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Coverage

1. THE HINDU, INDIAN EXPRESS & OTHER
2. PIB, NEWSONINDIA
3. SUMMARY OF OTHER MONTHLY MAGAZINES

INDEX OF CURRENT AFFAIRS

SERIAL NO.	SECTION/TOPIC	PAGE NO
1)	AWARDS/MEDALS/HONORS/PRIZE	3
2)	REPORTS /INDEX/COMMITTEE/SURVEY/STUDY	6
3)	GOVT. SCHEMES/PORTAL /APPS/INITIATIVES	8
4)	ECONOMY/BANKING	11
5)	DEFENCE NEWS / MILITARY EXERCISE	12
6)	ENVIRONMENT	15
7)	INTERNATIONAL NEWS	16
8)	SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	19
9)	SPORTS	21
10)	IMPORTANTS DATES & EVENTS	23
11)	PERSONS IN NEWS	25
12)	PLACES IN NEWS – SUMMITS/CONFERENCE	26
13)	STATES IN NEWS	28
14)	BOOKS	30
15)	MISCELLANEOUS	31

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AWARDS/MEDALS/HONORS/PRIZE

- **Magsaysay Award 2023: Assam-based surgical oncologist Dr. R Ravi Kannan wins Ramon Magsaysay Award 2023.** “He won the award for **revolutionising the treatment of cancer in Assam** through his people-centered and pro-poor programmes.” (**Oncologist:** An oncologist is a doctor who treats cancer and provides medical care for a person diagnosed with cancer.)

About Ramon Magsaysay Award:

1. The Ramon Magsaysay Award is an annual award established to perpetuate **former Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay's** example of integrity in governance, courageous service to the people, and pragmatic idealism within a democratic society.
2. The prize was **established in April 1957** by the trustees of the **Rockefeller Brothers Fund** based in New York City with the **concurrence of the Philippine government.**
3. It is often called the "**Nobel Prize of Asia**"

- **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (SSB) awards for 2022:** The Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Awards are the **highest multidisciplinary science awards in India.** They are named after Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, the founder and **director of the CSIR**, who was also a renowned chemist and visionary.

Category	Awardees
Biological Sciences	Dr Ashwani Kumar and Dr Maddika Subba Reddy
Chemical sciences	Dr Akkattu T Biju and Dr Debabrata Maiti
Earth, Atmosphere and Planetary Sciences	Dr Vimal Mishra
Engineering Sciences	Dr Dipti Ranjan Sahoo and Dr Rajnish Kumr
Mathematical Sciences	Dr APoorva Khare and Dr Neeraj Kayal
Medical Sciences	Dr Dipyaman Ganguli
Physical Sciences	Dr Anindya Das and Dr Basudeb Dasgupta

- **Norman E. Borlaug Award: Indian agriculture scientist Dr. Swati Nayak**, affectionately known as "**Bihana Didi**" or "Seed Lady" by local communities in Odisha, has been honored with the Norman E. Borlaug Award for 2023.

About Norman E. Borlaug Award:

1. The award recognises **exceptional scientists under 40** and someone who works in the field of food and nutrition security and hunger eradication.
2. It is given in memory of the **Nobel awardee and Green Revolution's chief architect Dr Norman Borlaug.**
3. The award diploma incorporates the image of Dr. Borlaug at work in the fields of Mexico and a **cash prize of \$10,000.**
4. **It is endowed by the Rockefeller Foundation** and will be presented every October in Des Moines, Iowa, by the World Food Prize Foundation.
5. **Other Indian recipients:** Aditi Mukherji (2012) and Mahalingam Govindaraj (2022).

- **53rd Dadasaheb Phalke Award:** Veteran Bollywood actress **Waheeda Rehman**, 85, has been conferred with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, which is given for “outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian cinema”, **for the year 2021.**

About Dadasaheb Phalke Award:

1. The Award was **constituted in 1969**, to commemorate the contribution of filmmaker Dadasaheb Phalke to Indian cinema.
2. Phalke directed India’s first full-length feature film, **Raja Harishchandra, in 1913**, laying the foundation of the biggest film industry in the world.
3. The Award comprises a **Swarna Kamal** (Golden Lotus) medallion, a shawl, and a cash prize of **Rs 10 lakh.**
4. The first recipient was **Devika Rani**, who is widely acknowledged as the ‘**First Lady of Indian cinema**’.
5. It is **India’s highest award** in Film Industry.
6. It is presented annually at the National Film Awards ceremony by the **Directorate of Film Festivals**, an organisation set up by the **Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.**

- **SASTRA Ramanujan Prize 2023: Ruixiang Zhang**, an Assistant Professor at the University of California, Berkeley, USA, has been honored with 2023 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize **in Mathematics.** He will be awarded a **cash prize of USD 10,000** at an international Number Theory Conference.

About the prize:

The SASTRA Ramanujan Prize, founded by Shanmugha Arts, Science, Technology & Research Academy (SASTRA) **located near Kumbakonam**, India, Srinivasa Ramanujan's hometown, is awarded every year to a young mathematician judged to have done **outstanding work in Ramanujan's fields of interest.**

- **Best Tourism Village Award 2023: Meghalaya's Kongthong village (East Khasi Hills District)**, which is known to the outside world as "**whistling village**", has been bestowed with the prestigious 'Best Tourism Village (Bronze)' award at the National Tourism Awards **2023 by the Union Ministry of Tourism. The Gold category winning awardee villages are:** Dawar (J&K), Sarmoli (UK), Reiek (MZ) , Kanthallor (Kerala) and Madla (MP).

- **‘Dr V G Patel Memorial Award-2023:** Mumbai Professor **Satyajit Majumdar**, dean of School of Management and Labour Studies from Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), received the ‘Dr V G Patel Memorial Award-2023 for Entrepreneurship Trainer, Educator and Mentor’ for his work in promoting and strengthening entrepreneurship in India. **Dr V G Patel is widely acknowledged as the Father of Entrepreneurship Movement in India.**

- **Lifetime Achievement Award-Academia: Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) Vice Chancellor, Professor Najma Akhtar**, was recently presented 'Lifetime Achievement Award-Academia. The award was presented to her by Dr Raghunath Anant Mashelkar (Padma Vibhushan) at the Grand Conference and award function titled "Making India Employable" was organised by TeamLease EdTech.
- **The Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres: Fashion designer Rahul Mishra** has been awarded the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres, a prestigious honor from the French government. The distinction is given to individuals who have made notable contributions to art, culture, and literature. By this Mishra joined distinguished list of fellow countrymen and women including **Ritu Kumar, Ritu Beri, Wendell Rodricks, and Manish Arora** who have previously received this award.
- **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.**





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REPORTS /INDEX/COMMITTEE/SURVEY/STUDY

- **One nation-One Election Committee:** The Union government announced a committee to explore the possibility of **simultaneous polls (One nation-One Election)** for the Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies under the leadership of former president of India Shri **Ram Nath Kovind**.
- **United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) report:** India ageing, elderly to make **up 20% of population by 2050**. With the decadal growth rate of the elderly population of India currently estimated to be at 41%, and the percentage of elderly population in the country **projected to double to over 20% of total population by 2050**. Report says that **women in India**, on an average, have a **higher life expectancy** at the age of 60 and 80 when compared with men. Report has said that by 2046 it is likely that elderly population will have **surpassed the population of children** (aged 0 to 15 years) in the country.
- **The Gender Snapshot 2023 Report:** The latest UN report titled **“Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals: The gender snapshot 2023”** reveals that despite global efforts, the world is **failing to achieve gender equality**. **Gender equality refers to** the equal rights, responsibilities, and opportunities of all individuals, regardless of their gender. It involves ensuring that women and men have the same access to resources, education, employment, and decision-making processes.
- **Times Higher Education (THE) rankings:** 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. In the continuum of 8 years **Oxford retained top position, with Stanford University** in the United States securing second place. **The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)** is third in the rankings. **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)** topped in Indian Universities.
- **Kantar's Most Valuable Indian Brands Report:** Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has retained its position as the most valuable brand in India for the second consecutive year, according to the 10th edition of Kantar's BrandZ Top 75 Most Valuable Indian Brands Report. **The IT giant's brand valuation stands at \$43 billion**, a slight decrease of 6% compared to 2022, largely attributed to favorable global demand.
- **TIME World's Best Companies 2023 list:** Infosys ranked **64 out of 750 companies** on TIME World's Best Companies 2023 list. Infosys is the only Indian firm in the top 100 of TIME Magazine list of World's Best Companies 2023. **The list, curated by TIME and Statista**, is dominated by global Big Tech companies like **Microsoft, Apple, Alphabet (Google’s parent company) and Meta Platforms** which were the top four companies on the list.

