

Weekly One Liners 27th March to 02nd of April 2023

WPL 2023 Final: Mumbai Indians defeated Delhi Capitals by seven wickets

WPL 2023 Final

In the **Women's Premier League (WPL) 2023 final**, held at the **Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai**, the Mumbai Indians won against the **Delhi Capitals** by seven wickets. The Delhi Capitals chose to bat first after winning the toss, and set a target of 132 runs. In response, the Mumbai Indians achieved the target by scoring 134/3 in 19.3 overs. Nat Sciver-Brunt played exceptionally well and remained unbeaten after scoring 60 runs off 55 balls, while the team's captain Harmanpreet Kaur contributed 37 runs off 39 balls. The Harmanpreet Kaur-led side scripted history by becoming the winners of the 2023 edition of the tournament.

WPL 2023 Final: Brief Score

- Delhi Capitals: 131 for 9 in 20 overs (Meg Lanning 35; Hayley Matthews 3/5, Issy Wong 3/42).
- Mumbai Indians: 134 for 3 in 19.3 overs (Nat Sciver-Brunt 60 not out, Harmanpreet kaur 37; Radha Yadav 1/24).

WPL 2023 Final: Orange Cap

After an outstanding performance throughout the tournament, **Meg Lanning** was crowned the winner of the **WPL 2023 Orange Cap**. The captain of the Delhi Capitals was the top scorer for her team in the final, contributing 35 runs in the first innings. Throughout the season, Lanning scored a total of 345 runs and finished with an impressive average of 49.29 and a strike rate of 139.11 in nine matches.

WPL 2023 Final: Purple Cap

Hayley Matthews, who plays for Mumbai Indians, was awarded the **Purple Cap** for her excellent performance in the WPL 2023 final. Matthews, who is an all-rounder from the Caribbean, triggered the collapse of the Delhi Capitals by taking three wickets for just five runs in her four overs. With this performance, her total wicket tally in the tournament reached 16, which led her to clinch the Purple Cap.



WPL 2023: Full list of award winners

Awards	Player/Team	Cash Prize/Awards
WPL 2023 Orange Cap winner (Most Runs):	Meg Lanning, Delhi Capitals	Rs 5 Lakh
WPL 2023 Purple Cap winner (Most Wickets)	Hayley Matthews, Mumbai Indians	Rs 5 Lakh
Most Valuable Player	Hayley Matthews, Mumbai Indians	Rs 5 Lakh
Best Catch of the Season:	Harmanpreet Kaur, Mumbai Indians	Rs 5 Lakh
FairPlay Award:	Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals (Shared).	Trophy
Emerging Player of the Season:	Yastika Bhatia, Mumbai Indians	Rs 5 Lakh
Power Striker of the Tournament:	Sophie Devine, Royal Challengers Bangalore	Rs 5 Lakh
Player of the Match in Final	Natalie Sciver, Mumbai Indians	Rs 5 Lakh

2023 IBA Women's World Boxing Championships: Check the list of Winners

IBA Women's World Boxing Championship 2023

India emerged as a dominant force at the 13th edition of the **IBA Women's World Boxing Championship 2023, held in New Delhi**. The event concluded with four Indian female boxers securing gold medals in different weight categories. Saweety Boora, Nitu Ghanghas, Nikhat Zareen, and Lovlina Borgohain were the top performers in their respective categories, contributing to India's historic success in the competition. This was the second time India achieved such a remarkable feat, the first being in the 2006 event. The 13th edition of the Women's World Boxing Championship 2023 was organised by the International Boxing Association (IBA) and took place from **March 15 to March 26, 2023**.

2023 IBA Women's World Boxing Championships: Check the list of Winners

Weight Class	Athlete Name	Country	Medal
Welterweight	Yang Liu	China	Gold
Flyweight	Wu Yu	China	Gold
Middleweight	Lovlina Borgohain (75 kg)	India	Gold
Bantamweight	Huang Hsiao-wen	Chinese Taipei	Gold
Minimumweight	Nitu Ghanghas (48 kg)	India	Gold
Light flyweight	Nikhat Zareen (50 kg)	India	Gold
Light welterweight	Yang Chengyu	China	Gold
Light	Anastasiia	Russia	Gold

Weight Class	Athlete Name	Country	Medal
middleweight	Demurchian		
Featherweight	Irma Testa	Italy	Gold
Light heavyweight	Saweety Boora (81 kg)	India	Gold
Heavyweight	Khadija Mardi	Morocco	Gold
Lightweight	Beatriz Ferreira	Brazil	Gold

