

# Weekly One Liners 30th January to 05th of February 2023

## Australian Open 2023: Check the complete list of winners

### Australian Open 2023:

**Novak Djokovic** defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas in the final of men's singles match of the **Australian Open 2023**. Djokovic wins 10th Australian Open and 22nd grand slam. He levels Rafael Nadal with his 22nd Grand Slam title. In the Women's Singles category, **Aryna Sabalenka** defeated **Elena Rybakina** in the final, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 to win the women's singles tennis title at the 2023 Australian Open.

The 2023 Australian Open was a Grand Slam level tennis tournament held at **Melbourne Park**, from 16-29 January 2023. It was the 111th edition of the Australian Open, the 55th in the Open Era, and the first major of the year. There is a total prize pot of **AUD \$76.5 million (around £43.3m)** for the Australian Open 2023.

### Table showing Winners in all categories:

Category	Winner	Runner-Up
<b>Men's Singles</b>	N. Djokovic (Serbia)	Stefanos Tsitsipas (Greece)
<b>Women's Singles</b>	A. Sabalenka (Belarus)	E. Rybakina (Kazakhstan)
<b>Men's Doubles</b>	J. Kubler & R. Hijikata (Australia)	H. Nys (Monaco) & J. Zieliński (Poland)
<b>Women's Doubles</b>	B. Krejčíková & K. Siniaková (Czechia)	S. Aoyama & E. Shibahara (Japan)
<b>Mixed Doubles</b>	L. Stefani & R. Matos (Brazil)	R. Bopanna & S. Mirza (India)

### History of Australian Open

**Australian Open**, one of the world's major tennis championships (the first of the four annual Grand Slam events), held at the National Tennis Centre at Melbourne Park in Melbourne, Australia. The Australian Open is managed by Tennis Australia, formerly the Lawn Tennis Association of Australia (LTAA), and was **first played at the Warehouseman's Cricket Ground in Melbourne in November 1905** and the first for women in 1922. The facility is now known as the Albert Reserve Tennis Centre, and was a grass court.

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### Who has won the most Australian Open titles?

**Novak Djokovic** has won his 10th Australian Open championship and record-equalling 22nd Grand Slam title overall by beating Stefanos Tsitsipas in the final at Rod Laver Arena.

## Republic Day 2023: Uttarakhand tableau wins first prize

### Republic Day 2023: Uttarakhand tableau wins first prize

**Uttarakhand tableau** which showcased the state's wildlife and religious sites at the **74th Republic Day parade** has won the top prize. Uttarakhand's tableau showcased the state's wildlife and religious sites during the ceremonial parade at Kartavya Path on January 26. In the foreground of the **tableau, reindeer, deer and various birds** were shown roaming in the **world-famous Corbett National Park**. The central part of the tableau depicted the state animal of Uttarakhand, musk deer, national bird peacock and ghoral. Jageshwar Dham, a group of 125 small and big ancient temples in Manaskhand's Almora district, and popular deodar trees were shown in the rear part of the tableau.

Uttarakhand won the first prize for its tableau, followed by **Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh** in the second and third positions respectively. The tableau of Maharashtra on Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav presented "Sade Tin Shaktipithe" and "Nari Shakti", while that of Uttar Pradesh showcased Ayodhya Deepotsav.

### Republic Day 2023: Other winners in different categories:

- **Gujarat's tableau** emerged as the numero uno in the popular choice segment.
- **Army's Punjab Regiment** has been adjudged the best marching contingent among the three services, while the **Central Reserve Police Force's (CRPF)** marching contingent won the top prize among the CAPFs and other auxiliary forces.
- Among the ministries and departments, the tableau of the **Ministry of Tribal Affairs (Eklavya Model Residential Schools)** won the best prize.
- The Central Public Works Department's tableau on biodiversity conservation and '**Vande Bharatam**' dance group earned a special prize.
- The IAF's marching contingent emerged as the winner among the three services in the popular choice category.
- Among the tableaux from states and union territories, **Gujarat** won the first prize in the category, followed by **Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra** in that order. Kutchi embroidery and decoration, known for its mirror work, traditional 'bhungas' and renewable energy production were the focus elements in the Gujarat tableau. The **village of Modhera, famous for its Sun Temple**, and being India's first round-the-clock solar-powered village was also showcased in the tableau.
- Among the central ministries and departments, the tableau by the CAPF, the Ministry of Home Affairs, emerged as the best in the popular choice segment.

**How these tableau selected?**

Three panels of judges were appointed for assessing the performance of the marching contingents from the three services, those from Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) and other auxiliary forces, and tableaux from various states and union territories, and various ministries and departments. Citizens voted in an online poll on MyGov for their favourite tableaux and marching contingents in the popular choice category. The poll for the popular choice was conducted between January 25 and 28.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE UNION BUDGET 2023-24**

The Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget 2023-24 in Parliament today. The highlights of the Budget are as follows:

**PART A**

- Per capita income has more than doubled to ₹1.97 lakh in around nine years.
- Indian economy has increased in size from being 10th to 5th largest in the world in the past nine years.
- EPFO membership has more than doubled to 27 crore.
- 7,400 crore digital payments of ₹126 lakh crore has taken place through UPI in 2022.
- 11.7 crore household toilets constructed under Swachh Bharat Mission.
- 9.6 crore LPG connections provided under Ujjwala.
- 220 crore covid vaccination of 102 crore persons.
- 47.8 crore PM Jan Dhan bank accounts.
- Insurance cover for 44.6 crore persons under PM Suraksha Bima and PM Jeevan Jyoti Yojana.
- Cash transfer of ₹2.2 lakh crore to over 11.4 crore farmers under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi.
- **Seven priorities of the budget 'Saptarishi'** are inclusive development, reaching the last mile, infrastructure and investment, unleashing the potential, green growth, youth power and financial sector.
- **Atmanirbhar Clean Plant Program** with an outlay of ₹2200 crore to be launched to boost availability of disease-free, quality planting material for high value horticultural crops.
- 157 new nursing colleges to be established in co-location with the existing 157 medical colleges established since 2014.
- Centre to recruit 38,800 teachers and support staff for the 740 Eklayva Model Residential Schools, serving 3.5 lakh tribal students over the next three years.
- Outlay for **PM Awas Yojana** is being enhanced by 66% to over Rs. 79,000 crore.
- Capital outlay of Rs. 2.40 lakh crore has been provided for the Railways, which is the highest ever outlay and about nine times the outlay made in 2013-14.

