

# Monthly GK Digest

September 2023



## Monthly Digest

### September -2023

Dear readers,

This **Monthly GK Digest** is a **complete docket** of important news and events that occurred in the month of '**September-2023**'. This file is important for, **Bank, SSC, and Railway** exams.

### Banking & Financial Awareness

- 1. Punjab National Bank** has launched the GST Sahay App for MSME borrowers to access loans up to Rs 2 lakh digitally using GST invoices.  
**Note:** Aim: To streamline the lending process for micro, small, and medium-sized businesses. The key features include: End-to-End Digital Lending Process, Cost-Effective and Smooth Process, Direct Loan Crediting, Technology-Driven Assessment, Loan Range and Repayment Options, Integration with GST Profile, and Focus on MSMEs
- 2. Bandhan Bank** has been designated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as an authorized pension disbursement bank for civil pensioners on behalf of the Central Pension Accounting Office (CPAO).  
**Note:** The bank will collaborate with the CPAO and the Ministry of Finance to implement the pension disbursement process. Objective: To distribute pensions to central government employees in civil ministries and departments, excluding railways, posts, and defense.
- 3. PhonePe** announced its foray into the stock broking business with the launch of a new mobile application called 'Share(dot)Market'.  
**Note:** This App elevates discount broking by providing market intelligence and quantitative research-based WealthBaskets, a scalable technology platform. It will be available as a mobile app and a dedicated web platform, enabling retail investors to buy stocks, engage in intra-day trades.
- 4. Mastercard** has launched the ALT ID solution in India to enhance the security of guest checkout transactions on e-commerce platforms, simplifying payments for merchants and cardholders.  
**Note: About ALT ID:** ALT ID stands for Alternate Identification Number. It is a custom-made capability developed by Mastercard to create an alternate identifier for the real card numbers provided by cardholders when at guest checkout transactions on e-commerce platforms.
- 5. As per RBI data** Bank lending to the commercial real estate segment increased by **38 percent** in July 2023 from July 2022.  
**Note:** Outstanding loans in the segment climbed to Rs 4.07 lakh crore as of July 28 2023 compared with Rs 2.94 lakh crore on July 29, 2022. Comparatively loan growth was 3.6 percent in the period from July 30, 2021, to July 29, 2022. In the housing segment, bank loans jumped 37 percent to Rs 24.3 lakh crore at the end of July 2023 from Rs 17.7 lakh crore a 2022
- 6. The rise of financial influencers** who charge as high as **Rs 7.5 lakh** for a post on social media.  
**Note:** Sebi introduced a new way for people to access and interpret financial information, and now they will soon come under the regulatory purview as Sebi proposed measures to curb their numbers. Aim: To ensure that investors receive accurate and unbiased information also helps in preserving authenticity and reducing fraud.
- 7. Uday Kotak** has resigned from MD & CEO position of the Kotak Mahindra Bank.  
**Note:** He will continue to serve as a non-executive director of the bank. Kotak announced to step down as managing director and chief executive officer of the bank and the baton was passed to Dipak Gupta, the Joint Managing Director at Kotak Mahindra Bank. Kotak Mahindra Bank shares gained as much as 1% to ₹1,789.05 apiece on the BSE.
- 8. Bharti Airtel** has announced its commitment to purchase 23,000 MWh of renewable energy by Q4 FY 23-24 to power its data centre subsidiary, Nxtra.  
**Note:** Aim: To reduce its carbon footprint and promote sustainability. Through an open access route, Airtel will acquire stakes in Continuum Green's project company, which will supply green power from solar and wind projects to six Nxtra Edge data centres located in Madhya Pradesh.
- 9. Bajaj Auto Consumer Finance** has received a Certificate of Registration from **RBI** to commence the business of a non-banking finance company.  
**Note:** Company has also stated that Bajaj Auto Consumer Finance will carry out the business of nonbanking financial institutions without accepting public deposits. The two- and three-wheeler maker had made an application on July 9 2023 to the RBI for an NBFC licence.
- 10. IDFC FIRST Bank** has unveiled a new enhancement, the integration of UPI QR Codes with its Central Bank Digital Currency app, the IDFC FIRST Bank Digital Rupee.

**Note:** Aim: To encourage the use of the digital rupee and make it more accessible. The new feature simplifies the process for merchants to accept payments made with the digital rupee. This development allows individuals to easily use digital rupees for payments through existing UPI QR codes at various merchant outlets.

11. **Hitachi Payment Services** announced the launch of India's first-ever UPI-ATM as a White Label ATM (WLA) named Hitachi Money Spot UPI ATM, with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

**Note:** The ATM will offer cardless cash withdrawals, eliminating the need for physical cards. A UPI-ATM allows users to withdraw cash from multiple accounts using the United Payments Interface app. WLAs are operated by non-banking entities.

12. **Indian Bank** has collaborated with Nasdaq-listed IBM to deploy future-ready infrastructure to enhance scalability and agility.

**Note:** Aim: To accelerate its modernization path with flexible and secure infrastructure for deploying new front-end banking applications. The city-headquartered bank wanted to consolidate its front branch servers for better manageability and availability at Data Centres and Disaster Recovery centres under their 'Project Paradise' initiative.

13. **Paytm** has unveiled the Card Soundbox, a device that allows merchants to accept both mobile and card payments, including Visa, Mastercard, American Express, and RuPay, through its Soundbox.

**Note:** Aim: To assist merchants in scaling their businesses by offering a "tap and pay" solution via credit and debit cards. The new in-store payments option also provides audio-based confirmations using Paytm Soundbox. The Paytm Soundbox features a 4W speaker for clear payment alerts.

14. **SBI Card** launched a new credit card SimplySAVE Merchant SBI Card for MSMEs to cater to their short-term credit requirements.

**Note:** Available on RuPay network, the card can be linked to UPI for payments through various UPI-enabled third-party apps. MSMEs contribute significantly towards economic growth and job generation. Launch of SimplySAVE Merchant SBI Card is an attempt to address this larger segment by extending interest-free short-term credit to MSME

15. **Mastercard** provider collaborated with KredX, a supply chain finance platform, to make B2B digital payments rewarding for both enterprises and vendors.

**Note:** Aim: To integrate its commercial card service with the KredX platform, eliminating the complexities associated with B2B payments, especially those made via cards. Equipped with features like dynamic discounting, early payment and price discovery, the platform will enable enterprises and vendors to improve their cash flows.

16. **SBI Card** has unveiled new features of its super-premium card 'AURUM', targeted at C-suite executives and high net-worth individuals.

**Note:** Aim: To enhance benefits to its users, ranging from the introduction of new annual spending-based milestones and welcome benefits to additional international lounge benefits. AURUM cardholders will now be able to derive benefits of up to worth ₹ 2 lakh annually, basis their spends.

17. **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has launched Credit Line And Voice-Enabled Payments on popular payment platforms UPI.

**Note:** Aim: To create an inclusive, resilient, and sustainable digital payments ecosystem that will help UPI achieve the target of 100 billion transactions per month. NPCI has partnered with AI4Bharat at IIT Madras, to co-develop Hindi and English payment language models.

18. **State Bank of India** has launched the 'Nation First Transit Card' to facilitate the seamless and convenient customer commuting experience.

**Note:** Aim: To ensure easy digital ticketing fare payments in metro, buses, water ferries, parking, etc., through a single card and individuals can also use this card for making retail and e-commerce payments. It is set to revolutionize the commuting experience, and is aligned with the national vision of "One Nation One Card".

19. **Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited** became the first foreign bank in India to launch 'ONDC in a Box', a one-stop-shop proposition for corporates towards seamless enablement on ONDC.

**Note:** Aim: To foster an inclusive, competitive, and open network, amplifying its impact across the business spectrum. The ONDC is an initiative to build an open, interoperable network on which buyers and sellers can transact without needing to be present on the same platform.

20. **AU Small Finance Bank Ltd** has introduced the Zenith and Super Premium Metal Credit Card, expanding its range of banking solutions.

**Note:** This credit card includes features like premium lounge access, personalized concierge services, and a welcome with Premium Brand vouchers or Reward Points worth Rs 5000. One of the card's highlights is the Forex markup of 0.99 percent for international travel, making it advantageous for global transactions.

21. **ICICI Bank** has received a green signal from the Reserve Bank to make I-Process Services (India) Private Ltd a wholly-owned subsidiary of the lender.

**Note:** Started in 2005, I-Process Services (India) Private Ltd was set up to provide staffing solutions services for some of India's top financial institutions. With in-depth experience across recruitment, HR operations, payroll, compliance and training, I-Process can smartly negotiate market challenges



- 22. Thomas Cook (India) Limited** partnered with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to introduce a RuPay prepaid forex card tailored for Indian travelers going to the UAE.  
**Note:** Aim: To ensure accessibility for customers, being India's forex network with over 4000 touchpoints, including retail outlets, airport counters, online platforms, and mobile applications. The "Ghar pe Forex" commitment reportedly provides doorstep delivery within 2 hours.
- 23. AU Small Finance Bank** has entered into bancassurance tie-ups with Star Health and Allied Insurance Company and Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company.  
**Note:** Aim: To enable the Bank's customers to access a wide range of insurance products from Star Health and Bajaj Allianz. AU Small Finance Bank has recently transitioned from a prominent, retail focused nonbanking finance company which primarily served low and middle-income individuals and businesses.
- 24. Bharti AXA Life Insurance** launched a new product 'Income Laabh' with an aim to simplify insurance and deliver maximum protection to its consumers.  
**Note:** Objective: To provide financial protection and a steady income stream to consumers. It starts with an initial income pay-out equivalent to 100 percent of the annual premium paid by the policyholder. After 5 years, for those opting for a 10-year policy term, the income increases to 150 percent.
- 25. Cashfree Payments** has announced the launch of 'AutoPay on QR' in collaboration with National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).  
**Note:** Aim: To enable subscription-based businesses to enhance customer acquisition, supporting retention, and facilitating rapid growth. Cashfree Payments' 'AutoPay on QR' will help subscription-based businesses to boost return on investment (ROI) on ad spends by enabling mandate creation in two clicks.
- 26. The RBI** has asked all banks, non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) and asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) to release all the original movable/immovable property documents and remove charges registered with any registry within a period of **30 days** after full repayment/settlement of the loan account.  
**Note:** In case where the delay is attributable to the RE, it shall compensate the borrower at the rate of ₹5,000 for each day of delay.
- 27. Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur** signed a MoU with private lender ICICI Bank to support the startup ecosystem in the institute.  
**Note:** Aim: To empower startups and innovators at its Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre (SIIC). SIIC is one of the oldest incubators in the country having been engulfed on its journey in 2000. Objective: To support incubates by improving their understanding of foreign trade policies by conducting several workshops and seminars.
- 28. Max Life Insurance Company** made its foray into the health and wellness category with the launch of a flagship offering Secure Earnings & Wellness Advantage Plan (SEWA).  
**Note:** Aim: To drive insurance adoption amongst women and transgender customers for financial inclusion, it provides a 5% discount in the 1st yr premium to these customer segments. Objective: To integrate health, protection, and holistic wellness benefits to cater to the evolving needs of the modern consumer
- 29. Cross-border payments company BriskPe and Yes Bank** have partnered to introduce BriskPe A2A, a suite of solutions designed to empower exporters and importer.  
**Note:** Aim: To boost the MSME sector and transform India into a global export powerhouse. Objective: To enables BriskPe's customers to collect payments in over 36 foreign currencies, spanning over 180 countries. The funds can then be converted into INR and settled directly into their local bank accounts in India
- 30. Juspay**, India's leading payments company, has partnered with **Yes Bank** to launch HyperUPI, NPCI's plug-in SDK that enables in-app UPI payments in merchant apps.  
**Note:** Merchants can now offer simple "1-click UPI experiences" in their Android and iOS apps without having to become an official UPI app. Customers will no longer need to depend on another app to make UPI transactions as these payments can now be made on the merchant's app.
- 31. IndusInd Bank** launched of the 'Virtual Commercial Card' to redefine cross-border transactions for corporates and travel agents.  
**Note:** In a tie-up with Visa, this has additional layers of security that grant the users control over their international expenses, making it a safe and hassle-free experience for the customers. Users can generate virtual cards in foreign-denominated currencies as well, safeguarding the parent card number, ensuring utmost security for transactions.
- 32. Indian Bank** announced the rollout of the 'IB SAATHI' initiative aimed at providing an integrated ecosystem for all stakeholders in the financial sector through the business correspondent route.  
**Note:** SAATHI Stands for Sustainable Access and Aligning Technology for Holistic Inclusion. Objective: To offer an enhanced user experience through the simplified delivery of services, encompassing both basic and value-added offerings to customers.
- 33. Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)** has signed a MoU with **Bank of Maharashtra** to provide a robust financial ecosystem for Green Energy projects.  
**Note:** Aim: To promote and facilitate co-lending and loan syndication for a diverse spectrum of Renewable Energy projects across the nation. Under this agreement, Bank of Maharashtra can invest in the Bonds issued by

- IREDA in accordance with the specified terms and conditions of the offering.
- 34. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank** announced the introduction of the Maxima Savings Account and Business Maxima Current Account for the premium customer segment.  
**Note:** The annual interest rate on the Maxima Savings Account is up to 7.5 percent and customers can open the account with Rs 1 lakh. Customers also have the flexibility to maintain Rs 15 lakh or more in fixed deposits to meet the balance eligibility criteria of the Maxima Savings Account.
- 35. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)** has raised India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth projection for Financial Year 23 - 2024 to **6.3 per cent**.  
**Note:** The global economy, however, is expected to grow at a rate of 3 per cent in 2023, before slowing down to 2.7 per cent in 2024. India, which is listed among the G20 emerging-market economies, has experienced mostly positive growth surprises.
- 36. ACKO** general insurance company has unveiled its latest health insurance offering called the ACKO Platinum Health Plan titled "Health Insurance ki Subah ho Gayi Mamu".  
**Note:** As per the company, the plan has features including 100% bill payment, no room rent capping, and zero waiting period, among others. Aim: To focus on simplifying health insurance and removing all the pain points that customers have to face.
- 37. In September 2023, RBI** has imposed a monetary penalty on **Four** co-operative banks for rule violations.  
**Note:** These banks include Lalbaug Co-operative Bank, The Co-operative Bank of Mehsana, The Harij Nagrik Sahakari Bank, and The National Co-operative Bank. RBI imposed Rs 1 lakh penalty on National Co-operative Bank, Rs 3 lakh on The Harij Nagrik Sahakari Bank, Rs 3.50 lakh on Co-operative Bank of Mehsana and Rs 5 lakh penalty on Lalbaug Co-operative Bank.
- 38. State Bank of India** has introduced a digital facility for Non-Resident Indians to effortlessly open Non-Residential External and Non-Resident Ordinary accounts through its mobile app YONO.  
**Note:** Aim: To fulfil a long-standing demand from NRI customers for a hassle-free way to open and manage their accounts in India. This service is designed for NTB or 'new to bank' customers, providing them with ease and efficiency in the account opening process.
- 39. SBI Life** selected as one of the official partners for the BCCI Domestic and International Season 2023-2026.  
**Note:** SBI Life has signed a 3-year deal with the BCCI and their partnership will begin with the upcoming three-match ODI series against Australia, starting September 22. This collaboration reflects our commitment to promoting and supporting the sport of cricket at all levels.
- 40. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** announced lenders would have to examine all aspects relating to wilful default on accounts with outstanding dues of **Rs 25 lakh or more**.  
**Note:** Identify wilful defaulters within six months of a loan becoming a non-performing asset (NPA). It has allowed non-banking finance companies and cooperative banks to identify them. A large defaulter is one whose amount in default is Rs 1 crore and above.
- 41. Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** has entered into a partnership with BankID BankAxept AS, the provider of Norway's national payment and electronic identity systems.  
**Note:** Aim: To establish and manage an operations command center. BankAxept, the dominant national payment system in Norway, facilitates 80 per cent of card payments in the country. BankID serves as Norway's primary eID verification solution, relied upon by over 90 per cent of the population.
- 42. The Asian Development Bank (ADB)** revised India's growth forecast for FY24 to **6.3 per cent**.  
**Note:** India Ratings and Research has increased its FY24 growth estimate for India to 6.2 per cent, up by 30 basis points. Citing factors such as sustained government capital expenditure (capex), deleveraged corporate and banking balance sheets.
- 43. Axis Bank** has launched a transaction banking platform for the Indian MSMEs called NEO for Business.  
**Note:** Aim: To cater to the "real, current, and emerging" transaction needs of Indian MSMEs. The NEO for Business platform offers features like digital self onboarding, bulk payments, GST compliance invoicing, payment gateway integration, end-to-end transaction tracking, auto reconciliation, cash flow reports, and recurring collections, among others.
- 44. Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) and Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA)** have signed two MoUs to make direct financing options available for MSMEs.  
**Note:** The first one is a structured arrangement for solarisation of residential units at Ayodhya. The second one is for bio-energy and renewable project financing. Aim: To disseminate information about solar and green projects to MSMEs.
- 45. Utkarsh Small Finance Bank (USFB) Limited** launched an Interoperable Cardless Cash Withdrawal (ICCW) Using UPI at ATMs.  
**Note:** It is an innovative service, set to revolutionize cash withdrawal experiences. Aim: To offer process-centric, technology-driven, and customer-oriented services that lead to a reliable, scalable, and sustainable institution, driving socio-economic change. ICCW's advantage is Elimination of skimming, cloning, and other card-related frauds.
- 46. Small Industries Development Bank of India** has inked an agreement with the Digital Lenders Association of India (DLAI) to boost the country's fintech sector.

