

Weekly One Liners 25th September to 01st of October 2023

Waheeda Rehman to Receive Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award

Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, **Anurag Thakur**, announced that the seasoned and accomplished actor, **Waheeda Rehman**, will be honored with the prestigious **Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award**, India's highest recognition in the world of cinema.

A Legendary Career in Indian Cinema

Waheeda Rehman's illustrious career is synonymous with excellence. She has worked in over 90 films. Known for her versatility, she has delivered unforgettable performances in a myriad of iconic films, including "Pyasa," "CID," "Guide," "Kaagaz Ke Phool," "Khamoshi," and "Trishul." Her contributions to the world of cinema have left an indelible mark that resonates with audiences across generations.

An Announcement of Joy and Honor

Union Minister Anurag Thakur, taking to Twitter, expressed his immense happiness and honor in bestowing this prestigious award upon Waheeda Rehman. He highlighted her **stellar contributions to Indian cinema**, acknowledging her role in shaping the industry into what it is today.

"I feel an immense sense of happiness and honor 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," the minister wrote.

A Glowing Tribute to an Iconic Career

Waheeda Rehman's journey in cinema spans over five glorious decades. She has portrayed her roles with finesse and dedication, earning critical acclaim for her exceptional performances. Notably, she was honored with a **National Film Award** for her portrayal of a clanswoman in "Reshma and Shera." Additionally, she holds the **Padma Shri** and **Padma Bhushan** awards, further underscoring her exceptional contributions to Indian culture and cinema.

Beyond the Silver Screen

As India celebrates her accomplishments, the timing of this award is significant. Parliament's recent passage of the historic **Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam** underscores the achievements of women in various fields. Waheeda Rehman's recognition is a fitting tribute to one of the leading ladies of Indian Cinema. Her dedication to philanthropy and the betterment of society after her retirement from films reflects her commitment to the greater good.

A Legacy of Iconic Films

Waheeda Rehman's cinematic journey commenced with the Telugu film "Rojulu Marayi" in 1955, and since then, she has graced numerous films with her exceptional talent. Her filmography includes timeless classics such as "Pyasa," "Guide," "Khamoshi," "Phagun," "Kabhi Kabhie," "Chandni," "Lamhe," "Rang De Basanti," and "Delhi 6," among others.

As the Indian film fraternity and admirers from around the world celebrate this well-deserved honor, it is a moment to reflect on the enduring impact of Waheeda Rehman's contributions to the cinematic legacy of India. Her name will forever be synonymous with excellence, dedication, and the embodiment of a **Bharatiya Nari achieving the highest level of professional excellence** through her unwavering commitment and hard work.

Times Higher Education (THE) Releases World University Rankings 2024

Introduction

The **20th edition** of the **World's Best Universities** by the **Times Higher Education (THE) rankings** has been unveiled, showcasing the top higher education institutions globally. Oxford University in the United Kingdom has clinched the coveted first place for an unprecedented eighth consecutive year, with Stanford University in the United States securing second place. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) is third in the rankings. The 2024 edition is the largest to date, featuring 1,904 universities from 108 countries and regions, evaluated across 18 performance indicators reflecting their core missions.

Top 10 Universities Worldwide

British and American Dominance

The list's top 10 universities is a blend of British and American institutions. Leading the pack is the **University of Oxford**, followed by **Stanford University**, and the **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)**. **Harvard University**, **University of Cambridge (UK)**, **Princeton University**, **California Institute of Technology (Caltech)**, **Imperial College London**, **University of California, Berkeley**, and **Yale University** round out the top 10. This list continues to be predominantly dominated by U.S. universities.

Indian Universities Make Significant Strides

91 Indian Universities Ranked

India, a burgeoning force in higher education, has seen notable growth in the latest World University Rankings 2024. A total of 91 Indian universities have secured positions on the list, surpassing last year's count of 75. This surge in representation highlights India's commitment to fostering academic excellence and research across its institutions.

Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Takes the Top Spot

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore has made history by securing the top position among Indian universities. This achievement marks the first time since 2017 that IISc has claimed the top spot, underscoring its dedication to research and academic prowess.

IITs Continue Boycott

Intriguingly, the top Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) have continued their longstanding boycott of the rankings for the fourth consecutive year. Their absence from the rankings raises questions about the methodology or criteria used by the rankings, which have not aligned with the IITs' assessment of academic excellence.

India Rises in Global Representation

India's ascent in the 2024 rankings extends beyond the number of universities featured. India has now risen to become the fourth most well-represented nation, advancing from sixth place in the previous year's rankings. This upward trajectory reflects the increasing recognition of Indian universities on the global stage.

Other High-Performing Indian Universities

Among the Indian universities making notable strides in the rankings are Anna University, Jamia Millia Islamia, Mahatma Gandhi University, and Shoolini University of Biotechnology and Management Sciences. These institutions have secured positions within the 501-600 band, reaffirming their commitment to academic excellence and research contributions.

Here's the list of Indian universities ranked among top 800-1000 band

University
Indian Institute of Science Bangalore
Anna University
Jamia Millia Islamia
Mahatma Gandhi University
Shoolini University of Biotechnology and Management Sciences
Alagappa University

University
Aligarh Muslim University
Banaras Hindu University
Bharathiar University
Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati
Indian Institute of Technology (Indian School of Mines) Dhanbad
Indian Institute of Technology Patna
International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad
Jamia Hamdard University
Jawaharlal Nehru University
Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, Bhubaneswar
Malviya National Institute of Technology
Manipal Academy of Higher Education
National Institute of Technology Rourkela
National Institute of Technology Silchar
Panjab University
Saveetha Institute of Medical and Technical Sciences
Thapar Institute of Engineering and Technology
Vellore Institute of Technology
Amity University
Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham
Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani
Institute of Chemical Technology
University of Delhi
Delhi Technological University
Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune
Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar
Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi
Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University Anantapur (JNTUA)
Jaypee University of Information Technology
JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research
Kalasalingam Academy of Research and Education
Lovely Professional University
National Institute of Technology Tiruchirappalli
University of Petroleum Energy Studies, Dehradun
Savitribai Phule Pune University
Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University
Siksha 'O' Anusandhan

India Ranks 40th in Global Innovation Index 2023

India retains **40th rank out of 132 economies** in the **Global Innovation Index 2023** rankings published by the **World Intellectual Property Organization**. India has been on a rising trajectory, over the past several years in the Global Innovation Index (GII), from a rank of 81 in 2015 to 40 in 2023.

