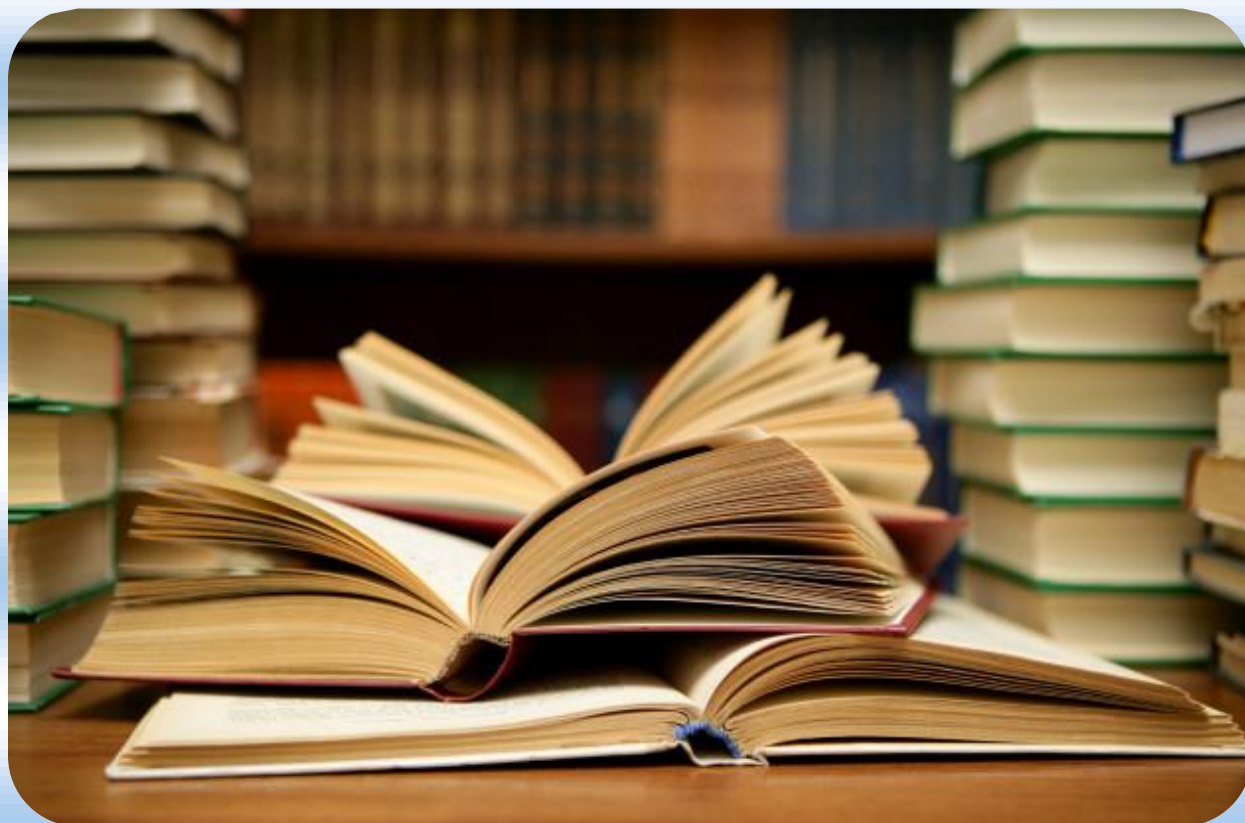


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GENERAL KNOWLEDGE MONTHLY



SEPTEMBER-2022

NATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

Reliance Industries to build world's largest carbon fibre plant

World's Largest Carbon Fibre Plant: Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani in 45th AGM announced the company's plan to build India's 1st and World's Largest Carbon Fibre Plant at Hazira, Gujarat. The plant will be developed as part of the company's Oil to Chemical segment (O2C) in which RIL has committed an investment of Rs 75,000 crore in the next five years. The development of India's First Carbon Plant from the Industry Giant comes as part of their vision for new materials.

