregator license in October of the following year. Notably, the distinction between 'payments aggregators' and 'payment gateways' was clarified by the RBI in its 2020 PAPG guidelines.

3.Muthoot Finance Offloads Rs 725 Crore Distressed Gold Loan Portfolio to Arcil

- Muthoot Finance, a Kerala-based Indian financial corporation and the largest gold loan Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) in the country, has sold a gold loan portfolio worth Rs 725 crore to the Asset Reconstruction Company of India (Arcil).
- This transaction marks the first instance of a lender selling a gold loan portfolio to an Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC). Most lenders typically prefer in-house recovery due to the sufficient value of gold collateral, which can cover the loan amount.

4.Asian Development Bank Grants \$175 Million Loan for Road Upgrades in Madhya Pradesh

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has granted approval for a USD 175 million loan to enhance road connectivity and climate resilience in Madhya Pradesh, India.
- ADB has played a pivotal role in supporting the development of road networks in Madhya Pradesh since 2002. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a loan of USD 175 million to enhance road connectivity and climate resilience in Madhya Pradesh, India.

5.ESAF Small Finance Bank Gets SEBI Nod For Initial Public Offering

- ESAF Small Finance Bank Limited, is a Small Finance Bank with a focus on unbanked and under-banked customer segments, especially in rural and semi-urban areas has received final observation from the capital markets regulator, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), to raise funds through an initial public offering (IPO).
- The company had refiled preliminary IPO papers with SEBI in July 2023. The IPO includes a fresh issue up to ₹486.74 crore and an offer for sale of up to ₹142.30 crore by Promoter and other selling shareholders.

6.SEBI Extends Ban on Agricultural Commodity Futures Trading in India for One More Year

- India's markets regulator, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), has extended the ban on futures trading in agricultural commodities for an additional year, now in effect until December 20, 2024.
- The move came despite opposition from the cabinet secretariat and the National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange (NCDEX). The ban on futures trading in specific agricultural commodities was initially imposed by the finance ministry through SEBI in 2021.

7.CCI becomes a member of the International Competition Network's steering group

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has become a part of the prestigious 18-member steering committee of the International Competition Network (ICN) after "consistent efforts", the regulator said.
- The steering committee is the ICN's apex body. The ICN, comprising 140 competition agencies, typically provides antitrust authorities with a specialised, yet informal, venue for maintaining regular contacts and addressing practical competition concerns.

8.RBI Grants Approval to SBI Mutual Fund for Acquisition of 9.99% Paid-Up Share Capital in IndusInd Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) 11 issued its approval to SBI Mutual Fund (SBI MF), the mutual funds arm of the State Bank of India, to acquire 9.99 percent of the paid-up share capital in private lender IndusInd Bank, a regulatory filing stated on October 11.
- "SBI MF has been advised by RBI to acquire the aforesaid major shareholding in the bank within a period of one year i.e. by October 10, 2024", the exchange filing added.

9.RBI to directly regulate entities facilitating cross-border payment transactions

- The Reserve Bank of India all entities facilitating cross border payment transactions for import and export of goods and services will be directly regulated by it.
- Such entities will be treated as Payment Aggregator-Cross Border (PA-CB), the central bank said in a circular. The circular also prescribes procedures for handling of online transactions by the PAs.

10.RBI Sets Guidelines for the Closure of District Central Cooperative Bank Branches

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has made an important announcement regarding District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs). This decision is aimed at streamlining the functioning of DCCBs and ensuring that the process of branch closure is conducted responsibly and transparently.
- These banks are now permitted to close their unremunerative branches without seeking prior permission from the central bank, although they will require approval from the Registrar of Cooperative Societies of the respective state.

11.SBI Card Collaborates with Reliance Retail to Introduce 'Reliance SBI Card

- SBI Card has tied up with Reliance Retail to launch the Reliance SBI Card credit card, giving customers who shop at its retail outlets access to rewards and benefits, the company said in a statement.

- Customers shopping at Reliance Retail's fashion & lifestyle, grocery, consumer electronics, pharma, furniture, and jewellery, among others, will get rewards and benefits by using the Reliance SBI Card.

12. Kotak Mahindra Bank to sell 51% stake in Kotak General Insurance to Zurich Insurance for Rs 4,051 crore

- Kotak Mahindra Bank will sell majority stake in subsidiary Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company to Zurich Insurance Company for Rs 4,051 crore. Kotak Mahindra Bank, Kotak Mahindra General Insurance and Zurich Insurance have finalised agreements for a deal in which Zurich will invest around Rs 4,051 crore to obtain a 51% stake in Kotak General Insurance.
- This investment will be a combination of fresh capital infusion and share purchase, the bank said in a stock exchange filing.

