

Weekly One Liners 22nd to 28th of May 2023

Italian Open 2023: Daniil Medvedev Triumphs

Italian Open 2023

Daniil Medvedev defeated **Holger Rune** 7-5, 7-5 in the final of the 2023 Italian Open. Medvedev, the world No. 2, won his first clay-court title and sixth ATP Masters 1000 crown. Rune, the world No. 10, was playing in his first Masters 1000 final. In women's Singles, **Elena Rybakina** defeated **Anhelina Kalinina** 6-4, 1-0 (retired) in the final of the 2023 Italian Open. The match was delayed by rain for over four hours, and Kalinina was forced to retire after sustaining a left thigh injury while trailing 6-4, 1-0.

Here are the results of the 2023 Italian Open :

Category	Winner	Runner-up
Men's Singles	Daniil Medvedev	Holger Rune
Women's Singles	Elena Rybakina	Anhelina Kalinina
Men's Doubles	Hugo Nys and Jan Zieliński	Robin Haase and Botic van de Zandschulp
Women's Doubles	Storm Sanders and Elise Mertens	Coco Gauff and Jessica Pegula

Facts about India's New Parliament House

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will inaugurate the **new Parliament building** on Sunday, 28 May, showcasing its exquisite artwork and featuring a ceremonial sceptre called '**Sengol**' among its many highlights. Constructed at a cost of ₹971 crore, the new complex stands as a symbol of India's progress, reflecting the aspirations of the nation's 1.35 billion citizens. Its innovative triangular design optimizes space utilization and fosters efficient governance.

Here are the key facts about the new Parliament House:

- Triangular Design for Optimum Space Utilization:** The new Parliament House features a unique triangular shape, ensuring efficient space utilization within the complex. This design allows for maximum functionality and accommodates larger legislative chambers.
- Lok Sabha: Inspired by the Peacock:** The Lok Sabha, based on India's national bird, the peacock, will have an expanded seating capacity. With 888 seats, it will accommodate nearly three times the current capacity. The Lok Sabha hall will also be able to accommodate 1,272 seats for joint sessions.
- Rajya Sabha: Inspired by the Lotus:** The Rajya Sabha, inspired by the national flower, the lotus, will have 348 seats. The new design accounts for future increases in the number of Rajya Sabha members, ensuring sufficient space in the House.
- Constitutional Hall:** A notable addition to the new Parliament House is the Constitutional Hall, located in the center of the complex. This hall will serve as a significant space within the building.

- No Central Hall:** Unlike the old Parliament House, the new complex will not feature a Central Hall. The low capacity of the previous Central Hall necessitated additional chairs during joint sessions, creating security challenges. The Lok Sabha Hall in the new Parliament House is designed to easily accommodate joint sessions.
- Earthquake-resistant Construction:** The new Parliament building is designed to withstand earthquakes. As Delhi is now in Zone 4, characterized by a higher earthquake risk, the new structure will be fortified to endure strong shocks in Zone 5.
- Modern Facilities:** Each seat in the new Parliament House will be equipped with a multimedia display in front, providing modern amenities to members of Parliament. This enhancement will enhance the legislative experience and facilitate communication.
- Eco-friendly Construction:** The new Parliament House adopts eco-friendly practices, utilizing green construction materials. The building incorporates energy-saving devices, reducing electricity consumption by 30%. Rainwater harvesting and solar power generation systems are also incorporated into the design.
- Enhanced Committee Rooms:** The new Parliament House will feature an increased number of committee rooms, equipped with sophisticated audio-visual systems. These upgrades will facilitate the functioning of parliamentary committees.
- Media Facilities:** Special facilities will be provided for the media, including 530 seats dedicated to media personnel. Galleries will be available for the general public to witness parliamentary proceedings, ensuring a clear view of the house from every seat.
- Public-friendly Design:** Efforts are underway to make the new Parliament House more accessible to the public. Two special entrance points will be designated for children, the elderly, and disabled individuals to access the Public Gallery and Central Constitutional Gallery. Additionally, the new building will incorporate improved fire safety measures.



