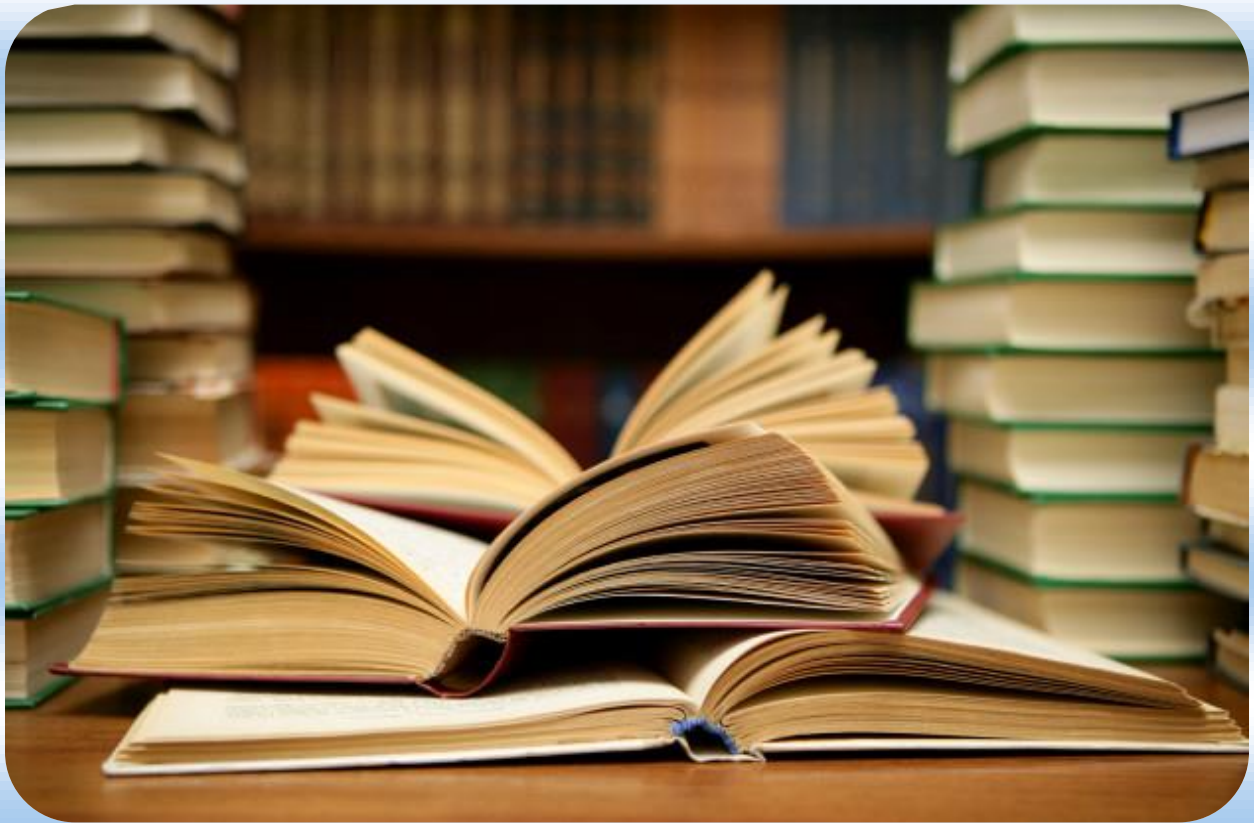


LIBRARY & RESOURCE CENTER, NOIDA

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE MONTHLY



SEPTEMBER-2023

NATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

Aditya-L1, India's first solar observatory mission to be launched onboard the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)

India's first solar observatory mission — Aditya-L1 — was launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on September 2. The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), in its 59th flight with the Aditya-L1 onboard, took off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota at 11.50 a.m.