13. UCO Bank realigns growth strategy with focus on profitable corporate lending

- State-owned lender Uco Bank is implementing a strategic shift in its growth plan, concentrating on the pursuit of a "profitable" corporate loan portfolio expansion while identifying retail, MSME, and agriculture as its key drivers of growth in the coming quarters.
- This shift in perspective concerning the bank's corporate loan portfolio coincides with the delayed rate cut expectations, attributed to global inflation and geopolitical uncertainties.

14. IRDAI's new CIS mandate for health insurance to foster trust, reduce grievances

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has asked insurers to provide updated customer information sheets (CIS) for health insurance policies highlighting all key policy details in simple terms from January 1, 2024.
- From type of policy to coverage details to waiting period to limit and sub-limits to exclusions to free-look period to portability to guidance on procedure for claims submission and contact details for filing complaints will be available "in simple language".

15. RBI Permits District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) to Close Branches Without Prior Notice to the Central Bank

- The RBI said District Central Co-operative Banks are allowed to close their un-remunerative branches without prior permission of the central bank, though a nod will be needed from the Registrar of Cooperative Societies of the respective state.
- The decision to close down branches should be taken by the Board after taking into account all the relevant factors and should be properly recorded/minuted in the proceedings of the Board meeting, the Reserve Bank of India said in a circular.

16. HSBC introduces e-Bank Guarantees to digitise trade finance

- The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, India (HSBC India) has introduced Electronic Bank Guarantee (E-BG) services to facilitate digitization of trade finance.
- HSBC is the first foreign bank in the country to offer this facility which is made possible through a collaboration with National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL), a digital solutions provider.

17. Reserve Bank of India's Gold Reserves Reach 800 Tonnes

- The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) gold holdings, part of its foreign exchange reserves, has reached near 800 tonnes level. The landmark number comes at a time when the first tranche of sovereign gold bonds (SGBs) issued in 2015 are going to come up for redemption in November.
- Though the central bank has not said anything officially, experts believe that some of the recent purchases may be happening as a hedge to its exposure in SGBs.

18.HDFC ERGO General Insurance launches Optima Secure

- Health insurance is a financial arrangement that provides coverage for medical expenses and healthcare services. It is crucial to have health insurance as it offers financial protection against unexpected medical costs, ensuring that individuals can access necessary medical care without facing excessive financial burdens.
- HDFC ERGO General Insurance has introduced Optima Secure, a health insurance plan that offers 4 times the coverage without any additional cost, aiming to redefine the value proposition of health insurance.

19.Government Extends Tenure of Bank of Maharashtra and Central Bank Managing Directors

- The government has granted approval for the extension of the tenure of Managing Directors (MDs) of two public sector banks, the Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) and the Central Bank of India.
- The decision to extend the tenure of these MDs was made by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), which is responsible for such appointments and extensions in government organisations.

20. RBI imposes monetary penalty on four co-operative banks, one NBFC

- The Reserve Bank has imposed monetary penalties on four co-operative banks and a non-banking financial company (NBFC) for deficiencies in regulatory compliance.
- The co-operative banks are: Shree Lodra Nagarik Sahakari Bank Ltd, Malpur Nagarik Sahakari Bank Ltd, Jolarpet Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd, Limbasi Urban Co-operative Bank and the NBFC is Early Salary Services Private Ltd.

21.Cooperative Banks Must Approach RBI's Department of Supervision for Name Change

- Cooperative banks wishing to change their names are required to contact the Department of Supervision (DoS) at the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- The name change requests of cooperative banks cannot be approved by the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS) or the Registrar of Cooperative Societies (RCS).

22. Zurich Insurance set to acquire 51% stake in Kotak General Insurance for Rs 4,051 cr

- Zurich Insurance will acquire a majority stake of 51 percent in Kotak General Insurance for a total consideration of Rs 4,051 crore via a combination of fresh growth capital and share purchase, Kotak Mahindra Bank said in a press statement.
- Additionally, Zurich Insurance will acquire an additional stake of 19 percent in the insurance player within three years. This investment is the single largest investment by a global strategic insurer in an Indian non-life insurer.

23. RBI governor Das pitches linking fast payment platforms of India, Japan

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Shaktikanta Das suggested linking fast payment platforms of India and Japan for easy cross-border transfers.
- India's UPI (unified payments interface) has spurred development of new payment-related products and services, Das said, adding that linking the UPI with fast payment systems of other countries is being undertaken.

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24. Regulators should balance innovation in non-banks, mitigate risks in banks

- There are adequate reasons for regulators and policymakers to adopt a balance between supporting growth and product innovation in the non-bank sector, and mitigating risks in the traditional banking system, said a report by the Centre for Advanced Financial Research and Learning (Cafral).
- "The quality of the underwriting processes and third-party lending practices among NBFCs and FinTech companies warrant that regulators exercise high vigilance and active and continuous surveillance," it said

25. Govt looks to offload 5-10% in some public sector banks

- The government is keen to take advantage of the sharp rally in share prices of public sector banks (PSBs) that are riding on much-improved financial performance and fundamentals.