Collaborative Efforts in Innovation

The **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** has also been collaborating in India’s journey towards an innovation-driven economy. This year, the **NITI Aayog, in partnership with the CII and the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO)**, is hosting, virtually, the India Launch of the **GII 2023** on 29th September 2023.

Which are the most innovative economies in 2023?

For the 13th year in a row, Switzerland is the most innovative economy in 2023 followed by **Sweden, the United States, the United Kingdom and Singapore**. Discover how other economies are performing in the Global Innovation Index 2023 rankings.

- **Denmark (9th) and the Republic of Korea (10th) remain in the top 10.** France (11th) gets closer, improving one rank this year, while Japan remains strong as the 13th most innovative economy. Israel re-enters the top 15, reaching 14th place.
- After a rapid ascent, gaining 23 positions over the last decade, China ranks 12th this year, dropping one rank relative to 2022.1 China remains the sole middle-income economy to secure a position among the top 30, retaining 3rd place in the SEAO region and top spot in the upper middle-income group (see Figure 11 and Table 3). Belgium (23rd) re-enters the top 25, climbing three ranks.
- All eight Nordic and Baltic economies improved their ranking this year, except for Iceland, which stays at 20th spot. Estonia gains two ranks and edges the top 15, at 16th place. Norway (19th) reenters the top 20. Lithuania (34th) and Latvia (37th) make the largest improvements, gaining five and four ranks respectively, with Latvia re-entering the top 40.
- Apart from China, there are only four other middle-income economies among the top 40 economies, namely, **Malaysia (36th), Bulgaria (38th), Türkiye (39th) and India (40th)**.
- The United Arab Emirates stabilizes at 32nd place, close to the top 30. Saudi Arabia (48th) and Qatar (50th) make it into the top 50. Middle East economies Bahrain (67th), Oman (69th), Jordan (71st) and Egypt (86th) also experience notable improvements in their innovation ranking – Global Innovation Index 2023 51 with Bahrain and Oman entering the top 70, and Jordan just outside. In sum, these are some systematic and positive innovation rank developments in the Middle East.

- Brazil (49th) makes it into the top 50 in 2023, following a gradual ascent over recent years, overtaking Chile (52nd) as the most innovative economy in Latin America and the Caribbean. Uruguay (63rd) and El Salvador (95th) are the only two other economies within the region that improve their ranking in 2023.
- Thailand (43rd) and Viet Nam (46th) consolidate their positions in the top 50, while the Philippines (56th) gets closer. Viet Nam and the Philippines continue marching forward, after a setback in 2022, gaining two and three ranks, respectively. Indonesia (61st) moves rapidly toward the top 60, following a rise over recent years. Together with **China, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran (62nd)**, the Philippines, Türkiye and Viet Nam, Indonesia joins the group of middle-income economies within the **GII top 65** that climbed fastest in the **GII ranking** over the last decade.
- In the last four years, and since the start of the pandemic, Mauritius (57th), Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Brazil and Pakistan ascended most in the **GII**, in order of their rank progression.
- In Central and Southern Asia, **Kazakhstan (81st) and Uzbekistan (82nd) are close to the top 80, while Pakistan (88th)** follows closely, the latter overperforming on innovation once again in 2023.
- Nine out of the 26 economies from Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) covered this year improve their ranking. South Africa (59th) enters the top 60. Rwanda (103rd and low-income group leader) continues moving ahead. Senegal (93rd) and Nigeria (109th) take two of the biggest leaps forward. Excluding island economies, Senegal becomes the region’s third most innovative economy in 2023.

Global Innovation Index 2023 in Tabular form:

Country / Economy	2023 Innovation Rank	Change from 2022
Switzerland	1st	–
Sweden	2nd	+1
United States (US)	3rd	-1
Singapore	4th	–
Finland	6th	+3
Denmark	9th	–
Republic of Korea	10th	–
France	11th	+1
Japan	13th	–
Israel	14th	–
China	12th	-1
Belgium	23rd	+3
Estonia	16th	+2
Norway	19th	–

Country / Economy	2023 Innovation Rank	Change from 2022
Lithuania	34th	+5
Latvia	37th	+4
Malaysia	36th	-
Bulgaria	38th	-
Türkiye (Turkey)	39th	-
India	40th	-
United Arab Emirates	32nd	-
Saudi Arabia	48th	-
Qatar	50th	-
Bahrain	67th	-
Oman	69th	-
Jordan	71st	-
Egypt	86th	-
Brazil	49th	-
Chile	52nd	-
Uruguay	63rd	-
El Salvador	95th	-
Thailand	43rd	-
Viet Nam	46th	-
Philippines	56th	-
Indonesia	61st	-
Islamic Republic of Iran	62nd	-
Kazakhstan	81st	-
Uzbekistan	82nd	-
Pakistan	88th	-
South Africa	59th	-
Rwanda	103rd	-
Senegal	93rd	-
Nigeria	109th	-

About the Global Innovation Index

Now in its **16th** edition, the **Global Innovation Index** is a leading reference for measuring an economy’s innovation ecosystem performance. Published annually, it is also a valuable benchmarking tool used by policymakers, business leaders, and other stakeholders to assess progress in innovation over time.

TCS Tops Kantar BrandZ Top Most Valuable Indian Brands Report 2023

In the latest edition of the **Kantar BrandZ Top 75 Most Valuable Indian Brands Report for 2023**, **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** has retained its prestigious position at the top of the list with an impressive brand value of \$43 billion. This article delves into the key findings and rankings of the report, shedding light on the Indian brands that continue to thrive despite economic challenges.