New vs Old Parliament Buildings: 10 Key Features

The **new Parliament building** in Delhi, set to be inaugurated by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** on May 28, represents the spirit of a self-reliant India (Aatmanirbhar Bharat). Replacing the old Parliament building, which was completed almost a century ago in 1927, the new structure is a significant addition to the **Central Vista project** in the national capital.

Here are 10 key features that distinguish the old and new Parliament buildings

1. **Increased Seating Capacity:** The new Parliament building will be able to accommodate 888 Members of Parliament (MPs) in the Lok Sabha, three times the capacity of the current Lok Sabha. Similarly, the new Rajya Sabha will have provision for 384 seats, addressing the need for additional space for future MPs.
2. **Absence of Central Hall:** Unlike the old Parliament House, the new building will not feature a Central Hall. Instead, the Lok Sabha Hall in the new Parliament House is being designed to accommodate joint sessions, eliminating the need for additional chairs during such sessions.
3. **Earthquake-Proof Construction:** Considering Delhi's increased seismic activity, the new Parliament building is being constructed to withstand earthquakes. It will be reinforced to withstand strong shocks in Zone 5, ensuring the safety of the occupants.
4. **Peacock and Lotus Flower Theme:** The Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha in the new Parliament House will showcase distinct themes. The Lok Sabha will incorporate the national bird, the Peacock, while the Rajya Sabha will feature the national flower, the Lotus, in their respective structures.
5. **Modern Technological Facilities:** To enhance the technological capabilities of the House, each MP's seat in the new Parliament House will have a multimedia display in front of it. This feature, a gift to the country on the 75th anniversary of Independence, makes it the first Parliament building constructed after India's independence.
6. **Eco-Friendly Initiatives:** The new Parliament building prioritizes sustainability and eco-friendliness. It will use green construction materials and incorporate devices to save 30 percent electricity consumption. Rainwater harvesting and solar power generation systems will be implemented to promote renewable energy sources.
7. **Enhanced Committee Room Facilities:** The new Parliament House will include a significantly higher number of committee rooms equipped with sophisticated audio-visual systems. This upgrade will facilitate the smooth functioning of parliamentary committees.
8. **Media Facilities:** Special facilities for the media will be provided in the new Parliament House. A total of 530 seats will be arranged for media personnel. Both houses will have galleries for the general public to witness parliamentary proceedings, ensuring a clear view from every seat.

9. **Public-Friendly Design:** The new Parliament House aims to be more accessible to the public. Preparations are underway to make it a public parliament house, with easier entry for children, elderly individuals, and disabled individuals. Special entrance points will allow the general public to reach the Public Gallery and Central Constitutional Gallery. Additionally, the new building will have improved fire safety features
10. **Architectural Design and Construction:** The construction of the new Parliament building is being undertaken by Tata Projects Limited, with the design by HCP Design Planning and Management Private Limited. The total area for construction is 64,500 sqm, creating a modern architectural marvel in the heart of Delhi.

National Affairs

- Union Home and Cooperation Minister **Amit Shah** recently laid the foundation stone for the permanent campus of the National Academy of Coastal Policing in Dwaraka, Gujarat. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Union Minister **Bhupender Yadav** inaugurated the Centre of Excellence on Sustainable Land Management (CoE-SLM) at the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) in Dehradun. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The upcoming inauguration of the new parliament building will feature an important addition, as Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will place a significant golden sceptre near the Speaker's seat, announced Union Home Minister **Amit Shah**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Union Minister for Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, **Shri Giriraj Singh**, recently launched the 'SAMARTH Campaign on Promoting Digital Transactions in 50,000 Gram Panchayats' under the AzadiKaAmritMahotsav in Lucknow. Under the SAMARTH Campaign, the government seeks to foster the adoption of digital transactions in 50,000 Gram Panchayats across India. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Ministry of Ayush and Minority Affairs have joined hands to promote and help the development of the Unani System of Medicine in India. The Ministry of Minorities Affairs has granted RS 45.34 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK), which is a centrally sponsored scheme. Unani Medicine will be upgraded with the support of this scheme in Hyderabad, Chennai, Lucknow, Silchar, and Bengaluru. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi informed that a new consulate would be constructed in Brisbane during his address at the Community Event in Sydney. He announced that India will establish a new consulate in Brisbane, Australia which aims to fulfill a long-standing demand of the Indian diaspora in Australia. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The **Indian government** has introduced a series of measures aimed at promoting the adoption of environmentally friendly technology in the shipping sector. These initiatives include offering financial assistance and focusing on upgrading ports. The government's announcement was made during a two-day conference organized by the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW)** following their earlier plan to develop hydrogen ports in **India**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Ministry of Finance has announced the launch of a special ₹75 coin to commemorate the inauguration of India's new parliament building. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will unveil the coin on Sunday, 28 May, coinciding with the celebration of India's 75 years of independence. ([Click here to read the article](#))

