

# Weekly One Liners 18th to 24th of September 2023

## Asia Cup Final 2023, India beats Sri Lanka by 10 Wickets

India beat Sri Lanka by 10 wickets in the final of the Asia Cup 2023 on September 17, 2023 at the R. Premadasa Stadium in Colombo. It was India's **eighth** Asia Cup title overall, and their first since 2018. Sri Lanka won the toss and elected to bat first. Sri Lanka bowled out for just 50 runs, the lowest total in an Asia Cup final. Mohammed Siraj was the pick of the Indian bowlers, taking 6 wickets for 21 runs. In reply, India chased down the target in just 6.1 overs without losing a wicket. **Ishan Kishan scored 23 runs off 18 balls, while Shubman Gill scored 27 runs off 19 balls.**

India's victory was a comprehensive one, and it was a fitting end to a successful tournament for them. They had topped the group stage with a perfect record, and they had beaten Sri Lanka twice in the tournament, including in the final. India's victory in the Asia Cup 2023 was a morale-booster for the team ahead of the ODI World Cup 2023, which will be held in India later this year.

### Asia Cup Final 2023, Match Summary

- SL 50 (15.2)
- IND 51/0 (6.1)

### Asia Cup 2023 Full List Of Award Winners

- Asia Cup 2023 Winner- India (8th title) (Prize Money- \$1,50000)
- Asia Cup 2023 runner-up- Sri Lanka (Prize Money- \$75,000)
- Asia Cup 2023 Man of the Tournament- Kuldeep Yadav (Prize Money- \$15,000)
- Asia Cup 2023 most runs- S Gill (302)
- Asia Cup 2023 Man of the Match (Final) – Mohammed Siraj ( Prize Money- \$5000)
- Asia Cup 2023 most wickets- M Pathirana (SL)- 11

## Santiniketan on UNESCO World Heritage List

Santiniketan, the cultural and educational hub founded by Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore, has earned a coveted spot on **UNESCO's World Heritage List**. This recognition marks a significant milestone for India and celebrates the enduring legacy of this unique institution located in Bengal's Birbhum district.

India has long been striving to secure a UNESCO designation for Santiniketan, acknowledging its cultural and historical significance. The decision to include Santiniketan in the prestigious list was made during the 45th session of the **World Heritage Committee, held in Saudi Arabia**, reaffirming its importance on the global stage.

### The UNESCO Recognition A Glorious Achievement

Santiniketan's inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List is a testament to its cultural and educational significance. This recognition reaffirms the importance of preserving and promoting the legacy of Rabindranath Tagore and the institution he built.

### India's Standing on the World Heritage List

With this latest addition, India now ranks **sixth on the World Heritage List**, further highlighting the nation's commitment to safeguarding its cultural and natural treasures. The inclusion of Santiniketan reinforces India's status as a custodian of world heritage. Santiniketan now stands as **India's 41st World Heritage site**, solidifying its place in the nation's rich cultural heritage.

### The Journey to UNESCO Recognition ICOMOS Recommendation

Santiniketan's path to UNESCO recognition was paved by a recommendation from the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), an international advisory body based in France. Comprising professionals, experts, representatives from local authorities, companies, and heritage organizations, ICOMOS is dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of architectural and landscape heritage worldwide. Their endorsement played a pivotal role in Santiniketan's journey to the World Heritage List.

### The Legacy of Santiniketan A Spiritual Haven

Santiniketan, originally an ashram established by Rabindranath Tagore's father, Maharshi Debendranath Tagore, served as a spiritual retreat. It welcomed individuals, irrespective of their caste and creed, to meditate before the one Supreme God. This inclusive ethos laid the foundation for what would become a cultural and educational powerhouse.

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**Maharshi Debendranath Tagore's Influence**

Maharshi Debendranath Tagore, a prominent figure in the Indian Renaissance, left an indelible mark on Santiniketan. His contributions included the construction of the Santiniketan Griha and the beautiful stained glass Mandir, a non-denominational temple where worship transcended religious boundaries. These structures, dating back to the second half of the 19th century, hold immense historical and spiritual significance.

**Visva-Bharati University**

**A Center of Excellence**

Santiniketan is home to Visva-Bharati University, one of India's most prestigious institutions. The university offers degree programs in a wide range of disciplines, including humanities, social sciences, sciences, fine arts, music, performing arts, education, agricultural science, and rural reconstruction.

**Founded by Rabindranath Tagore**

Founded by Rabindranath Tagore, Visva-Bharati was later declared a central university and an institution of national importance through an Act of Parliament in 1951. Tagore's vision of holistic education and cultural exchange continues to shape the institution's ethos.

**The Prime Minister as Chancellor**

Visva-Bharati holds a unique status as the sole central university of West Bengal, and the Prime Minister of India serves as its chancellor. This distinction underscores the university's significance in the nation's educational landscape.

In conclusion, Santiniketan's inclusion in **UNESCO's World Heritage List** is a momentous achievement for India. It not only celebrates the enduring legacy of Rabindranath Tagore but also recognizes the cultural and educational significance of Santiniketan and Visva-Bharati University. This UNESCO designation ensures that this cultural gem will be preserved and celebrated for generations to come.

**RBI releases list of 15 NBFCs in 'Upper Layer' under**

In the year 2023-24, **RBI released the names of 15 NBFCs that fall under the Upper Layer (UL)/NBFC-UL of the SBR.** This article provides an in-depth exploration of the SBR framework, its layers, and its implications for the NBFC sector in India. In October 2021, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** introduced a groundbreaking regulatory framework known as Scale Based Regulation (SBR) for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs). This framework aims to categorize NBFCs based on their asset size and other critical factors, providing a clear roadmap for regulation.

**Understanding Scale Based Regulation (SBR)**

Scale Based Regulation (SBR) is a revised regulatory framework introduced by RBI for NBFCs in India. This framework is designed to categorize NBFCs based on their asset size and activities, allowing for more tailored regulatory oversight. Here's a breakdown of the key aspects of the SBR:

**I. Base Layer (NBFC-BL)**

The Base Layer primarily consists of non-deposit-taking NBFCs with assets below Rs 1,000 crore. It includes NBFC Peer to Peer (P2P), NBFC-Account Aggregator (AA), Non-Operative Financial Holding Company (NOFHC), and NBFCs without public funds and customer interface.