➤ **The 2023 World Talent Ranking:** The International Institute for Management Development (IMD) has released its 2023 World Talent Ranking, revealing that **India has fallen four spots to 56th out of 64 economies, compared to its 52nd position in 2022.** While the report acknowledges India's infrastructure improvements, it underscores the need for further enhancement in talent competitiveness. **Switzerland tops the IMD World Talent Ranking 2023,** with **Luxembourg** in second place, followed by **Iceland, Belgium, and the Netherlands.** The United States is ranked 15th, while China is at 41st place, and the UK ranks 35th. **Brazil (63rd) and Mongolia (64th) occupy the bottom two spots.**

➤ **Global Innovation Index (GII) 2023:** India retained its **40th rank out of 132 economies in the 16th edition of Global Innovation Index (GII) 2023 rankings,** according to a report by the Geneva-based **World Intellectual Property Organization.** **Switzerland** – for a 13th year – ranks first in the index. **Sweden** is now second and the **United States** on third, followed by the United Kingdom (4th) and Singapore (5th).

➤ **41st Santiniketan,** the town in West Bengal's Birbhum district where Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore spent much of his life, has been **included in the UNESCO World Heritage List.**

About Shantiniketan:

1. **Established in 1901 by poet and philosopher Tagore,** Santiniketan was a residential school and centre for art based on ancient Indian traditions and a vision of the unity of humanity transcending religious and cultural boundaries.
2. A **'world university' was established at Santiniketan in 1921,** recognising the unity of humanity or "Visva Bharati".
3. **Santiniketan, popularly known today as a university town,** a hundred miles to the north of Kolkata, was originally an ashram built by Debendranath Tagore, where anyone, irrespective of caste and creed, could come and spend time meditating on the one Supreme God."

➤ **42nd (UNESCO) World Heritage Site:** The Sacred Ensembles of the **Hoysalathe 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.**

About Hoysala Temples:

1. The sacred ensembles of the Hoysalas, **constructed during the 12th and 13th centuries** are represented here by the three components of Belur, Halebid, and Somnathapura.
2. While the Hoysala temples maintain a fundamental Dravidian morphology, they exhibit substantial influences from the **Bhumija style prevalent in Central India,** the Nagara traditions of northern and western India, and the **Karnataka Dravida modes favoured by the Kalyani Chalukyas.**

About World Heritage Sites in India: As of September 2023, India has **42 world heritage sites** that include **34 Cultural sites, 7 Natural sites, and 1 mixed site.**

GOVT. SCHEMES/PORTAL /APPS/INITIATIVES

- **The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)** achieved another milestone of providing tap water connections to **13 Crore rural households**.

About Jal Jeevan Mission:

1. **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**.
2. JJM looks to create a **jan andolan** for water, thereby making it everyone's priority.
3. The Jal Jeevan Mission will be based on a **community approach** to water and will include extensive Information, Education and communication as a key component of the mission.
4. It is envisioned to provide **safe and adequate drinking water** through individual household tap connections **by 2024** to all households in rural India.
5. **Nodal Ministry:** Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation under the **Jal Shakti Mantralaya**.
6. The Mission will **converge with other Central and State Government Schemes** to achieve its objectives of sustainable water supply management across the country.
7. The Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), a **flagship program of the Government of India**, was launched on **August 15, 2019**, by Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which is the genesis of the Rashtriya Jal Jeevan Kosh (RJK).

- Recently, the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA&FW) has launched three initiatives, namely the **Kisan Rin Portal (KRP)**, **KCC Ghar Ghar Abhiyaan** and a **manual on Weather Information Network Data Systems (WINDS)**.

About Kisan Rin Portal (KRP):

1. Developed collaboratively by MoA&FW, the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAH&D), Department of Fisheries (DoF), RBI, and NABARD.
2. It facilitates farmers in availing subsidized agriculture credit through the **Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (MISS)**.
3. The portal offers an integrated hub, providing a comprehensive view of farmer data, loan disbursement specifics, interest subvention claims, and scheme utilization progress.

About Ghar-Ghar KCC Abhiyaan:

1. The "Ghar-Ghar KCC Abhiyaan" underscores government commitment to **Universal Financial Inclusion, ensuring every farmer** has unhindered access to credit facilities crucial for their agricultural pursuits.
2. This campaign, **starting from 1st October 2023 to 31st December 2023**, targets the saturation of KCC accounts among eligible PM KISAN beneficiary farmers.

About WINDS Manual:

1. This initiative creates a robust database of hyper-local weather data, supporting various agricultural services.
2. The WINDS initiative is an effort aimed at establishing a network of Automatic Weather Stations & Rain Gauges **at taluk/block and gram panchayat levels**.

- **Women's Reservation Bill 2023:** The One Hundred and Sixth Amendment of the Constitution of India, officially known as the **Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Act, 2023** and informally referred to as Women's Reservation Bill, was introduced in Lok Sabha during the special session of Parliament. **This legislation seeks to allocate 33 percent of the seats in the directly elected Lok Sabha and state legislative assemblies including of Delhi for women.**

About the bill:

1. The bill was **the first** that was considered in the **new parliament building**.
2. Lok Sabha passed the bill with 454 votes in favour and two against (**and not unanimously**).
3. The Rajya Sabha passed **the bill unanimously with 214 votes** in favour and none against.
4. The Bill provided for inserting **Article 330A** to the constitution, which borrows from the **provisions of Article 330**, which provides for reservation of seats to SCs/STs in the Lok Sabha.
5. The Bill provided that reserved seats for women **may be allotted by rotation** to different constituencies in states or Union Territories.
6. In the **seats reserved for SCs/STs**, the Bill sought to provide one-third of the seats to be reserved for women on rotational basis.
7. For Legislative assemblies and UTs with Legislative assemblies the similar changes will be done in the **Article 332A and 239AA (2)(b)** respectively.
8. **Actual implementation of Reservation (New article - 334A):** The reservation will be effective after the census conducted after the commencement of this Bill has been published. Based on the census, delimitation will be undertaken to reserve seats for women. **The reservation will be provided for a period of 15 years.** However, it shall continue till such date as **determined by a law made by Parliament.**

- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the **extension of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) for release of 75 lakh LPG connections** over three years from Financial Year 2023-24 to 2025-26. The Prime Minister highlighted that the design of the International stadium **dedicated to Lord Mahadev.**

About Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY):

1. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana is a scheme of the **Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas** for providing LPG connections to women from **Below Poverty Line (BPL) households.**
2. The scheme was launched on **1st May 2016 in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh.**
3. The target under the scheme **was to release 8 Crore LPG Connections** to the deprived households by March 2020.
4. Under the Union Budget for FY 21-22, provision for release of **additional 1 Crore LPG connections under the PMUY** scheme has been made. In this phase, special facility has been given to migrant families.
5. As on **1st March 2023 there are 9.59 crore PMUY beneficiaries.**