States in the News

- **Kerala**, the southern state of India, is set to make history by declaring itself as the country's first "total e-governed state." Building upon its reputation as the first fully-literate state in **India**, Kerala has achieved this milestone through a series of policy initiatives aimed at transforming the state into a digitally-empowered society. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Maharashtra** government, under the leadership of Chief Minister **Eknath Shinde**, is set to launch a new initiative called '**Shasan Aplya Dari**' (government at your doorstep). The primary objective of this initiative is to provide citizens with easy access to government schemes and documents, all in one place. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has informed that a '**Green Hydrogen**' policy would be formulated to promote the use of green hydrogen and establish the state as a leading hub for its production. ([Click here to read the article](#))

International Affairs

- During the joint meeting of the federal parliament, President **Ram Chandra Paudel** announced that the decade of the 2080s in the **Bikram Samvat calendar** would be recognized as '**the Visit Nepal decade**' and that the year 2025 will be designated as a special year for tourism. These declarations were presented as part of the policies and programmes for the 2080/81 fiscal year. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Japan** is "seriously" evaluating adopting **India's UPI payments system** as both governments look at promoting digital cooperation by creating interoperability where the digital payments system could bring ease of cross-border payments. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- In a bid to strengthen bilateral relations, **Indian Railways** has handed over 20 broad gauge (BG) locomotives to **Bangladesh**. The virtual handing over ceremony, held at Rail Bhavan, was attended by Railway Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** and Bangladesh's Minister of Railway, Md Nurul Islam Sujan. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The '**Tiger Shark 40**' Joint **Bangladesh-US Naval drill Exercise** commenced at **BNS Nirvik** in Chattogram. The main aim of the exercise is to enhance the strategic capabilities of both countries and promote mutual exchange of technical and procedural knowledge. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Coventry, a city in the West Midlands of the **United Kingdom**, has appointed **Jaswant Singh Birdi** as its new **Lord Mayor**. As an Indian-origin Sikh councillor, Birdi's appointment marks a significant milestone in the city's history. Taking on the role of Lord Mayor also means assuming the position of chairman of the City Council. In his new position, Birdi will serve as the non-political and ceremonial head of Coventry. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Ireland** is on track to become the first country to enforce mandatory health advisories on alcohol products. The **Irish Minister** for Health, **Stephen Donnelly**, has approved the new policy, which will be implemented starting from May 22, 2026. This three-year period aims to allow businesses enough time to adjust to the **new public health guidelines**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The World Meteorological Congress has made a groundbreaking decision to approve a new **greenhouse gas (GHG) monitoring initiative**, according to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). This initiative aims to support urgent action in reducing heat-trapping gases that contribute to rising global temperatures. ([Click here to read the article](#))



Agreements/MoUs Signed

- The **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** has entered into a partnership with Israel to establish the '**India-Israel Center of Water Technology**' (CoWT). This joint initiative aims to address the challenges in water resources management and water technologies in India. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a significant development highlighting the strengthening ties between **India and Australia**, the two nations signed crucial agreements on migration and mobility partnership, as well as on the establishment of a **Green Hydrogen** task force. The Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) were exchanged following a bilateral meeting between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Anthony Albanese in Sydney. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Government of Goa and the Government of Uttarakhand have come together and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance the tourism landscape of both Goa and Uttarakhand. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Banking/Economy/Business News

