

Monthly G.K Capsule

September, 2023

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NATIONAL NEWS

1.Nagaland becomes first state in North Eastern Region to commence Aadhaar linked birth registration

- The initiative facilitates Birth Registration based Aadhaar Enrolment for children in the 0-5 years age group. The service was launched by T. Mhabemo Yanthan, Commissioner, Nagaland in the presence of Neidilhou Angami, Director, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Govt. of Nagaland.
- This pioneering initiative aims to streamline birth registration by integrating Aadhaar enrolment for children in the age group of 0 to 5 years. The initiative is anticipated to enable children's access to various social welfare schemes designed for their welfare.

2.MCL signs MoU with CIPET, Bhubaneswar to skill 1040 youths of Odisha

- Mahanadi Coalfields Limited signed two Memorandums of Understanding(MoU) with CIPET, Bhubaneswar for skill training development projects this morning. Under these projects 1000 youths from Odisha will be provided skill training in machine operator courses and 40 youths will be trained under ITI courses.
- All the courses are residential which will be provided at skill training institutes of CIPET, Bhubaneswar. Mahanadi Coalfields Limited will be providing Rs.11.70 crores to these projects under it's CSR initiative project 'Kovida-2'. This is one of the many developmental projects which is being undertaken by MCL to generate sustainable livelihood for the youths in the State of Odisha.

3.Telangana to Host India's First Gorilla Glass Manufacturing Facility by Corning Inc

- Corning Inc. will be setting up its Gorilla Glass manufacturing facility in Telangana, which is a first-of-its-kind investment in the country. The proposed manufacturing facility will manufacture cover glass for market leaders in the smartphone industry.
- The manufacturing facility is being set up with a proposed investment of Rs. 934 crore and would generate employment for over 800 people. This will play a pivotal role in driving the smart phone manufacturing ecosystem in Telangana and in the country.

4.President Droupadi Murmu unveils Mahatma Gandhi's statue at Gandhi Darshan near Rajghat in New Delhi

- President Droupadi Murmu unveiled a 12 feet high statue of the father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi and a 'Gandhi Vatika' at Gandhi Darshan near Rajghat in New Delhi. To enhance the visitor experience, a selfie point has been established within Gandhi Vatika. The Gandhi Vatika features multiple statues of Mahatma Gandhi depicting him in various postures.
- This initiative, organized by the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, carries immense significance as it coincides with India's celebration of 75 years of independence and its tenure as the G20 presidency. Let's explore the details of this event and its symbolic importance.

5.Shri Parshottam Rupala will chair a one-day “National Conference on KCC for Fisheries” in Mumbai

- Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Shri Parshottam Rupala will chair a one-day “National Conference on KCC for Fisheries” at Yashwantrao Chavan Centre in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The Conference is being jointly organized by the Department of Fisheries (DoF) and the Department of Animal Husbandry Dairying (DAHD) to resolve pressing on-ground issues.
- Representatives from Fisheries Department of States/UTs, NFDB and other relevant Departments/Ministries, KCC beneficiaries, fishermen, fish farmers, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders from across the nation are expected to participate. The program is being organised in hybrid mode and is expected to have around 500 participants.

6.Shri Parshottam Rupala lays the Foundation Stone for the establishment of Multi-Purpose Seaweed Park in Tamil Nadu

- On the third day of the Sagar Parikrama Phase VIII, Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Shri Parshottam Rupala laid the Foundation Stone for the establishment of Multi-Purpose Seaweed Park in Tamil Nadu.
- This begins a new chapter and is seen as a key strategic initiative to boost the seaweed sector in India. The program was started with Bhumi Pujanam and foundation-stone laying at the Multipurpose Seaweed Park site, at Valamavur, Thondi, Ramanathapuram by Shri Parshottam Rupala, Dr. L. Murugan and other dignitaries.

7.India's First AI-Powered Anti-Drone System Unveiled By Hyderabad Firm

- A Hyderabad-based robotics company has introduced a cutting-edge autonomous anti-drone system, utilizing artificial intelligence. This system offers protection not only for critical facilities such as nuclear sites and oil rigs but also extends its coverage to include entire cities, effectively countering various types of drones.
- Named Indrajaal, this groundbreaking technology is acclaimed as the world's sole wide-area Counter-Unmanned Aircraft System (C-UAS). It

boasts the ability to deliver a comprehensive and integrated security solution against dynamic threats, a feat that static defence systems cannot achieve.

8.Kathmandu-Kalinga Literary Festival concludes in Lalitpur, Nepal

- The three day long Kathmandu-Kalinga Literary Festival successfully came to an end in Lalitpur, Nepal. Minister for Foreign Affairs NP Saud of Nepal had inaugurated the festival. This event fulfilled its role in the exchange of culture in the South Asia promoting literary and cultural activities. Litterateur from India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka exhibited in the Festival. The festival showcased literature, music, dance, poetry and other art forms.

9.Gujarat Declaration underlines outcome of first WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit 2023

- World Health Organization (WHO) has released the outcome document of first WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit 2023 in form of “Gujarat Declaration”. The declaration reaffirmed global commitments towards indigenous knowledges, biodiversity and traditional, complementary and integrative medicine.
- WHO underlined that the application of rigorous scientific methods is needed to better understand, assess and, where appropriate, apply more holistic, context-specific, complex and personalized approaches for health and well-being for all.

10.President Murmu confers National Teachers’ Award for 2023 on 75 teachers

- The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu conferred National Awards on teachers from across the country at a function held at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi on occasion of Teacher's Day (September 5, 2023).
- The President emphasised that in view of the women participation in teaching profession, the number of female teachers receiving Teachers' awards should be higher. Encouraging female students and teachers is very important for women empowerment, she emphasized.

11.Country's first solar city to be inaugurated in Sanchi of Madhya Pradesh

- In Madhya Pradesh, the country's first solar city Sanchi will be inaugurated by state Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. It is noteworthy that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set a target of developing a solar city in every state of the country by 2070.
- An effort has also been made to attract tourism by reducing environmental pollution through eco-friendly facilities in Sanchi. Battery operated e-

rickshaws and garbage vehicles will also run in the city. E-vehicle charging stations have also been installed.

12.Karnataka plans to replace cash aid for drought-hit taluks with 5 kg rice

- The Karnataka government is planning to replace the monetary assistance for beneficiaries under Anna Bhagya scheme with the distribution of 5kg rice in taluks that have been designated as drought-hit.
- Muniyappa said that the distribution of rice would commence once the government finalises the list of drought-affected taluks. Currently, due to insufficient rice stocks, the government provides monetary aid to beneficiaries instead of the additional 5 kg of rice, as promised in the Congress manifesto.

13.Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launches the Malaviya Mission - Teachers Training Programme by University Grants Commission

- Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launched the Malaviya Mission - Teachers Training Programme by the University Grants Commission at Kaushal Bhawan, New Delhi. He also inaugurated the Portal of the Programme and released its information brochure.
- Organised by the University Grants Commission, in association with the Ministry of Education, the Malaviya Mission - Teacher Training Programme aims to provide tailored training programmes for teachers. This programme will work for the capacity building of faculty members in higher educational institutions.

14.India Unveils Worlds First Portable Hospital Arogya Maitri Cube

- India has built the world's first disaster hospital, that can be airlifted, packed in 72 cubes. These cubes can handle several severe injuries including 40 bullet injuries, 25 major bleeds, 25 major burns, around 10 head injuries, long limb fractures, spinal injuries, chest injuries and spinal fractures
- Known as the 'Arogya Maitri Cube', India has built the product under project BHISHM – Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri – which includes three frames, each accommodating 12 mini-cubes.

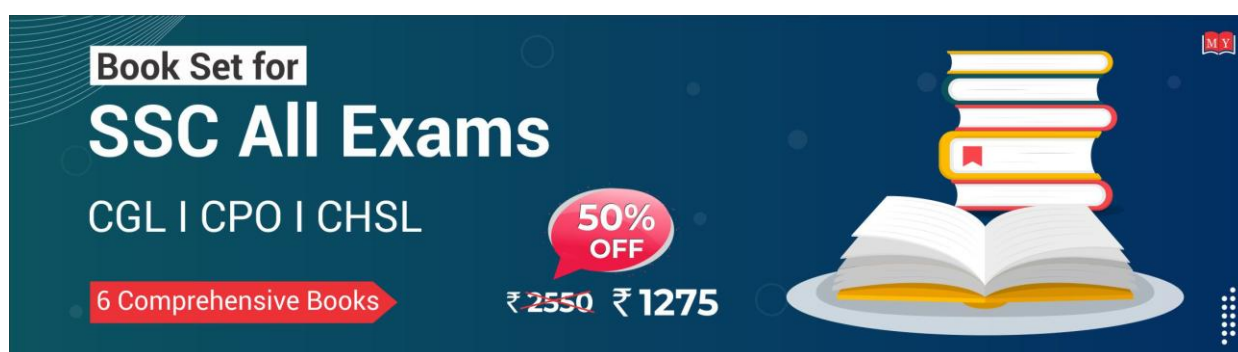
15.Tabreed to set up Asia's largest district cooling project in Hyderabad

- Abu Dhabi-based cooling-as-a-service provider, Tabreed will invest \$200 million to develop 1,25,000 refrigeration tons (RT) of cooling infrastructure for the Hyderabad Pharma City. Tabreed (National Central Cooling Company) entered into a memorandum of understanding with the Telangana government to facilitate the establishment of the facility.

- The project is being taken up on a public-private partnership basis and seeks to provide sustainable long-term cooling services through the cooling-as-a-service model for process cooling and storage requirements of industrial units.

16. World's tallest Nataraja statue installed at G20 summit venue

- The world's tallest Nataraja statue has been installed at Bharat Mandapam, the venue of the G20 summit in Delhi. The 28-foot-tall statue weighing 20 tonnes was made in a record time of seven months by sculptor Radhakrishnan Sthapathy and his team at Swamimalai in Thanjavur District of Tamil Nadu.
- The statue was built in Ashtadhatu (8 metals) using the traditional casting method. The statue was transported to the national capital in four days and a special green corridor was created for its transportation.



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17. Uttar Pradesh Leads in Electric Vehicle Registrations with the Highest Number

- Uttar Pradesh (UP) has emerged with the highest adoption rate of electric vehicles in the country, with 1,70,269 electric vehicles registered in the state.
- According to data from Vahan, which tracks vehicle registrations, there has been a 4.9% increase in the overall number of electric vehicles registered in India. Between January and September of CY23, a total of 10,24,781 electric vehicles were registered in India. As per the statistics, after UP, Maharashtra registered the highest number of electric vehicles with 1,24,558 and Karnataka with 1,00,235.

18. Odisha get GI Tags For Rayagada Shawls And Koraput's Kala Jeera Rice

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

- Kapdaganda shawls, adorned with intricate embroidery, hold a special place in the Dongria Kondh culture, symbolizing gratitude and showcasing traditional craftsmanship at its finest. The journey towards obtaining the GI tag for Kapdaganda began with the Niyamgiri Dongria Kondh Weavers' Association (NDKWA) collaborating with the Directorate of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Research and Training Institute. Recognizing the deep-rooted cultural significance of these shawls, the application for the GI tag was initiated.

19. Country's first underground power transformer in Bengaluru installed

- Energy Minister KJ George inaugurated the country's first underground transformer center in the state capital Bengaluru. It has been set up at 15th Avenue, Malleswaram in collaboration with BESCOM and BBMP at a cost of Rs 1.98 crore. This is a transformer of 500 KVA capacity. Only Western countries have power transformer underground stations.
- For the safety and convenience of the people, a room is constructed below the earth, in which a 30 mm cement block is constructed and electrical transformers are installed on it. Presently, the converter is installed at a depth of 10 feet from the top of the road in this center which is established in Malleswaram. Electricity related works are done by BESCOM and civil works by BBMP.

20. Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Unveils 'SABAL' Scheme for Specially-Abled Children

- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu launched the Mukhya Mantri Sporting Abilities, Rebuilding Aspirations and Livelihood Scheme (SABAL) from Nadaun in district Hamirpur, HP. Coverage: Approximately 400 schools across Hamirpur, Solan, and Shimla districts are included in this scheme.
- The chatbots, accessible via the Swift Chat app, offer ease similar to WhatsApp and are powered by conversational Artificial Intelligence (AI). These chatbots will enable students to revise lessons at their convenience, from any location from their mobile phones. This facility features a quiz-based format and provides educational videos that can be utilised by both students and teachers to enhance the learning and teaching experience in the classroom as well.

21. Raksha Mantri Inaugurates 90 BRO Infrastructure Projects Valued At More Than Rs 2,900 Crore

- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has dedicated to the nation 90 infrastructure projects of Border Roads Organisation (BRO), worth over Rs 2,900 crore, spread across 11 States/Union Territories. The projects were

inaugurated by the Raksha Mantri at an event in Jammu on September 12, 2023.

- The BRO has completed the construction of these strategically-important projects in record time; most of them in a single working season using state-of-the-art technology. In his address, the Raksha Mantri described the BRO as 'bro (brother)' of the Armed Forces, asserting that, through its infrastructure projects, BRO is not only securing India's borders, but also playing a key role in the socio-economic development of the far-flung areas.

22.PM lays the foundation stone of Petrochemical Complex at BPCL Bina Refinery in Madhya Pradesh

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Bina (Madhya Pradesh) to lay the foundation stone of Bharat Petroleum Corporation's (BPCL) petrochemical complex and refinery expansion.
- Under this project, the capacity of Bina Refinery would be enhanced to 11 million tonnes per annum (MTPA), which would produce more than 2,200 Kilo tonne petrochemical products. The entire project would be completed in five years. The Ethylene Cracker Complex will use captive feed stock like Naphtha, LPG, Kerosene, etc. from Bina refinery.

23.Koraput Kalajeera Rice Gets GI Tag

- 'Koraput Kalajeera Rice,' an aromatic rice variety with nutritional value, has got Geographical Indications (GI) status, bringing cheers to tribal farmers who have been growing it for ages. The Odisha government supported Jaivik Sri Farmers Producer Company Limited at Pujariput had applied on January 11, 2022, for the registry of Koraput Kalajeera Rice.
- An advertisement in this regard was issued on August 31, 2023 on the official website of the Geographical Indications Registry. The farmers of Koraput district in Odisha, the centre of origin of cultivated rice, have domesticated Kalajeera rice over generations. With the support of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and the Odisha government's department of agriculture and farmers empowerment, the farmers' organisation received the GI tag for 'Koraput Kalajeera Rice.'

24.US city declares September 3 as Sanatana Dharma Day amid row in India

- Amid a row in India over Sanatana Dharma remarks by Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) leader Udhayanidhi Stalin and Congress's Priyank Kharge, a city in the United States has declared September 3 as Sanatana Dharma Day. The mayor of Louisville, Kentucky in the United States, has declared September 3 as Sanatana Dharma Day in the city.

- The official proclamation was read by deputy mayor Barbara Sexton Smith on behalf of Mayor Craig Greenberg during the Maha Kumbha Abhishekam celebration at the Hindu Temple of Kentucky in Louisville.

25.India announced launched of Global Biofuel Alliance at G20 Summit

- On 9th September 2023, India has announced the launch of a Global Biofuel Alliance at G20 Summit in New Delhi. PM Modi has invited all of the countries to join the global biofuel alliance. India, USA and Brazil will work together with interested countries for developed of a Global Biofuel Alliance.
- PM Modi stressed the need for all countries to work together in the field of fuel blending. India's proposal is to take an initiative at the global level to take ethanol blending in petrol to as high as 20%. PM Modi also proposed to launch the G20 Satellite Mission for Environment and Climate Observation and invited all countries to join it.

26.State Health Minister Balbir Singh launches “Mission Intensified IndraDhanush” 5.0 in Mohali, Punjab

- In Punjab, the State Health Minister Balbir Singh launched "Mission Intensified IndraDhanush" 5.0 from Dr BR Ambedkar Medical College in Mohali. Earlier it was planned for August along with rest of the nation but delayed due to flood conditions in the state.
- The main purpose of the launch of this mission is to cover those pregnant women who are partially vaccinated or unvaccinated as well as children left out and drop out in the age group of 0-5 years. During total three rounds 6156 sessions will be organized throughout the state for this vaccination drive. Teams will primarily target Brick kiln, other remote areas where migratory labourers are residing and vaccinate them after identification.

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28.Indore ranks first followed by Agra and Thane in Clean Air Survey 2023

- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Bhupender Yadav awarded first rank to the Information Technology hub of Madhya Pradesh, Indore, in the Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan-2023 (or Clean Air Survey), conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board.
- Under the first category (million-plus population), Indore ranked first, followed by Agra and Thane. Amravati secured first rank in the second category (3-10 lakh population), followed by Moradabad and Guntur. Similarly, for the third category (less than 3 lakh population), Parwanoo secured the first rank, followed by Kala Amb and Angul. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has been implementing the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) as a national-level strategy, outlining the actions for reducing the levels of air pollution at city and regional scales in India since 2019.