Moody's raises India's CY23 growth forecast to 6.7%, from 5.5%

Moody's Investors Service on Friday raised India's growth projection for 2023 calendar year to 6.7 per cent on account of robust economic momentum. "Strong services expansion and capital expenditures propelled India's 7.8 per cent real GDP growth in the second (April-June) quarter from a year ago. We have accordingly raised our 2023 calendar year growth forecast for India from 5.5 per cent to 6.7 per cent," Moody's said in its Global Macro Outlook.

Viacom 18 Secures BCCI TV and Digital Media Rights in a 5-Year Deal Worth Rs 5,963 Crore

Leading media & entertainment firm Viacom18 on Saturday said it has bagged streaming and broadcast rights for all domestic and international cricket in India for five years from September 2023 to March 2028 for a consideration of Rs 5,963 crore. The Reliance Industries-controlled media house, which earlier this year disrupted the market by live streaming the IPL matches through its OTT platform JioCinema, was competing with rival media houses such as Star India and Sony for the five-year rights.

YES Bank goes live with UPI interoperability on CBDC

ETMarkets.com: YES Bank on Wednesday announced that it has gone live with Unified Payments Interface (UPI) Interoperability on the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) app. With this move, users will now be able to scan any UPI QR code through the YES Bank Digital Rupee app and undertake transactions in a seamless manner, bank said in a statement.

India Forms Committee To Explore Possibility Of 'One Nation, One Election'

The Indian government has formed a committee under the chairmanship of former President Ram Nath Kovind to explore possibility of 'one nation, one election', PTI reported citing sources. According to the sources, Kovind, who too had voiced support for this idea years back, will explore the feasibility and the mechanism to see if the world's most populous country can retreat to holding simultaneous Lok Sabha and state elections as was done till 1967.

Jaya Verma Sinha 1st Woman Chairperson to Head the Railway Board

The government on Thursday appointed Jaya Verma Sinha the first woman CEO and Chairperson of the Railway Board, the apex decision-making body for the national transporter. She was at the centre stage of the railways' media interactions recently when, as the Member (Operations and Business Development), she explained the complex signalling system after the tragic Balasore accident which killed nearly 300 people.

Chandrayan-3's rover Pragyaan was put to sleep after completion of all its assignments on Lunar surface

Chandrayaan 3's rover 'Pragyaan' has completed its assignments on the lunar surface and has been set into sleep mode to withstand the night on the Moon, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has said. "The Rover completed its assignments. It is now safely parked and set into Sleep mode. APXS and LIBS payloads are turned off. Data from these payloads is transmitted to the Earth via the Lander," the space agency said in an update on social media platform X.

IBBI allows insolvency professional entities to make submissions electronically

In a significant development aimed at enhancing monitoring capabilities, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has granted Insolvency Professional Entities (IPEs) acting as Insolvency Professionals (IP) the facility to electronically submit insolvency information. This digital submission capability was previously unavailable to IPEs functioning as IPs. The move by the insolvency regulator, IBBI, marks a significant step forward in bolstering oversight over the performance of IPEs acting as IPs.

State Bank of India (SBI) introduced 'Nation First Transit Card' to facilitate easy digital ticketing- fare payments

The State Bank of India, country's largest lender, has launched the 'Nation First Transit Card' facilitate the seamless and convenient customer commuting experience and ensure easy digital ticketing fare payments in metro, buses, water ferries, parking, etc., through a single card. "At SBI, we are constantly strive to make banking and everyday life simpler for our customers. The Nation First Transit Card powered by RuPay and National Common Mobility.

International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Financial Stability Board recommends for sharing information to govern crypto assets

NEW DELHI: A paper synthesising separate recommendations by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the Financial Stability Board (FSB) has set out a roadmap to coordinate measures to stop crypto assets from undermining macroeconomic and financial stability. However, the synthesis, put together at the request of the Indian G20 presidency, stopped short of endorsing a blanket ban on such assets.

India's first UPI ATM: How will it be different from cardless cash withdrawals

India's first UPI ATM: The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has been the fastest-growing payment mode in the country and accounts for more than 50% of digital transaction volumes. After revolutionising India's digital payment system, now country's first UPI ATM was launched on Tuesday.