- **Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (UIDF)** will be established through use of priority Sector Lending shortfall, which will be managed by the national Housing Bank, and will be used by public agencies to create urban infrastructure in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.
- **Entity DigiLocker** to be setup for use by MSMEs, large business and charitable trusts to store and share documents online securely.
- 100 labs to be setup for 5G services based application development to realize a new range of opportunities, business models, and employment potential.
- 500 new 'waste to wealth' plants under **GOBARDhan** (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) scheme to be established for promoting circular economy at total investment of Rs 10,000 crore. 5 per cent compressed biogas mandate to be introduced for all organizations marketing natural and bio gas.
- Centre to facilitate one crore farmers to adopt natural farming over the next three years. For this, 10,000 **Bio-Input Resource Centres** to be set-up, creating a national-level distributed micro-fertilizer and pesticide manufacturing network.
- **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0**, to be launched to skill lakhs of youth within the next three years covering new age courses for Industry 4.0 like coding, AI, robotics, mechatronics, IOT, 3D printing, drones, and soft skills.
- 30 **Skill India International Centres** to be set up across different States to skill youth for international opportunities.
- Revamped credit guarantee scheme for MSMEs to take effect from 1st April 2023 through infusion of Rs 9,000 crore in the corpus. This scheme would enable additional collateral-free guaranteed credit of Rs 2 lakh crore and also reduce the cost of the credit by about 1 per cent.
- **Central Processing Centre** to be setup for faster response to companies through centralized handling of various forms filed with field offices under the Companies Act.
- The maximum deposit limit for Senior Citizen Savings Scheme to be enhanced from Rs 15 lakh to Rs 30 lakh.
- Targeted Fiscal Deficit to be below 4.5% by 2025-26.
- **Agriculture Accelerator Fund** to be set-up to encourage agri-startups by young entrepreneurs in rural areas.
- To make India a global hub for 'Shree Anna', the Indian Institute of Millet Research, Hyderabad will be supported as the Centre of Excellence for sharing best practices, research and technologies at the international level.

- ₹20 lakh crore agricultural credit targeted at animal husbandry, dairy and fisheries
- A new **sub-scheme of PM Matsya Sampada Yojana** with targeted investment of ₹6,000 crore to be launched to further enable activities of fishermen, fish vendors, and micro & small enterprises, improve value chain efficiencies, and expand the market.
- **Digital public infrastructure for agriculture** to be built as an open source, open standard and inter operable public good to enable inclusive farmer centric solutions and support for growth of agri-tech industry and start-ups.
- Computerisation of 63,000 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) with an investment of ₹2,516 crore initiated.
- Massive decentralised storage capacity to be set up to help farmers store their produce and realize remunerative prices through sale at appropriate times.
- **Sickle Cell Anaemia elimination mission** to be launched.
- Joint public and Private Medical research to be encouraged via select ICMR labs for encouraging collaborative research and innovation.
- New Programme to promote research in Pharmaceuticals to be launched.
- Rs. 10 lakh crore capital investment, a steep increase of 33% for third year in a row, to enhance growth potential and job creation, crowd-in private investments, and provide a cushion against global headwinds.
- **Aspirational Blocks Programme covering 500 blocks** launched for saturation of essential government services across multiple domains such as health, nutrition, education, agriculture, water resources, financial inclusion, skill development, and basic infrastructure.
- Rs. 15,000 crore for implementation of **Pradhan Mantri PVTG Development Mission** over the next three years under the Development Action Plan for the Scheduled Tribes.
- Investment of Rs. 75,000 crore, including Rs. 15,000 crore from private sources, for one hundred critical transport infrastructure projects, for last and first mile connectivity for ports, coal, steel, fertilizer, and food grains sectors.
- **New Infrastructure Finance Secretariat** established to enhance opportunities for private investment in infrastructure.
- **District Institutes of Education and Training** to be developed as vibrant institutes of excellence for Teachers' Training.
- A National **Digital Library for Children and Adolescents** to be set-up for facilitating availability of quality books across geographies, languages, genres and levels, and device agnostic accessibility.
- Rs. 5,300 crore to be given as central assistance to Upper Bhadra Project to provide sustainable micro irrigation and filling up of surface tanks for drinking water.
- **'Bharat Shared Repository of Inscriptions'** to be set up in a digital epigraphy museum, with digitization of one lakh ancient inscriptions in the first stage.
- 'Effective Capital Expenditure' of Centre to be Rs. 13.7 lakh crore.
- Continuation of 50-year interest free loan to state governments for one more year to spur investment in infrastructure and to incentivize them for complementary policy actions.
- Encouragement to states and cities to undertake urban planning reforms and actions to transform our cities into 'sustainable cities of tomorrow'.
- Transition from manhole to machine-hole mode by enabling all cities and towns to undertake 100 percent mechanical desludging of septic tanks and sewers.
- **iGOT Karmayogi**, an integrated online training platform, launched to provide continuous learning opportunities for lakhs of government employees to upgrade their skills and facilitate people-centric approach.
- More than 39,000 compliances reduced and more than 3,400 legal provisions decriminalized to enhance Ease Of Doing Business.
- Jan Vishwas Bill to amend 42 Central Acts have been introduced to further trust-based governance.
- Three centres of excellence for Artificial Intelligence to be set-up in top educational institutions to realise the vision of **"Make AI in India and Make AI work for India"**.
- **National Data Governance Policy** to be brought out to unleash innovation and research by start-ups and academia.
- One stop solution for reconciliation and updation of identity and address of individuals to be established using DigiLocker service and Aadhaar as foundational identity.
- PAN will be used as the common identifier for all digital systems of specified government agencies to bring in Ease of Doing Business.
- 95 per cent of the forfeited amount relating to bid or performance security, will be returned to MSME's by government and government undertakings in cases the MSME's failed to execute contracts during Covid period.
- Result Based Financing to better allocate scarce resources for competing development needs.
- **Phase-3 of the E-Courts project** to be launched with an outlay of Rs. 7,000 crore for efficient administration of justice.
- **R & D grant for Lab Grown Diamonds (LGD) sector** to encourage indigenous production of LGD seeds and machines and to reduce import dependency.