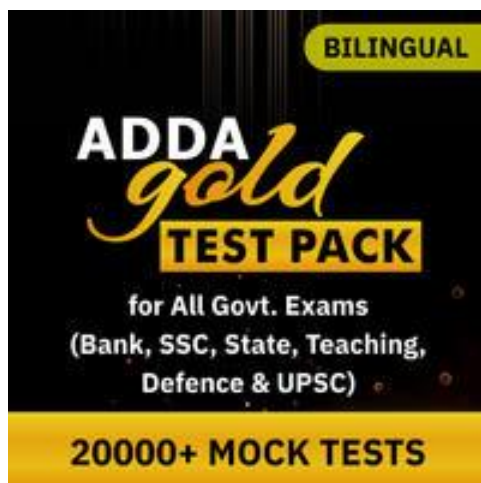
- **Public sector banks (PSBs)** in India have achieved a significant milestone in the financial year ended March 2023, with their cumulative profit crossing the Rs 1 lakh crore-mark. This achievement marks a remarkable turnaround for the PSBs, which had collectively reported a net loss of Rs 85,390 crore in 2017-18. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Indian government has recently announced a relaxation in the **Tax Collected At Source (TCS)** rules for international transactions made using debit or credit cards. Starting from July 1, 2023, individuals conducting international transactions up to Rs 7 lakh will be exempt from the 20 percent TCS levy. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has recently announced the relaxation of norms for **surety bonds**, a type of insurance policy that protects parties involved in transactions or contracts from potential financial losses resulting from breaches or non-performance. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)**, a leading global IT services company, has expanded its partnership with **Google Cloud** and unveiled a new offering called **TCS Generative AI**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a significant development, **Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (BSNL)** has awarded advance purchase orders worth ₹15,700 crore to **Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)** and ITI Ltd for the deployment of 100,000 4G sites. The long-awaited announcement brings an end to months of speculation, with TCS emerging as the favored candidate for the contract. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- According to data from **China's General Administration of Customs**, in the first quarter of this year, **China** exported 1.07 million vehicles, a 58% increase compared to the same period in 2022, becoming the world's largest exporter of cars, surpassing **Japan**. In contrast, **Japan** exported 954,185 vehicles, an increase of 6% from the previous year. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced its economic activity index nowcast, forecasting a strong **GDP growth rate** of 7.6% for the first quarter of the fiscal year 2023-2024 (Q1 FY24). ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Paytm Money**, a subsidiary of One97 Communications, the parent entity of Paytm, has recently announced the launch of a **bonds platform** for retail investors in India. This new platform aims to provide investors with a comprehensive and user-friendly interface to invest in government, corporate, and tax-free bonds. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Google Pay**, in collaboration with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**, has announced the integration of RuPay credit cards onto the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform. This new feature allows users to link their RuPay credit cards with Google Pay, enabling them to make payments at both online and offline merchants that accept RuPay credit cards. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has granted approval for a change in control of HDFC Asset Management Company (HDFC AMC) due to the amalgamation of HDFC Ltd and HDFC Bank Ltd. This move paves the way for HDFC Bank to become the new owner of HDFC AMC, subject to compliance with applicable regulations. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Axis Bank has launched '**Sarathi**,' a revolutionary digital onboarding platform aimed at simplifying the process for merchants to adopt Electronic Data Capture (EDC) or **Point of Sale (PoS)** terminals. By eliminating the need for lengthy paperwork and long waiting periods, Sarathi offers a streamlined and hassle-free experience to merchants, enabling them to begin accepting digital payments quickly and efficiently. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Gupshup.io**, a conversational engagement platform, has unveiled a groundbreaking solution that enables UPI payments for feature phone users through its native app called GSPay. This innovative approach allows seamless payment experiences using SMS, eliminating the need for internet connectivity. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- India's total forex reserves reached \$593.48 billion during the week ending on May 19, 2023, representing a decrease of \$6.052 billion from the previous week. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and the Indian government have recently signed a loan agreement worth \$141.12 million to support the development of high-quality internal infrastructure in **Andhra Pradesh (AP)**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has granted approval for the voluntary Scheme of Amalgamation of Maratha Sahakari Bank with The Cosmos Co-operative Bank. The merger is set to take effect from May 29, 2023, as announced by the RBI. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **HDFC Bank**, one of India's premier private sector lenders, has announced a strategic partnership with Manipal Global Skills Academy to launch the Leadership Excellence Program (LXP). The program aims to hire and train women branch managers and enhance gender diversity within the organization. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Appointments/Resignations

