

Weekly One Liners 18th to 24th of December 2023

Sahitya Akademi Awards 2023 Winners Name List

Sahitya Akademi, announced its annual **Sahitya Akademi Awards 2023 in 24 languages**. 9 books of poetry, 6 of novels, 5 of short stories, 3 Essays and 1 Literary Study have won the Sahitya Akademi Awards 2023. The Awards, recommended by distinguished Jury members in 24 Indian languages, were approved by the Executive Board of the Sahitya Akademi which met today under the Chairmanship of Sri Madhav Kaushik, President, Sahitya Akademi.

Sahitya Akademi Awards 2023 Winners Name List

Category	Language	Awardees
Poetry	Dogri	Vijay Verma
	Gujarati	Sandeep Joshi
	Kannada	Lakshmesh Tolpadi
	Kashmiri	Manshoor Banhali
	Konkani	Mahabaleshwar Sail
	Maithili	Basukinath Jha
	Manipuri	Sorokhaibam Gambhini
	Rajasthani	Gaje Singh Rajpurohit
	Sanskrit	Arun Ranjan Mishra
	Novel	English
Hindi		Sanjeev
Malayalam		E.V. Ramakrishnan
Marathi		Kusumkhatri Rana
Punjabi		Swarnjit Savi
Short Stories	Urdu	Sadiqua Nawab Saheer
	Assamese	Pranavjyoti Deka
	Bengali	Swapnamoy Chakraborti
	Bodo	Vinod Sona Minj
	Santali	Taraceen Baskey (Turia Chand Baskey)
Essays	Telugu	T. Pattabhi Satyam
	Nepali	Juddhar Rana
	Odia	Ashutosh Parida
Literary Study	Sindhi	Vinod Asudani
	Malayalam	E.V. Ramakrishnan

Sahitya Akademi Awards 2023 Winners

Language	Title and Genre	Name of the Author
Assamese	Dr. Pranavjyoti Deka Shrestha Galpa (Short Stories)	Pranavjyoti Deka
Bengali	Jabar Pari (Novel)	Swapnamoy Chakraborti
Bodo	Si-Ufari Sarni (Short Stories)	Vinod Sona Minj
Dogri	Daun Sadiyan Ek Seer (Poetry-Ghazal)	Vijay Verma
English	Requiem in Raga Janki (Novel)	Neelum Saran Gour
Gujarati	Sairandhree (Epic Novel)	Sandeep Joshi

Language	Title and Genre	Name of the Author
Hindi	Mujhe Pahachano (Novel)	Sanjeev
Kannada	Mahabharata Anushandhana Bharata (Poetry)	Lakshmesh Tolpadi
Kashmiri	Yath Wavah Halis Toong Tsoley Zaley (Essays)	Manshoor Banhali
Konkani	Varsal (Short Stories)	Mahabaleshwar Sail
Maithili	Bodha Sanketan (Essays)	Basukinath Jha
Malayalam	Malayala Novelinete Deshakalangal (Literary Study)	E.V. Ramakrishnan
Manipuri	Yangkhoibagi Nanglo Helli (Poetry)	Sorokhaibam Gambhini
Marathi	Ringan (Novel)	Kusumkhatri Rana
Nepali	Nepali Lokshitya Ra Loksanskritiko Pariyocha (Essays)	Juddhar Rana
Odia	Aprastuta Prutyu (Poetry)	Ashutosh Parida
Punjabi	Mann Di Chip (Poetry)	Swarnjit Savi
Rajasthani	Manak Mati (Poetry)	Gaje Singh Rajpurohit
Sanskrit	Shunye Meghghanam (Poetry)	Arun Ranjan Mishra
Santali	Jaba Baha (Short Stories)	Taraceen Baskey (Turia Chand Baskey)
Sindhi	Hathu Hikro Pahinjaru (Ghazal)	Vinod Asudani
Tamil	Neeraviyal (Poetry-Short-Stories)	Rajasekaran (Devibharathi)
Telugu	Rameshwaram Kaakulu Marikonni Kathalu (Short Stories)	T. Pattabhi Satyam
Urdu	Rajdev Ki Amrai (Novel)	Sadiqua Nawab Saher

Sahitya Akademi Awards 2023 Winners Name Selection Process

The awardees were selected based on recommendations made by a Jury of three members in their respective languages. The names of the winners were made known after the approval. According to an official release, the awards relate to books first published during the five years immediately preceding the year of award (i.e., between 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2022).

Sahitya Akademi Awards 2023 Presentation

The Award in the form of a casket containing an engraved copper-plaque, a shawl and an amount of **Rs. 1,00,000/- towards each** will be presented to the awardees at the Award Presentation function which will be held on 12 March 2024 at Kamani Auditorium, Copernicus Marg, New Delhi-110 001.

About Sahitya Akademi Awards

Established on **March 12, 1954**, the **Sahitya Akademi** is an autonomous body under the Union Culture Ministry, dedicated to the promotion of literature in Indian languages. Over the years, it has played a pivotal role in recognizing and celebrating literary excellence across diverse linguistic landscapes in India. In conclusion, the **Sahitya Akademi Awards for 2023** underscore the richness and diversity of Indian literature, honoring writers who have made significant contributions to the literary tapestry of the nation. The recognition serves to inspire and encourage continued creativity and exploration within the realm of literature in various languages.

National Mathematics Day 2023

Every year on **December 22**, the nation reveres the brilliance of **Srinivasa Ramanujan**, one of the greatest mathematicians in history, as **National Mathematics Day (NMD)**. This significant day serves as a tribute to Ramanujan's unparalleled contributions to the field of mathematics and promotes the awareness of the subject's importance.

National Mathematics Day: Timeline of events

Know about Srinivasa Ramanujan's life and his works in the timeline given here.

- **1887:** The great mathematician was born on this day in Tamil Nadu's Erode to a Brahmin Iyengar family. Since his childhood days, he had a liking for mathematics which led him to master trigonometry at the age of 12. He was also eligible for a scholarship at the Government Arts College in Kumbakonam.
- **1912:** Srinivasa Ramanujan started to work as a clerk in Madras Port Trust in 1912. There, his mathematics genius was recognized by some of his colleagues and one of them referred him to Professor GH Hardy of Trinity College, Cambridge University. He met Hardy in 1913, after which he went to Trinity College.
- **1916:** This year the Ramanujan received his Bachelor in Science degree. After this, he published several papers on his subject with Hardy's help.
- **1917:** Ramanujan was elected to the London Mathematical Society.

