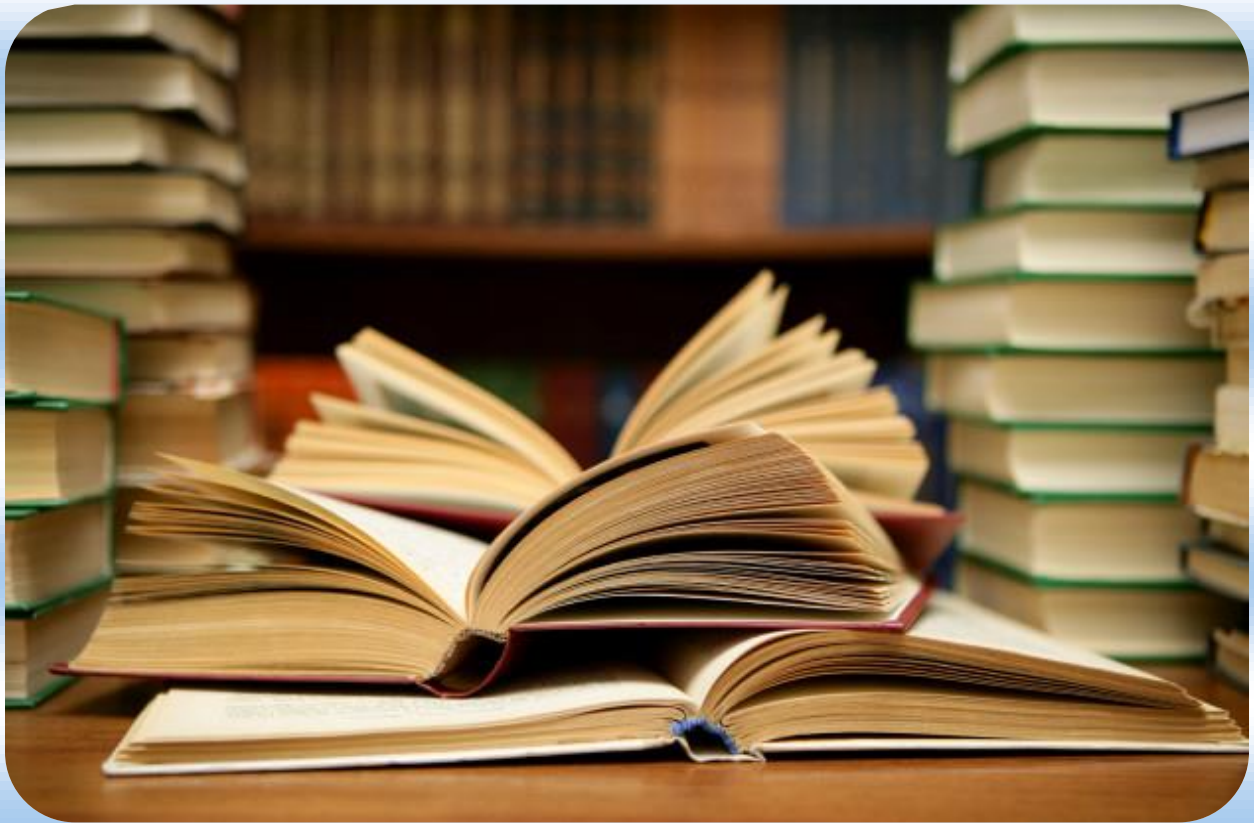


## LIBRARY & RESOURCE CENTER, NOIDA

## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE MONTHLY



# NOVEMBER-2023

# NATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

## *Kozhikode And Gwalior have been declared Creative Cities of Literature and Music By UNESCO*

KOZHIKODE: Kozhikode, the venue of choice for the Kerala Literature Festival and several book fests, was named the 'City of Literature' by the Unesco Creative Cities Network (UCCN) on Tuesday, making it the first such city in India. The announcement, which coincided with World Cities Day, named 54 other cities besides Kozhikode as 'Creative Cities'. Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh has been named the 'City of Music.'