- The stake sale can be conducted through the offer-for-sale route for lenders that are not inclined toward a rights issue, said people aware of the deliberations.

26.ICICI Bank receives RBI nod to make ICICI Securities a wholly owned subsidiary

- ICICI Bank received approval from the Reserve Bank of India for making ICICI Securities a wholly-owned subsidiary. “We would like to inform you that the bank has received approval from Reserve Bank of India for making ICICI Securities a wholly owned subsidiary, subject to certain conditions,” the bank said in an exchange notification.
- The bank on June 26 had said that it would consider a proposal for delisting of its institutional and retail broking arm ICICI Securities.

27.Shreyas Iyer tweaked his technique against bouncers and smashed a hundred against Netherlands

- Unlike his innings at the Eden Gardens, this was Shreyas Iyer at his free-flowing best. The only thing that he had to ensure was not throw away his wicket like Shubman Gill, Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli had done.
- Shreyas’ problem against short-pitched deliveries is well documented. Since his comeback after the injury, once at the Asia Cup against Pakistan and twice at this World Cup against New Zealand and England, Shreyas had fallen to the short ball. At Mumbai’s Wankhede stadium, before the Sri Lanka game, he spent long hours with head coach Rahul Dravid at the nest to overcome this issue.

28.India’s Inaugural MSME Economic Activity Index in Partnership with SIDBI

- Jocata said that a team of credit experts, data scientists and senior economists have built and tracked the Index over the past four years ensuring its ability to accurately represent the MSME economy and capture the impact of macroeconomic conditions.
- Prashant Muddu, Managing Director & CEO at Jocata said Sumpoorn will address the MSME knowledge gap and empower financial institutions, policymakers, economists and researchers to strategize credit flow and create tailored policies for the sustainable growth of MSMEs across the country.

29.NHAI Accepts First Insurance Surety Bond as Bid Security for NHAI TOT Bid for Monetization

- To boost liquidity and capacity of bidders, National Highways Authority of India(NHAI) has accepted Insurance Surety Bond for the monetization program of the upcoming bid of Toll Operate Transfer (TOT) Bundle 14.
- This will be the first time this innovative instrument is being utilised as a Bank Guarantee (BG) in the road infrastructure sector for monetization of bids.

30. Punjab National Bank Launches Digital Gold Loan for Convenient Credit Access

- Punjab National Bank (PNB), the nation's leading public sector bank, celebrated a one-day Digital Mahotsav at its Head Office in Dwarka, New Delhi. At the event, PNB unveiled a plethora of products and services, including the Digital Gold Loan.
- Individuals can apply for a loan ranging from Rs 25,000 to Rs 25 lakhs for their personal needs, and persons engaged in agriculture or allied activities can apply for a loan ranging from Rs 10,000 to Rs 2 lakhs.

31. PayGlocal Receives Regulatory Approval from RBI for Payment Aggregator License

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given approval to PayGlocal for a payment aggregator license. It has received in-principle approval from RBI for Payment Aggregator (PA) license.
- After completion of the process, PayGlocal will be able to onboard merchants onto its platform for online payment processing.

32. Deloitte Report Highlights Indian Banks Outperforming Global Peers in Digital Maturity Scores

- As per a survey-based report by Deloitte India called "Digital Banking Maturity (DBM)" In terms of digital maturity score, Indian banks are outperforming their international counterparts relative to the global average.
- The report indicates that Indian banks not only outperform global averages but also have the opportunity for further growth, positioning them to become "Digital Champions."

33. RBI Report Indicates Forex Reserves Import Cover at 10.2 Months as of June-end 2023

- India's forex reserves cover of imports on balance of payments basis has grown to 10.2 months as at June-end 2023. India's forex reserves cover of imports was at 9.6 months at end-March 2023.
- Trade-Based Indicator – Import Cover: Import cover, serving as a trade-based indicator, reflects the adequacy of reserves to cover the country's imports.

34. Government of India (GoI) and Asian Development Bank Ink \$400 Million Loan Agreement to Enhance Urban Services through Improved Infrastructure, Service Delivery, and Governance Systems

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$400 million policy-based loan to India for Subprogram 2 of the Sustainable Urban Development and Service Delivery Program.
- The program aims to support the government's urban reform agenda for improving the quality of urban life through the creation of high-quality urban infrastructure, assured public services, and efficient governance systems.

SCIENCE TECH & DEFENCE

1. Russia accuses Ukraine of damaging a nuclear waste warehouse as the battle for Avdiivka grinds on

- Russia accused Ukraine on October 28 of damaging a nuclear waste storage facility in a drone strike on the Kursk nuclear power plant while fighting raged on for the control of the key eastern city of Avdiivka, where Russians apparently suffered heavy losses.
- Russia's Defence Ministry said that the country's air defences shot down six Ukrainian drones in the early hours of Saturday, including four in the western Oryol region, and two more over the Tula region, south of Moscow.