- **1918:** The great mathematician was elected to the prestigious Royal Society for his research on Elliptic Functions and theory of numbers. He was also the first Indian to be elected a Fellow of the Trinity College.
- **1919:** Ramanujan returned to India.
- **1920:** On April 26, he breathed his last owing to deteriorating health. He was just 32 years old.

Historical Background of National Mathematics Day

The genesis of National Mathematics Day dates back to 2012 when the Manmohan Singh government officially designated December 22 for its observance. This day coincides with the birth anniversary of Srinivasa Ramanujan, born on **December 22, 1887, in Erode, Tamil Nadu**. The year 2012 was further celebrated as the National Mathematics Year, emphasizing the profound impact of mathematics on human progress.

Srinivasa Ramanujan: A Mathematical Prodigy

Ramanujan's mathematical prowess manifested at a remarkably young age. By 12, he delved into Trigonometry, and at 15, he acquired George Shoobridge Carr's "**Synopsis of Elementary Results in Pure and Applied Mathematics.**" His groundbreaking work spanned Riemann series, hypergeometric series, elliptic integrals, continued fractions, and functional equations of the zeta function.

In 1911, Ramanujan marked his entry into the mathematical arena by publishing his first paper in the Journal of the Indian Mathematical Society. His scholarly journey led him to receive a B.A. degree by research at Cambridge University in 1916. Despite facing hardships and poverty in his early life, Ramanujan left an indelible mark on mathematics, leaving behind approximately 4,000 original theorems.

Significance of National Mathematics Day

National Mathematics Day aims to propagate the significance of mathematics in various aspects of life and illuminate Ramanujan's remarkable contributions. On this occasion, the focus extends beyond textbooks, encouraging children to embrace critical thinking and logical reasoning, mirroring Ramanujan's unconventional path of learning.

Educational institutions actively participate in the celebrations, organizing competitions, Olympiads, and other events to engage students and foster a love for mathematics. The day serves as a reminder of India's rich mathematical heritage, featuring luminaries like Aryabhata, Brahmagupta, Mahavira, and Bhaskara II.

National Affairs

Parliament Passes Post Office Bill, 2023, Replacing 125-Year-Old Indian Post Office Act, 1898

The Indian Parliament recently approved the **Post Office Bill, 2023**, marking a significant overhaul of the 125-year-old Indian Post Office Act, 1898. The new legislation aims to modernize and consolidate the legal framework governing post offices in India.

Key Provisions

1. Enhanced Powers for National Security

The Bill grants post office employees the authority to open, detain, or intercept any item during transmission in the interest of national security or public safety. However, this power is subject to specific conditions.

2. Immunity for Post Office Employees

While providing immunity for post office employees from liability in delivering services, the Bill includes conditions. Officers are exempt unless they act fraudulently or willfully cause loss, delay, or misdelivery of services.

3. Interception Authority

The Central Government, through notification, can empower officers to intercept, open, or detain items in transit by the post office. This authority extends to situations involving security of the State, friendly relations with foreign states, public order, emergencies, or public safety.

4. Duty Evasion and Prohibited Items

Post office officers can deliver items, suspected of duty evasion or being prohibited by law, to customs or relevant authorities. The handling of such items will follow legal provisions.

5. Liability Exemption

The post office and its officers are exempt from liability for any loss, misdelivery, delay, or damage incurred during the provision of services, except in cases of fraudulent or willful misconduct.

6. Recovery of Sums

The Bill includes provisions for the recovery of sums due in respect of services provided by the post office. Failure to pay charges for services renders the amount recoverable as if it were an arrear of land revenue.

7. Exclusive Privilege and Standards

The post office retains the exclusive privilege of issuing postage stamps. The Central Government may prescribe standards for addressing items, including address identifiers and the usage of postcodes.

Rationale for the Bill

The Post Office Bill, 2023, aims to replace the outdated Indian Post Office Act, 1898, to accommodate the evolving landscape of post office services. With over 1.5 lakh post offices in India, including a substantial presence in rural areas, the legislation addresses concerns related to national security, public safety, and the expanding role of post offices in citizen-centric service delivery.

French President Emmanuel Macron to Grace India's Republic Day

In a testament to the enduring friendship between **India and France**, **President Emmanuel Macron** is set to be the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations in New Delhi. This marks the sixth instance of a French leader gracing this prestigious occasion, highlighting the significance of the bilateral relationship.

A Legacy of Friendship – French Leaders as Chief Guests

President Macron follows in the footsteps of his predecessors, with former French Prime Minister **Jacques Chirac** having been the Chief Guest in 1976 and 1998. Additionally, former Presidents Valery Giscard d'Estaing, Nicolas Sarkozy, and Francois Hollande have all contributed to this tradition in the years 1980, 2008, and 2016, respectively.

Commemorating 25 Years of India-France Strategic Partnership

This year's Republic Day celebrations hold special significance as India and France commemorate the **25th anniversary of their Strategic Partnership**. The enduring collaboration spans across diverse sectors, reflecting the depth and breadth of the diplomatic, economic, and cultural ties between the two nations.

Key Areas of Collaboration – A Comprehensive Partnership

Under the India-France Strategic Partnership, the two nations collaborate closely in critical areas such as defence, space, civil nuclear, trade, investment, education, culture, and people-to-people ties. This multifaceted engagement underscores the shared commitment to mutual growth and global cooperation.

Macron's Visit – Fostering Bilateral Relations

President Macron's presence at the Republic Day celebrations symbolizes a commitment to further strengthening the ties between India and France. His visit is expected to provide impetus to ongoing collaborations and pave the way for new avenues of cooperation in the years to come.

Diplomatic Gesture – Modi's Invitation and International Relations

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's invitation to President Macron underscores the warmth and camaraderie that characterize the diplomatic relations between the two nations. This gesture not only solidifies the bilateral partnership but also highlights India's role on the global stage.

UNESCO Awards Spotlight Indian Heritage Conservation Efforts

The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** has recognized four Indian projects for their outstanding contributions to cultural heritage conservation in the Asia-Pacific region. This prestigious recognition reflects India's commitment to preserving its rich past for future generations.

Award of Excellence: Rambagh Gate and Ramparts, Punjab

The resilient urban revitalization project of **Rambagh Gate and Ramparts in Amritsar, Punjab**, received the highest honor, the **"Award of Excellence."** The jury lauded the project for its inclusivity and accessibility, ensuring that the revitalized heritage site benefits the broader community.

Award of Merit: Church of Epiphany, Haryana, and Bikaner House, Delhi

The **Church of Epiphany in Haryana and Bikaner House in Delhi** were bestowed with the **"Award of Merit"** for their exemplary conservation efforts. These projects showcase India's diverse architectural heritage and dedication to preserving its historical treasures.