World Bank's G20 document praises India's financial inclusion via digital public infrastructure

The World Bank on Friday lauded India's Digital Public Infrastructure in a G20 document. It said India's Digital Public Infrastructure has had a transformative impact, extending far beyond just financial inclusion. The document also said that India has achieved milestones in just six years which otherwise would have taken about five decades. The document prepared by the financial institution cited examples which included UPI, Jan Dhan, Aadhar, ONDC, and CoWin.

India's forex reserves jump USD 4.03 bn to USD 598.89 bn

India's forex reserves jumped by USD 4.039 billion to USD 598.897 billion for the week ended September 1, the Reserve Bank said on Friday. In the previous reporting week, the overall reserves had dropped by USD 30 million to USD 594.858 billion. It can be noted that in October 2021, the country's forex kitty had reached an all-time high of USD 645 billion. The reserves took a hit as the central bank deployed the kitty to defend the rupee amid pressures caused majorly by global developments since last year.

G-20 Summit clinches New Delhi Declaration; forges consensus on the contentious 'Ukraine paragraphs'

In an unexpected early breakthrough and success for India's Presidency, G-20 members agreed to a joint statement, forging consensus on the contentious "Ukraine paragraphs", and also accepted the membership of the African Union into the grouping on Saturday.



Bharat 6G Alliance and Next G Alliance sign MoU to explore collaboration opportunities

ATIS' Next G Alliance and Bharat 6G Alliance have signed a pact to explore collaboration opportunities on 6G wireless technologies, according to a release. The work will encompass aligning research and development priorities that support a common 6G vision and creating secure and trusted telecommunications as well as resilient supply chains.



G20 New Delhi Leaders Declaration agrees to form new Working Group on Empowerment of Women

Leaders of the G20 agreed to the creation of a working group on the empowerment of women to support the G20 women's ministerial panel which will convene its first meeting during Brazil's presidency of the bloc. The Women and Child Development Ministry, in a statement, said that in a historic achievement for gender equality, women empowerment and women-led development, the G20 New Delhi Leaders'.

Tata Power's Tamil Nadu solar cell unit gets \$425 million from US govt agency- Development Finance Corporation

The American government's development finance institution has approved investing up to \$425 million in TP Solar, a subsidiary of Tata Power Renewable Energy (TPREL), for the Indian firm's greenfield solar cell plant in Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu. The 4.3 gigawatt (GW) plant's first module production is expected by this year's end. TPREL is a subsidiary of Tata Power, one of India's largest integrated power companies.

India becomes the 13th country in world that can issue Internationally Accepted OIML (International Organization of Legal Metrology) Certificates

India has become the 13th internationally accepted authority for issuing International Organisation of Legal Metrology (OIML) certificates. Domestic manufacturers of weighing and measuring equipment, like BP meters, oximeters and cloth scales, can now get the instruments tested in India itself before selling them in the international market. An OIML Pattern Approval certificate is mandatory to sell a weight or measure in the international market, which the Department of Consumer Affairs can now issue.

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud announced the onboarding of the Supreme Court on the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG)

Chief Justice of India D Y Chandrachud on Thursday announced that the Supreme Court is now "onboard" the National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) portal, a national repository of data relating to cases instituted, pending and disposed of by courts across the country. Terming it a "historic" development, the CJI said, "Onboarding of Supreme Court data on NJDG portal under the open data policy is a step on our part to bring transparency and accountability in the judicial domain."

All reported births, deaths to be digitally registered on the Centre's portal from October 1

All reported births and deaths in India will be registered digitally on the Centre's portal from October 1. In an official notification, the Ministry of Home Affairs stated that the provisions of the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023 will come into force from October 1, 2023.



Indian Oil was roped in as title sponsor for MotoGP Bharat.

