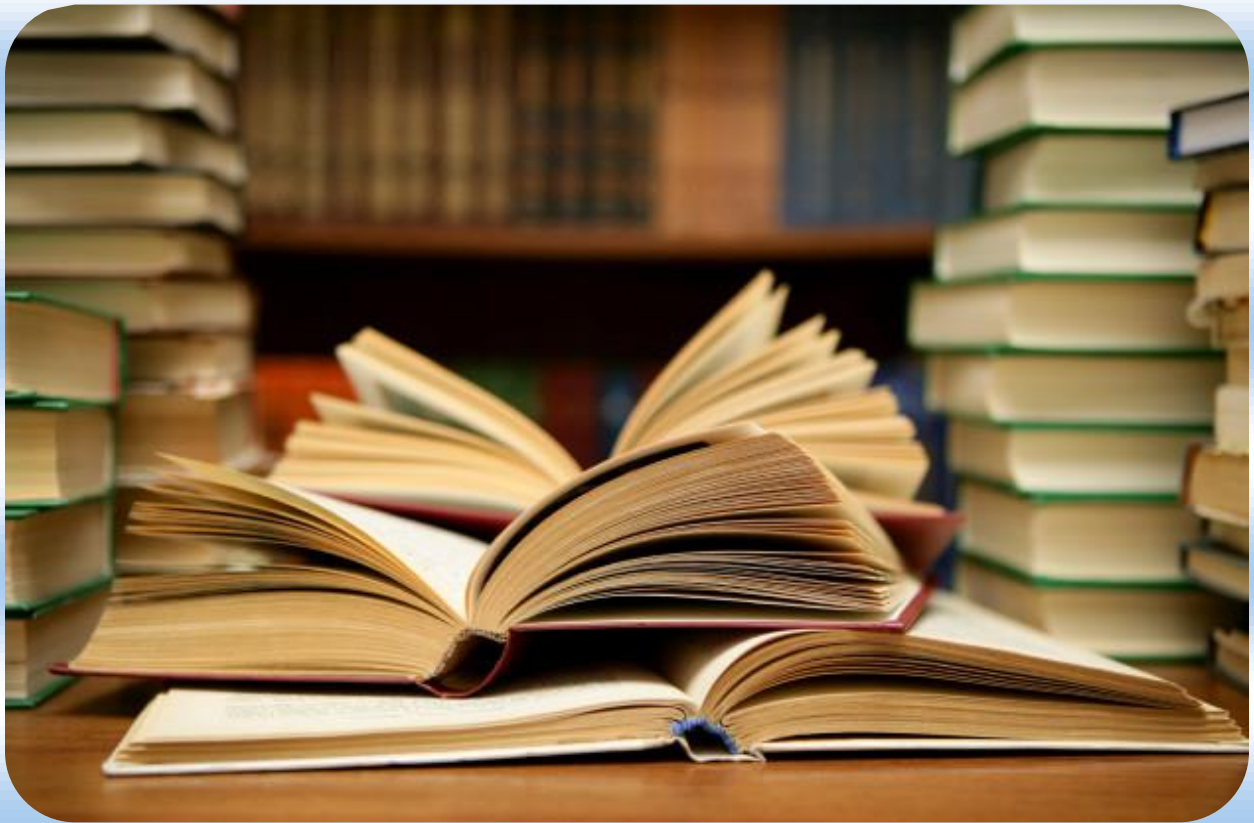


LIBRARY & RESOURCE CENTER, NOIDA

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE MONTHLY



SEPTEMBER-2024

NATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

PM Modi's Address at Economic Times World Leaders Forum

"It is the Government's resolve to deliver good governance to the people. Reform, perform and transform has been our mantra," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, in his address at the Economic Times World Leaders Forum in New Delhi on August 31. Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister expressed his appreciation of the discussions taking place at the Economic Times World Leaders Forum. He underlined that these discussions are happening at a time when the world has its trust in India's growth story.

Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit Takes Over As AOC-In-C, Central Air Command

Lucknow: Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, Vayu Sena Medal, Vishisht Seva Medal, assumed the appointment of Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Central Air Command on Sunday. Air Marshal Dixit was commissioned into the fighter stream of IAF on December 6, 1986. The Air Officer is an experimental test pilot and a qualified flying instructor with more than 3300 hours of flying experience on a variety of aircraft in the IAF inventory.

GST Collections Increase by 10% to ₹1.75 Lakh Crore in August

Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections in August went up by 10 per cent from the same period last year to Rs 1,74,962 crore, according to official statement of government. This growth was observed across all categories: Central GST (CGST), State GST (SGST), Integrated GST (IGST), and cess. A year before, the gross GST revenue collected in the month of August, 2023 was Rs 1,59,069 crore.

Rubina Francis Wins Bronze in Women's 10m Air Pistol SH1

The 25-year-old para shooter Rubina Francis secured India's fifth 2024 Paralympics medal as she won the bronze medal in the women's 10m air pistol SH1 event with a final score of 211.1 in the final round. Rubina finished seventh in the qualification round, the same as she did three years ago in Tokyo.



Preethi Pal Becomes First Indian Woman to Win Two Paralympic Medals in Athletics

Paris: India's Preethi Pal created history as she became the first Indian woman track and field athlete to win two medals at the Paralympics while clinching the bronze in the 200m T35 category with a personal best time of 30.01 seconds here on Sunday.



President Droupadi Murmu Unveils New Supreme Court Flag and Insignia

President Droupadi Murmu on Sunday unveiled the flag and insignia of the Supreme Court at an event meant to mark 75 years of establishment of the top court.



Bisleri Partners with Goa for Improved Waste Management

Panjim (Goa) [India], September 2: Bisleri International Pvt. Ltd. exchanged letter of intent (LOI) with Chairman Goa State Pollution Control Board, in presence of Dr Pramod Sawant, Chief Minister of Goa at the Green Goa Summit 2024, held at the Raj Bhavan in Dona Paula, Goa today to enhance plastic waste management practices in Mormugao, Vasco. Recognizing the critical role of effective waste management in maintaining public health and enhancing the quality of life for residents.

Google DeepMind's Morni AI to Cover 125 Indic Languages

Google DeepMind's India unit is working on an Indic language artificial intelligence project called Morni (Multimodal Representation for India), with an aim to cover 125 Indian languages and dialects. "So, India has 22 scheduled languages, which are viewed as official languages. But in our work, we are targeting over 100 Indian languages, because we find that there are 60 Indian languages which have over a billion speakers and over 125 languages that have over a lakh speakers each," said Manish Gupta, director at Google DeepMind, Google India. He was speaking at the Global Fintech Fest in Mumbai on Thursday.

IIT Delhi Expands Global Footprint, Inauguration of Abu Dhabi Campus

Sheikh Khaled bin Mohamed, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, officially inaugurated the Abu Dhabi campus of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi on Monday. The first batch of undergraduate students, who will pursue BTech degrees in Energy Engineering and Computer Science and Engineering, were greeted by the Crown Prince.



India Aims to Boost Alcoholic Beverage Exports to Rs 8,000 Cr

With the global demand for Indian spirits growing at a healthy rate, the government is planning to promote both Indian alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages in the international markets and is eyeing USD one billion (about Rs 8,000 crore) exports in the next few years. The commerce ministry's arm APEDA (Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority) said that India currently ranks 40th in the world for alcoholic beverage exports. As per estimates, the country has huge unrealised export potential.