National Affairs

- Prime Minister Modi has recently launched an app called "**Call Before You Dig**" to prevent uncoordinated digging that can cause damage to underground utility assets, such as **optical fibre cables**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** inaugurated the **Vedic Heritage portal** in New Delhi. The primary aim of the portal is to communicate the messages enshrined in the **Vedas** and make it more accessible to the common people. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Whitefield (Kadugodi) to Krishnarajapura **Metro Line** was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who expressed his happiness in a tweet. He mentioned that this new metro line will enhance the '**Ease of Living**' for the people of **Bengaluru**, by improving transportation and connectivity in the region. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- According to **Nitin Gadkari**, India's Union Road Transport and Highways Minister, the country's **highways infrastructure** will be at par with that of the United States by 2024. He revealed that the government is working on this goal in a time-bound 'mission mode,' which includes the development of green expressways and rail over bridges. These initiatives are aimed at ensuring that India's highway infrastructure matches the standards of the US by the specified timeline. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri **Amit Shah** unveiled the statues of **Lord Basaveshwara ji and Nadaprabhu Kempegowda ji** at the State Assembly premises in Bengaluru, Karnataka. Lord Basaveshwara and Nadaprabhu Kempegowda are two prominent historical figures from Karnataka, a state in southern India. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- India's first quantum computing-based telecom network link has been made operational between **Sanchar Bhawan** and National Informatics Centre office in **New Delhi**. Telecom Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** announced prize money of **Rs 10 lakh** for ethical hackers who can break the encryption of the system and also launched a hackathon challenge for anyone who can break the system developed by **C-DoT**, with a reward of Rs 10 lakh per break. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- During the International **Zero Waste Day 2023** in New Delhi, **Sh. Hardeep S. Puri**, The Hon'ble Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, announced that **1000** cities are targeted to achieve a **3-Star Garbage Free** rating by October 2024. The GFC-Star rating protocol, launched in January 2018 to promote a competitive and mission-driven approach among **ULBs**, has seen a significant increase in certification since its inception. ([Click here to read the article](#))

States in the News

- A team of scientists from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has discovered a new species of **Moray Eel fish** from the **Cuddalore coast in Tamil Nadu**. The new species has been named "**Gymnothorax Tamilnaduensis**" after Tamil Nadu and has been given the common name of "**Tamil Nadu brown moray eel**". ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **World Bank** has given the nod to provide a loan of **\$108 million (about ₹ 889 crores)** to assist **Assam** in its efforts to improve its disaster preparedness and enhance **flood forecasting**. The multilateral bank has stated that around six million individuals will benefit from this project, which is part of a larger investment program worth \$500 million for the state. The main aim of the **Assam Integrated River Basin Management Project** is to build eco-friendly infrastructure in the **Beki and Buridehing river** basins to lessen the impact of floods and river erosion on the state, ultimately safeguarding around one lakh individuals. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **World Bank** has granted a loan of **USD 363 million** to the state of **Karnataka** in India, which will help to provide clean drinking water to **two million** rural households. The initiative aims to establish **piped water connections** in households throughout the state, including the construction of a drinking water distribution network and the installation of **water meters**. The project is set to benefit around **10 million people** across all **31 districts** in the state. The loan is part of the **Karnataka Sustainable Rural Water Supply Program**, which seeks to introduce policies and initiatives that will improve the operational efficiency of rural water supply services. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In March 2023, the railway network in the state of **Haryana** in India was **completely electrified** by Indian Railways, making it the first state in the country to achieve **100% electrification** of its **railway network**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The **European Commission (EC)** has awarded protected geographical indication (PGI) status to **Kangra tea**, a unique variety of tea grown in the Kangra district of **India's Himachal Pradesh**. The PGI will be effective from April 11, 2023, as per the notification issued by the EC on March 22. This move comes at a time when the EC has been delaying granting a similar status to Basmati rice, for which India applied in 2018. However, the EU wants India and Pakistan to hold discussions so that Basmati rice from Pakistan can also be recognized, but Pakistan is currently not meeting the necessary requirements for the recognition. ([Click here to read the article](#))