## *India's Fiscal Deficit Reaches 39.3% Of FY24 Target In First Half Of The Year*

New Delhi: The Centre's fiscal deficit in the first half of this fiscal year touched 39.3% of the annual target, up from 37.3% a year before but it remained under control after a spike until July, showed official data released on Tuesday. A tight leash on revenue expenditure over the past two months on top of an improved tax mop-up has prevented a spike in fiscal deficit.



## *SBI Card Partners With Reliance Retail To Introduce 'Reliance SBI Card'*

SBI Card has joined hands with Reliance Retail to roll out Reliance SBI Card. This would be a collaboration between SBI Card and Reliance Retail's co-branded credit card, which will enable cardholders to shop at various Reliance retail outlets. The card is lifestyle-focused and provides a range of services with many advantages to cardholders with varied spending needs, right from mass to premium. The card would be available in two variants, i.e., Reliance SBI Card, and Reliance SBI Card PRIME.

### ***More than 97% of ₹2,000 notes returned: RBI***

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday said more than 97 per cent of the ₹2,000 banknotes in circulation as on May 19, 2023, have been returned by October 31, 2023, even as the remaining notes in circulation continue to be legal tender.



### ***Saima Wazed Elected as WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia***

Saima Wazed, Bangladesh's candidate and daughter of the country's Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, was nominated as the World Health Organisation's regional director for South-East Asia on Wednesday. She won against Nepal's candidate, Dr Shambhu Acharya, who has been working in the WHO director-general's office since 2013.



### ***Zurich Insurance Group To Take 51% Stake In Kotak General Insurance***

Marking the maiden joint venture in the general insurance business, Kotak Mahindra Bank said on Thursday that it has entered into definitive agreements with Zurich Insurance Company Ltd., whereby the Zurich will invest approximately ₹4,051 crore to acquire a 51 per cent stake in Kotak General Insurance. Capital will be deployed through a combination of fresh issuance and share purchases, though the split between the two hasn't been revealed.

### ***Shiv Nadar Tops The Hurun India Philanthropy List 2023***

HCLTech founder Shiv Nadar and family retained the top spot on the Edelgive Hurun India Philanthropy list 2023 with a donation of Rs 2,042 crore for the fiscal year 2022-23. This is the fifth consecutive year that Nadar, 78, made it to the top rank. Wipro founding chairman Azim Premji (78) and family came second with a donation of Rs 1,774 crore. While Premji's donation jumped 267% on year, Nadar's was up 76%.

### ***Mohammed Shami Becomes India's Leading Wicket Taker In World Cup History***

Mohammed Shami became the leading wicket taker for India in the World Cup with 45 scalps, surpassing the likes of Zaheer Khan and Javagal Srinath, with the help of his 5-wicket haul against Sri Lanka at the Wankhede on Thursday.



### ***Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurates SBI branch in Sri Lanka***

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Thursday visited Sri Lanka's eastern port town of Trincomalee where she opened a branch of the State Bank of India and appreciated its role in supporting corporates in international trade. Sitharaman, who is in the country on a three-day visit, started her day by visiting the main Hindu Temple in the multi-ethnic city to pay homage to it before opening a branch of the State Bank of India in Trincomalee.



### ***National Basketball Association (NBA) ropes in Bhaane to drive its e-commerce platform in India***

The National Basketball Association (NBA) and Bhaane Private Limited, a homegrown contemporary clothing brand, have inked a multiyear collaboration for Bhaane to operate NBAStore.in. The online store provides fans in India with the most comprehensive selection of official NBA merchandise ever available in the country. Throughout the season, NBAStore.in will provide fans across India with a range of authentic NBA merchandise and memorabilia.

### ***Sweden's Saab Secures India's First 100% FDI In Defense Project***

Sweden's Saab has reportedly become the first foreign company that has bagged 100% FDI in India's defence projects. According to a report by the Economic Times, Sweden's Saab will set up a new facility in the country that will manufacture shoulder-fired rockets. Citing sources, the English daily added that the ₹500 crore FDI proposal was cleared last month. Mint could not independently verify the report. Currently, India allows only 74% FDI in the defence sector under the automatic route. Beyond that, clearance can be obtained on a case-by-case basis.