Tamil Nadu's Rising Fintech Paysharp Secures RBI Authorization

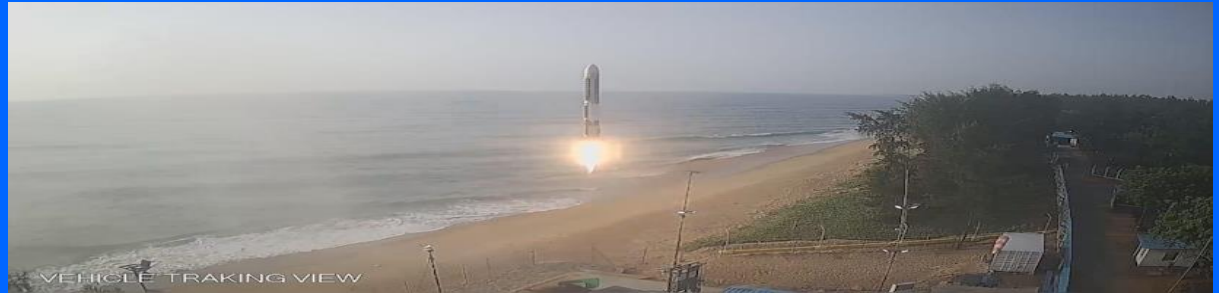
New Delhi [India], September 2: Paysharp is an existing PA, which received RBI final authorisation on 30th August 2024 Friday followed by the in-principal PA license on December 2022. Paysharp is a 5 years old startup, raised two rounds of funding sum of 23 crores, last funding round was on March 2023 with the valuation of 200 crores. Paysharp holds ISO 27001:2022 and SOC 2 accreditations. With RBI's final PA authorization, Paysharp is part of Indi's Payment System, it helps Paysharp to extend to more merchants. Paysharp is one of authorised Payment Aggregator from Tamil Nadu. As on date RBI has authorized 36 payment aggregators including Razorpay, Cashfree and Stripe.

Star Health's Introducing Braille Insurance Policies for the Visually Impaired

Star Health and Allied Insurance, a health insurance provider, has introduced an insurance policy in Braille, according to a statement from the company. This initiative aims to empower visually impaired individuals in India, enabling them to access health insurance information independently, the company added. The newly-launched "Special Care Gold" policy offers tailored health coverage for people with disabilities.

Successful Launch of Agni-4 Ballistic Missile

India successfully launched the Agni-4 ballistic missile from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, Odisha, on Friday, a Defence Ministry release said. The successful test was carried out under the aegis of the Strategic Forces Command. According to the Defence Ministry, the launch validated all operational and technical parameters.



Israel's Tower Semiconductor and Adani's \$10 Billion Chip Project in India

In a major decision ahead of the state elections, Maharashtra cabinet sub-committee on industries, chaired by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde on Thursday approved four major projects totalling an investment of Rs 1.17 lakh crore that includes a semiconductor manufacturing project to be jointly set up by Israel's Tower Semiconductor and the Adani Group. The project to be set up in Panvel of Raigad district will entail a total investment of Rs 84,947 crore in two phases and is expected to create 15,000 jobs.

SBI Foundation Launches 3rd Edition of Asha Scholarship Program

The State Bank of India (SBI) has announced the third edition of its flagship Asha Scholarship programme guaranteeing support to 10,000 meritorious students from underprivileged backgrounds nationwide. Interested students have time till October 1 to apply for this SBI scholarship, for which the application form, eligibility details and more are available at the official website — sbifashascholarship.org. Students from Class 6 to postgraduate level can now access scholarship ranging from Rs 15,000 to 20 lakh in a year. The programme offers specialised categories for school students, undergraduates, postgraduates, as well as those enrolled in IITs and IIMs in India.

India Emerges as World's Second-Largest 5G Smartphone Market

According to a new report from Counterpoint Research, India has emerged as the world's second-largest market for 5G smartphones, trailing only behind China. 5G smartphones are becoming increasingly prominent across various price ranges in India. Prachir Singh, a senior analyst at Counterpoint Research, highlighted that significant contributions from brands like Samsung, Vivo, and Xiaomi, especially in the budget segment, have been key to this growth. "India became the second-biggest 5G handset market during the first half, overtaking the US.