The Top 10 Brands in the 2023 Report

TOP 10 MOST VALUABLE INDIAN BRANDS

Rank 2023	Brand	Category	Brand value (\$ billion)
1	Tata Consultancy Services	Business tech & services	42.96
2	HDFC Bank	Financial services	33.61
3	Infosys	Business tech & services	24.17
4	Airtel	Telecom provider	22.51
5	State Bank of India	Financial services	14.48
6	ICICI Bank	Financial services	12.97
7	Asian Paints	Paint	12.83
8	Reliance Jio	Telecom provider	11.77
9	Kotak Mahindra Bank	Financial services	10.33
10	HCLTech	Business tech & services	9.36

Source: Kantar BrandZ top 75 most valuable Indian brands report

- **TCS** continues to demonstrate its dominance in the Indian market, maintaining its top spot with a remarkable brand value of \$43 billion. The company’s consistent performance and global presence have solidified its position as India’s most valuable brand.
- **HDFC Bank**, a stalwart in the Indian banking sector, retains its second-place ranking. Its unwavering brand strength and customer trust contribute to its brand value.
- **Infosys**, a tech industry titan, maintains its third position in the rankings. Its strong focus on innovation and digital transformation has ensured its enduring presence among India’s top brands.
- **Airtel**, a leading telecom provider, secures the fourth spot. Its continued investment in network infrastructure and customer-centric approach contribute to its brand’s resilience.
- **State Bank of India** makes a notable entry into the top five, underscoring its significance as a financial institution in India. Its brand strength and reach across the nation are key factors in this achievement.
- **ICICI Bank** retains its prominence in the top 10, underscoring its significance in the financial sector. Customer trust and innovative banking solutions are driving its brand value.

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- **Asian Paints**, a leader in the paint industry, maintains a strong presence in the top 10. Its commitment to quality and innovation has earned it a place among India's most valuable brands.
- **Reliance Jio**, a disruptor in the telecom sector, secures a position in the top 10. Its affordable data plans and expansive network coverage have reshaped the Indian telecom landscape.
- **Kotak Mahindra Bank's** consistent performance keeps it in the top 10. Its customer-centric approach and financial services offerings contribute to its brand's strength.
- **HCL Technologies** rounds up the top 10. Its prowess in providing IT services and solutions has established it as a significant player in the technology sector.

Kantar BrandZ Most Valuable Indian Brands Report 2023

The 2023 ranking is based on the opinions of over 127,634 respondents who evaluated 1,500 brands across 106 categories. This extensive survey provides valuable insights into the perceptions and preferences of Indian consumers.

In conclusion, despite economic challenges and global uncertainties, Indian brands continue to demonstrate their resilience and strength in the market. TCS's consistent reign at the top, along with the performance of other leading brands, underscores India's diverse and thriving business landscape.

National Affairs

- India's Jal Shakti minister, **Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**, recently announced a significant achievement in the country's sanitation efforts. He reported that **75% of Indian villages**, totaling about 4.4 lakh, have attained the coveted **'Open Defecation Free Plus' (ODF Plus) status**. This milestone signifies a crucial step toward fulfilling the goals of the second phase of the **Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin** by 2024-25. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- India witnessed a historic event as the **country's first-ever lighthouse festival** illuminated the picturesque state of **Goa**. Organized by the **Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways**, this festival is part of a grand vision to transform 75 lighthouses across India into thriving tourist hubs. The Indian Lighthouse Festival in Goa, which commenced on **September 23 and extends to September 25**, marks a significant milestone in the journey to resurrect these historic structures and celebrate their cultural and historical significance. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)** achieved a significant milestone in India's transition to clean energy by unveiling the nation's **first green hydrogen-powered bus**. This groundbreaking initiative marks a crucial step towards reducing the nation's dependency on fossil fuels while promoting eco-friendly transportation alternatives. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Moody's Investors Service**, a global rating agency based in New York, recently issued a report on **"Decentralized Finance and Digital Assets"** on September 23, in which it raised concerns about the security and privacy vulnerabilities associated with biometric technologies, particularly India's Aadhaar program. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** has decided to extend the **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA)** in certain regions of **Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh** for an additional six months, commencing from October 1. This move comes after a previous extension granted in March. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to launch a week-long programme called **'Sankalp Saptah'** on September 30, 2023. This visionary initiative is closely tied to the effective execution of the **Aspirational Blocks Programme (ABP)**, a nationwide endeavor launched by the Prime Minister earlier in the year. The overarching goal of this initiative is to **enhance governance at the block level**, ultimately improving the quality of life for citizens. ([Click here to read the article](#))

States in the News

- Union Civil Aviation Minister **Jyotiraditya Scindia** recently announced the imminent launch of three additional air routes in Arunachal Pradesh, set to be operational by October of this year. These new routes will connect **Itanagar, the capital of Arunachal Pradesh, to Rupsi, Jorhat, and Delhi** as part of the **UDAN-5 scheme**. UDAN, or Ude Desh ka Aam Nagarik, is a regional connectivity initiative designed to enhance accessibility to aviation services for the common citizens. The development comes after the inauguration of enhanced infrastructure at the Tezu airport in Lohit district. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Goa**, often referred to as the "Pearl of the Orient," is a coastal paradise in India known for its stunning beaches, vibrant culture, and rich history. Recently, the government of Goa has approved a groundbreaking policy named **"Goa State Shack Policy 2023-2026"** to enhance the beach experience for tourists while promoting sustainable tourism and economic opportunities for the **local community**. This policy is set to redefine the beach scene in Goa. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Madhya Pradesh**, which is home to the most number of tigers in the country, has got a new protected area for the big cats named **'Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve'**. The Madhya Pradesh Government has unveiled the **Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve**, becoming the seventh tiger reserve in the state and the **54th in India**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Biju Janata Dal (BJD)** party member **Pramila Malik** became the first woman Speaker of the **Odisha Assembly**. The election of Pramila Malik as the Speaker of the Odisha Legislative Assembly and she was elected unopposed. The post became vacant due to the resignation of Bikram Keshari Arukha in May 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Uttarakhand** government made a significant stride in boosting its tourism and infrastructure sector by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Poma Group**, a renowned **French ropeway construction company**. The MoU, valued at a substantial Rs 2,000 crore, was officially inked by **Vinay Shankar Pandey**, the Secretary of Industries on behalf of the Uttarakhand government. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Manipur government has decided to extend the imposition of the **Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA)** for an additional six months in the entire state, except for specific areas within the Imphal Valley. This decision has been made in response to the security situation, particularly in the hill districts dominated by tribal communities, where ethnic violence and insurgent activities have been on the rise. The government's decision contrasts with the army's demand for the re-imposition of AFSPA in the valley districts to aid counterinsurgency efforts. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Minister of Tourism and Culture of Uttarakhand, **Satpal Maharaj**, inaugurated the **George Everest Cartography Museum** in the picturesque town of **Mussoorie, Uttarakhand**, on the occasion of **World Tourism Day**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a significant development for wildlife conservation in Bihar, the state is preparing to establish its second tiger reserve within the **Kaimur district**. The upcoming tiger reserve in **Kaimur district will complement the existing Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR)** located in the **West Champaran district of Bihar**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