### ***IOC Acquires Mercator Petroleum For Rs 148 Crore***

State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has acquired Mercator Petroleum for about Rs 148 crore in an insolvency proceeding, according to regulatory filings by the company. "The resolution plan submitted by IOC for acquisition of 100 per cent stake in Mercator Petroleum Limited (MPL) has been approved by the National Company Law Tribunal, Mumbai Bench vide its order dated November 2, 2023 under the relevant provisions of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016," the firm said in the filing.

### ***RBI Appoints Manoranjan Mishra As Its New Executive Director***

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday announced the appointment of Manoranjan Mishra as Executive Director (ED) with effect from November 1, 2023. As the ED he will be looking after the Enforcement Directorate, Risk Monitoring Department and Department of External Investments & Operations. Before taking charge as the Executive Director, he was the Chief General Manager in the Department of Regulation of RBI. He has over three decades of experience in RBI after working across departments including regulations of banking and NBFC, supervision of banks and currency management.

### ***Fitch Raises India's Mid-Term GDP Forecast To 6.2%***

Fitch Ratings has raised India's medium-term potential growth estimate by 70 basis points to 6.2% even as it blamed China for reducing the estimate for 10 emerging markets to 4% on a GDP weighted-average basis. "We have made large upgrades to India and Mexico, with the latter benefitting from a much better outlook for the capital to labour ratio. India's estimate is higher at 6.2% from 5.5% and Mexico's at 2.0% from 1.4%," the global ratings agency said in a report.

### ***Mundra Becomes India's First Port To Handle 16.1 Million Tonnes Of Cargo***

Mundra Port, the flagship of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ), has set a record by handling 16.1 million metric tonnes (MMT) of cargo in October, the highest-ever volume by any port in India. Mundra Port, the country's largest port, crossed the 100 MMT-mark in 210 days, surpassing the record of 231 days last year, APSEZ said in a statement.



## ***Sephora Ties Up With Reliance Retail Ventures To Transform India's Beauty Retail Segment***

New Delhi: The country's leading retailer Reliance will acquire the beauty retail business of the Lalbhai family-promoted Arvind Fashion, expanding its play in the fast-growing Beauty and Personal Care (BPC) market. Arvind Fashion on Friday said it has "entered into a Share Purchase Agreement (SPA) with Reliance Beauty & Personal Care Ltd.



## ***Italian Luxury Brand, Brioni, Enters Indian Market***

New Delhi: French luxury group Kering-owned menswear brand Brioni has been launched in India by DS Luxury, a Dharampal Satyapal Group Limited entity. The Italian luxury brand's first boutique will open in Delhi's The Chanakya mall and will offer ready-to-wear clothing and accessories, as well as bespoke services. Mehdi Benabadji, CEO of the company said that they were happy to enter the Indian market along with DS Luxury and that Indian buyers will enjoy the savoir-faire the fashion house has to offer.

## ***InterGlobe Enterprises Ties Up With US-Based Archer For Air Taxi Service***

New Delhi: InterGlobe Enterprises, a majority shareholder in low-cost airline IndiGo, on Thursday said it has entered into a partnership with US-based Archer Aviation Inc to launch and operate an all-electric air taxi service in India. "Over the last two decades, InterGlobe has provided safe, efficient, and affordable transportation to hundreds of millions of Indians across the country. We are excited at this new opportunity of bringing an effective, futuristic, and sustainable transport solution by introducing Archer's electric aircraft to India," said Rahul Bhatia, group managing director of InterGlobe.

## ***Samsung Unveils Its Generative AI Model Samsung Gauss***

Korean smartphone maker Samsung has launched its set of generative AI model called Samsung Gauss at the company's AI Forum 2023. Developed by Samsung Research, Gauss consists of three tools: a generative AI model called Samsung Gauss Language, a coding assistant called Samsung Gauss Code and an image generator and editor called Samsung Gauss Image. In a blogpost about the new announcements, Samsung said that the generative AI model "is named after Carl Friedrich Gauss, the legendary mathematician who established normal distribution theory, the backbone of machine learning and AI."