**II. Middle Layer (NBFC-ML)**

The Middle Layer encompasses deposit-taking NBFCs and non-deposit-taking NBFCs with assets exceeding Rs 1,000 crore. It also includes NBFCs engaged in specific activities such as Standalone Primary Dealers (SPDs), Infrastructure Debt Fund – NBFCs (IDF-NBFCs), Core Investment Companies (CICs), Housing Finance Companies (HFCs), and Infrastructure Finance Companies (NBFC-IFCs).

**III. Upper Layer (NBFC-UL)**

The Upper Layer includes NBFCs identified by RBI as warranting enhanced regulatory requirements based on specific parameters and scoring methodology. The top 10 eligible NBFCs in terms of asset size will always reside in the Upper Layer, regardless of other factors.

**IV. Top Layer (NBFC-TL)**

NBFCs in the Upper Layer can be moved to the Top Layer if RBI recognizes a substantial increase in potential systemic risk. As of now, the Top Layer remains ideally empty, but it serves as a contingency for increased risk.

**Placement of Other NBFCs**

NBFCs falling outside the predefined layers, such as Investment and Credit Companies (NBFC-ICC), Micro Finance Institutions (NBFC-MFI), NBFC-Factors, and Mortgage Guarantee Companies (NBFC-MGC), may be placed in any of the layers of the regulatory structure depending on various parameters determined by RBI.

**The Implications of SBR**

The introduction of the SBR framework by RBI carries significant implications for the NBFC sector in India. It allows for a more nuanced and risk-based approach to regulation, ensuring that NBFCs are subject to appropriate levels of oversight based on their size and activities. Here are some key implications:

**1. Tailored Regulatory Oversight**

NBFCs will receive regulatory oversight tailored to their specific risk profiles and activities, reducing the burden of excessive regulation on smaller entities while ensuring robust oversight for larger and potentially systemic NBFCs.

**2. Systemic Risk Mitigation**

The ability to move NBFCs to the Top Layer in the event of increased systemic risk ensures that the RBI can respond swiftly to emerging threats to financial stability.

**3. Clarity and Transparency**

The SBR framework brings clarity and transparency to the regulatory landscape for NBFCs, allowing market participants to better understand their obligations and requirements.

Here is the list of NBFC-UL for 2023-24:

S. No.	Company Name	Type	Category
1	LIC Housing Finance Limited	Deposit taking	Housing Finance Company
2	Bajaj Finance Limited	Deposit taking	Non-Banking Financial Company – Investment and Credit Company (NBFC-ICC)
3	Shriram Finance Limited (formerly Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited)	Deposit taking	Non-Banking Financial Company – Investment and Credit Company (NBFC-ICC)
4	Tata Sons Private Limited	Core Investment Company (CIC)	–
5	L & T Finance Limited	Non-deposit taking	Non-Banking Financial Company – Investment and Credit Company (NBFC-ICC)
6	Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited	Non-deposit taking	Housing Finance Company
7	Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company Limited	Non-deposit taking	Non-Banking Financial Company – Investment and Credit Company (NBFC-ICC)
8	Indiabulls Housing Finance Limited	Non-deposit taking	Housing Finance Company
9	Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited	Deposit taking	Non-Banking Financial Company – Investment and Credit Company (NBFC-ICC)
10	Tata Capital Financial Services Limited	Non-deposit taking	Non-Banking Financial Company – Investment and Credit Company (NBFC-ICC)
11	PNB Housing Finance Limited	Deposit taking	Housing Finance Company
12	HDB Financial Services Limited	Non-deposit taking	Non-Banking Financial Company – Investment and Credit Company (NBFC-ICC)
13	Aditya Birla Finance Limited	Non-deposit taking	Non-Banking Financial Company – Investment and Credit Company (NBFC-ICC)
14	Muthoot Finance Limited	Non-deposit taking	Non-Banking Financial Company – Investment and Credit Company (NBFC-ICC)
15	Bajaj Housing Finance Ltd.	Non-deposit taking	Housing Finance Company

### Government Launches Three Transformative Initiatives for Farmers

In a significant move aimed at revolutionizing agriculture in India, the government has announced the launch of three game-changing initiatives. These initiatives, which focus on agri-credit and crop insurance, were unveiled by Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** and Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, **Narendra Singh Tomar**. The initiatives are set to amplify financial inclusion, harness technology, and improve the livelihoods of farmers across the country.

#### 1. Kisan Rin Portal (KRP): A Digital Leap in Agri-Credit

Developed in collaboration with multiple government departments, the **Kisan Rin Portal (KRP)** is poised to transform access to credit services under the **Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme**. This digital platform provides farmers with a comprehensive view of their data, loan disbursement specifics, interest subvention claims, and facilitates efficient agriculture credit. It promises to simplify and streamline the borrowing process for farmers.

#### 2. Door to Door KCC Campaign: Ensuring Universal Financial Inclusion

The **Ghar Ghar Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Abhiyaan** is an ambitious campaign that seeks to extend the benefits of the

Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme to every farmer in India. With a total of 7.35 Crore operative KCC accounts and a sanctioned limit of 8.85 lakh crores rupees as of March 2023, this campaign aims to ensure that every farmer has unhindered access to credit facilities. It envisions universal financial inclusion, empowering farmers with the financial resources they need.

#### 3. Weather Information Network Data Systems (WINDS) Manual: Data-Driven Insights for Farmers

The **Weather Information Network Data Systems (WINDS) initiative** is a groundbreaking innovation that leverages advanced weather data analytics. By providing stakeholders with actionable insights on weather patterns, WINDS aims to assist farmers in making informed decisions about their agricultural activities. This data-driven approach will enhance crop management and help farmers mitigate the impact of adverse weather conditions.

### Increasing Regular Jobs but Lingering Unemployment Concerns: Report

In a recent report titled **“State of Working India 2023: Social Identities and Labour Market Outcomes,”** a group of economists and researchers from **Azim Premji University** shed light on the employment landscape in India. This report

highlights the dynamics of job creation, the prevalence of regular wage jobs, caste-based segregation, gender-based earnings disparities, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on unemployment rates. Let's delve into the key findings of the report.

### 1. Growth in Regular Jobs

The report reveals that from 2004 to 2017, India witnessed an annual creation of **three million regular jobs**. However, between 2017 and 2019, this figure surged to **five million jobs**, indicating a positive trend in employment opportunities.