**Note:** Aim: To collaborate with SIDBI to develop standard protocols to expedite the adoption of digital lending partnerships including alliances between banks and Lending Service Providers. It also provides resource support to eligible DLAI member NBFCs and also explores Assignment and Securitisation transactions

47. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced that the Regulated Entities (REs) that are secured creditors as per the Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act 2002, will display information in respect of the borrowers.

**Note:** The SARFAESI Act is a law that allows banks and financial institutions to recover bad loans effectively. The bank can recover the loan by taking possession of the security and selling it to recover the dues.

48. Power PSU REC Ltd and **Punjab National Bank** inked an agreement to co-finance projects in power, infrastructure and logistics projects.

**Note:** The two entities will jointly finance loans worth Rs 55,000 crore. Under the Ministry of Power, REC Limited provides long-term loans and other finance products for the power infrastructure sector, comprising generation, transmission and renewable energy, among others. The company has a loan book of over Rs 4,54,393 crore.

49. The Reserve Bank of India has cancelled licence of **Kapol Co-operative Bank** over inadequate capital and earning prospects.

**Note:** Consequent to the cancellation of the licence, the cooperative bank has been prohibited from conducting

the business of 'banking'. It includes, among other things, acceptance of deposits and repayment of deposits with immediate effect, the Reserve Bank said in a statement. Govt has also been requested to issue an order for winding up the bank

50. Reserve Bank of India approved **Poonawalla Fincorp**, to issue a co-branded credit card with IndusInd Bank.

**Note:** Aim: To enable Poonawalla Fincorp to usher in a new age of flexible and versatile retail credit. The company envisages to launch this credit card within three months. The co-branded credit card is primarily designed to cater to customers who possess a favorable credit history.

51. **Kotak Mutual Fund** launched an investor education and awareness initiative called 'Seekho Paiso ki Bhasha' in partnership with the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

**Note:** Aim: To improve financial literacy by conducting an external

52. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted approval to the International Finance Corporation (IFC) to acquire **9.7%** of stake in Federal Bank.

**Note:** Earlier this year, the Kerala-based private sector lender had raised ₹959 crore via preferential issue of shares to the World Bank Group member. The Federal Bank Ltd has received an intimation from the Reserve Bank of India on September 28, 2023. After RBI, the stake holding is subject to compliance by other regulatory bodies.

## Obituaries

1. RS Shivaji, who passed away in Chennai, was a famous **Actor**.

**Note:** Shivaji had a strong collaboration with actor Kamal Haasan and his production house Raaj Kamal Films International, contributing to many successful Tamil projects. Besides acting, Shivaji's career skills extended to assistant direction, sound design, and line production for multiple Tamil films. The actor predominantly worked in Tamil Cinema. Born in Chennai in 1956 to actor and producer M. R. Santhanam

2. Piloo Reporter, who passed away in Mumbai at the age of 84, was a veteran **Indian umpire**.

**Note:** In addition to international matches, Reporter also had a role in 13 first-class matches, where he served as a match referee in two instances. He embarked on his umpiring journey with the Delhi Test between India and England in December 1984.

3. Dennis Austin, who passed away at the age of 76, was created which feature of Microsoft **PowerPoint**.

**Note:** He studied engineering at several universities, including MIT and UC Santa Barbara. He eventually joined the software company Forethought and co-developing PowerPoint. The company released the software in 1987, and Microsoft bought the company just a few months later. He served as PowerPoint's primary developer from 1985 to 1996 when he retired.

4. Ajit Ninan, who passed away, was a famous **Political cartoonist**.

**Note:** Ninan was best known for the Centrestage series in India Today magazine and Ninan's World in Times of India. A popular political cartoonist, Nina was equally well known for his work in children's literature.

5. Malini Rajurkar, who passed away in a Hyderabad, was a famous **Hindustani classical vocalist**.

**Note:** She was 82 and had been suffering from age-related ailments. She has performed in major music festivals in India, including Gunidas Sammelan (Mumbai), Tansen Samaroh (Gwalior), Sawai Gandharva Festival (Pune), and Shankar Lal Festival (Delhi).

6. Mircea Snegur, passed away at the age of 83, was a former president of **Moldova**.

**Note:** He was a former communist, was president from 1990 to 1997, overseeing Moldova's breakaway from the Soviet Union and transition to independence. In August 1989, he was chairman of the Presidium of the Soviet Moldova Supreme Council, Snegur initiated the move making Romanian the official state language.

7. Malini Rajurkar, who passed away at 82 is a veteran **Hindustani classical vocalist**.

**Note:** Noted Hindustani classical vocalist Malini Rajurkar, who epitomised simplicity and depth, passed away in Hyderabad at age 82. As one of the foremost



exponents of Gwalior gharana, she forged a special connection with the audience in Pune at the annual Sawai Gandharva festival for nearly five decades. They were spellbound by her tappa recital, her khayal renditions and her natya sangeet and many recalled her unforgettable "Yaa Bhavanatil Geet Purane".

8. Giorgio Napolitano, who passed away at the age of 98, was a former president of **Italy**.

**Note:** The former president, who served from 2006 until 2015, was the first president in the country's history to be reelected to the office. He was the longest-serving and longest-lived president in the history of the modern

Italian Republic. He was also the first official from the Italian Communist Party to visit the United States.

9. M S Swaminathan, who passed away, was hailed as the father of **Green Revolution**.

**Note:** He was instrumental in developing high-yielding varieties of paddy that helped ensure India's low-income farmers produce more yield. He was awarded the first World Food Prize in 1987 following which he set up the MS Swaminathan Research Foundation in Chennai. He has been conferred with the Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan and the Padma Vibhushan also the recipient of the H K Firodia award.

### Important Days

1. Skyscraper Day is celebrated on **September 3** every year to capture people's imagination.

**Note:** The theme of National Skyscraper Day 2023 is Go on and try to tear me down I will be rising from the ground. This day is our golden opportunity to appreciate these architectural marvels and feats of engineering. Hosting a skyscraper is really a mark of your city's economic prowess, and cities with more skyscrapers tend to see more business activity than cities with lower rooftops.

2. World Coconut Day is celebrated on **September 2**.

**Note:** The day is celebrated to understand the benefits of this fruit and promote awareness.

3. International Day of Charity observed on **5th September**

**Note:** The International Day of Charity is celebrated on September 5 to commemorate the day of passing away of great missionary Mother Teresa.

4. India observes National Teachers' Day on **5th September**.

**Note:** National Teachers' Day in India is celebrated on September 5th every year. It is a day to honor and celebrate the contributions of teachers to society. The day is also observed as a tribute to the memory of Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, the second President of India from 1962 to 1967.

5. International Day of Police Cooperation is a United Nations observance held annually on September 7.

**Note:** It was created to commemorate the founding of Interpol and highlight the role of law enforcement from around the globe in maintaining peace, security, and justice.

6. International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies 2023 on **7th September**.

**Note:** The fourth annual International Day of Clean Air for blue skies will focus on the theme, "Together for Clean Air". The theme aims to highlight the urgent need for stronger partnerships, increased investment, and shared responsibility for overcoming air pollution.

7. The world observes International Literacy Day on **September 8** to signify the role of literacy and education in one's life.

**Note:** Theme 2023 - Promoting literacy for a world in transition: Building the foundation for sustainable and peaceful societies. "The day reminds us of the importance of personal development, literacy, and progress of society. The day is a stark reminder of the fact that literacy is not a luxury but a fundamental right important for a person's dignity.

8. World Physical Therapy Day observed on **8 September** celebrates the significant contributions of physical therapists and physiotherapists in promoting health and well-being.

**Note:** The Theme of 2023 is "prevention and management of arthritis". It serves as an opportunity to raise awareness about the crucial role these professionals play in helping people recover from injuries, manage chronic conditions, and improve their overall physical function and quality of life.

9. World Suicide Prevention Day is observed on **10th September**.

**Note:** The theme for the World Suicide Prevention Day from 2021-2023" is Creating Hope Through Action. This theme serves as a powerful call to action and a reminder that there is an alternative to suicide and that through our actions we can encourage hope and strengthen prevention. Suicide is a major public health problem with far-reaching social, emotional, and economic consequences.

10. National Forest Martyrs Day is celebrated on **11th September**.

**Note:** Aim: To pay tribute to those who gave their lives in efforts to protect nature in India. The theme for 2023 is 'forests and health. Many individuals have dedicated themselves, and some have even sacrificed their lives, to preserve these precious natural resources. Their sacrifices are commemorated on a special occasion known as National Forest Martyrs Day

11. World Physical Therapy Day or World Physiotherapy Day 2023 is celebrated on **September 8** every year.

**Note:** It recognizes and celebrates the significant contributions of physical therapy and physiotherapists in promoting health and well-being. "Prevention and

- Management of Osteoarthritis" is the theme for World Physiotherapy Day 2023.
12. United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, on **September 12** of every year, is celebrated by several countries around the world.  
**Note:** The United Nations' Day for South-South Cooperation celebrates the economic, social and political developments made in recent years by regions and countries in the South and highlights United Nations efforts to work on technical cooperation among developing countries.
  13. On **September 9**, the global community and India celebrate 'World EV Day'.  
**Note:** The year 2023 has established a powerful message for India and the world, it is a message of sustainable transportation and a cleaner future, free of carbon emissions. Starting with the most definitive government policy, the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles (FAME) scheme, which has been instrumental in promoting EV adoption among the masses.
  14. Indians on **14 September** celebrate National 'Hindi Diwas'.  
**Note:** On this day in 1949, the Hindi language was adopted as one of the official languages of the Republic of India. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first prime minister of India, officially declared 14 September as the Hindi Diwas. 425 million people speak Hindi as their 1st language and about 120 million people speak Hindi as their 2nd language.
  15. The International Day of Democracy is celebrated around the world on **15 September** each year.  
**Note:** 2023 Theme: Empowering the next generation. It was established through a resolution passed by the UN General Assembly in 2007, encouraging governments to strengthen and consolidate democracy. It is an opportunity to highlight the important role of parliaments and to celebrate their capacity and mandate to deliver on justice, peace, development, and human rights.
  16. Engineers Day is being celebrated across the country on **15th September**.  
**Note:** The theme for 2023 is 'Engineering for a Sustainable Future. The date of birth of Dr. Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, popularly known as the Civil Engineer of India, was announced by the Government of India in the year 1868 to celebrate 15 September (year 1860) as Engineer's Day. He was awarded the Bharat Ratna in the year 1955, 15 September (year 1860). It is also celebrated in Sri Lanka and Tanzania.
  17. World Ozone Day is observed annually on **September 16** to raise awareness about the importance of the ozone layer and how its depletion is leading to global warming and climate change across the world.  
**Note:** 2023 theme: Montreal Protocol: Fixing the Ozone Layer and Reducing Climate Change. The day is recognised to commemorate the Montreal Protocol, an environmental agreement that regulates the production and consumption of nearly 100 man-made chemicals.
  18. World Patient Safety Day is celebrated on **17th September**.  
**Note:** Objective: To increase public awareness and engagement, enhance global understanding, and work towards global solidarity and action by Member States to enhance patient safety and reduce patient harm. The theme of World Patient Safety Day 2023 is "Engaging patients for patient safety", in recognition of the crucial role patients, families, and caregivers play in the safety of health care.
  19. World Bamboo Day is observed annually on **18th September**.  
**Note:** Aim: To raise awareness about the importance of bamboo but also promote its role in sustainable development, poverty alleviation, environmental conservation and cultural preservation. Bamboo is a type of grass that grows rapidly and is known for its strength, flexibility and eco-friendliness and to celebrate the many uses and benefits of this versatile and sustainable resource.
  20. The International Day of Peace or World Peace Day is celebrated on **21st September**.  
**Note:** Aim: To promote peace while ceasing violence and conflicts worldwide where each year. Theme 2023: Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for the #GlobalGoals. The International Day of Peace is often associated with a dove and the olive branch symbols where the dove represents peace and freedom, while the olive branch has been a traditional symbol of peace dating back to ancient times.
  21. World Alzheimer's Day takes place every **September 21**.  
**Note:** Aim: To raise awareness and challenge the stigma around Alzheimer's disease and other dementia. Theme 2023: 'Never Too Early, Never Too Late. 'Alzheimer's is a severe brain disorder of memory loss and confusion, if not diagnosed and managed on time, can adversely impact one's mental abilities of learning, thinking, and reasoning, which could compromise one's day-to-day life activities and control over emotions.
  22. Nuakhai Juhar is an agricultural harvest festival mainly observed by the people of **Odisha**.  
**Note:** It is celebrated on the fifth day of the lunar fortnight of the month of Bhadrapada (August-September), the day after the Ganesh Chaturthi festival. This year, it is being celebrated on September 20. Nuakhai is a time of great joy and celebration for the people of Odisha.
  23. The Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) is celebrating **International Week of the Deaf (IWDeaf)** from 18th to 24th September 2023.  
**Note:** Aim: To be aware of the Declaration of the Rights of the Deaf Child, Building Capacity across the globe. Theme 2023: A World where Deaf People Everywhere



Can Sign Anywhere. Motto: "Nothing without us". Agenda: To achieve sign language rights for all and focus on building inclusive deaf communities.