India's First Vaccine Against Cervical Cancer Launched

India is set to get its first cervical cancer vaccine, Quadrivalent Human Papillomavirus vaccine (qHPV) today i.e. 1 September. The most awaited vaccine will be launched by the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology Jitendra Singh at IIC Delhi. The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) had on 12 July granted market authorisation to Serum Institute of India (SII) to manufacture an indigenously-developed vaccine against cervical cancer.

Vasudha Gupta named as DG of News Services Division of AIR

Senior Indian Information Service officer Vasudha Gupta assumed charge as the director general of the News Services division of the All India Radio (AIR) on Thursday. A 1989-batch IIS officer, Gupta has served in various capacities in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting during her career spanning more than 32 years. Before her appointment as the director general of the News Services division of the AIR, she served as the DG, Press Information Bureau (PIB).

Rajesh Kumar Srivastava, Interim New Chairman of ONGC

NEW DELHI : Centre has appointed Rajesh Kumar Srivastava as the acting chairman of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC). He is the third interim chief who has been appointed in last 17 months, as the government has not made a full time appointment yet. "Director (Exploration) of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) Rajesh Kumar Srivastava has taken over additional charge of the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the Energy Maharatna on 1 September 2022, after Alka Mittal superannuated as ONGC CMD on 31 August 2022," ONGC said in a statement.

GST collection rises 28% in August to Rs 1.43 trillion

India's tax collection from the sale of goods and services soared 28 per cent to Rs 1.43 trillion in August aided by rising demand, higher rates, and greater compliance. The GST collection remained above the Rs 1.4-trillion mark for the sixth straight month in August and the ensuing festival season will help continue the trend. "Better reporting coupled with economic recovery will have a positive impact on the GST revenues on a consistent basis," the finance ministry said in a statement.

LIC out of list of Top 10 valued Indian Companies, Replaced by Bajaj and Adani Transmission

NEW DELHI: Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is no longer in the list of top 10 listed companies in terms of market capitalisation (m-cap). The state-run insurance behemoth has been replaced by Bajaj Finance and Adani Transmission as its share prices are yet to see an uptick and have fallen 23% since its listing on May 17. This is a sharp fall given LIC had entered the bourses as India's 5th most valuable company, with an m-cap of Rs 5.48 lakh crore.

IILM University: Law School is India's 1st NEP 2020 compliant Law School

IILM University takes immense pride in elevating the Legal Education System of India with the launch of the first National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) Compliant Law School in the country. IILM University, with the approval of the government of Uttar Pradesh and the recognition of the Bar Council of India (BCI), announces this big breakthrough. The IILM Law School, known for its state-of-the-art infrastructure, is located in an exceptionally spacious Twin Block with sprawling lush green outer space.

Adobe and AICTE collaborate to promote digital literacy in India

The All-India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) on Wednesday said it has signed a partnership agreement with Adobe to accelerate digital creativity skill across the country. Under the agreement, Adobe will offer courses and expertise for upskilling educators, and integrate digital creativity into the curriculum, to prepare students with the essential creative and digital literacy skills needed to thrive in today's digital-first world, according to a statement.

India Surpasses UK to Become World's 5th Largest Economy

India has overtaken the U.K. to become the world's fifth-largest economy and is now behind only the US, China, Japan and Germany, according to IMF projections. A decade back, India was ranked 11th among the large economies while the U.K. was at the fifth position. With record beating expansion in the April-June quarter, the Indian economy has now overtaken the U.K., which has slipped to the sixth spot.

Apeksha Fernandes Becomes 1st Indian Woman to Reach WJS Championships Final

Apeksha Fernandes, the first Indian woman to reach the final of the World Junior Swimming Championships, finished eighth in the 200m women's butterfly summit clash in Lima, Peru. The 17-year-old clocked 2:19.14 to finish last in the eight-swimmer final on Wednesday.