MotoGP Bharat has roped in IndianOil as the title sponsor for the event scheduled to take place at the Buddh International Circuit in Greater Noida from September 22 to 24, its promoter Fairstreet Sports said in a statement. "We are thrilled to welcome IndianOil as our title sponsor for MotoGP Bharat. As we gear up for the country's biggest racing event, this association with one of India's energy giants adds a new layer of excitement to it," said Pushkar Nath Srivastava, founder and chief operating officer of FairStreet Sports.

Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) to expand its network of BSL-3, BSL-4 laboratories

Under the Prime Minister-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM), the Indian Council of Medical Research is collaborating with eight premier scientific organisations in India to establish the National Institute of One Health to roll out the National One Health Mission across the country to strengthen multidisciplinary approaches in health research.



Asia Cup: India defeats Sri Lanka by 10 wickets in the final of the Asia Cup to lift the title after a gap of five years; Mohammed Siraj takes a six-wicket haul

The bright and sunny afternoon turned overcast 10 minutes before the scheduled start. Once the Asia Cup final finally got going 40 minutes late, a capacity crowd at the R. Premadasa Stadium had one eye on the sky, with a thunderstorm predicted to hit the Sri Lankan capital, on September 17.



Bureau of Indian Standards establishes 6467 Standard Clubs for students across nation

New Delhi: The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has announced that it has established 6467 standard clubs in schools and colleges across the country. "Recognising the significance of practical learning, BIS has further extended its financial support. High and higher secondary eligible government schools with standards clubs are entitled to receive a one-time laboratory grant to a maximum of Rs. 50,000 in the form of state of the art lab equipment for upgrading their Science Labs," Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution said.



Reliance Jio Infocomm (Jio) launches JioAirFiber, a high-speed wireless broadband service, across 8 metro cities in India

Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Jio launched the Jio AirFiber on September 19 weeks after Bharti Airtel's introduction of India's inaugural wireless home. With Jio AirFiber, the company promises to bring an integrated end-to-end solution for home entertainment, smart home services and high-speed broadband, across 8 metro cities. Ambani explained during the 46th AGM that their extensive optical fiber network connects them to over 200 million locations. The Jio AirFiber devices are aimed at providing last-mile connectivity to many parts of India.

Lok Sabha passes historic women's reservation Bill, 27 years after a Women's Reservation Bill was first introduced in Parliament

History was scripted Thursday night when The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2023, seeking to reserve 33% of seats in Lok Sabha and state Assemblies for women, was passed unanimously by Rajya Sabha, a day after it sailed through Lok Sabha.



ADB lowers India GDP growth outlook for this fiscal to 6.3%

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) on September 20 pared its growth forecast for India's economy to 6.3% for this year, from 6.4% estimated earlier, citing the impact of falling exports and erratic rainfall patterns that could hit farm output. The Bank's economists also raised their inflation forecast for the year to 5.5% from 5% estimated in April and retained their real GDP growth projection for 2024-25 at 6.7%, influenced by expectations that private investment and industrial output will rise.

Mumbai-based budget airline Akasa Air has received the government's nod to fly global routes

NEW DELHI: The ministry of civil aviation has approved Mumbai-based budget carrier Akasa Air's request to fly to international destinations, two officials close to the development said. 'The proposal was examined in consultation with DGCA (Directorate General of Civil Aviation) and it has been decided with the approval of competent authority, to allow Akasa Air to mount international operations subject to their continued compliance...', the civil aviation ministry said in a letter to the airline. HT has reviewed the communication.

WhatsApp is set to add rival in-app payment options in India

New Delhi/New York: WhatsApp said on Wednesday that it will offer credit card payments and services from rival digital payment providers within its app in India, the latest bet by the Meta-owned service to boost commerce offerings in its biggest market. WhatsApp has more than 500 million users in India, though regulators there have capped its in-app WhatsApp Pay service to only 100 million people. People shopping on WhatsApp could also pay using popular services like Alphabet Inc's Google Pay, Paytm and Walmart's PhonePe but only after being redirected outside WhatsApp.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced that it has not received any signals from Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander and Pragyan rover

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) said on Friday that it has received no signals from the Chandrayaan-3 mission's Vikram lander and Pragyan rover. The space agency is continuing its efforts to establish communication and ascertain their condition.