24. The Welfare of Cancer Patients Day, also known as World Rose Day, is observed annually on **September 22**.

**Note:** The day is dedicated to individuals who are suffering from cancer across the globe. Aim: To support the brave hearts who are going through mental and physical struggles every moment against the deadly disease. The day commemorates the 12-year-old Canadian cancer patient Melinda Rose, who suffered from cancer and died in 1996.

25. World Rhino Day is celebrated on **September 22**.

**Note:** Aim: To provide the opportunity for cause-related organizations, NGOs, zoos, and members of the public to celebrate rhinos in their own unique ways. The activities vary from one participant to the next. Donors and partners are able to contribute to the organizations and initiatives of their choosing. Peaceful demonstrations, classroom projects, fundraising dinners, auctions and poster displays are just a few examples.

26. World Rivers Day is celebrated on **24th September**.

**Note:** The celebration of the world's waterways on World Rivers Day highlights the many values of our rivers and strives to increase public awareness about all rivers in the world and their importance. The annual global event also promotes the conservation and sustainable management of these vital natural resources. The theme chosen for this year's World Rivers Day is "Rights of Rivers,"

27. World Pharmacist Day is celebrated on **September 25** as a dedicated occasion to recognize and honor pharmacists for their significant contributions to improving global health.

**Note:** The theme of 2023 is Pharmacy Strengthening Health Systems. Objective: To promote and support initiatives that raise awareness of and advocate for the vital contributions made by pharmacists worldwide. This

special day emphasizes the vital role that pharmacists play in enhancing human life.

28. World Contraception Day is an annual observation that falls on **September 26**.

**Note:** Aim: To spread awareness around the importance of contraception and to empower couples. The World Contraception Day 2023 theme is "The Power of Options." It is important to make women aware of how they can avoid unplanned motherhood. In addition to family planning, contraception also prevents HIV AIDS, and other sexually transmitted infections.

29. World Environmental Health Day is celebrated on **September 26**.

**Note:** Objective: To foster healthy and safer communities which can help both human beings and the environment to thrive. It also helps in promoting the importance of human health and their well-being. Aim: To focus on creating awareness about environmental health. The theme of World Environmental Health Day 2023 is "Global Environmental Public Health: Standing up to protect everyone's Health each and every day."

30. World Tourism Day is being observed on **September 27**.

**Note:** Aim: To promote tourism all over the globe. Objective: To foster awareness among the international community on the importance of tourism and its social, cultural, political, and economic value. The theme for this year's World Tourism Day is 'Tourism and Green Investments'. Tourism helps provide employment to millions of people to the extent that few countries are completely dependent on the tourism sector

31. World Rabies Day is celebrated on **September 28** to raise awareness of rabies prevention and the progress being made in the fight against this terrible disease.

**Note:** Theme 2023: "All for 1, One Health for All". Aim: To bring together all groups, organizations, and stakeholders in the fight against rabies. A contagious viral disease, rabies is almost always fatal once clinical symptoms appear. It is also the anniversary of the death of Louis Pasteur.

### New Appointments

1. **Jaya Verma Sinha** has been appointed as the first woman CEO and chairperson of Railway Board.

**Note:** She succeeds Anil Kumar Lahoti. She also worked as Railway Advisor in the High Commission of India, Dhaka, Bangladesh for four years. She also worked as the Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Sealdah Division. She joined the Indian Railway Traffic Service in 1988 and worked in Northern Railway and South-East Railway.

2. UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak appointed **Grant Shapps** as the new Defence Minister.

**Note:** The development comes after former Defence Secretary Ben Wallace resigned. Shapps has previously served as Transport Secretary, energy secretary and Home Secretary. The new post of Defence Secretary

marks his fifth ministerial portfolio. Grant Shapps has been a strong supporter of Sunak as Conservative Party leader.

3. **Tharman Shanmugaratnam** has won the presidential election of Singapore.

**Note:** He won over 70% of votes in the country's first contested presidential polls since 2011. He had served as Singapore's Deputy prime minister from 2011 to 2019. He has also worked in the public sector and held ministerial positions. He will be Singapore's third Indian-origin President after Sellapan Ramanathan and Chengara Veetil Devan Nair.

4. **R Madhavan** has been nominated as the new President of the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune.

- Note:** Additionally, he will serve as the Chairman of the governing council of FTII. Madhavan's nomination follows the recent success of his film, 'Rocketry: The Nambi Effect,' which earned national recognition. The film secured the prestigious Best Feature Film award during the 69th National Film Awards.
5. **Brice Oligui Nguema** has been sworn in as the nation's interim President of Gabon.  
**Note:** Gabon is the sixth Francophone country to fall under military rule in the last three years as former colonial power France struggles to maintain its influence on the continent. Gabon has been suspended from the African Union following the coup, which has been condemned by the United Nations and France.
  6. **Rajesh Nambiar** has been appointed as the new Chairperson of Nasscom.  
**Note:** He succeeded Anant Maheshwari, former president of Microsoft India. Chairperson Rajesh Nambiar along with President Debjani Ghosh, will continue to work with the Nasscom Executive Council, industry, and the government in strengthening India's position as a global technology hub while navigating the current volatile macro environment.
  7. Vanuatu's parliament elected **Sato Kilman** as the nation's new prime minister and replaced Ishmael Kalsakau.  
**Note:** Kilman, a former prime minister and leader of the People's Progressive Party, was elected prime minister by 27 of 50 lawmakers in a secret ballot. Alatoi Ishmael Kalsakau is a Vanuatuan politician who served as Prime Minister of the Republic of Vanuatu from 4 November 2022 until 4 September 2023.
  8. The Association of Investment Bankers of India (AIBI) appointed **Mahavir Lunawat** as Chairman.  
**Note:** The Chairperson of AIBI represents Investment Bankers on the Primary Market Advisory Committee (PMAC) of SEBI and has been active in representing the members' views, and comments. He has led some of the key M&As, and corporate restructuring projects and has lead managed more than 100 IPOs.
  9. The Reserve Bank of India re-appointed **Sandeep Bakhshi** as the managing director and chief executive officer (MD and CEO) of the ICICI Bank.  
**Note:** He has been with the ICICI Group for 36 years and has handled various assignments across the group in ICICI Limited, ICICI Lombard General Insurance, ICICI Bank and ICICI Prudential Life Insurance. He has served as Wholetime Director and the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the bank, prior to his appointment as MD and CEO.
  10. **Sindhu Gangadharan** has been appointed as the Vice-Chairperson of The National Association of Software and Service Companies (Nasscom).  
**Note:** Earlier, she holds the position of Senior Vice President and Managing Director at SAP Labs India and is also responsible for SAP User Enablement. Earlier this year, Gangadharan was appointed as the Chairperson of the Nasscom GCC Council for the term 2023-2025.
  11. Women's fashion brand W on-boarded **Anushka Sharma** as its brand ambassador.  
**Note:** With this partnership, the brand prepares to launch its high-decibel festive campaign that beautifully merges the warmth of festivities with the spirit of modernity.
  12. **Tharman Shanmugaratnam** has been appointed as the ninth president of the Singapore.  
**Note:** He has served Singapore all his life in public service. Prior to being president-elect, he served as a senior minister and Deputy Prime Minister from May 2011 to May 2019. He is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the World Economic Forum. This was the first contested presidential election since 2011.
  13. Digital payment services provider Paytm has appointed **S. R. Batliboi & Associates LLP** as a new statutory auditor for five years.  
**Note:** The previous statutory auditor, Price Waterhouse Chartered Accountants LLP, completed its term at the conclusion of the AGM. Price Waterhouse Chartered Accountants LLP on August 7 had announced its resignation as auditor of Paytm Payments Services Limited with immediate effect.
  14. **Srinivasan K. Swamy** has been unanimously elected Chairman of the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) for the year 2023-2024.  
**Note:** He served as Chairman of the Asian Federation of Advertising Associations. He was earlier President / Chairman of the International Advertising Association (IAA), IAA India Chapter, Confederation of Asian Advertising Agency Associations, and Advertising Agencies Association of India.
  15. The Centre has appointed special director whom s the director of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) till the new regular director is selected **Rahul Navin**.  
**Note:** He is a 1993-batch IRS officer and took charge as the acting director of the ED from Sanjay Kumar Mishra. He is currently working as a Special Director-Chief Vigilance Officer (ED headquarters). The Centre had approached the Supreme Court seeking a tenure extension for Mishra till October 15.
  16. Mastercard India appointed **Rajnish Kumar** as its non-executive chairman.  
**Note:** He will guide Mastercard's South Asia executive leadership team led by Gautam Aggarwal, in navigating the vibrant domestic payments landscape. The veteran banker has nearly four decades of experience in India's largest bank. He held various leadership roles in the bank managing critical operations across India, the UK and Canada.
  17. **Nihar Malaviya** has been appointed as permanent CEO of New York-based international publishing group Penguin Random House.  
**Note:** He had replaced Markus Dohle, who departed after Penguin Random House's failed bid for Simon & Schuster



2022. He has served as President and Chief Operating Officer of Penguin Random House US since 2014. He spearheaded the creation of a variety of industry-first capabilities in data science and supply chain
18. Digital Infrastructure Providers Association (DIPA) has appointed **Dhananjay Joshi** as its new Chairman and Sandeep Girotra as Vice-Chairman.  
**Note:** He currently serves as the Managing Director and CEO of Summit Digitel, and has previously held the position of COO at Bharti Infratel. He will be succeeding Akhil Gupta, Chairman of Bharti Enterprises. Sandeep Girotra, currently serves as the current CEO of American Tower India
19. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the re-appointment of Sashidhar Jagdishan as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of **HDFC Bank**.  
**Note:** He joined the Bank in 1996 as a Manager in the Finance function. He became Business Head of finance in 1999 and was appointed as CFO in 2008. He played a critical role in supporting the growth trajectory of the Bank, and led the finance function with a pivotal role in achieving the strategic objectives.
20. Tata Sons has appointed **Banmali Agarwal** as the new chairman of the group's aerospace and defense solutions unit Tata Advanced Systems (TASL).  
**Note:** He has been appointed in place of Vijay Singh, Who have retired. He is also a senior advisor to Tata Sons and chairman of Tata Electronics. Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Sons, is the strategic aerospace and defense arm of the Tata Group. TASL is both an operating and holding company.
21. The central government extended the term of **M Rajeshwar Rao** as the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Deputy Governor by one year.  
**Note:** The re-appointment has been approved by the Cabinet's Appointments Committee. RBI has four deputy governors – two from within the ranks, one commercial banker and another an economist to head the monetary policy department. Currently, those 4 Deputy Governors are BP Kanungo, Dr. M. D. Patra, M Rajeshwar Rao, and MK Jain.
22. The RBI appointed KN Madhusoodanan as a part-time chairman of **Dhanlaxmi Bank**.
- Note:** He will be part-time chairman of the Kerala-based bank for a period of three years with effect from September 26, 2023. Madhusoodanan has been an independent director with the bank since 2022. This appointment also follows the RBI's rejection of a proposal to appoint G Rajagopalan Nair as its part-time chairman. Nair has also been an independent director with the bank since August 2020.
23. Japanese apparel retailer Uniqlo has appointed **Katrina Kaif** as its first brand ambassador in India and attempts to woo affluent shoppers and plans to add to more stores.  
**Note:** The 40-year-old actor will be seen in Uniqlo's campaign films across digital and offline channels. Kaif joins the ranks of tennis star Roger Federer, who was appointed as Uniqlo's global brand ambassador in 2018. Uniqlo is part of Japan's largest fashion group Fast Retailing.
24. Intel has appointed **Gokul Subramaniam** as its India President.  
**Note:** He replaced Nivruti Rai, who resigned as the Intel India country head in June 2023. He will be responsible for Intel's overall engineering and design operations in India, including driving innovation, cross-group efficiencies, and executing Intel products from the country. He is currently a vice president in the Client Computing Group (CCG) at Intel, and general manager of Client Platforms and Systems.
25. The Union government has extended the tenure of the incumbent chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), **Nitin Gupta** till June 30, 2024.  
**Note:** The nine-month extension for Gupta came on the day when
26. **Lt Gen Raghu Srinivasan** took over as the 28th Director General Border Roads (DGBR) on September 30, 2023.  
**Note:** He assumed the charge following the superannuation of Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhry. Prior to his appointment as the DGBR, the General Officer was holding the appointment of Commandant, College of Military Engineering, Pune. Lt Gen Raghu Srinivasan is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, and the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun.

### Important News – India

1. The Central Government is celebrating **Sixth** edition of the Rashtriya Poshan Maah in September 2023.  
**Note:** Objective: To comprehensively tackle malnutrition through a life-cycle approach and to cultivate widespread awareness concerning critical human life stages comprising pregnancy and adolescence. Aim: To foster nutritional understanding across India through a theme centered on "Suposhit Bharat, Sakshar Bharat, Sashakt Bharat" (Nutrition-rich India, Educated India, Empowered India).
2. The President Droupadi Murmu graced the state-level launch of the theme of the year "The Year of Positive Change" of Brahma Kumaris at **Raipur, Chhattisgarh**.  
**Note:** Brahma Kumaris are working tirelessly to spread love, harmony, and peace in the world. She urged all to develop their inner strength, keep doing positive work, and stay with positive thoughts and good company. She advised me to be in the company of such people who inspire me to follow the right path.
3. India and **United States** launched the Renewable Energy Technology Action Platform (RETAP) under the umbrella of the Strategic Clean Energy Partnership.