World Trade Centre to Anchor Ambitious AI City Near Hyderabad

Telangana government has signed an MoU with the World Trade Centres' Association for the establishment of a World Trade Centre in the proposed AI City near Hyderabad. The WTC at AI City will feature 1 million square feet of built-up space to house firms at the forefront of AI and emerging technologies.



RBI imposes penalties on Godrej Housing, HUDCO, and Aadhar Housing Finance

NEW DELHI: The Reserve Bank of India has imposed monetary penalties on three Non-Banking Financial Companies for non-compliance with directions of RBI on housing finance companies. As per the official statement from RBI on Friday, it has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 5 lakh on Godrej Housing Finance Limited, Rs 5 lakh on Aadhar Housing Finance Limited, and Rs 3.5 lakh on Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited.

QCI Approves NTH Ghaziabad for Drone Certification

The Quality Council of India (QCI) has provisionally approved India's first drone Certification body to National Test House (NTH) Ghaziabad, country's premier industrial testing agency. The NTH will now certify drones or Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) at a highly competitive price to promote drone manufacturing ecosystem in India.



IMF Upgrades India's FY24-25 GDP Forecast to 7%

The World Bank has raised its growth forecast for India's economy to 7 per cent for the current financial year (FY25), up from an earlier projection of 6.6 per cent, according to a statement released on Tuesday. This revision comes amid expectations of stronger economic performance, driven by key factors such as private consumption and investment. The report highlights that while the economy remains resilient.

To boost research in higher institutes, the PAIR programme launched

The government will launch the Partnerships for Accelerated Innovation and Research (PAIR) programme designed to elevate research capabilities in higher education institutions (HEIs) by linking top-tier research institutions with those where research capability is limited, creating a collaborative mentorship environment. The decision was taken during the inaugural Governing Board meeting of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF).

IIFT Ranks No. 1 Globally for Networking in LinkedIn MBA 2024, Secures 51st Overall

NEW DELHI: India's premier business school Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), under the commerce ministry, has topped the chart in the networking category in the LinkedIn's top 100 MBA programmes in the world. The institute was ranked 51st among the top 100 programmes, the ministry said in a statement on Tuesday. Hailing the institute's achievement, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said that this prestigious recognition indicates IIFT's growing dynamism with emphasis on its networking strength worldwide.

CCI approved merger of Tata Motor Finance into Tata Capital

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) on Tuesday cleared the proposed merger of Tata Motors Finance Ltd into Tata Capital Ltd. Tata Capital Ltd (TCL) is a subsidiary of Tata Sons and is operating as a non-banking financial company Investment and Credit Company (NBFC-ICC). TCL is engaged primarily in the business of lending, leasing, factoring, financing and distributing financial products. "CCI approves the proposed merger of Tata Motors Finance Ltd with and into Tata Capital Ltd," the regulator said in a post on X.

Union Cabinet Approves Health Cover for All Aged 70 and Above

The government's move to provide health coverage to all persons aged 70 years and above will bring much-needed relief to millions of families and is a significant milestone in providing essential healthcare services to the elderly, industry players said on Thursday. The Union Cabinet had on Wednesday approved health coverage to all persons aged 70 years and above under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) irrespective of their income, benefiting around six crore senior citizens.

Union Bank of India Becomes First Major Bank to Join PCAF

Union Bank of India on Monday announced its decision to become a signatory to the Partnership for Carbon Accounting Financials (PCAF). This step aligns with the growing global emphasis on climate risk management and the recent draft guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on climate risk disclosures. PCAF is a global partnership of financial institutions working to develop and implement a harmonised approach to assess and disclose.