29. Vijayawada gets IGBC's 'Green Railway Station' certification with platinum rating

- Vijayawada Railway Station on September 5 was awarded the 'Green Railway Station' certification with the highest rating of Platinum by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) for its efforts in improving the environmental standards and providing eco-friendly services to passengers.
- In the recertification process this year, Vijayawada railway station outperformed and immensely improvised its amenities in almost all aspects compared to the 2019 Gold Standard Rating and clinched the Platinum standard IGBC Rating.

30. Ahmedabad, Gujarat becomes 2nd city in India to implement emission trading scheme

- The Gujarat government has announced that Ahmedabad has become the 2nd city in India to adopt an Emission Trading Scheme (ETS) for particulate pollution with an aim to regulate industrial emissions effectively and contribute to reducing pollution levels in Gujarat.
- The first Indian city to implement such a scheme was Surat, also located in the state of Gujarat. Live trading within the ETS scheme commenced on September 1, 2023. This marked the beginning of the trading process involving 118 industries operating within the scheme.
- Gujarat's Forest and Environment Minister, Mulubhai Bera, inaugurated the 1st uniform auction for the Ahmedabad ETS market, distributing pollution permits online to all participating industries

31 PM Narendra Modi to lay the foundation stone of the Ethylene Cracker Project in Madhya Pradesh

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone of the Ethylene Cracker Project worth 49 thousand crore rupees at Bina Refinery in

Madhya Pradesh. The Prime Minister will also lay the foundation stone of 10 other new industrial projects in the state. This state-of-the-art ethylene cracker project at Bina Refinery will produce poly-ethylene and poly-propylene, which are used in various sectors like plastics, textiles, packaging and pharma. Commercial production of this unit will start by 2028.

32. Maruti Suzuki partners with Indian Bank to provide financing solutions to dealers

- Maruti Suzuki India Ltd on September 14 said it has partnered with Indian Bank to provide financing solutions to its dealers.
- The two parties have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which will empower over 4,000 Maruti Suzuki dealerships across the country with comprehensive inventory funding options for their working capital requirements, the company said in a statement. This alliance with Indian Bank will strengthen relationships with dealer partners and ensure a seamless car buying experience for customers.

33. Cabinet approves scheme for release of grant to support LPG connections to Women under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the extension of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) for the release of 75 lakh LPG connections over three years from Financial Year 2023-24 to 2025-26.
- As per the existing modalities of Ujjawala 2.0, the first refill and stove will also be provided free of cost to Ujjwala beneficiaries. A targeted subsidy of Rs.200 per 14.2 kg LPG cylinder for upto 12 refills per year is being provided to PMUY consumers. Without continuation of PMUY, eligible poor households may not be able to get their due benefit under the scheme.
- LPG connections to poor households will provide access to clean cooking fuel helps in addressing health problems caused by use of traditional sources of cooking fuel such as fire-wood, coal, cowdung etc. This will in turn enhance productivity of women, raise their quality of life by removing drudgery associated with collection of wood and insure them against non-availability of cooking fuel, at times.

34. 21st Edition of India-France Bilateral Naval Exercise 'VARUNA' 2023 conducted in Arabian Sea

- The 2nd phase of the Indian-French bilateral naval exercise, Varuna 2023, took place in the Arabian Sea. The exercise witnessed the participation of guided missile frigates, tankers, Maritime Patrol Aircraft and integral helicopters from the two sides.
- The 1st phase of the Varuna exercise occurred off India's Western Seaboard from January 16 to January 20, 2023. Varuna 2023 marks the 21st edition of

this bilateral naval exercise between India and France. This exercise also commemorates the 25th year of the India-France strategic partnership.

35. Tamil Nadu govt to launch scheme granting monthly aid to over 1 crore women

- The Tamil Nadu government is all set to launch the largest social welfare initiative, the Kalaigal Magalir Urimai Thogai Thittam, whereby monthly financial assistance of Rs 1,000 will be provided to 1.06 crore eligible women family heads on September 15.
- The sum will be directly transferred into the bank accounts of beneficiaries and they will be given ATM cards to withdraw the amount. Virtually reviewing the scheme, which is to be launched on the birth anniversary of former Chief Minister C N Annadurai, the chief minister directed Chief Secretary Shiv Das Meena to instruct the district collectors to monitor its implementation.

36. Government to celebrate sixth Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2023 in September

- The Central Government is celebrating the sixth Rashtriya Poshan Maah throughout the next month. This year, the objective is to comprehensively tackle malnutrition through a life-cycle approach. The focal point of Poshan Maah 2023 is to cultivate widespread awareness concerning critical human life stages comprising pregnancy, infancy, childhood, and adolescence.
- The aim of this celebration is to foster nutritional understanding across India through a theme centered on "Suposhit Bharat, Sakshar Bharat, Sashakt Bharat" (Nutrition-rich India, Educated India, Empowered India). This month-long event will witness concentrated efforts nationwide to enhance ground-level nutritional awareness through campaigns focusing on key themes around Exclusive Breastfeeding and Complementary Feeding.

37. Maharashtra Cabinet Grants Approval for Rs. 837 Crores Cybersecurity Initiative to Combat Escalating Cybercrimes

- The Maharashtra cabinet has decided to implement a cyber-security project worth Rs 837 crore due to increasing cases of cybercrime in Maharashtra. The project features a 24-hour call centre dedicated to citizens, providing them with a convenient avenue to report cybercrimes promptly.
- Citizens have multiple options for filing complaints, including through a dedicated mobile app or an online portal, making it more accessible and Post-implementation, citizens will have the added convenience of lodging complaints via phone calls, ensuring ease of access for victims. The project emphasises the use of advanced cyber technology to thoroughly investigate all reported complaints, enhancing the state's ability to identify and apprehend cybercriminals.

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

- In a significant stride towards advancing skill development and entrepreneurship in India, the prestigious Indian Institute of Management Indore (IIM Indore) has forged a strategic partnership with the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). This collaborative effort represents a shared commitment to fostering excellence and innovation in these crucial domains.
- The MoU, signed online solidified this partnership. It was signed by Prof Himanshu Rai, Director of IIM Indore, and Ved Mani Tiwari, CEO of NSDC. This alliance seeks to redefine skill development, entrepreneurship, and research in India, aligning the visions of both institutions and leveraging their collective strengths to reshape the nation's skilling ecosystem.

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42. PM to launch rail sector projects worth more than six thousand crore rupees in Chhattisgarh

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation railway projects worth more than six thousand four hundred crore rupees in Chhattisgarh. These projects include Chhattisgarh East Rail Project Phase-I, 3rd rail line between Champa to Janga, 3rd rail line between Pendra Road to Anuppur, and the Merry-Go-Round system connecting Talaipalli Coal Mine to NTPC Lara Super Thermal Power Station.
- The Prime Minister stated that the Indian model of combining welfare for the poor with modern development is gaining appreciation worldwide. He emphasized that the country aims to become a developed nation within the next twenty-five years of the Amrit Kaal.

43. 3rd All India Official Language Conference to be held on September 14 & 15 in Pune

- The 3rd All India Official Language Conference will be held on the 14th and the 15th of September in Pune. Secretary of the Department of Official Languages of the Ministry of Home Affairs Anshuli Arya informed this in a press conference in Pune (13 September 2023).
- Joint Secretary, Department of Official Languages Meenakshi Jolly, was present on the occasion. Ms. Arya said Pune is a popular city and has a historical tradition, hence, Pune has been chosen for the third All India Official Language Conference. The Conference will be attended by learned speakers and scholars of the Hindi language. Some of the topics to be discussed during the conference include Rajbhasha@2047: Linguistic Panorama of Developed India (including artificial intelligence), Role of Media in Development of Hindi, and Indian Cinema and Hindi among others.

44. Govt relaxes domestic content requirement for solar cells under PM-KUSUM till March 2024.

- The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE) has relaxed the domestic content requirement (DCR) norms for solar cells under Component C of the PM KUSUM scheme till March 2024. In August last year, the Ministry waived off domestic requirement norms for projects awarded on or before June 20, 2023. It has again received various representations regarding extension of DCR waiver for solar cells under Component C (FLS) owing to the ongoing bidding process.
- PM-KUSUM or the Pradhan Mantri Urja Suraksha Evam Utthaan Mahabhiyaan is a demand-driven scheme and, therefore, quantities or capacities are allocated under the three components of the scheme based on demand received from the states. The Component C under PM KUSUM is to achieve solarisation of 15 lakh grid-connected agriculture pumps through individual pump solarisation (IPS) and feeder level solarisation (FLS). The beneficiaries under Component-C can be individual farmers, water user associations, primary agriculture credit societies and community or cluster-based irrigation systems.

45. The indefinite Rail-Roko movement called by Kurmi community began in Jharkhand

- Railway services out of Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha are staring at a major disruption later this week as several Kurmi organisations gear up for indefinite railway blockades across four railway stations in Jharkhand and five in neighbouring states of West Bengal and Odisha.
- The blockades would be a rerun of the similar protests undertaken by several Kurmi communities in September last year to demand their recognition as a scheduled tribe from the OBC status which they currently enjoy.

46. 13th Indo-Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference (IPACC) to be held from 26 to 27 of September in New Delhi

- The Indian and the US armies will co-host 13th IPACC, 47th IPAMS and 9th SELF, a three-day conference of Chiefs of Armies and delegates of 35 countries in New Delhi from 25th to 27th September. The central theme for this forum is “Together for Peace: Sustaining Peace and Stability in the Indo-Pacific Region.”
- This event will be organised in Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantt and will see over 150 delegates participate in various plenary and round-table sessions. A joint press conference will be held with General Manoj Pande, Chief of the Army Staff, Indian Army and General Randy George, Vice Chief of Staff of the US Army.

47. India Ranks First Among 154 Nations in Grassroot Adoption of Crypto

- The average, middle class populations of India, Nigeria, and Thailand are driving the grassroot adoption of cryptocurrencies by engaging with digital assets. The notion has been shared by crypto research firm Chainalysis, in the fourth instalment of its Global Crypto Adoption Index report. India has topped this index of 154 countries, showing that crypto culture is finding its place in the day-to-day financial and investments activities for Indians. Nigeria, Vietnam, US, and Ukraine have followed India on the index to secure the second, third, and fourth rankings, respectively.
- On the Chainalysis index, India has bagged the first rank in crypto transactions recorded in both retail and non-retail DeFi transactions. In terms of peer-to-peer exchange trade volume, India secured the fifth rank, whereas Nigeria ranked first in the category.

48PM Narendra Modi to inaugurate 16 Atal Awasiya Vidyalayas built across UP

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Varanasi to inaugurate 16 Atal Awasiya Vidyalayas built across Uttar Pradesh. These are built at a cost of over 11 hundred crore rupees to further enhance access to quality education for children of labourers, construction workers and orphans due to COVID-19 pandemic. Each school is constructed on an area of 10 to 15 acres with classrooms, sports ground, recreational areas, a mini auditorium, hostel complex, mess and residential flats for staff. These residential schools intend to eventually accommodate 1000 students each.
- Prime Minister Modi will also lay the foundation stone of the International Cricket Stadium in Varanasi. The cricket stadium, to be built in Ganjari, Rajatalab, Varanasi will be developed in more than 30 acre area, at a cost of about 450 crore rupees.

49. Goa CM Pramod Sawant Unveils Initiatives to Empower Homemakers and Entrepreneurs

- Goa CM Pramod Sawant, distributed Griha Adhar sanction orders to numerous beneficiaries to support homemakers financially, fostering their independence and improving their quality of life. Apart from the sanction orders, which are a result of the initiative of the Directorate of Women and Child Development, the CM also launched the Chavath-e-Bazaar. It is aimed at empowering Goan entrepreneurs and self-help groups, a digital initiative under the Swayampura Goa Programme organised by the Directorate of Planning, Statistics and Evaluation.
- Sawant also flagged off the Chavath-e-Bazaar vehicle, symbolizing a new era of empowerment for rural artisans and entrepreneurs in Goa. The CM was accompanied by Poriem MLA Deviya Rane, Bicholim MLA Chandrakant Shetye, Mayem MLA Premendra Shet, Vijay Saxena, Director

Directorate of Planning and Statistics, Sangeeta Parab, Director of Directorate of Women and Child Development, and Dolly Sureka, Vice President, Swiggy READ | Minister Lekhi visits naval aviation museum in Goa, lays keel for legacy 'stitched ship'.

50. Shri Parshottam Rupala inaugurates Second Edition of ICAR-CIBA's Shrimp Farmers Conclave-2023 at Navsari, Gujarat

- Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Shri Parshottam Rupala inaugurated Second Edition of ICAR-CIBA's (ICAR-Central Institute of Brackish water Aquaculture) Shrimp Farmers Conclave-2023 at the Navsari Agricultural University Campus in Gujarat. About 410 aqua farmers across the coastal districts of Gujarat participated in the conclave.
- Shri Parshottam Rupala conveyed his gratitude to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, for approving the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampadan Yojana with the financial outlay of Rs. 20,050 crores for the sustainable development of fisheries and aquaculture sector. Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) to establish a National Genetic Improvement Facility for shrimp breeding.

51. Gujarat passes bill reserving 27% local body seats for OBCs

- The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Gujarat has passed a bill in the assembly that raises reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBC) community in local self government bodies like panchayats, municipalities and civic corporations to 27 per cent from the current 10 per cent.
- The Gujarat Local Authorities Laws (Amendment) Bill 2023 was passed through a majority voice vote after all the 17 Congress MLAs, including Congress Legislative Party leader Amit Chavda and senior MLA Arjun Modhwadia, staged a walkout in protest demanding higher ratio of reservation and tabling of a report of the commission headed by former Supreme Court Justice K S Zaveri.
- The state government announced 27 per cent reservation for OBCs in the local governing bodies on the basis of a report submitted by the Zaveri commission.

52. Vishwakarma scheme will be launched by PM Modi on September 17

- The 'PM Vishwakarma Yojana' will be launched on the occasion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 73rd birthday. It is a matter of happiness that 'PM Vishwakarma Yojana' will be launched on the occasion of PM Modi's birthday. As part of the initiative, the government will provide support, skill and the right tools to the artisans and craftsmen.
- The scheme has a Rs 13,000 crore outlay over five years up to 2027-28. Speaking while inaugurating Yashobhoomi, or the India International

Convention Centre at Delhi's Dwarka, Modi also said that India is on its way to becoming a major destination for conference tourism and the new centre, along with the 'Bharat Mandapam', will be a medium for showcasing India of the future.

53. Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launches 'e-Bhoomi' Portal for land purchase

- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched the new 'e-Bhoomi' portal, with the objective of easing the process of purchasing land for government projects with the landowners' consent. The government aims to purchase land in a transparent manner and apart from farmers, aggregators will also be able to offer land on this portal, the CM informed. The offer of land would be valid for six months.
- Farmers can offer their land independently or through listed aggregators, with a minimum offer of 10 acres mandated for voluntary offers made by aggregators. To facilitate and coordinate the entire process, nodal officers have been identified in each department and at the district level. The process will be initiated on automatic mode considering the rates being offered by the individual or aggregator.

54. Ministry of Railways launches 'Swachhata Pakhwada-2023'

- Ministry of Railways has launched Swachhata Pakhwada 2023. Swachhata Pakhwada – 2023 was inaugurated by Smt. Jaya Varma Sinha, Chairperson & CEO, Railway Board on 15th September, 2023 by administering Swachhata Pledge in Rail Bhawan.
- Swachhata pledge was administered to entire Railway family which includes employees of Railways along with senior officials of Railway Zones and Divisions connected via video conferencing. Swachhata Pledge taken by entire Railway family focused on one's commitment towards cleanliness, devoting hundred hours per year for cleanliness and propagating the message of Swachh Bharat Mission.

55. PM Modi inaugurates YashoBhoomi convention centre on his birthday

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the first phase of the International Convention and Expo Centre (IICC), YashoBhoomi, in Delhi's Dwarka today on his birthday (September 17). 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' chants reverberated at the convention centre after PM Modi inaugurated the YashoBhoomi.
- PM Modi took a metro ride on his way to the Convention Centre. He was seen interacting with the commuters in the metro.. Yashobhoomi stands as a testament to India's commitment to world-class event hosting, boasting an expansive project area of over 8.9 lakh square metres and a built-up area exceeding 1.8 lakh square metres.

56. Maharashtra Issues Notification On Name Change Of Aurangabad, Osmanabad

- The Eknath Shinde-led Maharashtra government has issued a notification on the change of names of Aurangabad and Osmanabad districts as Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar and Dharashiv respectively.
- The suggestions and objections sought a few months ago have been considered and the decision to change the names at the sub-division, village, taluka and district levels has been taken, the notification issued by the Revenue Department. The decision to rename Aurangabad and Osmanabad was taken in the previous Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government's last cabinet meeting chaired by the then chief minister Uddhav Thackeray on June 29, 2022 just before he resigned.

57. Assam Governor Gulab Chand Kataria Introduces 'Sarpanch Samvaad' Mobile App

- Assam Governor Shri Gulab Chand Kataria launched the 'Sarpanch Samvad' mobile app at Raj Bhavan in Guwahati, Assam. The 'Sarpanch Samvad' app has been developed by the Quality Council of India (QCI).
- It's Objective is to provide comprehensive support to sarpanchs (village heads) and promote their growth as leaders. It's aim is to connect approximately 2.5 lakh sarpanchs across India & serves as a holistic platform for networking, knowledge dissemination, and collaboration among sarpanchs.