State Bank of India (SBI) raised ₹10,000 crore at a coupon rate of 7.49% through the issue of infrastructure bonds

State Bank of India (SBI) has raised Rs 10,000 crore through 15-year infrastructure bonds priced at a rate of 7.49 per cent. The pricing was five basis points cheaper than coupon fixed at 7.54 per cent for such bonds issued in July. The yield was 7.7 per cent for infrastructure bonds the bank issued in January. Bond market dealers said the softening of yields in markets helped SBI to fix coupon at a lower rate. The response for those looking for long-term paper was good and the issue attracted bids in excess of Rs 20,000 crore. The Employee Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) and insurance companies were major investors.

Micron Technology Inc. will break ground for its USD 2.75 billion semiconductor plant in Gujarat

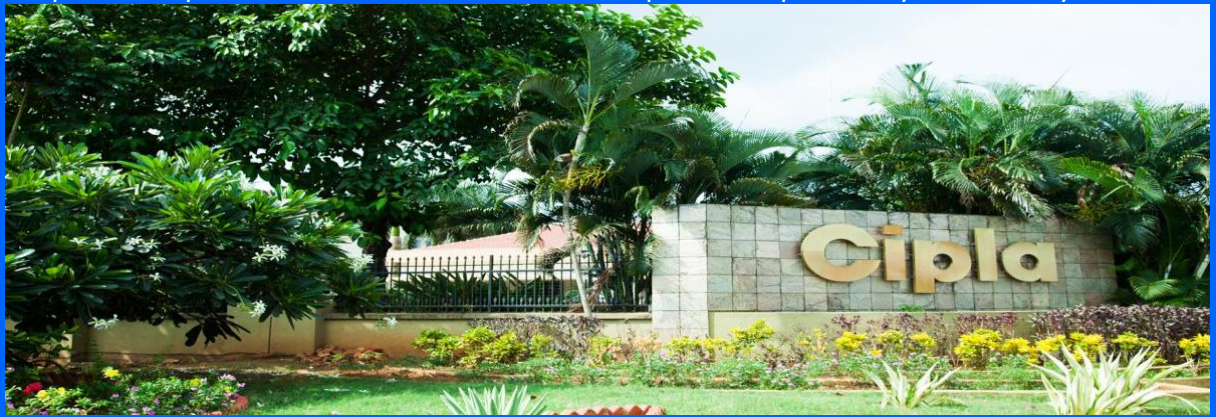
Computer storage chip maker Micron will set up a semiconductor assembly and test plant in Gujarat entailing a total investment of USD 2.75 billion (around Rs 22,540 crore), the company said on Thursday. Micron will invest up to USD 825 million in setting up the plant in two phases. Micron's plant has been approved under the government's "Modified Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging (ATMP) Scheme,". Under the scheme, Micron will receive 50 per cent fiscal support for the total project cost from the Indian central government and incentives representing 20 per cent of the total project cost from the state of Gujarat.

Prime Minister lays foundation stone of International Cricket Stadium in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday laid the foundation stone of the International Cricket Stadium in his parliamentary constituency Varanasi. The project is expected to cost approximately Rs 450 crores and will be able to accommodate 30,000 spectators. The thematic architecture of this stadium draws inspiration from Lord Shiva, with designs developed for crescent-shaped roof covers, trident-shaped floodlights, ghat steps-based seating, and Bilvapatra-shaped metallic sheets on the facade.

Cipla starts delivery of critical medicines by drones in Himachal Pradesh

Pharmaceutical company Cipla Ltd. has announced it will deliver critical medicines such as those meant for cardiac, respiratory and other essential chronic therapies by drones to hospitals and pharmacies in Himachal Pradesh in partnership with Sky Air Mobility.