- Annual production of 5 MMT under **Green Hydrogen Mission** to be targeted by 2030 to facilitate transition of the economy to low carbon intensity and to reduce dependence on fossil fuel imports.
- ₹35000 crore outlay for energy security, energy transition and net zero objectives.
- Battery energy storage systems to be promoted to steer the economy on the sustainable development path.
- 20,700 crore outlay provided for renewable energy grid integration and evacuation from Ladakh.
- **“PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth” (PM-PRANAM)** to be launched to incentivize States and Union Territories to promote alternative fertilizers and balanced use of chemical fertilizers.
- **‘Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes’, MISHTI**, to be taken up for mangrove plantation along the coastline and on salt pan lands, through convergence between MGNREGS, CAMPA Fund and other sources.
- **Green Credit Programme** to be notified under the Environment (Protection) Act to incentivize and mobilize additional resources for environmentally sustainable and responsive actions.
- **Amrit Dharohar scheme** to be implemented over the next three years to encourage optimal use of wetlands, enhance bio-diversity, carbon stock, eco-tourism opportunities and income generation for local communities.
- A **unified Skill India Digital platform** to be launched for enabling demand-based formal skilling, linking with employers including MSMEs, and facilitating access to entrepreneurship schemes.
- **Direct Benefit Transfer under a pan-India National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme** to be rolled out to provide stipend support to 47 lakh youth in three years.
- At least 50 tourist destinations to be selected through challenge mode; to be developed as a complete package for domestic and foreign tourists.
- Sector specific skilling and entrepreneurship development to be dovetailed to achieve the objectives of the **‘Dekho Apna Desh’** initiative.
- Tourism infrastructure and amenities to be facilitated in border villages through the **Vibrant Villages Programme**.
- States to be encouraged to set up a **Unity Mall** for promotion and sale of their own and also all others states’ **ODOPs (One District, One Product)**, GI products and handicrafts.
- **National Financial Information Registry** to be set up to serve as the central repository of financial and ancillary information for facilitating efficient flow of credit, promoting financial inclusion, and fostering financial stability. A new legislative framework to be designed in consultation with RBI to govern this credit public infrastructure.
- Financial sector regulators to carry out a comprehensive review of existing regulations in consultation with public and regulated entities. Time limits to decide the applications under various regulations would also be laid down.
- To enhance business activities in GIFT IFSC, the following measures to be taken.
- Delegating powers under the SEZ Act to IFSCA to avoid dual regulation.
- Setting up a single window IT system for registration and approval from IFSCA, SEZ authorities, GSTN, RBI, SEBI and IRDAI.
- Permitting acquisition financing by IFSC Banking Units of foreign bank.
- Establishing a subsidiary of EXIM Bank for trade re-financing.
- Amending IFSCA Act for statutory provisions for arbitration, ancillary services, and avoiding dual regulation under SEZ Act
- Recognizing offshore derivative instruments as valid contracts.
- Amendments proposed to the Banking Regulation Act, the Banking Companies Act and the Reserve of India Act to improve bank governance and enhance investors’ protection.
- Countries looking for digital continuity solutions would be facilitated for setting up of their Data Embassies in GIFT IFSC.
- SEBI to be empowered to develop, regulate, maintain and enforce norms and standards for education in the National Institute of Securities Markets and to recognize award of degrees, diplomas and certificates.
- Integrated IT portal to be established to enable investors to easily reclaim the unclaimed shares and unpaid dividends from the Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority.
- To commemorate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, a one-time new small savings scheme, **Mahila Samman Savings Certificate** to be launched. It will offer deposit facility upto Rs 2 lakh in the name of women or girls for tenure of 2 years (up to March 2025) at fixed interest rate of 7.5 per cent with partial withdrawal option.
- The maximum deposit limit for Monthly Income Account Scheme to be enhanced from Rs 4.5 lakh to Rs 9 lakh for single account and from Rs 9 lakh to Rs 15 lakh for joint account.
- The entire fifty-year interest free loan to states to be spent on capital expenditure within 2023-24. Part of the loan is conditional on States increasing actual Capital expenditure and parts of outlay will be linked to States undertaking specific loans.
- Fiscal Deficit of 3.5% of GSDP allowed for States of which 0.5% is tied to Power sector reforms.

**Revised Estimates 2022-23:**

- The total receipts other than borrowings is Rs 24.3 lakh crore, of which the net tax receipts are Rs 20.9 lakh crore.
- The total expenditure is Rs 41.9 lakh crore, of which the capital expenditure is about Rs 7.3 lakh crore.
- The fiscal deficit is 6.4 per cent of GDP, adhering to the Budget Estimate.

**Budget Estimates 2023-24:**

- The total receipts other than borrowings is estimated at Rs 27.2 lakh crore and the total expenditure is estimated at Rs 45 lakh crore.
- The net tax receipts are estimated at Rs 23.3 lakh crore.
- The fiscal deficit is estimated to be 5.9 per cent of GDP.
- To finance the fiscal deficit in 2023-24, the net market borrowings from dated securities are estimated at Rs 11.8 lakh crore.
- The gross market borrowings are estimated at Rs 15.4 lakh crore.

**PART - B**  
**DIRECT TAXES**

- Direct Tax proposals aim to maintain **continuity and stability** of taxation, further **simplify and rationalise** various provisions to **reduce the compliance burden**, promote the **entrepreneurial spirit** and provide tax relief to citizens.
- Constant endeavour of the Income Tax Department to improve Tax Payers Services by making **compliance easy and smooth**.
- To further improve tax payer services, proposal to roll out a next-generation **Common IT Return Form** for tax payer convenience, along with plans to strengthen the grievance redressal mechanism.
- **Rebate limit** of Personal Income Tax to be **increased to Rs. 7 lakh** from the current Rs. 5 lakh in the new tax regime. Thus, persons in the new tax regime, with income up to Rs. 7 lakh to not pay any tax.
- Tax structure in new personal income tax regime, introduced in 2020 with six income slabs, to change by reducing the **number of slabs to five** and **increasing the tax exemption limit to Rs. 3 lakh**. Change to provide major relief to all tax payers in the new regime.

Total Income (Rs)	Rate (per cent)
Up to 3,00,000	Nil
From 3,00,001 to 6,00,000	5
From 6,00,001 to 9,00,000	10
From 9,00,001 to 12,00,000	15
From 12,00,001 to 15,00,000	20
Above 15,00,000	30

- Proposal to **extend the benefit of standard deduction** of Rs. 50,000 to salaried individual, and deduction from family pension up to Rs. 15,000, in the new tax regime.
- **Highest surcharge rate to reduce** from 37 per cent to 25 per cent in the new tax regime. This to further result in reduction of the maximum personal income tax rate to 39 per cent.
- The limit for tax exemption on **leave encashment** on retirement of non-government salaried employees to increase **to Rs. 25 lakh**.
- The new income tax regime to be made the **default tax regime**. However, citizens will continue to have the option to avail the benefit of the old tax regime.
- **Enhanced limits for micro enterprises and certain professionals** for availing the benefit of presumptive taxation proposed. Increased limit to apply only in case the amount or aggregate of the amounts received during the year, in cash, does not exceed five per cent of the total gross receipts/turnover.
- Deduction for expenditure incurred on payments made to MSMEs to be allowed only when payment is actually made in order to support MSMEs in timely receipt of payments.
- **New co-operatives** that commence manufacturing activities till 31.3.2024 to get the **benefit of a lower tax rate** of 15 per cent, as presently available to new manufacturing companies.
- Opportunity provided to sugar co-operatives to claim payments made to sugarcane farmers for the period prior to assessment year 2016-17 as expenditure. This expected to provide them a relief of almost Rs. 10,000 crore.
- Provision of a **higher limit of Rs. 2 lakh per member** for cash deposits to and loans in cash by Primary Agricultural Co-operative Societies (PACS) and Primary Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (PCARDBs).
- A **higher limit of Rs. 3 crore for TDS** on cash withdrawal to be provided to co-operative societies.
- **Date of incorporation** for income tax benefits to start-ups to be **extended** from 31.03.23 to 31.3.24.
- Proposal to provide the benefit of carry forward of losses on change of shareholding of start-ups from seven years of incorporation to ten years.
- Deduction from capital gains on investment in residential house under sections 54 and 54F to be capped at Rs. 10 crore for better targeting of tax concessions and exemptions.
- Proposal to **limit income tax exemption** from proceeds of **insurance policies with very high value**. Where aggregate of premium for life insurance policies (other than ULIP) issued on or after 1st April, 2023 is above Rs. 5 lakh, income from only those policies with aggregate premium up to Rs. 5 lakh shall be exempt.