UP: Bhartaul becomes First Village in State to have RO Water in Every Household

LUCKNOW: Bhartaul in Bithuri Chainpur block of Bareilly district has achieved the distinction of becoming UP's first village where each household is being supplied RO water. Having won the awards like Central government's Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Panchayat Sashaktikaran and Chief Minister Panchayat Encouragement award with award money to the tune of Rs 12 lakh each, Bhartaul village is being equipped with 20 ROs (water purifiers) with Gram Nidhi (Village Allowance).



IndusInd Bank and ADB collaborate to improve financing for supplier chains

IndusInd Bank announced a strategic partnership with Asian Development Bank (ADB) to support and promote Supply Chain Finance (SCF) solutions in India. The Bank has entered into a partial guarantee programme with ADB with an initial outlay of USD 70 million (Rs 560 crore), exclusively towards promoting SCF solutions in India. IndusInd Bank aims to grow its presence in MSME financing and this partnership will further strengthen various initiatives of the Bank in this domain.

Former Tata Sons chairman Cyrus Mistry passes away

Cyrus Mistry, the man who rose to the top position in Tata group, died in a road accident on Sunday while travelling from Ahmedabad to Mumbai. He was 54. Mistry was ousted unceremoniously as the Chairman of Tata Sons after nearly a four-year stint in October 2016.



Nation first-ever “Night Sky Sanctuary” to be set up in Ladakh

NEW DELHI: The country’s first-ever ‘night sky sanctuary’ will come up in Ladakh soon. The department of science and technology has undertaken this first-of-its-kind project where a dark sky reserve will be set up in Ladakh’s Hanle as part of Changthang wildlife sanctuary in the next three months.



Gol announces to rename the Rajpath as Kartavya Path

Rajpath was likely to be renamed Kartavya Path ahead of its opening after 20 months of redevelopment on September 8, according to Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry officials on September 5, 2022. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was set to inaugurate the redeveloped Central Vista Avenue, which has been closed to the public since January 2021.



First LNG truck facility in India opened by Blue Energy Motors

Blue Energy Motors, a two-year old start-up backed by a Singapore-based firm, unveiled India's first Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) fuelled green truck in Chakan near Pune on Friday. The trucks are powered by Iveco FPT, global powertrain brand of Iveco Group.



CCI approves the acquisition of BillDesk by PayU Payment

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) on Monday approved payments service provider PayU's \$4.7-billion acquisition of payment gateway platform BillDesk almost a year after the deal was signed. The deal is touted to be one of the largest in the internet segment in India after Walmart's \$16-billion acquisition of Flipkart in 2018. The acquisition will allow PayU's lead investor Prosus Ventures to scale up its payments and fintech business in India and abroad. PayU currently operates which operates in more than 20 markets, as one of the leading online payment providers globally by total payment volume (TPV), aggregating \$147 billion.

IAD technology successfully used by ISRO to land payloads on Mars and Venus

A new technology with Inflatable Aerodynamic Decelerator (IAD) has been successfully demonstrated by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Saturday which said that it is a game-changer with multiple applications for future missions including to Mars and Venus, according to news agency PTI.



PM Narendra Modi announced PM-SHRI Scheme for upgrading 14500 school

The Pradhan Mantri Schools For Rising India (PM-SHRI) Yojana, announced Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday, will develop and upgrade 14,500 schools across the country. On Teacher's Day, Modi stated that the PM-SHRI schools will become model schools, embodying the full spirit of the new National Education Policy. "Today, on #TeachersDay I am glad to announce a new initiative - the development and upgradation of 14,500 schools across India under the Pradhan Mantri Schools For Rising India (PM-SHRI) Yojana. These will become model schools which will encapsulate the full spirit of NEP," he said in a series of tweets.