Air India completes acquisition of its first A350 aircraft through GIFT City

Air India is the country's first scheduled carrier to have acquired an aircraft from an entity registered in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City). Air India on Friday said it successfully acquired India's first Airbus A350-900 aircraft through a finance lease transaction with HSBC. It is the airline's first financing transaction from its record-setting orders for 470 aircraft.



India's Largest Home-Built Nuclear Plant Starts Operations

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced on Thursday that the 700 MW nuclear power plant, developed entirely within India, located in Kakrapar, Gujarat, has commenced its operations at maximum capacity, calling it a "milestone". While the reactor at the Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP) had started commercial operations on June 30, it was operating only at 90 per cent of its capacity. On Thursday, August 31, it started operating at its full capacity.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das Rated 'A+' In Global Finance Central Banker Report 2023

RBI governor Shaktikanta Das has deservedly received an A+ rating in the recently released Global Finance Central Banker Report Cards 2023. It is a happy coincidence that the news has come just before the 18th G20 Heads of State and Government Summit in New Delhi. After all, G20 was once a forum for finance ministers and central bank governors until it was upgraded to heads of government-level after the 2008 global financial crisis. Das' management of the twin shocks of Covid-19 and the Russia-Ukraine war, more severe than the 2008 crisis, has won him this accolade.

Govt partners with Meta for 'Education to Entrepreneurship' to skill 500,000 entrepreneurs

Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Dharmendra Pradhan, inaugurated a three-year partnership with Meta called, "Education to Entrepreneurship: Empowering a generation of students, educators, and entrepreneurs." This partnership is between the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, and Meta, and it marks a step towards positioning India as the global skill capital.

India Unveils Worlds First Portable Hospital Arogya Maitri Cube

Operation theatre, mini-ICU, ventilator, blood test equipment, X-ray machine, cooking station, food, water, shelter, power generator and much more – India has built the world's first disaster hospital, that can be airlifted, packed in 72 cubes.



INTERNATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

Amazon develops version of cashier-less technology for clothing stores

Amazon.com Inc. has developed a new version of its cashierless shopping technology for clothing retailers — in an effort to expand the system beyond convenience and grocery stores. The retail and cloud-computing giant on Tuesday said the latest iteration of its Just Walk Out technology uses radio frequency identification, or RFID, tags to keep track of apparel.



Google brings its AI chatbot Bard into Gmail and YouTube

Google is introducing Bard, its artificially intelligent chatbot, to other members of its digital family — including Gmail, Maps and YouTube — as it seeks to ward off competitive threats posed by similar technology run by Open AI and Microsoft.



Georgia Declares October as 'Hindu Heritage Month'

New York, Aug 31 (PTI) The US state of Georgia has officially declared October as the "Hindu Heritage Month" to acknowledge the contributions of the vibrant Hindu-American community in the state. In a proclamation, Governor Brian Kemp declared October as the 'Hindu Heritage' month.



Max Verstappen wins Italian Grand Prix 2023

Max Verstappen entered the history books with victory at the Italian Grand Prix – a record-breaking 10th consecutive win taking the Red Bull driver to a rarified plane of success never achieved by any driver in Formula One since the championship began in 1950.



McGahey to become first transgender to play international cricket

NEW DELHI: In an historic moment, Danielle McGahey from Canada is set to become the first transgender cricketer to participate in an international match. Her groundbreaking inclusion will occur next month during a regional qualifying tournament for the 2024 Women's T20 World Cup in Bangladesh.



African Union Becomes Permanent Member Of G20 Under India's Presidency

The African Union (AU) on Saturday became a permanent member of the Group of 20 largest economies (G20) of the world with Prime Minister Narendra Modi announcing its entry into the top global body. In his opening remarks at the inaugural session of the two-day G20 Summit, Modi made the announcement welcoming the 55-nation AU as the new member of the grouping.