Adani Airports Launches 'Aviio' for Real-Time Airport Data

Adani Airports Holdings Ltd, the Adani group firm that operates seven airports in the country, has launched 'aviio' digital platform to provide passengers real-time data on variety of airport accesses - from wait times to gate change and bags on belt. Aviio aspires to bring the aviation community together to collaborate and serve passengers better, a top official said. By enabling airport stakeholders to access real-time data.

UPI Users can now Send 5 Lakh For Some Transactions

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has increased transaction limits for tax payments using Unified Payments Interface (UPI), allowing people to transfer Rs 5 lakh in a single transaction starting Sunday. "Acquiring entities must ensure that the classification of their merchants within MCC-9311 strictly adheres to the tax payments only....Merchants shall ensure UPI as a payment mode is enabled for the increased limit for the tax payments category," said NPCI in a circular.

LIC Appoints Infosys for NextGen Digital Platform

State-owned Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) announced on Monday that it had signed up tech giant Infosys to develop a next-generation digital platform that will act as the foundation for new high-value business applications, such as customer and sales super apps, portals, and digital branches. The financial terms of the deal remain undisclosed. The tie-up with Infosys is part of LIC's "long-drawn" strategy, said a senior executive of India's biggest insurer.

India Becomes 6th Largest Market in MSCI ACWI

India has become the sixth largest market in the MSCI All Country World Investable Market Index (ACWI IMI), surpassing China and narrowly behind France. For the first time, India is the largest emerging market (EM) in the gauge that tracks the performance of global capital markets. Click here to connect with us on WhatsApp At the end of August, India's weight in the MSCI ACWI IMI stood at 2.35 per cent, 11 basis points (bps) more than China which is at 2.24 per cent. France has just 3 bps more weight than India.

India is set to become the Third-largest Economy by 2030-31

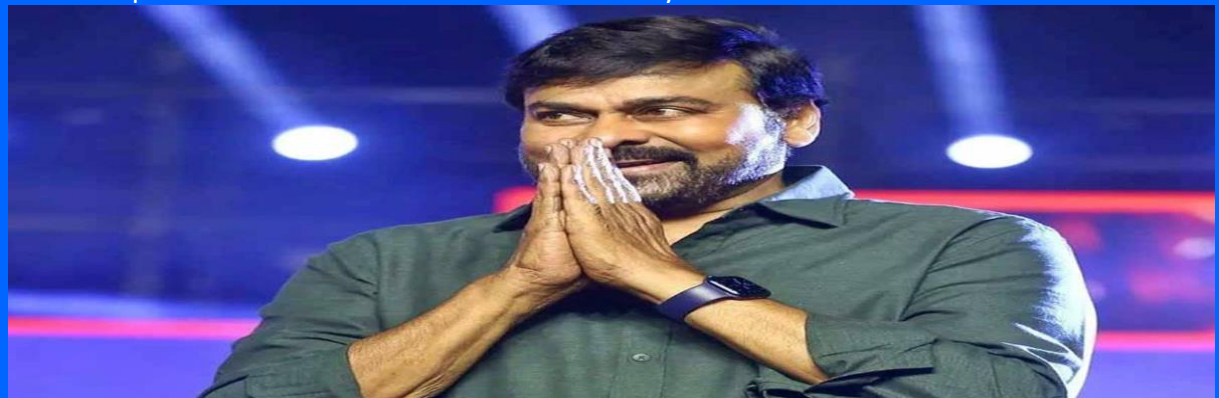
India is set to become the world's third-largest economy by 2030–31, as per S&P Global India. The country is forecast to grow at an annual rate of 6.7 per cent. India emerged as the fastest-growing large economy, with gross domestic product (GDP) growth at the rate of 8.2 per cent in the financial year (FY) 2024, surpassing the government's earlier estimate of 7.3 per cent. Abhishek Tomar, head, S&P Global India Leadership Council, and chief data officer for S&P Global Market Intelligence, said.