58. Indian Oil becomes title sponsor of MotoGP Bharat

- MotoGP Bharat has roped in IndianOil as the title sponsor for the event scheduled to take place at the Buddh International Circuit in Greater Noida from September 22 to 24, its promoter Fairstreet Sports said in a statement.
- "We are thrilled to welcome IndianOil as our title sponsor for MotoGP Bharat. As we gear up for the country's biggest racing event, this association with one of India's energy giants adds a new layer of excitement to it," said Pushkar Nath Srivastava, founder and chief operating officer of FairStreet Sports.

59. Union Minister of Civil Aviation inaugurates 'Udaan Bhawan' at Delhi's Safdarjung Airport

- Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, officially opened 'Udaan Bhawan,' a consolidated office complex located within Delhi's Safdarjung Airport, along with the introduction of a pilot e-wallet facility. Udaan Bhawan promises to play a pivotal role in facilitating enhanced coordination and efficiency among various regulatory authorities operating under the Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA).

- The newly inaugurated Udaan Bhawan is poised to become the nerve center of aviation oversight in India. This modern facility will house several key regulatory bodies, including the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA), and the Airports Authority of India (AAI). By co-locating these vital entities, Udaan Bhawan aims to foster seamless collaboration and streamline administrative processes within the civil aviation sector.

60. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin Unveils the Kalaigarnar Women's Rights Fund Scheme

- On C N Annadurai's birthday anniversary, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Stalin launches the 'Kalaigarnar Magalir Urimai Thogai Thittam' initiative with the goal of empowering the women of the state. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin marked the birth anniversary of Dravidian icon C N Annadurai by unveiling a groundbreaking initiative aimed at uplifting women across the state. The initiative, aptly named the "Kalaigarnar Magalir Urimai Thogai Thittam" scheme, holds the potential to bring about a significant positive change in the lives of countless women in Tamil Nadu.
- According to the scheme, monthly financial assistance of Rs. 1,000 will be provided to all eligible women beneficiaries of Tamil Nadu. CM Stalin also distributed ATM cards to the beneficiaries of the scheme. This monthly financial assistance will decrease poverty. The scheme received 1 crore 60 lakh applications since August. 1 crore 6 lakh 50 thousand women were declared as right beneficiaries.

61. Uttar Pradesh Government Introduces Special Gift Deed Scheme

- Uttar Pradesh Government launches 'Gift Deed Scheme' to reduce property related family disputes in courts. In a bid to foster harmony and alleviate property-related family disputes, the CM Yogi Adityanath led UP government initiated a special Gift Deed Scheme which has benefited over 43,574 people.
- Under the new scheme, the stamp duty for such transactions has been reduced to Rs 5,000. Before this scheme, individuals were required to pay stamp duty equivalent to the prevailing circle rate when executing a gift deed. He mentioned that prior to the implementation of this scheme, property registrations were comparatively lower. Under the new policy, in Uttar Pradesh, on donation of immovable property to certain family members such as son, daughter, father, mother, husband, wife, daughter-in-law, real brother (or, in case real brother deceased, his wife), real sister, and son-in-law, a maximum stamp duty has been fixed at Rs 5,000.

62. NHAI Inks Agreement to Develop Multi Modal Logistics Park at Bengaluru

- Bengaluru multi-modal logistics park is located at a distance of 58 km from Bengaluru Airport and 48 km from Bengaluru city railway station. The park will be developed in three phases. The first phase is expected to be completed in two years. MMLP will cater to about 30 million metric tonnes (MMT) cargo by the end of the concession period of 45 years and will give a huge boost to the industrial zones in the catchment region such as Bengaluru and Tumkur.
- Development of MMLP is a key initiative of the Government of India to improve the country's freight logistics sector by enabling efficient inter-modal freight movement to lower overall freight costs and time, provide efficient warehousing, improve tracking and traceability of consignments thereby enhancing the efficiency of the Indian logistics sector.

63. Khadi and Village Industries Commission signs three MoUs to promote Khadi Products

- Embracing Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's mantra of 'Local for Vocal' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, inked three separate MoUs, and laid foundation stone of 'Modern Khadi of New India' in the Amritkal of Independent India.
- In presence of Shri Manoj Kumar, Chairman, Khadi & Village Industries Commission these agreements were signed with Prasar Bharati, NBCC (India) Limited, and Digital India Corporation. The objective of these MoUs is to prepare a roadmap to modernize the Khadi and Village Industries Commission and popularize its products among the youth as per the vision of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Shri Kumar reiterated that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Khadi has now become identity self-reliant India.

64. Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia to inaugurate new infrastructure at Tezu airport on 24th September 2023

- Minister for Civil Aviation, Jyotiraditya M Scindia along with Pema Khandu, Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh will inaugurate the newly developed infrastructure of Tezu Airport on 24th September 2023. Tezu Airport is a domestic airport located in the town of Tezu which operates through a single runway. The airport is developed on 212 acres of land, and is capable of handling operations for ATR 72 type of aircraft.
- Tezu airport was operationalized in 2018 under the RCS UDAN scheme of the Ministry of Civil Aviation. The airport is currently connected to Dibrugarh, Imphal & Guwahati through regular scheduled flights by Alliance Air & Flybig Airline.

65. Rajasthan Elections 2023, BJP's mega poll outreach has its X-factor missing

- The Bharatiya Janata Party's Parivartan Sankalp Yatra, a grand outreach to voters in poll-bound Rajasthan, on Wednesday arrived in Jhalawar. Besides its historical magnificence, the district is home to BJP leader and two-time Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje who has held this constituency in various capacities for 33 years now.
- This was the first time in two decades that a BJP yatra of this scale and magnitude had its star power, Vasundhara Raje, missing. Four 'Parivartan Yatras' were launched between September 2 and 5 with an aim to cover all the 200 Assembly seats and close to 9,000 km across the state.

66. ACKO launches campaign 'Health Insurance ki Subah ho Gayi Mamu' for its newly introduced ACKO Platinum Health Plan

- ACKO Platinum Health Plan. As per the company, the plan has features including 100% bill payment, no room rent capping, zero waiting period, among others. To launch its Health Insurance product, ACKO has brought back two characters of Munna Bhai and Circuit in its campaign titled 'Health Insurance ki Subah ho Gayi Mamu'. The campaign directed by filmmaker Rajkumar Hirani, features Sanjay Dutt and Arshad Warsi in their original roles and questions the current health insurance system.
- The company claims that the series of ad films focuses on educating the audience on zero waiting period, 100% bill payment, benefits of providing full disclosures of ailments for a stress-free claim process, and ease of filing claims.

67. NHAI Collaborates with DMRC to Strengthen Design & Construction of Bridges and Other Structures

- In its endeavor to provide world-class National Highways network, NHAI has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) for review of designs of various bridges/ structures, safety aspects of NHAI projects and capacity building of NHAI officials. The MoU was signed in presence of NHAI Chairman Shri Santosh Kumar Yadav and Dr. Vikas Kumar, Managing Director, DMRC along with other senior officials from NHAI and DMRC. This initiative will strengthen NHAI's 'Design Division' that reviews planning, designing, construction and maintenance of bridges, structures, tunnels and RE walls on National Highways across the country.
- This agreement will remain in effect for a period of two years. This initiative highlights collaboration between two Government Organizations to share best practices and work together to enhance transport infrastructure network contributing towards the goal of Nation Building.

68. Health Ministry reduces qualifying percentile for NEET PG Counselling to zero across all categories this year

- Union Health Ministry officials reducing the qualifying percentile for NEET PG 2023 to zero will increase the pool of qualifying candidates but not dilute the merit system for admission to PG medical courses. Only those scoring the highest marks will get admission to PG medical courses.
- The admission will be done through a transparent counselling process and will do away with alleged backdoor entry that was offered by some private colleges. They dismissed as imaginary the speculation that students with zero percentile can also become specialist doctors. The reality is that students with the highest marks will be eligible for admission to their choice of courses and colleges. There are 68,142 PG medical seats in the country.

69. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Unveils 108-Foot-Tall Statue of Adi Shankaracharya in Omkareshwar as a Symbol of Oneness

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan unveiled the 108-foot-tall 'Statue of Oneness' of Adi Shankaracharya at Omkareshwar in the poll-bound on September 21. The statue depicts Shankaracharya as a 12-year-old child when he is said to have visited Omkareshwar.
- The government has invested Rs 2,200 crore to develop the temple town located on the Mandhata island of Khandwa district, which will form an important tourism circuit, along with Ujjain, Maheshwar and Mandu religious towns.

70. President Droupadi Murmu to inaugurate first Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show at Greater Noida

- President Droupadi Murmu will inaugurate the first Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show in India Expo Centre and Mart in Greater Noida. The trade show will be held from September 21 to 25. Governor of state Anandiben Patel, Chief Minister of UP Yogi Adityanath and Industrial Minister Nand Gopal Nandi will also be present on the inaugural function.
- State government departments and institutions, along with Mumbai Dabbawala, will conduct informative sessions on various business activities. Additionally, 108 new startups will also participate in the show. More than five lakh visitors, including international attendees, are anticipated to attend the trade show.

71. The fourth meeting of the G-20 Infrastructure Working Group begins in Madhya Pradesh

- This is the last meeting of the Infrastructure Working Group under the Indian G20 Presidency. It has brought together more than 54 delegates from the G20 member countries, guest countries, and international organizations invited by India. The forum is deliberating on the key issues in continuation of the discussions held during the previous three IWG meetings.

- The meeting is being hosted and chaired by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India along with Australia and Brazil as co-chairs. In the various sessions of the meeting, the challenges faced in mobilizing financial resources along with promoting private investment in urban infrastructure were discussed.

72. ADB moderates India's GDP growth hopes this year(2023) to 6.3%

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) lowered India's gross domestic product (GDP) projection by one percentage point for fiscal 2022-2023 to 6.3 per cent from 6.4 per cent. The economic growth estimate was revised down on account of slowing exports and the likely impact of erratic rainfall on agriculture output.
- The GDP projection for current fiscal (2023-2024) however, was retained at 6.7 per cent, when rising private investment and industrial output are expected to drive growth. Indian growth in the rest of this fiscal year and next will be propelled by robust domestic consumption as consumer confidence improves, and by investment, including large increases in government capital expenditure, according to the Asian Development Outlook September 2023.

73. Finance Ministry is comfortable with 6.5% baseline GDP growth estimate for FY24

- The report highlights potential risks from stock market corrections and geopolitical developments but expects a relatively contained impact on India's economic activity. The Indian economy grew by 7.2 per cent last fiscal but growth is expected to slow down in the current fiscal due to the global slowdown.
- The economy however, grew at a higher than anticipated rate of 7.8% in the first quarter of 2023-24, raising growth projections by private agencies for the fiscal. However, most agencies still remain cautious about GDP growth with forecasts at less than 6.5%.

74. 40% electric vehicles sold in India manufactured in Tamil Nadu

- Tamil Nadu, India's production hub for electric vehicles, is steadily expanding its base. As per the latest data, 40% of electric vehicles sold in India this year (January to September) were manufactured in TN.
- Quoting the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways' Vahan Dashboard data, sources in the state industries department, 10.44 lakh electric vehicles were registered with road transport offices till September 20, and of these, 4.1 lakh were manufactured in the state.

75. Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Invites US President Joe Biden as Chief Guest for Republic Day 2024

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi invited US President Joe Biden to be the chief guest for India's 2024 Republic Day parade during the bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the G20 summit that was held recently in the national capital, Washington's envoy to India Eric Garcetti confirmed.
- While Garcetti confirmed the invitation, he did not say if Biden had accepted it. The US president makes the State of the Union address in late January or early February every year. With 2024 being an election year in the US, it is unclear if Biden will make time to attend the Republic Day parade on January 26, 2024.

76. Union Home Minister Amit Shah to preside over 31st meeting of Northern Zonal Council

- In Punjab, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah will preside over the 31st meeting of the Northern Zonal Council in Amritsar. Northern Zonal Council comprises the states of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, and the Union Territories of Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, and Chandigarh.
- The meeting is being organized by the Inter-State Council Secretariat under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, in collaboration with the Government of Punjab. Elaborate arrangements have been made for the smooth conduct of this meeting. The guests will be given a glimpse of rich Punjabi culture.

77. Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu Introduces 'Chief Minister's Workers Welfare Scheme'

- Marking the National Labour Day celebrations Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu announced roll out of a new scheme titled Mukhya Mantri Shramik Kalyan Yojana (MMSKY) for welfare of the labour force of the state besides making a slew of other announcements.
- Attending the celebration organized by the state unit of Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) at Nyokum Lapang ground here, Khandu said that the MMSKY is a revised list of incentives for workers registered with the Arunachal Pradesh Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (APBOCWFB).

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1. Georgia Declares October as 'Hindu Heritage Month'

- In a significant move, Governor Brian Kemp of the U.S. state of Georgia has officially declared that the month of October will be celebrated as 'Hindu Heritage Month' within the state.
- This proclamation aligns Georgia with several other states across the United States that have taken similar steps to honor and commemorate Hindu

heritage, culture, values, and traditions. Georgia joins a growing list of states that have recognized the importance of Hindu heritage and culture. These states include Texas, Ohio, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Florida, Minnesota, Virginia, and others. The declaration of 'Hindu Heritage Month' serves as a way to celebrate and acknowledge the contributions and significance of Hinduism in American society.

2.Indonesia Introduces 'Golden Visa' Program to Attract Foreign Investors

- Indonesia has introduced a 'golden visa' program aimed at attracting foreign individuals and corporate investors to stimulate its national economy. The golden visa offers an extended residence permit for a duration of 5 to 10 years, providing a long-term stay option for eligible applicants.
- To qualify for a 5-year golden visa, an individual must establish a company in Indonesia with a minimum investment of \$2.5 million. For a 10-year visa, the required investment increases to \$5 million. Corporate investors, such as directors and commissioners, are eligible for a 5-year golden visa by investing \$25 million. To obtain a 10-year visa, they must double their investment, totalling \$50 million.

3. Novak Djokovic wins 24th Grand Slam singles title at 2023 US Open

- Novak Djokovic handled the weight of history to defeat Daniil Medvedev in the 2023 US Open men's singles final. With a 6-3, 7-6(5), 6-3 victory, the 36-year-old won his 24th Grand Slam singles title.
- Djokovic is now the first man to win three Grand Slams singles titles in a season four times (2011, 2015, 2021, 2023). Already the sole owner of the record for men's Grand Slam singles titles, Djokovic now moves ahead of Serena Williams and level with Margaret Court at 24 for first in the all-time count. He also moves two majors ahead of Rafael Nadal's 22 and four clear of Roger Federer's 20.

4. UK PM Rishi Sunak commits \$2 billion to UN-backed climate fund

- Britain will commit to provide \$2 billion to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) to help developing countries cope with climate change, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak at the G20 Leaders Summit in New Delhi. The pledge would be the biggest single funding commitment the UK has made to date to help the world tackle climate change, a government statement said.
- The Green Climate Fund (GFC) - the world's largest such fund - was set up under United Nations' climate change negotiations to help channel money needed by poor states to meet their targets to reduce carbon emissions, develop cleaner energy sources and adjust to a warming world. Britain has committed to spend 11.6 billion pounds (\$14.46 billion) on international climate finance between 2021 and 2026.

5. North Korea unveils first tactical, nuclear-armed submarine

- North Korea has launched its first tactical nuclear attack submarine. The North Korean leader, Kim Jong-un, presided over the unveiling ceremony, saying the sub was part of a “push forward with the nuclear weaponisation of the navy”, according to the state news agency KCNA.
- Images on state media showed Kim, wearing a light suit and sun hat, speaking to white-uniformed sailors next to the submarine, whose bow was decorated with the North Korean flag.

6. Nagaland becomes the 1st North Eastern State to Introduce Aadhaar-Linked Birth Registration

- Nagaland has become the 1st State in the North Eastern Region to initiate Aadhaar Linked Birth Registration (ALBR).
- This innovative initiative integrates Aadhaar enrollment for children in the age group of 0 to 5 years within the birth registration process. To facilitate seamless access for children to various social welfare schemes specifically designed for their well-being. The commencement of the launch was formally led by Commissioner T Mhabemo Yanthan

7. 62nd edition of Subroto Cup International Football Tournament will be held from 19th September

- Bengaluru has been added to the list of host cities for the upcoming edition of the Subroto Cup International Football Tournament, to be held from September 19 to October 23 at three venues. The oldest national inter-school football tournament was earlier held in Delhi and Gurugram.
- While the Under-17 junior boys and girls tournaments will be held in Delhi-NCR, the Under-14 sub-junior boys competition will be played at the ASC Centre, the Air Force School, Jalahalli and the Air Force School, Yehalanka in Bengaluru. In Delhi-NCR, the matches will be played at the Ambedkar Stadium, Tejas Football Ground (Delhi), Subroto Football Ground (Delhi) and the GD Goenka School (Gurugram).

