

MAHITHI MONTHLY SNIPPETS

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NEWS IN SHORT

- Sudha Murty's 300th book Grandpa's Bag of Stories released
- Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) is expanding its Nandini brand into Telangana, starting with a daily supply of 20,000 litres of milk through a partnership with a private dairy in Warangal. This move comes as milk production in Raichur, Ballari, Koppal, and Vijayanagara districts has led to surplus, which will be sold in Telangana. The expansion, focusing on varieties like toned and full cream milk, is expected to be profitable due to higher milk prices in Telangana. Despite concerns about competition with local enterprises, the plan is moving forward.
- Karnataka has submitted a third proposal to the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) seeking approval to convert the existing PWD guesthouse at Jog Falls into a five-star hotel as part of an eco-tourism initiative, following previous rejections in 2014 and 2021. The Jog Management Authority (JMA) justifies the project, emphasizing the suitability of the location for a ropeway across the Sharavathi River and the necessity of the land for the hotel. Conservationists, however, oppose the project, citing the ecological sensitivity of the Sharavathi Valley. Despite these concerns, the state government is pushing forward with Rs 165 crore worth of infrastructure developments to enhance tourism at Jog Falls, aiming to accommodate the growing number of visitors.
- Japanese filmmaker Hayao Miyazaki, considered one of the greatest animators and directors, has won the 2024 Ramon Magsaysay Award. Named after the former President of the Philippines, the awards "honor greatness of spirit shown in service to the peoples of Asia", covering fields such as community service and arts.
- The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) released a report on Bengaluru lake water quality, revealing that all 110 studied lakes within BBMP and panchayat limits fall under D and E categories, indicating poor water quality, primarily due to untreated sewage contamination and inadequate drainage management.
- Karnataka has finalized locations for EV clusters under its Electric Vehicle (EV) Policy 2023–28, with Chickballapur, Bidadi, and Hubballi–Dharwad chosen for strategic EV manufacturing. Approximately 800 acres have been identified for these clusters, focusing on co-locating EV manufacturing and OEMs, with possible build-to-suit options and testing facilities. Companies are already operational in Gauribidanur, Chickballapur. Future expansion may include Kalaburagi, Belagavi, and Mysuru, aiming for sustainability and enhancing the EV ecosystem. The policy targets ₹50,000 crore in investments and one lakh jobs. Karnataka leads with 5,765 public EV charging stations, with plans to add 100 more, backed by ₹35 crore investment, led by the Energy Department.
- After a gap of over three years, the Charaka Super Speciality Hospital, affiliated with the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College and Research Institute, reopened on Monday. Initially launched as a 150-bed Covid facility during the pandemic, the

hospital had shut down within its first year due to staff shortages. The hospital will offer services in cardiology, nephrology, urology, and plastic surgery, supported by newly recruited permanent resident doctors and staff diverted from Victoria and Jayadeva hospitals.

- The National Institute of Animal Biotechnology (NIAB) is working on decoding the genetic blueprints of indigenous cattle breeds using Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) and genotyping technology to establish molecular signatures for registered breeds, ensuring breed purity and aiding in conservation efforts. The institute is also focused on developing new-generation vaccine platforms to combat livestock diseases like brucellosis, contributing to animal health and reducing economic losses. Under the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), NIAB aligns its research with the 'BioE3' policy to promote bio-manufacturing and position India as a global leader in biotechnology. NIAB is also supporting biotech start-ups in transforming the livestock-based economy, with initiatives including bio-scaffold production for therapeutic interventions, a 3D-pulmosphere model for bovine TB, and the use of bacteriophages as antibiotic alternatives to target mastitis pathogens.
- The International Buddhist Confederation and Nava Nalanda Mahavihara hosted a 2-day conference on Guru Padmasambhava's life and legacy, honoring the 8th-century founder of Tibetan Buddhism, who spread Lord Buddha's teachings across the Himalayas, leaving a rich legacy in Yogic and Tantric practices, art, music, dance, magic, folklore, and religious teachings, and is revered as a founding father of Tibetan Buddhism and a prominent figure in Buddha Dhamma.
- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has introduced the Dispute Resolution Scheme (e-DRS), 2022, a streamlined platform for taxpayers to electronically resolve income tax disputes through Dispute Resolution Committees (DRCs), aiming to reduce litigation and provide faster, cost-effective resolutions for eligible taxpayers meeting specific conditions, with DRCs able to modify orders, reduce penalties, or waive prosecution within six months.
- A recent study has revealed that long-term exposure to fluoxetine (Prozac) can significantly disrupt the behaviour and reproductive traits of the male guppy fish.
- The World Gold Council (WGC), a nonprofit association of leading gold mining companies established in 1987 to promote gold demand through marketing, research, and lobbying, has raised its 2024 projection for India's gold consumption to 850 tonnes from 750 tonnes, covering markets that account for about three-quarters of global gold consumption from its headquarters in London and operations in India, China, Singapore, and the USA.
- The BBMP extended the 'Nambike Nakshhe' scheme to all eight zones in Bengaluru, allowing for fully online building plan approvals, eliminating the need for physical