- Former India cricket captain and ex-BCCI chief **Sourav Ganguly** was roped in as the brand ambassador for Tripura Tourism. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Namdev Shirgaonkar** of Maharashtra was re-elected unopposed as the **President of India Taekwondo** in elections for the executive committee. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Dr K. Govindaraj** elected as the **President of International Basketball Federation (FIBA), Asia**. He is a Congress MLC. He is also the President of Basketball Federation of India and President of Karnataka Olympic Association. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **R.N. Jayaprakash and Monal D Chokshi** were re-elected President and Secretary of the **Swimming Federation of India (SFI)** at its annual general body. The target activities of SFI for the next four years will be to develop grassroots' participation by holding camps and coaches' clinics at the State-level. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a significant development, the **Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI)** has elected Harsh Jain, the founder of **Dream11**, as its new chairperson. With this appointment, Indian entrepreneurs are seeking to assert their influence over policy-making in the rapidly evolving technology and startup sector. ([Click here to read the article](#))



- **IDBI Bank** announced via an official filing that **Jayakumar S. Pillai** has been appointed as **Deputy Managing Director** on the bank's Board. The appointment has been approved by the bank's board of directors and is valid for a period of three years starting from the date he assumes office, as authorized by the RBI. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Ms Suman Sharma**, 1990 batch, has taken the oath of Office and Secrecy as a Member of **Union Public Service Commission** and the oath was administered by the Chairman of UPSC, Dr. Manoj Soni. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- TVS Supply Chain Solutions Executive Vice Chairman **R. Dinesh** has assumed office as the **Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) President** for 2023-24 while ITC Managing Director Sanjiv Puri has been named as President-designate. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Defence News

- Marking a significant milestone in the growing defense cooperation between India and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the **INS TARKASH** and **INS SUBHADRA** have arrived at Port Al-Jubail to commence the second edition of the naval exercise, '**AL-MOHED AL-HINDI 2023.**' ([Click here to read the article](#))

Awards and Recognitions

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** received the highest honours of **Papua New Guinea** and **Fiji**, an unprecedented acknowledgement of a non-resident in the two Pacific island nations. During his maiden visit to **Papua New Guinea**, Modi hosted a significant summit between India and 14 Pacific island countries to bolster bilateral ties. Governor-General of Papua New Guinea, Sir Bob Dadae, awarded Modi with the Grand Companion of the **Order of Logohu (GCL)**, which is the country's highest civilian award. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Georgi Gospodinov's captivating novel, "Time Shelter," translated by Angela Rodel, has secured the prestigious **2023 International Booker Prize**. This remarkable achievement marks the first time a Bulgarian novel has been awarded this renowned literary honor. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Summits and Conferences News

- The Prime Minister of India, **Shri Narendra Modi**, addressed the 76th Session of the **World Health Assembly** in Geneva, Switzerland. He congratulated the **World Health Organization (WHO)** on serving the world for 75 years and expressed confidence that the WHO would set goals for the next 25 years as it reaches its 100 year milestone. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- India's presidency of the **Group of Twenty (G20)** holds immense significance as it assumes a central role in shaping global economic policies and addressing critical global challenges. As a platform that brings together the world's major economies, the G20 represents a unique opportunity for India to lead global discussions and drive impactful change. The theme of India's G20 Presidency- "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" or "One Earth, One Family, One Future" ([Click here to read the article](#))