International Affairs

- The New Development Bank (NDB), which is also known as the BRICS bank and is a multilateral financial institution created by Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, has announced that former **Brazilian President Dilma Vana Rousseff** has been elected as its new President. She replaces **Marcus Troyjo** in the position. Dilma Rousseff is an economist who served as the President of the Federative Republic of Brazil for two consecutive terms, from January 2011 to August 2016. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- A recent study conducted by researchers from the **World Bank**, Harvard Kennedy School, AidData, and the Kiel Institute for the World Economy has revealed that **China** spent approximately **\$240 billion** from 2008 to 2021 bailing out 22 developing countries that had difficulty repaying loans taken for **Belt and Road infrastructure projects**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Humza Yousaf**, a Pakistani-origin politician, has won the **Scottish National Party (SNP) leadership contest** and is set to become **Scotland's First Minister**, replacing Nicola Sturgeon. Yousaf, who is the son of Asian immigrants, is poised to become the first person of colour to serve as Scotland's first minister. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The northwestern **Kagera region of Tanzania** has been declared an epidemic zone by the country's leaders after five people died and three others were diagnosed with **Marburg viral disease (MVD)** at a local hospital. The World Health Organization (WHO) has identified 161 individuals who are at risk of contracting the virus through contact tracing. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **The Saudi Arabian government** has taken a significant step towards joining the **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)**, a regional alliance dominated by China and Russia. During a cabinet meeting presided over by **King Salman bin Abdulaziz**, a memorandum was approved to initiate dialogue with the SCO. The decision to pursue membership was reportedly raised during a visit to Saudi Arabia by Chinese President Xi Jinping in December of last year. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The UAE President, **Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**, has appointed his brother, **Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan**, as the Vice President of the country. The appointment was endorsed by the UAE Federal Supreme Council. Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, the current Vice President, will continue to hold the same position. Additionally, Sheikh Mohamed, who is also the Ruler of Abu Dhabi, has designated **Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed** and **Sheikh Hazza bin Zayed** as the Deputy Rulers of Abu Dhabi. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Jens Stoltenberg**, the Secretary General of the **North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)**, has announced that **Finland** has become the 31st member of the alliance, thanks to Turkey's unanimous vote. Despite Russia's opposition to Finland's membership, Turkey's approval has allowed the extension of NATO. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- **SJVN Ltd**, a state-owned company, has secured Rs 915 crore in '**GREEN**' financing from **Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC)** to support its 90 MW Omkareshwar floating solar project in Madhya Pradesh and 100 MW Raghnesda solar project in Gujarat. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Vedanta's Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL)** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Rajasthan Cricket Association** to build the **world's third-largest cricket stadium** in Chonp village, Jaipur. This project involves an investment of **INR 300 crore**, making it one of the largest corporate investments in India's sports infrastructure. The stadium will be named the **Anil Agarwal International Cricket Stadium, Jaipur**. ([Click here to read the article](#))



Books and Authors

- **Ghulam Nabi Azad**, a former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir and Union Minister, has written an honest and forthright autobiography, which will be launched in New Delhi on April 5. Titled '**Azaad**', the book chronicles Azad's political journey and provides insights into the significant political changes that India has undergone over the past five decades. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Perumal Murugan's** novel '**Pyre**', which deals with caste-based discrimination, has been nominated for the **2023 International Booker Prize longlist**. Originally written in Tamil under the title 'Pukkuli', the book follows the story of a couple from different castes who flee their village, triggering a dark and ominous tale. The book was translated into English by Aniruddhan Vasudevan in 2016. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Penguin Random House India (PRHI)** has announced that the English translation of the Nepali novel "**Phoolange**" will be released on April 17th. The book is written by **Lekhnath Chhetri**, a writer based in Darjeeling, and focuses on the failed Gorkha movement for a separate state. The original Nepali version of the novel was shortlisted for the Madan Puraskar, which is Nepal's most prestigious literary award, in 2021. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- During the 52nd Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in Geneva, Switzerland, a book entitled "**War and Women**" was launched. The author, **Dr M A Hasan**, presented the book, which highlights the suffering of Bengali women who were victims of sexual violence perpetrated by the Pakistan Army during the 1971 war. The event was organized by the Bangladesh Freedom Fighters Sansad in Europe, and it was considered a significant moment for raising awareness about the issue. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Vani Tripathi Tikoo**, an actor and member of the Indian censor board, has written her debut children's book titled "**Why Can't Elephants be Red??**" published by **Niyogi Books**. The book is about a two-and-a-half-year-old girl named Akku who is imaginative, adventurous, and growing up in Gurgaon and Singapore. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Banking/Economy/Business News