- Income of authorities, boards and commissions set up by statutes of the Union or State for the purpose of housing, development of cities, towns and villages, and regulating, or regulating and developing an activity or matter, proposed to be exempted from income tax.
- Minimum threshold** of Rs. 10,000/- for **TDS to be removed** and taxability relating to online gaming to be clarified. Proposal to provide for TDS and taxability on net winnings at the time of withdrawal or at the end of the financial year.
- Conversion of gold into electronic gold receipt and vice versa not to be treated as capital gain.
- TDS rate to be reduced from 30 per cent to 20 per cent on taxable portion of EPF withdrawal in non-PAN cases.
- Income from Market Linked Debentures to be taxed.
- Deployment of about 100 Joint Commissioners for disposal of small appeals in order to reduce the pendency of appeals at Commissioner level.
- Increased selectivity in taking up appeal cases for scrutiny of returns already received this year.
- Period of **tax benefits** to funds relocating to **IFSC, GIFT City** extended till 31.03.2025.
- Certain acts of omission of liquidators under section 276A of the Income Tax Act to be **decriminalized** with effect from 1st April, 2023.
- Carry forward of losses on strategic disinvestment including that of IDBI Bank to be allowed.
- Agniveer Fund** to be provided **EEE status**. The payment received from the Agniveer Corpus Fund by the Agniveers enrolled in Agnipath Scheme, 2022 proposed to be exempt from taxes. Deduction in the computation of total income is proposed to be allowed to the Agniveer on the contribution made by him or the Central Government to his Seva Nidhi account.
- Customs duty on **camera lens and its inputs/parts** for use in manufacture of camera module of cellular mobile phone **reduced to zero** and concessional duty on lithium-ion cells for batteries extended for another year.
- Basic customs duty reduced on **parts of open cells of TV panels** to 2.5 per cent.
- Basic customs duty on **electric kitchen chimney** increased to 15 per cent from 7.5 per cent.
- Basic customs duty on **heat coil for manufacture of electric kitchen chimneys** reduced to 15 per cent from 20 per cent.
- Denatured ethyl alcohol** used in chemical industry exempted from basic customs duty.
- Basic customs duty reduced on **acid grade fluorspar** (containing by weight more than 97 per cent of calcium fluoride) to 2.5 per cent from 5 per cent.
- Basic customs duty on **crude glycerin** for use in manufacture of epichlorhydrin reduced to 2.5 per cent from 7.5 per cent.
- Duty reduced on key inputs for domestic manufacture of **shrimp feed**.
- Basic customs duty reduced on seeds used in the manufacture of **lab grown diamonds**.
- Duties on articles made from **dore and bars of gold and platinum** increased.
- Import duty on **silver dore, bars and articles** increased.
- Basic Customs Duty exemption on raw materials for manufacture of CRGO Steel, ferrous scrap and nickel cathode continued.
- Concessional BCD of 2.5 per cent on copper scrap is continued.
- Basic customs duty rate on **compounded rubber** increased to 25 per cent from 10 per cent or 30 per kg whichever is lower.
- National Calamity Contingent Duty (NCCD) on **specified cigarettes** revised upwards by about 16 per cent.

#### INDIRECT TAXES

- Number of basic customs duty rates on goods, other than textiles and agriculture, reduced to 13 from 21.
- Minor changes in the basic custom duties, cesses and surcharges** on some items including toys, bicycles, automobiles and naphtha.
- Excise duty exempted on **GST-paid compressed bio gas** contained in blended compressed natural gas.
- Customs Duty on specified capital goods/machinery for manufacture of **lithium-ion cell for use in battery of electrically operated vehicle (EVs)** extended to 31.03.2024
- Customs duty exempted on vehicles, specified automobile parts/components, sub-systems and tyres when imported by notified testing agencies, for the purpose of testing and/ or certification, subject to conditions.

#### Legislative Changes in Customs Laws

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- Customs Act, 1962 to be amended to specify a time limit of nine months from date of filing application for passing final order by Settlement Commission.
- Customs Tariff Act to be amended to clarify the intent and scope of provisions relating to Anti-Dumping Duty (ADD), Countervailing Duty (CVD), and Safeguard Measures.

**CGST Act to be amended**

- to raise the **minimum threshold of tax amount** for launching prosecution under GST from one crore to two crore;
- to reduce the **compounding amount** from the present range of 50 to 150 per cent of tax amount to the range of 25 to 100 per cent;
- **decriminalise certain offences;**
- to **restrict filing of returns/statements** to a maximum period of three years from the due date of filing of the relevant return/statement; and
- to enable unregistered suppliers and composition taxpayers to make intra-state supply of goods through E-Commerce Operators (ECOs).

**Fund Allocation for Ministry**

- Ministry of Defence-594 lacs Cr.
- Ministry of Road Transport and Highways-2.70lacs Cr.
- Ministry of Railways-2.41 lacs cr.
- Ministry of Consumer affairs, Food and Public Distribution-2.06 lacs cr.
- Ministry of Home Affairs- 1.96lacs Cr.
- Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers- 1.78 Lacs Cr.
- Ministry of Rural Development- 1.60 lacs Cr.
- Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare-1.25 lacs Cr.
- Ministry of Communications-1.23 lacs Cr.