- Note:** Objective: To revolve around the development of green and clean hydrogen, wind energy, and long-duration energy storage solutions. Aim: To explore opportunities in geothermal energy, ocean/tidal energy, and other mutually identified emerging technologies, opening doors for diverse renewable energy avenues.
4. The Government of India has constituted an eight-member high-level committee to examine One Nation, One Election, under the head of **Ram Nath Kovind**.  
**Note:** Other members: HM Amit Shah, Congress MP Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Former Rajya Sabha member Ghulam Nabi Azad, Former Chairman 15th Finance Commission N. K. Singh and others. Law and Justice Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal will attend the meetings of the committee as a special invitee.
  5. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the merger of Tata Group airlines Vistara and **Air India**.  
**Note:** This will make Air India, India's leading domestic and international carrier with a combined fleet of 218 aircraft, making it India's largest international carrier and second largest domestic carrier. The deal is part of Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran's effort to simplify the conglomerate's businesses and make them more efficient.
  6. **Union Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan** launched a 3-year partnership of his Ministry with Meta in New Delhi.  
**Note:** Aim: To provide Digital and marketing skills to students, educators, and entrepreneurs. According to Dharmendra Pradhan 'Education to Entrepreneurship' partnership is a game-changer that will take Digital skill to the grassroots. Objective: To build capacities of the talent pool, and seamlessly connect students, youth, with futuristic technologies
  7. The International Cruise Terminal at **Visakhapatnam Port** is poised to become a pivotal gateway for both domestic and international cruise tourism along India's eastern coast.  
**Note:** This world-class facility promises to offer a transformative experience to tourists while fostering economic growth and benefiting local communities. About Cruise Terminal: A berth measuring 180 meters in length. Four mooring dolphins, two on each side, extend the total length to 300 meters.
  8. **AG-365S Kisan drone** is India's first Multi-utility Agriculture small Category Drone to receive the prestigious DGCA-approved type certificate.  
**Note:** AG-365S has highest endurance of 22 minutes, is equipped with high-end sensors for smooth operations and tested extensively for best quality. Marut Drones already boasts a Multipurpose Medium category agricultural drone and multiple RPTOs in partnership with prestigious institutions across India.
  9. 'Koraput Kalajeera Rice', was granted the Geographical Indications (GI) status for **Odisha**.  
**Note:** It is also called the 'Prince of Rice'. This highly aromatic rice looks like coriander seeds. It is believed that the medicinal quality of this rice enhances memory, controls diabetes, increases hemoglobin levels and the body's metabolism. It is grown in Tolla, Patraput, Pujariput, and Mohuli areas of the Koraput district.
  10. US-based multinational technology company Corning has announced plans to set up a \$113m First Gorilla Glass manufacturing facility in **Telangana**.  
**Note:** Telangana accounts for 6% of the electronic production in India, with more than 250 companies employing over 50,000 people across different industry sub-segments there. Importantly it is a strategic investment in manufacturing for smartphones and other electronic devices.
  11. The G20 Summit is poised to make history by transforming into the G21 with the inclusion of **African Union (AU)**.  
**Note:** This move, proposed by India, reflects a growing recognition of the importance of representing the global south. AU consisting of 55 diverse member countries, is set to join the ranks of the world's 20 largest economies later this week. AU also comprises eight regional economic committees each with its own structure and role.
  12. The world's tallest Nataraja statue has been installed at **Bharat Mandapam** location in Delhi.  
**Note:** The 28-foot-tall statue weighing 20 tonnes was made in a record time of seven months by sculptor Radhakrishnan Sthapathy and his team at Swamimalai in Thanjavur District of Tamil Nadu. The statue was built in Ashtadhatu (8 metals) using the traditional casting method. The statue was transported to New Delhi in four days.
  13. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh laid the foundation stone of the Army headquarters Thal Sena Bhawan's new building in Delhi Cantonment conforming with GRIHA-IV (**Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment**) norms.  
**Note:** The Army headquarters (AH) is currently housed in the iconic South Block at Raisina Hill in Lutyens' Delhi. On completion of the new building, it will not only cut down carbon footprint but is expected to get together all the different pockets of AH
  14. **Union Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan** launched the Malaviya Mission- Teachers Training Programme by the University Grants Commission at Kaushal Bhawan in New Delhi.  
**Note:** He also inaugurated the Portal of the Programme and released its information brochure. Aim: To provide tailored training programmes for teachers. This programme will work for the capacity building of faculty members in higher educational institutions.
  15. **Technology Development Board (TDB)** has joined forces with Aloe Ecell Pvt. Ltd. , a Lucknow-based startup, to support the project Commercialization of Eco-friendly 1.5V AA size Aloe Vera-based batteries.  
**Note:** It is Valued at Rs. 2.98 crores, TDB's substantial contribution of Rs. 1.91 crores as a soft loan aims to

- boost green innovation. Also Ecell has already received recognition, including the National Startup Award in the Energy Sector 2020 and the Global Winners 2019 award
16. **10th** edition of the meeting of the Ministers of Law and Justice of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) countries was held in September 2023.  
**Note:** Highlights include: To cooperate between Ministries of Law and Justice of SCO Member nations to enhance cooperation in legal and judicial spheres. Continue to work on the implementation of the Co-operation Agreement. Organise conferences, legal cooperation fora etc for better exchange of experience
  17. **43rd** edition of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summit in Jakarta is being held from 5th to 7th of September 2023.  
**Note:** Singapore's Prime Minister's Office said in a statement today that ASEAN leaders will discuss ways to ensure the bloc's continued relevance and centrality in the evolving regional architecture. Aim: To discuss strengthening ASEAN integration and expanding collaboration in key areas such as the digital and green economies.
  18. **Himachal Pradesh** government launched the Mukhya Mantri Sporting Abilities, Rebuilding Aspirations and Livelihood Scheme (SABAL).  
**Note:** Objective: To take care of specially-abled children in around 400 schools across Hamirpur, Solan, and Shimla districts. Aim: To improve the lives of specially-abled children in the state. The initiative focuses on providing essential facilities and opportunities for them, a statement issued here said.
  19. **Delhi Metro Rail Corporation** has started selling 'Tourist Smart Cards' from its selected Metro stations through dedicated counters.  
**Note:** Aim: To facilitate the G20 delegates and international visitors who might be interested in exploring the prominent tourist places of the capital city as they arrive in Delhi. The 'Tourist Smart Cards' will be available in two categories of One-Day Validity and Three-Day Validity cards, offering unlimited rides in the Metro network.
  20. The government has exempted imports of LPG, liquified propane and liquified butane from **15%** of agri cess with effect from September 1.  
**Note:** The government had in July 2023 imposed a 15% agri cess on imports of these goods. The move brings the private sector to parity with the public sector, which was exempted from the Agriculture Infrastructure Development cess and the Basic Customs Duty on Domestic LPG sold to household consumers.
  21. India launched the Global Biofuel Alliance at a G20 summit in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** The Global Biofuel Alliance is an India-led Initiative to develop an alliance of Governments, International organizations, and Industry to facilitate the adoption of biofuels. Aim: To position biofuels as a key to energy transition and contribute to jobs and economic growth. The Alliance which will help strengthen India's position globally and will focus on collaboration.
  22. In a significant victory for India's G-20 presidency, the member nations have unanimously adopted **New Delhi Leaders' Declaration**.  
**Note:** On the first day of the 18th G-20 Summit PM announced the adoption of the declaration by the bloc of world-leading economies during the second session of the G20 summit, titled One Family. Inclusive growth, accelerating actions to deal with climate change, and increasing medical supplies to be future-ready for health emergencies.
  23. Leaders of India, Brazil, South Africa, and the United States met on the margins of the G20 Leaders' Summit in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** Aim: To reaffirm their shared commitment to the G20 as the premier forum for international economic cooperation to deliver solutions for shared world. In this spirit, together with the World Bank President, they welcome the G20's commitment to build better, bigger, and more effective multilateral development banks.
  24. At **18th** edition of the G20 Summit, a one-day conference themed "Transnational Grid Interconnections for One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG)" convened in New Delhi.  
**Note:** Aim: To enable nations to harness the abundant energy resources of the sun, particularly as the world transitions toward renewable energy sources. It makes round-the-clock renewable energy more cost-effective, reducing the need for energy reserves and ultimately lowering electricity costs for the populace
  25. The G20 leadership summit declared it will work towards having in place a fully functional dispute settlement system at WTO by **2024**.  
**Note:** There are two main ways to settle a dispute once a complaint has been filed in the WTO. First: The countries find a mutually agreed solution, particularly during the phase of bilateral consultations. Second: Through adjudication which includes ruling by a panel and if not satisfied, challenging that ruling at the appellate body.
  26. **PM Narendra Modi** announced the project during the annual Group of 20 summit of the world's top economies to launch the India-Middle East-Europe economic corridor including shipping and railway links.  
**Note:** Aim: To boost trade, transport energy resources and improve digital connectivity. The first-of-its-kind economic corridor will be an initiative on cooperation on connectivity and infrastructure involving India, UAE, Saudi Arabia, EU, France, Italy, Germany, and the US.
  27. The 18th G20 Summit successfully concluded in New Delhi with India handing over the Presidency to **Brazil**.  
**Note:** After receiving the gavel, President of Brazil Luiz Inacio Lula Da Silva appreciated India's efforts in leading the G20 presidency saying that India gave the voice to issues of interest to emerging countries. Prime Minister Modi raised the issue of reforms in the United Nations

- Security Council by emphasizing on a new global structure.
28. Indian Coast Guard participated in **19th** edition of the Heads of Asian Coast Guard Agencies Meeting (HACGAM) at Istanbul, Türkiye.  
**Note:** Aim: To enable a focused and goal-oriented approach towards coordinated response and synergy towards common maritime issues. Objective: To discuss vital issues including maritime law enforcement, safety and security of life at sea, marine environment protection, illicit trafficking of drugs, weapons, and humans at sea etc.
29. The 4th G20 Sustainable Finance Working Group Meeting is held in **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh** to finalize the 2023 G20 Sustainable Finance Report.  
**Note:** Aim: To focus on finalizing the 2023 G20 Sustainable Finance Report. Objective: To discuss the progress made by jurisdictions, International organizations and relevant stakeholders against the actions listed out. Session Include: Experience sharing presentations on the theme Scaling up Social Impact Investment in India
30. **Vijayawada Railway Station** was awarded the 'Green Railway Station' certification with the highest rating of Platinum by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC).  
**Note:** Award is given for its efforts in improving environmental standards and providing eco-friendly services to passengers. This is an upgrade of the station's ratings, from gold in 2019 to platinum in 2023. It bagged second in the South Central Railway zone after Secunderabad to have bagged the platinum rating.
31. **Amazon India** signed a MoU with five State Governments, including Haryana, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, to train employable Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and bring them to the mainstream workforce.  
**Note:** Aim: To provide skilling and employment opportunities to PwD candidates in these five states. Under this initiative, Amazon has a focus on skilling and livelihood for PwD across Amazon India's Operations network, over a period of three years.
32. A MoU was signed between Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV), Vadodara, and **Airbus** in New Delhi in the presence of Union Minister of Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw.  
**Note:** Aim: To enable the co-development and co-delivery of sector-relevant skilling, courses, and programs for regular students and working professionals and scholarship programs. Objective: To become the biggest source of talent for the entire transportation industry in the country and for the world.
33. The United States and **Vietnam** have signed a deal on semiconductor supply chains to expand the capacity of the semiconductor ecosystem in Hanoi, in support of the US industry.  
**Note:** The US and Vietnam also announced the launch of comprehensive workforce development initiatives in Vietnam that jointly develop hands-on teaching labs and training courses for semiconductor assembly, testing, and packaging.
34. **IIM Indore** has entered into a game-changing partnership with the National Skill Development Corporation.  
**Note:** Aim: To foster excellence and innovation in these critical domains. Objective: To provide professional support to underserved regions, communities, individuals, and MSMEs, thereby nurturing a skilled ecosystem primed for market success. IIM Indore's vision is about elevating livelihood opportunities and income levels for families and households across the nation.
35. India and **Saudi Arabia** signed a historic comprehensive cooperation agreement in the field of energy.  
**Note:** Aim: To enhance ties between India and Saudi Arabia in renewable energy, energy efficiency, hydrogen, electricity and grid interconnections, petroleum, natural gas, strategic petroleum reserves, and energy security. It also seeks to encourage bilateral investment in the fields of renewable energy, electricity, hydrogen and storage, and oil & gas.
36. **NTPC Green Energy Ltd (NGEL)** partnered with Nayara Energy, an oil refining and marketing company, to produce green hydrogen for Nayara Energy's captive usage.  
**Note:** Aim: To collaborate and produce green hydrogen for Nayara Energy's captive usage, accelerate decarbonization and catalyse reduction in carbon footprint. Objective: To explore and implement cutting-edge technologies to produce green hydrogen, contributing to a cleaner and more resilient energy landscape.
37. India and **Bangladesh** signed three MoUs including one on cooperation in Digital Payment mechanisms.  
**Note:** First MoU was signed between National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and Bangladesh Bank on cooperation in Digital Payment mechanism. Second MoU focused on the renewal of the Cultural Exchange Program for 2023-2025. The third MoU was signed between the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and the Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council.
38. The Consulate General of which country in Dubai welcomed a delegation of 15 Indian startups in a bid to foster collaboration and innovation between **India** and UAE entrepreneurial ventures.  
**Note:** Aim: To explore the vibrant startup ecosystems of Sharjah, Dubai, and Abu Dhabi, further strengthening the bonds between India and the UAE. These sessions will provide valuable insights into marketing opportunities, expansion strategies within the UAE, and networking opportunities.
39. Dhaka and **Paris** signed two bilateral instruments to enhance cooperation in different fields including infrastructure and satellite.



**Note:** Agreement between economic relations division of Bangladesh and the France development agency, France on 'improving urban governance and infrastructure programme. LOI on cooperation between Bangladesh satellite company limited and airbus defence and space SAS, France related to Bangabandhu-2 earth observation satellite system

40. India and **Mongolia** reviewed cooperation in the fields of education, information technology, and skills during the visit of Secretary (East) in the Ministry of External Affairs Saurabh Kumar to Ulaanbaatar.

**Note:** Aim: To discuss bilateral projects and cooperation in areas of education, IT, skilling, and capacity building. They also witnessed the signing of the contract for the construction of the India-Mongolia Friendship Secondary School.

41. **Culture Ministry** launched a portal for the mega exhibition—'Bharat: The Mother of Democracy'—to be held at Bharat Mandapam for global leaders attending the conference.

**Note:** The portal is divided into five sections and 22 sub-sections starting from Sindhu-Saraswati Civilisation, Mahajanapada and Gantantra, Vijaynagar Empire, and Mughal emperor Akbar reign to Constitution of India and Elections in Modern India

42. The Gujarat government announced that after Surat, **Ahmedabad** has become the second city in the country to implement an emission trading scheme (ETS) for particulate pollution that will help regulate industrial emissions and reduce the state's pollution levels.

**Note:** Aim: To reduce particulate pollutants PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>. Objective: to ensure a balance between economic development and environment preservation. The scheme will cover 118 industries in Ahmedabad.

43. **Jharkhand** Cabinet gave its approval for transgender persons to be provided benefits of the State Social Security Scheme under which they will be given a pension of Rs 1,000 per month.

**Note:** Transgenders are included in the category of OBC. Proposals are first, transgender persons should be declared as a third gender. Second, Those transgender persons who are not covered under any other category for reservation should be included in the OBC at serial number 46 in the list

44. The Cabinet approved the expansion of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) allocating 7,500,000 new LPG connections over a three-year period until **2025-26**.

**Note:** Costing Rs 1,650 crore, this expansion will elevate the total number of PMUY beneficiaries to 103.5 million. The government announced this extension after reducing the price of cooking gas by Rs 200 across all markets last month. Data indicate that LPG penetration reached 99.9 per cent in 2022.

45. **India** has become the 13th Internationally Accepted OIML (International Organization of Legal Metrology) Certificates Issuing Authority.

**Note:** Aim: To create a facility for international manufacturers to get their equipment tested in here and this, in turn, will generate revenue and employment. OIML is an intergovernmental organisation and its certificate is internationally accepted for selling weights & measures anywhere in the world.

46. The Indian government has given the green light to **Phase III** of the e-Courts project, marking another significant step towards modernizing the country's judicial system.

**Note:** With a substantial budget allocation of Rs 7,210 crore, this initiative aims to leverage technology to enhance the efficiency and accessibility of the courts. One of the central objectives of the e-Courts Phase III project is to transition towards a digital, online, and paperless court system.

47. **Ministry of Railways** in India has officially launched the Swachhata Pakhwada 2023 campaign.

**Note:** This initiative, aimed at promoting cleanliness and environmental consciousness, commenced on the 15th of September, 2023. Chairperson & CEO of the Railway Board, Jaya Varma Sinha, kicked off the event at Rail Bhawan by leading the Swachhata Pledge. The Swachhata Pledge embraced by the entire Railway family is built upon three fundamental principles

48. The government of India has unveiled the UPAG (**Unified Portal for Agricultural Statistics**) to tackle the complex governance challenges that currently beset the country's farming industry.