2. Japan Becomes 1st Nation To Launch An Electromagnetic Railgun From An Offshore Vessel

- Japan achieved a significant milestone in defence technology by successfully test-firing a medium-calibre maritime electromagnetic rail gun. This remarkable feat marks the first time any nation has managed to launch a railgun from an offshore platform.
- The test was conducted in collaboration between the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) and the Acquisition Technology & Logistics Agency (ATLA), a division of the Japanese Ministry of Defense.

3. Coal Ministry and Ministry of New & Renewable Energy to Work Jointly to Promote Green Energy

- The Ministry of Coal and the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy decided to work together for the promotion of green energy. Over 1600 MW solar Energy generation capacity have been installed.
- During a secretary-level joint meeting between the two ministries, it was decided that the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy would provide technical, policy & capacity building support and Ministry of Coal will provide land, capital and undertake implementation of solar energy, green hydrogen and other renewable energy projects.

4. Indian Oil launches country's first reference fuel; to fully meet domestic demand

- The Union Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas launched the 'Reference Gasoline and Diesel Fuels' produced by IndianOil for the first time in India. IndianOil has successfully commenced the production of Reference Gasoline and Diesel Fuels for the first time in India.
- Reference fuels (Gasoline and Diesel) are premium, high-value products used for calibration and testing of vehicles by auto OEMs and organisations involved in testing and certification in the automotive field.

5. World's first AI Safety Institute to be set up in United Kingdom – Prime Minister Mr Rishi Sunak

- Britain will set up the world's first artificial intelligence (AI) safety institute, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said before he hosts a gathering next week of representatives of AI companies, political leaders and experts.
- The institute "will advance the world's knowledge of AI safety and it will carefully examine, evaluate and test new types of AI so that we understand what each new model is capable of, exploring all the risks from social harms like bias and misinformation through to the most extreme risks of all," Sunak said in a speech in London.

6.Indian Army's First Vertical Wind Tunnel Installed at Special Forces Training School in Himachal Pradesh

- The Indian Army has installed its first Vertical Wind Tunnel (VWT) at the Special Forces Training School (SFTS) in Himachal Pradesh (HP).
- The inauguration of the Vertical Wind Tunnel was carried out by the Army Chief, General Manoj Pande.

7.Paysharp Private Limited Attains ISO 27001 Certification for Payment Aggregation

- Paysharp Private Limited, an RBI in-principle approved payment aggregator based in Chennai, has achieved ISO / IEC 27001: 2022 certification, an internationally recognised standard for information security management systems.
- Paysharp primarily facilitates non-card-based payments, such as UPI (Unified Payments Interface) payments.

8.NASA Plans 2027 Launch of Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope for Milky Way Observation

- NASA's Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope will provide one of the deepest-ever views into the heart of our Milky Way galaxy. Roman will likely set a new record for the farthest-known exoplanet, offering a glimpse of a different galactic neighborhood that could be home to worlds quite unlike the more than 5,500 that are currently known.
- Roman's long-term sky monitoring, which will enable these results, represents a boon to what scientists call time-domain astronomy, which studies how the universe changes over time. Roman will join a growing, international fleet of observatories working together to capture these changes as they unfold.

9.Revathi, director, CESS, is the chairperson of the organising committee and Dr B. Suresh Reddy, associate professor, CESS, organising secretary.

- The Union Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated the three-day 'India Manufacturing Show' in Bengaluru, Karnataka. The central theme of the event is 'Make in India, Make for the World'.

- The show has been jointly organised by Laghu Udhdyog Bharti & IMS Foundation and supported by the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence.

10.Kilonova explosion in space could disrupt earth for 1000 years

- Based on recent scientific findings, researchers are analysing the potential consequences of a neutron star collision in close proximity to Earth, concluding that these phenomena, known as kilonovae, could pose an existential threat to humanity.
- The immensely effective collision of ultra-dense neutron stars, every single containing a mass equal to somewhere around one billion tons in just a mere teaspoon, results in a particle explosion able of annihilating our planet's ozone layer. This would render the Earth susceptible to ultraviolet radiation for the subsequent 1,000 yrs, constituting an extinction-amount occasion.

11.Bangladesh to Construct Memorial Honouring Indian Heroes of 1971 War

- A memorial to honor the Indian soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971 at Ashuganj in Bangladesh is in the advanced stages of completion. This will be the first memorial in Bangladesh to exclusively honour Indian soldiers from the 1971 war.
- The foundation stone for the memorial at Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria was laid by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in March 2021.