- **India** achieves major Sanitation Milestone as **75% Villages Are Now ODF Plus** under Swachh Bharat Mission - Grameen. An **ODF Plus** village is one which has sustained its Open Defecation Free (ODF) status along with implementing either solid or liquid waste management systems. As on date, more than 4.43 lakh villages have declared themselves ODF Plus, which is a significant step towards **achieving the SBM-G phase II goals by 2024-25.**

About Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen (Phase II):

1. The key objective of Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (Phase2) is to sustain the **ODF status of all the 6 lakh rural villages** and to improve the level of cleanliness by making arrangement of solid and liquid waste management as **ODF Plus by 2024-25.**
 2. **ODF:** An area can be notified or declared as ODF if at any point of the day, not even a single person is found defecating in the open.
 3. **ODF+:** This status is given if at any point of the day, not a single person is found defecating and/or urinating in the open, and all community and public toilets are functional and well maintained.
 4. **ODF++:** This status is given if the area is already ODF+ and the faecal sludge/septage and sewage are safely managed and treated, with no discharging or dumping of untreated faecal sludge and sewage into the open drains, water bodies or areas.
- **'Aarogya Maitri Cube': India has unveiled the world's first Rapid response portable disaster hospital named as 'Aarogya Maitri Cube'.** This is a groundbreaking facility that can be airlifted and consists of 72 cubes. This extraordinary endeavor is a component of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious **"Project BHISHM"** (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri), unveiled in February 2022. The project was officially **inaugurated during the MedTech Expo in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.**
 - **PM Narendra Modi lays foundation stone of International Cricket Stadium in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.** The modern international cricket stadium **will be developed in Ganjari, Rajatalab, Varanasi** at a cost of about Rs 450 crores and spread across an area of more than 30 acres.

ECONOMY/BANKING

- The government has eased some of the provisions of the **angel tax** introduced in this year's Budget.
About Angel Tax:
 1. It is the tax that must be **paid on the funds raised by unlisted companies** through the issuance of shares in off-market transactions, **if they exceed the fair market value of the company**.
 2. The provision known as the 'angel tax' was **initially introduced in 2012** to discourage the generation and utilisation of unaccounted money through investments in closely held companies.

- In a recent update, **Fitch Ratings** decided to maintain its growth forecast for India for the fiscal year **2023-24 (FY24) at 6.3%**. Despite facing challenges such as tighter monetary policy and weakened exports, **India's economy displayed remarkable resilience**.

- **OECD Projections:** 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%**.
About OECD:
 1. It is an intergovernmental organization **with 38 member countries**, founded in **1961** to stimulate economic progress and world trade.
 2. The majority of OECD Members are high-income economies ranked as "very high" in the Human Development Index, and are regarded as developed countries. **Their collective population is 1.38 billion, as of 2017**.
 3. OECD Member countries collectively **comprised 62.2% of global nominal GDP** (US\$49.6 trillion) and 42.8% of global GDP (Int\$54.2 trillion) at purchasing power parity. The OECD is an official United Nations observer.
 4. **India is NOT** the member of OECD.

- **'Khamree Mo Sikkim': Maruti Suzuki India**, has teamed up with the Indian Navy to spread awareness among the young people in the Northeast about career opportunities through the **'Khamree Mo Sikkim'** outreach program. The adventure began today, with a 6,500 km journey that kicked off from the **Indian Navy base in Lonavala**.

- **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. This **green hydrogen-powered bus emits Water as a byproduct**. **Union Minister Hardeep S Puri flags-off 1st Green Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus** from Kartavya Path, New Delhi.

DEFENCE NEWS / MILITARY EXERCISE

- **'Mahendragiri'**: The Vice-President of India, Jagdeep Dhankhar along with his wife Dr. Sudesh Dhankhar, launched the warship **'Mahendragiri'** built at **M/s Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)** in Mumbai. 'Mahendragiri' is the **seventh stealth frigate under Project 17A of the Indian Navy**, and the fourth constructed by MDL.

About 'Mahendragiri' the 7th stealth frigate:

1. Mahendragiri – the 7th Nilgiri-class stealth frigate.
2. **Mahendragiri, named after** a mountain peak in Eastern Ghats located in the state of Odisha, is the seventh ship of the Project 17A Frigates.
3. Mahendragiri has been built using **Integrated Construction methodology** which involves hull blocks with parallel outfitting.
4. The vessel has an approximate launch weight of **3450 tons**.

About Project 17A of Indian Navy:

1. Under the Project 17A program, a total of **four ships by M/s MDL and three ships by M/s Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd** are under construction.
2. **Approximately 210 MSMEs are engaged** in this project and approximately 1000 subcontract workforce is working inside MDL premises for this project.
3. **Over 75% of the orders** of Project 17A have been placed on indigenous firms including **MSMEs**, keeping in line with Government of India's vision of "Aatma Nirbhar Bharat".

- **Indian air force and Drone Federation of India to co-host Bharat Drone Shakti 2023.** The IAF uses Remotely Piloted Aircraft extensively for Intelligence Surveillance & Reconnaissance operations. Its faith in the emerging Drone design and development capabilities in India are borne by its initiatives like the **Meher Baba Swarm Drone competition** that sought to tap this indigenous potential. It was organized at **Indian Air Force airbase at Hindon in Ghaziabad** district of Uttar Pradesh.

- The Indian Air Force (IAF) **inducted the first C-295 transport aircraft** in a formal ceremony at the **Hindan Air Force Station in Uttar Pradesh**, days after it received the delivery of the aircraft at the Airbus facility in Seville, Spain. The first IAF squadron to be equipped with the aircraft, No. 11 Squadron, **also named The Rhinos**, is based in Vadodara.

About C-295 transport aircraft:

1. This medium lift tactical aircraft is capable of taking off and landing from unprepared landing grounds and **it will replace the HS-748 Avro aircraft**.
2. The induction of C-295 will bolster **medium lift tactical capability** of the IAF.
3. The total order of these **aircraft is 56 out of which 40 C295s** of the IAF order will be manufactured and assembled – in partnership with Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) – at a Final Assembly Line (FAL) in **Gujarat's Vadodara**.