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International Affairs

- In a historic moment for devotees of Hinduism and lovers of art and culture, the **Swaminarayan Akshardham temple** in **Robbinsville Township, New Jersey**, is set to be inaugurated on **8th October 2023**, under the guidance of its spiritual head, **Mahant Swami Maharaj**. This monumental temple, constructed outside of India, is poised to become the **second-largest Hindu temple in the world, following the majestic Angkor Wat in Cambodia**. With its intricate design, spiritual significance and commitment to sustainability, the Swaminarayan Akshardham stands as an evident to human dedication, tradition and artistry. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Nepal's Prime Minister, **Pushpa Kamal Dahal**, recently concluded his week-long visit to **China**, which was expected to address critical issues such as Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) projects, cross-border energy trade, and past agreements. However, the agreements signed during this visit did not cover these key areas. Instead, they focused on various other aspects of bilateral cooperation. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Following **India's lead**, the **United States** has expressed concerns regarding the planned visit of a Chinese research vessel to **Sri Lanka** in October. The **Chinese vessel**, named **Shi Yan 6**, is set to undertake scientific research projects during an 80-day operation in the Indian Ocean, with 13 research teams on board. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Government of India has recently made a significant decision to permit the export of **75,000 tons of non-basmati white rice** to the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**. This move comes at a time when India had imposed restrictions on the export of non-basmati white rice, aiming to bolster domestic supplies amidst concerns over inflation and the unpredictability of the monsoon season. **The Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)** made this announcement on Monday, signaling a shift in India's export policies. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Ahead of the upcoming Moscow format meeting in **Kazan, Russia**, the Taliban has called upon India for economic support and recognition. This development is significant in light of China's increased engagement with the Taliban and the recent appointment of a new Chinese Ambassador to Kabul. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a groundbreaking move, **India** and the **United Nations** have jointly introduced a significant capacity-building initiative known as the **"India-UN Capacity Building Initiative."** This initiative is designed to facilitate the sharing of India's development experiences, best practices, and expertise with partner countries in the Global South. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Sri Lanka** is facing delays in receiving the second tranche of its **\$2.9 billion IMF bailout package** due to unresolved issues with its external debt restructuring. This crisis comes as the nation grapples with its worst economic downturn in history, characterized by dwindling foreign exchange reserves and public protests over shortages of vital commodities. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a move that underscores Russia's unwavering commitment to its military endeavors, the country is poised to substantially increase its defense spending by nearly **70% in 2024**. This financial shift, as revealed in a document published by the **Russian Finance Ministry**, comes as Moscow continues to allocate significant resources to support its extensive offensive operations in Ukraine. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Five Eyes Intelligence Alliance, often referred to as simply **"Five Eyes,"** is a secretive international intelligence coalition comprising five English-speaking countries. Established in the aftermath of **World War II**, this alliance has played a pivotal role in shaping global intelligence and security strategies. In this article, we will delve into the history, purpose, and controversies surrounding the Five Eyes alliance. The Five Eyes alliance originated as a post-war intelligence-sharing agreement between the **United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand**. Formed in 1946, its primary objective was to share **signals intelligence (SIGINT)** to counter the emerging Soviet threat during the Cold War. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a remarkable achievement, the US Mission in India exceeded its target by processing a staggering **one million** non-immigrant visa applications in 2023. This milestone signifies the growing interest of Indians in visiting the United States. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Inflation** in the **Eurozone** has dropped to its lowest level in almost two years, providing potential relief for the **European Central Bank (ECB)** and raising questions about the continuation of its rate-hiking cycle. Official data from Eurostat reveals that consumer prices in the **20-nation Eurozone** rose at an annual rate of 4.3 percent in September, down from 5.2 percent in August. This marks the lowest level of inflation since October 2021. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- In a significant move towards revolutionizing the landscape of artificial intelligence (AI) applications, **Infosys**, one of India's leading IT majors, has announced a strategic collaboration with tech giant **Microsoft**. The partnership aims to develop **cutting-edge solutions** harnessing the combined prowess of **Infosys Topaz, Azure OpenAI Service, and Azure Cognitive Services**. This collaborative effort seeks to bring AI capabilities to the forefront of enterprise functions across various industries, promising to enhance productivity and drive new revenue growth. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- In a significant development for the Indian power and infrastructure sectors, state-run **REC Ltd.** has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** to explore collaborative opportunities for funding projects in these sectors under a consortium arrangement. This partnership aims to **co-finance loans** amounting to a substantial ₹55,000 crore over the **next three years**, according to an official statement released by REC. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a significant development, **HP** has announced a partnership with **Google** to manufacture **Chromebooks in India**, with production set to commence on October 2. This collaboration aims to make affordable computing devices accessible to Indian students and support the government's "Make in India" initiative. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Banking/Economy/Business News