Beyond India: Recognizing Conservation Efforts Across Asia-Pacific

While India's achievements deserve applause, the UNESCO awards acknowledged twelve exemplary projects from across the Asia-Pacific region. Among these, three projects – the Fanling Golf Course in Hong Kong SAR, China; Dongguan Garden Residences in Yangzhou, China; and Karnikara Mandapam at Kunnamangalam Bhagawati Temple, Kerala, India – each received the "Award of Distinction."

This recognition highlights the collaborative efforts of individuals and organizations throughout the region to safeguard cultural heritage for future generations.

Significance of UNESCO Awards

The UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation play a crucial role in:

- **Promoting heritage conservation:** The awards raise awareness about the importance of preserving cultural heritage and inspire others to undertake similar initiatives.
- **Recognizing outstanding efforts:** By acknowledging successful conservation projects, the awards incentivize individuals and organizations to strive for excellence in heritage preservation.

- **Sharing best practices:** The awards platform facilitates the exchange of knowledge and best practices in heritage conservation, contributing to sustainable and effective preservation strategies.

The recent UNESCO awards underscore India's significant contributions to cultural heritage conservation and provide a platform for other countries to learn from its valuable experiences. As we strive to safeguard our shared past, such initiatives become increasingly important in shaping a richer future for generations to come.

National Sports Awards 2023

Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award 2023

This table lists the recipients of the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award for 2023, highlighting their outstanding performance in the field of badminton over the past four years.

Recipient	Sport
Shri Rankireddy Satwik Sai Raj	Badminton
Shri Chirag Chandrashekhar Shetty	Badminton

Arjuna Awards 2023:

The award is conferred for great performance over a time period of the last four years and for demonstrating qualities of sportsmanship, a sense of discipline, and leadership.

Recipient	Sport
Ms. Aditi Gopichand Swami	Archery
Shri Ojas Pravin Deotale	Archery
Ms. Parul Chaudhary	Athletics
Shri Sreeshankar M	Athletics
Shri Mohameed Hussamuddin	Boxing
Shri Mohammed Shami	Cricket
Ms. R Vaishali	Chess
Ms. Divyakriti Singh	Equestrian Dressage
Shri Anush Agarwalla	Equestrian
Ms. Diksha Dagar	Golf
Ms. Pukhrambam Sushila Chanu	Hockey
Shri Krishan Bahadur Pathak	Hockey
Ms. Ritu Negi	Kabaddi
Shri Pawan Kumar	Kabaddi
Ms. Nasreen	Kho-Kho
Ms. Pinki	Lawn Bowls
Ms. Esha Singh	Shooting
Shri Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar	Shooting
Shri Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu	Squash
Ms. Ayhika Mukherjee	Table Tennis
Ms. Antim	Wrestling

Recipient	Sport
Shri Sunil Kumar	Wrestling
Ms. Naorem Roshibina Devi	Wushu
Ms. Sheetal Devi	Para Archery
Shri Illuri Ajay Kumar Reddy	Blind Cricket
Ms. Prachi Yadav	Para Canoeing

Dronacharya Award for Outstanding Coaches in Sports and Games 2023

This table showcases the recipients of the Dronacharya Award for 2023, distinguishing between those recognized in the regular category and those honored in the lifetime category, across various sports disciplines.

For the Regular Category:

Recipient	Sport
Shri Lalit Kumar	Wrestling
Shri R. B. Ramesh	Chess
Shri Maheveer Prasad Saini	Para Athletics
Shri Shivendra Singh	Hockey
Shri Ganesh Prabhakar Devrukhkar	Mallakhamb

For the Lifetime Category:

Recipient	Sport
Shri Jashkirat Singh Grewal	Golf
Shri Bhaskaran E	Kabaddi
Shri Jayanta Kumar Pushilal	Table Tennis

Dhyan Chand Award for Lifetime Achievement in Sports and Games 2023:

This table lists the recipients of the Dhyan Chand Award for 2023, recognizing their significant contributions to sports both during their active career and post-retirement.

Recipient	Sport
Ms. Manjusha Kanwar	Badminton
Shri Vineet Kumar Sharma	Hockey
Ms. Kavitha Selvaraj	Kabaddi

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy 2023:

Here's the information about the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy 2023, formatted into a table:

University	Achievement
Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar	Overall Winning University
Lovely Professional University, Punjab	1st Runner-Up University
Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra	2nd Runner-Up University

National Affairs

- On a vibrant Sunday in **Varanasi**, **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **second edition of Kashi Tamil Sangamam**, a cultural extravaganza aimed at fostering the cultural ties between **Varanasi and Tamil Nadu**. During the event, **PM Modi** also flagged off the **Kashi Tamil Sangamam Express**, symbolizing the unity of the diverse cultures within India. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In alignment with the government's commitment to fortify the logistics sector, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate the **402 km-long segment of the Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) on 18 December**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** marked a historic moment on Monday as he inaugurated the **Swarved Mahamandir in Umaraha, Varanasi**. This newly constructed meditation center stands tall at **seven floors**, accommodating an impressive **20,000 devotees** at a time for meditation. The inauguration ceremony showcased the Prime Minister's commitment to fostering spiritual well-being and cultural heritage in the holy city. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Ms. Uma Sekhar** achieved a remarkable victory by **securing 45 out of 59 votes in the initial round** of elections for the **Governing Council of the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT) held in Rome, Italy**. This historic win not only represents Ms. Sekhar's individual achievement but also elevates India to a prominent position on the **Governing Council for the term spanning 2024-28**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a revelation during the ongoing Winter Session, the Indian Parliament disclosed a concerning trend in unclaimed deposits within the country's banking sector. The unclaimed deposits have witnessed a substantial **28% annual rise**, reaching a staggering **₹42,270 crore** by the end of the last financial year in March 2023. This marks a significant jump from the previous year's figure of ₹32,934 crore. ([Read Complete Article](#))



- The **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India**, recognized as the world's largest professional body of Chartered Accountants, recently revealed a **new logo** that encapsulates its commitment to an India-first approach and its role as a trusted partner in nation-building. This unveiling took place at the **Global Professional Accountants Convention (GloPAC)** in Gandhinagar, where the Vice-President, **Jagdeep Dhankhar**, and Commerce and Industry Minister, Piyush Goyal, were present. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Central Railway** general manager **Ram Karan Yadav** has recently announced a significant step towards enhancing passenger safety. In his first news conference after assuming office, Yadav disclosed plans to **install panic switches at 117 railway stations under the Central Railway network**. This move aims to provide passengers with a quick and efficient means of alerting the Railway Protection Force (RPF) in case of emergencies. ([Read Complete Article](#))