Airtel partnered with Odisha to offer Bill Payment Solution

Bharti Airtel has launched a pilot project in partnership with TP Northern Odisha Distribution to offer bill payment solutions to more than two million registered customers of the utility, said a senior executive at India's second largest telecom operator. The initiative will mobilise the 4,000 banking points of Airtel Payment Banks (APB) in north Odisha to facilitate bill payments. Customers of the joint venture between Tata Power and the Odisha government simply need to visit the stor ..

PSU banks is set to open about 300 branches in unbanked areas by December 2022

As part of the financial inclusion drive, public sector banks will open about 300 brick-and-mortar branches in the unbanked areas of various states by December 2022. These new branches will cover all remaining unbanked villages with a population of more than 3,000, according to sources. A Maximum number of 95 branches will be opened in Rajasthan followed by 54 in Madhya Pradesh. The public sector banks will open 38 branches in Gujarat, 33 in Maharashtra, 32 in Jharkhand and 31 in Uttar Pradesh. The progress with regard to the opening of branches in the rural areas was reviewed in the recent meeting of heads of public sector banks with the Financial Services Secretary last month.

HDFC Bank opened new SMS banking facility for its customers

The private sector lender HDFC Bank introduced a new SMS banking facility for its customers. The bank claims that now customers can access a wide range of banking services round-the-clock. 24/7 x 365 no matter where they are. With the new SMS banking facility, customers can now check account balances & summaries, apply for loans, manage credit cards, apply for chequebook requests, generate account statements and more. Customers no longer need to remember or type lengthy pre-defined keywords to conduct SMS banking thanks to HDFC Bank's new SMS facility, which is integrated with AI technology. Instead, they can type in their own style and convenience and the AI will understand exactly what you need, allowing you to interact leisurely and conveniently as a result.

Anishka Biyani won Gold medal in Malaysian chess meet

Six-year-old Anishka Biyani won gold medal in the Malaysian Age Group Rapid Chess Championship at Kuala Lumpur on Sunday. Anishka, a first grade student of Dhirubhai Ambani school, achieved the feat in the Under-6 Open category with an impressive score of four points out of possible six to clinch the title in the girls category.



In UP's Farrukhabad, 'jail ka khana' gets 5-star FSSAI rating

Telling someone to taste 'jail ka khana' is considered a curse in the Hindi heartland, mainly because the food served in jail is considered unpalatable. However, the Fatehgarh Central jail in Uttar Pradesh's Farrukhabad district has earned five-star rating from the Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) for the quality of food it serves to inmates.



Health Sector in India To Reach \$50 Billion By 2025

NEW DELHI: India's healthcare industry is expected to grow to hit \$50 billion in size by 2025, said Union minister Jitendra Singh on Wednesday. Addressing the 14th CII Global MedTech Summit, "Seizing the Global Opportunity", the minister said that under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, healthcare has become more focused on innovation and technology over the past two years. About 80% of the healthcare system aims to increase investment in digital healthcare tools in the coming five years.

IndiGo appoints Aviation industry veteran Pieter Elbers as the new CEO

The coming years will be among the most exciting of your professional lives, IndiGo's new chief executive officer (CEO) Pieter Elbers wrote to the airline's staff after taking charge on Tuesday. Elbers, who spent three decades at KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, replaces Ronojoy Dutta at the top post. "Earlier, IndiGo communication summarised it all in just three words: 'Towards new heights' and let me add here: 'across new frontiers'.

HDFC Bank unveils 'Bank on Wheels' in Gujarat

HDFC Bank on Wednesday took on Twitter to unveil its state-of-the art 'Bank on Wheels' service, for the state of Gujarat. Within this service, the Rural Banking segment of the bank has introduced 'Bank on Wheels' vans which will visit remote villages located 10 - 25 km from the nearest branch, to further accessibility. As a part of @HDFC_Bank's Rural Banking business, a 'Bank on Wheels' van was introduced in Gujarat.