- **ICICI Lombard General Insurance** has introduced an industry-first feature for health insurance policyholders called '**Anywhere Cashless**,' which allows them to receive cashless facilities at any hospital, regardless of whether or not it is currently part of ICICI Lombard's hospital network. However, the hospital must agree to accept the cashless facility for this feature to apply. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **First-Citizens Bank** and Trust Company, based in Raleigh, North Carolina, has entered a purchase and assumption agreement with the **Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)** to acquire all loans and deposits of the recently failed **Silicon Valley Bridge Bank** in the United States. The FDIC established Silicon Valley Bridge Bank, National Association after the California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation closed down Silicon Valley Bank. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **YES Bank** has collaborated with **National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL)** to issue its first electronic Bank Guarantee (e-BG). The integration of their digital document execution (DDE) platform has made it possible to completely digitize the previous paper-based process of issuing and maintaining Bank Guarantees. This includes the digital stamping and signing, which has significantly reduced the time it takes to issue Bank Guarantees. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **S&P Global Ratings** has maintained its earlier projection for **India's economic growth** rate at 6% in the fiscal year starting from April 1, with a further increase to 6.9% in the following year. In its latest quarterly economic update for Asia-Pacific, S&P predicted that the **inflation rate** would decline to 5% during the 2023-24 fiscal year, down from the current financial year's 6.8%. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **IDFC First Bank** has announced its collaboration with the **Swedish company Crunchfish** to launch a pilot project to demonstrate offline retail payments. The bank is going to participate in the **Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) pilot project** that aims to enable offline payments. The project aims to provide digital payment services to customers and merchants even in areas without network connectivity. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** has increased the interest rate on employees' provident fund (EPF) deposits for the financial year 2022-23. At its meeting, the retirement fund body has fixed the interest rate at **8.15 per cent**. However, this rate is subject to approval by the Ministry of Finance, which ratifies the interest rate provided by the EPFO. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Starting from April 1, merchants carrying out transactions through the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)** using **Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI)** will be subjected to charges, according to a circular issued by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has issued a circular stating that merchants conducting transactions on the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) using Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI) will be charged an interchange **fee of 1.1%** on the transaction amount for amounts over Rs 2,000. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Axis Bank**, one of India's top private sector banks, has introduced a groundbreaking payment solution called "**MicroPay**" in collaboration with technical partners **Ezetap by Razorpay** and **MyPinpad**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The government increased the **maximum age** for Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority's (PFRDA) ombudsman from 65 to 70 years. The **ombudsman** is responsible for receiving, evaluating, and helping to resolve complaints or grievances that come under PFRDA regulations. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- As part of its corporate social responsibility, the **State Bank of India (SBI)** has partnered with the NGO That's Eco Foundation to donate ₹48 lakh for the plantation of 32,000 tree saplings at Garden City University in Bengaluru. This initiative aims to contribute to the environment by increasing the green cover and promoting sustainable practices. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The central board of the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** chaired by Governor Shaktikanta Das, conducted its 601st meeting in **Hyderabad** to assess the current global and domestic economic conditions, along with the accompanying difficulties. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- During the ASSOCHAM Annual Session 2023, Mr. Piyush Goyal, who serves as the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, and Textiles, declared that **India's merchandise and services exports** are expected to surpass **US\$ 760 billion** in the present fiscal year, which will end on March 31, 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Starting from **April 1**, the National Payments Corporation of India (**NPCI**) has implemented **interchange fees** of up to **1.1 percent** for prepaid payment instruments used in merchant **UPI transactions**. The fee, ranging from 0.5 percent and based on the merchant category code, will be charged for UPI payments exceeding **₹2,000** made to online merchants, large merchants, and small offline merchants. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Herbalife**, a leading global nutrition company, has teamed up with the **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** to become an official partner of the **TATA Indian Premier League (IPL) for the 2023 season**. This partnership brings together two strong brands that share a passion for sports. The IPL is a beloved cricket tournament for fans in India and around the world, while Herbalife is known for providing high-quality, science-based nutrition products that help athletes perform at their best. The TATA IPL 2023 is set to take place in India from March 31 to May 28, 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- A recent report by **GlobalData** suggests that the **fixed communication services** revenue of India is set to experience a **compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 6.4%**, with an estimated increase from **\$10.2 billion in 2022 to \$13.9 billion in 2027**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The government introduced the **Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023**, which aims to increase the country's **exports to USD 2 trillion** by 2030. The new policy is different from the previous 5-year FTP announcements as it has no specific end date and will be revised as needed, according to the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), Santosh Sarangi. Commerce and Industry Minister **Piyush Goyal** presented FTP 2023, which will be implemented starting from April 1, 2023, and emphasizes a shift from incentive-based approaches to remission and entitlement-based measures. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** was established on **April 1, 1935**, in accordance with the provisions of the **Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934**. The Central Office of the RBI, initially set up in Kolkata, was permanently moved to Mumbai in 1937. **Sir Osborne Smith** the first Governor of the Bank. The Bank was constituted as a shareholders' bank. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has released data showing that **India's current account deficit**, an important measure of the balance of payments, has decreased to \$18.2 billion, which is equivalent to 2.2% of the GDP, during the December quarter of the current fiscal year. This decrease can be attributed to the reduction in the **merchandise trade deficit**, which stood at \$30.9 billion, or 3.7% of the GDP in the second quarter of the fiscal year 2022-23. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- According to the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**, India's **foreign exchange reserves** have continued to increase for the second consecutive week, reaching USD 578.778 billion in the week ending March 24. This indicates a rise of USD 5.978 billion in the week. ([Click here to read the article](#))



- The **Controller General of Accounts (CGA)** released data indicating that the central government's **fiscal deficit** reached 82.8% of the full-year target at the end of February. The fiscal deficit represents the gap between the government's expenditure and revenue collection during the April-February period, and it amounted to Rs 14.53 lakh crore in actual terms. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Appointments/Resignations