12.Sweden's Saab secures India's first 100% FDI in defence project

- Sweden's Saab has reportedly become the first foreign company that has bagged 100% FDI in India's defence projects. According to a report by the Economic Times, Sweden's Saab will set up a new facility in the country that will manufacture shoulder-fired rockets.
- Citing sources, the English daily added that the ₹500 crore FDI proposal was cleared last month. Mint could not independently verify the report.

13.Union Government bans Mahadev App and 21 other illegal betting platforms on ED's request

- The Central Government has banned 22 illegal betting apps including controversial Mahadev Book. The Ministry took the step on the recommendation of the Enforcement Directorate (ED).
- In an order issued, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology blocked 22 illegal betting apps and websites including Mahadev Book and Reddyannaprestopro.

14.InterGlobe Enterprises ties up with US-based Archer for air taxi service

- Come 2026 and IndiGo parent InterGlobe Enterprises plans to launch and operate an all-electric taxi air service in India, starting with Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru. It has tied up with a leading California-based electric air taxi

company, Archer Aviation, that is backed by the likes of Boeing, United Airlines and auto major Stellantis.

- The partnership plans to finance the purchase of up to 200 of Archer's electric vertical take off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft — Midnight — for the India operations.

15.China and Pakistan Navies hold drills days after Russia's historic Andaman exercise

- The Chinese and Pakistani navies are holding weeklong drills in the Arabian Sea days after the Russian Pacific Fleet and Myanmar practised repelling attacks in their first maritime exercise, while India and the U.S. pledged security cooperation.
- At a naval base in Karachi on Saturday, the Chinese and Pakistani navies kicked off the exercise in the waters and airspace of the northern Arabian Sea in drills that include anti-submarine operations. The exercise will end on November 17.

16.IndiGo Parent InterGlobe To Operate Electric Air Taxis In India

- InterGlobe Enterprises, the parent company of IndiGo, has announced its intention to introduce an all-electric air taxi service in India by 2026. In connection with its plans to operate the air taxi service, IndiGo has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Archer Aviation – a company that deals in electric aircrafts, air taxis.
- Once launched, the InterGlobe-Archer flight will carry passengers from Connaught Place in the national capital to Gurugram in Haryana in approximately 7 minutes whereas by road, the 27-kilometre-long trip will take 60-90 minutes.

17.Wood Mackenzie Report Predicts India's Rise as the Second-Largest Solar Module Manufacturer by 2025

- According to the Wood Mackenzie report, India would become world's 2nd largest solar module manufacturer by 2025.
- India's ascent is attributed to the strong incentives provided under the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme. India and the United States have jointly announced plans for more than 200 gigawatts (GW) of module capacity since 2022.

18.Visakhapatnam Hosts the 4th Edition of BONGOSAGAR-23 and 5th Edition of CORPAT Between Indian and Bangladesh Navies

- The 4th edition of Bilateral Exercise between Indian Navy and Bangladesh Navy, BONGOSAGAR-23, and the 5th edition of Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) by the two navies was conducted in the Northern Bay of Bengal.
- Ships and aircraft from both navies undertook joint patrolling along the International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL), and subsequently conducted maritime exercises to enhance interoperability.

19. India is likely to become the second largest solar module manufacturer by

2025: Wood Mackenzie.

- In its latest report, Wood Mackenzie has forecasted that India will overtake Southeast Asia as the second-largest module production region by 2025. Wood Mackenzie said this will be driven by India's strong PLI incentives.
- It added India and the US have announced over 200 gigawatts (GW) of planned module capacity since 2022. Earlier, ICRA said India's solar photovoltaic (PV) module manufacturing capacity to increase to more than 60 GW by 2025 from the current level of around 37 GW.

20.9th India International Science Festival (IISF) 2023 to be held at Faridabad, Haryana from January 17th-20th, 2024

- The 9th edition of the India International Science Festival (IISF) 2023 will be held at Faridabad, Haryana from January 17th-20th, 2024, Ministry of Science and Technology informed in a press release.
- The press release further stated that the science festival will be held at the Campus of Translational Health Science and Technology Institute (THSTI) and Regional Centre for Biotechnology (RCB) of Department of Biotechnology in Faridabad.

21. Russia Agrees to Supply Igla Anti-Aircraft Missiles to India and Allows Local Production

- Russia has signed a deal to supply Igla-S hand-held anti-aircraft missiles to India. As part of the deal, Russia will also allow production of the Igla in India under licence.
- According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Russia accounted for 45% of India's arms imports between 2018 and 2022, with France providing 29% and the United States 11%.

22. "Chandigarh Smart City Introduces AI-Powered Chatbot 'BIRBAL' to Enhance 'Ease of Living'"

- Chandigarh Smart City Limited (CSCL) has launched an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-driven interactive chatbot named 'BIRBAL' to enhance citizen-centric services.
- CSCL chief executive officer (CEO) Anindita Mitra launched the interactive chat-based interface that merged all major citizen services provided by the UT administration and municipal corporation (MC) into one seamless platform.