Lord's Mark Insurance receives direct insurance broker's licence by IRDAI

Lord's Mark Insurance Broking Private Limited, the insurance division of Lord's Mark Industries, has received direct insurance broking licence from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) for selling life and general insurance products. The direct broking licence marks Lord's Mark Industries' foray into the insurance space. Lords Mark Insurance Broking is already in talks with a few leading insurance firms to formalise collaborations with them for launching life and general insurance products on its platform called Policy King.

Fortune India Rich List 2022: Gautam Adani India's richest man

The wealth of 142 billionaires based in India is collectively worth \$832 billion (Rs 66.36 trillion), according to a Fortune India's list of 'India's Richest' for 2022. The maiden list, made in collaboration with wealth management firm, Waterfield Advisors, is primarily based on the wealth of entrepreneurs of listed firms; where the entity is unlisted, the price-earnings (PE) multiple of the sector's index, and, in the absence of an industry index, the PE multiple of the closest-listed company from the same industry was used.

PhonePe tokenized 14 million debit and credit cards

PhonePe on Thursday said it has tokenised 14 million credit and debit cards on its platform in line with the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) mandate for information security. The Walmart-backed company said it has tokenised more than 80 per cent of its active users' cards since it started the exercise in December 2021. Tokenisation replaces an actual card number with an alternative code called the 'token'.

Agnikul Cosmos secured first patent for 3D-printed rocket engine

Chennai-headquartered space technology start-up Agnikul Cosmos on Wednesday said the Government of India has awarded it the patent for the design and manufacturing of single-piece rocket engines. Agnilet, one such single piece engine, is the world's first single-piece 3D printed rocket engine fully designed and manufactured in India. It was successfully test-fired in early 2021. Agnilet has been designed in such a manner to encapsulate all of these into just one piece of hardware and has zero assembled parts.

IBM and IIT Madras collaborate to promote quantum computing in India

MUMBAI: International Business Machines (IBM) has partnered with Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, (IIT-Madras), to advance quantum co-mputing skill development and research in India. With this partnership, IIT Madras joins over 180 members of the IBM Quantum Network globally. IIT Madras also becomes the "first Indian institution" to join the global community of Fortune 500 companies, start-ups, academic institutions, and research labs working with IBM Quantum technology to advance quantum computing and explore business use cases.

Indore to become the country's first 'Smart City' with 'Smart Addresses'

This year, Indore will create history by implementing a fully digital addressing system, making it the first city in India to do so. The smart city advanced significantly when a memorandum of understanding was signed with the firm Pataa Navigations. The Memorandum of Understanding is signed by Rajat Jain, co-founder of Pataa Navigations, and Rishav Gupta (IAS), CEO of Indore Smart City.

World's largest museum of Harappan culture is coming up in Rakhigarhi, Haryana

Haryana is all set to become home to the world's largest museum of Harappan culture. Rakhigarhi is a village in Hisar district of Haryana, situated some 150 km from Delhi. The village is also a famous archaeological site from the Indus Valley civilisation period. On Sunday, Chief Minister of the state Manohar Lal Khattar reviewed the ongoing construction work.



India's First Forest University to be Established in Telangana

The University of Forestry for which an Act was promulgated in the Telangana Legislative Assembly and Council on Tuesday, will be the first of its kind in the whole country and the third in the world, a statement from the Forest department informed. The only other two countries which have forest universities are Russia and China, which makes India the third. The Forest College & Research Institute (FCRI).

WhatsApp and IDFC FIRST Bank enabled FASTag recharge

IDFC FIRST Bank announced the launch of its integration with payments on WhatsApp to enable secure FASTag recharge for the Bank's customers. Through this partnership customers will be able to recharge right within IDFC FIRST's WhatsApp chatbot and complete the transaction from within the chat thread.



Google Cloud & Nasscom tie-up to skill students for entry-level Cloud jobs

Google Cloud on Thursday announced it has launched the first cohort of its computing foundations with Kubernetes course in collaboration with FutureSkills Prime, an IT Ministry and Nasscom digital skilling initiative. The beginner-level course aims to provide participants an opportunity to experience cloud computing, cloud basics, big data and machine learning (ML).