8. China to Launch Wide Field Survey Telescope for Detecting Faint Space Signals

- China is set to launch the Wide Field Survey Telescope (WFST), the largest time-domain survey facility in the Northern Hemisphere, in September, 2023.
- The WFST, characterised by a 5-meter primary mirror and a prime-focus camera with a large field of view, is currently undergoing engineering debugging and pilot observation processes. Its aim is to explore and monitor dynamic astronomical events through time-domain observation research. This includes detecting faint and distant celestial signals, such as

those from galaxies beyond the Milky Way and galaxy clusters. The telescope is situated at the Lenghu astronomical observation base in northwest China's Qinghai Province.

9. 'Bharat: Mother of Democracy' portal unveiled during G20 exhibition

- On the eve of the G20 leadership summit, the Ministry of Culture unveiled a new online portal for the grand exhibition titled 'Bharat: The Mother of Democracy.' This exhibition, set to take place at Bharat Mandapam, is intended for global leaders attending the conference and aims to showcase India's rich democratic history. The website, www.motherofdemocracyg20.com, has been curated by the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), an institution dedicated to research, academics, and the promotion of the arts under the ministry's purview.
- The portal offers content that delves into India's democratic legacy spanning an astonishing 7,000 years. This historical journey begins with the Sindhu-Saraswati civilization and progresses all the way to the year 2019. Impressively, the information is available in 16 languages, including German, French, Spanish, Arabic, Portuguese, Italian, Turkish, Russian, English, and Hindi.

10. India and Saudi Arabia Sign Energy Cooperation MoU to Advance Renewable Energy and Sustainability

- In a significant move towards bolstering cooperation in the energy sector, India and Saudi Arabia have formalized a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The signing ceremony took place in New Delhi on September 10, 2023, with Shri R. K. Singh, Union Minister for New & Renewable Energy and Power, representing the Indian government, and His Royal Highness Abdulaziz bin Salman Al-Saud, Minister of Energy for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, representing the Saudi side.
- The MoU outlines a comprehensive framework for collaboration between the two nations in various energy-related domains. Key areas of cooperation include renewable energy, energy efficiency, hydrogen production, electricity and grid interconnection, petroleum, natural gas, strategic petroleum reserves, and energy security. Both nations are poised to stimulate bilateral investments in renewable energy, electricity, hydrogen, storage, and the oil and gas sector.

11. Spice Money and Wimbo's PayU Collaboration Introduces 'Spice Pay UPI Solution for Empowering Rural India

- Spice Money, a subsidiary of DiGiSPICE Technologies is a fintech building 'nano preneurs' for emerging India, has partnered with Wimbo, a company under PayU, to introduce 'Spice Pay,' an innovative UPI (Unified Payments Interface) solution aimed at empowering rural India.

- This collaboration between Spice Money and Wimbo focuses on providing a range of financial services to rural areas, including instant prepaid cards, linked UPI IDs for wallet interoperability, and eKYC (Electronic Know Your Customer) solutions to address the challenge of mobile number seeding.

12 India and Russia agreed to train Indian seafarers in polar and Arctic waters

- India and Russia agreed to train Indian seafarers in polar and arctic waters in this far eastern Russian port as the two sides discussed ways to widen maritime cooperation including possibility of usage of new transport corridors like the Northern Sea Route as well as the Eastern Maritime Corridor.
- The two sides also agreed to train Indian seafarers in Polar and Arctic waters at the Russian Maritime Training Institute, named after GI Admiral Nevelsky, which is equipped with simulator training facilities, in Vladivostok.

13. ADB predicts 6.5 percent GDP growth for Bangladesh in FY 2024

- The Asian Development Bank has projected Bangladesh's gross domestic product growth to be 6.5 percent in the financial year 2024, compared with an estimated growth of 6 per cent in FY23. The growth forecast reflected an improvement in domestic demand and better export growth due to economic recovery in the Eurozone.
- The ADB also mentioned that inflation in Bangladesh was projected to ease from 9 per cent in FY23 to 6.6 per cent in FY24. The main risk to this growth projection is a further deterioration in export growth if global demand is weaker than expected.

14. India Global Forum and World Governments Summit signed an MoU to develop the Emerging Economies Programme

- India Global Forum and World Governments Summit have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop an Emerging Economies Programme. The programme will convene key stakeholders, including government officials, business leaders, economists, and experts to foster high-level discussions on sustainable economic growth, geo-economic perspectives, and innovative solutions.
- The partnership will also focus on cultivating and fostering thought leadership, producing research on emerging trends, challenges, and opportunities that pertain to the Global South. The programme will also progressively enhance the data on the region for future governments.

15. The 14th edition of Global Skills Summit begins, to focus on empowering

youth and creating future

- The theme of the two-day Summit is building skills, empowering youth, and creating a future. The Summit aims to focus on creating a road map for a high-quality industry-led skilling ecosystem in India. He further added that the ecosystem of education, skills, and entrepreneurship in the country must equip the youth with skills and employment opportunities as the economy grows.
- The Summit will see future-forward discussions and deliberations on the ways to make the youth of India skilled for the industry and navigate the skilling and education ecosystem in India.


16. India wins bid to host 17th International Congress on the Chemistry of Cement

- India's leading research and academic institutes, National Council for Cement and Building Materials (NCCBM) along with IIT Delhi successfully presented India's bid before the steering committee members of the conference during the ongoing 16th ICCC at Bangkok, Thailand.
- The conference is the largest event of its kind which reviews the progress of research in the area of cement and concrete, it added. The gathering has been held generally at intervals of four to six years since 1918.

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17. UNESCO Releases Inaugural Guidance on the Application of Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) in Education

- UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) has published its inaugural set of guidelines on the utilisation of Generative AI (GenAI) in education. These guidelines, released come as a response to the rapid proliferation of AI-powered educational tools and the challenges they pose to the traditional education system.
- One of the key recommendations put forth by UNESCO is the urgent need for governmental regulation of GenAI usage in educational settings. The organisation emphasised the importance of protecting data privacy and implementing age limits for GenAI users, especially to shield younger students from potential risks associated with the technology.

18.Shantiniketan included in UNESCO World Heritage list

- Shantiniketan, founded by Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Tagore in 1901, has earned a place on UNESCO's World Heritage List. This prestigious institution, situated in the university town of West Bengal's Birbhum district, was established as a residential school and a centre for the arts. It was built on the principles of ancient Indian traditions and a vision for humanity that transcended religious and cultural boundaries.
- The inclusion of Shantiniketan on the UNESCO World Heritage List was announced during the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, which took place until September 25. This recognition makes Shantiniketan the 41st UNESCO World Heritage Site in India and the third in West Bengal, joining the ranks of the Sundarbans and the Darjeeling Mountain Railways.

19.United Kingdom commits \$2 billion to Green Climate Fund

- A day after G20 leaders committed to talking climate change and assuring developed countries will contribute climate funds for developing nations, United Kingdom has committed \$2 billion towards Green Climate Fund. The UK will contribute £1.62 billion (\$2 billion) to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), which was established by 194 countries following the Copenhagen Accord at COP15. The GCF is the largest global fund dedicated to supporting developing countries to reduce global emissions and helping communities adapt to the effects of climate change.
- This \$2 billion commitment represents a 12.7 per cent increase on the UK's previous contribution to the GCF for the period of 2020-2023, which was itself a doubling of their initial funding to establish the fund in 2014. In addition to the funding, the UK government will continue to stress the importance of the GCF delivering results with even greater speed, demonstrating value for money in all of its activities. This includes asking the GCF to further improve its delivery for those countries most vulnerable to climate change, particularly Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States.

20. Myanmar not allowed to chair 2026 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) meet

- Southeast Asian leaders have decided that Myanmar will not take over the rotating leadership of their regional bloc as scheduled in 2026, according to Asian diplomats and the leader of the Philippines. The decision, revealed at an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) leaders' summit taking place in Indonesia, is the latest blow to efforts by Myanmar's ruling generals to gain international recognition after violently seizing power in 2021.

- Western governments have condemned the Myanmar military's removal of Aung San Suu Kyi's democratically elected government and have demanded her release from detention, along with other officials. The Philippines agreed to take over the regional bloc's chairmanship in 2026 at the ASEAN summit, Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr said in a statement, citing what he told fellow leaders in the closed-door meetings. ASEAN's leadership rotates annually based on the alphabetical order of the English names of the member states.

21. Cabinet approves signing of an MoU between India and Armenia

- The Government approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology of India and the Ministry of High-Tech Industry of Armenia on Cooperation in the field of sharing successful Digital Solutions implemented at the Population Scale for Digital Transformation.
- The MoU intends to promote closer cooperation and exchange of experiences and digital technologies-based solutions in the implementation of digital transformational initiatives of both the country. It envisages improved collaboration leading to employment opportunities in the field of IT. The MoU will remain in force for a period of three years.

22. The 14th edition of the World Spice Congress begins in Navi Mumbai

- The 14th edition of the World Spice Congress (WSC) began at Vashi in Navi Mumbai. World Spice Congress (WSC) was planned and conceived in 1990 as a forum for discussion and interaction between the importers and exporters of spices.
- It is the conglomeration of the global spice industry that has become the most apt platform to deliberate the concerns and considerations of the sector over its three-decades-long presence. Since its inception, it has been Organized under the leadership of the Spices Board, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India. The theme of the WSC 2023 is VISION 2030: S-P-I-C-E-S, which stands for sustainability, productivity, innovation, collaboration, excellence and safety.

23. India and Russia agreed to train Indian seafarers in polar and Arctic waters

- India and Russia agreed to train Indian seafarers in polar and arctic waters in this far eastern Russian port as the two sides discussed ways to widen maritime cooperation including possibility of usage of new transport corridors like the Northern Sea Route as well as the Eastern Maritime Corridor.
- The two sides also agreed to train Indian seafarers in Polar and Arctic waters at the Russian Maritime Training Institute, named after GI Admiral

Nevelsky, which is equipped with simulator training facilities, in Vladivostok.

24. ADB predicts 6.5 percent GDP growth for Bangladesh in FY 2024

- The Asian Development Bank has projected Bangladesh's gross domestic product growth to be 6.5 percent in the financial year 2024, compared with an estimated growth of 6 per cent in FY23. The growth forecast reflected an improvement in domestic demand and better export growth due to economic recovery in the Eurozone.
- The ADB also mentioned that inflation in Bangladesh was projected to ease from 9 per cent in FY23 to 6.6 per cent in FY24. The main risk to this growth projection is a further deterioration in export growth if global demand is weaker than expected.

25. India Global Forum and World Governments Summit signed an MoU to develop the Emerging Economies Programme

- India Global Forum and World Governments Summit have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop an Emerging Economies Programme. The programme will convene key stakeholders, including government officials, business leaders, economists, and experts to foster high-level discussions on sustainable economic growth, geo-economic perspectives, and innovative solutions.
- The partnership will also focus on cultivating and fostering thought leadership, producing research on emerging trends, challenges, and opportunities that pertain to the Global South. The programme will also progressively enhance the data on the region for future governments.

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34.India temporarily suspends visa services including E-visa for Canadian citizens citing security threats

- India has temporarily suspended visa services in Canada including E-visa. Addressing media in New Delhi External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi informed that the decision was taken due to the incitement of violence and inaction of Canadian authority and creating an environment that disrupts the functions of the Indian High Commission and Consulates in Canada.
- He also stated that Canadian citizens in a third country will not be able to apply for an Indian visa. However, the spokesperson informed that anyone with a valid visa or other documents can travel to India. Replying to a query on the number of Canadian Diplomats in India, Mr. Bagchi stated that there will be a reduction of Diplomats from the Canadian side as India has called for parity in strength in the mutual diplomatic presence.

35.Singapore is now the world's freest economy

- Singapore has dethroned Hong Kong to become the world's freest economy, according to a report released by Canadian think tank Fraser Institute. For the first time since the Economic Freedom of the World Index started in 1970, Hong Kong slipped to second place from the number one spot — and its score is about to drop even further.

- Some of the tenets used to gauge economic freedom index are measured based on ease of international trade, freedom to enter and compete in markets, as well as business regulations, amongst other yardsticks.

36.JP Morgan to add G-Secs to its emerging market index

- In a development that could help India attract \$21 billion (Rs 1.7 lakh crore) worth of investments from the next fiscal, global financial firm JP Morgan stated that it plans to include Indian government bonds (IGBs) or government securities (G-Secs) into its benchmark Emerging Market index.
- This is the first time Indian G-Secs have been added to a major global bond index. The inclusion of the IGBs will be staggered over a 10-month period from June 28, 2024 to March 31, 2025.

37.‘Elon Musk’ biography becomes second bestseller by Walter Isaacson

- Elon Musk's biography by American author-journalist Walter Isaacson, saw strong sales during its first week after launch, with a total of 92,560 copies being sold. These figures encompass print copies sold up to September 16, according to data compiled by the book tracking platform Circana BookScan.
- Elon Musk in a post on social media platform X (formerly twitter) stated, "Cool, although it's kinda weird seeing so many close-up pics of my face."

38.Pakistan's General Elections To Be Held In January 2024

- The Election Commission of Pakistan announced that general elections would be held in the last week of January 2024. Initially scheduled for October this year, the polls have been pushed back by the early exit of the Shehbaz Sharif government and a subsequent census.
- The preliminary list of constituencies will be published on September 27. Local media reports indicate that the final list of constituencies will be released on November 30 after complaints and comments regarding the preliminary lists have been heard.

39.Foreign ministers of Quad nations meet on sidelines of UN General Assembly

- The foreign ministers of the Quad nations--Australia, India, Japan and the United States--met in New York on the sidelines of the 78th session of the UN General Assembly.
- The four top diplomats reaffirmed their commitment to a "free and open Indo-Pacific" and advancing a vision for "a region that is peaceful and prosperous, stable and secure, free from intimidation and coercion, and where disputes are settled in accordance with international law."

40. ICCR to organise 4th Edition of Indo-Latin American Cultural Festival on 28 & 29 September in New Delhi

- Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) will organise the 4th Edition of the Indo-Latin America Cultural Festival on the 28th and the 29th of September in New Delhi. The festival is being organised in association with the Embassies of Colombia, Ecuador, and Chile.
- Director General of ICCR Kumar Tuhin informed that artists from three countries- Chile, Colombia, and Ecuador will participate in the festival. He added that ambassadors, academicians, and other artists are also expected to join the festival.

41.EAM S Jaishankar, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres discuss India's G20 Presidency, global challenges

- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres discussed India's G20 Presidency as well as situations in Afghanistan, Myanmar, and other global challenges during their meeting here. Jaishankar posted on X that it was a "pleasure" to meet Guterres at the UN Headquarters.
- A readout issued by the UN spokesperson's office of the UN Secretary-General's meeting with Jaishankar said that the UN chief "expressed appreciation for India's cooperation with the UN and its leadership of the G20. The Secretary-General and the Minister discussed the situations in Afghanistan, Myanmar, and other global challenges.

NEW APPOINTMENTS AND PERSON IN NEWS

1.Bad Bank's chairman Karnam Sekar resigns after proposal to merge with IDRCL

- National Asset Reconstruction Company of India (NARCL) Chairman Karnam Sekar resigned after a proposal for merging public sector NARCL with India Debt Resolution Company Ltd (IDRCL) was suggested. Under the current structure, NARCL functions as a 'principal entity' while the IDRCL operates as a resolution agent.
- NARCL is tasked with acquiring and aggregating bad loan accounts from banks, while IDRCL is equipped with handling the resolution process.

2.Dr. Vasudha Gupta Assumes Charge As Principal DG Of Akashvani

- Dr. Vasudha Gupta, a seasoned Senior Indian Information Service officer, has taken charge as the Principal Director General of Akashvani and News Services Division. This appointment comes after her commendable tenure as Director General at Akashvani, where she played a pivotal role in revitalizing the iconic broadcasting institution.

- With over 33 years of dedicated service in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, including her tenure as Director General of the Press Information Bureau (PIB), Dr. Vasudha Gupta brings a wealth of experience and expertise to her new role.

3. Danielle McGahey to become first transgender to play international cricket

- In an historic moment, Danielle McGahey from Canada is set to become the first transgender cricketer to participate in an international match. Her groundbreaking inclusion will occur next month during a regional qualifying tournament for the 2024 Women's T20 World Cup in Bangladesh.
- Aged 29, McGahey holds the role of an opening batter and has been chosen as a member of Canada's women's squad for the qualifying tournament. She fulfilled the eligibility criteria outlined by the International Cricket Council (ICC) for male-to-female transgender players. Scheduled from September 4 to 11, the qualifying tournament will take place in Los Angeles. Canada is pitted against Argentina, Brazil, and the United States in the ICC Americas Qualifier, vying for a spot in the global qualifiers.

4. Lokesh Suji elected to IESF Membership Committee for 3-year term

- The General Body of the International Esports Federation (IESF) has elected Lokesh Suji, Director of the Esports Federation of India (ESFI) and Vice-President of the Asian Esports Federation (AESF), to its esteemed Membership Committee on a three-year term. This election marks the first time that an Indian has become a part of the membership committee of the International Esports Federation. The IESF is a global Esports organization working towards promoting Esports as a true sport beyond language, race, and culture barriers.
- Its Membership Committee is instrumental in upholding consistency, fairness, and excellence among its members. They enforce the federation's rules, promote integrity, and nurture unity within the Esports community. The committee also carefully assesses new member applications to maintain high standards and advance the global Esports mission.