- **Exercise Varuna: the second phase of the 21st edition of Varuna-23**, the bilateral maritime exercise between the Indian and French navies, was conducted in the Arabian Sea. The exercise witnessed the participation of guided missile frigates, a tanker, Maritime Patrol Aircraft and integral helicopters from the two sides. The exercise involved joint operations, underway replenishment and various tactical manoeuvres. **While the bilateral exercise between the two navies was initiated in 1993, it was christened as 'Varuna' in 2001.** It has since become a hallmark of the India-France strategic bilateral relationship.
- **A startup from Hyderabad, Arrobot, has developed an Unmanned Guided Vehicle (UGV) for the armed forces.** It will help users in logistics, surveillance and reconnaissance in difficult terrain and environment. It can carry up to 200 kg and tug up to 600 kg and offers a **30-degree view**.
- **Nyoma Airfield: Shri Rajnath Singh** virtually laid the foundation stone of **Nyoma Airfield in Eastern Ladakh**. This airfield, to be developed at a cost of approx. Rs 200 crore, will boost the air infrastructure in Ladakh and augment IAF's capability along the Northern border. **The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) will construct India's highest fighter airfield in Nyoma, a village in Ladakh.** The Nyoma village is located close to the **south Bank of Pangong Tso** at an altitude of about 13,700 feet. Nyoma is around 46 kilometres from the Line of Actual Control with China.
- **'Vibhav' anti-tank mines: The Indian Army** has recently added **600 domestically-produced self-neutralizing anti-tank mines** called "Vibhav" to its arsenal, representing a significant boost to India's defence capabilities in countering armoured threats.
About 'Vibhav' anti-tank mines:
 1. The 'Vibhav' anti-tank mines are a result of collaboration between **the Indian Army and the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)**.
 2. 'Vibhav' mines are constructed using **advanced plastic materials**, ensuring durability and strength for storage, handling, and deployment in various field conditions.
 3. Equipped with an electronic anti-handling and anti-lift device (**EAHALD**), 'Vibhav' remains active for 120 days once armed, increasing its effectiveness and safety.
 4. It has a **storage life of 10 years** and does not require any special storage conditions.
 5. It can be **deployed either manually or mechanically**.
- **Maiden trilateral Maritime Partnership Exercise:** Indian Navy's indigenously built warship **INS Sahyadri**, mission deployed in Indo-Pacific, participated in the maiden trilateral Maritime Partnership Exercise with the ships and **aircraft from the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and Indonesian Navy.** **INS Sahyadri**, the third ship of the indigenously designed and built **Project-17 class multirole stealth frigates** was built at **Mazagon Dock Ltd, Mumbai** and is commanded by Capt Rajan Kapoor.

➤ **Exercise Trishul:** The Indian Air Force held its **annual** mega training exercise Trishul as part of which it's Western Air Command (WAC) will activate **all its combat assets from Leh in Kashmir to Nal in Rajasthan**. The IAF has airlifted nearly 70,000 Army troops and heavy platforms as part of efforts towards enhancing the **overall operational preparedness in eastern Ladakh**.

➤ **Exercise BRIGHT STAR- 23:** INS Sumedha participated in 'Exercise BRIGHT STAR- 23' which is led by **Unites States and Egyptian Armed Forces**. This edition of the multinational **Tri-Services military exercise** will see participation from **34 countries**. It is the **largest ever** joint military exercise in Middle East & North Africa region.

About INS SUMEDHA:

1. **INS Sumedha (P58)** is the **third Saryu-class patrol vessel** of the Indian Navy, designed and constructed indigenously by **the Goa Shipyard Limited**.
2. It is designed to undertake fleet **support operations, coastal and offshore patrolling, ocean surveillance and monitoring** of sea lines of communications and offshore assets and escort duties.
3. The Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel INS Sumedha was launched **at Goa Shipyard on 21 May 2011**.

➤ **Operation Sajag:** It is a Coastal Security drill involving all stakeholders of the coastal security construct, was conducted **by the Indian Coast Guard along the west coast**. The drill facilitates revalidation of the coastal security mechanism and bring awareness among the fishermen at sea. During the drill, extensive checking and verification of documents and crew passes of **all fishing boats, barges and craft at sea was undertaken. A total of 118 ships including those from** Customs, Marine Police, Ports & Indian Navy participated in the drill.

➤ **P-7 Heavy Drop Parachute System:** 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 para-dropping capabilities of the country's Armed Forces. This innovative system, **entirely developed within India**, promises to revolutionize the way military stores are para-dropped on the battlefield.

➤ **Dornier Do-228 aircraft:** The Indian Air Force (IAF) has received the first of six new Dornier Do-228 aircraft from **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)**. The upgraded aircraft features new engines, advanced avionics, and a modern glass cockpit. The versatile **aircraft is well-suited for short-haul operations** and can be used for various purposes, including utility transport and maritime surveillance. This addition will enhance **the IAF's operational capability, particularly in remote areas**.

ENVIRONMENT

- **An invasive non-native ant species** has become established in **Italy** and could rapidly spread through Europe to the UK with global heating, a study warns. **The red fire ant, Solenopsis invicta**, has a powerful sting, damages crops and can infest electrical equipment including cars and computers.
- **A new elephant corridor report** released by the central government showed a **40 per cent increase** in elephant corridors across 15 elephant range states in India. The number of elephant corridors have increased to 150 against 88 registered by the Government of India in 2010. The **elephant population in the country is estimated to be over 30,000**. Elephant corridors can be described as a strip of land that enables elephant movement between two or more friendly habitats. **The corridors were reported by respective state governments** and ground validation methods were used to verify them, the report stated.
- **Summer of 2023 was Earth's hottest since global records began in 1880**, according to scientists at NASA's Goddard Institute of Space Studies (GISS) in New York. This new record comes as **exceptional heat swept across much of the world, exacerbating deadly wildfires in Canada and Hawaii**, and searing heat waves in South America, Japan, Europe, and the U.S., while likely contributing to severe rainfall in Italy, Greece, and Central Europe.
- New research has shown that America's rapid adoption of **LED lighting might** be saving money by using less electricity but it's making it harder to see the stars, due to increased light pollution. **Light pollution:** the excessive or inappropriate use of outdoor artificial light, is affecting human health (Sleep cycle), wildlife behavior, and our ability to observe stars and other celestial objects. **Some of the most light-polluted countries** in the world are Singapore, Qatar, and Kuwait.
- **Antarctica** is likely warming at almost twice the rate of the rest of the world and faster than climate change models are predicting, with potentially far-reaching implications for global sea level rise, according to a scientific study.

What are India's Antarctic Missions?

1. India officially acceded to the Antarctic Treaty System on **1st August 1983**.
2. **On 12th September 1983**, India became the fifteenth Consultative Member of the Antarctic Treaty.
3. **The newest base** commissioned in 2015 is Bharati.
4. India is rebuilding its station, Maitri, to make it bigger and last for at least 30 more years. Dakshin Gangotri, the first Indian base established in 1984, has weakened and become just a supply base.
5. **Sagar Nidhi:** In 2008, India commissioned the Sagar Nidhi, for research.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- **Bangladesh witnesses highest dengue death rate in the world**, with a death toll to 634 this year. Now, Bangladesh ranks second globally in dengue-related cases as Brazil is in first position but when it comes to the death rate, the Brazil lags behind Bangladesh.

About Dengue disease:

1. It is caused by the **dengue virus** (DENV).
 2. It is transmitted to humans through the bites of infected female mosquitoes, primarily the **Aedes aegypti mosquito**.
 3. It is more common in **tropical and subtropical** climates.
 4. **There is no specific treatment for dengue**. Early detection of disease progression associated with severe dengue, and access to proper medical care lowers fatality rates of severe dengue to below 1%.
- **Mexico's Supreme Court has decriminalised abortion nationwide**. The judgement comes two years after the court ruled in favour of a challenge to the existing law in the northern state of Coahuila. **The new ruling legalises abortion across all 32 states. Mexico City was the first** of the country's states to decriminalise abortion in 2007.
 - **G20: G20 2023 held under the presidentship of India**. It is held in various summit including states of heat summit organized in month of September 2023.
Theme: 'One Earth, One Family, One Future'.

About Group of 20 (G20) (Which will be renamed as G21 in upcoming days):

1. **The G20, formed in 1999**, is a group of twenty of the world's largest economies (**Now plus African Union**) that meets regularly to coordinate global policy on trade, health, climate, and other issues.
2. The G20 or **Group of 20** is an intergovernmental forum comprising 19 sovereign countries, the European Union (EU), and the African Union (AU).
3. It works to address major issues related to the **global economy, such as international financial stability, climate change mitigation** and sustainable development.
4. The G20 is composed of most of the world's largest economies' finance ministries, including both industrialized and developing countries; it accounts for **around 80% of gross world product (GWP), 75% of international trade**, two-thirds of the global population and **60% of the world's land area**.
5. **G20 Nations:** Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the U.K., U.S., the European Union and African Union.
6. **The G20 does not have a permanent secretariat or Headquarters**.
7. **G20 2023 guest countries:** Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore, Spain and UAE.