- **NDTV** announced to the stock exchanges that **Upendra Kumar Sinha**, the former chairman of Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI), has been appointed as the non-executive chairperson and independent director of the NDTV board of directors. Additionally, **Dipali Goenka**, the CEO of Welspun India, has also been appointed as an independent director on the NDTV board. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Pranav Haridasan** has been appointed as the new **Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Axis Securities** for the next three years. **B Gopkumar**, who is currently the MD & CEO of Axis Securities, has been transferred to **Axis Asset Management Company** as MD & CEO. Pranav Haridasan has been appointed as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Axis Securities for the next three years. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Ajay Singh**, the chief of SpiceJet, has become the new President of the **Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)**. He has replaced Sumant Sinha, who completed his tenure as Managing Director of Renew Power. **Sanjay Nayar**, the Founder and Chairman of Sorin Investment Fund, has been appointed as the new Senior Vice-President of ASSOCHAM. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Star Sports**, which is owned by **The Walt Disney Company India**, has appointed **Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh** as its brand ambassador. This is a significant step for the brand as it seeks to tap into Singh's immense popularity and love for sports to reach a wider and more diverse audience that may not have previously engaged deeply with sports. Singh will act as the "sutradhaar" or narrator for the upcoming season of the Indian Premier League (IPL), which the company is branding as the "Incredible League". He will also participate in creating content for the IPL, which is scheduled to begin on March 31st. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Tata Power has re-appointed **Praveer Sinha** as the company's **Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director**. His re-appointment to the top post is for a period of four years from May 1, 2023, to April 30, 2027, subject to the approval of members of the company, Tata Power said in a regulatory filing. His present tenure as CEO and MD is scheduled to conclude on April 30, 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The **Board of Hero MotoCorp** announced the appointment of **Niranjan Gupta** as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the company, effective from May 1. Gupta, who currently serves as the CFO and Head of Strategy and M&A, will be elevated to the new role. Meanwhile, Pawan Munjal will remain the Executive Chairman and Whole-time Director on the Board. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Elon Musk**, the CEO of Twitter, has achieved the highest number of followers on the platform, exceeding former US President Barack Obama, who held the record since 2020. According to Guinness World Records, Twitter has around 450 million monthly active users, and Elon Musk has accumulated more than 133 million followers, which accounts for about 30% of the platform's total users. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Sumil Vikamsey**, who is currently the CEO of Cash Business at **Hitachi Payment Services**, has been appointed as the new Managing Director of the company. He will take over from Rustom Irani, who is retiring on March 30 after being associated with the organisation since 2011. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Rajib Kumar Mishra**, who is currently the acting chairman of **PTC India or formerly Power Trading Corporation of India Limited**, has been given a permanent role in the company, despite facing regulatory issues related to its subsidiary, PTC India Financial Services Ltd. Mishra has extensive experience in the power sector and holds a Ph.D. in Business Administration from Aligarh Muslim University. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Defence News

- Recently, during the on-going tensions between India and China at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the **Indian Army and Air Force** carried out a 96-hour joint exercise named '**Vayu Prahar**' in the eastern region. The exercise aimed to develop plans to achieve synergy in multi-domain operations by using air and land forces. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The inaugural joint conference between the **Indian and African army chiefs** is scheduled to take place in Pune, with Defense Minister **Rajnath Singh** as the guest of honor and Indian Army Chief General **Manoj Pandey** in attendance. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- India is set to become a major exporter of **defense equipment and materials**, with exports projected to be worth **Rs 35,000 to Rs 40,000 crore by 2026**. The announcement was made by Union minister **Rajnath Singh** during a speech at **Symbiosis International University**, where he emphasized the importance of **self-reliance** and creating an ecosystem that fosters **self-confidence**. Since adopting the **Indianization program**, India's defense exports have increased from **Rs 900 crore in 2014 to Rs 15,000 crore to Rs 16,000 crore**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- On a recent occasion, **2,585 Agniveers**, including 272 women from the Indian Navy, successfully completed their training at **INS Chilka**, located in Odisha. The parade was reviewed by the Chief of the Naval Staff, Adm R Hari Kumar, and also attended by PT Usha, a Member of Parliament, and notable sports personality Mithali Raj, along with eminent naval veterans. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** signed a contract worth over Rs 1,700 crore with **BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL)** for the procurement of Next Generation Maritime Mobile Coastal Batteries (Long range) (NGMMCB-LR) and BrahMos Missiles under the Buy (Indian) Category. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Awards and Recognitions