5. Vanuatu parliament elects Sato Kilman as prime minister amid China-US rivalry in Pacific Islands

- Vanuatu's parliament elected Sato Kilman as the nation's new prime minister on Monday after a court upheld a vote of no-confidence in his predecessor, who had sought closer ties with US allies amid China-US rivalry in the Pacific Islands.
- Kilman, a former prime minister and leader of the People's Progressive Party, was elected prime minister 27/23 in a secret ballot by lawmakers. He

told parliament he would review foreign policy so that it benefitted Vanuatu more, and would seek new export markets.

6.Cognizant India Chairman and MD Rajesh Nambiar appointed as Nasscom Chairperson

- Rajesh Nambiar, Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Cognizant India, has been appointed as the Chairperson of the National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom). Rajesh Nambiar succeeds Anant Maheshwari, the former President of Microsoft India. Nambiar has previously served as the vice-chairperson of Nasscom.
- Nambiar along with President Debjani Ghosh, will continue to work with the Nasscom Executive Council, industry, and the government in strengthening India's position as a global technology hub while navigating the current volatile macro environment.

7.Neeraj Mittal takes charge as DoT secretary

- Neeraj Mittal assumed charge as the new Department of Telecommunications (DoT) secretary, as the communications ministry gets set for the next round of spectrum auctions and faces crucial decisions around allotment of satellite airwaves, among other things.
- After taking the reins of the DoT, Mittal told ET that providing quality and affordable connectivity to all is a priority for him.

8.Jayanta Chatterjee appointed as MD & CEO of ICRA Analytics

- ICRA has announced the appointment of Jayanta Chatterjee as the managing director and chief executive officer of ICRA Analytics Limited (IAL), its wholly owned subsidiary. In this role, Mr. Chatterjee will be responsible for shaping business strategies, aligned with the group's objectives, product and revenue diversification, and business transformation.
- Effective September 14, 2023, Mr. Chatterjee will succeed Sushmita Ghatak, who has resigned to pursue other opportunities. With a career spanning over 33 years, he has dedicated 28 years to ICRA, holding various senior positions across different functions. Before this role, he was the executive vice president and head of Strategic & Emerging Corporates Group at ICRA Limited.

9.Kotak Mahindra Bank gets RBI approval for appointment of Dipak Gupta as interim MD & CEO

- Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited said that the Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of Dipak Gupta as the interim Managing Director & CEO of the bank.

- Uday Kotak had announced his resignation as the managing director and chief executive officer of Kotak Mahindra Bank, while stating that he will continue to be the non-executive director.

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

- Women's fashion brand W on-boarded Anushka Sharma as its brand ambassador. With this partnership, the brand prepares to launch its high-decibel festive campaign that beautifully merges the warmth of festivities with the spirit of modernity. The campaign talks about every festival having a story that is synonymous with the story of women. It captures the essence of women being the centre of every celebration, thereby urging women to cherish their individuality and 'Celebrate your story'.
- The brand's ideology resonates with my beliefs and values. The brand the essence of every woman, her unique story, her convictions, her beliefs, her challenges and her wins. The specially curated Festive Collection by W includes its widest range of Anarkalis, Festive sets, dresses and lots more. It boasts of an exquisite array of fabrics, carefully selected to enhance the festive experience.

11. Sandeep Bakshi's re-appointment as ICICI Bank MD & CEO gets RBI approval

- The Reserve Bank of India has approved the re-appointment of Sandeep Bakshi as ICICI Bank MD & CEO for a period of three more years and he will remain at the post till 3 October 2026.
- Sandeep Bakhshi has been with the ICICI Group for 36 years and has handled various assignments across the group in ICICI Limited, ICICI Lombard General Insurance, ICICI Bank and ICICI Prudential Life Insurance.

12. NASSCOM Appoints SAP's Sindhu Gangadharan as Vice Chairperson

- Sindhu Gangadharan has been appointed as vice chairperson of The National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM). She has been serving as the SVP and MD, SAP Labs India and Head, SAP User Enablement. In her new role, Sindhu will leverage her extensive experience in technology and corporate leadership gained over decades in both India and Germany to help shape India's TechAde.
- Sindhu is responsible for overseeing the product development and innovation at all five centers, Bangalore, Gurgaon, Pune, Hyderabad, and Mumbai. She is also the Head of SAP User Enablement, which provides a consistent, intelligent, and personalised enablement for SAP's entire product portfolio.

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14. Srinivasan K. Swamy Elected Chairman of the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) for 2023-2024

- In a unanimous decision, Srinivasan K. Swamy, the Executive Chairman of R.K. Swamy Hansa Group, has been elected as the Chairman of the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) for the term 2023-2024. This significant appointment reflects Mr. Swamy's extensive experience and leadership in the advertising and media industry.
- Alongside Mr. Swamy, other prominent figures were also elected to key positions within the Bureau for the upcoming year. Srinivasan K. Swamy is a highly regarded figure in the advertising and media world. He currently serves as the Chairman of the Asian Federation of Advertising Associations and has held pivotal leadership roles in numerous prominent organizations.
- These include the International Advertising Association (IAA), IAA India Chapter, Confederation of Asian Advertising Agency Associations, Advertising Agencies Association of India, Advertising Standards Council of India, All India Management Association, Madras Chamber of Commerce & Industry, and Madras Management Association.

15. Aditya Birla Finance participates in OCEN to launch Instant Purchase Order financing for MSMEs on GeM Sahay.

- Aditya Birla Finance Ltd ("ABFL"), the lending subsidiary of Aditya Birla Capital Ltd. (ABCL), announced its participation in Open Credit Enablement Network (OCEN) by launching instant Purchase Order (PO) financing for MSMEs registered on Government e-Marketplace (GeM) Sahay platform. This will be an entirely digital and instant process, where sellers can access working capital finance against their purchase orders, ensuring swift and hassle-free disbursements.

- With participation in OCEN, ABFL facilitates the growth and development of MSMEs by providing them with seamless access to credit to meet their working capital requirements. OCEN is a decentralized open credit network developed by the non-profit think tank iSPIRT foundation as a digital public infrastructure. It allows the flow of credit between borrowers and lenders under a common set of standards.

16. Tata power and SIDBI partner to launch affordable financing for msme in rooftop solar segment

- Tata Power Solar Systems Limited (TPSSL), a fully-owned subsidiary of Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TREPL), the energy solutions arm of the Tata Group, has forged a collaboration with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), the primary financial institution serving MSMEs in India. This partnership aims to offer financing solutions to MSMEs seeking to install rooftop Solar PV systems from Tata Power or its authorized distribution partners.
- Tata Power Solar and SIDBI have jointly introduced “The Big Solar Fest” to promote the adoption of solar energy among MSMEs during the upcoming festive season. This initiative offers a zero percent processing fee and provides an online application portal for MSMEs to access the scheme’s advantages.

17.Nihar Malaviya named as permanent CEO of Penguin Random House

- Nihar Malaviya has been named as permanent CEO of Penguin Random House, nine months after he was appointed the interim chief executive. Malaviya succeeded Markus Dohle, who departed weeks after a federal judge struck down Penguin Random House’s attempted merger with Simon & Schuster, a deal Dohle had pushed for. Penguin Random House, the world’s largest trade publisher, has been undergoing a company-wide reorganization in 2023, with numerous senior editors either laid off or departing under a voluntary retirement plan.
- Bertelsmann, the German media conglomerate, has owned Random House since 1998. Random House and Penguin merged in 2013.

18.PM Modi to inaugurate two day International Lawyers Conference in Delhi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi called upon the legal fraternity to create a global legal framework to tackle the misuse of cyber terrorism and money laundering. Inaugurating a two-day International Lawyers Conference in New Delhi this morning, the Prime Minister said whether it is cyber terrorism, money laundering, artificial intelligence, or its misuse, the world needs a global framework to tackle these issues. He added that it is not one

government that can do this but the legal frameworks of different countries that need to join together.

- The Prime Minister said that when threats are global the way to deal with them should also be global. The Prime Minister mentioned the simplicity of language and law.

19. Bhargav Dasgupta Resigns as MD & CEO of ICICI Lombard, Set to Join ADB as Vice President for Market Solutions

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) announced the appointment of Bhargav Dasgupta as vice-president for Market Solutions for three years. This development follows Dasgupta's resignation as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company.
- Having joined ICICI Lombard in May 2009 as Managing Director and CEO, Dasgupta served the general insurance company for over 14 years. In his resignation letter, he highlighted his role in increasing the company's revenue sixfold and net profit by 78 times over the years.

20. Liberty General Insurance appoints Parag Ved as Director & CEO Designate

- Liberty General Insurance has appointed Parag Ved as its Director & CEO Designate, effective from September 20, 2023. Prior to joining Liberty, he was the President of consumer lines at Tata AIG General. He has also worked with ICICI Lombard General.
- Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting Anurag Thakur shared the decision by the I and B Ministry on his social media handle. Mr. Thakur wrote, "I feel an immense sense of happiness and honour in announcing that Waheeda Rehman ji is being bestowed with the prestigious Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award this year for her stellar contribution to Indian Cinema.

BANKING

1. Infosys completes acquisition of Danske Bank's IT Centre in India

- IT major Infosys announced that it has completed the acquisition of Danske Bank's IT center in India. Danske Bank selected Infosys as a strategic partner to accelerate digital transformation initiatives with speed and scale, and this follows the announcement of the strategic collaboration with Danske Bank (Headquartered in Denmark). Salil Parekh is the current chief executive officer and managing director of Infosys.

2. Muthoot Fincorp Limited Launches Muthoot FinCorp ONE

- Muthoot Fincorp Limited (MFL), a kerala based flagship entity of Muthoot Pappachan Group (Muthoot Blue), has introduced “Muthoot FinCorp ONE,” a cutting-edge digital platform to offer an integrated range of financial solutions, including lending, investments, protection, and payments, all accessible through a single app. The launch of Muthoot FinCorp ONE signifies Muthoot Fincorp’s commitment to catering to diverse financial requirements across India in a seamless and convenient manner.
- Muthoot FinCorp ONE is an all-in-one digital financial platform that makes getting an MSME & a Gold Loan, investing in Digital gold & NCDs, making payments & remittances, buying insurance & exchanging forex, simple and convenient. It provides an extensive array of financial services. This includes Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprise (MSME) loans and Gold Loans, which can be availed from home or Muthoot FinCorp Ltd. branches.

3.Uday Kotak resigns as Kotak Mahindra Bank MD & CEO, Dipak Gupta takes interim charge

- Uday Kotak has stepped down as the Kotak Mahindra Bank managing director and chief executive officer with effect from September 1, the bank said in a communication to exchanges on September 2. Kotak will, however, continue as a non-executive director of the bank, it said. Uday Kotak’s tenure as the chief executive officer and managing director of the bank ends on December 31, 2023.
- As an interim arrangement, Dipak Gupta, the joint managing director, will carry out the duties of the MD and CEO until December 31, subject to the approval of the RBI and the members of the bank.

4.SBI Card unveils additional features on its super-premium card 'AURUM'

- SBI Card, India's largest credit card issuer, launched new features of its super-premium card 'AURUM' , targeted at the premium section of society, such as high-net-worth individuals.
- The card offers unlimited international lounge access to cardholders, as well as four international lounge visits for accompanying guests. In addition, the card also offers a one-year Club Marriott membership as a welcome gift. AURUM has been tailored to meet the discerning taste and lifestyle of the globetrotting and high-flying executives who pursue excellence in every aspect of their life. It has become one of the most coveted cards in the super-premium segment.

5.India launches 'Hello UPI' for conversational payments

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), at the Global Fintech Fest, launched conversational payments initiatives that are aimed at

increasing convenience and accessibility for users. 'Hello UPI' allows users to make payments by engaging in conversations with their smartphones — whether it's splitting a restaurant bill, sending money to a friend.

- The NPCI also launched 'Bharat BillPay Connect', an initiative aimed at effortless bill payments through conversations. 'Bharat BillPay Connect' enables users to pay their bills through natural conversations with popular voice assistants like Alexa or via feature phones, smartphones, or merchant soundboxes. This initiative aims to cater to users across various tech proficiency levels, ensuring that digital bill payments are accessible to all.

6.SBI Card launches credit card for MSMEs to cater to short-term credit needs

- Credit card issuer SBI Card launched a new credit card SimplySAVE Merchant SBI Card for MSMEs to cater to their short-term credit requirements. Available on RuPay network, the card be linked to UPI for payments through various UPI-enabled third-party apps.
- MSMEs contribute significantly towards economic growth and job generation. Therefore, it is important to empower them, especially by ensuring easier and timely access to formal credit. The launch of SimplySAVE Merchant SBI Card is an attempt to address this larger segment by extending interest-free short-term credit to MSME.

7.Hitachi Payment Services launches India's first-ever UPI-ATM with NPCI

- Hitachi Payment Services, a subsidiary of Japan-based Hitachi Ltd, announced the launch of India's first-ever UPI-ATM as a White Label ATM (WLA) named Hitachi Money Spot UPI ATM, with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- A UPI-ATM allows users to withdraw cash from multiple accounts using the United Payments Interface (UPI) app. Notably, Hitachi Payment Services is the only White Label ATM operator to offer a cash deposit facility. WLAs are operated by non-banking entities.

8.Cashfree payments partners with NPCI to launch 'autopay on qr'

- Cashfree Payments has launched 'AutoPay on QR' in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). This solution enables subscription-based businesses to enhance customer acquisition, supporting retention and facilitating rapid growth.It also allows companies to boost return on investment (ROI) on ad spending by enabling mandate creation in two clicks.
- Cashfree Payments 'Autopay on QR' transforms the customer onboarding process into a swift two-step workflow, which includes scanning the QR code and approving an e-mandate via UPI apps within 30 seconds. This

eliminates the necessity to download an app or register on the website and directly activates a unique subscription for each customer.

9.LIC presents dividend cheque of Rs 1,831 crore to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) presented a dividend cheque of Rs 1,831.09 crore to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. LIC Chairman Siddhartha Mohanty presented the dividend cheque as the government's share of dividend in the presence of Department of Financial Services Additional Secretary MP Tangirala.
- The dividend was approved by the shareholders in the annual general meeting held on August 22. LIC has completed 67 years since its incorporation and beginning with an initial capital of Rs 5 crore in 1956, LIC as of March 31, 2023, has an asset base of Rs 45.50 lakh crore with a life fund of Rs 40.81 lakh crore, it noted.

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

- Yes Bank has partnered with BriskPe to revolutionise cross-border payments for Indian MSMEs. The duo will introduce BriskPe A2A, a cutting-edge suite of solutions designed to empower exporters and importers. The tie-up is expected to enable BriskPe's customers to seamlessly collect payments in over 36 foreign currencies, spanning across more than 180 countries.
- The partnership represents a significant leap in the realm of cross-border payments, benefiting Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) operating in the manufacturing and services sectors.

11.Former SBI Chief Rajnish Kumar appointed Chairman of Mastercard India

- Mastercard has appointed Rajnish Kumar, the former Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI), as the chairman of its Indian unit. This move comes as India's payment landscape undergoes a shift towards digital transactions.
- Rajnish Kumar, who served various leadership roles at SBI for 40 years and was its chairman until October 2020, is currently the chairman of payments startup BharatPe. In his new role, Kumar will work on strengthening the local leadership team to expand Mastercard's presence in the Indian market.

12.Axis Bank Launches its Credit Cards Campaign named 'Open Experiences'

- Axis Bank, a prominent private sector bank in India, has unveiled its credit card campaign titled 'Open Experiences.' This campaign recognizes a notable shift in the concept of 'experience' in contemporary times.
- It acknowledges that today's consumers are looking for more than just materialistic gains and are seeking meaningful experiences. Open Experiences' aligns with Axis Bank's core ethos of going beyond conventional banking services to offer experiences that resonate deeply with the aspirations of the modern consumer. The campaign introduces a range of tailored credit card offerings designed to deliver exceptional benefits and unique experiences to cardholders.

13. Bharti AXA Life Insurance unveils Income Laabh to provide both income and insurance benefits

- Bharti AXA Life Insurance has unveiled a new product, Bharti AXA Life Income Laabh to simplify insurance and provide optimal protection to its customers. This plan addresses the twin goals of providing financial protection and ensuring a steady income stream.
- The plan gives customers a regular stream of assured income for 10-12 years, depending on the policy term they choose. Initial income pay-out is 100 per cent of the annual premium one pays, which then increases to 150 per cent after five years for a 10-year policy term. In the case of a 12-year policy term, the income increases by 200 per cent after six years.