### ***SpaceX Launched Its 29th Mission To Deliver Research Gear And Equipment To The ISS***

SpaceX's next robotic cargo mission to the International Space Station—CRS-29—has been cleared for take off. The mission is set to launch on a Falcon 9 from the Launch Complex 39A at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida at 8.28 PM EST on Thursday (6.58 AM IST on Friday, November 10).



### ***Ayodhya Sets Guinness Record By Lighting 22 Lakh Diyas***

Uttar Pradesh has set a new Guinness world record by lighting over 22 lakh diyas (lamps) in Ayodhya. Prime Minister Narendra Modi shared a picture of 'Deepotsav' in Uttar Pradesh's temple town Ayodhya and termed the celebration as 'amazing, supernatural and unforgettable'.



### ***Uttarakhand To Become The First State To Adopt The Uniform Civil Code (UCC)***

The Uttarakhand government will convene a special session of its Legislative Assembly in the week immediately after Diwali to discuss and pass the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) Bill, sources in the know of discussions told The Indian Express. The report, it is learnt, has placed emphasis on gender equality and equal rights for daughters in ancestral properties. It does not, however, suggest raising the marriageable age of women to 21. The committee's recommendation says the marriageable age for women should be retained as 18.

### ***Uttarakhand's Unique Products Gets Geographical Indication Tags***

From a local brick-tea to textiles made from a Himalayan plant, over 15 products from Uttarakhand have been given the coveted GI tag by the Geographical Indications Registry. Uttarakhand's Berinag tea, highly sought-after by London tea houses and tea blenders, is made from the leaves of a plant that grows wild in the Himalayas, which are then compressed into a solid mass.

### ***Jio And OneWeb Secure Licenses For Satellite Internet Services***

Jio Satellite Communications and Bharti Enterprises-owned OneWeb have now received the licence from the government to provide broadband internet services to end users using satellite, officials said. It's noteworthy that these companies have secured pan-India Internet Service Provider (ISP) licenses, which are essential for delivering internet connectivity to end-users through satellite or mobile networks.

### ***Sahara Group Founder Subrata Roy Passes Away at 75 After Prolonged Illness***

Sahara Group chief Subrata Roy died due to a cardiorespiratory arrest at a private hospital in Mumbai on Tuesday after a prolonged illness, according to a company statement. He was 75. Having created a huge business empire across retail, real estate and financial services sectors.



### ***Virat Kohli Breaks Sachin Tendulkar's Record for Most Centuries In An ODI***

India's Virat Kohli broke Sachin Tendulkar's record for most runs in an ODI World Cup during his side's semifinal against New Zealand at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai on Wednesday. Virat went past Sachin's mark of 673 runs, achieved in the 2023 edition, with a single against Glenn Phillips.





### ***GAIL Completes World's Inaugural Ship-To-Ship LNG Transfer***

India's top gas firm GAIL has done the world's first ship-to-ship liquefied natural gas (LNG) transfer to save on shipping costs and cut emissions as the state-owned entity looks at innovative ways as a pivot to boost business, company officials said. GAIL has contracted 5.8 million tonnes per annum of LNG (natural gas super-cooled to liquid form) from the US. The company brings this volume to India via LNG ships.

### ***Rohit Sharma Now First Batsman To Hit 50 Sixes In World Cup***

Rohit Sharma created a unique record at the semi-final game against New Zealand. Rohit Sharma became the first batsman in the World Cup to hit 50 or more sixes and breaking Chris Gayle's record of hitting 49 sixes. Rohit Sharma has already 51 sixes in this tournament. Rohit Sharma has also got another record to his name for hitting the most number of sixes in a single edition of the World Cup. Rohit Sharma has already hit 28 sixes in the 2023 edition of World Cup. Rohit Sharma also completed his 2,000 runs as captain of India in 44 matches.

### ***RBI Imposes ₹90.92 Lakh Monetary Penalty On Axis Bank***

The Reserve Bank of India imposed a monetary penalty of ₹90.92 lakh on Axis Bank Ltd for non-compliance with certain directions issued by the apex bank on 'Reserve Bank of India (Know Your Customer (KYC)) Directions, 2016', 'Loans and Advances – Statutory and Other Restrictions', 'Guidelines on Managing Risks and Code of Conduct in Outsourcing of Financial Services by banks' and 'Code of Conduct for Opening and Operating Current Accounts'. The Reserve Bank said after examination of the Risk Assessment Report/Inspection Report pertaining to ISE 2022.