- The highest civilian honor in Kerala, the "**Kerala Jyothi**," was awarded to the writer **M T Vasudevan Nair**. The second-highest award, "Kerala Prabha," was shared by actor Mammooty, former civil service officer T Madhava Menon, and writer Omchery NN Pillai. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Foundation of SAARC Writers and Literature (FOSWAL)** presented a unique literary award to **Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman** of Bangladesh for his trilogy of books, which includes The Unfinished Memoirs, The Prison Diaries, and the New China 1952. FOSWAL acknowledged Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's exceptional literary skills and awarded him for his outstanding literary excellence in the trilogy, according to the citation provided by the organization. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Union Territory has awarded wildlife conservationist **Aliya Mir** for her exceptional efforts in conservation. Aliya is the first woman from Jammu and Kashmir to work for **Wildlife SOS** and is the first woman in the region to receive this honour. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Tapoban**, an NGO based in **Pathsala, Assam**, which focuses on supporting children with special needs and autism, has been honored with the prestigious **Children's Champion Award 2023** in the health and nutrition category. This award is presented by the Delhi Commission for Protection of Child Rights and acknowledges individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to the welfare of children in various areas such as education, justice, health, nutrition, sports, and creative arts. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Naveen Jindal** has been awarded a **lifetime achievement award by the University of Texas at Dallas** for his accomplishments in industry, politics, and education. Jindal, who graduated from the University in 1992, received the award in a ceremony. This award is the highest recognition given to an alumnus by the University of Texas, Dallas and is presented to those whose contributions have positively impacted society. Aziz Sanjar, a Nobel Laureate, was the first person to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from the University of Texas at Dallas. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Summit and Conference

- The National Security Advisers of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** will convene in New Delhi, with China and Pakistan expected to attend virtually. **Ajit Doval**, the Indian National Security Adviser, will give the opening remarks, followed by discussions between SCO national security advisers and top officials. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Over 100 delegates from various countries attended the first meeting of the **G20 Trade and Investment Working Group in Mumbai**. The participants engaged in two-panel discussions and visited the **Bharat Diamond Bourse** to learn about India's gem and jewelry industry. The delegates also took part in a **Heritage Walk** at the Gateway of India. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Ranks and Reports

- According to the latest update from the **Passport Index**, **India's Mobility Scores** have decreased, resulting in the country experiencing the largest global drop on the Index this year. Prior to the pandemic in 2019, India had a mobility score of 71, which increased to 73 in 2022 as the post-pandemic wave of increasing mobility took effect. However, as of March 2023, its mobility score has dropped to 70. This decline has occurred despite record increases in mobility as the global and national economies re-opened after the pandemic. India's ranking has fallen by six places in 2023, resulting in an individual ranking of **144 compared to 138 in 2022**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Sports News

- On March 29, the Premier League inducted former Manchester United manager **Sir Alex Ferguson** and ex-Arsenal boss **Arsene Wenger** into its **Hall of Fame**. This is the first time that managers have been included in this prestigious list. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Schemes and Committess News

- **Shakib Al Hasan** has surpassed **Tim Southee** to become the leading wicket-taker in T20I cricket during the second T20I match against Ireland in Chattogram. With 136 wickets in T20I at an average of 20.67 and an economy rate of 6.8, Shakib is considered as one of the best all-rounders in T20 cricket. He has also scored 2339 runs at a strike rate of 122.33 in T20I. Shakib made his debut in T20I against Zimbabwe in 2006 and has played 114 matches since then, featuring in all seven editions of the **ICC Men's T20 World Cup**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty**, the popular Indian doubles badminton pair, secured their first doubles title of 2023 by winning the Swiss Open Super 300 finals. They were the second seeds in the tournament and played exceptionally well in the final match, winning the first set 21-19. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Lashinda Demus**, a runner from the **United States**, has been awarded an **Olympic gold medal** at the age of 40, more than a decade after the **2012 London Games**. This came after the **International Olympic Committee** stripped **Natalya Antyukh**, the original gold medalist in the **400-meter hurdles**, of her title due to her involvement in the **Russian doping scandal**. Antyukh had beaten Demus by just 0.07 seconds on the **London track**, but historical evidence recovered from a Moscow testing laboratory database allowed the **Athletics Integrity Unit** to disqualify Antyukh's results from July 2012 through June 2013. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Sri Lanka's** attempt to move up to the eighth spot in the **MRF Tyres ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League** table has been unsuccessful, as they lost to New Zealand in the third ODI at Hamilton. The Super League is being used as a qualification tournament for the 2023 Cricket World Cup, which will feature 10 teams. Seven teams have already secured their spots in the tournament, but Sri Lanka's loss means they remain outside of the top eight in the Super League standings and must continue to fight for qualification. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The **Indian government** has formed a committee led by **finance secretary TV Somanathan** to explore ways to address concerns raised by government employees over the **National Pension System (NPS)**. The committee aims to find a middle ground between the fiscally imprudent **old pension system (OPS)** and the reform-oriented NPS. The committee will develop a strategy that meets the requirements of **government employees** while also ensuring **financial responsibility** to safeguard the interests of the general public. The new approach will apply to both the central and state governments. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Central Government has launched a program called the **National Rabies Control Programme (NRCP)**, which seeks to prevent and manage cases of Rabies. The objectives of the NRCP include providing rabies **vaccine** and **immunoglobulin** through free national drug initiatives, conducting training on appropriate animal bite management, prevention and control of rabies, surveillance, and intersectoral coordination, enhancing the surveillance of animal bites and reporting of rabies deaths, and raising awareness about rabies prevention. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The government has introduced a new program called the **"New India Literacy Programme" (NILP)**, which is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme that will be implemented for five years from **FY 2022-23 to 2026-27**. The scheme has a financial outlay of **Rs. 1037.90 crore**, with the Central government contributing **Rs. 700.00 crore** and the State governments contributing **Rs. 337.90 crore**. The primary objective of the program is to provide literacy to 5.00 crore individuals in the age group of 15 years and above who are currently unable to read or write. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Science and Technology News