Saffron from Kashmir GI-tagged on sites both domestic and abroad

With the GI tagging of Kashmiri Saffron in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the farmers have been able to market their produce on national and international marketing platforms.



World Wrestling Championships 2022: Bajrang Punia won bronze medal

India's campaign at the 2022 World Wrestling Championships ended on a high note with Bajrang Punia beating Sebastian Rivera to win the fourth World Championship medal of his career. With just two bronze medals - Vinesh Phogat won the other in the women's 53kg competition earlier in the tournament - to show between 30 competitors though, it's fair to say that the result has come as a bit of a letdown.

New cricket rules: ICC changes to the playing conditions

The International Cricket Council (ICC) today announced a slew of changes to its Playing Conditions which will come into effect on October 1. The cricket governing body has also permanently banned the use of saliva to polish the ball. Next month's T20 World Cup in Australia will be the first major tournament to be played under the new playing conditions. The ICC had earlier barred use of saliva to shine the ball in view of the COVID-19 pandemic and the Custodian of cricket laws.

PM CARES Fund: Govt appoints Industrialist Ratan Tata as Trustee

Veteran industrialist Ratan Tata, former Supreme Court judge KT Thomas, and former deputy Lok Sabha speaker Kariya Munda have been nominated as trustees of the PM CARES Fund, the prime minister's office said in a statement. Yesterday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the PM CARES Fund, which was attended by Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

REC Ltd becomes 12th company to gets 'Maharatna' company status

NEW DELHI : Power sector focussed NBFC REC Ltd has been accorded the status of Maharatna central public sector enterprise (CPSE). The move would provide the state-run company greater operational and financial autonomy. It has become the 12th company to attain the Maharatna status. "We are delighted and proud to share that the Government of India has accorded the status of 'Maharatna' to REC, the highest recognition for a CPSE. This will impart enhanced powers to the REC Board while taking financial decisions," the company said in a tweet.

India to Invest \$30 billion for 4G, 5G Connectivity to Every Village

India will invest \$30 billion for ensuring last mile accessibility to 4G and 5G services in every village, said telecom minister Ashwini Vaishnaw at Global Fintech Fest on Thursday. "We are investing close to \$30 billion to ensure last-mile network accessibility for 4G and 5G in every village across the country. So far we have been able to reach out to over 1.5 lakh gram panchayats. We are now building a highway - creating a whole ecosystem of village entrepreneurs, channelizing the energies of youngsters to take good quality.

Amazon tie-up with Amp Energy to establish its first solar project in India

Amazon on Wednesday announced the setting up of its first solar farm in India. The e-commerce major will be setting up three solar power projects with a capacity of 420 megawatt (MW) in Rajasthan.



Nirmala Sitharaman to launch e-learning platform Bharat Vidya

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will launch Bharat Vidya, an online learning platform for Oriental and South Asian studies, in Pune Wednesday. Designed and developed by the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute (BORI), Bharat Vidya is a first-of-its-kind online platform, which will offer both free and paid courses covering various aspects of Indology pertaining to art, architecture, philosophy, language and science.

UCO Bank becomes first lender to get RBI's approval for rupee trade

Public sector lender UCO Bank has received the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) approval to open a special vostro account with Gazprombank of Russia for trade settlement in Indian rupees. The Kolkata-based lender is the first bank to receive regulator's approval following the RBI's decision to allow Indian banks to settle trade in Indian currency in July. The Russian lender, which was set up by world's largest gas producer and exporter Gazprom to provide banking services for gas industry enterprises has been operating since 1990. One of the top three banks in Russia, Gazprombank offers a whole range of banking and investment services to over 45,000 corporate and three million private clients.