North Korea Launches New ‘Tactical Nuclear Attack Submarine’

North Korea has launched its first operational “tactical nuclear attack submarine”, a key part of leader Kim Jong Un’s plan to develop a nuclear-armed navy to counter the United States and its Asian allies. Submarine No 841 – named Hero Kim Kun Ok after a prominent North Korean historical figure – was launched on Wednesday with Kim overseeing the event, according to the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

Karachi’s Erica Robin becomes first Miss Universe Pakistan 2023

A 24-year-old Pakistani model, Erica Robin, has become the first-ever 'Miss Universe Pakistan' 2023. She was crowned on September 14 in Maldives. She will now represent Pakistan at the 72nd Global Miss Universe Pageant, one of the longest running beauty contests, in El Salvador in November this year



UK PM Rishi Sunak Delays Ban On New Petrol And Diesel Cars By 5 Years In Net Zero Reset

British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak on Wednesday laid out a shift in strategy towards achieving the country’s net zero climate action targets, including a delay of five years in imposing a proposed ban on petrol and diesel cars to 2035. In a speech at Downing Street, the British Indian leader reiterated that there is no change to the UK’s commitment to reduce carbon emissions to hit its net zero target by 2050 but only a shift towards a more “pragmatic, proportionate and realistic path” to achieving that goal amid a cost-of-living crisis.

Singapore Overtakes Hong Kong As World’s Freest Economy

Singapore has dethroned Hong Kong to become the world’s freest economy, according to a report released by Canadian think tank Fraser Institute. For the first time since the Economic Freedom of the World Index started in 1970, Hong Kong slipped to second place from the number one spot — and its score is about to drop even further.



What Is The Five Eyes Intelligence Alliance?

Since Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau alleged in his country's Parliament on September 19 that the Indian government may have "potential links" to the killing of separatist leader Harmeet Singh Nijjar in Canada, the ties between the two countries are under strain. US Ambassador to Canada David Cohen has now said in an interview with Canada's CTV that it was "shared intelligence among Five Eyes partners" that helped "lead" Canada to the claims that PM Trudeau made.

Record-Breaking US Visa Applications By Indians In 2023

The United States' Mission to India on Thursday hit a milestone one million non-immigrant visa applications for the year. This marks a 20% increase from the number processed in 2019. According to the US Embassy and Consulates in India over 1.2 million Indians visited the USA last year, making it one of the most robust travel relationships in the world. "Indians now represent over 10% of all visa applicants worldwide, including 20% of all student visa applicants and 65% of all H&L-category (employment) visa applicants.

Oil giant Saudi Aramco announces its first global deal in LNG market

Saudi Aramco on Thursday announced its first global investment in liquefied natural gas, part of a broader bid by the energy giant to expand beyond oil. The company seen as the jewel of the Saudi economy said it would acquire a minority stake worth \$500 million in MidOcean Energy, which is managed by the U.S. investment firm EIG.



Leander Paes becomes first Asian man to be nominated for International Tennis Hall of Fame

Multiple Grand Slam winner Leander Paes on Tuesday emerged as the first Asian man to be nominated for the International Tennis Hall of Fame in the player category.



China's Yin Ruoning became the World No. 1 in women's golf by finishing third at the LPGA Queen City Championship

China's Yin Ruoning became the world number one in women's golf on Sunday by finishing third at the LPGA Queen City Championship. The 20-year-old became only the second Chinese woman to claim the world number one ranking after Feng Shanshan, who reached the summit from November 2017 to April 2018.



Europe's central bank hikes interest rates again, even as threat of recession grows

The European Central Bank piled on a 10th straight interest rate increase Thursday, pressing forward in its fight against stubbornly high inflation that has been plaguing consumers even as worries grow that higher borrowing costs could help push the economy into recession.



Asian Games: India secure 31 medals including 8 gold, 11 silver and 11 bronze

Asian Games 2023 Highlights, Day 5: It was another eventful day for India in Hangzhou. The nation clinched gold in the men's 10m air pistol team event on Day 5. The shooting team, comprising Sarabjot Singh, Arjun Singh Cheema, Shiva Narwal, staged an incredible comeback to bag the top spot.