**Note:** The Ministry of Agriculture hails UPAG as an innovative platform meticulously crafted to streamline and enhance data management within the agricultural domain. It represents a crucial stride towards establishing a more efficient and responsive agricultural policy framework.

49. The Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI) has taken a significant leap onto the global stage by introducing the "Brands of India" initiative in **Dubai**.

**Note:** Aim: To establish a new trade corridor encompassing shipping and railways across the Middle East, ensuring trade route stability and resilience for the future. It is a collaborative effort with several countries including the UAE, Saudi Arabia, the US, Germany, France, Italy, and the EU.

50. In September 2023, **Shantiniketan** has been included in the UNESCO World Heritage list as the 41st site.

**Note:** Santiniketan becomes the 41st UNESCO World Heritage Site in India and the third in West Bengal, after the Sundarbans National Park and the Darjeeling Mountain Railways. The decision to include Santiniketan in the list was taken during the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee in Saudi Arabia. Established in 1901 by Maharshi Debendranath Tagore, located in Birbhum district of West Bengal.

51. Union Minister for Education Dharmendra Pradhan with Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla launched the 'Skills on Wheels' initiative with NSDC and **IndusInd Bank**.

- Note:** Aim: To generate awareness around the government's skill development mission, opportunities and support system available for youths. Objective: To promote digital literacy and digital skills in which India is developing global competency this scheme with the help of NSDC has been launched.
52. The famed Hoysala temples in Karnataka have been added to the UNESCO World Heritage list and become **42nd** UNESCO site of India.  
**Note:** This inclusion marks the 42nd UNESCO World Heritage Site in India. 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. All these three Hoysala temples are already protected monuments of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
53. The 10th meeting of the India-Malaysia Joint Sub-Committee on Defence Science, Technology and Industry Cooperation was held in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** During the meeting, the existing defence cooperation between the two countries was reviewed and wide-ranging discussions were held on issues of mutual interest. Both sides explored effective and practical initiatives to further expand the bilateral defence engagements.
54. India has been ranked **52nd** out of 121 countries in the Digital Quality of Life Index Survey 2023.  
**Note:** The annual survey by the Netherlands-based firm has ranked 121 countries on five factors: internet quality, internet affordability, e-infrastructure, e-government, and e-security. In Asia, India takes 13th place, with Singapore the leader in the region. The top 3 Countries in the Digital Quality of Life Index survey are Denmark, South Korea, and Finland
55. **Ministry of Finance** launched Kisan Rin Portal, Door to Door KCC Campaign, and Weather Information Network Data Systems (WINDS) Manual.  
**Note:** Aim: To amplify financial inclusion, streamline data utilization, harness technology, and enhance the livelihoods of the farmer. Objective: To help in furthering the goal of agricultural transformation and sustainable economic growth for farmer.
56. President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the first Uttar Pradesh International Trade Show in India Expo Centre and Mart in **Greater Noida**.  
**Note:** The trade show will be held from September 21 to 25. Aim: To get international exposure and market opportunities. Over 2000 exhibitors will showcase their products across a wide spectrum of sectors, including automobiles, handicrafts, healthcare, food processing, pharmaceuticals, dairy, electronics, and e-commerce.
57. India will host the International Congress on the Chemistry of Cement (ICCC) in **2027**.  
**Note:** The Commerce and Industry Ministry announced that India won the bid to hold this event on a presentation from the National Council for Cement and Building Materials along with IIT Delhi. India defeated Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates to win the bid. The ICCC is regarded as the largest and the most prestigious event in the area of Cement and Concrete.
58. **United Nations World Food Programme (WFP)** signed MoU with the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay for contributing towards improving food security, nutrition, climate resilience, and livelihoods.  
**Note:** Objective: To focus on ecosystem development for technology and innovations to bolster government food safety net programs. It will involve identifying and analyzing relevant data, research, and evidence generation related to food and nutrition security.
59. The 14th edition of the World Spice Congress (WSC) began in **Navi Mumbai**.  
**Note:** Theme: 'VISION 2030: S-P-I-C-E-S. The three-day event has been organized by the Spices Board India, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, in association with various trade bodies and export forums. The event has the presence of policymakers, regulatory authorities, spice trade associations, government officials as well as technical experts from G20 countries, among others.
60. **India** hosted the inaugural United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) South Asia conference from 14 to 16 September.  
**Note:** Aim: To further India's engagement with UNCITRAL and encourage interaction between UNCITRAL, judiciary, bureaucracy, academia, and the legal fraternity. It is described as "the principal legal entity within the United Nations system dedicated to international trade law.
61. The fourth and final meeting of the G20 Framework Working Group, FWG under the Indian G20 Presidency began in **Raipur**.  
**Note:** Aim: To facilitate discussions on the latest global economic outlook and policy guidance on key macroeconomic issues. The RBI will host a series of Jan Bhagidari events, including panel discussions on digital banking and financial inclusion, financial literacy programs, a G20 awareness program, a painting contest, and a slogan-writing contest.
62. The fourth G20 Infrastructure Working Group meeting under the Indian Presidency started in **Madhya Pradesh**.  
**Note:** It would be the last meeting of the Infrastructure Working Group. Aim: To deliberate on various aspects of infrastructure investments, including developing infrastructure as an asset class, promoting quality urban infrastructure and Infratech. It is hosted and chaired by the Ministry of Finance along with Australia and Brazil as co-chairs.
63. Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the PM Viswakarma scheme in **Guwahati**.  
**Note:** This scheme would help the traditional artisans of the country and also help in preserving our age-old culture and heritage through art and craft. He also highlighted the great experience of visiting the exhibition showcased on the occasion and

- interacting with the artisans and craftsmen. During training times Rs. 500 per day allowance will be provided to the Viswakarma friends.
- 64.** Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has inked a MoU with **SJVN Ltd** -owned hydropower firm for its commitment to finance the latter's renewable energy and thermal power projects.  
**Note:** The deal is valued at Rs 1. 18 trillion and aims to set up 12 Gw of power generation capacity, from renewable sources such as solar, wind along with a 660 mw thermal power project. Aim: To meet the specific needs of the renewable projects, highlighting the flexibility of the partnership.
- 65.** **India** has become the world's third-largest startup ecosystem.  
**Note:** Startup India initiative has witnessed remarkable growth from four fifty startups in 2016 to over one lakh currently 2023. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal emphasized the crucial role of the country's youth as the foundation for India's development in the Amrit Kaal. He expressed confidence that by 2047, India's economy would experience exponential growth.
- 66.** The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has recently recognized **Mithun** as a 'food animal,' opening doors for its commercial use found in Arunachal Pradesh.  
**Note:** Aim: To promote its meat as a commercial product can indeed have significant economic and cultural implications for the region. It is a captivating and culturally significant bovine species found in Northeast India. Its role in the livelihoods of indigenous communities, ecological balance.
- 67.** India and **United Nations** launched a joint capacity-building initiative for the Global South.  
**Note:** Aim: To share India's development experiences, best practices, and expertise with partner countries in the Global South through capacity building and training programs. The initiative was announced at the India-UN for the Global South in New York. It also complements the India-UN partnership in the form of the "India-UN Development Partnership Fund"
- 68.** Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri flagged off India's first green hydrogen fuel cell bus in **Delhi**.  
**Note:** The success of this project can catapult India from being a net importer of fossil energy to becoming a net exporter of clean hydrogen energy. Aim: To provide global leadership to other countries in terms of technology transfer, while becoming a large green hydrogen producer and supplier of manufacturing parts.
- 69.** According to Jal Shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, **75 per cent** of India's villages have achieved the open defecation free-plus status.  
**Note:** An 'ODF Plus' village is one that has sustained its Open Defecation Free (ODF) status along with implementing either solid or liquid waste management systems. The top performing states and UTs which have 100 per cent ODF Plus villages are Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Dadra Nagar Haveli, Goa, Gujarat etc.
- 70.** Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently attended a special event in Ahmedabad, Gujarat to commemorate **20th** edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit.  
**Note:** It has played a significant role in transforming Gujarat into an attractive investment destination. Over the past two decades, the summit has attracted numerous national and international companies, creating opportunities for collaboration and strategic partnerships.
- 71.** Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched Bharatiya Bhasha Utsav and Technology and Bharatiya Bhasha Summit in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** The two-day summit aims to set a course for a technologically enriched future for Bharatiya languages in education. The summit encompassed 3 pivotal thematic sessions with a special focus on the integration of technology in promoting Bharatiya Bhasha, including its role in teaching, training, examination, and translating educational materials.
- 72.** An MoU between Indian Navy (IN) and **Indian institute of Science, Bengaluru** signed at New Delhi for technical collaboration and joint research & development.  
**Note:** Aim: To promote academic cooperation in the varied field of Engineering, enhance scientific understanding of technologies related to the defence sector and undertake new developments. Objective: To provide a broader framework and enable both sides to enhance capacity building, solution to field level issues.
- 73.** Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has unveiled a transformative scheme, **Mukhya Mantri Atmanirbhar Asom** with an aim to bolster the self-reliance of the state's youth.  
**Note:** Objective: To foster self-sufficiency and entrepreneurship among the youth of Assam. Under this initiative, a generous financial aid of Rs. 2 lakh will be provided to each eligible young person, empowering them to pursue self-employment opportunities and chart their own path to success.
- 74.** **Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Kailash Choudhary** launched PM KISAN AI-Chatbot (Kisan e-Mitra) in New Delhi.  
**Note:** Aim: To help in accessing scheme information and resolving grievances. This is the first AI Chatbot integrated with a major flagship scheme of the Union government. The AI Chatbot acts as a comprehensive guide for the beneficiaries, providing them with timely and accurate responses to their queries related to the scheme.
- 75.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched a unique week-long programme, **Sankalp Saptaah** for aspirational blocks in the country at the Bharat Mandapam on 30 September 2023.  
**Note:** It is being implemented in 500 aspirational blocks across 329 districts in the country. 'Sankalp Saptaah' is linked to the effective implementation of the Aspirational



Blocks Programme (ABP). The ABPP was launched across the nation by the Prime Minister on 7 January, 2023.

76. Ministry of Tourism will be hosting the 46th edition of the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Travel Mart 2023 in **New Delhi**.

**Note:** The Mart is scheduled to take place from October 4th to 6th 2023. Aim: To bring together tourism professionals and business stakeholders from across the world. The Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) was founded in 1951, with its Headquarters in Bangkok.

### Important News – State

1. **Nagaland** became the first state in the northeastern region to initiate Aadhaar-linked birth registration (ALBR).  
**Note:** Objective: To enable children's access to various social welfare schemes designed for their welfare. Aim: To streamline birth registration by integrating it with Aadhaar enrolment for children in the age group of 0 to 5. Directorate of Economics, Nagaland has collaborated with UIDAI as a Registrar cum Enrolment Agency for Child Enrolment via the ALBR process.
2. **Meghalaya** has adopted Artificial Intelligence enabled robotic technology to keep its beautiful tourist hotspot Uiam Lake clean.  
**Note:** It is able to collect huge quantities of garbage in a reasonable time from Uiam Lake, which was formed when a dam was built over the Uiam River as part of a hydel power project. The AI-enabled robotic boat was recently deployed in collaboration with Smart Village Movement and Hong Kong-based technology firm Clearbot.
3. Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated the country's first solar city in **Sanchi** of Madhya Pradesh.  
**Note:** Aim: To reduce Annually about 13 thousand 747 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions in Sanchi Solar City. An effort has also been made to attract tourism by reducing environmental pollution through eco-friendly facilities in Sanchi. Battery-operated e-rickshaws and garbage vehicles will also run in the city. E-vehicle charging stations have also been installed.
4. **Bengaluru** first underground electric transformer was inaugurated at Malleshwaram by the city's civic body and electricity board together.  
**Note:** Aim: To ensure the safety of people and to maintain the aesthetics of India's garden city. This adds to the overall safety of the environment, encouraging the citizens to use footpaths without any hassles since they'd be free from interruption during maintenance works of overhead cables and related equipment.
5. UAE-based leading cooling utility firm Tabreed has signed MoU with the **Telangana** Government to build 1. 25 lakh refrigeration tonne (RT) of district cooling plants and networks.  
**Note:** Aim: To aid 6,800 GWh of power as well as 41,600 megalitres of water savings, and has the potential to reduce over 200 MW of peak electricity demand. Telangana is set to house Asia's largest district cooling system to establish cooling infrastructure for industrial parks.
6. Goa Governor P. S. Sreedharan Pillai launched 'Mashaal' for **37th** edition of the National Games 2023 at a program held in Durbar Hall Raj Bhavan, Donapaula.  
**Note:** The 37th National Games will be held in Goa from October 25 to November 9 2023. The Governor also released anthem (theme song) of national games for which actor Amitabh Bachchan has given his voice. He highlighted the nationwide participation expected for this prestigious event and the potential positive impact on Goa's tourism sector
7. **Tamil Nadu** government is all set to launch the largest social welfare initiative, the Kalaingar Magalir Urimai Thogai Thittam, whereby monthly financial assistance of Rs 1,000 will be provided to 1. 06 crore eligible women families.  
**Note:** The sum will be directly transferred into the bank accounts of beneficiaries and they will be given ATM cards to withdraw the amount. The government will start disbursing the money under the scheme from September 15.
8. **Madhya Pradesh** will provide Rs 10 lakh as compensation to the kin of any person killed in a mob lynching incident.  
**Note:** There will be a provision of compensation of Rs 4 to Rs 6 lakh for the injured. This will also include all those incidents of mob lynching that occur due to religion, caste, language, or any other reason. Under the scheme, mob lynching will be considered in which five or more accused are involved.
9. **VP Jagdeep Dhankhar** inaugurated the International Conference on Dam Safety at Jaipur in Rajasthan.  
**Note:** According to the Jal Shakti Ministry, there are over 6000 dams in India and it is ranked third globally in terms of large dams. Aim: To provide a major platform for experts to come together and debate cutting-edge topics in dam safety and management. It has been essential to civilization's development, have the role in meeting demand for drinking water, irrigation, hydropower
10. Delhi Metro Rail Corporation and **Bharat Electronics Limited** signed a MoU to develop an indigenous Communication Based Train Control system.  
**Note:** Aim: To transform rail transportation in India, driving innovation, reducing costs, and fostering self-reliance in the field of train control signaling systems. The Communication-Based Train Control System will optimize train operations, and enhance passenger services while efficiently utilizing rail infrastructure.