Former Indian captain Dilip Tirkey elected as President of Hockey India

It's a pleasant coincidence that in cricket and hockey, the two most important sports in the country, two Indian captains have assumed responsibility as presidents of their respective national federations. If former India skipper Sourav Ganguly made a successful switch to cricket administration, ex-India captain Dilip Tirkey won the Hockey India (HI) election on Friday to step into the national scene of hockey administration. Incidentally, All India Football Federation is now headed by former India player Kalyan Chaubey, while the Indian Olympic Committee's president is former athlete Adille Sumariwalla.

INTERNATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

Starbucks named Indian-origin executive Laxman Narasimhan as CEO

Pune University Engineering graduate Laxman Narasimhan who stepped down as the Chief Executive Officer of Reckitt has now been named the new CEO of coffee giant Starbucks. With this appointment, Narasimhan joins a growing list of Indian-origin CEOs at the helm of US-based global giants, including Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen, Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai and Twitter head Parag Agrawal.

Former US president Barack Obama wins Emmy award for his narration in Netflix documentary

Former president Barack Obama won the best narrator Emmy Award on Saturday for his Netflix documentary series, Our Great National Parks. The Obamas' production company, Higher Ground, is behind the five-part series on national parks around the world.

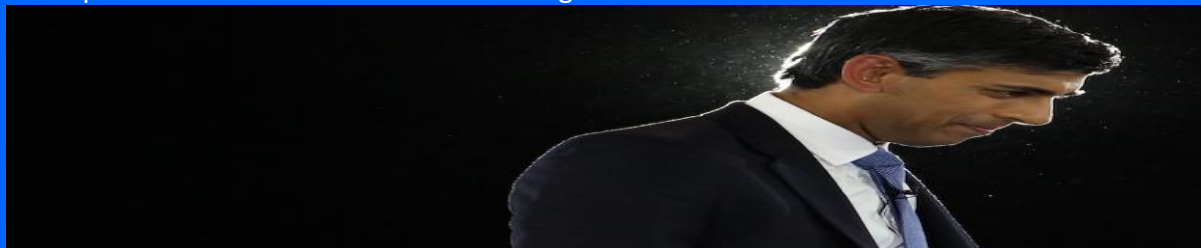


Europe Heading For Recession As Inflation Crisis Deepens

The eurozone is almost certainly entering a recession, with surveys on Monday showing a deepening cost-of-living crisis and a gloomy outlook that is keeping consumers wary of spending. While there was some easing of price pressures, according to the surveys, they remained high and the European Central Bank is under pressure as inflation is running at more than four times its 2% target, reaching a record 9.1% last month.

Rishi Sunak lost to Liz Truss, who takes over as UK's new Prime Minister

Indian-origin British politician and former chancellor Rishi Sunak lost the race to become the next prime minister of the United Kingdom to fellow Conservative leader Liz Truss.



F1 GP-2022: Max Verstappen won Dutch F1 Grand Prix 2022

Red Bull's Max Verstappen won his home Dutch Grand Prix from pole position for the second year in a row on Sunday and stretched his Formula One lead to a massive 109 points. George Russell finished second for Mercedes with Ferrari's Charles Leclerc completing the podium at Zandvoort and Verstappen also taking a bonus point for fastest lap.



Indian GM Aravindh Chithambaram wins Dubai Open chess Tournament

Grandmaster Aravindh Chithambaram emerged champion in the 22nd Dubai Open chess tournament on Sunday, with 7.5 points as seven Indians finished in the top 10 with R Praggnanandhaa sharing second spot with five others.



Mushfiqur Rahim Announces Retirement from T20 Cricket

Former Bangladesh captain Mushfiqur Rahim announced his retirement from Twenty20 international cricket on Sunday, three days after the team's unceremonious exit from the Asia Cup. "Today, I am announcing my retirement from T20 internationals," Mushfiqur, 35, said in statement on social media.



UN Slams Sri-Lanka's Human Rights Record

The UN Human Rights Chief on Monday said she looks forward to “concrete actions” from the Sri Lankan government on its promises, while urging members of the UN Human Rights Council to continue paying “close attention” to the island nation, whose rights record remains in international focus after a decade since its civil war ended.