### 2. Diminished Pace Since 2019

Despite the initial growth, the report underlines a significant **slowdown in the creation of regular wage jobs since 2019**. This deceleration is attributed to economic slowdown and the disruptive effects of the pandemic.

### 3. Limited Social Security

One concerning aspect is that **only 6%** of these regular jobs provide any form of social security, including health insurance or accidental care insurance. This raises questions about the stability and well-being of the workforce.

### 4. Gender Disparities

Over the years, there has been a positive shift in gender representation in regular jobs. The proportion of men in such roles increased from 18% to 25%, and for women, it rose from 10% to 25%. This indicates progress in **gender inclusivity in the workforce**.

### 5. Reduction in Caste-based Segregation

The report highlights a decrease in caste-based segregation in employment. In 2004, over 80% of sons of casual wage workers remained in casual employment, but this figure decreased to 53% for non-SC/ST castes by 2018. This suggests a **decline in caste-related employment disparities**.

### 6. Earnings Disparities

Gender-based earnings disparities have reduced over the past two decades. In 2004, women in salaried positions earned 70% of what men earned. By 2017, this gap had narrowed, with women earning 76% of men's earnings. This trend has remained relatively constant up to 2021-22.

### 7. Post-COVID Unemployment

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, the report notes that the **unemployment rate in India** was lower than pre-pandemic levels for all education levels. However, the unemployment rate for graduates, particularly those under 25 years old, remains a concern, touching a significant 42%. Additionally, the report highlights a distress-led increase in self-employment among women, with 60% of women being self-employed post-COVID. This shift has resulted in a decline in real earnings from self-employment.

## Government Comes Out With A New Set Of National Awards Known As "Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar"

The Government of India has recently introduced a prestigious set of National Awards in the field of Science, Technology, and Innovation, known as the "**Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar**" (RVP). These awards serve a vital role in recognizing and honoring the exceptional contributions made by scientists, technologists, and innovators who have significantly impacted various domains of science, technology, and technology-led innovation.

### The Vision Behind Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar

The primary objective of the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar is to acknowledge and celebrate the remarkable work accomplished by individuals or teams in the realm of science, technology, and innovation. This initiative aims to inspire and motivate scientists, technologists, and innovators to continue their pursuit of excellence, driving progress and innovation in India.

### A Landmark Recognition

The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar stands as **one of the highest honors within the scientific and technological community in India**. It encompasses individuals from diverse backgrounds, including those working in government, private sector organizations, or as independent contributors to the scientific and technological landscape. The awards recognize path-breaking research, innovative discoveries, and technological advancements that have made a significant impact on society.

### The Four Distinct Categories

The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar consists of **four distinct categories** to accommodate a wide range of contributions:

#### 1. Vigyan Ratna (VR) Award

This award **honors lifetime achievements** and substantial contributions made by individuals in any field of science and technology. It recognizes the cumulative impact of their work over the years.

#### 2. Vigyan Shri (VS) Award

Distinguished contributions in any field of science and technology are acknowledged through this award. It highlights the **exceptional efforts of individuals** who have made a lasting mark in their respective domains.

#### 3. Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (VY-SSB) Award

This category encourages and recognizes **young scientists under the age of 45** who have made exceptional contributions in the field of science and technology. It aims to nurture and motivate the emerging talent in India.

#### 4. Vigyan Team (VT) Award

Teamwork often leads to groundbreaking discoveries. The VT Award is presented to **teams comprising three or more scientists, researchers, or innovators** who have made an outstanding contribution while working collectively in any field of science and technology.

**Eligibility Criteria**

The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar is open to scientists, technologists, and innovators working in various sectors, including government and private organizations. To be eligible, candidates must have made distinguished contributions through **path-breaking research, innovation, or discovery in any field of science, technology, or technology-led innovation.** Individuals of Indian origin residing abroad who have significantly benefited **Indian communities or society as a whole** are also eligible for these prestigious awards.

**A Multidisciplinary Approach**

The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar encompasses **13 domains**, ensuring comprehensive recognition of achievements in the scientific and technological spectrum. Gender parity is also a crucial aspect, ensuring representation from each field.

SNo	Scientific Domains
1	Physics
2	Chemistry
3	Biological Sciences
4	Mathematics
5	Computer Science
6	Earth Science
7	Medicine
8	Engineering Sciences
9	Agricultural Science
10	Environmental Science
11	Technology & Innovation
12	Atomic Energy
13	Space Science and Technology

**Rigorous Selection Process**

Nominations for the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar awards are meticulously reviewed by the **Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar Committee (RVPC)**. The RVPC, headed by the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) to the Government of India, comprises Secretaries of Science Departments, members of Science and Engineering Academies, as well as distinguished scientists and technologists from various fields of science and technology. This ensures the highest level of transparency and fairness in the selection process.

**The Nomination Timeline**

Nominations for these prestigious awards are invited annually, beginning on January 14th, **coinciding with National Science Day**, and remaining open until February 28th. The winners of the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar are officially announced on May 11th, National Technology Day, and the Award Ceremony for all categories is held on August 23rd, National Space Day. Each award includes a certificate (Sanad) and a medal.

**National Affairs**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked a historic moment as he unveiled Phase 1 of the India International Convention and Expo Centre (IICC), aptly named **‘Yashobhoomi.’** This state-of-the-art facility, constructed at a cost of **Rs 5,400 crore**, promises to redefine the landscape of **meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions (MICE)** on a global scale. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Sacred Ensembles of the **Hoysala, the famed Hoysala temples of Belur, Halebid and Somananthpura in Karnataka** have been added to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage list. This inclusion marks the **42nd UNESCO World Heritage Site** in India and comes just a day after Rabindranath Tagore’s Santiniketan also received this distinguished recognition. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya M. Scindia inaugurated **‘Udaan Bhawan,’** a state-of-the-art integrated office complex nestled within the confines of **Delhi’s Safdarjung Airport.** 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). ([Click here to read the article](#))
- As the proceedings of the Indian Parliament shift to a new, state-of-the-art building, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the new name for the old Parliament building: **“Samvidhan Sadan”** or “Constitution House.” This iconic structure, designed by British architects **Sir Edwin Lutyens** and **Herbert Baker** and completed in **1927**, has witnessed some of the most pivotal moments in Indian history, including the drafting and passing of India’s constitution. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- On September 18, the Union Cabinet took a historic step by approving the **Women Reservation Bill**, which mandates a **33 percent reservation** for women in both the Lok Sabha and state assemblies of India. This monumental legislation aims to ensure equal representation for women in the highest legislative bodies of the country. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** has recently launched a series of initiatives aimed at revolutionizing the agricultural sector in India. These initiatives include the **Kisan Rin portal**, the **Ghar Ghar KCC campaign**, and the **Weather Information Network Data Systems (WINDS)** manual. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the '**International Lawyers' Conference 2023**' at New Delhi's Vigyan Bhawan today. This conference, organized by the **Bar Council of India**, has brought together legal experts from across the globe to deliberate on the theme '**Emerging Challenges in Justice Delivery System.**' The event, scheduled for September 23 and 24, marks the first of its kind in India and aims to facilitate discussions on pressing legal issues of both national and international significance. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi isflag off **nine** Vande Bharat Express trains, September 24th, according to ministry officials. Among these nine trains, the **Indian Railways** is launching **two trains** for West Bengal's Howrah and Tamil Nadu's Chennai, with **one each** for Kerala, Odisha, Telangana, Gujarat, and the poll-bound state of Rajasthan. These semi-high-speed trains are configured with **eight coaches** and are expected to offer a significant boost to the country's rail connectivity. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### States in the News