14. ICICI Bank gets RBI nod to make I-Process Services as wholly-owned subsidiary

- ICICI Bank has received a green signal from the Reserve Bank to make Process Services (India) Private Ltd a wholly-owned subsidiary of the lender. The board of the bank had, at its meeting held on February 17-18, 2023, approved a proposal for making I-Process Services (India) Private Limited (iProcess) a wholly-owned subsidiary of the bank, subject to receipt of requisite regulatory and statutory approval.
- The bank has received approval from the Reserve Bank of India for making iProcess its wholly-owned subsidiary, subject to certain conditions, ICICI Bank said in a regulatory filing.

15. Bharti AXA Life Launches "Income Laabh" to Streamline Insurance with Enhanced Protection

- Bharti AXA Life Insurance has introduced a new insurance product called "Bharti AXA Life Income Laabh" with the goal of simplifying insurance and providing maximum protection to customers.
- This plan is designed to offer both financial protection and a consistent income stream to policyholders. Bharti AXA Life Income Laabh is a non-linked, non-participating individual savings plan that includes life insurance

coverage. Customers who opt for this plan can expect a steady stream of guaranteed income for a period of 10 to 12 years, depending on the chosen policy term

16. SEBI Mandates Online-Only Mode for Investor Protection and Education Fund Payments

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has stated that payments to the SEBI Investor Protection and Education Fund (IPEF) account can now be made only through online mode. It's aim is to streamline the payment process and enhance accessibility for all individuals and entities contributing to the fund. Intermediaries now have the convenience of making payments to the IPEF using various online payment methods, including: Net banking, National Electronic Fund Transfer (NEFT) and Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS), Debit cards and Unified Payment Interface (UPI).

17. AU Small Finance Bank and Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance enter into strategic partnership

- AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB), a small finance bank, and Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance, a private life insurer, has entered into a strategic partnership. This collaboration will empower AU SFB's customers to gain access to Bajaj Allianz Life's comprehensive suite of life insurance products, thereby addressing their imperative need for financial security.
- Through this partnership, the bank aims to leverage technology-based solutions for its customers through wide variety of life insurance products offered by Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance. AU SFB has a distribution network comprising 1,038 touchpoints spanning 21 States and 3 Union Territories.

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20. Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launches 'Skills on Wheels' initiative with NSDC and IndusInd Bank to promote skilling

- Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla launched 'Skills on Wheels' initiative with NSDC and IndusInd Bank with a flagging off ceremony. Under the partnership, 60,000 youth will be empowered over a period of five years with the objective of improving livelihood of rural households by providing relevant skills training to its youth population.
- Under the collaboration, a customized bus with retrofitted tools will promote the 'Skill India Mission' initiative through 'Skills on Wheels' and will travel across the length and breadth of aspirational and backward districts. The initiative is aimed at spreading awareness at grass root level about free skill training programs enabling youth to profoundly change the trajectory of their lives through robust skill training. Aligned with this mission, this partnership with IndusInd Bank is aimed at empowering the youth of the nation through the 'Skills on Wheels' project.

21. CCI approves the acquisition of approximately 24.16% of total equity shareholding in Quality Care India Limited by Centella Mauritius Holdings Limited

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the acquisition of approximately 24.16% of the total equity shareholding in Quality Care India Limited by Centella Mauritius Holdings Limited. The proposed combination relates to acquisition of approximately 24.16% of the total equity shareholding in Quality Care India Limited (QCIL) by Centella Mauritius Holdings Limited.
- Centella Mauritius Holdings Limited is a newly incorporated special purpose investment vehicle incorporated in Mauritius and currently has no operations in India. The Acquirer is majorly owned and controlled by an entity, which is advised by the affiliates of TPG Inc. (TPG), the ultimate holding company of the TPG group.

22. SIDBI to raise Rs 10,000 crore from rights issue next fiscal

- Small Industries Development Bank of India (Sidbi), which refinances SME loans, plans to float a Rs 10,000-crore rights issue next fiscal to expand its equity capital as it expects to grow assets to Rs 5 lakh crore by March 2024 from about Rs 4 lakh crore in March 2023.
- The central government owns 20.8 per cent in Sidbi, while State Bank of India holds 15.65 per cent and Life Insurance Corporation 13.33 per cent. The rest of the equity is held by other public financial institutions and banks. The lender's loan growth optimism comes from the demand for direct financing that is growing by leaps and bounds, which two years ago was only 7 per cent of its book but is now 14 per cent.

23. SEBI Details Procedure Allowing Board Seats For REIT, Inv IT Holders

- SEBI notified the framework that allows unit holders of real estate investment trusts and infrastructure investment trusts to nominate representatives on the boards. . SEBI is in receipt of representation from market participants that right to nominate directors on the board of Investment Manager is required by institutional investors to protect their investments in the Inv IT.
- It has also be submitted by market participants that such right will enhance governance and ensure that the interest of the unit holders is safeguarded, as the unit holders will have more say on the investment decisions and activities undertaken by the Investment Manager of the Inv IT.

24. RBI Issues Revised Norms for Classification and Valuation of Investment Portfolios by Banks

- The Reserve Bank of India has revised norms for the classification, valuation and operation of investment portfolios of commercial banks. According to the new guidelines released on September 12, banks will have to classify their investments – except investments in their own subsidiaries, joint ventures and associates – into three categories from the next financial year: available for sale (AFS), held to maturity (HTM) and a new category called fair value through profit and loss, or FVTPL.
- The revised directions include principle-based classification of investment portfolio, tightening of regulations around transfers to/from held to maturity (HTM) category and sales out of HTM, inclusion of non-SLR securities in HTM subject to fulfilment of certain conditions and symmetric recognition of gains and losses.

25. ICC releases official Anthem ‘Dil Jashn Bole’ for Men’s Cricket World Cup featuring Ranveer Singh and influencers.

- The countdown for the much-awaited ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 has reached its final stretch, and ahead of it fans have been treated with the release of its official anthem, 'Dil Jashn Bole'.
- Since India is the sole host of the ICC event this year, BCCI is leaving no stone unturned in the promotional activities. Hence, the anthem also features Dhanashree Verma, the wife of Indian cricketer Yuzvendra Chahal, and several social media influencers.

26. BCCI announces SBI Life as Official Partner for domestic & international season 2023-26

- Cricket as sport has unfailingly united our nation over the years and BCCI's undeniable role in nurturing the sport across the length and breadth of the country is well respected. As a brand driven to make a meaningful connect with the consumer, SBI Life's association as the official partner of BCCI with its undisputed reach and impeccable credibility is a marketer's delight.
- We look forward to leveraging SBI Life's association with BCCI to establish a deeper connect with the consumer and impress upon the need for insurance as an enabler for individuals to pursue their dreams. We sincerely hope the visibility offered by the sport will go a long way in spreading awareness about the importance of insurance and furthering the national agenda of 'Insurance for all' by 2047.

27. IRDAI Established Interdisciplinary Standing Committee on Cyber Security

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has set up a standing committee on cyber security to regularly review the threats inherent in the existing or emerging technologies. The committee, set up following the issue of the Information and Cyber Security Guidelines this April, will also suggest appropriate changes to the framework to strengthen the cyber security posture and resilience on the insurance industry.
- The cyber security norms mandated insurers and intermediaries to adopt a risk-based approach and take necessary measures to secure their systems and data against cyber threats. This includes identifying and assessing risks, implementation of appropriate security controls, incident response plans, and regular security audits.

28. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Launches Maxima Savings Account and Business Maxima Current Account for Premium Customers

- Ujjivan Small Finance Bank (Ujjivan SFB), a leading small finance bank, announced the introduction of the Maxima Savings Account and Business Maxima Current Account for the premium customer segment. These new

offerings aim to improve the banking experience for both new and existing customers by providing a variety of services and benefits. The products are designed to provide customers with various benefits, superior features, and a premium experience to meet their various financial and banking needs.

- The annual interest rate on the Maxima Savings Account is up to 7.5%, one of the highest in the industry, and customers can open the account with Rs. 1 lakh. Customers also have the flexibility to maintain Rs. 15 lakh or more in fixed deposits to meet the balance eligibility criteria of the Maxima Savings Account, an option not available with other standard savings accounts. Other exciting services offered by Maxima Savings Account include higher transaction limits, Free cheque & DD Issuances, Free transactions across all channels, and unlimited cash deposits and withdrawals at any branch. A Complimentary Health Prime Benefit is also offered with the Maxima Savings Account to applicable customers.

29. Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) Launches Online Safe Deposit Locker Allotment Service

- Public sector Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) announced the launch of the online allotment of safe deposit locker facility. The facility is now conveniently accessible online within two minutes, requiring just a few clicks on the bank's portal - www.iob.in. This ensures that both customers and non-customers can avail locker facility from the comfort of their homes, 'Any Time, Any Where,' according to a statement from the bank.
- This feature not only saves time for our valued customers, including both Gen Z and senior citizens, but also enhances accessibility and efficiency. This digital upgrade is a testament to our commitment to providing the best banking solutions.

30. World Bank praises India's digital public infrastructure push

- Advocating DPI's potential in helping nations leapfrog digital transformation, a G20 document prepared by World Bank has praised India's approach in unlocking the power of digital public infrastructure, including Aadhaar and UPI, for financial inclusion. The impact of DPI goes beyond inclusive finance, to supporting health, education, and sustainability, the foreword of the document 'G20 policy recommendations for advancing financial inclusion and productivity gains through DPI'.
- The India stack exemplifies this approach, combining digital ID, interoperable payments, a digital credentials ledger, and account aggregation. In just six years, it has achieved a remarkable 80 per cent financial inclusion rate—a feat that would have taken nearly five decades without a DPI approach.

31. Dhanlaxmi Bank independent director Sridhar Kalyanasundaram resigns from board

- Dhanlaxmi Bank Ltd.'s independent director Sridhar Kalyanasundaram has resigned from the board with effect Sept. 16., citing "factionalism" to "unethical" business conduct. Kalyanasundaram, appointed on Dec. 5, 2022, also referred to whistle-blower issues, rights issue of the bank and the "belligerent attitude" of Shivan JK, managing director and chief executive officer, among other reasons for his exit, according to the company's exchange filing.
- In his resignation letter, Kalyanasundaram has raised issues like factionalism in the board, his differences regarding rights issue and the alleged 'lack of in depth banking knowledge' in other members. The former independent director also raised the "probity and lack of consensus" on the various whistle-blower issues, as a reason of resignation.

32.RBI sets 30-day deadline for banks and NBFCs to release property documents after loan settlement

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued new guidelines for loan settlement, which require banks and NBFCs to release all original movable and immovable property documents within 30 days of full repayment/settlement of the loan account. The move is aimed at addressing the issues faced by borrowers during loan settlement.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued guidelines for banks, non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) and other regulated entities to address the issues faced by the borrowers and towards promoting responsible lending conduct among such entities.

33. Centre launches three game-changing initiatives for farmers focusing on agri-credit and crop insurance

- Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Finance Minister & Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, Union Agriculture Minister and jointly unveil KCC Ghar Ghar Abhiyaan, Kisan Rin Portal and WINDS manual Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman assures full cooperation of banks for success of Ghar Ghar KCC Abhiyan
- Smt. Sitharaman appreciated real time estimation for rice and wheat crop output and called for the estimation to be extended to Dalhan and Tilhan crops.

34.EPFO records the highest payroll addition with 18.75 lakh net members during the month of July, 2023

- The Employee Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) added 18.75 lakh net members in July, according to the latest data from the ministry of labour and employment. During the month under review, 10.27 lakh new members have been enrolled, which is highest since July 2022. Majority of new

members joining EPFO are in the age group of 18-25 years, constituting 58.45% of total new members' additions during the month.


- This shows an increasing trend in youth enrollment, who are mostly first-time job seekers joining the organized sector workforce of the country. The Employee's Pension Scheme (EPS) was introduced in 1995. The scheme, administered by the EPFO, provides employees with a pension after they reach the age of 58.

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35. Bank of Baroda Unveils Festive Campaign “BOB Ke Sang Tyohaar Ki Umang”

- Bank of Baroda announced the start of the “BOB Ke Sang Tyohaar Ki Umang” holiday campaign, which would last through December 31, 2023. The launch of 4 new savings accounts from Bank of Baroda, together with enticing interest rate promotions on loans for homes, cars, people, and education, are among the company’s festival offers.
- The launch of 4 new savings accounts from Bank of Baroda, together with enticing interest rate promotions on loans for homes, cars, people, and education, are among the company's festival offers which has been launched in BOB’s festive season campaign “BOB Ke Sang Tyohaar Ki Umang”.

36. Yes Bank partners with Juspay to launch Hyper UPI

- Juspay, India’s largest payments firm, collaborated with YES Bank to introduce HyperUPI, the NPCI plug-in SDK that enables in-app UPI payments in merchant apps. Without becoming an approved UPI app, merchants can now offer easy “1-click UPI experiences” via their Android and iOS apps. Customers will no longer need to rely on another app to complete UPI transactions because these payments may now be completed on the merchant’s app. This plugin SDK is based on one of the most reputable cloud UPI systems in the country, and it supports UPI payments for top UPI merchant and consumer applications.
- Traditional UPI payments in merchant applications require many clicks, increasing the likelihood that customers may quit the payment process. The UPI Plug-in SDK, on the other hand, reduces the payment experience to a single click. This optimised method results in a four-fold increase in transaction speed and 90%+ success rates for retailers.

37.Indian Bank unveils 'IB SAATHI' to enhance banking services

- Public sector Indian Bank on Saturday announced roll out of 'IB SAATHI' initiative aimed at providing an integrated ecosystem for all stakeholders in the financial sector through the business correspondent route.
- The IB Sustainable Access and Aligning Technology for Holistic Inclusion (SAATHI) offers an enhanced user experience through the simplified delivery of services, encompassing both basic and value-added offerings to customers.

38.Odisha signs MoU with six banks for giving banking services in unbanked gram panchayats

- The Odisha government roped in six public sector banks for providing banking services in unbanked gram panchayats of the state through customer service point (CSP) plus banking outlets.
- The banks are State Bank of India (SBI), Punjab National Bank (PNB), Union Bank of India (UBI), UCO Bank, Bank of India (BoI) and Bank of Baroda (BoB). Odisha is the first state in the country to adopt such exemplary model for providing banking services to all panchayats. Though financial inclusion is a high priority agenda of the government, it continues to be a critical challenge since banking penetration in the state is quite low and not uniform across districts

SCIENCE TECH & DEFENCE

1.The launch of Aditya-L1 by PSLV-C57 accomplished successfully

- Aditya L1 shall be the first space based Indian mission to study the Sun. The spacecraft shall be placed in a halo orbit around the Lagrange point 1 (L1) of the Sun-Earth system, which is about 1.5 million km from the Earth.
- The PSLV-C57.1 rocket carrying the Aditya-L1 orbiter lifted off successfully from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. The largest and technically most challenging payload on Aditya-L1 is the Visible Emission Line Coronagraph or VELC. VELC was integrated, tested, and calibrated at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics' CREST (Centre for Research and Education in Science Technology) campus in Hosakote in collaboration with ISRO.

2.Space startup unveils UAV-based high-res SAR system

- GalaxEye, a SpaceTech start-up, unveiled its high-resolution aerial UAV-based Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) System that can perform exceptionally detailed and high resolution all-weather imaging, even amidst rainy or cloudy conditions.

- The technology comes ahead of the firm's planned highest-resolution multi-sensor imaging satellite. The in-house developed data fusion technology will deliver unprecedented insights and data from space, empowering satellite constellations to conduct all-weather imaging without succumbing to the atmospheric hindrances that plagues current single-sensor satellites.

3.Govt partners with Meta for 'Education to Entrepreneurship' to skill 500,000 entrepreneurs

- Ministry of Education, Ministry Skill Development & Entrepreneurship along with Meta have launched a 3-year partnership "Education to Entrepreneurship: Empowering a generation of students, educators and entrepreneurs". It was launched by Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan.
- Under this partnership, 5 lakh entrepreneurs will get access to digital marketing skills by Meta over the next 3 years. In the initial stage, the budding and existing entrepreneurs will be trained in digital marketing skills using Meta platforms in 7 regional languages. For this, 3 Letters of Intent (LoI) were exchanged between Meta and National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD), AICTE and CBSE.

4.IIT Jodhpur develops novel device to ensure good indoor air quality

- Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jodhpur have developed a novel Cold-plasma Detergent in Environment 'CODE' device for good indoor air quality. The device has been tested extensively which deactivates more than 99.99% of harmful pathogens and provides quality indoor air.
- Air pollution is basically one of the top 5 risks causing chronic diseases according to the World Health Organisation. We consume nearly 8 times as much air by volume as food and 4 times as much air as water. Indoor air often contains around 2-5 times more pollution as compared to outdoor air. Sick building syndrome is also a challenging issue nowadays. Besides these, airborne transmitted pathogen infection is a huge challenge in the current era.

5.ISRO successfully launched 7 Singaporean satellites on board PSLV-C56 Rocket from Sriharikota

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)'s PSLV-C56 rocket successfully launched Singapore's DS-SAR satellite and 6 co-passenger payloads from the first launch-pad (FLP) of Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh (AP). This mission, PSLV-C56 / DS-SAR, is a dedicated commercial mission conducted by NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) for ST Engineering, Singapore.