- **Apple**, the renowned iPhone maker, is gearing up to significantly expand its manufacturing operations in India. Government sources report that the company aims to increase its production in the country by over fivefold, reaching approximately **\$40 billion (about 3.32 lakh crore)** within the next 4-5 years. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- E-commerce giant **Amazon.com** has announced a strategic investment of up to **\$4 billion in Anthropic**, an AI startup, marking a significant move to enhance its presence in generative artificial intelligence. This partnership, as reported by Bloomberg (Software company), not only involves a substantial financial commitment but also provides Anthropic with access to Amazon's formidable computing power. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **S&P Global Ratings** has reaffirmed India's growth forecast for the current fiscal year at **6 percent**, citing several factors affecting the economic landscape. This announcement comes amid a backdrop of global economic challenges, concerns over subnormal monsoons, and the delayed effects of interest rate hikes. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Maruti Suzuki India**, the leading automobile manufacturer in the country, has embarked on a unique journey of collaboration and empowerment by teaming up with the **Indian Navy**. Their joint mission is to create awareness about career opportunities among the youth of Northeastern India through the **'Khamree Mo Sikkim'** outreach programme. This partnership not only reflects the commitment of all stakeholders to the Northeast region but also demonstrates the potential for positive change through collective efforts. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- In a recent development, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed penalties on three prominent state-owned banks, **State Bank of India (SBI)**, **Indian Bank** and **Punjab & Sind Bank**, for their non-compliance with various regulatory norms. These penalties serve as a stern reminder of the importance of adherence to banking regulations and directives issued by the RBI. The RBI imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1.30 Crore on the State Bank of India (SBI) for its failure to comply with certain directives issued by the RBI. Punjab & Sind Bank faced a penalty of ₹1.00 Crore for non-compliance with the provisions of sub-section (2) of Section 26A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. Indian Bank faced a substantial penalty of ₹1.62 Crore for its non-compliance with various RBI directives, including those related to 'Loans and Advances – Statutory and Other Restrictions,' 'Reserve Bank of India [Know Your Customer (KYC)] Directions, 2016,' and 'Reserve Bank of India (Interest Rate on Deposits) Directions, 2016.' ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a recent development, the Central government has granted a **one-year extension** to **M Rajeshwar Rao's** term as Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The announcement was made via an official statement from the Reserve Bank, indicating that the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet** has approved this re-appointment. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **The Afghani**, the currency of conflict-ridden Afghanistan, has taken the financial world by surprise by emerging as the **best-performing currency of the September quarter** in 2023. This unexpected surge is attributed to a combination of factors, including massive dollar inflow in the form of humanitarian aid and currency control measures imposed by the ruling Taliban. As of September 26th, the Afghani was trading at approximately 78.25 against the US dollar. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Indian government has chosen to keep its borrowing plan unchanged for the second half of the fiscal year 2023-2024 (H2FY24). The government's projected **gross market borrowing** for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2024, stands at Rs 15.43 lakh crore. Between April and September, the government successfully borrowed Rs 8.88 lakh crore. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Insurance has always been a vital aspect of financial security, offering individuals and families a safety net during unforeseen circumstances. Recognizing the importance of extending insurance coverage to every corner of India, the **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has introduced 'Bima Vistaar'. This all-in-one insurance product, encompassing life, health, and property coverage, is poised to revolutionize the insurance landscape in the country. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has taken a significant step by cancelling the license of **The Kapol Co-operative Bank Limited**, a Mumbai-based cooperative bank. This decision was made primarily due to concerns regarding the **bank's inadequate capital and earning prospects**, which raised questions about its ability to fulfill its commitments to depositors. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has granted its approval for **Poonawalla Fincorp's** collaboration with **IndusInd Bank** to issue a **co-branded credit card**. This initiative is expected to have a profound impact on the financial landscape in India. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a recent report by **CRISIL MI&A (Market Intelligence and Advisory)**, India's power demand for September 2023 reached an impressive five-year high. The report also offers insights into the factors driving this surge and the challenges faced by the power sector. Here, we break down the key findings and observations. India's power demand in September witnessed remarkable year-on-year growth, reaching 140-142 billion units (BUs), marking a five-year high. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, in its ongoing commitment to maintain the integrity and adherence to banking regulations, has imposed monetary penalties on three co-operative banks. These banks, namely **Saraswat Co-operative Bank Limited**, **Bassein Catholic Co-operative Bank Ltd**, and **Rajkot Nagarik Sahakari Bank Ltd**, were found to have **deficiencies in regulatory compliance**. The penalties levied by the RBI serve as a stern reminder to financial institutions to uphold the highest standards of governance and compliance. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a significant move, the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has recently endorsed capital management reforms, unleashing a substantial \$100 billion fund over the next ten years. These reforms, integrated into ADB's updated **Capital Adequacy Framework (CAF)**, mark a vital step in addressing the multifaceted crises and climate challenges faced by Asia and the Pacific region. ([Click here to read the article](#))



- In a significant economic development, **India's core sector** witnessed impressive growth in August, reaching a **14-month high of 12.1%**. This remarkable surge in core sector performance is attributed to several key factors, primarily the favorable base effect. In this report, we delve into the details of this growth, including the sectors driving it and the broader implications for India's industrial landscape. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **India's fiscal deficit** for the first five months of the 2023-24 financial year has reached 36% of the full-year target, according to data from the **Controller General of Accounts (CGA)**. The fiscal deficit represents the gap between government expenditure and revenue, indicating the government's borrowing needs. In absolute terms, the fiscal deficit amounted to Rs 6.42 lakh crore as of the end of August. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Indian government has announced significant changes to its tax policies related to the petroleum industry. These changes include an increase in the **special additional excise duty (SAED)** on domestically produced crude petroleum, as well as reductions in levies on **diesel and Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF)**. Effective from September 30, 2023, the government has raised the **windfall tax on domestically produced crude oil** to Rs 12,100 per tonne. This marks an increase from the previous rate of Rs 10,000 per tonne, which was set during the last fortnightly review on September 15, 2023. The windfall tax is intended to capture excessive profits in the crude petroleum sector. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Appointments/Resignations

- In a significant leadership transition, the board of **ICICI Lombard General Insurance** has appointed **Sanjeev Mantri** as the new **Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (MD & CEO)** of the company. This move follows the resignation of **Bhargav Dasgupta**, the outgoing MD & CEO, who stepped down ahead of completing his 15-year tenure due to recent regulatory changes. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Japanese clothing giant **Uniqlo** has announced its partnership with Bollywood actress **Katrina Kaif**, marking her as the brand's first ambassador in India. This collaboration is part of Uniqlo's strategy to expand its presence in the Indian market and promote its Fall-Winter 2023 campaign. Here's a detailed look at this exciting development. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Dr. Dinesh Dasa**, an eminent scholar with a rich background in forestry and public service, recently took the **oath of office and secrecy as a Member of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- In a significant development within the realm of Indian journalism, **K.N. Shanth Kumar**, a seasoned media professional, has been elected as the Chairman of the **Press Trust of India's Board of Directors** for a one-year term. This announcement came following the Annual General Meeting of PTI's Board of Directors, held at the news agency's headquarters in New Delhi. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Defence News