11. **Goa** government distributed Griha Adhar sanction orders to numerous beneficiaries to support homemakers financially, fostering their independence and improving their quality of life.  
**Note:** Aim : To empower Goan entrepreneurs and self-help groups, a digital initiative under the Swayampura Goa Programme. He also flagged off the Chavath-e-Bazaar vehicle, symbolizing a new era of empowerment for rural artisans and entrepreneurs in Goa.
12. **Assam** unveiled 'Sarpanch Samvaad' , a mobile application app of the Quality Council of India (QCI) in Raj Bhavan.  
**Note:** Aim: To connect approximately 2. 5 lakh Sarpanchs across India, which serves as a holistic platform for networking, knowledge dissemination, and collaboration. Through this initiative, Sarpanchs can spotlight developmental activities in their villages, learn about best practices, and foster connections nationwide.
13. **Punjab** government launched "Mission Intensified Indra Dhanush" 5. 0.  
**Note:** Aim: To provide vaccination against 12 Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (VPD) i. e. diphtheria, Whooping cough, tetanus, polio, tuberculosis, hepatitis B, meningitis and pneumonia. The main purpose of the launch of this mission is to cover those pregnant women who are partially vaccinated or unvaccinated as well as children left out and drop out in the age group of 0-5 years.
14. **Odisha** has signed an MoU with six Public Sector Banks for providing banking services in all unbanked Gram Panchayats of the State through CSP Plus banking outlets.  
**Note:** Banks include SBI, PNB, Union Bank, UCO Bank, BOI, BOB. Aim: To provide rent-free banking space for 5 years and also bear one-time expenses for Fixed Cost and recurring expenses for a period of 3 years. The scheme will be implemented in a phased manner to cover all unbanked GPs of the State within the FY23-24
15. **Haryana** launched a new e-Bhoomi portal that promises to further ease the process of purchasing land for the development of government projects with the consent of landowners.  
**Note:** Objective: To extend benefits to landowners whose names are recorded in the revenue estate of villages Kasan, Kukrola and Sahrawan in Manesar tehsil of Gurugram district. Farmers can offer their land independently or through listed aggregators.
16. Newborns at government health facilities of **Uttar Pradesh** will now be issued birth registration certificates immediately after delivery without the parents having to apply for same.  
**Note:** Gov has integrated its Maa Navjaat Tracking app (MaNTrA) with the birth registration system as part of its efforts to provide 'ease of living' to the citizens using digital technology. UP has become the first state to implement suo motu birth registration for government health institutions
17. **Rajasthan** topped the list in solar water pump installations in 2023.  
**Note:** More than 62,000 farmers have directly benefited from the scheme introduced by the Ashok Gehlot government four-and-a-half years ago. According to the gov, farmers in Rajasthan are encouraged to install solar pumps for irrigation, instead of relying on electricity connections and diesel-powered plants. The state government is encouraging farmers by offering 60 percent subsidy for installing solar pumps
18. Union Minister for Civil Aviation, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia inaugurated the New Terminal Building at Tezu Airport in **Arunachal Pradesh**.  
**Note:** He termed Arunachal Pradesh as the future 'Gateway of Bharat,' where horticultural exports are poised to flourish. Tezu is currently connected to Imphal, Dibrugarh, and Guwahati. He further announced that Itanagar will soon be connected to Rupsi, Jorhat, and Delhi under the UDAAN-5 scheme of the Government of India.
19. **Madhya Pradesh** is home to the most tigers in the country, has got a new protected area for the big cats named 'Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve', the seventh in the state and 54th in the country.  
**Note:** Veerangana Durgavati Sanctuary, recognized for their ecological significance in preserving biodiversity, including flora, fauna, geology, and zoology. Until now, M. P. was home to six tiger reserves – Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Satpura, Pench, Panna and Sanjay-Dubri.
20. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced an increase in honorariums and retirement benefits for **Kotwars**.  
**Note:** The government would provide Rs 1 lakh to kotwars at the time of their retirement. Kotwars are appointed at the village level to assist revenue officials and provide them with information. kotwars, who do not own land, will get Rs 8,000 per month instead of the earlier Rs 4,000, while those with less than 3 acres of land will get Rs 2,000.
21. For the first time, Green Ammonia was imported through the V. O. Chidambaranar Port, which is located in **Tamil Nadu**.  
**Note:** Grey Ammonia is utilized for soda ash production. As a Go Green initiative, TFL has imported Green ammonia to produce Green soda Ash, on a trial basis. The Port successfully handled 3 x 20 ISO Green Ammonia containers, weighing 37. 4 tons of Green Ammonia, from Damietta Port, Egypt, for Tuticorin Alkali Chemical and Fertilizers Limited (TFL).
22. **Chhattisgarh** government announced 47,000 odd poor people in the state's rural areas will get houses in the first phase of the Mukhyamantri Gramin Awas NYAY Yojana.  
**Note:** The survey of 59. 79 lakh families was conducted in April 2023 and its update went on until May, according to which 10,76,545 families were found living in kutcha houses. This comes after the Pradhan Mantri

Awaz Yojana was to be implemented by the Chhattisgarh

government along with the Centre in 2021.

## Important News- World

1. The WHO has released the outcome document of first WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit 2023 in the form of **Gujarat Declaration**.  
**Note:** The declaration reaffirmed global commitments towards indigenous knowledge, biodiversity and traditional, complementary and integrative medicine. WHO underlined that the application of rigorous scientific methods is needed to better understand, assess and, where appropriate, apply more holistic, context-specific.
2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit to Jakarta, Indonesia on 06-07 September 2023 at the invitation of the President of the Republic of Indonesia, **H. E. Joko Widodo**.  
**Note:** During his visit, PM Modi will attend the 20th ASEAN-India Summit and 18th East Asia Summit being hosted by Indonesia as current Chair of ASEAN. The forthcoming ASEAN-India Summit will be the first Summit since the elevation of India-ASEAN relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2022.
3. In an official proclamation, Governor of Georgia, Brian Kemp has declared **October** as 'Hindu Heritage' month.  
**Note:** Aim: To celebrate Hindu heritage by emphasizing its rich culture and the diverse spiritual traditions that originate from India. Hindu Heritage Month (HHM) serves as a worldwide endeavor with the objective of spotlighting Hinduism as a longstanding tradition. Hinduism is the third-largest religion in the world.
4. **Indonesia** has granted its first golden visa to Sam Altman, the CEO of OpenAI, a pioneering firm in artificial intelligence.  
**Note:** Aim: To serve as an incentive for high-profile foreign investors. The Indonesian immigration authority issued a 10-year visa to Altman, acknowledging his global renown and potential contributions to the nation. He is set to benefit from priority security screening at airports and streamlined entry and exit procedures.
5. The three-day-long Kathmandu-Kalinga Literary Festival successfully came to an end in **Lalitpur, Nepal**.  
**Note:** Minister for Foreign Affairs NP Saud of Nepal had inaugurated the festival. Litterateurs from India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka exhibited at the Festival and showcased literature and other art forms. Professor Avadhesh Pradhan, actress and writer Divya Dutta, Prof Madhav Prasad Pokharel, and actress Manisha Koirala were awarded Yashaswi Sahitya Samman.
6. **Switzerland** has once again claimed the title of the world's best country in 2023, according to the latest World Report's annual Best Countries rankings.  
**Note:** This marks Switzerland's second consecutive year at the pinnacle and its sixth time overall as the No. 1 nation on the list. The rankings are Canada at No. 2, Sweden at No. 3, Australia at No. 4, the United States at No. 5, and India at No. 30. The United States has slipped one spot compared to its 2022 ranking.
7. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced India and **The UK** have launched an infrastructure financing bridge to plan and implement major infrastructure projects.  
**Note:** The two countries have also agreed to conduct investment negotiations in parallel with the goods negotiations to conclude their free trade agreement (FTA) talks. The Indian government has also confirmed with the UK government its plans to consider allowing Indian companies to list on exchanges overseas.
8. **Google Cloud** announced its partnership with the MeitY, computer emergency response unit CERT-In to train 1,000 government officials and provide 1 lakh cybersecurity certificate scholarships to learners.  
**Note:** CERT-In is part of the MeitY which deals with cybersecurity threats, hacking and other cyber-related issues. The 'cyber force' of government officials will be trained in cyber defence best practices, including the use of generative AI.
9. **NVIDIA** declared AI partnerships with Reliance Industries to build cloud infrastructure, language models, and generative applications.  
**Note:** Aim: To help NVIDIA deepen its inroads into the emerging AI ecosystem of the South Asian nation as it faces specific barriers in a few chip exports to China and other countries with US restrictions. Reliance will create AI applications and services for their 450 million Jio customers.
10. **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi** conducted the country's first national-scale mapping of soil erodibility.  
**Note:** Before this, soil erodibility assessments were conducted in specific regions or catchments. Aim: To highlight specific areas where the soil is most prone to erosion. Soil erodibility is the susceptibility of soil particles from becoming detached and reflects the combined effect of rainfall, infiltration, and runoff.
11. According to the Bloomberg Businessweek Best B-Schools Ranking 2023-24, **Hong Kong HKUST B-School** bagged the top rank in the Asia Pacific B-School rankings category.  
**Note:** Shanghai University of Finance and Economics secured second position and CIEBS at third rank. In the overall Asia Pacific B-school rankings category, IIM Bangalore clinched 4th position followed by the Indian School of Business (ISB) at 5th position.
12. India and **Japan** discussed important areas of bilateral cyber cooperation and reviewed the progress achieved in the areas of cyber security and Information and Communication Technologies.



**Note:** Japan hosted the fifth India-Japan Cyber Dialogue in Tokyo. Aim: To exchange views on the latest developments in the cyber domain and mutual cooperation at the United Nations and other multilateral and regional forums, including under the Quad framework.

13. **Tata Power Company** signed a MoU with the Small Industries Development Bank of India to provide accessible financing options to MSMEs looking to adopt solar solutions.

**Note:** Aim: To promote solar energy adoption among MSMEs by providing tailored and innovative financing solutions through SIDBI's 4E Scheme. Scheme: MSMEs opting for Rooftop Solar PV Plants or associated services from Tata Power or its channel partners across India will receive financial support from SIDBI.

14. According to the Chainalysis' 2023 Global Crypto Adoption Index, **India** has achieved the top rank among 154 nations in grassroots crypto adoption, displaying remarkable resilience.

**Note:** Nigeria ranked second in the index, followed by Vietnam. India has secured the first position in four critical parameters: Centralized Service Value Received. Retail Centralized Service Value Received. DeFi Value Received. Retail DeFi Value Received.

15. The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** have signed a landmark Statement of Intent, in addressing global development challenges.

**Note:** Aim: To collaborate on initiatives geared towards enhancing international standards that advance sustainability actions by both the public and private sectors. Objective: To provide a common basis for documentation and certification, making it easier for organizations.

16. IT major Infosys is collaborating with **Microsoft** to jointly develop industry-leading solutions that leverage Infosys Topaz, Azure OpenAI Service and Azure Cognitive Services.

**Note:** Both organizations are bringing together their respective AI capabilities to enhance enterprise functions with AI-enabled solutions across multiple industries. The integrated solutions will accelerate rapid democratization of data and intelligence that will help businesses increase productivity.

17. Out of 64 economies, **India** has dropped four spots to rank 56th in the World Talent Ranking 2023, as per an International Institute for Management Development report.

**Note:** Switzerland holds the top position, followed closely by Luxembourg in second place. India ranks 29th in future readiness but struggles with its weak educational system, ranked 63rd in quality. The IMD ranking evaluates various factors, including quality of life, and statutory minimum wage.

18. The city that has the most green office space in India is **Bengaluru**.

**Note:** 104. 5 million square feet of green offices, accounting for about 30 percent of the country's total. From 2019 to 2023, the area covered by green office buildings in the top six Indian cities increased by over 36 percent to 342 million square feet. The top Six Indian Cities are: Bengaluru, National Capital Region, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Chennai, and Pune.

19. India has maintained **40th** in the latest Global Innovation Index 2023 released by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO).

**Note:** The top 4 countries are: Switzerland, Sweden, United States, United Kingdom. The GII tracks the innovation ecosystem performance of 132 global economies and the most recent global innovation trends. India ranked first among the 37 lower-middle group income and first among the 10 economies in Central and South America.

20. **Google** announced an Android Earthquake Alerts System to provide early warning alerts to users about earthquakes in their area.

**Note:** This System is already deployed in many countries but Google is now bringing it to India in consultation with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and the National Seismology Center (NSC). According to Google, this system works by turning your phone into a mini earthquake detector, using the accelerometer as a seismograph.

21. **Singapore** has dethroned Hong Kong to become the world's freest economy in 2023.

**Note:** For the first time since the Economic Freedom of the World Index started in 1970, Hong Kong slipped to second place from the number one spot. Some of the tenets used to gauge the economic freedom index are measured based on ease of international trade, freedom to enter and compete in markets, as well as business regulations, amongst other yardsticks.

22. Meta CEO, **Mark Zuckerberg** announced a significant expansion of WhatsApp's payment feature in India during the Meta Conversations event.

**Note:** Users in India will now have the option to make payments to businesses via WhatsApp Business using various payment methods, including UPI, credit/debit cards, net banking, Google Pay, PhonePe, Paytm, and more. Initially, Meta partnered with RazorPay and PayU for this payment service.

23. **New Jersey in the US** is set to host the world's second-largest Hindu temple outside India, to be formally inaugurated on October 8.

**Note:** Hailed as the world's largest Hindu temple outside India "in the modern era", the Akshardham temple was built by the BAPS Swaminarayan Akshardham organization. It is dedicated to Bhagwan Swaminarayan, a Hindu spiritual leader of the 19th century, and was inspired by his 5th spiritual successor Pramukh Swami Maharaj.

## Honor & Awards

1. **Dr. R Ravi Kannan** has won the Ramon Magsaysay Award 2023 for his revolutionizing cancer treatment in Assam.  
**Note:** He worked at the Cancer Institute in Chennai before he moved to Silchar in 2007 to join the Cachar Cancer Hospital. The Magsaysay Award was established in 1957 to reward individuals for integrity in governance, courageous service to the people, and pragmatic idealism in democratic societies.
2. **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das** has been ranked as the top central banker globally by US-based Global Finance magazine.  
**Note:** He has been rated 'A+' in the Global Finance Central Banker Report Cards 2023. He has been placed at the top of the list of three central bank governors who have been rated A+. Grades are based on a scale from A to F for success in inflation control, economic growth goals, currency stability, and interest rate management.
3. **Mukesh Ambani** has secured the top position on the Fortune India Rich List 2023, with wealth of \$99. 7 billion.  
**Note:** Gautam Adani, the chairman of the Adani Group of companies, secured second position with a wealth of \$63. 71 billion. With a wealth of \$34. 6 billion, the Mistry family of Shapoorji Pallonji Group holds the third position on the list. The Poonawalla family with a wealth of \$32. 9 billion, stands fourth.
4. **Satyajit Majumdar** has received the 'Dr V G Patel Memorial Award-2023 for his work in promoting and strengthening entrepreneurship in India.  
**Note:** He is widely acknowledged as the Father of the Entrepreneurship Movement in India. He has mentored more than 350 startups, including 40 in Jammu and Kashmir and group startups in Jhabua, West Bengal.
5. **P. V. Satyanarayana** was presented 8th Dr M. S. Swaminathan award.  
**Note:** He received the award in recognition of his contribution to the development of high-yielding rice varieties that exhibit resilience against pests and environmental challenges. He has also contributed to fine-grain varieties and hybrid rice that have revolutionized agriculture across India.
6. **Telangana Chief Innovation Officer Shanta Thoutam** received the World Innovation Award at the first BRICS Innovation Forum hosted in Moscow.  
**Note:** The award is given for outstanding contribution to Sustainable Development Goal-4 which ensures inclusive and equitable quality education and promotes lifelong opportunities for all. She as one of the panelists at the Cloud City Conference, spoke about the initiatives and achievements of Telangana in the space of open data.
7. **Indore** secured the first rank followed by Agra and Thane in the cleanest air in India according to the Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan 2023 (Clean Air Survey) report released in Bhopal by Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav.  
**Note:** Bhopal stood fifth while Delhi took the ninth spot. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced the intent and plan to improve the air quality in more than 100 cities through a holistic approach.
8. **12 researchers** would receive the Shanti Swaroop Bhatnagar Awards 2022.  
**Note:** Country's top annual science prize, Shanti Swaroop Bhatnagar Awards were announced after a gap of two years. This year 2023 12 scientists will get the awards in seven categories. Dr. N. Kalaiselvi, Director General of CSIR announced the awards for the year 2022 in the presence of Union Minister Jitendra Singh. These awards are given every in seven scientific disciplines - physics, biology, engineering, mathematics, medicine, chemistry, and earth sciences.
9. **Professor Najma Akhtar** has been honored with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award-Academia 2023.  
**Note:** The award was presented by Padma Vibhushan awardee Raghunath Anant Mashelkar at the Grand Conference and Award Function titled Making India Employable. The 'Making India Employable' Awards are organized to celebrate individual success, innovation, and real-world impact in the field of education, and employability.
10. **Rail India Technical and Economic Service** has been honored with the 'Safety Innovation Award 2023', under the 'Construction' category, for implementing 'Innovative Safety Management Systems' in its operations.  
**Note:** The award was presented to RITES' officials during the inaugural function of the 20th Safety Convention organized. RITES, having multi-sectoral presence, has consistently embraced best safety practices in its operations.
11. **Erica Robin** has been crowned "Miss Universe Pakistan 2023", becoming the first-ever woman from the country to win the title.  
**Note:** Four other models from different parts of the country participated in the beauty pageant, including Hira Inam from Lahore, Jessical Wilson from Rawalpindi, Pakistani-American Malika Alvi from Pennsylvania, and Sabrina Wasim. Jessica Wilson was named first runner-up.
12. **Rahul Mishra** received the French government's Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres honor 2023.  
**Note:** This award was previously won by his compatriots Ritu Kumar, Ritu Beri, and Wendell Rodricks. His works that highlight the highest standards and craft of local artisans in India have been shown at prestigious fashion weeks in Paris, Milan, and Mumbai.
13. The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade has announced the issuance of the Geographical

Indication tag to "Atreyapuram Pootharekulu, for **Andhra Pradesh**.