- The **Maharashtra** government has issued an official notification regarding the renaming of Aurangabad and Osmanabad districts to **Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar** and **Dharashiv**, respectively. Following a period during which suggestions and objections were sought several months ago, the decision to change these names at various levels, including sub-division, village, taluka, and district, has been finalized. This notification has been issued by the Revenue Department of the state. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a significant step towards empowering grassroots leaders, **Assam Governor** Gulab Chand Kataria unveiled the '**Sarpanch Samvad**' app in a grand launch ceremony held at the Raj Bhavan. This groundbreaking initiative is set to revolutionize the way **Sarpanchs**, who are village headmen, communicate, collaborate, and access vital resources. The event witnessed the participation of more than 30 Sarpanchs from various corners of the country, signifying the app's importance in fostering community development. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Officially known as **Kalyana-Karnataka Liberation Day** (Vimochana Diwas), Hyderabad-Karnataka Liberation Day is an important annual observance celebrated across various districts of Karnataka, India. This event, held on the **17th of September** each year, commemorates the integration of Hyderabad into India in 1948. Union Home Minister Amit Shah actively participated in the 'official' Hyderabad-Karnataka Liberation Day ceremony at Parade Grounds in Secunderabad, highlighting its significance. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- In a significant move aimed at bolstering the financial independence and well-being of homemakers in Goa, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant distributed **Griha Adhar sanction orders** to a multitude of beneficiaries across the state. This proactive step not only acknowledges the invaluable contributions of homemakers but also seeks to uplift their socio-economic status. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR)** has granted approval for the use of the Truenat test to diagnose **Nipah virus (NiV)** in Kerala. This development is significant as hospitals equipped with Biosafety Level 2 (BSL 2) laboratories can now conduct the test. The Health Minister, Veena George, has announced that a standard operating procedure (SOP) will be formulated for conducting the Truenat test. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **fourth edition** of '**Nadi Utsav**,' a celebration of India's rich river culture, begins today on September 22nd and will continue until September 24th, 2023. Organized by the **National Mission on Cultural Mapping (NMCM)** of IGNC (Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts) in collaboration with the **Janapada Sampada Division**, this year's 'Nadi Utsav' promises to be an enlightening and culturally immersive experience. The event will be hosted in the vibrant city of Delhi, situated on the banks of the sacred **River Yamuna**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan** inaugurated a **108-foot-tall statue** of the 8<sup>th</sup>-century spiritual leader, **Adi Shankaracharya** on **21<sup>st</sup> September**. This significant event occurred amidst political dynamics and is an evident to the promotion of Sanatan Dharma and cultural unity. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a recent announcement, the **Ministry of Tourism** has declared **Biswanath Ghat in Assam** as the **Best Tourism Village of India for the year 2023**. This recognition comes after an extensive selection process that involved reviewing 791 applications from 31 different states and union territories across the country. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma expressed his delight at this achievement, highlighting the immense efforts made by the government to promote rural tourism in the state. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a significant diplomatic development, **China and Syria** have formally announced the establishment of a strategic partnership. This announcement came during a meeting between Chinese leader **Xi Jinping** and Syrian President Bashar Assad in **Hangzhou, China**, as the city prepared to host the Asian Games. The partnership reflects China's growing engagement with countries in the Middle East and its quest to assert itself on the global stage. ([Click here to read the article](#))

**International Affairs**

- Units from the countries of the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** recently embarked on their inaugural joint military exercises in **Indonesia's South Natuna Sea**. These drills come at a time of escalating geopolitical tensions between major global powers and rising concerns over China's activities in the South China Sea. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **African Union** is set to launch its own credit ratings agency in the coming year as a direct response to concerns regarding what it perceives as biased credit assessments given to African nations. This move aims to provide a more balanced evaluation of lending risks associated with African countries and bolster investment in the continent. The **African credit rating agency** will primarily function within the African continent and will be financially self-sustaining. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The two-day Summit of the **G77+China** recently concluded, marking a significant moment for the Global South's aspirations in the international governance system. This summit brought together delegations from over 100 nations, including more than 30 heads of state and government. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **35th edition** of the annual **Gandhi Walk**, a cherished event in the predominantly Indian suburb of Lenasia in **Johannesburg**, finally returned after being postponed for three long years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Canada's prime minister, **Justin Trudeau**, announced that there was "credible" information linking Indian government agents to the murder of a Sikh separatist leader in British Columbia. The announcement marks a significant worsening of bilateral ties. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Indian **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** extended an invitation to **U.S. President Joe Biden** to be the chief guest at **India's Republic Day** celebrations on January 26 next year. U.S. Ambassador Eric Garcetti confirmed the invitation, stating that it is under consideration by the U.S. government. President Biden is also scheduled to visit India in 2024 for the **Quad Summit**, and efforts are being made to align the summit with his visit. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a recent announcement, **British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak** has unveiled a shift in the UK's strategy for achieving its **Net Zero climate action targets**. This strategy includes a significant delay of five years in implementing the proposed ban on petrol and diesel cars, pushing the deadline to 2035. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Azerbaijan's military operation in **Nagorno-Karabakh** has ignited concerns of a renewed conflict in the region. This long-standing dispute revolves around an ethnic Armenian region within Azerbaijani territory. The recent attacks have escalated tensions and raised international alarm. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger** have come together to address the pressing issue of jihadism in the **Liptako-Gourma region** by signing a mutual defense pact known as the **Alliance of Sahel States (AES)**. This landmark agreement aims to establish a framework for collective defense and mutual assistance among these nations to protect their populations from the growing threat of terrorism. Here, we delve into the key aspects of this development. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Since the summer of 2020, the **United Kingdom** has witnessed a concerning surge in cases of **Brucella canis infection** among dogs, originating primarily from **Eastern Europe**. This incurable disease, which has been spreading among canines, has now made the alarming leap to infect humans, with three British citizens falling victim to its debilitating effects. This article explores the nature of Brucella canis, its transmission, symptoms, and preventive measures. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP)** has officially declared that the **general elections in Pakistan** will be held in the last week of January 2024. This announcement follows a series of delays in the election timeline. Initially slated for October of the same year, the elections were postponed due to the early exit of the Shehbaz Sharif government and the necessity for a comprehensive census. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Republican-controlled U.S. House of Representatives has embarked on an impeachment inquiry against Democratic **President Joe Biden**. Spearheaded by Speaker **Kevin McCarthy**, this move signifies an attempt to score political points at the onset of the election campaign cycle. This development is steeped in political context, partly influenced by **former President Donald Trump's** two impeachments and the desire to balance the score. We delve into the charges against President Biden, largely centered around allegations related to his son Hunter Biden's business dealings. ([Click here to read the article](#))