### ***Shami Becomes First Indian Bowler To Claim Seven Wickets In A Single ODI Cricket Match***

Pacer Mohammed Shami becomes the first Indian bowler in a One Day International (ODI) cricket match to take seven wickets. Shami achieved the best bowling figures for India when it mattered the most in a knockout game - India vs New Zealand semifinal of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023. In India's 70-run victory over the Kiwis, Shami took seven wickets, conceding 57 runs.



### ***Google Introduces AI Chatbot Bard For Teenagers***

Google is rolling out its AI chatbot Bard for teenagers from Thursday after consulting with experts and adolescents in order to create a protected but immersive learning experience for younger users. In a blog post by Tulsee Doshi, Google's Product Head for Responsible AI, the company showed how teenagers could use Bard to get guidance for writing a speech or even solving maths problems.

### ***India Achieves Historic Milestone In Patent Grants: 41,010 Patents In 2023-24***

The Indian patent office has granted "highest" number of 41,010 patents till November 15 this fiscal year, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said. In 2013-14 fiscal year, 4,227 patents were granted. "It's a record. Highest ever number of patents granted so far in 2023-24," he said in a post on social media platform X. On this, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said this is a "notable feat" and it marks a milestone in India's journey towards an innovation-driven knowledge economy. "India's youth will be great beneficiaries of such strides," he said.

### ***Bengaluru Tops In Women-Led Startups, Followed By Mumbai And Delhi***

BENGALURU: The Karnataka capital is home to 1,783 women-led startups, followed by Mumbai and Delhi at 1,480 and 1,195 respectively, showed data from startup data platform Tracxn. Noida, Kolkata, and Ahmedabad took the eighth, ninth and tenth spots with 324, 184 and 181 women-led startups respectively.



### ***Virat Kohli Earns The "Player Of The Tournament" Title In The Cricket World Cup 2023***

Indian star batter Virat Kohli has been awarded with the "player of the tournament" title in the ICC World Cup 2023 for his exemplary performance. Kohli scored a total of 765 runs in 11 innings, the highest-ever runs scored by a batter in a single edition of the World Cup. He averaged at 95.62, and ended up with a strike rate of 90.3.



### ***IIT Madras Unveils Information Platform For Incubators***

CHENNAI: The Centre for Research on Start-ups and Risk Financing (CREST), an Institute of Eminence Research Centre at IIT Madras, has developed India's first information platform on incubators and accelerators. The platform, developed in partnership with YNOS, an IIT Madras-incubated start-up, contains comprehensive information on incubators and accelerators.

### ***Comprehensive Changes In Senior Citizens Savings Scheme (SCSS)***

Centre has relaxed seven key norms for of the Senior Citizen's Savings Scheme. The Senior Citizen's Savings Scheme has now allows three months to open an account, up from the current one month. Further, account holders can now extend the account for any number of blocks, with each block lasting three years. The Senior Citizen's Savings Scheme (SCSS), designed for individuals aged 60 years or employees above 55 years of age and below 60 years of age, offers 8.2 per cent interest per annum.

### ***Nippon Life India AIF Set To Mobilize ₹1,000 Crore For Private Credit Expansion***

Mumbai: Nippon Life India Asset Management has joined the likes of Centrum and Aventus to capitalise on the demand for private credit amid the tightening of norms by regulated entities such as banks and mutual funds pulling out of promoter funding. Nippon Life India Alternative Investment Fund, which is set to raise ₹1,000 crore, has already deployed ₹100 crore in two strategic deals and aims to secure an additional ₹1,000 crore through a green shoe option.

### ***Warren Buffett's Exit From Paytm: A Rs 507 Crore Loss***

Warren Buffett-led Berkshire Hathaway has exited One 97 Communications (Paytm), according to bulk deals data published by National Stock Exchange. Berkshire sold its entire stake, which were bought by Ghisallo Master Fund and Copthall Mauritius Investment. They bought 42,75,000 and 75,75,529 shares, respectively. The transaction happened at an average price of Rs 877.2 per share. Berkshire pocketed nearly Rs 1,371 crore from the deal.