- The **19th edition of YUDH ABHYAS** is set to commence in Alaska, USA. This annual exercise is a collaborative effort between the Indian Army and the US Army, aimed at strengthening military cooperation and readiness. The lead battalion representing India hails from the esteemed **MARATHA Light Infantry Regiment**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** is set to inaugurate the **Bharat Drone Shakti-2023** exhibition at Hindan Air Base in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. In addition to the exhibition, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will formally induct the **C-295 transport** aircraft into the Indian Air Force. Key military officials, including **IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari**, will be in attendance for this significant event. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- India, on a mission to enhance its infrastructure along the country's remote frontiers, has recently unveiled a groundbreaking policy aimed at dignifying the lives of **casual workers** employed by the **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)**. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh approved this policy, which not only addresses the preservation and transportation of mortal remains but also raises funeral expenses. This move emphasizes the perilous nature of the work undertaken by these individuals in challenging terrains. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** is set to inaugurate the **Bharat Drone Shakti 2023 exhibition** at Hindan Air Base in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. In addition to the exhibition, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will formally induct the **C-295 transport** aircraft into the Indian Air Force. Key military officials, including **IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari**, will be in attendance for this significant event. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- On a momentous day in the history of the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh formally inducted the **first C-295 medium tactical transport aircraft** into the IAF's arsenal. This landmark event took place in the presence of **Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari** and other top military officials in Ghaziabad. The C-295 aircraft represents a significant upgrade for the IAF, offering versatility and modern capabilities for a wide range of missions. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The **13th Indo-Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference (IPACC)** took place from September 26 to 27, 2023, at the **Manekshaw Centre** in New Delhi. This biennial event, co-hosted by the **Indian Army** and the **US Army Pacific**, brought together army chiefs from 30 Indo-Pacific nations to deliberate on security cooperation, collective strategies, and pressing regional issues. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has recently celebrated the arrival of the **first** of six state-of-the-art **Dornier Do-228 aircraft**, exclusively manufactured by **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**. This upgraded version of the aircraft is set to bolster the IAF's operational capabilities with its advanced features, marking a significant milestone in the modernization efforts of the Indian defense forces. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Taiwan**, a self-governing island in East Asia, has recently unveiled its **first domestically-made submarine**, named the **Haikun**, in a move to bolster its defenses against the ever-present threat of a possible Chinese attack. President **Tsai Ing-wen** presided over the launch ceremony in the port city of Kaohsiung, marking a significant milestone in Taiwan's military capabilities. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Awards and Recognitions

- **Mathematician Ruixiang Zhang**, an Assistant Professor at the University of California, Berkeley, USA, has been selected as the recipient of the prestigious **2023 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize**. This award recognizes his remarkable contributions to the field of mathematics. The prize, which includes a **cash award of \$10,000**, will be presented during an international conference in Number Theory, held in the hometown of the renowned mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan, at SASTRA University in Kumbakonam during the third week of December. ([Click here to read the article](#))

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Summits and Conferences News

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, graced the occasion commemorating the **20th anniversary** of the **Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit**. This prestigious event took place at Science City in Ahmedabad, a city that has witnessed the remarkable transformation of Vibrant Gujarat over the past two decades. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Ranks and Reports


- India is set to experience a rapid aging of its population in the coming decades, with the elderly projected to comprise over **20% of the total population** by the year 2050. This significant demographic shift is highlighted in the **India Ageing Report 2023**, jointly released by the International Institute for Population Sciences and the **United Nations Population Fund**. This report sheds light on various aspects of this aging trend, including the changing ratio of elderly to working-age individuals, gender disparities in life expectancy, and its implications for social and economic policies. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **2023 World Talent Ranking**, released by the **International Institute for Management Development (IMD)** on September 27th, has brought both good news and areas of concern for India. While the nation has shown improvements in infrastructure, it has **slipped four spots** to the **56th position** (Out of 64 economies) compared to its 52nd position in the 2022 ranking. In the **IMD World Talent Ranking for 2023**, Switzerland secured the top position, followed by Luxembourg in second place, and Iceland, Belgium, and the Netherlands rounding out the top five. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a significant development for India's real estate sector, **Bengaluru** has emerged as the city with the highest green-certified office space. This achievement is part of a broader trend showcased in the '**Indian Real Estate: Taking Giant Strides – 2023 Mid-Year Outlook**' report jointly released by real estate consultant CBRE and industry body CII during the CII Realty conference. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Sports News

- In a thrilling race at the Buddh International Circuit, Italian rider **Marco Bezzecchi**, representing the Mooney VR46 Racing Team, emerged victorious in the inaugural **Indian Grand Prix** for the 2023 MotoGP season. This marked Bezzecchi's third triumph of the season, solidifying his status as a top contender in the championship. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- In the second ODI between **Team India and Australia in Indore**, India achieved a significant milestone by surpassing **3000 ODI sixes**. They posted a formidable total of 399/6, striking an impressive 18 sixes during their innings. This remarkable feat made India the first team to reach the milestone of 3000 ODI sixes. The West Indies closely trail as the second team on the list with **2953 sixes**, while Pakistan holds the third position with **2566 sixes**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- India, known for its strong sporting culture, had a promising start on the first official day of the **2023 Asian Games in Hangzhou, China**. India wrapped up the first official day of the Asian Games 2023 **with five medals – three silver and two bronze**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a remarkable debut appearance in the Asian Games cricket competition, **India** emerged victorious against the formidable **Sri Lankan team**, securing the **gold medal** with a **19-run victory**. This triumph marks a significant milestone for India, who had chosen not to participate in the two previous editions of the continental Games that included cricket as a sport. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Gold Medal Triumph**: India's team, comprising **Rudranksh Patil, Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, and Divyansh Singh Panwar**, secured the gold medal in the highly competitive men's 10m air rifle team event at the Asian Games 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a remarkable display of equestrian prowess, India clinched the gold medal in dressage at the **Asian Games 2023**, marking a historic moment for the nation. The Indian equestrian team, consisting of **Anush Agarwal, Hriday Vipul Kheda, Sudipati Hazel, and Divyakriti Singh**, achieved this victory with a stellar score of **209.205**. This triumph comes after a 41-year-long wait for India, as the country had previously won gold in horse riding during its debut appearance at the Asian Games in 1982. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In an impressive display of marksmanship, the **Indian trio of Manu Bhaker, Esha Singh, and Rhythm Sangwan** secured the gold medal in the **women's 25m pistol team event** at the **Asian Games held in Hangzhou, China**. With a total score of 1759, Team India outshone the competition, narrowly edging out China for the top spot. This victory adds to India's growing medal tally at the ongoing Asiad, where they have notched up an impressive haul of 16 medals, including four golds. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **The Film Federation of India** has announced that the Malayalam movie **"2018: Everyone is a Hero,"** based on the Kerala floods, will represent India as its official entry at the **Academy Awards or Oscars in 2024**. The film, directed by **Jude Anthony Joseph**, delves into the harrowing tales of survival during the devastating floods that struck the state. Its selection was attributed to its poignant portrayal of climate change issues and the societal misconceptions about development. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Indian shooter **Sift Kaur Samra** made history with a spectacular performance, clinching gold in the **women's 50m rifle 3 position event**. She not only won the gold but also shattered world, Asian, and Games records along the way. This remarkable achievement marks a significant moment in her shooting career. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Indian shooters** have continued to make their mark at the Asian Games, clinching their 6th gold medal in the **Men's 10m Air Pistol Team event**. **Sarabjot Singh, Shiva Narwal, and Arjun Singh Cheema** displayed exceptional prowess, securing victory by a single point over the home Chinese team. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a stunning display of skill and precision, the Indian men's shooting trio comprising **Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar, Swapnil Suresh Kusale, and Akhil Sheoran** secured a gold medal in the 50m Rifle 3 Positions Team event. Their remarkable achievement didn't stop there; they broke the world record with an extraordinary score of 1769 points. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Nepal cricket** team rewrote the record books in the **Asian Games 2023**, achieving remarkable milestones in T20 International cricket. Nepal's extraordinary performance in the tournament led them to become the first team ever to cross the 300-run mark in T20Is. **Nepal's No. 5 batter, Dipendra Singh Airee**, also made headlines with his explosive batting. Airee blazed his way to a **nine-ball fifty**. At just **19 years old, Kushal Malla**, a talented left-handed batter, etched his name in cricket history by smashing the **fastest-ever T20I century**. Nepal's innings was punctuated by a sensational display of power-hitting, as they smashed a total of **26 sixes**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Rohan Bopanna and Rutuja Bhosale** claimed mixed doubles gold with a **2-6 6-3 10-4** win over Chinese Taipei's **Yu-hsiou Hsu and Hao-ching Chan**. It was India's second medal in tennis at the continental event after Ramkumar Ramanathan and Saketh Myneni had won a silver in men's doubles. ([Click here to read the article](#))