India Achieves Tier 1 Status in Global Cybersecurity Index 2024

India has jumped to Tier 1 in the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2024, released by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), when it comes to role-modelling as part of the country's cybersecurity commitments and resulting impacts. The 'GCI 2024' used a new five-tier analysis, a shift that allows a greater focus on each country's advances with cybersecurity commitments.

Chiranjeevi Sets Guinness World Record as Most Prolific Indian Film Star

Chiranjeevi, the veteran Telugu actor known as the "Megastar," has added another remarkable accolade to his illustrious career by earning a Guinness World Record for being the most prolific film star in the Indian film industry.



JK Lakshmi Cement and Rohit Sharma Celebrate Five Years of Association

JK Lakshmi Cement (JKLC), one of India's leading cement manufacturers, has renewed its partnership with cricketing icon Rohit Sharma as its brand ambassador for the fifth consecutive year. This continued collaboration highlights the alignment of shared values between JKLC and Rohit Sharma, with both symbolising excellence, strength, and reliability. Rohit Sharma, known for his leadership and consistent on-field performance.

Sebi imposes Rs 1 crore fine on Jai Anmol Ambani in Reliance Home Finance case

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has imposed a penalty of Rs 1 crore on Jai Anmol Ambani, the elder son of industrialist Anil Ambani, for not exercising proper due diligence while approving corporate loans at Reliance Home Finance. Additionally, Krishnan Gopalakrishnan, the chief risk officer of Reliance Home Finance, has been fined Rs 15 lakh for similar violations. The two individuals are required to pay the amount within 45 days of the Sebi order.

Rhea Singha from Gujarat wins Miss Universe India 2024 title

Rhea Singha, a 19-year-old from Gujarat, was crowned Miss Universe India 2024. Singha emerged victorious against 51 finalists during the grand finale that took place in Jaipur, Rajasthan, on Sunday.



Tata Steel Commissions India's Largest Blast Furnace in Kalinganagar

Tata Steel announced that it has successfully commissioned Phase II of blast furnace located at Kalinganagar, Odisha. With a total investment of Rs 27,000 crore, the Phase II expansion at Kalinganagar will take the total capacity at the site from 3 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) to 8 MTPA. The new blast furnace will significantly boost the plant's overall production capabilities, allowing the company to meet the growing demands of various industries.

Moody's Upgrades India's Economic Growth Forecast to 7.1% for CY 2024

New Delhi: Moody's has revised its calendar year (CY) 2024 growth forecast for India to 7.1%, from its earlier estimates of 6.8% in June, as it expects growth in the Asia-Pacific region to outpace the global economy. It, however, kept its India growth forecast for CY 2025 unchanged at 6.5%. The revision in India's growth forecast by Moody's comes a month after Moody's Ratings similarly upgraded GDP growth forecast to 7.2% in 2024 and 6.6% in 2025.

Dassault Aviation Expands Footprint in India with New Military MRO Subsidiary

India has taken notable steps in its journey towards becoming a maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) centre for military aircraft and doubling the larger industry to \$4 billion by 2030 in recent months, with global aerospace majors like France's Dassault Aviation and the United States' (US) Lockheed Martin and Boeing either announcing or indicating substantial plans for India. At present, India is home to \$2 billion in MRO business.

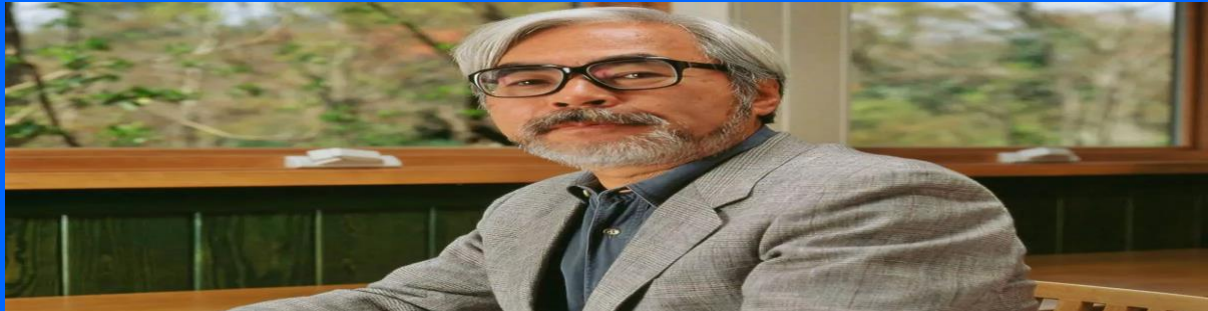
NSE, BSE Revise Transaction Fees; New Charges Effective from October 1

Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), on Friday, revised the transaction fees for Sensex and Bankex options contracts in the equity derivatives segment to ₹3,250 per crore of premium turnover. The revised rate will take effect from Tuesday, October 1. Meanwhile, the transaction charges for other contracts in the equity derivatives segment will remain unchanged. For Sensex 50 options and stock options.

INTERNATIONAL CURRENT AFFAIRS

Legendary Animator Hayao Miyazaki Receives Prestigious Ramon Magsaysay Award

Hayao Miyazaki, the legendary filmmaker and co-founder of Studio Ghibli, has been awarded the 2024 Ramon Magsaysay Award, one of Asia's most prestigious honors, often likened to the Nobel Prize. This recognition is a testament to Miyazaki's profound impact on the world of animation and his ability to tackle complex themes through a medium accessible to all ages.



Michel Barnier Named by Macron to be France's New PM

Veteran French conservative Michel Barnier has taken over as prime minister, almost two months after France's snap elections ended in political stalemate. He said France had come to a "serious moment" and he was facing it with humility: "All political forces will have to be respected and listened to, and I mean all."



India Surpasses China in MSCI Emerging Markets Index

India has surpassed China to become the largest market in the MSCI Emerging Markets Index. As of the end of August, India now leads all emerging markets, according to MSCI IMI. India has emerged as the largest emerging market in MSCI EM Investable Market Index (IMI), which includes large, mid and small-cap counters from 24 Emerging Markets economies, a report said. China's weight in the index has halved since its peak in early 2021, according to a note by Morgan Stanley on September 17.

Deepali Thapa Makes History as First Schoolgirl Champion

Young boxer Deepali Thapa became the first ever schoolgirl champion as India bagged seven female titles at the Asian Championships in Al Ain, UAE on Sunday. Competing in the 33kg category, Thapa defeated Kazakhstan's Anelya Ordabek in the semifinals and went on to dominate Ukraine's Liudmyla Vasylenko in the final, showcasing superior technique and control to claim the title. India's impressive performance continued with Bhoomi, who triumphed in the 35kg weight class, defeating Kazakhstan's Assel Jalimbekova.

Switzerland crowned as best country in the world

WASHINGTON, Sept. 10, 2024 /PRNewswire/ -- For the third consecutive year, Switzerland tops the overall list of the world's Best Countries, a rankings and analysis project by U.S. News & World Report and the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Now in its ninth year, the 2024 Best Countries analysis evaluates 89 nations across 73 different attributes. Attributes are grouped into 10 subrankings, ranging from entrepreneurship and quality of life to adventure and heritage.

Indian Origin lecturer win the prize for literature in Singapore

An Indian-origin lecturer at Nanyang Technological University has won the Singapore Literature Prize for English fiction for her short story – 'Nine Yard Sarees'. Prasanthi Ram, 32, debut work was published in late 2023. The short story cycle is about generations of a Tamil Brahmin family dispersed across Singapore, Sydney, New York and Connecticut.