### ***J&K Approves Four New Industrial Estates In Order To Boost Local Economy***

The Jammu and Kashmir administration on Saturday approved the setting up of four new industrial estates in the Union Territory to boost investment and promote local employment, according to an official spokesperson. Approval for the setting up of new industrial estates at Budhi in Kathua district, Medicity Jammu in Jammu district and Chandgam and Lelhar in Pulwama district was given by the Administrative Council (AC) that met under the chairmanship of Lt Governor Manoj Sinha here, the spokesperson said.

# INTERNATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

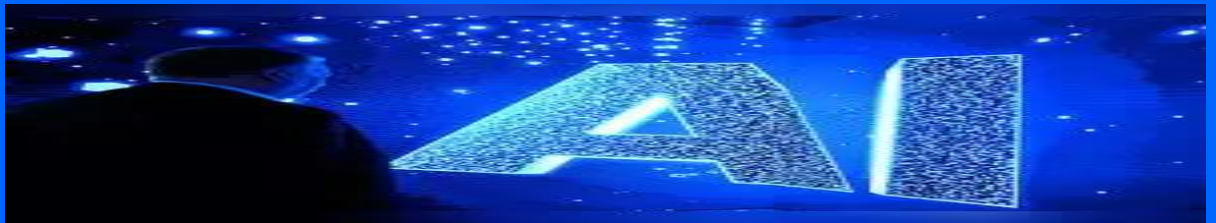
## *Climate Change: Is White Hydrogen the New Saviour?*

A deposit between six million to 250 million metric tonnes of hydrogen, or naturally occurring hydrogen gas, was found by Jacques Pironon and Phillipe De Donato, who are the directors of research at France's National Centre of Scientific Research, CNN reported.



## *"AI" Named Collins Dictionary's Word Of The Year For 2023*

LONDON: The abbreviation of artificial intelligence (AI) has been named the Collins Word of the Year for 2023, the dictionary publisher said on Tuesday. Lexicographers at Collins Dictionary said use of the term had "accelerated" and that it had become the dominant conversation of 2023.



## *Max Verstappen Wins Brazilian Grand Prix 2023*

Red Bull's triple Formula One world champion Max Verstappen raced unchallenged to the Sao Paulo sprint victory on Saturday after seizing the lead from McLaren's Lando Norris at the first corner.



### ***'Mika' Becomes World's First AI Human-Like Robot CEO***

In the era where many workers are worrying about artificial intelligence (AI) replacing their jobs, one company has announced that it is hiring the first humanoid robot chief executive officer (CEO). Dictador, a spirit brand based in Colombia's Cartagena, has gone viral for appointing Mika, who is manifested as a robot.



### ***Mika, The AI-Powered Robot, Takes The Helm As CEO Of Dictador***

Truth can sometimes be stranger than fiction. After AI TV anchors, and chatbots drafting work mail, the days of an AI CEO are not very far! Yes, you read that right. In what could be called the world's first such move, a Polish alco-beverage company earlier this year announced that it has appointed an AI-powered humanoid robot to lead the firm. Dictador announced that it will engage the services of 'Mika' to steer its operations.

### ***Pakistan-Based Startup She-Guard Wins Top Climate Innovation Competition***

New Delhi, November 15 (IANS) Pakistan-based cleantech startup She-Guard has been named the winner at the 'ClimateLaunchpad Asia-Pacific' finals with its innovative biodegradable and plastic-free sanitary product. The startup aims to turn banana crop waste into biodegradable, plastic-free, and affordable sanitary napkins, helping to solve the entangled challenges of climate change, health issues, and solid waste that Pakistan is facing.

### ***Australia earn Cricket World Cup glory as Travis Head ton spoils India's party***

As Pat Cummins and his players basked in the afterglow of a sixth men's World Cup title for Australia – a contender for their greatest, no question – thousands of Indian supporters poured out of this giant cricketing coliseum in a state of utter disbelief.