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) successfully launched its heaviest rocket, **LVM3**, for the sixth consecutive time from the Sriharikota spaceport. The rocket successfully placed **36 satellites** belonging to the UK-based **OneWeb group** company into their intended orbits. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- This summer, the **National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)** is preparing four individuals to live on Mars on **June 2023**. The four **"Martians"** will be a part of NASA's human exploration trip on Mars, even though the American space agency has long sought to send humans to the neighbouring planet. Also, NASA has sending satellites, the InSight lander, a rover mission with the Perseverance rover, the Ingenuity small robotic helicopter, and related delivery systems, all of which are intended to provide the Red Planet with its first comprehensive examination. ([Click here to read the article](#))



- In just **30 seconds**, a cost-effective and portable **3D paper-based device** developed by researchers at **IIT Madras** can detect **milk adulteration**. This device is unlike traditional laboratory-based methods and can be used at home with just one millilitre of the liquid sample needed for testing. The device is capable of identifying various commonly used adulterating agents, including but not limited to detergents, soap, hydrogen peroxide, urea, starch, salt, and sodium-hydrogen-carbonate. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Punjab** and **Haryana Court** recently utilized the assistance of an AI chatbot called **ChatGPT** to make a decision regarding a bail application in a criminal case, marking the first time an Indian court has done so. The bench, led by **Justice Anoop Chitkara**, requested feedback from ChatGPT during the hearing of the bail petition filed by an individual who was taken into custody in June 2020 for **charges of criminal conspiracy**, murder, rioting, and criminal intimidation. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- India has established a new design lab in Ahmedabad that aims to facilitate space sector start-ups in converting their inventive concepts into practical models at a faster pace. The **Space Systems Design Lab**, run by the **Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre (IN-SPACe)**, has advanced analysis and simulation software, such as mission simulation, spacecraft and payload modeling and optimization, and ground station and launch vehicle avionics. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Amit Kshatriya**, an Indian-American engineer with expertise in software and robotics, has been appointed as the inaugural head of **NASA's** newly-established **Moon to Mars Programme**. This programme has been created to establish a long-term presence on the Moon, which is crucial for preparing for future missions to Mars. Kshatriya will serve as NASA's first head of the office, with immediate effect. He will immediately assume the role of leading the office, which will oversee the agency's human exploration activities on the Moon and Mars. As the head of the office, Kshatriya will be responsible for planning and executing human missions to these celestial bodies for the betterment of humanity. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Important Days News

- Every year on **March 27**, **World Theatre Day** is celebrated worldwide to promote the significance of theatrical forms. Theatre not only provides entertainment but also serves as an art form that educates and inspires individuals. Many plays are performed on a variety of topics, including social issues, entertainment, and comedy. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Week of Solidarity with the Peoples Struggling Against Racism and Racial Discrimination** is an annual event that is observed from **March 21 to 27**. The purpose of this week is to oppose human rights

violations, injustices, and racial discrimination that people face around the world. The week-long event highlights the importance of working towards achieving racial equality in all nations. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Purple Day of Epilepsy** is an international day of awareness dedicated to raising understanding and reducing the social stigma associated with epilepsy, a neurological condition. It is celebrated annually on **March 26** with the goal of educating people about epilepsy, recognizing the signs of a seizure, and offering support to those who are impacted by it. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- On December 14, 2022, the **United Nations General Assembly** acknowledged the significance of zero-waste programs and announced that **March 30** would be celebrated as the **International Day of Zero Waste** every year starting from 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **The International Day of Drug Checking** is an annual event that has been observed since **2017 on March 31st**. The purpose of the day is to educate people about drugs and their effects and to promote harm reduction initiatives to reduce the risks associated with drug use. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **World Backup Day** is an annual event that takes place on **March 31st** to raise awareness about the importance of data backup and protection. The day encourages individuals and organizations to take proactive steps to safeguard their data and prevent the loss of important information due to hardware failure, cyberattacks, or other unforeseen events. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Transgender Day of Visibility** is an annual holiday observed on **March 31st** to celebrate the accomplishments and contributions of transgender people, as well as to raise awareness of the discrimination and violence faced by the transgender community worldwide. Transgender Day of Visibility is an important opportunity to celebrate the diversity of gender identities and expressions and to promote understanding and acceptance of the transgender community. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Odisha Day or Utkal Divas** is a significant day for the people of **Odisha**, India as it marks the formation of the state on **April 1, 1936**. Every year on this day, the state celebrates with cultural programs, parades, and flag hoisting ceremonies. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Obituaries