Ranks and Reports

- The **Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode (IIMK)** has achieved recognition in the prestigious Financial Times Rankings 2023 (FT Rankings). The debut in FT Rankings places IIM Kozhikode at the 72nd position among the top 75 providers of open-enrolment executive programs globally. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Sports News

- Tokyo Olympic gold medallist **Neeraj Chopra** has claimed number one ranking in men's javelin for the first time. Neeraj Chopra has topped the charts with 1455 points, 22 ahead of Grenada's Anderson Peters. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** announced that **Adidas** will be the new kit sponsor of the Indian team. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The highly anticipated third edition of the **Khelo India University Games (KIUG)** has commenced in **Uttar Pradesh**, marking a significant milestone in the state's sporting endeavors. With over 4,000 athletes and officials from 207 universities across the country participating in 21 disciplines, the event is set to span 12 action-packed days. ([Click here to read the article](#))



Schemes and Committees News

- The "**Meri LiFE, Mera Swachh Shehar**" campaign, launched by Union Minister Shri **Hardeep S. Puri** on 15th May 2023, has gained significant momentum across urban India. With the aim of transforming waste into wealth, this nationwide campaign encourages cities to establish Reduce, Reuse, Recycle (RRR) Centres. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The government, in collaboration with the **RBI**, has proposed a modification to the **Foreign Exchange Management (Current Account Transaction) Rules**. This amendment involves including credit card transactions within the limit of \$250,000 under the **Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS)**. Any foreign remittance or purchase exceeding this limit will require prior approval from the RBI. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- International Gemological Institute (IGI)**, the world's largest certification player for lab grown diamonds and the second largest certification player for natural diamonds, has been fully acquired by global private equity firm **Blackstone**. The \$535m deal sees **Blackstone** taking over the 80% stake held by China-based investment firm Fosun, as well as the 20% stake held by **Roland Lorie**, a member of the founding family. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Supreme Court**-appointed Expert Committee recently made a significant announcement regarding the **Adani-Hindenburg controversy**. According to the committee, it is currently unable to determine whether SEBI's handling of the alleged securities law contravention by the **Adani Group** or other companies constitutes "regulatory failure." ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **University Grants Commission (UGC)** has introduced a new program called '**NEP SAARTHI – Student Ambassador for Academic Reforms in Transforming Higher Education in India**' with the aim of involving students in the implementation of the **National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- AFSPA**, which stands for the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, is a controversial legislation in India that grants special powers and immunity to the armed forces deployed in "disturbed areas." It was enacted by the Indian Parliament in 1958 to combat separatist movements and insurgencies in certain regions of the country. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs** is planning to host a two-day National Workshop on the **National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)** on May 24th and 25th, 2023. The workshop will take place at the Convention Hall, The Hotel Ashok, in **New Delhi**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd**, a leading defense shipyard in India, has launched a program called **GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme – 2023 (GAINS 2023)** in **Kolkata**. The aim of this initiative is to identify and promote innovative solutions for technological advancements in shipbuilding by startups. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**, emphasized the significance of **Capacity Building Plans** in promoting focused output by a competent workforce and fostering a work culture within organizations. These plans serve as “highways” that enable individuals to work together as a team with shared goals and vision. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The formation and promotion of **Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)** has gained significant attention in recent years, as it holds immense potential to transform the agricultural landscape. FPOs are essentially collective entities formed by farmers, enabling them to join forces, pool resources, and enhance their bargaining power. Under the central scheme titled ‘Formation and Promotion of 10,000 FPOs’, the government has allocated 1,100 FPOs to the **National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC)** to bolster the cooperative sector and provide comprehensive support to small farmers. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a move to address challenges in the ship design and construction industry, Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd, a defence PSU (Public Sector Undertaking) based in Kolkata, has launched an innovation nurturing scheme. The **GRSE Accelerated Innovation Nurturing Scheme – 2023 (GAINS)** aims to generate a large number of ideas and support their development through a two-stage process. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched UDAN 5.1** after four successful rounds of the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) – **Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN)** and with version 5.0 of the fifth round underway, to further enhance the connectivity to remote areas of the country and achieve last mile connectivity through helicopters. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has established an 11-member Cheetah Project Steering Committee under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, and Rajesh Gopal, secretary general of Global Tiger Forum, has been appointed as its chairman. The decision was taken after six cheetahs, who were brought as part of the translocation project, died in the last two months. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Garuda Aerospace**, a leading drone manufacturer, has joined hands with Naini Aerospace, a subsidiary of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), under the administrative control of the Ministry of Defence, to establish a joint development partnership. This collaboration aims to enable Garuda Aerospace to manufacture Advanced Precision **Drones** within India for various applications. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Axiom Space**, a private space habitat company, recently launched their latest mission, Axiom Mission 2 (Ax-2), to the **International Space Station (ISS)**. This mission aims to conduct experiments on human stem cell ageing, inflammation, and cancer in the unique microgravity environment of space. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Microsoft** has launched **Jugalbandi**, a generative AI-driven multilingual chatbot accessible via popular messaging platform, WhatsApp. The bot has been especially made to cover areas of rural India which aren’t easily penetrated through media and lack access to government’s welfare activities. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **International Supercomputing Conference (ISC 2023) in Germany**, the AI Supercomputer ‘**AIRAWAT**’, situated at C-DAC, Pune, achieved an impressive global ranking of 75th on the esteemed Top 500 Global Supercomputing List. This accomplishment establishes India as a leading nation in the field of AI supercomputing. ‘AIRAWAT’ is part of the Government of India’s National Program on AI and represents a significant stride forward in the country’s AI capabilities. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Infosys**, a leading **IT services company**, has launched **Topaz**, a comprehensive suite of services, solutions, and platforms that harness the power of generative **Artificial Intelligence (AI)** technologies. Topaz is built on Infosys’ applied AI framework, enabling the development of an AI-first core that enhances the capabilities of individuals and organizations to deliver cognitive solutions and accelerate value creation. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Science and Technology News