23. Highly Awaited Joint Exercise 'Trishakti Prahar' Commences Near Western Border in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer

- Much anticipated joint military exercise 'Trishakti Prahar' begins on western front of Rajasthan. The joint military exercise involving over 25000 troops is aimed to showcase the operational preparedness in the backdrop of the Russia Ukraine and Israel Palestine wars.

- The much-anticipated joint military exercise ‘Trishakti Prahar’ has commenced near the western border of Rajasthan in Jaisalmer.

BOOKS AND AWARDS

1.Union Home Minister’s Special Operation Medal” for this year awarded to four Special Operations

- The “Union Home Minister’s Special Operation Medal” for this year has been awarded for four Special Operations. Several officers and personnel from CRPF, NIA, NCB and different States, and organizations have been selected for the award.
- According to the Home Ministry, the award will be conferred for Special Operation in the areas such as counter-terrorism, border action, arms control, prevention of narcotics smuggling and rescue operations.

2.EscrowPay Achieves India’s First IFSCA Digital Escrow Authorization

- EscrowPay, a digital escrow platform, has received the first digital escrow regulatory fintech authorization from the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (Gift City), Gandhinagar, Gujarat marking a major milestone in its commitment to compliance and innovation in digital payments.
- The digital escrow regulatory authorisation is a testament to Escrowpay’s dedication to providing secure and efficient financial solutions to 70 million Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in India.

3.10-year-old Bangalore kid wins prestigious ‘Wildlife Photographer of the Year’ award

- 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.

4.Max Verstappen wins Brazilian Grand Prix 2023

- Max Verstappen won his fifth race in a row and earned his 17th checkered flag of 2023 in the Brazilian Grand Prix, extending the single-season record he already claimed last week.
- Verstappen was yet again untouchable once he hit full stride midway through the race. For Norris, the task became holding onto his position in second place.

5.Rohini Nayyar prize: Social worker’s contribution in Bastar recognised with award

- The Second Rohini Nayyar Prize for outstanding contribution to rural development was presented to Deenanath Rajput, an engineer-turned-social worker, for his work on empowering tribal women in Bastar, Chhattisgarh.

- The prize was presented in memory of late economist-administrator Dr Rohini Nayyar. It came with a trophy, a citation and cash prize of Rs 10 lakh.

6. Public screening of 69th National Film Award-winning films of 2021 to take place in Delhi

- The much-anticipated Public Screening of the 69th National Film Award winning films of 2021 is set to captivate audiences in Delhi from 14th – 25th November, 2023. There are 30 Feature Films and 27 Non-Feature Films from 18 Languages which will be screened during the 12-day screening at Siri Fort Auditorium II.
- The public screening of the films will showcase the selection of the most compelling and noteworthy films honored at the 69th National Film Awards. All the films carry English subtitles. Entry will be from Gate No. 5 and will be free on first-come-first-served basis with a valid photo identity.

7. United Kingdom to Add India to its List of Safe Countries

- The United Kingdom (UK) has decided to include India in its list of safe states. Apart from India, Georgia has also been included in the list of safe states of the UK.
- Other nations deemed safe by the UK include Albania, Switzerland along with European Union (EU) and European Economic Area (EEA) states. This decision was announced by the UK Home Office to streamline immigration procedures and enhance border control measures.

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8. 54th International Film Festival of India Scheduled for November 20th to 28th in Goa

- The 54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) is scheduled to take place in Goa from November 20 to 28, 2023 as announced by Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting Shri Anurag Thakur.
- The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India through National Film Development Corporation (NFDC), jointly with the State Government of Goa through its Entertainment Society of Goa (ESG), is organizing 54th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) from 20 to 28 Nov, 2023 at Goa.

9. India ranked 117th among 129 nations in the inclusiveness index by the US varsity

- Bangladesh has been ranked 106th in the list of 129 countries in the world in the inclusiveness index published by the Othering and Belonging Institute (OBI) at California University, United States.
- This is higher than larger countries like India and Russia who ranked 117th and 120th respectively, according to the list published on OBI website.

10.Uttarakhand is set to become the first state to implement a Uniform Civil Code

- Uttarakhand is reportedly set to become the first state in the country to implement the Uniform Civil Code next week. A report will be submitted to Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami in the next couple of days by a committee formed under the leadership of Justice (retired) Ranjana Desai, India reported citing sources.
- The UCC is a proposal to formulate and implement personal laws which will apply uniformly to all citizens regardless of their religion, gender or sexual orientation. The code comes under Article 44 of the Constitution.