- This is the 58th flight of PSLV and 17th flight of PSLV in Core Alone configuration. VELOX-AM, a technology demonstration microsatellite (23 kg) .

6.INS Sumedha participates in 'Exercise Bright Star-23' in Egypt

- In a development highlighting India's growing presence on the global military stage, the Indian Navy's INS Sumedha arrived at Port Alexandria, Egypt, on September 6, to partake in 'Exercise BRIGHT STAR-23.'
- This multinational Tri-Services military exercise marks a historic occasion, with 34 countries participating, making it the largest joint military exercise ever held in the Middle East and North Africa region. The exercise, Ex Bright Star 23, is meticulously planned in two phases. The Harbour Phase involves an array of activities, including cross-deck visits, professional exchanges, sports events, and strategic interactions aimed at planning and executing the Sea Phase, read the Ministry of Defence press release.

7. Thomas Cook to launch RuPay forex card with NPCI

- Thomas Cook (India) Limited's shares were up by 5 per cent after the company reported a partnership with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to introduce a RuPay prepaid forex card tailored for Indian travellers going to the UAE.
- The launch of the Thomas Cook RuPay card began in the UAE, tapping into growth in outbound travel from India, particularly to short-haul destinations. Visitor numbers to Dubai from India have exceeded pre-pandemic levels (2019) with a 23 per cent growth recorded for Jan-Jun 2023. The company has observed an increase in per-person spending for UAE, up by over 30 per cent in 2022 compared to pre-pandemic levels.

8. Oil India plans to invest \$2 billion in projects, aims net zero by 2040

- Oil India Ltd aims to invest 165 billion rupees (\$1.98 billion) in clean energy projects to meet its 2040 net zero carbon emissions goal, said two sources familiar with state-run energy companies' net zero strategy.
- State-run energy companies - Indian Oil Corp, Bharat Petroleum Corp, Hindustan Petroleum Corp, GAIL (India) Ltd, Oil and Natural Gas Corp have already announced their net zero goal. Together with Oil India, the six-state run energy companies plan to invest 6.38 trillion rupees.

9.World's highest fighter airfield to be built in Ladakh

- The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has announced plans to construct the world's highest fighter airfield in Ladakh's Nyoma region. The official announcement came on Sunday (September 10), and the project's inauguration is scheduled for today, September 12, with Defence Minister

Rajnath Singh presiding over the laying of the foundation stone at Devak Bridge.

- The construction of this airfield in the challenging terrain of Ladakh will require an estimated budget of around Rs 218 crore. An airfield is a designated area of land, often equipped with prepared runways, where aircraft can take off, land, and operate.

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11. NSE to launch options on WTI crude oil futures and natural gas futures contracts

- The National Stock Exchange (NSE) has received approval from the SEBI to launch options (on futures) on NYMEX WTI Crude Oil and Natural Gas futures contracts in its commodity derivatives segment. Earlier, NSE introduced rupee-denominated futures contracts for NYMEX WTI Crude Oil and Natural Gas within its commodity derivatives segment on May 15, 2023.
- The inclusion of options on futures contracts will enhance the NSE's range of products within the broader commodity sector. NSE is the world's largest derivatives exchange by trading volume (contracts) as per the statistics maintained by Futures Industry Association (FIA) for calendar year 2022. NSE is ranked 3rd in the world in the cash equities by number of trades as per the statistics maintained by the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE) for calendar year 2022. WTI is a light, sweet crude oil that serves as one of the main global oil benchmarks.

12. Bajaj Allianz Life Introduces New Savings Plan – Bajaj Allianz Life ACE

- Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company Limited has launched a new savings plan called “Bajaj Allianz Life ACE.” Bajaj Allianz Life ACE is a non-linked, participating early-income life insurance plan. It offers customers increased flexibility in customizing cash flows to align with their unique financial needs and goals. Dynamic Income Options: Customers have the flexibility to choose their preferred income amount, income start year, income period, and even adjust maturity benefits to suit their specific financial objectives. This feature ensures that the plan can cater to a wide range of financial requirements.

- Early or Deferred Income Option: Policyholders can decide to begin receiving income right from the beginning of the policy or defer it for up to 5 years. This flexibility allows them to tailor the plan based on their financial circumstances and needs.

13.Apple iPhone 15 Pro models have a feature built by ISRO

- The Apple iPhone 15 has been released, and it is unique in many ways. If you are an Indian, you will be surprised to know that Apple is using an indigenous GPS navigation system for the first time. Let us remind you that the present Modi government has been pressuring smartphone manufacturers for a long time to employ an indigenous GPS navigation system.
- The newly launched Apple iPhone 15 Pro models come with a noteworthy 'ISRO connection' that has caught many by surprise. Apple, the tech giant known for its innovation, has decided to incorporate India's homegrown GPS alternative, NavIC, in these latest flagship smartphones.

14.GSITI signs MoU with ISRO for five years

- Geological Survey of India Training Institute (GSITI), Hyderabad has signed an MoU for five years with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Bengaluru under the National Natural Resources Management System (NNRMS) programme.
- The scope of this project is to conduct a series of trainings for the capacity building in the areas of mineral resources and disaster management.

15. Dennis Austin, Software Developer Who Created PowerPoint, Passes Away At 76

- Dennis Austin was a software developer who co-created the slideshow software PowerPoint. Died: September 1, 2023 (Who else died on September 1?) Details of death: Died at his home in Los Altos, California, of lung cancer that metastasized to the brain at the age of 76.
- Released in 1987 by software firm Forethought, PowerPoint was the digital successor to overhead projectors, "transforming the labour-intensive process of creating slides". The company released the software in 1987, and Microsoft bought the company just a few months later for \$14 million. By 1993, PowerPoint was generating more than \$100 million in sales. Microsoft integrated PowerPoint to its suite of Office products, including Word. Austin served as PowerPoint's primary developer from 1985 to 1996 when he retired.

16. NPCI launched India's First Contactless Payment Wearable Ring "OTG Ring"

- NPCI has unveiled the “OTG Ring” which is the first contactless payment wearable ring made in India, in collaboration with Indian startup LivQuik. “OTG Ring” can be enabled for National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) customers and used for various open-loop transit programs.
- The ‘OTG Ring’ represents a significant advancement in contactless payment technology. Designed and made in India, this wearable ring is set to transform the way people make payments and engage in various financial transactions.

17. India has decided to procure 12 Sukhoi Su-30 MKIs

- The Ministry of Defence approved the proposal for the procurement of 12 Sukhoi Su-30 MKIs for the Indian Air Force which would be manufactured in India by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited. The project worth Rs 11,000 crore will include the aircraft and related ground systems. According to Defence officials these Su-30 MKI would include more than 60 per cent indigenous content as per need and would be the most modern Sukhoi aircraft of the Indian Air Force.
- The decision taken during the meeting of Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), headed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved nine capital acquisition proposals worth Rs 45,000 crore. For the nine capital acquisition proposals, the DAC accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) and the AoN for acquiring 12 Su-30 MKI aircraft was also accorded.

18. India annual Naval Maritime Bilateral Exercise between Indian Navy & Republic of Singapore Navy starts

- Navies of India and Singapore have begun a week-long bilateral maritime exercise, SIMBEX, in the southern parts of the South China Sea for which the two countries have deployed a submarine each. Indian Navy's Rajput-class destroyer INS Ranvijay, Kamorta-class corvette INS Kavaratti, and a P-8I maritime patrol aircraft are taking part in the three-decade-old annual exercise. Warships from the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) taking part in the exercise include the two Formidable-class frigates RSS Stalwart and RSS Tenacious.
- At the opening ceremony of the bilateral exercise, RSN's Fleet Commander Colonel (COL) Kwan Hon Chuong and India's Eastern Naval Command Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar unveiled the commemorative logo of its 30th edition.

19. Sahasra Electronic to Introduce India's First Locally Manufactured Desktop Motherboard

- Noida-based Sahasra Electronic Solutions, a part of Sahasra Group, plans to bring its first Made-in-India computer motherboard to the market in November. The motherboard, which will be designed around the latest Intel

13th generation chipset, is currently undergoing trials. We are the first company who has designed the motherboard in India.

- They were either being designed in China or Taiwan,” Manwani told Fe. The group’s semiconductor business has also started production of the first Made-in-India memory chips. Sahasra Semiconductor, its chip-making business, is a part of the Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECS), under which it is eligible for 25% financial incentive on capital expenditure.

20. Indian Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has Officially Approved The Indigenous Dhruvastra Missile

- In a significant development, India’s Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has given the green light to several capital acquisition proposals, including the indigenous Dhruvastra short-range air-to-surface missile. This precision-guided weapon is designed for deployment on the indigenously built DHRUV MK-IV helicopters and is poised to elevate India’s combat capabilities against enemy tanks and armored vehicles significantly.
- The approval of the Dhruvastra missile system by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) marks a substantial enhancement in India’s military capabilities. This advanced missile system, originally named Helina and developed as part of the Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP) by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), represents a formidable addition to India’s array of military assets.

21. SEBI Simplifies Regulations for Large Corporations Accessing the Debt Market

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has provided for a number of relaxations to large corporates (LCs) for meeting their financing needs from the debt market. The regulator had mandated LCs to meet 25 per cent of their financing needs from the debt market, with an aim of deepening the corporate bond market in India.
- The move would also aid investors such as insurers, pension and provident funds which are required to invest a particular percentage of their incremental receipts in corporate bonds and could be hurt by lack of supply of issuances.

22. IndiGo announces new direct flights connecting Hyderabad and Colombo from November 2023

- India's leading airline, IndiGo, has announced new direct flights connecting Hyderabad and Colombo from November this year. The development marks a significant milestone as IndiGo becomes the first Indian carrier to establish direct connectivity between the two vibrant cities.

- Local news portals and papers reported Head of Global Sales at IndiGo, Vinay Malhotra's statement stressing on his company's focus towards delivering exceptional services and meeting the evolving needs of customers. He added that this connectivity would serve as a catalyst for further enhancing business ties, trade, as well as tourism between India and Sri Lanka.

23. India-US Army to host Indo-Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference from 25th September

- The national capital will host over 30 countries for the Indo-Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference from September 25 to 27. The event is aimed at exchanging views and developing mutual understanding among the Indo-Pacific partners. Representatives from over 30 participating countries will discuss issues of mutual interest at the meeting, the Army informed further.
- The conference will be a platform to exchange ideas and views on security, promote peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region and develop mutual understanding and dialogue amongst the Indo-Pacific partners.

24. Odisha scientist Swati Nayak wins Norman Borlaug Award

- The Norman Borlaug Field Award 2023 is presented by the World Food Prize Foundation in memory of the Nobel awardee Dr. Norman Borlaug, for outstanding achievements in international agriculture and food production by individuals under 40. Nayak speaks to businessline about the importance of the award, her work with the agricultural community and more.
- Local communities in Odisha, Indian agricultural scientist Swati Nayak became the third Indian agriculture scientist to win the prestigious Norman Borlaug Field Award 2023.

25. Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh inaugurates Bharat Drone Shakti 2023

- Bharat Drone Shakti 2023, a first-of-its-kind drone exhibition cum display was inaugurated by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh at Air Force Station, Hindan in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh on September 25, 2023. It has been jointly organised by Indian Air Force (IAF) and Drone Federation of India (DFI). The two-day event, which is being held on September 25 & 26, 2023, features over 75 drone start-ups from across the country.
- The drones featured during the event can be employed for a variety of military and civil applications. By showcasing their capabilities through a series of aerial & statics demonstrations, the IAF and DFI seek to bolster the Government's initiative to make India a major drone hub by 2030.

26. Minister of Power, New and Renewable Energy RK Singh inaugurates 'India Energy Summit 2023' in New Delhi

- Minister of Power, New and Renewable Energy RK Singh inaugurated the 'India Energy Summit 2023' at FICCI Federation House in New Delhi. Two-day Summit aims to focus on development of an enabling Green Hydrogen ecosystem in the country. Addressing the summit, Mr. Singh pointed out that climate change is a threat for the world.
- He stressed that India is committed to living behind a healthy and safe plant for the next generation. In the inauguration session of the summit, Ambassador of Kingdom of Belgium Didier Vanderhasselt and Germany Ambassador Dr Philipp Ackermann along with senior dignitaries were also present.

27.UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak Extends Ban on New Petrol and Diesel Cars by 5 Years in Net Zero Reset

- Prime Minister Rishi Sunak announced that he's delaying by five years a ban on new gas and diesel cars that had been due to take effect in 2030, watering down climate goals that he said imposed "unacceptable costs" on ordinary people.
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28.Indian Army Inducts 600 Indigenously-Manufactured 'Vibhav' Anti-Tank Mines

- Six hundred indigenously-manufactured self-neutralising anti-tank mines, known as "Vibhav", have been inducted into the Army to provide mobility kill against all enemy armoured vehicles, officials. The anti-tank mine is made of new-age plastic, which gives it adequate strength and durability to withstand the requirements of storage, handling and operating in varying field conditions, they added.
- The integrated explosive, mechanical and electronic safety features ensure utmost operator safety, they added. On the other hand, the lethality of the munition ensures effectiveness against all current and futuristic armoured vehicles.

BOOKS & AWARDS

1.Shanta Thoutam honoured with World Innovation Award at BRICS

- Telangana's Chief Innovation Officer (CIO) Shanta Thoutam has been presented with the World Innovation Award at the first BRICS Innovation Forum hosted at Moscow from August 27 to 29. The award is given for outstanding contribution to the Sustainable Development Goal-4 that

ensures inclusive and equitable quality education and promotes lifelong opportunities for all.

- The World Innovation Award, organized by World Organisation for Development, an international NGO with Special Consultative Status with United Nations Economic & Social Council, honours leaders from the developing world that have made an outstanding personal contribution to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals through a systematic effort to implement innovative solutions.

2.Satyajit Majumdar honoured with Dr V G Patel Memorial Award 2023

- Mumbai Professor Satyajit Majumdar, dean of School of Management and Labour Studies from Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), will receive the ‘Dr V G Patel Memorial Award-2023 for Entrepreneurship Trainer, Educator and Mentor’ on September 6 for his work in promoting and strengthening entrepreneurship in India. Dr Patel is widely acknowledged as the Father of Entrepreneurship Movement in India.
- Majumdar’s name was chosen among 400 applicants from 26 states by a jury nominated by the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), Ahmedabad.

3.Chartered Accountant Praveena Anjana Crowned Miss International India 2023

- Praveena Anjana of Udaipur has been crowned Miss International India 2023, gaining her position to represent India at the Miss International pageant in Japan this October. Anjana, 23, is a chartered accountant by profession who has been interested in fashion and beauty since she was a kid.
- She began modelling at an early age and has competed in various beauty pageants, most recently winning the Miss Divine Beauty 2023 pageant in August.
- Anjana is a strong supporter for women’s empowerment and is enthusiastic about utilising her platform to raise awareness about key topics such as gender equality and education. She is also a skilled classical dancer and likes playing the piano.

4. SAFF U-16 Championship: India crowned champions after 2-0 win over Bangladesh in final

- India’s U-16 team became winners of the SAFF U-16 Championship by beating Bangladesh 2-0 in the title clash in Thimpu. Bharat Lairenjam (8th minute) found the net in the first half, while Levis Zangminlun (74th) sealed the victory with a second-half goal at the Changlimithang Stadium.
- Star footballer Ishfaq Ahmad has made Jammu and Kashmir proud after India’s U-16 Championship 2023 won the SAFF U-16 Championship 2023

under his tutelage. Ahmad was appointed coach of the team just a few months ago. However, he worked hard and trained the team in a very short span of time to become champions. It was the first time that a training camp for the national team was held in Kashmir.

5. RITES wins 'Safety Innovation Award 2023

- RITES Limited has been honoured with the 'Safety Innovation Award 2023', under the 'Construction' category, for implementing 'Innovative Safety Management Systems' in its operations. The award has been presented to RITES' officials during the inaugural function of the 20th Safety Convention organised by The Institution of Engineers (India).
- RITES Limited, having multi-sectoral presence, has consistently embraced best safety practices in its operations, exemplifying its commitment to prioritizing safety measures at worksites. RITES remains resolute in its mission to create a safer and more secure infrastructure environment, delivering services that uphold stringent safety protocols, irrespective of geographical or logistical challenges.

SPORTS

1. Neeraj Chopra finishes second in men's javelin event in Zurich Diamond League

- Newly-crowned world champion Neeraj Chopra finished second with a final round throw of 85.71 m in the men's javelin event of the Diamond League Meeting at Zurich. The 25-year-old Chopra, also the reigning Olympic champion, produced three legal throws of 80.79m, 85.22m and 85.71m.
- He finished behind Jakub Vadlejch of the Czech Republic, who had won a bronze in the World Championships. The Indian superstar, who was unbeaten this season, qualified for the Diamond League finals to be held on the 17th of September in Eugene, USA, with 23 points from three meets. He had won the Diamond League trophy last year.