**Agreements/MoUs Signed**

- The **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)** has joined forces with **Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)** by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) under the administrative control of the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** in the field of renewable energy sector. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a strategic move, **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)**, a prominent player in the IT industry, has joined forces with Norway's national payment and electronic identity system, **BankID BankAxept**. This collaboration is set to fortify Norway's financial infrastructure, focusing on resilience, security, and availability. ([Click here to read the article](#))

**Books and Authors**

- The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Secretary, **Apurva Chandra**, recently unveiled an **ebook** titled **“People’s G20”** in New Delhi, offering a detailed insight into India’s G20 Presidency. This ebook serves as a comprehensive documentation of India’s significant role in the G20 Summit and its various initiatives during its tenure. The book is divided into **three distinct parts**, each shedding light on different aspects of India’s G20 Presidency. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Given the immense popularity of Chacha Chaudhary comics, a unique initiative, a comic book titled **“Chacha Chaudhary aur Chunavi Danga,”** was launched by CEC (Chief Election Commissioner) Shri Rajiv Kumar and ECs (Election Commissioners) Shri Anup Chandra Pandey and Shri Arun Goel today at Nirvachan Sadan. ([Click here to read the article](#))

**Banking/Economy/Business News**

- **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**, a key player in SME loan refinancing, has unveiled plans to raise **Rs 10,000 crore** through a rights issue in the upcoming fiscal year. This strategic move is aimed at bolstering its equity capital as the institution anticipates an expansion of its assets, targeting Rs 5 lakh crore by March 2024 from its current standing at approximately Rs 4 lakh crore as of March 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Indian Bank** has introduced a new initiative called **‘IB SAATHI’ (Sustainable Access and Aligning Technology for Holistic Inclusion)** to bolster its financial inclusion efforts. The primary goal of IB SAATHI is to provide essential banking services to various stakeholders through the business correspondent (BC) channel. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has disclosed that as of March 2023, the circulation of the E-rupee, India’s **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)**, has reached ₹16.39 crore. This digital currency, which mirrors the country’s physical legal tender, comes in different denominations and serves both wholesale and retail purposes. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Dhanlaxmi Bank Ltd.’s independent director **Sridhar Kalyanasundaram** has resigned from the board with effect Sept. 16., citing “factionalism” to “unethical” business conduct. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **S&P Global Market Intelligence** has reevaluated India’s economic growth prospects for the fiscal year 2024 (FY24). This upward revision is attributed to robust economic performance in the April-June quarter. Notably, the revised projection stands at **6.6%**, a significant improvement from the **5.9%** estimate put forth by the analytics firm in August. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- In a groundbreaking move, the **State Bank of India (SBI)**, the country’s largest lender, has launched a cutting-edge digital platform for **Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)** to seamlessly open NRE (Non-Residential External) and NRO (Non-Resident Ordinary) savings and current accounts. This innovative service is specifically tailored to **“new to bank” (NTB) customers**, aiming to simplify and expedite the account opening procedure. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a significant development, the Finance Ministry has granted approval for a range of welfare measures aimed at benefiting both **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** agents and its employees. These measures, which have been approved today, are expected to bring substantial advantages to the vast LIC workforce comprising over 13 lakh agents and more than one lakh regular employees. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)** has revised its GDP growth projection for India in the fiscal year 2024, forecasting a growth rate of **6.3%**. This upward revision represents a notable increase from the previous estimate of **6%**. The OECD attributes India’s positive growth surprises to favorable agricultural outcomes driven by favorable weather conditions. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **ACKO**, a leading insurance company, has unveiled its latest health insurance offering called the **“ACKO Platinum Health Plan.”** This comprehensive plan boasts several notable features, including 100% bill payment, no room rent capping, and zero waiting periods. To promote this new product, ACKO has reintroduced the beloved characters of Munna Bhai and Circuit from the iconic Bollywood movie series. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Volvo Cars**, a prominent name in the automotive industry, has recently made a groundbreaking announcement. The **Swedish** car manufacturer has declared its intention to cease the production of diesel-powered vehicles by early 2024, marking a significant step toward its goal of becoming an **all-electric carmaker**. This decision aligns with Volvo’s commitment to transitioning fully to electric vehicles by 2030. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and **India Ratings and Research** have released contrasting forecasts for **India’s economic growth** in the fiscal year 2024 (FY24). While ADB has lowered its projection to 6.3%, India Ratings has raised it to 6.2%. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** recently announced significant developments in its guidelines concerning **wilful defaulters** and **large defaulters**. These developments include broadening the scope of the definition and mandating lenders to finalize the identification and classification of borrowers as wilful defaulters **within six months** of loans turning bad. These draft norms, unveiled September 22, aim to streamline the process of identifying defaulters and regulating their status. ([Click here to read the article](#))