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Schemes and Committees News

- The **National Health Authority (NHA)**, under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), is set to host a two-day event known as **'Arogya Manthan'** in New Delhi. This event is being organized to commemorate two significant milestones in India's healthcare sector: the 5th anniversary of the **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)** and the 2nd anniversary of the **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Central Government extended support for exports under the **Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme** till 30 June 2024. The RoDTEP support was originally notified until 30 September 2023, but this extension comes at a crucial time when the country's exports are facing challenges due to the global economic slowdown. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Science and Technology News

- The climactic end of a **seven-year voyage** comes to an end when a NASA capsule landed in the **Utah desert**, carrying to Earth the **largest asteroid samples** ever collected. Scientists have high hopes for the sample, saying it will provide a better understanding of the formation of our solar system and how Earth became habitable. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Health experts from around the world are sounding the alarm about a potential global pandemic referred to as **"Disease X,"** which could surpass the lethality of COVID-19 and claim over 50 million lives. They warn that COVID-19 might be just a precursor to more devastating pandemics in the future. Dame Kate Bingham, who chaired the **UK's Vaccine Taskforce**, issued a grim warning about the severity of Disease X. She emphasized that the world has been fortunate that COVID-19 was not more lethal and cautioned that the next pandemic could be exponentially more deadly. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** has faced a setback in its Chandrayaan-3 mission as they strive to re-establish communication with the **Vikram lander and Pragyan rover** on the lunar surface. Despite encountering difficulties, ISRO remains optimistic about the possibility of waking up the lander and rover during the lunar day, which **spans 14 Earth days**. In this article, we delve into the challenges faced by ISRO, the potential reasons for the communication failure and the hopes for a successful revival. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Search giant **Google** has unveiled its **Earthquake Alerts System for Android smartphone users in India**. Developed in collaboration with the **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** and the **National Seismology Center (NSC)**, this system offers early warnings of seismic activities and is available in multiple Indian languages. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The **Psyche mission** represents an ambitious venture to explore a distinct metallic asteroid positioned in orbit between **Mars and Jupiter**. The exceptional feature of this asteroid, named Psyche, is its composition, believed to be the exposed nickel-iron core of an ancient planet – a fundamental building block of our solar system.
- The mission is spearheaded by Arizona State University, with **NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory** overseeing mission management, operations, and navigation. The spacecraft's solar-electric propulsion system will be constructed by Maxar (formerly SSL), complemented by a suite of scientific instruments. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- NASA's **Perseverance Mars rover** has accomplished an impressive feat by traversing a massive boulder field at a record speed, taking only a third of the time it would have taken its predecessor, Curiosity. The rover's journey through the challenging terrain of **Snowdrift Peak** in the Jezero Crater is a testament to its advanced autonomous navigation capabilities and highlights its commitment to maximizing scientific exploration time. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Important Days News

- **World Rivers Day**, observed on the **fourth Sunday in September** each year, is a global celebration that underscores the immense value of our rivers and aims to raise public awareness about their significance. This year it will be marked on **September 24**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The United Nations observes **26 September** every year as the **International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons**. The aim of the day is to enhance public awareness about the threat posed to humanity by nuclear weapons and the necessity for their total elimination. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **World Pharmacists Day** is a globally recognized event observed every year on **September 25th**. It serves as a dedicated occasion to honor and appreciate the vital contributions of pharmacists to the improvement of global health. The theme for World Pharmacists Day in 2023 is **"Pharmacy Strengthening Health Systems."** ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Antyodaya Diwas** is an annual celebration in India that commemorates the birth anniversary of the revered Indian leader, **Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya**. This day serves as a tribute to his life and enduring legacy, honoring one of the most influential figures in India's political history. Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya was not only a co-founder of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS) but also a profound thinker associated with the **Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- Every year on **September 26, World Environmental Health Day** is celebrated to highlight the intricate relationship between humans and their environment. The theme for this year's World Environmental Health Day is "**Global Environmental Public Health: Standing up to protect everyone's Health each and every day**" underscores the collective responsibility to safeguard the health of every individual by addressing global environmental challenges consistently. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **World Tourism Day 2023** is observed on **27 September** globally. This day is celebrated every year to focus on promoting tourism in various parts of the world. It was initiated by the **United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO)**. This World Tourism Day 2023, the UNWTO, under the theme "**Tourism and green investment**" highlights the need for more and better-targeted investments for the Sustainable Development Goals, the UN roadmap for a better world by 2030. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **International Day for Universal Access to Information**, proclaimed at the **74th UN General Assembly** on October 15, 2019, shines a spotlight on the fundamental right to seek, receive, and impart information. Held annually on **September 28**, this day emphasizes the significance of an informed citizenry and highlights the theme of the online space's pivotal role in ensuring access to information. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **World Maritime Day** is celebrated on the **last Thursday of every September**, on **September 28** this year, to honor the tireless work of the international maritime industry workers. The World Maritime Day 2023 takes place on 28 September 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **World Rabies Day (WDR)**, observed every **September 28**, serves as a global initiative to raise awareness about rabies, a deadly zoonotic disease that claims the lives of thousands of people each year. Established by the **Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC)** and recognized by the **World Health Organization (WHO)**, this day aims to promote efforts to combat rabies and highlight the importance of prevention. In this article, we delve into the significance of World Rabies Day, its theme for 2023, and the global fight against this relentless disease. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Every year on **September 29th**, people around the world come together to observe **World Heart Day**. This global initiative aims to raise awareness about heart disease and promote preventive measures to combat cardiovascular diseases. In 2023, the theme "**Use Heart, Know Heart**" emphasizes the use of emojis to convey the significance of the day and the importance of heart knowledge. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- On **September 29th**, the world comes together to observe the **International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction**. It is an opportunity to raise awareness of the issue of food loss and waste, and to promote actions to reduce it. Food loss and waste is a major global problem. The theme for the International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste in 2023 is "**Reducing food loss and waste: Taking Action to Transform Food Systems.**" ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **International Translation Day**, observed on **September 30** every year, serves as a global celebration of the invaluable contributions made by translators and language professionals. These individuals play a pivotal role in facilitating cross-cultural dialogue, contributing to global development, and fostering world peace. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Obituaries News