- A Malayalam comedy superstar **Innocent Vareed Thekkethala**, who acted in more than 750 films and served as an independent MP for the Chalakkudy constituency in the 16th Lok Sabha elections, has passed away at the age of 75. He was also the President of the Association of Malayalam Movie Artists (AMMA) for 18 years. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Sarah Thomas**, a renowned short story writer and novelist, passed away at the age of 89. She authored 17 novels and over 100 short stories, receiving several accolades such as the Kerala Sahitya Academy award. Her debut novel, "Jeevitham Enna Nathi," marked the beginning of her writing career. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Miscellaneous News

- At an event held in **Tikli Village, Haryana** to commemorate the **International Day of Forests**, the Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, **Bhupender Yadav**, unveiled the **Aravalli Green Wall Project**, which aims to green the 5 km buffer area around the Aravalli Hill Range in four states. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Election Commission (EC) in the Indian state of **Karnataka** has selected **Manjamma Jogati**, a transgender folk dancer, as a poll icon to encourage more members of the transgender community to register and vote. Alongside Jogati, several other individuals, including cricketer Rahul Dravid and Jnanapeeth awardee Chandrashekar Kambar, have also been chosen as poll ambassadors. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- A Namibian Cheetah passed away at **Kuno National Park** in MP, India. The cheetah, named **Sasha**, was reportedly in good health when it was moved to India on **September 17th 2022**, but it was discovered that it had a **kidney infection**. This event was a setback for the project aimed at rejuvenating the cheetah population in the country. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- As part of the **'Drowning Prevention Awareness' campaign**, Indian Police Service (IPS) officer **Krishna Prakash** swam from Gateway of India to Elephanta Caves, Mumbai. He completed the expedition of 16.20 kms in just 5 hours 26 minutes and became the first person in history to do so. This is far from the first time the IPS officer broke records in sporting competitions. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Lt. Manmeet Colon**, who is of Indian origin and a Sikh woman officer, has recently taken up the position of assistant police chief in the state of Connecticut, becoming the first-ever person of Asian descent to hold the position. She has been a member of the New Haven Police Department (NHPD) for 15 years and was appointed as the city's third assistant police chief in an official ceremony. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In order to conserve and protect the **Great Indian Bustard**, which is considered one of the **largest flying birds** in the world, the Government of India is implementing various measures throughout the country. However, apart from certain regions in **Rajasthan and Gujarat**, the bird has disappeared from **90%** of its original habitat. The International Union for Conservation of Nature has classified the species as **"critically endangered."** ([Click here to read the article](#))

- To commemorate the **69th anniversary** of its official inauguration by **Vice President Dr. S Radhakrishnan** on March 29, 1954, the National Gallery of Modern Art in New Delhi will host its first-ever **"Spring Fiesta"** in 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Static Takeaways

- New Development Bank (NDB) Founded: 15 July 2014;
- New Development Bank (NDB) HQ: Shanghai, China.
- Scotland Capital: Edinburgh;
- Scotland National animal: Unicorn;
- Scotland Currency: Pound sterling.
- IDFC First Bank CEO: V. Vaidyanathan (19 Dec 2018-);
- IDFC First Bank Headquarters: Mumbai.
- Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd Founded: 1988;
- Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd Key people: Nand Lal Sharma (Chairman & MD).
- SAARC Founded: 8 December 1985, Dhaka, Bangladesh;
- SAARC Secretary general: Esala Weerakoon.
- NASA Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States;
- NASA Founded: 29 July 1958, United States;
- NASA Administrator: Bill Nelson.
- Saudi Arabia Capital: Riyadh;
- Saudi Arabia Currency: Saudi Riyal.
- BCCI President: Roger Binny;
- BCCI Headquarters: Mumbai;
- BCCI Founded: December 1928.
- BCCI President: Roger Binny;
- BCCI Headquarters: Mumbai;
- BCCI Founded: December 1928.
- Finland Prime minister: Sanna Marin;
- Finland Capital: Helsinki;
- Finland Currency: Euro.
- Himachal Pradesh Capital: Shimla (Summer), Dharamshala (Winter);
- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister: Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu;
- Himachal Pradesh Governor: Shiv Pratap Shukla.