Year	Presidency
2021 (16 th)	Italy (Rome)
2022 (17 th)	Indonesia (Nusa Dua, Bali)
2023 (18 th)	India (New Delhi)
2024 (19 th)	Will be at Brazil (Rio De Janeiro)

India achieved a milestone by **making African Union (AU) as part of G20** in her presidency in year 2023. Indian Prime Minister Modi formally **handed over the G20 presidency to Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, the President of Brazil**. India will continue to hold the position until 30 November 2023.

G20 2023: Some important Summits are as follows:

Summit Subject	Time Period	Venue
1 st Sherpa Meeting (Sherpa- Amitabh Kant)	13-15 December 2022	Udaipur
1 st Development Working Group Meeting	16-17 December 2022	Mumbai
1 st Tourism Working Group Meeting	9-11 February 2023	Rann of Kutch
2 nd Tourism Working Group Meeting	2-4 April 2023	Siliguri/ Darjiling
3 rd Tourism Working Group Meeting	24-26 May 2023	Srinagar
2 nd Anti-Corruption Working Group Meeting	1-2 June 2023	Rishikesh
Head of States Summit	9 September	New Delhi

G20 India has put forth six agenda priorities for the G20 dialogue in 2023:


1. Green Development, Climate Finance & **LiFE**.
2. Accelerated, Inclusive & Resilient Growth.
3. Accelerating progress on **SDGs**.
4. Technological Transformation & Digital Public Infrastructure.
5. Multilateral Institutions for the 21st century.
6. **Women-led development**.

Outcomes of G20 2023:

1. The **African Union joined the G20** as a permanent member.
 2. A new organisation called the **Global Biofuel Alliance (GBA)** was launched, to promote the development and adoption of sustainable biofuels, and set relevant standards and certification.
 3. **The New Delhi Leaders Declaration** was adopted with consensus.
 4. A group of countries made a joint agreement to build a rail and shipping corridor linking India with the Middle East and Europe called the **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor**. The group comprises India, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Israel and the European Union.
- The deadliest flood in **Derna city of Libya** had taken thousands of lives of Lybian citizens. Overnight, **two dams on Wadi Derna river burst**, unleashing torrents of water that destroyed bridges and swept away entire neighbourhoods before spilling into the Mediterranean. This all happened in **east Libya**.
- **IMEC Corridor:** In recent G20 Summit Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the launch of the **India-Middle East-Europe mega economic corridor (IMEC Corridor)**. The project includes **India, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, the European Union, France, Italy, Germany and the US**. The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) is a planned economic corridor that aims to bolster economic development by fostering connectivity and economic integration between Asia, the Persian Gulf and Europe. The corridor is proposed **from India to Europe through the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel and Greece**.

- **African Union (AU)** is made as the **permanent member of G20** in recent **G20 2023 summit**.
About African Union (AU):
 1. The African Union (AU) is a continental union **consisting of 55 member** states located on the **continent of Africa**.
 2. It was conceptualized on the basis of **Sirte Declaration** in Sirte, Libya.
 3. The bloc was **founded** on 26th May 2001 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and launched on 9 July 2002 in Durban, South Africa.
 4. **Head Quarters:** Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
 5. The African Union has **more than 1.3 billion people** and an area of **around 30 million square Km**.
 6. The African Union is made up of both political and administrative bodies. The highest decision-making organ is the **Assembly of the African Union**, made up of all the heads of state or government of member states of the AU.

- **UNESCO world heritage sites of Ukraine's Kyiv and L'viv are inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger.** The Saint Sophia Cathedral and Related Monastic Buildings and Lavra of Kyiv-Pechersk" and "L'viv – the ensemble of the historic centre" on the List of World Heritage in Danger, due to the threat of destruction the Russian offensive poses.




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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- **India's first solar observatory mission, "Aditya-L1"** was launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), **in its 59th flight** with the Aditya-L1 onboard, took off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota (Andhra Pradesh).

About Aditya-L1 Mission:

1. **Aditya-L1 is a coronagraphy spacecraft to study the solar atmosphere** designed and developed by ISRO and various other Indian research institutes.
2. It will be orbiting at about 1.5 million km from Earth in a halo orbit around the **Lagrange point No. 1** (That's why written as L1 and there are total 5 Lagrange points.) **between the Earth and the Sun** where it will study the solar atmosphere, solar magnetic storms, and their impact on the environment around the Earth.
3. **It is the first Indian mission dedicated to observing the Sun.** It is projected to reach its designated orbit at the L1 point approximately **127 days after its launch.**
4. **Lagrange Points:** It is positions in space where the gravitational forces of a two-body system like the Sun and Earth produce enhanced regions of attraction and repulsion. These can be used by spacecraft as "parking spots" in space to remain in a fixed position with minimal fuel consumption.

Main Objectives of Aditya-L1 mission:

1. To observe the dynamics of the **Sun's chromosphere and corona.**
2. To study chromospheric and coronal heating, the physics of partially ionised plasma, of **coronal mass ejections (CMEs) and their origins**, of the coronal magnetic field and heat transfer mechanisms, and flare exchanges.
3. To observe of the physical particle environment around its position.
4. To determine the sequence of **processes in multiple layers below the corona** that lead to solar eruptions.
5. To study **space weather, and the origin, composition and dynamics of solar wind.**

- **Oxygen formation on Mars by NASA:** NASA announced the successful completion of its Mars Oxygen In-Situ Resource Utilization Experiment (MOXIE) aboard the Perseverance Mars Rover. **MOXIE stands for** the Mars Oxygen ISRU Experiment. ISRU is another acronym, In Situ Resource Utilization, which is a technical way of describing what most of us call "living off the land."

- Scientists have found that highly abundant naturally occurring **plant-based polyphenols (PPs)** like tannic acid found in twigs of trees like **Chestnut and Oak can modulate the ferroptosis-AD axis** to yield a safe, cost-effective strategy for combating **Alzheimer's disease (AD)** and reduce the societal burden of this debilitating neurodegenerative disorder.

About Alzheimer's disease:

1. It is a **neurological disorder** which causes brain cells to degenerate and die. This leads to loss of memory, problems with words in speaking or writing, poor judgment, changes in mood and personality, confusion with time or place, etc.
2. Alzheimer's is the **most common cause of dementia** among older adults.
3. **Alzheimer's is an incurable disease**, as the death of brain cells cannot be reversed.
4. **Women have a higher risk** of having Alzheimer's disease than men.
5. **At the first stage**, these symptoms are mild but they become more **severe with time.**

- Researchers have discovered remnants of what is thought to be **the world's oldest known wooden structure**, an arrangement of logs **on the bank of a river bordering Zambia and Tanzania** that predates the rise of modern humans. The simple structure, made by shaping two logs with sharp stone tools, may have formed part of a walkway or platform for human ancestors who lived along the **Kalambo River nearly 500,000 years ago**. The structure may be the work of Homo heidelbergensis, a predecessor of modern humans that lived in the region. (See the **Zambia and Tanzania in Maps**).
- **Moon Sniper: Japan** has launched a rocket carrying a **lunar exploration spacecraft** called as "Moon Sniper". The country looks to become the world's fifth to land on the moon. **The Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) said the homegrown H-IIA rocket** took off from Tanegashima Space Center in southern Japan and successfully released the Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM).