**Note:** It is a sweet made of rice and jiggery. The production of the sweet is confined only to the Atreyapuram village on the banks of the Godavari in Andhra Pradesh. The tag was allotted after Sir Arthur Cotton Pootharekula Sahakara Sangham, a cooperative society, applied to secure a GI tag for the Pootharekulu sweet.

14. Government of India will now recognise scientists with Rashtriya Vigyan Puruskar in 4 categories.

**Note:** It has 4 categories, Vigyan Ratna, Vigyan Shri, Vigyan Yuva-Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, and Vigyan Team. Vigyan Ratna will recognise the lifetime achievement of scientists, Vigyan Shri will recognise distinguished contributions to a field, Vigyan Yuva Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar will encourage young scientists who have made exceptional contributions.

15. Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announced that **Biswanath Ghat** has been selected as the Best Tourism Village of India 2023 by the Ministry of Tourism.

**Note:** Located on the banks of the Brahmaputra River, Biswanath Ghat is also popularly known as 'Gupta Kashi' and is named after the ancient Biswanath Mandir. The village is located towards the south of Biswanath Chariali Town. The ghat boasts a cluster of temples of different gods.

16. Veteran actor, **Waheeda Rehman** has been chosen for Dadasaheb Phalke Lifetime Achievement Award 2022.

**Note:** The actress has been critically acclaimed for her roles in Hindi films like Pyaasa, Kaagaz ke Phool and several others. A Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan

awardee, she has exemplified dedication, commitment and the strength of a Bharatiya Nari who can achieve the highest level of professional excellence

17. **Chhattisgarh** received three national awards for its outstanding execution of the Ayushman Bharat scheme under the 'big states' category.

**Note:** CM Bhupesh Baghel said that Chhattisgarh has introduced several innovative schemes to enhance access to high-quality healthcare services in the past five years. One such initiative is the Mukhyamantri Haat Bazar Clinic Yojana, which extends free healthcare services to residents in remote forest areas of the state.

18. **Indian agricultural scientist Swati Nayak** became the third Indian agriculture scientist to win the prestigious Norman Borlaug Field Award 2023.

**Note:** The Norman Borlaug Field Award 2023 is presented by the World Food Prize Foundation for outstanding achievements in international agriculture and food production by individuals under 40. Nayak speaks to businessline about the importance of the award, her work with the agricultural community and more.

19. **Indore** has bagged the top spot for the 'Best Smart City' 2022 in India at the National Smart Cities Conclave 2023 held in the city.

**Note:** Gujarat's Surat came in second, while Agra in UP secured the third position among the smart cities of India. Madhya Pradesh bagged the Best State in the country, followed by Tamil Nadu. Rajasthan and UP together bagged the third position. President felicitated the winners of the fourth edition of the India Smart Cities Award Contest 2022.

### Sports News

1. **Neeraj Chopra** finished second with a final round throw in the men's javelin event of the Diamond League 2023 in Zurich.

**Note:** He finished behind Jakub Vadlejch of Czech Republic, who had won a bronze in the World Championships. The Indian superstar, who was unbeaten this season qualified for the Diamond League finals to be held on the 17th of September in Eugene, He had won the Diamond League trophy in 2022.

2. The Indian Hockey team beat **Pakistan** in a penalty shootout in the final and won the inaugural Men's Hockey 5s Asia Cup 2023 in Salalah, Oman.

**Note:** India also qualified for the FIH Men's Hockey5s World Cup Oman 2024. This is the first time in three meetings that India has beaten Pakistan in the Hockey 5s format. Hockey India President Dilip Tirkey congratulated the team on qualifying for the FIH Men's Hockey5s World Cup Oman 2024 and winning the Gold medal.

3. In Athletics, **Avinash Sable** qualified for his maiden Diamond League Final after finishing fifth in the men's

3000m steeplechase race at the Xiamen Diamond League 2023 in China.

**Note:** Morocco's Soufiane El Bakkali, the reigning Olympic and world champion, won the Xiamen track. Samuel Firewu of Ethiopia clinched the second spot while Amos Serem of Kenya claimed the third place. Commonwealth Games champion Abraham Kibiwot of Kenya came fourth.

4. In Table Tennis, the Indian men's team finished with a bronze medal at the Asian Table Tennis Championships 2023 following a semi-final defeat to **Chinese Taipei** in Pyeongchang, the Republic of Korea.

**Note:** Indian men's team comprising Sharath Kamal, Harmeet Desai and Sathiyan Gnanasekaran lost in their final four match. The two losing semi-finalists are awarded bronze medals at the competition. This championship was also a qualifier for the Paris 2024 Olympics.

5. **Coco Gauff** has won the US Open 2023, clinching her first Grand Slam title with a battling win over Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus.



- Note:** The championship match marked the first appearance by both athletes in a U. S. Open final. She last played in a Grand Slam final in 2022, losing the French Open to Iga Swiatek. In August 2023, the teen won the Western & Southern Open in Cincinnati, becoming the youngest player to do so.
6. **American Rajeev Ram and Britain's Joe Salisbury** rallied from a set down to beat India's Rohan Bopanna and Australian Matthew Ebden to win an Open-era record third straight U. S. Open men's doubles title 2023.  
**Note:** The last pair to win three straight U. S. Open men's doubles titles were Tom Bundy and Maurice McLoughlin. The title is the fourth for the duo, who also won the Australian Open in 2020, and gives Salisbury a sixth Grand Slam title across the men's and mixed doubles.
  7. **Novak Djokovic** created history by winning 24th Grand Slam title in US Open 2023 Men's Singles final 2023.  
**Note:** He defeated Daniil Medvedev of Russia. He already the oldest French Open singles champion, became the oldest US Open singles champion in the pro era. In Women's Doubles 16th seed New Zealand-Canadian combination of Erin Routliffe and Gabriela Dabrowski defeated 12th seed pair of German-Russian duo Laura Siegemund and Vera Zvonareva to win the US Open 2023 title.
  8. **Prathamesh Jawkar**, Indian compound archer bagged silver in 'World Cup Final' after he lost to Denmark's Mathias Fullerton.  
**Note:** World No 14 Jawkar was facing a major challenge against the 10th-ranked Mathias Fullerton of Denmark in the gold medal clash. The Indian then shot a perfect 150 against world No 1 Mike Schloesser of the Netherlands and beat the second-seeded archer by a single point to book his place in the final.
  9. **Alexander Grischuk** reigned supreme to clinch the Open Blitz title of the Tata Steel Chess India 2023 in Kolkata.  
**Note:** World Cup runner-up R Praggnanandhaa was the best Indian with an overall third-place finish. Erigaisi was the second-best Indian with an overall fourth finish with 10 and a half points. India's No 1 D Gukesh suffered six defeats to end with a disappointing eighth place finish.
  10. **Germany** won their first-ever FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023 title by beating Serbia in Manila.  
**Note:** The 19th edition of FIBA's flagship event, co-hosted by the Philippines, Indonesia and Japan, on a high note. Serbia absorbed another heartbreak after losing to the United States 129-92 in the 2014 final, but finished better than their quarter-final exit in 2019. Earlier, Canada bagged their first World Cup 2022 podium finish at the expense of short-handed United States.
  11. **Virat Kohli** stunned fans after he broke Sachin Tendulkar's record of the fastest batter to score 13000 runs in ODI.  
**Note:** The 34-year-old record of fellow Indian veteran Sachin Tendulkar (321 innings), achieving in just 267
  - innings. With this century, Kohli has now scored four consecutive 100s at this stadium, the joint-most highest centuries at a single venue alongside South African. He became the quickest batter to reach this milestone, Ponting and Sangakkara
  12. **Kiran George**, Indian badminton player clinched the men's singles title at the Indonesia Masters 2023 in Medan, North Sumatra.  
**Note:** Kiran George, 50th in the badminton rankings, beat world No. 82 Koo Takahashi of Japan to claim his second BWF World Tour Super 100 badminton title. He won the Odisha Open 2022, beating compatriot Priyanshu Rawat in the final. He was the only Indian who reached the final at the Indonesia Masters 2023.
  13. **Ruoning Yin** Chinese is the new No. 1 in the Rolex Women's World Golf Rankings 2023.  
**Note:** She is the second Chinese player to reach No. 1 since the rankings began in 2006, joining Shanshan Feng (2017-18). Yin is also the third player aged 20 or younger to hit No. 1, joining Atthaya Thitikul (2022) and Lydia Ko (2015). The 20-year-old Yin is the 18th different player to reach the top spot and the fifth this year, a record.
  14. **Maharashtra** clinched the title of champions in the 5th National Wheelchair Rugby Championship 2023 by securing a convincing victory over Karnataka.  
**Note:** Aim: To promote and expand the sport of wheelchair rugby across the nation. It was organized by The Indian Rugby Football Union (Rugby India), the governing body for rugby in India. It was conducted in association with the Wheelchair Rugby Federation of India and Mitsubishi Corporation.
  15. Indian cricket team bagged Asia Cup 2023 in Colombo by defeating **Sri Lanka**.  
**Note:** India's Mohammed Siraj brought Sri Lanka down to their knees with a six-wicket haul. He was followed by Hardik Pandya who took three wickets, along with one wicket by Jasprit Bumrah. Mohammed Siraj was declared player of the match and Kuldeep Yadav player of the series. Ishan Kishan at 23 and Shubman Gill at 27 remained unbeaten.
  16. Indian javelin thrower, **Neeraj Chopra** finished second in the men's event at the Diamond League Final 2023 in USA.  
**Note:** The Indian's best throw of 83.80 meter came in his second attempt. However, Czech Republic's Jakub Vadlejch, won his third title with a best throw of 84.24 meter. Oliver Helander of Finland scored third position while Andrian Mardare of Moldovan scored fourth position and Curtis Thompson of USA scored fifth position in this event.
  17. **Ferrari's Carlos Sainz** won the Singapore Grand Prix 2023 to end Formula 1 leader Max Verstappen's record run of 10 wins in a row and shatter Red Bull's dream of going through the season unbeaten.  
**Note:** McLaren's Lando Norris finished a close second and Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton took third place as Red Bull ended up off the podium for the first time since last

- November's Brazilian Grand Prix. Double world champion Verstappen started 11th and finished fifth, with teammate.
18. 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 Brazil.  
**Note:** She defeated France's Oceanne Muller. This was Elavenil Valarivan's second individual ISSF World Cup medal. The third position was grabbed by China's Jiale Zhang, scoring 229 points. At the ISSF World Cups staged so far in 2023, Indian shooters have won a total of 23 medals – seven gold, four silver, and 12 bronze.
  19. MotoGP Bharat is set to host the IndianOil Grand Prix of India at the Buddh International Circuit in **Greater Noida**.  
**Note:** It is the first time Moto E (electric race) is organizing a Grand Prix outside Europe and MotoGP Bharat will raise the curtains for Asia region. It is scheduled to take place at the Buddh International Circuit in Greater Noida from 22 to 24 September. MotoGP Bharat announced IndianOil as its title sponsor for the top-tier international Bike riders event.
  20. **Nischal** won the women's 50-metre rifle 3-position silver medal in the World Cup 2023 in Brazil.  
**Note:** She finished behind Norway's Jeanette Hegg Duestad, who won gold. It was the second medal for India, following the gold by Elavenil Valarivan in women's air rifle. India finished joint fifth with Germany and France with a gold and silver. Italy was on top with two gold and a bronze. China was second with a gold, four silver and three bronze.
  21. Indian pacer, **Mohammed Siraj** re-grabbed the number one position among bowlers in the ICC Men's ODI player rankings 2023.  
**Note:** His latest match-winning performance against Sri Lanka in the Asia Cup final provided eight spot leaps to take him to the top. Kuldeep Yadav is another Indian bowler who made it into the top ten. Jasprit Bumrah, who has come back after a long injury break, climbed up two places to the 27th position. Hardik Pandya rose eight spots to the 50th rank.
  22. **International Cricket Council** released the official Anthem for the Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 beginning on the 5th of October.  
**Note:** The theme of the anthem is Dil Jashn Bole and it features Bollywood superstar Ranveer Singh and other popular social media influencers. The Cricket World Cup 2023 is being held in India after 12 years. The music for the anthem has been prepared by Pritam, and the singers are Pritam, Nakash Aziz, Sreerama Chandra and Amit Mishra.
  23. Indian wrestler Antim Panghal secured a bronze medal in the women's **53 kg** at the wrestling World Championships 2023 in Serbia.  
**Note:** She also secured the Paris Olympics 2024 quota for India. This is India's first medal in this edition of the tournament. Antim has captured India's 23rd medal in the World Championships to date, which includes one gold, five silver, and 17 bronze medals. Japan's Akari Fujinami won the gold in World Championships 2023.
  24. PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the first international cricket stadium in **Varanasi** of UP.  
**Note:** The architecture of the cricket stadium proposed at Ganjari in Varanasi will be reminiscent of the holy city's rich heritage and things related to Lord Shiva. The roofs will be in the form of a crescent that crowns Lord Shiva, while the floodlights will be trident-shaped. The stadium will be built in a 30-acre area at a cost of Rs. 450 crore.
  25. **India** became the number-ranked team in all three formats i. e. Tests, ODIs and T20Is, after their 5-wicket won against Australia.  
**Note:** India displaced Pakistan from the top of the ODI rankings while they lead England in the T20I rankings. In the longest format, they are in the first place while Australia are right behind them. The rankings reflect the hard work put in by this team as they chase excellence on the field.
  26. In Asian Games 2023, The Indian women's team comprising Mehuli Ghosh, Ramita and Ashi Chouksey bagged silver medal **10m air rifle** shooting category.  
**Note:** China claimed the gold medal in women's 10m air rifle team. In Rowing, India secured silver medal in the lightweight men's double sculls event. Arjun Lal jat and Arvind singh representing India finished second. In shooting, India grabbed its first medal.
  27. **19th** edition of the 2023 Asian Games began in Hangzhou city of China.  
**Note:** The two-week extravaganza was declared open in a colorful ceremony by Chinese President Xi Jinping. Over 12,000 competitors from 45 nations and territories are taking part in 61 disciplines. The impressive inauguration unfolded at the renowned Hangzhou Olympic Sports Center Stadium, often referred to as the Big Lotus.
  28. Indian trio Rudrankksh Patil, Divyang Panwar, and Aishwary Tomar clinched gold in the Men's **10m air rifle** shooting event in Asian Games 2023.  
**Note:** India won its first medal in shooting as the trio of Ramita Jindal, Mehuli Ghosh, and Ashi Chouksey earned a Silver in the women's 10m air rifle event. Indian duo Arjun Lal Jat and Arvind Singh won a silver in men's lightweight double sculls in the rowing discipline. India has secured six medals - one gold, three silver, and two bronze
  29. Indian cricketers created history and became the first team to hit the 3000 sixes mark (3007) in **ODI cricket**.  
**Note:** No team has hit 3000 sixes in ODIs so far. West Indies (2953) is the team with the most number of sixes in ODIs after India. Pakistan (2566), Australia (2476), New Zealand (2387), England (2032), South Africa (1947), Sri Lanka (1779), Zimbabwe (1303) and Bangladesh (959) are in this list.
  30. **Marco Bezzecchi** won the inaugural Indian Grand Prix 2023 with a dominant performance from start to finish.