States in the News

- **Goa Liberation Day 2023**, celebrated annually on **December 19**, holds special significance as it commemorates the liberation of the state from **Portuguese colonial rule**. The year 2023 marks the **62nd anniversary** of this momentous occasion, highlighting the resilience and determination of the people of Goa in their quest for freedom. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Kurukshetra**, a sacred town resonating with cultural heritage and spiritual significance, witnessed a grand spectacle as it hosted the inauguration of the **International Gita Mahotsav – 2023**. This week-long celebration promises a unique blend of spirituality, cultural diversity, and global participation, captivating visitors until December 24. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Uttar Pradesh Police** has taken a significant step towards **enhancing public outreach and transparency** by becoming one of the first in the country to **launch WhatsApp Channels for its headquarters and all district units**. The initiative aims to publicize the commendable work of the district police and provide timely information about actions taken in criminal and law and order incidents. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Tamil Nadu** has once again secured the coveted '**Achiever**' status among coastal states in the **Logistics Ease Across Different States (LEADS) 2023 rankings**, affirming its position as a logistic powerhouse in India. The state's remarkable performance in the export-import ecosystem has earned accolades, marking the second consecutive time it has achieved this prestigious status. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- Two prominent Indian states, **Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh**, have taken significant strides in deploying higher capacities under the “**Development of Solar Parks and Ultra Mega Solar Power Projects**” scheme. This initiative, launched in December 2014 with an initial capacity of 20,000 MW, was later expanded to 40,000 MW in March 2017, aiming to establish at least 50 solar parks by 2023-24. ([Read Complete Article](#))

International Affairs

- Tax administration plays a crucial role in a nation’s economic development and stability. Recognizing the importance of collaboration in this domain, **Tax Inspectors Without Borders (TIWB)**, a joint initiative of the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** and the **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)**, launched a significant program in **Saint Lucia** on 14th December 2023. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Egypt’s President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi** has clinched a third term, garnering 89.6% of the vote in the nation’s latest election, held from December 10-12. Despite economic hardships and regional tensions, Sisi’s victory was anticipated, given the limited opposition. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The World Bank’s latest report reveals India’s leading position in global remittances, reaching **\$125 billion in 2023**. While remittances to low- and middle-income countries grew by 3.8%, challenges include declines in the Middle East and North Africa. The report underscores the crucial role of inclusive labor markets and social protection policies. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Finland**, a global champion of gender equality, recently conferred the **International Gender Equality Prize for 2023** to the **Afghan Women Skills Development Center**, recognizing their unwavering commitment to promoting and safeguarding the rights of women in Afghanistan. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- At least 118 people in north-west China have lost their lives in the **country’s deadliest earthquake in 13 years**. The 6.2 magnitude quake struck the mountainous **Gansu province** around midnight on Monday, also affecting the neighboring Qinghai province. The aftermath has left hundreds injured, and the fatalities might rise as rescue operations are underway in the icy conditions. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Bhutan**, a picturesque Himalayan kingdom, is set to embark on a transformative journey with the announcement of its ambitious “**Gelephu Smartcity Project**.” The Bhutanese King, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, revealed the plans for a massive “**international city**” spanning over **1,000 sq. km. on the border with Assam**. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- The European Union (EU) has conveyed disappointment at India’s refusal to engage in interim arbitration for resolving the ongoing dispute concerning import duties on **specific Information and Communications Technology (ICT) products**, such as smartphones and components. India defends its stance, asserting that interim agreements undermine the right to appeal to a permanent standing body and emphasizes the need to restore the functioning of the WTO appellate body. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a landmark decision, the Colorado Supreme Court, consisting entirely of justices appointed by Democratic governors, declared **former U.S. President Donald Trump** ineligible for the presidency under the U.S. Constitution’s insurrection clause. This move marks the first-ever use of Section 3 of the 14th Amendment to disqualify a presidential candidate. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Noma**, also known as **cancrum oris** or **gangrenous stomatitis**, has recently been added to the World Health Organization’s (**WHO**) **list of Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)**. This move aims to elevate awareness, stimulate research, secure funding and intensify efforts to combat this rare yet severe infection. Noma primarily affects impoverished communities in tropical and subtropical regions, particularly targeting **children aged 2 to 6 years old**. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- The **Government of India** and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** recently solidified their collaboration with the signing of a **\$250 million policy-based loan** on December 15, 2023. This financial support, part of the **Industrial Corridor Development Programme (Subprogramme 2)**, aims to enhance manufacturing competitiveness, fortify national supply chains, and integrate with global value chains. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur (IITK)** and the **Indian Navy** have joined hands in a landmark **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** signed at the Naval Headquarters. This collaborative initiative aims to propel technology development, foster innovative solutions and engage in joint Research and Development (R&D) endeavors. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Suzlon Group**, India’s largest renewable energy solutions provider, has recently inked a definitive agreement with **REC Limited**, a state-run entity, for crucial working capital facilities. This strategic partnership is geared towards bolstering Suzlon’s capacity to meet its working capital needs, pivotal for executing its extensive current order book and prospective future projects. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- In a strategic move to broaden their service offerings and strengthen their market presence, **Aditya Birla Sun Life Insurance** and **IDFC First Bank** have joined forces through a bancassurance partnership. This collaboration aims to **provide comprehensive insurance solutions to the bank's extensive customer base** by leveraging the robust distribution network of IDFC First Bank. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In the first half of the fiscal year 2023-24 (H1Fy24), the combined fiscal scenario of the Centre and the States in India has remained resilient, with the gross **fiscal deficit (GFD) staying below 7% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**. A recent study by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) sheds light on the fiscal landscape, highlighting the role of enhanced revenue mobilization and prudent financial management. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move towards empowering self-help groups (SHGs) in **Arunachal Pradesh**, the **Arunachal State Rural Livelihoods Mission (ArSRLM)** has forged a strategic alliance with the **State Bank of India (SBI)**. The memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between the two entities aims to **provide comprehensive banking services to the SHGs operating in the state**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a significant step towards addressing the pressing issues of global warming and promoting sustainability education, research and outreach, the **Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT) and Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL)** have joined forces to establish the **Kotak School of Sustainability**. The collaboration aims to provide leadership solutions for sustainability and prepare future generations to champion the cause of sustainable development. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The 605th gathering of the Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India, led by Governor Shaktikanta Das, meticulously examined the prevailing economic and financial landscape. The discussions, held against the backdrop of the challenging global geopolitical developments, aimed to dissect both domestic and international scenarios. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Domestic rating agency ICRA has adjusted its **GDP growth projection for the fiscal year 2024**, increasing it to 6.5% from the previous estimate of 6.2%. This update, however, remains below the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) more optimistic 7% GDP growth forecast for the current fiscal year. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Payment processing giants **Razorpay** and **Cashfree** have received the final authorization from the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to operate as **Payment Aggregators (PAs)**. This significant development comes after a year-long pause in onboarding new merchants, in compliance with RBI advisory. Open, a neobanking fintech, has also secured the final approval from RBI to operate as a Payment Aggregator. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Shares of State Bank of India (SBI) have reached new heights, hitting a **record Rs 659.50**, marking a substantial 17% surge in the past month. This surge has outpaced the market, with S&P BSE Sensex and Nifty 50 up by nearly 9%, and the Nifty PSU Bank index gaining 14% during the same period. The remarkable rally has propelled SBI's market capitalization close to Rs 6 trillion, drawing attention to the bank's positive financial performance. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Banking/Economy/Business News