**National Affairs**

- **The Mughal Garden of Rashtrapati Bhavan** has been called **Amrit Udyan**. As President Droupadi Murmu on Sunday inaugurated Udyan Utsav-2023, the opening of the Rashtrapati Bhavan grounds, the renowned park is expected to open to the public on January 31. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR)** organized an exhibition on **Medieval Indian Dynasties** by a division of the Union Ministry of Education and featured 50 different dynasties in the exhibitions. In the exhibition of the Indian Council of Historical Research no Muslim dynasty was displayed. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal** inaugurated the **National Logistics Portal (marine)** in New Delhi. It is a one-stop platform aimed at connecting all the stakeholders of the logistics community using IT. The **National Logistic Portal (marine) (NLP)** is a **project of national importance**. This will improve efficiency and transparency by reducing costs and promote the growth of the logistics sector. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Azad Engineering Private Limited**, a Hyderabad-based market leader in engineering, has been approved as the first Indian company to supply critical rotating parts for **nuclear turbines**. The company has delivered its first set of critical parts. These will be assembled on nuclear turbines manufactured in Belfort, France. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The President of India **Droupadi Murmu** addressed the 31st Foundation Day of the **National Commission for Women** in Delhi on January 31st, 2023. The theme of the program was 'Sashakt Nari Sashakt Bharat' which aimed at acknowledging and celebrating the stories of women who have excelled and paved their journey to leave a mark. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Going greener and more sustainable towards the environment, **the Indian Railways** is introducing a green revolution and will be introducing **hydrogen and electric trains** to the **eight heritage routes** in the country by **December 2023**. The **Union Minister for Railways Ashwini Vaishnaw** confirmed this recently. These **hydrogen trains** will include the modified version of steam engines, that will be back on tracks, equipped with vintage sirens and green steam vapours. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **India** will be invited as the focal country at **the Madrid International Book Fair** in 2025, the **Ambassador of Spain** to India, **Jose Maria Ridaio** said. Spain is the theme country at the 46th International Kolkata Book Fair. The Madrid International Book Fair is an annual event held in the Buen Retiro Park in Madrid. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Minority Affairs Minister Smriti Irani** has informed that the **Government**, under the Annual Bilateral Agreement with **Saudi Arabia** for **Haj pilgrimage** this year, has restored the original **Haj quota** which stands at **1,75,025**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Minister of Tourism G. Kishan Reddy** launched the Visit India Year - 2023 initiative and unveiled the logo in New Delhi. Minister of Tourism G. Kishan Reddy kicked off the year of grand plans and activities for promoting tourism in the country. ([Click here to read the article](#))

**States in the News**

- **Luminous Power Technologies** revealed that it has planned to build India's first green energy-based solar panel manufacturing plant in Uttarakhand which will be operational by the end of this year. The location of the new **India's first green energy-based solar panel** is Rudrapur which will be equipped with the latest technology to design and produce high-quality solar panels that will be used for both residential and commercial applications. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Woxsen University** has launched **Project Aspirations** with its firm belief in developing its ecosystem and empowering the community around the campus. Woxsen University has conceptualized the project for the ambitious girls of Classes IX-XII, Telangana Model School & Junior College. Under Project Aspiration, students are selected by the school principal to take part in the "**Train the Trainer**" workshop which commenced in December 2022. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Shivraj Singh Chouhan**, the chief minister of Madhya Pradesh, has made a significant statement for the women to launch the "**Ladli Bahna Yojana**" in the state following the success of the Ladli Laxmi Yojana for the girls. No matter their caste or status, underprivileged women would receive Rs 1,000 each month under this Yojna in order to gain financial independence. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Visakhapatnam**, a port and industrial city brimming with cosmopolitan culture has been in the news ever since **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's** government announced that it would be the new capital of the state, indicating plans to develop **Amaravati** - on the banks of the **Krishna river** - as the capital city have been scrapped. The announcement of **Visakhapatnam**, a **new capital for Andhra** comes nine years after the state of Telangana was carved out of its territory and given Hyderabad as its capital. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Uttar Pradesh government** has launched a campaign to empower girls from the underprivileged class. The **Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan** will work under the Aarohini Initiative Training Programme for the safety and security of girls in 746 Kasturba Gandhi Residential Girls Schools in Uttar Pradesh. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Government of Goa** has launched the **Vision for All School Eye Health program** in partnership with OneSight EssilorLuxottica Foundation and Prasad Netralaya. The program is an extension of the current Vision for All Goa eye health program. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Maharashtra government** announced the **Jai Jai Maharashtra Majha** as the **state song**, which is usually performed at school cultural events on May 1, second only to the national anthem. The song will now be played on official occasions. The national anthem will always take precedence, and the state song will play at all **government-organised events**, according to rules established by the state cabinet. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Madhya Pradesh government** announced that **Islam Nagar village**, situated in the **Bhopal district**, has been renamed as **Jagdishpur**. The MP administration, in an official release, declared the changes and mentioned the change in the name **with immediate effect**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Nagaland** government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Patanjali Foods Limited** for development and area expansion under palm oil cultivation and processing for Zone-II (Mokokchung, Longleng, and Mon districts) of Nagaland under the **National Mission on Edible Oils-Oil Palm** (NMEO-OP). ([Click here to read the article](#))

### International Affairs

- **Petr Pavel**, a former chairman of the **North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)** military committee, has become the new president of the **Czech Republic**. Pavel, 61, defeated billionaire **Andrej Babis** in a run-off vote to replace controversial **President Milos Zeman** as he emerged as the new Czech President. A former military general, Pavel got more than 58 per cent of the vote, according to the **Czech Statistics Office**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **India and the United States** launched a programme to enhance their strategic partnership with delegations led by the **National Security Advisor (NSA) Ajit Doval** and his American counterpart, **Jake Sullivan** at their meeting in Washington for the inaugural dialogue of the **Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET)**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Inflation** has risen to a **48-year high** in **crisis-hit Pakistan**, where the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** is visiting for urgent talks, according to data released on February 1 by the country's statistics bureau. Year-on-year inflation in January 2023 was recorded at **27.55 percent**, the **highest since May 1975**, with thousands of containers of imports held up at Karachi port. Pakistan's economy is in dire straits, stricken by a **balance-of-payments crisis** while it attempts to service **high amounts of external debt**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The United Nations cultural organization, UNESCO, designated the historic center of Odesa as a World Heritage Site and categorized it as being "in danger" during a committee meeting in Paris. It is in recognition of the historical significance of a Black Sea port that Russia has pounded with missiles as it seeks to retake Ukraine. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Equatorial Guinea** has appointed **Manuela Roka Botey** as prime minister. She became the first woman in the country to hold the position. President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, who has ruled the country since 1979, made the announcement in a decree read on state television. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Australia** announced it will erase the British monarch from its banknotes, replacing the late **Queen Elizabeth II's** image on its \$5 note with a design honoring Indigenous culture. The central bank's decision to leave her successor Charles III off the \$5 note means no Britain-based monarch will remain on Australia's paper currency. ([Click here to read the article](#))