**Note:** Pramac Racing rider and sprint winner Jorge Martin, who risked a penalty by unzipping his leathers, finished second. Ducati's Francesco Bagnaia suffered a crash that blew the world championship contest wide open. Pole-sitter Bezzecchi lost out on a sprint podium after a collision with teammate Luca Marini, eventually finishing fifth

31. Indian women's cricket team won their maiden gold medal in Asian Games 2023 by defeating **Sri Lanka** by 19 runs in the final.

**Note:** This is a historic feat achieved by the Indian Women's cricket team. India secured a new world record and captured the gold medal in the men's 10 air rifle team event during the Asian Games 2023. The Indian contingent participating in the men's four rowing final displayed their mettle, securing a well-deserved bronze medal.

32. **Sift Kaur Samra** won gold in the women's 50m Rifle 3-P individual event at the Asian Games 2023 to give India its fifth gold at Hangzhou.

**Note:** In women's 25m pistol shooting event, Indian team comprising of Manu Bhaker, Rhythm Sangwan and Esha Singh also claimed gold medal. This brings the overall medal tally for India to 21 - 5 gold, 6 silver and 10 bronze. Meanwhile, Esha Singh in an individual women's 25m pistol event won Silver, behind the china's Rui Liu.

33. India players Sarabjot Singh, Arjun Singh Cheema, and Shiva Narwal clinched gold in the men's **10m air pistol** shooting event in the Asian Games 2023, in Hangzhou.

**Note:** Naorem Roshibina Devi clinched India's first silver medal in in women's 60kg Wushu Sanda event, losing to China's Wu Xiaowei. Other Winners: Shooting: India

clinches GOLD in men's 10m air pistol team event. Sarabjot Singh ranked 4th in men's 10m air pistol final

34. Shooters Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar, Swapnil Kusale, and Akhil Sheoran clinched gold in the men's **50m rifle 3P team** shooting event in the Asian Games 2023 in Hangzhou.

**Note: Other Winners:** The women's Team of Divya Thadigol, Esha Singh, and Palak won the Silver Medal in the 10m Air Pistol Women's team event. Anush Agarwala won the Bronze Medal in the Equestrian Dressage Individual event at the Asian Games. To date, India secured 31 medals including 8 gold, 11 silver, and 11 bronze

35. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has revealed the two official ICC mascots named 'Blaze' and 'Tonk' for the 2023 Cricket World Cup, which will be held in **India**.

**Note:** 'Blaze' is a female mascot, bowling at a rapid pace, leaving batters in sheer awe. She is adorned with a belt carrying six power cricket orbs, each meticulously prepared for various game-changing tactics. 'Tonk' is a male mascot, with icy-cool composure, making him a batting champion.

36. India's Sarabjot Singh, Divya TS won silver in **10m air pistol mixed team** event on Day 7 of the Asian Games 2023.

**Note:** On day 7, India's medal tally reached 38 including Gold (10); Silver (14); and Bronze (14). Other winners: Arathy Raj 5th in women's 10000m speed skating final. Tennis players, Rohan Bopanna, and Rutuja Bhosala clinch gold in mixed doubles final. Indian men's team beats Pakistan in thrilling Squash final to win gold medal.

### Books and Authors

1. **Shantanu Gupta** is the author of the 'Ajay to Yogi Adityanath' novel.

**Note:** The graphic novel, 'Ajay to Yogi Adityanath,' has made history by achieving the highest number of book launches, earning it a place in the Asia Book of Records. This novel was penned by renowned author Shantanu Gupta, delves into the life of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, tracing his journey from humble beginnings to the pinnacle of political leadership. The longlist comprises 13 books written by authors from various countries, including Ireland, Canada, the US, and the UK, explore universal and topical themes.

2. **Radhika Iyengar** is the author of the book 'Fire on the Ganges: Life Among the Dead in Banaras'.

**Note:** The book was released by HarperCollins. The book explores the city of Banaras (also known as Varanasi) in

India, particularly its relationship with death and the afterlife. Fire on the Ganges is the first attempt to chronicle the everyday realities of the Doms in Banaras.

3. **People's G20** was launched by the Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Apurva Chandra, which provides a comprehensive perspective on India's G20 Presidency.

**Note:** Apurva Chandra, the Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, introduced an ebook titled 'People's G20,' which provides a comprehensive perspective on India's G20 Presidency.

4. **Vinod V Bhat** is the author of the Financial Independence Marathon.

**Note:** The book was published by Penguin Business.

### Science and Defence

1. **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has successfully launched India's first solar observatory mission named Aditya L1 from Sathish Dhawan Space Centre Sriharikota.

**Note:** It was launched from the PSLV C57 rocket. In Aditya L1, L1 refers to Lagrange Point 1. Aim: To study the Solar upper atmospheric (chromosphere and corona) dynamics. As per the reports, it will take 125 days



- (approx 4 months) to reach designated point L1 to study the Sun's mysteries.
2. The warship 'Mahendragiri' built at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited was launched in **Mumbai**.  
**Note:** It would be launched by Dr Sudesh Dhankhar and it is the seventh ship of the Project 17A Frigates. The warship has been named after a mountain peak in the Eastern Ghats located in the state of Orissa. Mahendragiri is a technologically advanced warship and stands as a symbol of India's determination to embrace its rich naval heritage.
  3. The second edition of Naval Commanders' Conference, 2023 held in **New Delhi**.  
**Note:** Aim: To provide an opportunity for institutionalized interaction of Naval Commanders with senior Government officials to take ahead several inter-ministerial initiatives toward the development of a safe and secure maritime environment. Commanders will review projects with a focus on enhancing indigenization through Make in India in consonance with the vision of achieving self-reliance by 2047.
  4. **Japan** launched a lunar lander on 7th Sep 2023, aiming to become the fifth nation to achieve a soft landing on the moon's surface following India's success.  
**Note:** The Smart Lander for Investigating Moon (SLIM) was sent to space on an H-IIA rocket. SLIM is a light and small spacecraft developed by Mitsubishi Electric. One of the goals of the mission is to demonstrate precision landing technology. The spacecraft is expected to land within 100 meters of a target site.
  5. In a development highlighting India's growing presence on the global military stage, the Indian Navy's INS Sumedha arrived at **Port Alexandria, Egypt** to take part in 'Exercise Bright Star-23'.  
**Note:** It marks a historic occasion, with 34 countries participating, making it the largest joint military exercise ever held in the Middle East and North Africa region. The Harbour Phase involves an array of activities aimed at planning and executing the Sea Phase
  6. Phase II of the 21st edition of Varuna (Varuna-23) bilateral exercise between Indian and French Navy was conducted in the **Arabian Sea**.  
**Note:** The exercise witnessed the participation of guided missile frigates, tanker, Maritime Patrol Aircraft and integral helicopters from the two sides. Aim: To enhance and hone their war fighting skills, improve interoperability and demonstrate their ability to promote, peace, security and stability in the region.
  7. **Minister of Earth Sciences Kiren Rijiju** announced the Samudrayaan Mission( MATSYA 6000 ) India's first manned mission to explore the deep ocean, where three people will be sent into the depth of 6,000 metre in a submersible.  
**Note:** Aim: To sustainably use marine resources for the country's economic growth and livelihood along with creating job and maintaining the health of the marine ecosystem. It is designed to study the deep ocean resources and conduct biodiversity assessment.
  8. **Nasa** has announced the existence of a possible rare water ocean on a giant exoplanet scores of light years away and also a chemical hint of a sign of potential life.  
**Note:** NASA's James Webb Space Telescope in its study of K2-18 b, an exoplanet, discovered the presence of carbon dioxide and methane. This suggests that K2-18b could be a Hycean exoplanet, one which has the potential to possess a hydrogen-rich atmosphere and a water ocean-covered surface.
  9. **Amazon Web Services** has signed a strategic MoU with the ISRO and Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACE) to support space-tech innovations through cloud computing.  
**Note:** Aim: To enable the space industry to make better decisions, faster – pushing the boundaries of possibilities, and AWS is committed to help startups identify use cases and accelerate solution development.
  10. The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has accorded Acceptance of Necessity, AoN for nine capital acquisition proposals of approximately **45 thousand crore rupees**.  
**Note:** The meeting was held under the chairmanship of Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh. All these procurements will be made from Indian vendors which will give a substantial boost to the Indian defence Industry towards achieving the goal of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.
  11. **2nd** edition of the Indian Navy's Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Seminar – 'Swavlamban 2023' is scheduled to be conducted on 04 – 05 Oct 2023.  
**Note:** In the maiden edition, PM launched the 75 challenges for the start-ups/ MSMEs as a part of the 'SPRINT' initiative. Aim: To give a boost to the usage of indigenous technology in the Indian Navy, and the Navy is committed to developing at least 75 technologies/ products as part of the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
  12. ASEAN began their first-ever joint military drills in **Indonesia** amid rising geopolitical tensions between major powers and protests against China's activities in the South China Sea.  
**Note:** Aim: To develop military skills, including maritime security and patrols, and the distribution of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. All 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) will join the exercise, including prospective member East Timor.
  13. **DRDO** has developed the P7 Heavy Drop System which is capable of para-dropping military stores up to 7-ton weight class from IL 76 aircraft.  
**Note:** This system is fully indigenous and being manufactured by L&T which makes the platform system, and parachutes manufactured by Ordnance Factory. The system would be a force multiplier for armed forces while enabling the rapid delivery of combat stores in far-flung inaccessible areas.

14. The Indian Army is set to acquire a regiment of **Pralay** tactical ballistic missiles for the first time, as part of a broader strategy to develop a strategic rocket force.  
**Note:** The Pralay missiles, propelled by a solid-propellant rocket motor and other novel technologies, are expected to provide a substantial boost to the Indian Army's offensive capabilities. It can hit targets between 150-500 Km and missiles developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation.
15. **Samudra Prahari** Indian Coast Guard Ship is currently on an overseas deployment to ASEAN countries from 11 Sep to 14 Oct 2023.  
**Note:** This deployment is part of India's ASEAN initiatives for Marine Pollution Response, showcasing the Pollution Response capabilities of the ICG. Aim: To demonstrate the ICG's pollution response capabilities and its dedication to collaborative efforts for marine pollution response.
16. The Indian Army and **The United States Army** will co-host the 13th Indo-Pacific Armies Chiefs Conference.  
**Note:** It is a 3 day conference of Chiefs of Armies and delegates of 35 countries in New Delhi from 25th to 27th September 2023. Theme of 2023 is "Together for Peace: Sustaining Peace and Stability in the Indo-Pacific Region." Aim: To promote peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region through mutual understanding, and friendship amongst the littoral partners.
17. **Nireekshak** Indian Naval Ship successfully conducted vital Mixed Gas Diving training sessions as part of IN-SLN Divex 23.  
**Note:** It marks the ship's continued engagement with the Sri Lanka Navy, aligning with India's 'Neighborhood First' policy for capacity building in neighboring nations. It is well-equipped with two six-man recompression chambers and a three-man diving bell. It possesses the capability to execute submarine rescue operations and train saturation divers.
18. Indian Naval Ships Ranvijay and Kavaratti and submarine INS Sindhukesari arrived in Singapore to participate in **30th** edition of the Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX).  
**Note:** SIMBEX holds the distinction of being the longest continuous naval exercise that the Indian Navy has with any other country. SIMBEX-2023 is being conducted in two phases - a Harbour Phase at Singapore from 21 to 24 September 2023, followed by a Sea Phase.
19. The Defence Acquisition Council, headed by **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** approved procurement including the indigenous Dhruvastra short-range air-to-surface missile.  
**Note:** About the Dhruvastra Missile: It is a helicopter-launched anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) system. It is a short-range air-to-surface missile. It was indigenously developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation. It is a third-generation, renowned for its versatility in engaging and neutralizing enemy tanks and armored vehicles.
20. **Israel** Defense Ministry delivered the first models of "5th generation Merkava battle tanks" to the 52nd Armored Battalion belonging to the 401st Brigade.  
**Note:** The introduction of the Barak tank marks an "extraordinary leap forward" into an innovative era for the Israeli Defense Forces. Aim: To collaborate effort between Defense Ministry's Armored Vehicles Directorate and the IDF's Ground Forces and Armored Corps.
21. **19th** edition of YUDH ABHYAS will be conducted in Alaska, an annual exercise conducted jointly by the Indian Army and the US Army.  
**Note:** The Indian Army contingent comprising 350 personnel will participate in this edition of the exercise. The lead battalion from Indian side is affiliated to MARATHA Light Infantry Regiment. Objective: To practice a series of tactical drills to enhance interoperability in conducting UN peacekeeping operations.
22. Indian Air Force and **Drone Federation of India** will co-host Bharat Drone Shakti- 2023 at the Indian Air Force airbase at Hindon in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.  
**Note:** The usage of drones in India is seeing an increase- both, in the military, as well as in the civil domain. The induction ceremony of the first C-295 MW transport aircraft will be held during the program. India has formalized the acquisition of 56 Airbus C-295 aircraft to replace the Indian Air Force AVRO fleet.
23. **30th** edition the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) has successfully concluded in Singapore.  
**Note:** Indian Naval Ships Ranvijay, Kavaratti, submarine Sindhukesari, and a long-range Maritime Patrol Aircraft P8I participated in the exercise. Combined aviation, firefighting, and damage control exercises were conducted during the period. The sea phase of SIMBEX 23 was conducted from 25 to 28 of September.

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