- In a groundbreaking moment for **Saudi Arabia**, the country’s first astronauts in decades have embarked on a journey to the **International Space Station (ISS)**. Sponsored by the Saudi Arabian government, a female stem cell researcher named **Rayyanah Barnawi** and a Royal Saudi Air Force fighter pilot named Ali al-Qarni joined a crew led by a retired NASA astronaut from Kennedy Space Center. ([Click here to read the article](#))



Important Days News

- Every year on **May 22**, the world marks the **International Day for Biological Diversity** to increase understanding and encourage the preservation of the Earth's diverse ecosystems. The theme for International Day for Biological Diversity 2023 is **"From Agreement to Action: Build Back Biodiversity."** ([Click here to read the article](#))
- India observes the **National Anti-Terrorism Day** on **May 21** every year. The day is observed to commemorate the death of former Prime Minister **Rajiv Gandhi**, who was assassinated on this day in 1991. The day is also observed to spread awareness about the dangers of terrorism and to reaffirm India's commitment to combating terrorism. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- To commemorate the anniversary of the signing of the Metre Convention in 1875, Metrology Day is celebrated on 20 May each year. The theme for World Metrology Day 2023 is **Measurements supporting the global food system.** ([Click here to read the article](#))
- On **May 23**, is the **International Day to End Obstetric Fistula**, Obstetric fistula is a hole in the birth canal that can develop when a woman experiences prolonged, obstructed labor without medical intervention. It is a devastating childbirth injury that can cause lifelong physical and social problems for women. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **World Turtle Day** is an annual observance held every **May 23rd**. It began in 2000 and is sponsored by American Tortoise Rescue. **The event was first celebrated in 2000, making 2023 the 24th anniversary of the observance.** ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Commonwealth Day** is a worldwide celebration that takes place every year on **March 13**, although India and certain other countries mark it on **May 24**. The theme for this year's Commonwealth Day is **"Forging a Sustainable and Peaceful Common Future."** ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The United Nations has designated **May 25 to 31** as the **"International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories."** This observance was established by the UN General Assembly on December 6, 1999. According to the UN Charter, a Non-Self-Governing Territory refers to a territory where its people have not yet achieved complete self-government. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **World Thyroid Awareness Day** is observed on **May 25** every year. The day is dedicated to spreading awareness about thyroid-related disorders, their symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment options. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) commemorated Schizophrenia to raise awareness and to reduce stigma around mental illness. It lifts the lid on the challenges that thousands of people with Schizophrenia from all over the world have to encounter on a day-to-day basis. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Obituaries News