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SPORTS

- **Bhubaneswar and Guwahati** will host India's opening two home matches in the **FIFA World Cup 2026 and AFC Asian Cup 2027** Preliminary Joint Qualification Round 2. India has been drawn in Group A of the Asian qualifiers, alongside Qatar, Kuwait, and the winners of the Preliminary Joint Qualification Round 1 fixture between Afghanistan and Mongolia.
- **Men's Hockey 5s Asia Cup: Indian Men's Hockey team beat Pakistan** in thrilling final to win inaugural Men's Hockey 5s Asia Cup. The sport **organized at Salalah, Oman**. Subsequently, **India qualified** for the FIH Men's Hockey5s World Cup Oman 2024. This is the **first time** in three meetings that India have beaten Pakistan in the Hockey 5s format.
- **Tata Steel Chess India: Divya Deshmukh**, 17-year-old Women's Grandmaster won this title in game Tata Steel Chess Tournament organized at the **Bhasha Bhawan** in the National Library of India (Kolkata, West Bengal).
- **Australian batter David Warner** surpassed **Sachin Tendulkar** to become the opener with the most number of centuries (46th) in international cricket. Warner reached this milestone in his 343rd international match, **taking 428 innings to achieve it**. In comparison, **Tendulkar batted only 342 innings** as an opener.
- **Indian fast bowler Mohammed Siraj** has reclaimed the **top spot** in the ODI bowler rankings ahead of the ICC World Cup, climbing eight places after a terrific outing in the Asia Cup final against Sri Lanka.
- **Asia Cup 2023: Rohit Sharma-led India lifted the Asia Cup 2023 trophy** by defeating Sri Lanka by 10 wickets and 263 balls left. The matches were played as One Day Internationals (ODIs) with **Pakistan as the official host and Sri-Lanka as the co-host** for select matches involving India.
- **World Wrestling Championships 2023: Young Indian wrestler Antim Panghal secured a bronze medal** in the women's 53 kg category at the **World Championships in Belgrade, Serbia**. She also secured Paris Olympics 2024 quota for India. 19-year-old Antim beat two-time European Champion Emma Jonna Denise Malmgren in the bronze medal bout by 16-6.
- **Ramita, Mehuli Ghosh, and Ashi Chouksey** secure **Silver Medal in the 10m Air Rifle Women's** team event at Asian Games.
- **India Women Cricket team Beat Sri Lanka** to make history, win **Gold Medal** at 2023 Asian Games held at **Hangzhou, the People's Republic of China**.

- **New World Record in the women's marathon: Tigst Assefa (Ethiopia)** shatters the women's marathon world record by more than 2 minutes in Berlin. Ethiopian runner Assefa, the winner in Berlin a year ago, ran the race in **2 hours, 11 minutes, 53 seconds** to break the previous women's record of 2:14:04 set by Kenya's Brigid Kosgei at the Chicago Marathon in 2019.
- **US Open 2023:** The US Open Tennis Championships, commonly called the US Open, is a **hardcourt tennis tournament held annually in Queens, New York**. Since 1987, the US Open has been chronologically the **fourth and final Grand Slam tournament of the year** (except in 2020).

US OPEN 2023 WINNERS:

Sr No	Category	Winner	Runner up
1	Men's Single	Novak Djokovic (Serbia)	Daniil Medvedev (Russia)
2	Women's Single	Coco Gauff (USA)	Aryna Sabalenka (Belarus)
3	Men's Double	Rajeev Ram (USA) and Joe Salisbury (UK)	Rohan Bopanna (India) and Matthew Ebden (Australia)
4	Women's Double	Gabriela Dabrowski (Canada) and Erin Routliffe (New Zealand)	Vera Zvonareva (Russia) and Laura Siegemund (German)
5	Mixed Double	Harri Heliövaara (Finland) and Anna Dalinin (Kazakhstan)	Jessica Pegula (USA) and Austin Krajicek (USA)

- **Max Verstappen breaks the record for most consecutive race wins in Formula 1 history with 10.** Max Verstappen won the Italian Grand Prix from Red Bull team-mate Sergio Perez and Carlos Sainz to become the first driver to win 10 consecutive F1 races.
- **Danielle McGahey, 29, is set to become the first transgender** woman player to play in international cricket. The right-hand batter from Australia, who moved to Canada in 2020, had fulfilled the eligibility criteria for male-to-female (MTF) transition, per ICC.
- **Rugby Championship 2023: Maharashtra clinched** the title of champions in the 5th National Wheelchair Rugby Championship 2023 by securing a convincing **victory over Karnataka**, concluding with a final score of 31-10. This championship, **which took place at Balewadi in Pune**.
- **Diamond League: Neeraj Chopra ended second** at the Diamond League final at Eugene with a best effort of 83.80m. Tokyo Olympics silver medallist **Jakub Vadlejch won** the event with a best throw of 84.24m.
- **ISSF World Cup 2023: Indian shooter Elavenil Valarivan has won the gold medal** in the women's 10 metre air rifle event at the ISSF World Cup 2023 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Olympian Elavenil Valarivan shot 252.2 from her series of 24 shots in the final and narrowly beat France's Oceanne Muller. A total of eight shooters qualified for the final. **This was Elavenil Valarivan's second individual ISSF World Cup medal.**

IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS

- **Rashtriya Poshan Maah:** September. **Theme:** “Suposhit Bharat, Sakshar Bharat, Sashakt Bharat.”
- **World Coconut Day:** September 2.
- **International Day of Charity:** September 5. It is celebrated to commemorate death anniversary of Mother Teresa of Calcutta.
- **International Day of Clean Air for blue skies:** September 7. **Theme-** “Together for Clean Air”.
- **International Literacy Day:** September 8. **Theme:** 'Promoting literacy for a world in transition: Building the foundation for sustainable and peaceful societies. '
- **World Physiotherapy Day:** September 8.
- **World EV (Electric Vehicles) day:** September 9
- **International Day to Protect Education from Attack:** September 9.
- **Himalaya Day:** September 9.
- **World Suicide Prevention Day:** September 10. **Theme-** Creating hope through action. (It is the triennial theme for the World Suicide Prevention Day from 2021-2023.)
- **International Day for South-South Cooperation:** September 12.
- **Hindi Diwas:** September 14 **Theme:** Hindi – Traditional Knowledge to Artificial Intelligence.
- **Engineer’s Day:** September 15. **Theme:** Engineering for a Sustainable Future.
- **International Day of Democracy:** September 15. **Theme:** Empowering the next generation.
- **World Lymphoma Awareness Day:** September 15.
- **International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer:** September 16. **Theme:** “Montreal Protocol: fixing the ozone layer and reducing climate change.”
- **International Coastal Cleanup Day:** September 17.

- **World Patient Safety Day:** September 17. **Theme:** “Engaging patients for patient safety”.
- **International Equal Pay Day:** September 18.
- **International World Snakebite Awareness Day:** September 19.
- **The International Day of Peace:** September 21. **Theme-** “Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for the #GlobalGoals.”
- **World Rhino Day:** September 22. **Theme:** There is no official announcement for the World Rhino Day 2023 theme, however, the theme for 2022 seems universal and apt for all upcoming celebrations, '**Five Rhino Species Forever.** '
- **International Day of Sign Languages:** September 23. **Theme-** A World Where Deaf People Can Sign Anywhere.
- **World Lung Day:** September 25.
- **International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons:** September 26.
- **World Pharmacist Day:** September 25. **Theme:** ‘Pharmacy strengthening health systems.’
- **World Rivers Day:** September 25. **Theme:** ‘Rights to Rivers’.
- **World Tourism Day:** September 27. **Theme-** Tourism and green investment.
- **World Rabies Day:** September 28. **Theme-** All for 1, One Health for all.
- **International Day for Universal Access to Information:** September 28.
- **International Day of Awareness on Food Loss and Waste Reduction:** September 29.
- **World Heart Day:** September 29. **Theme:** Use Heart, Know Heart.
- **World Maritime Day:** September 29. **Theme:** MARPOL at 50 – Our commitment goes on.
- **International Translation Day:** September 30. **Theme-** Translation unveils the many faces of humanity.