Japan's Kenta Nishimoto won Men's Singles at Japan Open 2022

OSAKA – Two-time reigning badminton world champion Akane Yamaguchi captured her third Japan Open women's singles title Sunday, while compatriot Kenta Nishimoto won the men's singles..



Queen Elizabeth II passes away, Buckingham Palace announces

Queen Elizabeth II, the UK's longest-serving monarch, has died at Balmoral aged 96, after reigning for 70 years. She died peacefully on Thursday afternoon at her Scottish estate, where she had spent much of the summer.



Volker Turk set to become next UN human rights chief

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres nominated Volker Türk to replace Michelle Bachelet of Chile as high commissioner for human rights, based in Geneva. The U.N. General Assembly on Thursday approved a veteran Austrian diplomat to be the global body's human rights chief and its advocate for adherence to universal rights at a time when the office is under harsh criticism from China for accusing Beijing of abusing Muslim minorities.

U.S. Announced 450 Million \$ Package To Pakistan

Reversing the decision of its predecessor, the Biden Administration has approved a whopping USD 450 million F-16 fighter jet fleet sustainment programme to Pakistan. As a notification to the U.S. Congress, the State Department has made a determination approving a possible foreign military sale of F-16 case for sustainment and related equipment for an estimated cost of USD 450 million, arguing that this will sustain Islamabad's capability to meet current and future counterterrorism threats by maintaining its F-16 fleet.

Chinese Economy Is In Real Trouble

WASHINGTON — China's economy is in trouble. The juggernaut that once looked bound for global domination is slowing down — and not only in the short run. The Chinese economy's projected growth this year has slowed to about 3%, missing the government's target of 5.5% by an embarrassingly wide margin. After decades of galloping expansion, that would be the second-worst performance in more than 40 years. Only 2020, with its COVID-induced recession, was worse.

North Korea passes law authorising nuclear strikes as form of defence

North Korea has passed a law allowing it to carry out a preventive nuclear strike and declaring its status as a nuclear-armed state "irreversible", Pyongyang's official media said Friday. The announcement comes at a time of crumbling ties between the North and South, with Pyongyang blaming Seoul for the outbreak of Covid-19 in its territory and conducting a record number of weapons tests this year.

Qimingxing-50: China's First Fully Solar-powered Unmanned Aerial Vehicle(UAV)

China has successfully tested its first fully solar-powered unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) which can fly for months and can function even as a satellite if required. The maiden flight of Qimingxing-50 has been achieved, making it the first large-sized UAV powered only by solar energy, a Chinese government official informed in a tweet.



Google acquire cyber-security company Mandiant for \$5.4 billion

Google has completed the \$5.4 billion acquisition of cyber-security firm Mandiant, Google Cloud CEO Thomas Kurian announced. Mandiant will join Google Cloud to help organisations improve their threat, incident and exposure management.



Figma design platform acquired by Adobe for \$20 billion

Adobe announced Thursday that it will acquire design software firm Figma in a deal worth about \$20 billion in cash and stock. Shares of Adobe sank 17%, their biggest plunge since 2010. Figma, founded in 2012, creates cloud-based design software that allows teams to collaborate in real time. It competes head-to-head with Adobe's XD program.



China and UAE to join hands on moon rover missions

UAE announced signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with China's space agency to land a rover on the Moon aboard a lander developed by the latter. The UAE's Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre (MBRSC), on September 16, announced its collaboration with China's space agency to land a rover on the Moon in future lunar missions.



Chinese Scientists create world's first cloned wild Arctic wolf 'Maya'

A wild Arctic wolf was successfully cloned for the first time in the world by a Beijing-based gene firm. The cloning of the Arctic wolf, also known as the white wolf or polar wolf, which is native to the High Arctic tundra of Canada's Queen Elizabeth Islands, is considered a milestone achievement in conserving rare and endangered species through cloning technology.