**Agreements/MoUs Signed**

- **NMDC** has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with World Boxing Champion and gold medal winner of Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, **Nikhat Zareen** to represent NMDC as its brand ambassador. NMDC is a National miner and India's largest producer of iron ore. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Defence PSU** Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (**GRSE**) Ltd has signed a **memorandum of understanding (MoU)** with **Rolls Royce** Solutions of Germany for manufacture of high-quality marine diesel engines at the former's **plant in Ranchi**, an official said. "The MoU deals with transfer of technology related to engine assembly, painting, parts sourcing and after-sales service for these engines that are to be assembled at **GRSE's Diesel Engine Plant in Ranchi**," the company official said in a statement. The Indian Navy's Chief of Material **Vice Admiral Sandeep Naithani** was present at the signing of the MoU. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Reliance Consumer Products** Limited, the FMCG firm and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Retail Ventures Limited announced a strategic partnership with Sri Lanka-headquartered **Maliban** Biscuit Manufactories Limited. Maliban, a biscuit manufacturer, has been well-known for the last **70 years** for its range of quality products including biscuits, crackers, cookies, and wafers. According to the partnership, the company has expanded its product's reach to **global markets and exports** to over 35 countries across five continents. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **India** has welcomed **Congo** to **International Solar Alliance**. The External Affairs Ministry said Ambassador of **Republic of Congo, Raymond Serge Bale** signed the International Solar Alliance Framework Agreement in the presence of Joint Secretary (Economic Diplomacy). ([Click here to read the article](#))

**Banking/Economy/Business News**

- **Coal India Ltd (CIL)** has envisaged processing the overburdened rocks for sand production in mines where fragmented rock or **Overburden (OB)** material contains about 60 percent sandstone by volume which is harnessed through crushing and processing of Overburden. During Opencast mining, the overlying soil and rocks are removed as waste to extract coal and OB is heaped in dumps. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the economy survey to Parliament. According to the economic survey, India's economy will expand by 6.5 percent in 2023-2024 as opposed to 7 percent in the current fiscal year and 8.7 percent in 2021-2022. The Economic Survey 2022-23 is primarily the government's assessment of the economy's performance over the previous year. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has informed it is expecting some setbacks in the **Indian economy** next fiscal year and projected the growth to 6.1 percent from 6.8 percent during the current fiscal ending March 31. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- According to finance ministry Nirmala Sitharaman, the **Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection in January 2023** saw a significant increase, reaching over **Rs 1.55 lakh crore**. This marks the second highest-ever mop-up for the GST collection and demonstrates a growth in the country's economy. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Genus Power** Infrastructures Ltd. and its 100 percent subsidiary company Hi-Print Metering Solutions Private Limited have received the letter of award (LOA) of Rs 2,855.96 crore for the appointment of **Advanced Metering Infrastructure Service Provider (AMISP)**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Digital payments** across the country registered a **growth of 24.13 per cent** in a year through September 2022, as per the **RBI's Digital Payments Index** which measures the adoption of online transactions. The newly-constituted **RBI's Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI)** stood at **377.46 in September 2022** against 349.30 in March 2022 and 304.06 in September 2021. The index is published on a **semi-annual basis(i.e. twice a year)** from March 2021 onwards with a lag of four months. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **The Adani Group** acquired the strategic **Israeli port of Haifa** for **USD 1.2 billion** and vowed to transform the skyline of this **Mediterranean city** as part of its decision to invest more in the Jewish nation, including opening an **artificial intelligence lab in Tel Aviv**. Adani Group chairman **Gautam Adani**, whose business empire was rocked by allegations of fraud by US short seller Hindenburg Research, appeared alongside **Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu** for signing of the deal to takeover **Haifa Port**, and spoke of investment opportunities. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- V Ramachandra, a former chief general officer of Canara Bank, was appointed by the Reserve Bank on Tuesday to the advisory committees of Srei Infrastructure Finance Limited (SIFL) and Srei Equipment Finance Limited (SEFL). ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Under fire following allegations of fraud and stock manipulation, **the Adani group** has received another jolt from the **US markets**. The group's flagship company **Adani Enterprises** has been removed from the **Dow Jones Sustainability Indices** effective February 7. According to a note issued by **S&P Dow Jones Indices**, home to iconic financial market indicators, the decision to remove Adani Enterprises was taken "following a media & stakeholder analysis". ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Foxconn and Vedanta** are close to inducting **European chipmaker STMicroelectronics** as the technology partner in their proposed **semiconductor chip manufacturing** unit in **India**. Foxconn will be the lead partner in the joint venture (JV) that was announced last February. The **Vedanta-Foxconn consortium** is one of the five applicants seeking government incentives under a **\$10-billion package** announced in December 2021 to promote **domestic semiconductor manufacturing**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Google** has invested around **\$300 million** in **Anthropic**, an **artificial intelligence startup** whose technology is said to rival **OpenAI**, the company behind **ChatGPT**. According to the deal, Anthropic has agreed to purchase some of Google's services to support its technology. The terms of the deal, through which Google will take a stake of about 10 per cent, requires Anthropic to use the money to buy computing resources from the search company's **cloud computing division**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In Mumbai, an industry first for banks and NBFCs, **Mobicule**, a specialist in debt collection, has announced the release of its **mCollect Repossession** module. As a component of its debt collection and recovery product, the ground-breaking **Asset Repossession Solution** is a comprehension solution that maps all the intricate steps involved in the repossession of an asset. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Appointments/Resignations

- Unilever has announced the appointment of **Hein Schumacher** as its new **Chief Executive Officer**. Hein will replace **Alan Jope**, who announced in September 2022 his intention to retire from Unilever. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has recommended the name of **Dr Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi** as the new **Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI)**. The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) conducted interviews for the appointment of the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI). The UPSC conducted interviews for the appointment of the DCGI, with the top contenders being Dr. VG Somani, Dr Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi, and Dr Jai Prakash. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Sports brand **Puma India** announced roping in women's cricket team captain **Harmanpreet Kaur** as its latest brand ambassador. As part of the partnership terms, Harmanpreet will endorse the brand's footwear, apparel and accessories throughout the year. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- Morgan Stanley named **Arun Kohli** as the new India head to replace **Sanjay Shah**, a veteran of 26 years at the firm, who is retiring. Kohli, currently the chief operating officer for EMEA, will head the US bank's business in the country, according to a memo seen by Bloomberg News. With the bank since 2007, Kohli will relocate to Mumbai from London where he headed the firm's post-Brexit strategy and implemented growth strategies across markets in the region. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Madhvendra Singh** appointed as the first **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of Gujarat Ports Infrastructure Company Limited of the Gujarat Maritime Cluster. The Gujarat Maritime Cluster (GMC) is the first of its kind Commercial Maritime Cluster in the country aimed at creating a hub for maritime services of international standards. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Defence News

- PM Modi released **special ₹ 75 Coins on the Occasion of completion of 75 years of National Cadet Corps (NCC)** at the Delhi NCC Event. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) of India Lt. Gen Anil Chauhan were also present at the Delhi NCC event. The Yuva Shakti of India is what is propelling the nation's progress, according to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who made the statement at the NCC rally. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Air Marshal A P Singh** has been appointed as the new Vice Chief of the **Indian Air Force**. He will succeed **Air Marshal Sandeep Singh**, who will retire from service. Air Marshal A P Singh is currently serving as the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Central Air Command. He will take charge as the Vice Chief on 01st Feb 2023. He was commissioned into the fighter stream of the IAF on December 21, 1984. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) is celebrating its **47th Raising Day on 1st February 2023**. From a modest beginning with just seven surface platforms in 1978, the ICG today has 158 ships and 78 aircraft and is likely to achieve the targeted force levels of 200 surface platforms and 80 aircraft by 2025. ([Click here to read the article](#))