PERSONS IN NEWS

- **Jaya Verma Sinha** became the **first woman CEO and chairperson of the railway board**.
- **Tharman Shanmugaratnam**, an Indian-origin former Singaporean deputy prime minister, was elected as **the president of Singapore**. This was the **city-state's first contested** vote for the largely **ceremonial position** in more than a decade. He replaces incumbent Halimah Yacob who ran unopposed for her six-year term in 2017.
- **Rahul Navin**, a 1993-batch IRS officer, has taken charge as the acting **director of the ED** replacing **Sanjay Kumar Mishra**, an IRS officer of the 1984 batch.
- **Mankombu Sambasivan Swaminathan**, popularly known as **M.S. Swaminathan**, the legendary agricultural scientist and a key architect of the country's 'Green Revolution,' **passed away** at his residence in Chennai. **He was 98.**

About M S Swaminathan:

1. **He is awarded with** Padma Shree (1967), Padma Bhushan (1972), Padma Vibhushan (1989), Ramon Magsaysay (1971) and World Food Prize (1987).
 2. He is considered as the **Father of Indian Green Revolution**.
 3. He is nominated Member of Parliament **in Rajya Sabha** (2007-13).
- **Noted Hindustani classical vocalist Malini Rajurkar**, who epitomised simplicity and depth, passed away in a Hyderabad hospital. She was 82 and had been suffering from age-related ailments.
 - **Arun Kumar Sinha**, who served as the **Director** of the Special Protection Group (SPG), has passed away at the age of 61 while undergoing treatment at a hospital.
 - **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.
 - 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 at the age of 79.
 - **Noted Rudra veena exponent, Ustad Ali Zaki Hader**, passed away in New Delhi. He was 50. Disciple of Ustad Asad Ali Khan, Ali Zaki Hader was the **last exponent of the Khandarbani (Khandaharbani)** style of the Jaipur Beenkar gharana of Dhrupad.

PLACES IN NEWS – SUMMITS/CONFERENCE

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the **ASEAN-India Summit at Jakarta in Indonesia.**
About Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN):
 1. **The primary objectives as stated by the association are:** "to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region", and "to promote regional peace and stability through abiding respect for justice and the rule of law in the relationship among countries in the region and adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter."
 2. **Member Countries:** Brunei Darussalam, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. (India is **NOT** member of ASEAN)
 3. **Founded:** 8 August 1967, Bangkok, Thailand.
 4. **Headquarter:** Jakarta, Indonesia.
 5. The **ASEAN Declaration** or **Bangkok Declaration** is the founding document of ASEAN.

- **‘International Lawyers’ Conference 2023’:** Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate ‘International Lawyers’ Conference 2023’ at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. International Lawyer's Conference 2023 is being organised by the Bar Council of India on the **theme: ‘Emerging Challenges in Justice Delivery System’.** The conference, which is being organised for the first time in the country, will discuss topics such as emerging legal trends, challenges in cross-border litigation, legal technology, environmental law etc.

- **The 10th meeting** of the Ministers of Law and Justice of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) countries was held via video conferencing.
About SCO:
 1. The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) is a Eurasian political, economic, international security and defence organization **established by China and Russia in 2001.**
 2. It is the world's largest regional organization in terms of geographic scope and population, covering approximately 80% of the area of Eurasia, 40% of the world population. **As of 2021, its combined GDP was around 20% of global GDP.**
 3. **The SCO is the successor to the Shanghai Five,** formed in 1996 between the People's Republic of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Tajikistan.
 4. In June 2001, the leaders of these nations and Uzbekistan met in Shanghai to announce a new organization with deeper political and economic cooperation. In **June 2017, it expanded to eight states, with India and Pakistan. Iran joined the group in July 2023.**

- 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 (HQ: Kochi),** a subsidiary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in collaboration with several trade bodies and export forums.

- **The 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** commenced in New York. Addressing the session, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for reforms in multilateral institutions, such as the Security Council and said, “It is reform or rupture”.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi along with the leaders of Singapore, Bangladesh, Italy, USA, Brazil, Argentina, Mauritius and UAE, **launched the Global Biofuel Alliance** on the sidelines of the **G20 Summit in New Delhi**. It brings together **19 countries and 12 international organizations** – including the World Economic Forum, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank – to try to expand the use of sustainable biofuels. **India, Brazil and the US** are the founding members of the alliance. Out of 19 countries some are **Non-G20 countries** also.

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STATES IN NEWS

- **The West Bengal Legislative Assembly** passed a resolution declaring ‘**Poila Baisakh**’, the first day of the Bengali calendar, as ‘**Bangla Dibas**’ or West Bengal Foundation Day.
- **The UK government will return Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's iconic ‘Wagh Nakh’**. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's iconic 'wagh nakh', an iron weapon used to kill **Bijapur sultanate's general Afzal Khan in 1659** will likely be brought back to India from the United Kingdom in November.
History behind 'Wagh nakh ':
Afzal Khan's powerful army was defeated by the Marathas using **guerrilla warfare**. Shivaji Maharaj killed Khan using a ‘**wagh nakh**’, a sharp iron made weapon shaped like tiger claws in 1659. This happened when the two met at the foot of **Pratapgad fort in present-day Satara district**. Since then the episode has become a part of folklore.
- **Jharkhand government** has decided to add the **transgender community** under its universal pension scheme. The state government approved **Mukhyamantri Rajya Samajik Suraksha Pension Yojana** for transgender people under the social assistance scheme. The **eligible beneficiary will get Rs 1,000 per month** as financial aid.
- **Madhya Pradesh approves scheme to compensate victims of mob violence**. The compensation would be **Rs 10 lakh for a victim’s family in case of death**, and that there would be provisions for **Rs 4-6 lakh compensation to injured** victims. Victims of “any act or series of acts of violence by a mob, involving five or more individuals, causing harm or injury to a person or persons based on religion, caste, gender, place of birth, language, food preferences, sexual preferences, political affiliations, ethnicity, or any other such grounds” **can get compensation**.
- **Uttar Pradesh govt launches ‘Nandini Krishak Samriddhi Yojana’** for improving **cattle breed and increasing milk production** in the state. In the first phase of the scheme, the Yogi government will provide subsidy to those beneficiaries **setting up 35 units of 25 milch cows**, on purchase of cows, their conservation as well as their maintenance. **This subsidy will be given in three phases**.
- **Mobile Van Program: Himachal Pradesh** Agriculture Department Initiates ‘Mobile Van Program’ to Boost Natural Farming. This vital initiative as the component of the ‘**Prakritik Kheti Khushhal Kisan Yojana**’ to champion eco-friendly and natural farming practices.
- **Mukhyamantri Gramin Awas NYAY Yojana: Chhattisgarh government** launches own housing scheme for state’s **homeless families**. The survey of 59.79 lakh families was conducted in April and its update went on until May, according to which 10,76,545 families were found living in kutchha houses.