SPORTS

1.Netherlands beat Bangladesh, Australia win against New Zealand in a thriller

- The Men's 2023 ODI World Cup is now building towards the final on November 19. Each morning we will round up the latest action and news from the event and bring you the insights from our reporters on the ground.
- In the foothills of the highest peaks in the world, Dharamsala hosted the highest-scoring World Cup game of all-time as Australia held off New Zealand in a 771-run thriller that reached giddy heights and featured records galore.

2.India up against England in bid to extend their unbeaten run in ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023

- After a week-long gap, the most in-form team of the World Cup, India, is back on its quest for a place in the semifinal when they take on England at Lucknow's Ekana Stadium. On one hand, where the Men in Blue are appearing more formidable with every passing game, Jos Buttler's England are on the verge of exiting the World Cup.
- With four defeats in five games, their campaign is dangling by a thread. While a defeat will certainly not do them any favours, a win may just delay what seems to be the inevitable as England go searching for a tiny ray of hope that may just bring their World Cup campaign back on track.

3.Priyanka Goswami of Uttar Pradesh set a new record in the Women's 20 km Race Walk at the National Games in Goa

- Priyanka Goswami of Uttar Pradesh has also set a new National Games record in the women's 20km Race Walk with an impressive time of 1 hour 36 minutes 35 seconds.

- Tejas Ashok Shirse of Maharashtra achieved an incredible feat, setting a new National Games record in Men's 110M hurdles by finishing it in 13.80 seconds. Sportsmanship and camaraderie are on full display at the 37th National Games in Goa.

4.Zahid Hussain, hailing from South Kashmir, has won a silver medal at the Asian Shooting Championship.

- Zahid Hussain, hailing from Kashmir, achieved a remarkable feat by securing the silver medal at the prestigious Asian Shooting Championship held in South Korea.
- His outstanding performance not only brought joy to his hometown but also marked a significant step towards representing his nation at the Paris 2024 Olympics.Zahid Hussain secured the runner-up position in the men's 50M rifle prone event with a total score of 624.5 points.

5.India versus South Africa is the 'boro match' Kolkata, Eden Gardens and the world have been waiting for

- The steel barricades at the entrance of the Eden Gardens creaked as hundreds of fans pushed each other to capture the photographs of South Africa cricketers de-boarding from the team bus. The fans waved banners and newspaper cutouts of Quinton de Kock and Kagiso Rabada, and chanted their names in the forenoon frenzy.
- Some of the South African cricketers, delightfully shocked, waved them back and the bunched-up crowd roared in joy. "Cheer us, tomorrow too," shouted one of the support staff members.

6.Swinging between jolly jokes and sobbing tears, He Bingjiao keeps her elegant game going

- He Bingjiao knew she would be playing one of her Chinese teammates in the semifinals of the French Open last week because that's how the draw had stacked them up.
- Speaking to the BWF after her quarterfinal, she was asked in jest if she would share the dinner table that night with her mate-slash-opponent or join them ahead of the semis the next morning, at breakfast.

7.In Hockey, India lifts Women's Asian Champions Trophy title after thumping win over Japan in Ranchi

- In Hockey, the Indian women's team dethroned Japan to crown themselves Asian Champions Trophy winners.
- The hosts beat Japan 4-0 in the final in Ranchi.India overcame the two-time champions through goals from Sangita Kumari, Neha, Laremsiami and Vandana Katariya.

8.Netherlands punch above their weight in World Cup 2023, deliver resounding wake-up call to ICC

- Netherlands' promising performance at the World Cup should pave the way for more exposure by the ICC.Netherlands first qualified for the 50-over

World Cup in 1996, jointly staged by India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. They then played in every World Cup between 2003 and 2011, but coming into the 2023 edition, they had only two victories in 20 matches – against Namibia in 2003 and Scotland four years later.

- They have since doubled their tally of wins following their conquests of South Africa in Dharamsala and Bangladesh in Kolkata. An unlikely win against India on Sunday in Bengaluru will help them avoid the wooden spoon in the 10-team tournament, a massive shot in the arm for a nation with only a handful of professional cricketers.

9.Ganguly's striking 'IPL' remark in comparing India, Pakistan's WC run

- India and Pakistan have incurred contrasting journeys at the World Cup. And the legendary Sourav Ganguly explains it why India and Pakistan have incurred extremely contrasting journeys at the 2023 World Cup. India still remain the only unbeaten side in the tournament, where they have won all eight of their league games to qualify for the semifinal for the fourth straight time.
- Pakistan, on the other hand, lost five of their league games, the first time ever at a single World Cup edition, which included an array of four straight losses, to finish fifth in the points table. This was the third straight time in 11 years that Pakistan failed to make the semifinals of a World Cup. (India vs Netherlands Live Score, Cricket World Cup 2023)

10.For father who chanted 'Saachin, Saachin', it's time for 'Raachin, Raachin'

- The software engineer, who migrated to New Zealand in the '90s, was at M Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru when Rachin, playing Pakistan, smashed his third century of the tournament.
- Ravi Krishnamurthy, 53, can't get a chant out of his head since the time he returned to his home in Wellington after the short trip to India to watch his son Rachin Ravindra play the World Cup.