- A joint training exercise “**Exercise Trishakri Prahar**” was conducted in North Bengal from **21 January to 31 January 2023**. The aim of the exercise was to practice battle preparedness of the Security Forces using the latest weapons and equipment in a networked, integrated environment, involving all arms and services of the Army, the Indian Air Force and CAPFs. Exercise culminated on 31 January 2023 with an Integrated Fire Power Exercise in Teesta Field Firing Ranges. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Awards and Recognitions

- **New Zealand Cricket (NZC)** has announced that outstanding women's cricketer will be honoured with the inaugural **Debbie Hockley Medal** at this year's annual cricket awards ceremony. Debbie, regarded as one of the world's best batters during her playing days and one of the finest to have played the game, played 118 ODIs and 19 Tests for New Zealand from 1979 to 2000. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **President of India** Droupadi Murmu has awarded the RPF/RPSF personnel with Jeevan Raksha Padak awards to Jaipal Singh, Head Constable/ Northern Railway, Surendra Kumar, Constable/Northern Railway, and Bhuda Ram Saini, Constable/7th BN/RPSF. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Former prime minister **Dr Manmohan Singh** was recently conferred a **Lifetime Achievement Honour by the India-UK Achievers** Honours in London for his contribution to economic and political life. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In the Finals of **FIH Odisha Hockey Men's World Cup 2023** Bhubaneswar-Rourkela, FIH President Tayyab Ikram presented the FIH President's Award to VK Pandian, Secretary to the **Chief Minister of Odisha**, for his commendable contribution to hockey. The FIH President highlighted the crucial role played by CM Naveen Patnaik along with **VK Pandian** in hosting a glorious Hockey World Cup. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Summit and Conference

- India's G-20 Sherpa **Amitabh Kant** inaugurated India's first Model **G-20 Summit** organized by Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini's **Indian Institute of Democratic Leadership**. The two-day Model G-20 Summit has been organized at the Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini's Uttan campus in Mumbai to celebrate India's presidency and take the idea of G-20 to the youth. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **30th National Child Science Congress** was inaugurated on 27th January 2023 at Ahmedabad, Gujarat. The National Child Science Congress is a **five-day event** that was held at Science City. The event was concluded on 31st January 2023. The National Child Science Congress was organized by the **Gujarat Council on Science and Technology (GUJCOST)**, the Gujarat Council of Science City, and SAL Education. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The Secretary of the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)**, Alkesh Kumar Sharma inaugurated the G20 Cyber Security Exercise and Drill for more than 400 domestic and international participants under India's G20 presidency. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Ranks and Reports

- **Gautam Adani** has fallen out of the exclusive group of the top 10 wealthiest billionaires in the world after losing \$36 billion of his wealth so far in January as a result of a collapse in firm share prices in the wake of the **Hindenburg report**. According to Bloomberg Billionaires Index, the Indian tycoon, 60, who has his headquarters in Ahmedabad, is currently ranked 11th in terms of wealth with \$84.4 billion in assets. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- According to the latest **Indian Institutional Ranking Framework (IIRF) ranking (2023)**, the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad (Gujarat), is the top government college in India for pursuing the Master of Business Administration (MBA) course. IIM Bengaluru (Karnataka) and IIM Kolkata (West Bengal) are ranked second and third, respectively, after IIM Ahmedabad. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Sports News

- **Germany beat Belgium 5-4** in the penalty shootout to win the **FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2023** at the **Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, India**. The scores were level at the end of regulation time at 3-3. This is Germany's third Hockey World Cup title after they won it in 2002 and 2006. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **India beat England** in the first-ever **ICC U-19 Women's T20 World Cup final** in **Potchefstroom, South Africa**. India bowled out England for a paltry 68 and won by 7 wkts. This is the first ICC trophy India has won in women's cricket. The Indian women's cricket team has never won a World Cup at any level. England captain and stellar all-rounder Grace Scrivens has been named Player of the Tournament after a run of outstanding performances with bat and ball. Titas Sadhu of India poses after being named Player of the Match following the ICC Women's U19 T20 World Cup 2023 Final match. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Veteran Indian opener **Murali Vijay** has announced his retirement from all forms of international cricket. He last played for India in December 2018 during the **Border-Gavaskar Test series against Australia**. Murali appeared in 61 Tests, 17 ODIs and nine T20Is for India during his international career that began back in 2008 when he came in for Gautam Gambhir in the playing XI of the final Test match of Border-Gavaskar Test series against Australia in Nagpur. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- Dutch player **Anish Giri**, five times the runner-up in **Wijk aan Zee**, has won the **85th edition of Tata Steel Chess** after pouncing on a blunder by Richard Rapport while Jorden van Foreest took down long-term leader Nodirbek Abdusattorov. Magnus Carlsen beat Arjun Erigaisi on demand to catch Nodirbek in a tie for 2nd place, while Wesley So finished 4th. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Madhya Pradesh** Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated the fifth edition of the Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) at a mega function to kick start the **Khelo India Youth Games** that will see participation from nearly 6,000 athletes from across the country in 27 disciplines. The Chief Minister declared the Games open at the Tatya Tope stadium in the state capital Bhopal. The Khelo India Youth Games will be historic in Madhya Pradesh. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Asian Football Confederation (AFC)** announced that the **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)** won the hosting of the **2027 Asian Nations Cup**, for the **first time in its history**, since its inception in 1956. This came during the work of the **33rd Congress of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC)**, February 1, in the **Bahraini capital, Manama**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Schemes and Committess News

- The Secretary of the **Ministry of Culture** Govind Mohan announced that the government is to hand over around 1,000 monuments under the control of the **Archaeological Survey of India** to the private sector for their upkeep under the Monument Mitra Scheme. Corporate entities will take over the monuments as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility. Under the scheme, monument amenities will be revamped by the private sector. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Babita Phogat**, a former wrestler, joined the oversight committee established to look into the claims made against the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI). The Oversight Committee is also looking into claims of sexual misbehaviour, harassment, and/or intimidation, as well as financial and organisational irregularities made by well-known athletes. ([Click here to read the article](#))