- **Arunachal Pradesh** Chief Minister Pema Khandu has announced the rollout of a new scheme titled '**Mukhya Mantri Shramik Kalyan Yojana**' for the welfare of the labour force of the state. Under the scheme, **maternity benefit** for families of workers has been enhanced from 1,000 rupees to 6,000 rupees; **natural death compensation** from 50,000 rupees to 2 lakhs rupees and **accidental death compensation** from 1 lakh rupees to 4 lakh rupees.
- **CM Elevate program:** The Chief Minister of **Meghalaya**, Conrad K. Sangma, has launched the CM Elevate program **to empower and engage the youth of Meghalaya through entrepreneurship**. The program aims to create **job opportunities for over 20,000 individuals** across various sectors in the next three years.
- **Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister** Shivraj Singh Chouhan unveiled a **108-foot-tall statue of the 8th-century spiritual leader Adi Shankaracharya in Omkareshwar town**. The design for the statue was conceptualised **by painter Vasudeo Kamath**, who found inspiration in Raja Ravi Verma's depiction of Shankaracharya. CM also laid the foundation stone for a **Rs 2,200-crore 'Advait Lok', which will contain a museum**, situated on Omkareshwar Mandhata Hill, overlooking the Narmada river.
About Adi Shankaracharya:
 1. Adi Shankara, also called Adi Shankaracharya was an **8th-century Indian Vedic scholar** and teacher (Acharya).
 2. His works present a harmonizing reading of the sastras, with liberating knowledge of the self at its core, synthesizing the **Advaita Vedanta teachings** of his time.
 3. **Major Work:** Brahmasutrabhasya (Bhashya or commentary on the Brahma Sutra). Bhajagovinda Stotra. Nirvana Shatakam. Prakaran Granths.
 4. **Established four Mathas** in the four corners of India at Shingeri, Puri, Dwaraka and Badrinath— for propagation of Sanathana Dharma.
 5. **Took Samadhi** at the age of 33, at Kedar tirth.
- **e-cabinet system:** **Tripura state** to introduce e-cabinet system. **Tripura has thus become the fourth state—and second in the Northeast—after Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh**, to have introduced an e-cabinet system. All future cabinet meetings in the state will be paperless, reducing the carbon footprint and environmental degradation in the process, with ministers and bureaucrats using tablets.
- In a significant development for India's electronics manufacturing sector, **Corning Inc.** is gearing up to establish its cutting-edge **Gorilla Glass manufacturing facility in Telangana**.

BOOKS

Sr. No.	Book/Autobiography	Author/Writer/Compiled by
1.	The Professionals' Handbook to ChatGPT	V Pattabhi Ram and Dungar Chand U Jain
2.	Igniting Collective Goodness: Mann Ki Baat @ 100'	Team of BlueKraft Digital Foundation
3.	The Reverse Swing: Colonialism to Cooperation	Asok Tandon
4.	Nilavu Kudicha Simhangaal	S. Somanath
5.	E-book People's G20	The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Secretary, Apurva Chandra.
6.	A comic book titled "Chacha Chaudhary aur Chunavi Dangaal"	CEC Shri Rajiv Kumar
7.	Fire on the Ganges: Life Among the Dead in Banaras	Radhika Iyengar



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MISCELLANEOUS

- **The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has been granted deemed-to-be-university status by the Indian government.** The NCERT has been granted the deemed-to-be-university status in the '**De Novo**' category. A De-Novo deemed university is an institution that can apply to the UGC for setting up a new institution as deemed-to-be-university, which will undertake study and research in unique and emerging areas of knowledge that are not offered by any existing institution. **According to officials, with the deemed-to-be-university status, the NCERT will be able to award its own degrees to teachers and decide the courses they want to offer the teachers.**
- The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu unveiled the **12 feet high statue of Mahatma Gandhi** and inaugurated '**Gandhi Vatika**' at **Gandhi Darshan** at New Delhi.
- **Amul will be the Official Sponsor** of the Indian Contingent for the **XIX Asian Games 2022** to be held in **Hangzhou, China** from September 23 to October 8 2023. **Amul will use the integrated logo** in its communication to celebrate the efforts of the sportsperson.

- Recently **Kerala** again witnessed the outbreak of **Nipah Virus**.

About Nipah Virus:

1. It is a **zoonotic virus** (it is transmitted from animals to humans).
2. The organism that causes Nipah Virus encephalitis **is an RNA** or Ribonucleic acid virus of the family Paramyxoviridae, genus Henipavirus, and is closely related to Hendra virus.
3. **It first broke out in Malaysia and Singapore** in 1998 and 1999.
4. The disease is **named after a village in Malaysia, Sungai Nipah**, where it was first detected.
5. **It first appeared in domestic pigs** and has been found among several species of domestic animals including dogs, cats, goats, horses and sheep. The disease **spreads through fruit bats** or 'flying foxes,' of the genus Pteropus, who are natural reservoir hosts of the Nipah and Hendra viruses. **The virus is present in** bat urine and potentially, bat faeces, saliva, and birthing fluids.

- **Bharat becomes the 13th country** in world that can issue Internationally Accepted **OIML (International Organization of Legal Metrology)** Certificates.

About OIML:

1. OIML is an Intergovernmental organization which was **established in 1955**.
2. **Bharat became its member in 1956**. It has 63 Member States and 64 Corresponding Members.
3. **Bharat has now become authority for** issuing internationally accepted OIML certificate for selling weights & measures anywhere in the world.
4. To sell a weight or measure in the International market an OIML Pattern Approval certificate is mandatory, which Department of Consumer Affairs can issue now. **(Metrology is the science of measurement and its application.)**

- **Tallest Nataraja Statue:** Greeting G20 leaders in front of **Bharat Mandapam** in New Delhi's Pragati Maidan had done in front of magnificent **27-foot Nataraja**, the tallest statue of Lord Shiva's dancing form in the world. Nataraja statue is inspired from were originally constructed by the **Cholas**, who at their **peak around the 9th -11th centuries AD**, ruled over much of peninsular India. Shiva, as he is worshipped today, evolved from **the Vedic deity Rudra**. In many ways, he is the most complex god of the Puranic pantheon.
- **Samvidhan Sadan:** Prime Minister of India announced that the old Parliament building would be named as "**Samvidhan Sadan**." The name Samvidhan Sadan was inspired from the fact that **Constituent Assembly meetings** to frame the Constitution of the country were held in the building.
- **Green Railway Station: Vijayawada Railway Station (Andhra Pradesh)** was awarded the 'Green Railway Station' certification with the highest rating of Platinum **by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC)** for its efforts in improving the environmental standards and providing eco-friendly services to passengers. This is an upgradation of the station's ratings, **from gold in 2019 to platinum in 2023**.
- **Mithun animal (Gayal): Northeast's mithun animal gets 'food animal' tag** from Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and its meat a leg-up. Consumed for generations across many regions of the Northeast, work is on to help mithun farmers and tribal village communities benefit commercially from the sale and processing of mithun meat.
- 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.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off **nine Vande Bharat Express trains**. 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 Rajasthan.

About Vande Bharat Express Trains:

1. **Vande Bharat Express, earlier named as Train 18**, is India's fastest indigenous train which has been built by the Integral Coach Factory, Chennai under the Government's Make in India.
2. It is India's **first semi-high-speed train** which will run from Delhi to Varanasi, with halts at Kanpur and Allahabad, at a **maximum speed of 160 kmph** by covering the distance in 8 hours.
3. It is equipped **with world class passenger amenities like On-board wifi entertainment, GPS based passenger information system, CCTVs, bio-vacuum toilets, rotating chairs in executive class, etc.**

4. Further, it has **intelligent braking system** with power regeneration for better energy efficiency thereby making it cost, energy and environment efficient.
 5. It is also the first **locomotive-less** train in the country.
- 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.
 - **Annual Report on 'Changes in Per Capita Coal Power Emissions of G20 Countries':** India witnessed a **significant 29% increase** in per capita coal emissions in 2022 compared to 2015, while G20 countries collectively experienced a 9% rise in per capita coal emissions, reaching 1.6 tonnes of carbon dioxide per capita in 2022, according to a **report by global energy think tank 'Ember.'**
 - 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.**

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