- Former Italian President **Giorgio Napolitano** has died at the age of 98. His passing marks the end of an era in **Italian** politics, as he was not only the **longest-serving president** but also a central figure in shaping the country's post-war history. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The world of Malayalam cinema mourned the loss of veteran **filmmaker K G George**, who passed away at the age of 78 in an old age home near **Kakkanad**. The filmmaker had been battling health issues for the last five years, following a stroke that significantly impacted his life. The news of his demise drew condolences and tributes from people across the spectrum, including politicians, actors, and fellow directors, who took to social media to express their sorrow. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- British actor **David McCallum** who played a secret agent in the 1960s spy drama '**The Man From U.N.C.L.E.**' has died at the age of 90. Mr McCallum also starred in films including '**The Great Escape**', '**The Greatest Story Ever Told**' and '**A Night To Remember**'. He guest starred on TV series '**Perry Mason**' and '**The Outer Limits**'. He also appeared on more than 450 episodes of '**NCIS**' as Ducky, an autopsy expert. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Father of India's 'Green Revolution,' Mankombu Sambasivan Swaminathan**, fondly known as **M.S. Swaminathan**, was a legendary figure in the field of agriculture and a true humanitarian, passed away at the age of 98. Born on August 7, 1925, in Tamil Nadu's Thanjavur district, he dedicated his life to improving the lives of India's low-income farmers and revolutionizing the nation's agricultural landscape. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The world of acting mourns the loss of a legendary talent, as **Michael Gambon**, renowned for his portrayal of **Professor Dumbledore** in the **Harry Potter** film series, has passed away at the age of 82. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The world of business recently bid farewell to a visionary leader, **Ashwin Dani**, the **Co-founder & non-executive director** of **Asian Paints**, who passed away on 28 September 2023 at the age of 79. Ashwin Dani's contributions to Asian Paints and the global paint industry have left an indelible mark. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Miscellaneous News

- **Google**, the search engine giant, is commemorating its **25th birthday with a special Google Doodle**. While the company always focuses on the future, milestones like birthdays offer a chance for reflection. In this article, we delve into the origins of Google, its evolution, and its enduring mission to organize the world's information for universal accessibility and utility. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **SP Singh**, the principal of the **UPSRTC Model Driving Training and Research Institute**, has earned a remarkable distinction by securing a place in the prestigious **India Book of Records**. This recognition is a testament to his exceptional contributions, particularly through his innovative '**Jhaadu Daan**' (broom donation) **initiative**, which aligns with the nationwide **Swachh Bharat Campaign**. Singh's commitment to promoting cleanliness and hygiene has made a substantial impact on various districts, fostering a cleaner environment and empowering communities. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- A dedicated team of international geologists and seismologists has embarked on a mission to chart the depths of **Zealandia**, a relatively unknown landmass submerged beneath the Pacific Ocean. Their efforts have resulted in the creation of an updated and highly detailed map that sheds light on the continent's intriguing geological features. Zealandia, often referred to as the eighth continent, remains shrouded in oceanic mystery, with a staggering 94% of its expanse concealed beneath the sea's surface. The remaining 6% peeks above the waves, encompassing islands such as New Zealand and its neighboring isles. ([Click here to read the article](#))


Static Takeaways

- International Pharmaceutical Federation CEO: Catherine Duggan;
- International Pharmaceutical Federation Headquarters: The Hague, Netherlands;
- International Pharmaceutical Federation Founded: 25 September 1912.
- NASA Administrator: Bill Nelson
- World Tourism Organisation Founded: 1946;
- World Tourism Organisation Headquarters: Madrid, Spain;
- World Tourism Organisation Secretary-General: Zurab Pololikashvili.
- Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC): Shrikant Madhav Vaidy

- International Maritime Organization Headquarters: London, United Kingdom;
- International Maritime Organization Founded: 17 March 1958;
- International Maritime Organization Founder: United Nations;
- International Maritime Organization Secretary-General: Kitack Lim.
- Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of REC: Mr. Vivek Kumar Dewangan
- Minister of Power, New & Renewable Energy: Shri R.K. Singh
- World Organisation for Animal Health Headquarters: Paris, France;
- World Organisation for Animal Health Founded: 25 January 1924;
- World Organisation for Animal Health Founder: Emmanuel Leclainche.
- World Heart Federation Founded: 2000;
- World Heart Federation Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland;
- World Heart Federation President: Fausto Pinto.
- Founder of Poma Group: Jean Pomagalski
- Director General of United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is Qu-Dongyu.
- FAO is specialised agency of United Nations.
- Establishment: FAO is established 16 October, 1945.
- Headquarter: Headquarter of FAO is situated at Rome, Italy.
- Parent Organization: United Nation Economic and Social Council.
- FAO comprises of 195 members including 194 countries and European Union.
- Global Innovation Index 2023 Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland;
- Global Innovation Index 2023 Founded: 14 July 1967;
- Global Innovation Index 2023 Parent organization: United Nations;
- Global Innovation Index 2023 Director General: Daren Tang..

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