- **India's National Pension System (NPS)** has witnessed a substantial growth in assets, reaching a new milestone of ₹10.7 lakh crore as of December 9, 25.95% higher than the previous year. Bolstered by a robust equity market, the latest data from the **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** reveals noteworthy insights into the performance and trajectory of NPS investments. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The call for a reduction in retail prices for petrol and diesel has intensified as international crude oil prices recently dropped below \$80 per barrel, **stabilizing in the \$76-77 range**. This demand is backed by the robust performance of oil marketing companies (OMCs) in the first half of fiscal year 2023 and the maintenance of retail inflation within the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) comfort zone in November 2023. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- IndusInd Bank has recently launched the '**Indus Solitaire Program**,' an innovative community banking initiative specifically designed to cater to the unique needs of the diamond industry. This comprehensive program is set to provide an array of exclusive benefits and features, reinforcing the bank's commitment to serving the diamond community. ([Read Complete Article](#))

BANK MAHAPACK
for all Bank & Insurance Exam
Selection Ka Saathi

- **Accenture**, a global leader in professional services, has taken a significant stride in the field of **artificial intelligence (AI)** with the **establishment of its Generative AI Studio in Bengaluru, India**. This cutting-edge facility is poised to become a central hub for the development and application of generative AI technologies, showcasing Accenture's commitment to advancing AI solutions for businesses. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In November, India experienced a notable surge in long-haul thermal coal imports, with shipments from the United States peaking at **1.40 million tonnes (MT)**, marking the highest level in over a year. The information comes from energy intelligence firm Kpler, which reported that India's total thermal coal imports for the month amounted to 17.51 MT, slightly lower than the 15-month high of 18.66 MT recorded in October 2023. Despite a month-on-month decrease, the data reveals a year-on-year increase of 6.92 MT. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has reclassified India's de facto exchange rate regime from **"floating" to "stabilized arrangement"** for the period December 2022 to October 2023. This shift comes after an Article IV review, where the IMF staff diverged from Indian authorities' perspective on exchange rate stability. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **IndiGo**, India's leading carrier, has achieved a historic milestone by becoming the **first Indian airline to transport 100 million passengers** in a single calendar year. This accomplishment places IndiGo in an elite global club of carriers operating such a massive scale, solidifying its position among the **world's top-10 airlines by passenger traffic**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Thirteen Indian states participated in a state government securities auction, collectively raising Rs 19,692 crore, slightly surpassing the notified **amount of Rs 19,592 crore**. This marked an increase from the previous week, where eight states had raised Rs 12,100 crore through a similar auction. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Semiconductor powerhouses **MediaTek** and **Nvidia** have recently forged a strategic partnership aimed at bringing **artificial intelligence (AI)** to the forefront of the automotive industry. This collaboration signifies a bold step towards revolutionizing in-car experiences, shaping the evolution of autonomous driving systems, and establishing a new standard for smart vehicles. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Unit 4 of Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP 4 – 700 MW)** marked a historic moment in India's nuclear power landscape by achieving criticality, signifying the initiation of controlled fission chain reactions. This significant milestone, attained on December 17, 2023, is a testament to the stringent safety standards set by the **Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- India's economic landscape has witnessed a significant transformation over the past few decades, marked by a notable decline in the share of agriculture in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). According to recent government data, **the share of agriculture in India's GDP dropped from 35% in the fiscal year 1990-91 to 15% in 2022-23**. This shift can be attributed to the rapid growth experienced by the industrial and service sectors during this period. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released projections for India's economic performance, utilizing its **Dynamic Stochastic General Equilibrium (DSGE) model**. The forecast indicates a real GDP growth of 7.1% for the fiscal year 2023-24, surpassing the previous estimate of 7%, and a subsequent slowdown to 6% in the following fiscal year, 2024-25. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- After more than a year of anticipation, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has finally given its approval for at least six payment aggregator licences, signaling the end of the ban on entities such as **RazorPay and Cashfree Payments** from onboarding new merchants. The central bank had imposed temporary restrictions in December 2022, instructing platforms with in-principal approvals, including **RazorPay, Cashfree Payments, PayU, PineLabs, Paytm, and Stripe**, to halt merchant onboarding until additional documents and audit reports were submitted for final license consideration. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced on December 20 a pivotal decision to enable **Card-on-File Tokenisation (CoFT)** directly through card-issuing banks or institutions. This marks a shift from the previous method where a **Card-on-File (CoF) token** could only be generated through a merchant's application or webpage. The move is in alignment with the RBI's commitment to enhancing user convenience and security in digital transactions. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a landmark decision, the **Ministry of Railways** has issued a directive for the handover of all assets from the **National Academy of Indian Railways (NAIR)**, located in **Vadodara, to Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (GSV)**. This directive comes in alignment with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to bolster the newly envisioned Central university. The move is poised to impact the esteemed legacy of NAIR, a pivotal training facility for railway officers over several decades. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- According to a comprehensive report compiled from data sourced from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Clearing Corporation of India, and the Securities and Exchange Board of India, India's total debt has witnessed a significant uptick in the September quarter. The total outstanding bonds traded in the market surged to **USD 2.47 trillion (Rs 205 lakh crore)**, marking an increase from the USD 2.34 trillion (Rs 200 lakh crore) reported in the March quarter of the previous fiscal year. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- In October 2023, India experienced a surge in net **foreign direct investment (FDI)**, reaching a 21-month high at \$5.9 billion. This upswing was attributed to robust gross inflows and a decrease in repatriation. The Reserve Bank of India's data revealed a notable increase from \$1.54 billion in September 2023 and \$1.16 billion in October 2022. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Regulated entities like banks and NBFCs face a daunting task as they consider exiting their investments in **alternative investment funds (AIFs)**. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has mandated a 30-day window for these entities to evaluate and liquidate their AIF portfolios to address concerns about the disguised evergreening of loan exposures. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Institute of Chartered Accountants of India**, recognized as the world's largest professional body of Chartered Accountants, recently revealed a **new logo** that encapsulates its commitment to an India-first approach and its role as a trusted partner in nation-building. This unveiling took place at the **Global Professional Accountants Convention (GloPAC)** in Gandhinagar, where the Vice-President, **Jagdeep Dhankhar**, and Commerce and Industry Minister, Piyush Goyal, were present. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- ICICI Bank has received the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) approval for the re-appointment of **Sandeep Batra as the Executive Director (ED)**. The approval, conveyed through an official letter, is effective from December 23, 2023, to December 22, 2025. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is set to increase its liquidity infusion into the banking system through the **7-day variable rate repo (VRR) auction** on December 22. The central bank, responding to a liquidity deficit near an 8-year high of ₹2.27-lakh crore as of December 20, has raised the offered amount to ₹1.75-lakh crore, up from ₹1-lakh crore in the previous week. This move aims to assist banks in overcoming liquidity challenges. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Shares of the leading state-run insurer LIC surged to a new 52-week high on December 22 following a significant development. The Ministry of Finance has granted a one-time exemption to Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) regarding the **25% Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS) rule**. The decision allows LIC to achieve the mandated 25% MPS within 10 years of its listing, extending the deadline to May 2032. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released a preliminary framework for **self-regulatory organizations (SROs)** aimed at overseeing banks, non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), and other entities under its regulatory purview. Seeking public input until January 25, 2024, the draft outlines eligibility criteria and operational guidelines for potential SROs. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a significant financial development, India's foreign exchange reserves witnessed a remarkable surge, reaching an impressive **\$616 billion** in the week concluding on December 15. This milestone marked the highest level since March 25, 2022, as per data disclosed by the Reserve Bank of India. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Continuing its commitment to empower state governments, the central government has disbursed an additional instalment of **Rs 72,961.21 crore** as tax devolution to states on December 22, 2023. This comes as a follow-up to a similar transfer earlier in the month on December 11, according to an official statement from the finance ministry. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Bima Vistaar, a groundbreaking all-in-one insurance product encompassing life, health, and property coverage, is poised for launch in the first quarter of the upcoming financial year. The **Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) reports** that the product design and crucial rollout aspects are nearing completion, with a keen focus on leveraging technology for a seamless launch. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** is set to revolutionize the Indian stock market with a proposed two-phase implementation of **same-day settlement (T+0)** and instant settlement. In a consultation paper, SEBI invites public comments, emphasizing that the shorter settlement cycles will be supplementary to the existing T+1 cycle. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Ministry of Textiles**, in its continuous efforts to support and empower jute farmers, has introduced the **"Paat-Mitro" mobile application**. Developed by The **Jute Corporation of India Limited (JCI)**, this application is a significant step towards **providing essential information about Minimum Support Prices (MSP) and agronomy to jute farmers**. The launch took place during the 'Jute Symposium,' with Smt. Rachna Shah, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, inaugurating the application, which is available in six languages. ([Read Complete Article](#))