- The Union Ministry of Finance recently released its **Monthly Economic Review for August 2023**, confirming its confidence in a **6.5 percent** real GDP growth projection for FY24, characterized by balanced risks. The report paints a promising picture of India's economic performance in the first quarter of the fiscal year 2023-24 (FY24). ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a strategic move to cater to the evolving needs of Indian **Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**, **Axis Bank** has recently unveiled its groundbreaking Transaction Banking platform, '**NEO for Business.**' This innovative digital offering is designed to comprehensively address the real-time requirements of MSMEs, marking a significant milestone in the landscape of business banking in India. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Appointments/Resignations

- **Digital Infrastructure Providers Association (DIPA)** has appointed **Dhananjay Joshi**, MD and CEO of Summit Digitel, as the chairman. Dhananjay Joshi takes over the baton from Akhil Gupta, Chairman of Bharti Enterprises, who served as Chairman of the industry body since 2011. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Nihar Malaviya** has been named as permanent **CEO of Penguin Random House**, nine months after he was appointed the interim chief executive. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has recently given its stamp of approval for the reappointment of **Sashidhar Jagdishan** as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **HDFC Bank**. This tenure extension will see Jagdishan at the helm of the bank for an additional three years, extending his leadership until **October 26, 2026**. This regulatory decision comes as a significant endorsement of his leadership and strategic vision for one of India's largest and most influential banking institutions. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Defence News

- '**Operation Sajag,**' a comprehensive drill was conducted by the **Indian Coast Guard** along the west coast on September 18, 2023. It is a significant event in the realm of coastal security. This operation involves all stakeholders in the coastal security construct and plays a pivotal role in revalidating the coastal security mechanism while enhancing awareness among fishermen operating at sea. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Indian Navy** is all set to host the **second edition** of the Naval Innovation and Indigenisation (NIIO) Seminar, known as '**Swavlamban 2023,**' scheduled to take place on 4th and 5th October 2023. This event follows the maiden edition of the seminar, which was held in July 2022 and marked a significant milestone in the Navy's quest for innovation and self-reliance. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- India's defense capabilities receive a significant boost with the development of the **P-7 Heavy Drop Parachute System**, an indigenous marvel designed to enhance the paratropping capabilities of the country's Armed Forces. This innovative system, entirely developed within India, promises to revolutionize the way military stores are paratropped on the battlefield. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- After an order was approved by the **Jammu and Kashmir administration** regarding the renaming of **Udhampur railway station**, the Northern Railway has notified the change in the name to '**Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan Railway Station**', in honour of the Army braveheart. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **30th edition** of the **Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX)** has commenced, marking another milestone in the strong and enduring partnership between the Indian Navy and the Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN). This annual naval exercise, which began in **1994**, stands as a testament to the deep-rooted maritime cooperation between the two nations. Indian Naval Ships **Ranvijay** and **Kavaratti**, alongside the submarine **INS Sindhukesari**, have arrived in Singapore to participate in SIMBEX-2023. The exercise also sees the inclusion of the **Long-Range Maritime Patrol Aircraft P8I**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Israel** unveiled its cutting-edge main battle tank, the **Merkava Mark 5**, known as "**Barak,**" signifying a significant leap in technological advancement and military capability. The development of the Barak tank involved collaboration between the Israeli Defense Ministry's Armored Vehicles Directorate, the IDF's Ground Forces, Armored Corps, and multiple Israeli defense companies, including Elbit Systems, Rafael, and the Israel Aerospace Industries' subsidiary, Elta. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a significant development, **India's Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)** has given the green light to several capital acquisition proposals, including the indigenous **Dhruv** 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. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Awards and Recognitions

- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, in a momentous ceremony, presented the one-time **Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Awards** to 84 distinguished artistes from various realms of the performing arts. The significance of these awards lies in their aim to honor Indian artists aged **above 75 years**, who, despite their remarkable contributions, have not received any national recognition in their illustrious careers thus far. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Rahul Mishra**, the visionary Indian designer was honored with the **Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres** (Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters) by the French government, joining a distinguished list of fellow countrymen and women including Ritu Kumar, Ritu Beri, Wendell Rodricks, and Manish Arora who have previously received this award. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **National Medical Commission (NMC) of India** has achieved a remarkable milestone by receiving a prestigious **10-year Recognition Status from the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME)**. This recognition signifies a significant achievement for NMC and India's medical education sector, highlighting their commitment to maintaining the highest standards of medical education and accreditation. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- London-based Indian-origin author **Chetna Maroo's** debut novel, '**Western Lane**,' has earned a well-deserved place on the prestigious Booker Prize shortlist. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a momentous recognition of her exceptional contributions to the field of agriculture and food production, Odia scientist **Swati Nayak** is set to receive the prestigious **Borlaug Field Award for 2023**. This coveted award honors her innovative approach to engaging farmers in demand-driven rice seed systems, from testing and deployment to access and adoption of climate-resilient and nutritious rice varieties. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Summits and Conferences News

- India recently played host to the inaugural **United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) South Asia conference**, held from September 14 to 16. This significant event was jointly organized by the Ministry of External Affairs, UNCITRAL, and the organization's national coordination committee for India. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **14th edition of the World Spice Congress (WSC)** commenced in **Vashi, Navi Mumbai**. This three-day event is being meticulously organized by the Spices Board India, a subsidiary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in collaboration with several trade bodies and export forums. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Climate Ambition Summit (CAS)** at the **United Nations General Assembly** on September 21 highlighted the absence of major economies crucial in shaping global emissions reduction efforts. **China, the United States, and India**, collectively responsible for 42% of global greenhouse gas emissions, were notably missing from this critical event. The CAS aimed to showcase leaders with credible actions and policies to uphold the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C degree goal and promote climate justice. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- On the sidelines of the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), Foreign Ministers from the **Quad nations – India, Australia, Japan, and the U.S.** – convened to discuss various important issues. The Quad ministers reaffirmed their commitment to ensuring a **“free and open” Indo-Pacific region**, emphasizing the resolution of disputes in accordance with international law. They also pledged allegiance to the principles outlined in the UN charter and voiced support for UN reform. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Ranks and Reports

- In a significant shift, Singapore has surpassed Hong Kong to claim the title of the **world's freest economy**, marking the end of Hong Kong's 53-year reign at the top. This shift is according to a report released by the Canadian think tank Fraser Institute. The **Economic Freedom of the World Index**, which has been tracking economic freedom since 1970, placed Hong Kong in second place for the first time. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- A cluster of traditional, picturesque villages on Mount Pindos in Epirus, known as the **Zagorochoria** (or villages of Zagori), was recently inducted onto **UNESCO's World Heritage List**. This momentous decision was made during the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, marking a significant milestone in **Greece's** cultural heritage preservation efforts. ([Click here to read the article](#))