### ***ICC Bans Transgender Players From International Women's Cricket***

The International Cricket Council has become the latest sports body to ban transgender players from the elite women's game if they have gone through male puberty. The ICC said it had taken the decision, following an extensive scientific review and nine-month consultation, to "protect the integrity of the international women's game and the safety of players".



### ***Israel And Hamas Reach Truce Deal, Set To Release 50 Hostages***

Hamas is likely to release 14 captives they had taken with them after the 7 October surprise attack on Israel. This will be done in exchange for the release of 42 Palestinian prisoners held by Israel, on the second day of the four day truce in the Israel-Hamas war that has been going on for over seven weeks now. The development was confirmed by officials in Egypt. They also informed that it had received positive signals from all parties over a possible extension of the Gaza truce for one or two days.



### ***Israel Officially Designates Lashkar-E-Taiba As A Terrorist Organization***

Ahead of the 15th anniversary of the 26/11 Mumbai attacks, Israel has listed Pakistan-based terror outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba as a "terror organization", its embassy said Tuesday. Israel's move comes at a time when it has asked India to proscribe Hamas as a terrorist outfit. Part of Israel's global diplomatic campaign to isolate Hamas, Tel Aviv's measure – without an Indian request – is being welcomed in New Delhi. Though there was no official statement on the Israeli announcement, sources said New Delhi and Tel Aviv have been on the same page on Pakistan-based terrorist outfits and Pakistan-sponsored terrorist activities in India.

### ***World's Biggest Iceberg On The Move After 30 Years***

The iceberg, called A23a, split from the Antarctic coastline in 1986. But it swiftly grounded in the Weddell Sea, becoming, essentially, an ice island. At almost 4,000 sq km (1,500 sq miles) in area, it's more than twice the size of Greater London. The past year has seen it drifting at speed, and the berg is now about to spill beyond Antarctic waters.



### ***Malaysia Opens Visa-Free Travel For Indian Visitors And Chinese Citizens***

Malaysia will scrap entry visa requirements for citizens of India and China visiting the nation beginning Dec. 1, according to Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim. Chinese and Indian nationals may stay for up to 30 days visa-free, Anwar said in a speech at his People's Justice Party's annual congress in Putrajaya on Sunday. This would be subject to security screening, he added.



### ***New Zealand Abandons Landmark Smoking Ban For Generation To Fund Tax Cuts***

New Zealand's new government will scrap the country's world-leading law to ban smoking for future generations to help pay for tax cuts – a move that public health officials believe will cost thousands of lives and be “catastrophic” for Māori communities.



### ***Indian-Origin Ex-MP Dave Sharma Wins Australian Senate Seat***

Dave Sharma, who became the first Indian-origin lawmaker in Australia's Parliament in 2019, will return to politics after his victory in the New South Wales Liberal Senate race. Sharma, 47, will replace ex-foreign minister Marise Payne, who has retired from the Senate, the Australian Associated Press reported. Sharma, who represented the Sydney seat of Wentworth until his defeat at the 2022 election, beat former New South Wales (NSW) minister Andrew Constance, a frontrunner backed by Opposition Leader Peter Dutton.

### ***UK Detects First Human Case Of H1N2 Pig Virus***

Health officials are scrambling to trace contacts of a person infected with a new form of swine flu, after the UK detected its first human case of H1N2. Fifty human cases of the strain have been reported globally since 2005. The new case is the first to be detected in the UK and is unrelated genetically to the previous cases. Influenza A(H1N2)v is similar to flu viruses circulating in pigs in the UK. The UK Health Security Agency has formally notified the World Health Organization (WHO) about the discovery.

### ***Italy Defeat Australia To Win Davis Cup For First Time Since 1976***

Italy fulfilled their potential as one of the most promising tennis nations in the world by defeating Australia 2-0 to become Davis Cup champions for the first time since 1976. In the opening rubber between the second-ranked players in Málaga, the 22-year-old Matteo Arnaldi edged past Alexei Popyrin 7-5, 2-6, 6-4 to give Italy the first point. Then, less than 24 hours after toppling Novak Djokovic twice in one day, Jannik Sinner again demonstrated nerves of steel as he closed off the best two weeks of his career by dominating Alex de Minaur 6-3, 6-0.