11.ICC Board suspends Sri Lanka Cricket's membership of ICC with immediate effect

- Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) has been suspended by the ICC with immediate effect because of extensive government interference in the board's administration.
- Though the ICC has termed the sanction a "suspension", in reality, it is a warning as the ICC seeks to prevent further government interference in the running of SLC.

12.ICC Hall of Fame welcomes De Silva, Edulji and Sehwag as Class of 2023 inductees

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced new names to be included in its Cricket Hall of Fame. With these 3 more additions, there will now be 112 cricketers to be on the ICC Hall of Fame list.

- The new names announced by the ICC are India's legendary opener Virender Sehwag, former Indian Women Test skipper Diana Edulji and Sri Lanka's iconic star Aravinda de Silva.

OBITUARY

1.Filmmaker lal Joes's mother lily Passes away

- Lilly Jose, the mother of renowned film director Lal Jose, passed away at the age of 83. She had worked as a Hindi teacher at LSN Government Higher Secondary School.
- The funeral proceedings will take place on Monday at St. Joseph's Church in Thottakkara, starting at 3 PM. Lal Jose is the eldest son of Lilly and her husband, Jose.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1.CVC observes Vigilance Awareness Week 2023 from 30th Oct-5th Nov 2023

- Vigilance Awareness Week 2023 commenced with the administering of the integrity pledge to the officials of the Commission by the Commission – Shri Praveen Kumar Srivastava, Central Vigilance Commissioner and Shri Arvinda Kumar, Vigilance Commissioner at Satarkata Bhawan, New Delhi.
- As a prelude to Vigilance Awareness Week 2023, the Commission had earlier issued instructions detailing a three-month campaign period (16th August 2023 – 15th November 2023)

2. World Savings Day: 31st October

- World Savings Day 2023 is observed on the 31st of October 2023. (30th October in India) World Savings Day, also called World Thrift Day, was first established in the year 1924 during the first International Savings Bank Congress.
- On the last day of Congress exactly on October 30, the Congress decided to celebrate World Savings Day every year to insist on the importance of saving money and also to insist on the method of saving money through banks and other modes.

3.World Radiography Day: 8th November

- World Radiography Day 2023 is observed on the 8th of November 2023. This year, 2023, the World Radiography Day Theme is "Celebrating patient safety".
- X-Ray was discovered in 1895 by Wilhelm Roentgen. In his laboratory, he accidentally discovered a new Electromagnetic wave that is transparent through flesh but won't transfer through metals and bones.

4.Children's Day in India is celebrated every year on 14th November

- Children's Day in India is observed on the 14th of November 2023. Jawaharlal Nehru was born to a Kashmiri Brahmins Royal family on November 14th, 1889. Later he moved to Delhi and completed his Scholarship.
- His father's name was Motilal Nehru. Jawaharlal was the eldest of four children, two of whom were girls. A sister, Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, later became the first woman president of the United Nations General Assembly.

5. International Day for Tolerance is observed every year on 16th November

- International Day for Tolerance 2023 is observed on the 16th of November 2023. In 1993, at the initiative of UNESCO, the United Nations proclaimed 1995 as "The Year for Tolerance".
- UNESCO's 1995 Declaration of Principles on Tolerance was that tolerance is respect, acceptance, and appreciation of the rich diversity of our world's cultures, our forms of expression, and our ways of being human.

6. International Students Day is observed every year on 17th November

- International Students Day 2023 is observed on the 17th of November 2023. When Adolf Hitler came to power in 1933, the Third Reich started aggressive claims over territories outside Germany's borders.
- The Nazis first captured Austria in 1938, Hitler's home country. Next, they forced Czechoslovakia to surrender half of its territories. Germany occupied the Czech regions, forcing Slovakia to split into a satellite state.

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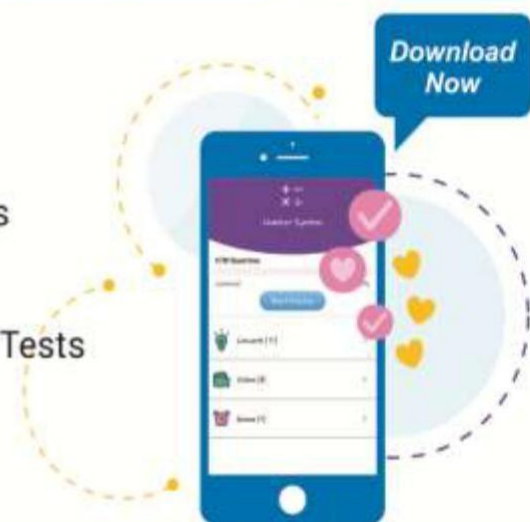
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