### Science and Technology News

- **Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA)** handed over to **ISRO**, the **Visible Line Emission Coronagraph (VELC)**, the primary payload on board **Aditya-L1**, which is India's first dedicated scientific mission to **study the Sun**, to be launched by June or July. The handing over ceremony was held in the presence of the **ISRO Chairman S Somanath** at the **Centre for Research and Education in Science and Technology (CREST)** campus of IIA. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Space Exploration Technologies Corp.** is part of a payload contract **NASA** has awarded for as much as **\$100 million** over a decade. **Elon Musk's** rocket launch and satellite operator will share the contract for unspecified **"commercial payload processing services"** with **Astrotech Space Operations LLC**, a unit of **Lockheed Martin Corp.**, the government's space agency announced in a statement. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **IBM** has partnered with **NASA** to gain new findings on Earth's climate through the power of **AI technology**. The two organizations will use AI tech developed by IBM together with the large amounts of Earth observation and geospatial data that NASA has available to share. **Earth observation** is the gathering of information about Earth's physical, chemical, and biological systems, usually through the use of satellite imaging. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Important Days News

- On January 30, 2023, India observed **Martyrs' Day or Shaheed Diwas** to pay tribute to all the freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for the country. The day is also marked as the death anniversary of the nation's '**Bapu**', **Mahatma Gandhi**. On this day in 1948, Gandhi was assassinated by **Nathuram Godse** in the compound of Birla House after one of his routine multi-faith prayer meetings. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **World Leprosy Day (WLD)** is celebrated on the **last Sunday of January**. In 2023, World Leprosy Day is observed on **29 January**. This international day is an opportunity to celebrate people who have experienced leprosy, raise awareness of the disease, and call for an end to leprosy-related stigma and discrimination. This date was chosen by French humanitarian, **Raoul Follereau** as a tribute to the life of **Mahatma Gandhi**, who did much work with persons affected by leprosy and died at the end of January in 1948. The theme of World Leprosy Day 2023 is **"Act Now. End Leprosy."** ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **World Neglected Tropical Diseases Day (World NTD Day)** is observed on **January 30** every year to raise awareness about neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) as a critical public health challenge so that we can progress towards their elimination. 2023 theme is "**Act Now. Act Together. Invest in Neglected Tropical Diseases**". The proposal to recognise the day was **floated by the United Arab Emirates**. It was adopted unanimously by the delegates. The **first World NTD Day** was celebrated **informally in 2020**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **World Interfaith Harmony Week** is an annual event observed during the first week of February(1-7), after General Assembly designation in 2010. These celebrations focus on creating mutual understanding and interreligious dialogue to promote harmony between people regardless of their faith. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **World Wetlands Day** is celebrated annually on **2nd February**. The day is observed to create awareness among people about the importance of wetlands and different ways to restore their rapid loss and degradation. The day is aimed at highlighting the vital role wetlands play in maintaining biodiversity and supporting human well-being. The theme for this year's World Wetlands Day is '**It's Time for Wetlands Restoration**'. The theme highlights the urgency to prioritize wetland restoration. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The International Day of Human Fraternity was established by the **United Nations General Assembly** on **December 21, 2020**. The **International Day of Human Fraternity** has been observed every year on **February 4**. This day, which falls in the middle of the **International Interfaith Harmony Week** is recognised by one of the world's leading transnational organisations- **the United Nations**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Each year on February 4, World Cancer Day is celebrated worldwide. It is believed to have brought everyone together in the fight against cancer. World Cancer Day seeks to save millions of lives by educating the public, promoting awareness, and pressuring individuals and governments around the world to take action every year. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Obituaries

- Former Union law minister and eminent jurist **Shanti Bhushan**, passed away at the age of 97. He served as the law minister in the Morarji Desai-led Janata Party government from 1977 to 1979, which came to power after Emergency. Bhushan was among the founding members of the Aam Aadmi Party which was formed in 2012. He had also actively participated in the agitation led by social activist Anna Hazare. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- Noted Kannada writer **K.V. Tirumalesh**, 82, passed away in Hyderabad. K.V. Tirumalesh was suffering from age-related illnesses. He was regarded as one of the most versatile writers across genres and a man with eclectic interests. He is primarily recognized as a poet and honored with the **Sahitya Akademi** award for his innovative work Akshaya Kavya — "a long narrative sans story or aim" as he described it — he wrote extensively across genres, including plays, short stories, novels, translations, and criticism. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Legendary film director **K. Vishwanath** passed away in **Hyderabad** on February 2, at the age of 92 while undergoing treatment for age-related illnesses at a hospital. In a career spanning seven decades, Vishwanath wrote, directed and acted in several movies. Though his work was primarily in **Telugu cinema**, he also directed several Hindi remakes. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Pakistan's former **president Pervez Musharraf** passed away in **Dubai** at the age of 79 due to a prolonged illness. **Musharraf**, who was admitted to a hospital in Dubai, was shifted to the **Armed Forces Institute of Cardiology (AFIC)** in Rawalpindi earlier. ([Click here to read the article](#))

### Miscellaneous News

- The nation observes the **158th birth anniversary** of the freedom fighter **Lala Lajpat Rai**, popularly known as Punjab Kesari. Lala Lajpat Rai was born on 28th January 1865 to his maternal grandparents in Dhudike. On the occasion of the 158th birth anniversary of the freedom fighter Lala Lajpat Rai, the cabinet minister announced a grant of Rs 12 lakh on the demand of the villagers. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The month-long **Khadi Fest- 23** was inaugurated by the Chairman of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission(KVIC) **Mr. Manoj Kumar** in Mumbai. In his inaugural address, Mr. Kumar said, events and exhibitions like **Khadi Fest** provide a platform to the **Khadi Institutions**, Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme - **PMEGP** and Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries - **SFURTI units** to market the products of thousands of artisans directly to customers. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Delhi State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT)** has organized a 5-day 'Jeevan Vidya Shivir' for the teachers of Delhi government schools at Thyagaraja stadium. About 4,000 teachers from **Delhi government** schools are expected to participate in this workshop between 28th January 2023 to 1st February 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The first **G20 International Financial Architecture Working Group** Meeting where participants will discuss ways to enhance stability and cohesion of the global financial architecture and how to make it fit to address the **global financial architecture** and how to make it fit to address the global challenges of the 21st century. The meeting will also focus on exploring ways to provide **maximum support** to poor and vulnerable countries. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **New India Assurance** (NIA) has launched a 'Pay as You Drive' (PAYD) policy, which offers a comprehensive motor insurance policy that charges a premium based on the usage of the vehicle. The policy has two components- Third Party cover and own-damage cover. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Indian Coast Guard Director-General: Virender Singh Pathania;
- Indian Coast Guard Founded: 1 February 1977;
- Indian Coast Guard Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Equatorial Guinea Capital: Malabo;
- Equatorial Guinea Currency: Central African CFA franc.
- Morgan Stanley CEO: James P. Gorman (1 Jan 2010-);
- Morgan Stanley Founded: 5 September 1935;
- Morgan Stanley Headquarters: New York, United States.

### Static Takeaways

- Indian Air Force Headquarters: New Delhi;
- Indian Air Force Founded: 8 October 1932, India;
- Indian Air Force Air chief Marshall: Vivek Ram Chaudhari.
- Unilever Headquarters: London, United Kingdom;
- Unilever established: 2 September 1929.