Appointments/Resignations

- The Israeli government recently greenlit the appointment of **Reuven Azar** as the new Ambassador to India, underscoring his expansive role as the non-resident Ambassador to Sri Lanka and Bhutan as well. Azar's nomination is part of a larger cohort of 21 Heads of Missions cleared by Israel to assume their responsibilities soon. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Senior IPS officer Maheshwar Dayal** officially assumed the role of **Director General of Prisons and Correctional Services on Monday, December 18**. With a distinguished career marked by various leadership roles across multiple districts and specialized units, Dayal brings a wealth of experience to his new position. Let's delve into his illustrious journey through the ranks of law enforcement. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Defence News

- In a significant triumph for its indigenous design and development capabilities, the **Indian Air Force (IAF)** has proudly announced the **successful test firing** of its **Surface to Air Missile for Assured Retaliation (SAMAR)** air defence missile system. This accomplishment marks a milestone for the IAF's strategic self-reliance efforts. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a groundbreaking display of technological prowess, India has achieved a **global first** by demonstrating the capability of its indigenous **Akash missile system** to engage four aerial targets simultaneously at a range of 25 kilometers. The remarkable feat took place during the **'Astrashakti' military exercise** conducted by the Indian Air Force on December 12. This exercise served as a platform to showcase the exceptional capabilities of the Akash missile system, illustrating its ability to engage multiple targets concurrently. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Three officers from the **Indian Armed Forces**, undergoing the prestigious Command and Staff Course at **Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) in Sri Lanka**, have been honored with the coveted **'Golden Owl' award** for their outstanding performance. The award, presented by Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe, recognizes their exceptional achievements in analytical skills, strategic thinking, and their potential for future leadership. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a poignant ceremony held at **INS Shivaji**, the esteemed Training establishment of the Indian Navy, the original **'Vir Chakra'** was posthumously awarded to **Late Vice Admiral Benoy Roy Chowdhury**. The ceremony, marked by solemnity and reverence, took place on 18th December 2023. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** and the **United Services Institution of India (USI)** recently collaborated to host the inaugural Marshal of the Air Force **Arjan Singh Annual Lecture** at USI, Shankar Vihar. This significant event serves as a tribute to the exemplary life and achievements of Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Awards and Recognitions