2. Mohun Bagan clinch Durand Cup title for first time after 23 years

- Mohun Bagan Super Giant clinched the Durand Cup title for the first time in 23 years, defeating arch-rivals East Bengal 1-0 in Kolkata. In a fiercely contested final, Dimitri Petratos produced a moment of sheer brilliance, scoring the decisive goal.
- Despite being reduced to 10 men after Anirudh Thapa's was given a red card in the 62nd minute, Mohun Bagan showcased remarkable resilience. It was Petratos who emerged as the hero of the day, securing the victory with a remarkable solo effort in the 71st minute.

3. First ever 'Climate Cup' Football tournament 2023 begins in Leh, Ladakh

- Climate Football Cup 2023, the first-ever professional football tournament in the Union Territory of Ladakh, began. The seven-day event will be held at the Open Astroturf Stadium in Spithuk, Leh. Four teams are participating in the competition. These are – Delhi Football Club, Tibetan National Football Association, Ladakh Professional Football Club and Ladakh State Team.
- Open Stadium is the state-of-the-art sports facility of Ladakh. This stadium is built at an altitude of 11 thousand feet above sea level. It has been fitted with artificial grass which can withstand extreme weather conditions. This stadium was recently built under the Khelo India program. It has a seating facility for 30 thousand spectators. It is one of the highest stadiums in the world.

4.Thailand's Nattaya Boochatham becomes first bowler from associate nation to pick up 100 Wickets in WT20Is

- Thailand women's cricket team's star spinner Nattaya Boochatham created history with her three wickets against Kuwait in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup Asia Region Qualifier, September 4. Nattaya completed 100 wickets in T20Is to become the first-ever cricketer, male or female, to reach the 100-wicket mark in international cricket.
- The 36-year-old spin all-rounder now has taken 101 wickets in 73 ODI matches at an average of 9.96 and becomes the first-ever cricketer to take 100 wickets at a bowling average below 10. She becomes the only 11th cricketer in the world with 100 T20I wickets in women's cricket but possesses the best bowling average in the list. She will join the current world no.1 bowler Sophie Ecclestone's 102 wickets tally if she picks one wicket in Thailand's next game against Hong Kong on September 6.

5. Virat Kohli Becomes Fastest To 13,000 ODI Runs

- India's run-machine Virat Kohli became the fastest to score 13,000 runs in One Day Internationals (ODIs). He achieved the feat during India's Asia Cup 2023, Super Fours encounter against Pakistan, at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo on Monday (September 11). The right-handed batter reached to the milestone in his 278th ODI in what happens to be his 267th innings in this format.
- While the match was scheduled to take place on September 10, the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) kept a reserve day in provision for this match and as it turned out, the match did seep into the reserve day with rain making only 24.1 overs of play possible on the first day.

6.Coco Gauff beats Aryna Sabalenka in US Open final to win first Grand Slam

- United States teenager Coco Gauff has beaten Belarusian second seed Aryna Sabalenka 2-6, 6-3, 6-2 in the US Open women's final to claim her first Grand Slam title. With the win on Saturday, sixth seed Gauff became the first American to win a US Open singles title since Sloane Stephens in 2017.
- Gauff, who is from Florida, is the first American teenager to win the country's major tennis tournament since Serena Williams in 1999

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8. DD SPORTS Rebrands as DD SPORTS HD

- Prasar Bharati, the country's public broadcaster, has rebranded DD Sports as DD Sports HD. This addition marks the inclusion of another High-Definition channel in its broadcasting lineup. DD Sports HD made its debut by telecasting ongoing Asia Cup cricket matches.
- DD Sports HD is expected to become the preferred choice for sports lovers due to its high-definition content and to enhance the viewing experience for sports enthusiasts. DD Sports has formed partnerships with leading sports organizations like the NBA (National Basketball Association) and PGTA (Professional Golf Tour of India) to bring fresh and exciting content to the channel. These collaborations enhance the diversity of sports content available.

9. IndiGo becomes official airline for Indian football team

- IndiGo has embarked on a partnership with the All-India Football Federation (AIFF). IndiGo now stands as the global partner and official airline for the Indian Football Team. Football is among the three most popular sports in India, both in terms of player participation and TV viewership, making this partnership between IndiGo and the AIFF even more significant.
- The Indian National Football Team players hail from diverse regions of the country, each with its unique culture, and are brought together by team spirit and a shared passion for football. Just like that, "India by IndiGo" reflects a dynamic and ever-expanding network, a vital thread that connects these players from all parts of India. This partnership not only leverages

IndiGo's extensive network across the country but also harnesses the airline's global network.

10. Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra finishes second in men's event at Diamond League Final in Eugene, US

- Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra finished second in the men's event at the Diamond League Final in Eugene, Oregon, USA. The Indian's best throw of 83.80 meters came in his second attempt. However, Czech Republic's Jakub Vadlejch, won his third title with a best throw of 84.24 meters.
- Reigning Olympic and world champion Chopra, who holds the Indian national record of 89.94 meters, won a world championship silver medal at the same venue last year with an 88.13-meter effort.
- Earlier this month, Chopra, who won India's first-ever gold at the World Athletics Championships, failed to defend his Diamond League title, falling just short of Jakub Vadlejch 85.86 meter again, who took home the trophy. Next, he will defend his title at the Asian Games 2023 starting in Hangzhou later this month.

11. Ferrari's Carlos Sainz wins F1 Singapore Grand Prix to end Red Bull's run

- Ferrari's Carlos Sainz won the Singapore Grand Prix on Sunday (Sep 17) to end Formula 1 leader Max Verstappen's record run of 10 wins in a row and shatter Red Bull's dream of going through the season unbeaten. McLaren's Lando Norris finished a close second and Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton took third place as Red Bull ended up off the podium for the first time since last November's Brazilian Grand Prix.
- In a strategic, slow-burning thriller of a race, Sainz - nicknamed "smooth operator" - played his hand perfectly after starting on the pole, slowing the field to close any safety car window and saving his tyres before helping former teammate Norris stave off the chasing Mercedes pair.

12. Germany beat Serbia to win first-ever FIBA Basketball World Cup

- Germany beat Serbia 83-77 to lift basketball's 2023 FIBA World Cup. Germany went 8-0 in the tournament, becoming the fifth consecutive World Cup champion to go unbeaten. The tournament most valuable player Dennis Schroder carried Germany with a game-high 28 points, way above his average of 17.9 points per game, and added two rebounds and two assists.
- Serbia absorbed another heartbreak after losing to the United States 129-92 in the 2014 final, but finished better than their quarter-final exit in 2019. Earlier, Canada bagged their first World Cup podium finish at the expense of short-handed United States 127-118 in overtime in a riveting, record-

setting bronze-medal game. The 19th edition of FIBA's flagship event, co-hosted by the Philippines, Indonesia and Japan, on a high note.

13. In Wrestling, India's Antim Panghal wins bronze medal at World Championships in Serbia

- Young Indian wrestler Antim Panghal secured a bronze medal in the women's 53 kg category at the ongoing World Championships in Belgrade, Serbia .He also secured Paris Olympics 2024 quota for India. 19-year-old Antim beat two-time European Champion Emma Jonna Denise Malmgren in the bronze medal bout by 16-6.
- This is India's first medal at the ongoing edition of the tournament. Antim has captured India's 23rd medal in the World Championships till date, which includes one gold, five silver and 17 bronze medals.Earlier, Antim Panghal had upset 2022 world champion Dominique Olivia Parrish of the USA 3-2 in the opening round. The Indian grappler then sealed a win over Poland's Roksana Marta Zasina in the round of 16 before winning 9-6 against Russia's Natalia Malysheva in the quarter-finals.

14.India's overall tally stands at 11 medals in Asian Games at Hangzhou

- India have made its mark at the Asian Games 2023, excelling in specific sports that brought a total of 12 medals for the country. Interestingly, the medal distribution is evenly split between shooting and rowing, each contributing five medals to India's tally while one gold has come from cricket and one silver from sailing.
- India claimed the first world record of the Hangzhou Asian Games on Monday as a nine-year-old skateboarder melted hearts.

15.Prime Minister Modi to lay foundation stone of International Cricket Stadium in Varanasi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit Varanasi to commence the construction of an international cricket stadium in his electoral constituency. Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath praised this visit, considering it a significant event in the history of Kashi, and shared the details of Modi's agenda for the trip.
- The stadium will be built in a 30-acre area at a cost of Rs.450 crore. The Uttar Pradesh government said that it has spent Rs.121 crore to acquire the land for the stadium, while the BCCI will spend Rs.330 crore on its construction. The stadium is likely to be completed by December 2025. ▬

OBITUARIES

1. Tamil Actor and Comedian RS Shivaji passes away at 66 in Chennai

- In a somber moment for the world of Indian cinema, popular actor and comedian RS Shivaji passed away at the age of 66. RS Shivaji, born on 26th October 1956 to renowned actor and producer MR Santhanam and sibling to actor and director Santhana Bharati, was a familiar face in the film industry. His career was punctuated by remarkable collaborations with leading actors and directors, with a special association with the legendary Kamal Hassan.
- Shivaji's name became synonymous with rib-tickling humor when he starred in Kamal Hassan's iconic films such as "Michael Madana Kama Rajan," "Vikram," "Sathya" and "Anbe Sivam." However, it was his uproarious comedy sequences alongside Janagaraj in "Apoorva Sagodharargal" that earned him a special place in the hearts of fans.

2. Piloo Reporter, the 1st among neutral umpires, passes away

- Former international umpire Piloo Reporter passed away on Sunday morning at a hospital in Thane, near his residence. He was 84. In his long and illustrious career spanning 28 years, Reporter, a popular umpire because of his jovial nature and his vigorous style of signalling a boundary, stood in 14 Tests and 22 ODIs.
- Reporter's remarkable skills as an umpire came into the spotlight when he stood in seven matches during the 1992 Cricket World Cup held in Australia and New Zealand. His contributions to the game were celebrated not only in India but on the international stage as well.

3. Arun Kumar Sinha, SPG chief responsible for PM Modi's protection, passes away

- Director of Special Protection Group (SPG), responsible for providing proximate security to the Prime Minister of India, Arun Kumar Sinha passed away after brief illness. He was 61. The top security official of PM Modi passes away after brief illness.
- Established in 1985, the SPG is an elite force that is specially tasked to provide protection to country's current and former Prime Ministers and their immediate family members. It was formed in the wake of former PM Indira Gandhi's assassination in 1984.

4. Hindustani classical vocalist Malini Rajurkar dies at 82

- Noted Hindustani classical vocalist Malini Rajurkar, who epitomised simplicity and depth, passed away in a Hyderabad hospital. She was 82 and had been suffering from age-related ailments. She has performed in major

music festivals in India, including Gunidas Sammelan (Mumbai), Tansen Samaroh (Gwalior), Sawai Gandharva Festival (Pune), and Shankar Lal Festival (Delhi).

- She is noted especially for her command over the Tappa and the Tarana genre. She has also sung lighter music. Her renditions of Marathi natyageete, pandu-nrupati janak jaya, naravar krishnasamaan, ya bhavanatil geet purane have been particularly popular.

5. Australian Olympic swimming gold medallist John Devitt Passed away

- Australian former swimming champion John Thomas Devitt passed away at the age of 86 in Sydney, Australia. John Devitt was born on 4 February 1937 in Granville, New South Wales, Australia. He won his only individual Olympic gold medal in the 100-metre freestyle at Rome. He was also a member of the gold-medal-winning 4×200 Australian freestyle relay at the Melbourne Games four years earlier.
- He won a silver medal in the 100 freestyle at Melbourne and a bronze with the Australian 4×200 relay team in Rome. He also won 3 gold medals at the 1958 Cardiff British Empire and Commonwealth Games in Wales. He later served as an executive on the Australian Olympic Committee and helped Sydney win the bid for the 2000 Olympics. He was also the Australian chef de mission for the 2006 Commonwealth Games in Melbourne.

6. Renowned cartoonist Ajit Ninan Passed away

- Political cartoonist Ajit Ninan, known globally for his outstanding caricatures, passed away at the age of 68. Ajit Ninan born in 1955 at Hyderabad, Telangana. He was an Indian political cartoonist, best known for drawing the Centrestage series of cartoons in 'India Today' magazine and Ninan's World in 'The Times of India.'
- He was also known for his celebrated comic strip, 'Detective Moochhwala', which featured the eponymous detective and his pet dog, in India Today's Target magazine in the 1980s. Indian Institute of Cartoonists felicitated Mr Ninan with the Barton Life-time achievement award at Indian Cartoon Gallery in Bengaluru in August 2022.

7. Twice elected Italian president Giorgio Napolitano Passed away

- Crowds gathered outside the Italian parliament as the non-religious state funeral of Giorgio Napolitano, a former communist who as president navigated Italy through almost a decade of turbulent political times, took place in Rome.
- He is credited with staving off a debt crisis after using his powers to appoint technocrat Mario Monti as prime minister in the wake of Silvio Berlusconi's resignation amid the eurozone crisis that plunged Italy into financial

turmoil. It is the first time a funeral has been held at Montecitorio Palace, the seat of the lower house of parliament in the centre of the Italian capital.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. Teachers' Day is observed every year on 5th of September

- In India, 5th September is celebrated as Teachers' Day as a mark of tribute to the contribution made by teachers to society. To commemorate Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan's birth anniversary, Teachers' Day is observed in India on September 5 of each year.
- Radhakrishnan completed his entire education through scholarships. He possessed a master's degree in Philosophy and authored the book 'The Philosophy of Rabindranath Tagore' in 1917. He also served as the Vice-Chancellor of Andhra University from 1931 to 1936 and the Vice-Chancellor of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) in 1939, succeeding Madan Mohan Malviya.

2. International Literacy Day is celebrated every year 8th September

- To signify the role of literacy and education in one's life, the world observes International Literacy Day every year on September 8. The day reminds us of the importance of personal development, literacy, and progress of society. The day was first time observed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).
- The idea of International Literacy day was first mentioned at the World Conference of Ministers of Education on the Eradication of Illiteracy. The conference was held in Tehran, Iran in 1965. The conference served as a fertile ground for the germination of an idea of a special day dedicated to promoting literacy on a global scale. Later, UNESCO officially declared September 8 as International Literacy Day. The day was announced during 14th UNESCO General Conference in 1966. A year later, the world celebrated its first International Literacy Day on September 8, 1966.

3. National Engineers' Day is observed every year on 15th september 2023

- Every year, on September 15, National Engineers' Day is observed with great enthusiasm. This special day is dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the invaluable contributions of engineers to society.
- It not only applauds their innovative prowess but also underscores their pivotal role in shaping the world we live in. What makes this date particularly significant is that it coincides with the birth anniversary of one of India's most distinguished engineers and visionaries, Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya.

4. India Emerges as Bangladesh's Leading Export Partner

- In a significant revelation, the Government of India has declared that it has surpassed Japan and China to become Bangladesh's largest export partner. The growth in bilateral trade has been particularly noteworthy, with Bangladesh's exports to India surging from \$450 million to a remarkable \$2 billion. This announcement was made during discussions centered on exploring new trade routes, specifically the Agartala-Akhaura rail link project, which promises to bolster connectivity and trade ties between the two nations.

5. World Suicide Prevention Day is observed every year on 10th September 2023

- World Suicide Prevention Day (WSPD), celebrated annually on 10 September, is organized by the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP) and endorsed by the World Health Organization (WHO). The event represents a global commitment to focus attention on suicide prevention.
- The theme of WSPD 2023, "Creating hope through action," reflects the need for collective, action to address this urgent public health issue. All of us- family members, friends, co-workers, community members, educators, religious leaders, healthcare professionals, political officials, and governments- can take action to prevent suicide in the Region.

6. Hindi Diwas is observed every year on 14th September

- Hindi Diwas, observed across the country in schools, colleges and other institutions on 14th September, is the celebration of the declaration of Hindi as the official language of India
- On 14th September in the year 1949, the Constituent Assembly of India decided by one vote that Hindi would be the official language of India. Hindi Diwas is celebrated every year on 14 September to mark this day. The day also marks the birthday of Beohar Rajendra Simha, who was an acclaimed Indian scholar. Simha is known for the illustrations in the original final manuscript of the Constitution of India. It was on his 50th birthday that the Hindi language got adopted in official terms. It was the late Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who decided to celebrate September 14 as Hindi Diwas.

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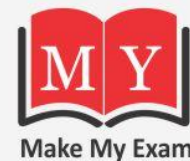
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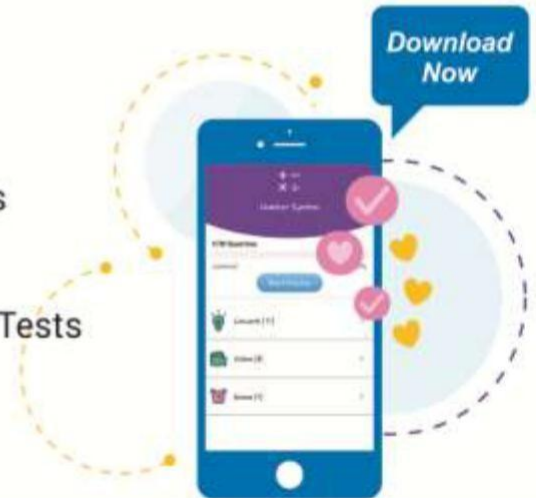
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