### Sports News

- **Neeraj Chopra**, India's star javelin thrower and the reigning World champion, displayed his skill and resolve at the **Diamond League finals** in Eugene. His best throw of **83.80 meters** secured him the **second position** in this prestigious competition, where he engaged in a remarkable battle against formidable opponents. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Ferrari's **Carlos Sainz** won the **Singapore Grand Prix** to end Formula 1 leader **Max Verstappen's** record run of 10 wins in a row and shatter Red Bull's dream of going through the season unbeaten. ([Click here to read the article](#))

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- Indian energy giant **Indian Oil** has taken on the title sponsorship of the edition of **MotoGP Bharat**, the first-ever grand prix in India, which will be held at the **Buddh International Circuit in Greater Noida** from September 22 to 24. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Mondo Duplantis**, the **Swedish** pole vault sensation and reigning world and Olympic champion, brought the athletics season to a spectacular close at the **2023 Diamond League Final** in Eugene on September 17th. In a jaw-dropping display of skill and athleticism, Duplantis cleared the bar at **6.23 meters** with his first attempt, surpassing his own world record of 6.22 meters set in Clermont-Ferrand back in February. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Cricketer **Deepak Chahar**, known for his stellar performances on the cricket field, has ventured into the world of sports equipment with the launch of **DNINE Sports**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Indian shooter **Elavenil Valarivan** secured a remarkable victory in the women's **10m air rifle event** at the **ISSF World Cup 2023** held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on a thrilling Saturday. The 24-year-old Olympian showcased her exceptional skills and nerves of steel as she outperformed her competitors to clinch the coveted gold medal. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Adidas** has revealed **Team India's jersey for the upcoming ICC World Cup 2023**. The upcoming tournament is a historic one for India as they will be hosting the ODI World Cup alone for the very first time. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** has decided to have not one, but two flag-bearers to lead the Indian contingent at the opening ceremony of the upcoming **Asian Games 2023** in Hangzhou, China. The distinguished honor of flag-bearer at the opening ceremony of the Asian Games 2023 has been bestowed upon two exceptional athletes: **Harmanpreet Singh** and **Lovlina Borgohain**. Harmanpreet Singh, the captain of the Indian Hockey team, and Lovlina Borgohain, an Olympic medallist boxer, have been selected to jointly lead the Indian contingent at this grand sporting event, scheduled to commence on September 23 in Hangzhou. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** announced **SBI Life** as the official partner for the **BCCI Domestic and International Season 2023-26** on September 20, 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a significant announcement, the **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has officially designated three prestigious venues in the **United States** for hosting the **ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024**. This marks a historic moment as the tournament makes its debut on American soil, with **Dallas, Florida, and New York** being selected as the host cities. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **MotoGP Bharat** is being held at the **Buddh International Circuit in Greater Noida** from September 22 to September 24. The three-day extravaganza is one of the biggest racing events to be held in India since hosting three Formula 1 races between 2011 to 2013. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Union Sports Minister **Anurag Thakur** has called off his trip to the Asian Games in protest of **China's** refusal to grant entry to **Indian Wushu players** from **Arunachal Pradesh**. This decision has come amidst an official protest by the Indian government against China's discriminatory treatment of these athletes. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- After their 5-wicket win against **Australia**, **India** became the number 1 ranked team in all three formats i.e. **Tests, ODIs, and T20Is**. India displaced Pakistan from the top of the ODI rankings while they lead England in the T20I rankings. In the longest format, they are in the first place while Australia are right behind them. India is now the world's best ODI team with a rating of 116 and 4,864 points. India (116 rating points) displaced their arch-rivals Pakistan (115) at the top of the rankings after the win in the first ODI. Australia remain third but the gap between the top two has now widened after they dropped two points to 111. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Schemes and Committees News

- The Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills (**SHREYAS scheme**), comprising four central sector sub-schemes, has been instrumental in empowering thousands of students from Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) since its inception in 2014. This umbrella scheme encompasses "Top Class Education for SCs," "Free Coaching Scheme for SCs and OBCs," "National Overseas Scheme for SCs," and "National Fellowship for SCs." ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has unveiled the '**PM Vishwakarma**' scheme on the auspicious occasion of 'Vishwakarma Jayanti.' This initiative is designed to provide crucial support to traditional craftsmen and artisans by offering them low-interest loans without requiring collateral. With a substantial financial allocation of **Rs 13,000 crore** over a five-year period, this scheme aims to benefit approximately **30 lakh families** of traditional artisans and craftsmen, including weavers, goldsmiths, blacksmiths, laundry workers, and barbers. The primary objective is to enhance the accessibility and quality of products and services provided by these skilled individuals. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a significant move to empower rural youth, especially women, and equip them with essential digital skills, Union Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Minister, **Dharmendra Pradhan**, alongside Lok Sabha Speaker **Om Birla**, inaugurated the groundbreaking '**Skills on Wheels**' initiative. The primary objective of this initiative is to enhance the employability of rural youth and prepare them for the challenges of the future job market.

This initiative is a collaborative effort between the **National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** and **IndusInd Bank**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The Indian government has taken a significant step towards strengthening the country's medical devices industry by approving a **₹480 crore scheme** aimed at developing a skilled talent pool. This three-year initiative is poised to provide essential financial support to government institutions for the implementation of **various courses related to medical devices**, with the goal of upgrading these institutions to global standards. The scheme's approval follows the recent introduction of the **National Medical Device Policy, 2023**, which envisions the growth of India's medical devices sector from its current \$11 billion to an impressive \$50 billion by the year 2030. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports Shri Anurag Singh Thakur** has felicitated players under **Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons (PDUNWFS)** in New Delhi. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay National Welfare Fund for Sportspersons (PDUNWFS) was formulated to help sportspersons who play well but are from poor and needy family. The scheme helps in procurement of sports equipment and training and till date 270 sportspersons have been provided support of around 8 crore 15 lakhs rupees. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Science and Technology News