- Veteran actor **Sarath Babu** has passed away at a city hospital in Hyderabad. Born as Sathyam Babu Dixithulu on July 31, 1951, in Amudalavalasa in AP, he adopted Sarath Babu for the screen. He started his career in films in 1973 with Rama Rajyam in Telugu but got a big break with K Balachander for the film Nizhal Nijamagiradu in 1978 which was remade into Idi kadha kaadu in Telugu. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Karumuttu T Kannan**, a prominent industrialist and philanthropist, who served as the **Chairman & Managing Director of Thiagarajar Mills Ltd**, located in Madurai, has sadly passed away at the age of 70. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Tina Turner**, the **'Queen of Rock'n'Roll'** has passed away at the age of 83 after a long illness in her home in Kusunacht near Zurich, Switzerland. The singer, Tina Turner, rose to prominence after performing with her husband Ike Turner in the 1960s before overcoming his violent, abusive behavior to go on to become a chart-topping solo artist. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Miscellaneous News

- The **Ministry of Education** and the **World Bank** held a unique workshop on **School-to-Work Transition** under the **STARS Program**. The workshop was led by co-chairs Shri Sanjay Kumar, Secretary of School Education, and Shri Atul Kumar Tiwari, Secretary of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. Also in attendance were the Secretaries of Education and Skill Department of the six STARS states and representatives from the **World Bank.** ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Hari Budha Magar**, a former Gurkha soldier from Nepal who lost both his legs, made history by successfully climbing **Mount Everest** using prosthetic legs. Upon his return to **Kathmandu**, he was warmly welcomed by his relatives and family members. Speaking to the crowd gathered at the airport, the ex-Nepalese soldier expressed his gratitude and acknowledged that this accomplishment was the result of a collective effort. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **ipu Sultan's** fabled sword was found in the private bedchamber as it has now broken all auction records for an Indian object for Bonhams in London by fetching over **GBP 14 million** at its Islamic and Indian Art sale this week. The sword from Tipu Sultan's reign between 1782 and 1799, is described as a fine gold koftgari hilted steel sword referred to as sukhela, which is an emblem of authority. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The first-ever Urban Climate Film Festival, which aspires to employ the powerful medium of film to enlighten audiences about the environmental, social, and economic impacts of climate change on urban settlements, is going to take place in New Town, Kolkata from 3rd to 5th June 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Static Takeaways

- Japan Prime minister: Fumio Kishida;
- Japan Capital: Tokyo;
- Japan Currency: Yen;
- Tripura Capital: Agartala;
- Tripura Governor: Shri Satyadeo Narain Arya;
- Tripura CM: Dr. Manik Saha.
- International Basketball Federation Founded: 18 June 1932;
- International Basketball Federation Headquarters: Mies, Switzerland;
- International Basketball Federation President: Hamane Niang.
- Microsoft Headquarters: Redmond, Washington, United States;
- Microsoft Founded: 4 April 1975, Albuquerque, New Mexico, United States;
- Microsoft Founders: Bill Gates, Paul Allen;
- Microsoft Chairman and Chief Executive Officer: Satya Nadella.
- Swimming Federation of India Headquarters: Ahmedabad, Gujarat;
- Swimming Federation of India Affiliation: World Aquatics;
- Swimming Federation of India Founded: 1948;
- Swimming Federation of India Membership: 30 State/UT associations;
- Swimming Federation of India CEO: Virendra Nanavati.
- Capital of Ireland: Dublin
- Currency of Ireland: Irish Pound, Euro
- Prime Minister of Ireland: Leo Varadkar



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