TIME's World's Best Companies 2024, Indian Firms in the Spotlight

A number of Indian companies were featured on TIME's World's Best Companies of 2024 list among which are HCLTech, Infosys, Wipro, the Adani Group and Reliance Industries. The list consists of 1000 companies among which 22 this year are Indian-born. The highest ranking company among the top 15 Indian firms to be listed was HCLTech at 112, followed by Infosys and Wipro at 119 and 134, respectively. While the Adani group ranked at 736, Mukesh Ambani owned Reliance Industries ranked higher at 646 on TIME magazine's list

Cristiano Ronaldo, Breaking Barriers in Social Media

Cristiano Ronaldo has hit 1bn total followers across his various social media accounts - making him the first person to reach that mind-boggling figure. The number is calculated by combining his total number of followers across Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Chinese social media sites Weibo and Kuaishou.



17 Year old Anmol Kharb Wins First Single Title in Belgium

Anmol Kharb, India's breakout badminton prodigy integral to the Asian Team gold medal at the start of 2024, has had an eventful past eight months. Widely lauded for winning decisive tie-clinchers in February, the 17-year-old collapsed in a tearful heap on the court with a viciously swollen ankle at the Uber Cup in May.



SIF 2024 Unveils World's First AI-Powered Trade Licence Service

Sharjah employs AI tech to issue trade licence within 5 minutes Sharjah has launched the world's first trade licence issued entirely through artificial intelligence (AI), a groundbreaking step that enables entrepreneurs and investors to complete the entire licencing process in less than five minutes.



Dhruvi Patel wins Miss India Worldwide 2024

Washington: Dhruvi Patel, a Computer Information System student from the USA, has been declared the winner of Miss India Worldwide 2024, the longest running Indian pageant outside of India. Dhruvi aspires to be a Bollywood actor and UNICEF Ambassador. "Winning Miss India Worldwide is such an incredible honour."



Left-leaning leader wins Sri Lanka election in political paradigm shift

Left-leaning politician Anura Kumara Dissanayake has won Sri Lanka's presidential election after a historic second round of counting. No candidate won more than 50% of the total votes in the first round, where Dissanayake got 42.31% while his closest rival, opposition leader Sajith Premadasa, got 32.76%.



Lando Norris Triumphs in Thrilling Singapore Grand Prix 2024

This win for Lando Norris in the darkness of the Singapore Grand Prix ended with the night lit by fireworks, albeit after what had been a notably less than explosive race was enlivened when the British driver cut it as close as might be dared in twice escaping from glancing blows against the looming walls of Marina Bay. They were tiny moments that might yet be decisive for Norris.

New Global Climate 'Loss and Damage' Fund Names First Director

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The board of The Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage to help countries ravaged by climate-driven disasters named Senegalese finance specialist Ibrahima Cheikh Diong as its first director, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change announced on Saturday. The selection of Diong, a dual U.S. citizen, marks a major milestone in the operationalization of the new World Bank-administered fund, whose creation in 2022 was a breakthrough for developing country negotiators at United Nations climate talks.

Russia, China Warships Enter Sea of Okhotsk for Drills

BEIJING: A detachment of warships of Russia's Pacific Fleet and the Chinese Navy entered the Sea of Okhotsk in the western Pacific as part of joint navy exercises, Russia's Interfax agency reported on Tuesday, citing the Pacific Fleet's press service.



Iran unveils all new and powerful suicide drone 'Shahed-136B'

Amid the growing tension in the Middle-East, Iran for the first time has showcased the Shahed 136B drone and Jihad ballistic missile. Iran unveiled a new ballistic missile and an upgraded one-way attack drone at a military parade on Saturday, state media said, amid soaring regional tensions and allegations of arming Russia. The Shahed 136B drone is the latest Iran-made drone and was showcased at the Armed Forces military parade. The Shahed-136B is the new one-way attack drone which is also known as a 'kamikaze' drones.

Shigeru Ishiba Set to Become Japan's Next Prime Minister

Shigeru Ishiba was confirmed as Japan's next prime minister by parliament on Tuesday, paving the way for him to officially unveil his cabinet as he seeks to heal party divisions and prepare for an Oct 27 snap election.