- An international group of scientists, including botanists from the **University of Oxford's Botanic Garden**, has issued a dire call to action to save the iconic **genus Rafflesia**. These remarkable plants, known for their massive, foul-smelling flowers, are under severe threat due to habitat destruction and lack of protection. A recent study has shed light on the precarious status of Rafflesia, urging immediate conservation efforts to prevent their extinction. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **I2U2 group** comprising **India, Israel, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and the United States** has unveiled an ambitious joint space venture. This collaborative initiative aims to create a groundbreaking space-based tool with wide-ranging applications for policymakers, institutions, and entrepreneurs. The announcement follows India's recent successful lunar mission, marking a significant milestone for the quartet's space exploration efforts. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Important Days News

- **International Equal Pay Day**, celebrated on **18 September**, is a significant global observance that highlights the ongoing struggle for equal pay for work of equal value. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **World Bamboo Day**, observed annually on **September 18**, is a global initiative that sheds light on the incredible significance of bamboo. World Bamboo Day owes its existence to the dedicated efforts of the **World Bamboo Organization (WBO)**, a non-profit organization established in **2005 by Susanne Lucas and David Knights**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Every year, on the **third Saturday in September**, the world comes together to celebrate **International Red Panda Day**, a day dedicated to raising awareness about the plight of these enchanting creatures. This year, on September 16, we once again unite in our efforts to protect the red panda, a species teetering on the brink of extinction. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Ganesh Chaturthi 2023 is celebrated on **September 19, 2023**. It is celebrated on the fourth day (Chaturthi) of the waxing moon (Shukla Paksha) in the month of Bhadrapada according to the Hindu calendar. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Each year on **21 September**, the world comes together to observe the **International Day of Peace (IDP)**. This day, established by the United Nations (UN), serves as a reminder of our commitment to peace, non-violence, and conflict resolution. The theme for the 2023 International Day of Peace is "**Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for the #GlobalGoals**." ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **World Alzheimer's Day**, observed on **September 21** every year, is a global initiative aimed at increasing awareness about Alzheimer's disease and reducing the stigma associated with it and other forms of dementia. In 2023, the theme for Alzheimer's Day is 'Never Too Early, Never Too Late.' This theme emphasises the crucial importance of identifying risk factors and taking proactive steps to reduce those risks. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Every year, the full week ending on the last Sunday of September is observed as the **International Week of the Deaf (IWD)**. In 2023, IWD is being observed from **September 18 to 24**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **World Rhino Day**, observed annually on **September 22nd**, is a global initiative aimed at raising awareness about the critical plight of the rhinoceros species and advocating for their protection. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **World Rose Day**, also known as **The Welfare of Cancer Patients Day**, is an annual observance held on **September 22nd**. It is a day dedicated to honoring and supporting individuals worldwide who are courageously battling cancer. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The United Nations General Assembly has designated **September 23rd** as the **International Day of Sign Languages** to raise awareness about the crucial role sign language plays in upholding the human rights of individuals who are deaf. ([Click here to read the article](#))

**Obituaries News**

- Renowned writer-filmmaker **Gita Mehta** passed away. She was 80 years old. Mehta had written books including Karma Cola, Snakes and Ladders, A River Sutra, Raj and Eternal Ganesha. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Renowned actor **Akhil Mishra**, celebrated for his memorable portrayal of **librarian Dubey** in the hit movie “**3 Idiots**,” tragically met his demise after a fatal fall at his residence. Mishra, aged 67, had been grappling with blood pressure issues, and his untimely departure has left the film industry and his fans in mourning. ([Click here to read the article](#))

**Miscellaneous News**

- The **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** has recently recognized the mithun as a ‘**food animal**,’ opening doors for its commercial use. The recognition of Mithun as a ‘**food animal**’ and the efforts to promote its meat as a commercial product can indeed have significant economic and cultural implications for the region. ([Click here to read the article](#))

**Static Takeaways**


- World Bamboo Organization Headquarters: Antwerp, Belgium.
- World Bamboo Organization Founded: 2005.
- World Bamboo Organization Executive director: Susanne Lucas.
- Minister of State for Culture: Meenakshi Lekhi.
- Chairman of Sangeet Natak Akademi: Sandhya Purecha.
- Dhanlaxmi Bank Ltd Headquarters: Thrissur;
- Dhanlaxmi Bank Ltd Founded: 14 November 1927;
- Dhanlaxmi Bank Ltd CEO & MD: J. K. Shivan.
- DRDO Date founded: 1958;
- DRDO Agency executive: : Sameer V. Kamat, Chairman, DRDO;
- DRDO Headquarters: DRDO Bhavan, New Delhi.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor – Shaktikanta Das
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Deputy Governors – Swaminathan Janakiraman, Michael Debabrata Patra, M. Rajeshwar Rao, T. Rabi Sankar
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Establishment – 1st April 1935
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra
- Chairman and Managing Director of IREDA: Pradip Kumar Das
- President of South Africa: Cyril Ramaphosa
- Spices Board India Chairman: A G Thankappan;
- Spices Board India Established: 1987.

- Minister for Women and Child Development of Goa: Vishwajeet Rane
- Canada Prime Minister: Justin Trudeau;
- Canada Capital: Ottawa Currency: Canadian Dollar (CAD);
- Canada Official Languages: English and French;
- Canada Population: Approximately 38 million;
- Canada Area: 9.98 million square kilometers;
- Canada Government: Parliamentary Democracy and Constitutional Monarchy;
- Canada National Symbol: Maple Leaf.
- Director, and Publisher of Pran Comics: Mr. Nikhil Pran
- Alzheimer’s Disease International Founder: Jerome H. Stone
- Alzheimer’s Disease International Founded: 1984
- Alzheimer’s Disease International Headquarters: London, UK.
- BCCI President: Roger Binny;
- BCCI Headquarters: Mumbai;
- BCCI Founded: December 1928;
- BCCI Secretary Jay Shah.
- World Federation of the Deaf President: Dr Joseph J. Murray;
- World Federation of the Deaf Headquarters: Helsinki, Finland;
- World Federation of the Deaf Founded: 23 September 1951.
- World Federation for Medical Education HQ: Copenhagen, Denmark;
- World Federation for Medical Education Established Year 30 September 1972.
- Chairman and Managing Director of IREDA: Pradip Kumar Das
- TCS CEO: K. Krithivasan;
- TCS Headquarters: Mumbai;
- TCS Founders: Faquir Chand Kohli, J. R. D. Tata;
- TCS Founded: 1 April 1968.

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