- **Aster Medcity**, located in **Kochi, Kerala**, and a unit of Aster DM Healthcare, has emerged as a frontrunner in the healthcare industry. The hospital has recently achieved the remarkable feat of being ranked **No.1** in the **'Best Multi-specialty Hospital Emerging'** category by **The Week-Hansa Research 2023**, as published in December 2023. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Real Vision Homes Pvt Ltd** proudly announces that its Chairman and Managing Director, **Dr. Srinivas Naik Dharavath**, has been honored with the prestigious **Global Icon Award** at the G20 Initiative Summit in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The summit, a key event organized by the Global Economic Forum, brought together world leaders, policymakers, and industry visionaries for an exclusive gathering from November 21-24, 2023. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Novak Djokovic and Aryna Sabalenka** have been named the **2023 ITF World Champions** by the **International Tennis Federation**. Both players showcased remarkable consistency and skill throughout the year, earning this prestigious honor. Djokovic, in particular, set a new record with his eighth ITF World Champion award. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **29th Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF)** concluded with a momentous highlight as the Israeli film **'Children of Nobody'** secured the prestigious **Golden Royal Bengal Tiger Award for Best Film**. Inspired by a true story, this compassionate Israeli drama sheds light on the often unnoticed and uncared-for individuals on the periphery of society. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Gaja Capital Business Book Prize**, a prestigious annual recognition, has crowned two exceptional narratives in its **2023 edition**. **Against All Odds: The IT Story of India** and **Winning Middle India: The Story of India's New-Age Entrepreneurs** emerged as joint winners, capturing the essence of India's dynamic business landscape. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a notable achievement, **NTPC Kanti** has been bestowed with the **11th Edition of FICCI Water Award 2023** under the **"Industrial Water Use Efficiency"** category. The prestigious accolade was presented during the inaugural event of the 9th Edition of India Industry Water Conclave held at FICCI Federation House in New Delhi. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- In a notable recognition of her outstanding contributions to public healthcare services in Bhutan, **Dr. Poonam Khetrapal Singh**, the Regional Director of the **World Health Organisation (WHO) South-East Asia**, has been honored with Bhutan's National Order of Merit (NOM) Gold Medal. The prestigious award was presented by Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the Druk Gyalpo (dragon king) of Bhutan, during the celebration of Bhutan's 116th National Day on December 17, 2023, in Thimphu, Bhutan. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Pradip Kumar Das**, Chairman & Managing Director of **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited (IREDA)**, has been honored with the esteemed "**CMD of the Year**" award under the **Mini-Ratna category** at the **13th PSE Excellence Awards**. The event was hosted by the Indian Chamber of Commerce in New Delhi, marking the second consecutive financial year in which Shri Pradip Kumar Das has received this prestigious accolade. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Crompton Greaves Consumer Electricals Ltd. (CGCEL)**, a leading player in India's consumer electrical industry, has been honored with the prestigious **National Energy Conservation Award 2023**. The recognition was bestowed by the President of India, **Droupadi Murmu**, and the Ministry of Power, represented by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), on the occasion of **National Energy Conservation Day**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a prestigious ceremony at the **SASTRA campus in Kumbakonam**, the **SASTRA-Ramanujan Awards for 2022 and 2023** were bestowed upon mathematicians **Yunqing Tang and Ruixiang Zhang**, both affiliated with the University of California in Berkeley. The awards, instituted by SASTRA in 2005, honor individuals under the age of 32 who have made remarkable contributions to the field of mathematics. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a recent announcement from UNESCO's Prix Versailles 2023, **Bengaluru's Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) Terminal 2 (T2)** has achieved global acclaim, being recognized as one of the '**world's most beautiful airports**.' The world judges panel, chaired by renowned fashion designer Elie Saab, bestowed this honor, making it the sole Indian airport to receive such esteemed recognition. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The renowned **Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize** has named **poet-critic Sukrita Paul Kumar** as its sixth recipient for her book, "**Salt & Pepper: Selected Poems**". This prestigious award recognizes outstanding literary work from around the globe, promoting world peace, literature, art, education, and human rights. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Ranks and Reports

- The Commerce and Industry Ministry recently released the fifth **LEADS (Logistics Ease Across Different States) 2023 report**, shedding light on the logistics performance of various states and Union Territories in India. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Chandigarh, and Gujarat are among the 13 states and Union Territories recognized as "achievers" in the logistics index chart for 2023. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The NCRB data pointed out that Hyderabad topped the nation in food adulteration cases in 2022. In close second place was Andhra Pradesh, trailing after Telangana. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Sports News

- In a historic turn of events at the **Saurashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Rajkot, Haryana** emerged victorious in the **2023 Vijay Hazare Trophy**, securing their **first-ever title with a 30-run triumph** over Rajasthan in the summit clash. The victory marked one of the greatest campaigns in Indian domestic cricket history, as Haryana showcased their dominance by remaining unbeaten throughout the tournament. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a fantastic cricket match, **Ashiqur Rahman Shibli** helped **Bangladesh's Under-19 team** win a big tournament called **Under-19 Asia**. Shibli did amazingly well with his bat, scoring a second century in five matches, leading Bangladesh to an impressive win over UAE. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In just over 6 years since its inception, **Zinc Football Academy**, a CSR initiative of Hindustan Zinc, has achieved yet another significant milestone by being awarded the prestigious '**Elite 3-star**' rating by the **All India Football Federation (AIFF)**. This recognition firmly places Zinc Football among the best youth development academies in India, marking a historic moment in the academy's journey. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Khelo India Para Games 2023** concluded on **December 17 in New Delhi**, showcasing the remarkable talents of para athletes from across the country. The inaugural edition of the event saw Haryana clinched the top spot, securing a **total of 105 medals, including 40 gold, 39 silver and 26 bronze**. **Uttar Pradesh claimed the second position** in the medal tally, bagging a **total of 62 medals**. The state's para athletes demonstrated their prowess with **25 gold, 23 silver and 14 bronze medals**. **Tamil Nadu** secured the third spot, showcasing commendable performances and earning a total of **20 gold, eight silver and 14 bronze medals**. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- **Mitchell Starc** marks a remarkable return to the IPL, securing a spot with **Kolkata Knight Riders for the 2024 season** after the franchise successfully bid **₹24.75 crore** for the Australian pace bowler. Fast bowler Pat Cummins will make his return to the IPL, joining Sunrisers Hyderabad, who pay a fee of **₹20.5 crore**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- legendary actor **Amitabh Bachchan** revealed his ownership of the Mumbai team in the upcoming **Indian Street Premier League (ISPL)**. The **ISPL, India's first tennis ball T10 cricket tournament** played within a stadium, is set to kick off its inaugural edition from **March 2 to March 9 in Mumbai**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a stunning display of skill and determination, **Maharashtra** emerged victorious in the **women's team event at the 75th Inter State-Inter Zonal Badminton Championship** held in **Guwahati**. The championship, organized by the Badminton Association of India, witnessed Maharashtra's women's team clinching the title with a **commanding 3-0 victory**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Indian hockey team midfielder, **Hardik Singh**, clinched the prestigious title of **Men's FIH Player of the Year at the FIH Hockey Star Awards 2023**. **Dutch player Xan de Waard** emerged victorious as the **Women's FIH Player of the Year**, showcasing outstanding prowess in the field of hockey. **Savita Punia**, captain of the Indian women's hockey team, secured the title of the **Best Goalkeeper of the Year**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Acclaimed Indian wrestler **Sakshi Malik**, a bronze medalist at the 2016 Rio Olympics, **declared her retirement in protest of the Wrestling Federation of India's (WFI) recent leadership change**. The move follows allegations of sexual abuse against the ousted president, Brij Bhushan Singh, and the controversial election of his close ally, Sanjay Singh. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Schemes and Committees News

- The Indian government is on a mission to achieve comprehensive coverage for the **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY)** by January 26, a colossal undertaking that involves incorporating 270 million additional individuals into its flagship health scheme. New directives have been issued to central ministries and agencies overseeing welfare schemes, emphasizing the need for rapid "saturation" of beneficiaries, ensuring the inclusion of all intended recipients. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a significant move towards fostering sustainable practices and addressing critical issues faced by **micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs)**, Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) **Narayan Rane** unveiled **three pioneering sub-schemes** under the existing RAMP (Raising and Accelerating MSME

Productivity) programme. These initiatives aim to encourage the adoption of sustainable technology, promote circular economy projects, and tackle the persistent challenge of delayed payments. ([Read Complete Article](#))

- In a significant move, the **Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD)** has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with JioMart, a venture of Reliance Retail. This partnership aims to amplify the reach of products crafted by Self-Help Groups (SHGs) associated with the **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM)**, empowering rural artisans. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Science and Technology News

- **Genrobotics**, a **Kerala-based startup**, has emerged as a frontrunner in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for social change. The company achieved significant recognition by being adjudged **among the top three AI startups in India** at the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) Summit 2023. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a groundbreaking move, Prime Minister Narendra Modi utilized an **AI-powered Indian language translation tool, 'Bhashini'**, during a recent speech in Uttar Pradesh. The tool, developed by the government, **aims to facilitate real-time translation**, fostering communication across diverse linguistic communities within the country. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has once again soared to new heights by clinching the prestigious **Leif Erikson Lunar Prize**. This esteemed accolade, bestowed by the Husavik Museum, stands as a testament to ISRO's unwavering commitment and substantial contributions to lunar exploration. The focal point of this recognition is **ISRO's groundbreaking Chandrayaan-3 mission**, a venture that has significantly deepened our understanding of celestial mysteries. ([Read Complete Article](#))



Important Days News

- **International Migrants Day 2023**, observed annually on **December 18**, serves as a global platform to recognize and appreciate the significant contributions of migrants while shedding light on the challenges they face. The **theme for International Migrants Day 2023** is **“Promoting Safe Migration.”** ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **International Human Solidarity Day 2023** is a significant observance held annually on **December 20th**. Recognized by the **UN General Assembly**, this day emphasizes the importance of solidarity in fostering global unity and diversity. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **World Basketball Day** is an annual celebration held on **December 21**, commemorating the invention of basketball by **Dr. James Naismith in 1891**. The sport has grown into one of the most popular and widely practiced games globally, uniting people with its athleticism, joy, and camaraderie. This article delves into the history, significance, and impact of basketball on the world stage. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Judge Advocate General (JAG) Department**, the distinguished judicial and legal arm of the Indian Army, commemorates a momentous occasion – its **40th Corps Day on December 21, 2023**. This celebration resonates with the historic introduction of the Bill for the Army Act in Parliament in 1949, a defining moment that laid the groundwork for the legal dispensation within the military. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **National Farmer’s Day 2023**, also known as **Kisan Diwas**, is celebrated on **December 23** in India to honor and recognize the invaluable contribution of farmers to the country’s socio-economic fabric. This day marks the birth anniversary of **Chaudhary Charan Singh**, a former prime minister of India and a dedicated advocate for the welfare of farmers. The significance of National Farmer’s Day lies in acknowledging the pivotal role farmers play in sustaining the nation’s prosperity. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Obituaries News

- **India** is in a somber state as it observes a one-day **state mourning on Sunday, December 17**, following the passing of the **Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Nawab Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah**, who died on **December 16, 2023, at the age of 86**. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Dr. V Mohini Giri**, a well-known advocate for women’s rights, passed away at the age of 86 after a brief illness. She made significant contributions to empowering women and was recognized for her efforts. ([Read Complete Article](#))

Miscellaneous News

- The Jammu and Kashmir administration has formulated detailed rules for the registration of marriages under the Anand Marriage Act. The set of regulations, titled **‘Jammu and Kashmir Anand Marriage Registration Rules, 2023,’** outlines the procedures for registering “Anand marriages.” According to a government notification issued on November 30, tehsildars within their respective territorial jurisdictions will serve as registrars for such marriages. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- In a significant stride towards sustainable maritime technology, India has unveiled **‘Barracuda,’** the nation’s fastest solar electric boat, at the **Navgathi Yard in Panavally, Alappuzha**. This cutting-edge vessel, named ‘Saur Shakthi,’ is a collaborative effort between Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd and Navalt, an eco-marine tech company. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- **Google Maps**, a ubiquitous navigation tool, is set to undergo a transformative upgrade in India with a host of new features **leveraging artificial intelligence (AI)**. **Miriam Karthika Daniel, Vice President of Google Maps Experiences**, unveiled these innovations, emphasizing the goal of providing accessible and useful information about the real world to users. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- Tiger attacks on humans have been a concerning issue in India, with the Centre recently providing information on the extent of this problem. **In 2022 alone, a total of 112 deaths occurred in the country due to tiger attacks**. The Union Minister for Forest, Environment, and Climate Change, **Bhupinder Yadav**, shared these statistics in a written reply to the Lok Sabha, shedding light on the gravity of the situation. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Indian government** has issued a warning regarding a new and sophisticated scam known as **“Smishing.”** This term is a combination of **“SMS”** (Short Message Service) and **“phishing,”** signifying a malicious practice that exploits text messages to deceive individuals into divulging confidential information. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- The **Ministry of Mines** marked a historic moment with the launch of the **National Geoscience Data Repository (NGDR) Portal**. This initiative, spearheaded by the **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** and **Bhaskaracharya Institute of Space Applications and Geoinformatics (BISAG-N)**, is poised to revolutionize access to critical geoscience data. ([Read Complete Article](#))
- India’s coking coal imports have soared to a **five-year high**, registering 38.14 million tonnes for the April-November period of the current fiscal year. This reflects a marginal year-on-year increase, with nearly 38.12 million tonnes imported during the corresponding period last year. Notably, **Russia** has secured its position as **India’s third-largest coal supplier**, a significant shift in the country’s historical coal import landscape. ([Read Complete Article](#))