office visits. The scheme applies to independent houses on plots under 50x80 square feet. Property owners must upload site documents and building plans on the BBMP website, which are automatically scrutinized for compliance with regulations. After an automated fee payment, a provisional building licence is issued, and the final approval is granted within 15 days, or it is deemed approved. The scheme is trust-based, requiring plans to be vetted by an empanelled engineer or architect, with BBMP engineers checking only for construction deviations. It is planned to extend this scheme to areas under BDA limits.

- The Union Cabinet has approved seven schemes for farmers, including the Digital Agriculture Mission (₹2,817 crore) to integrate technology into agriculture through Agri Stack, Krishi Decision Support System, and Soil Profile Mapping. The Crop Science for Food and Nutritional Security scheme (₹3,979 crore) focuses on climate resilience and food security by 2047. Strengthening Agricultural Education (₹2,291 crore) aims to modernize research and education in line with the New Education Policy 2020. Sustainable Livestock Health (₹1,702 crore) targets increased income from livestock and dairy production. The Horticulture scheme (₹1,129.30 crore) promotes diverse crop cultivation, while Krishi Vigyan Kendras (₹1,202 crore) strengthen agricultural extension services. Lastly, Natural Resource Management (₹1,115 crore) focuses on sustainable agricultural practices.
- The Reserve Bank of India is launching the Unified Lending Interface (ULI), a technology platform developed by the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub, Bengaluru, to streamline credit access for farmers and MSME borrowers. ULI integrates digitized financial and non-financial data from various sources into a single platform, facilitating consent-based access to information like land records. It employs standardized APIs for easy integration, enabling faster credit appraisal, simplified documentation, and enhanced customer insights. ULI's centralized data access and automated decision-making improve the efficiency of loan processing, with successful pilots demonstrating its effectiveness in digitizing Kisan Credit Card loans.
- The Department of School Education, Karnataka has launched a 21-day 'Reading Campaign' for students in classes 1 to 7 at government and aided schools. The campaign is divided into two phases, with the first phase running from September 3 to 18, starting with a read-a-thon from 11 am to 11:30 am. The initiative aims to enhance students' reading skills by encouraging them to read age-appropriate storybooks. The campaign is designed not to interfere with regular teaching hours, and activities are to be conducted during morning assembly, the first class, or library hours. Teachers are instructed to document the campaign's activities

through photographs and share them in local WhatsApp groups with officials, parents, and School Development and Monitoring Committees (SDMCs).

- The Karnataka government is set to release India's first draft policy on global capacity centres (GCC) next month. IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge emphasized the importance of stakeholder feedback for refining the policy, which aims to reshape both Indian and global economies. Bengaluru, home to over 400 GCCs, is a key hub for international companies. Additionally, the state will launch a Rs 100 crore skilling policy for emerging technologies, seeking corporate contributions. The government is also planning to partner with Microsoft to enhance skills in generative AI through a forthcoming memorandum of understanding.
- West Bengal Assembly Passes Aparajita Women and Child Bill, 2024 - The Bill increases punishments for rape, gang rape, rape leading to death or vegetative state, and offenses by police or public servants, and amends the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) + It mandates that rape investigations be concluded within 21 days + The Bill was introduced following the rape and murder of a doctor in Kolkata + The Bill emphasizes increased punishment, speedy investigations, and justice for sexual assault cases under BNS and the POCSO Act.
- The World Bank forecasts a 7% growth for the Indian economy in the current fiscal year, up from a previous estimate of 6.6%. India's economy grew at 8.2% in FY 23/24, driven by public infrastructure investment, household investment in real estate, a 9.9% rise in manufacturing, and resilient services. Urban unemployment has improved since the pandemic, with female urban unemployment decreasing to 8.5%, while youth unemployment remains high at 17%. India's growth, coupled with a declining inflation rate, is expected to reduce extreme poverty. India is advised to enhance growth by leveraging its global trade potential and diversifying exports into textiles, apparel, footwear, electronics, and green technology.
- The Bengaluru City Police set a world record for providing 2,500 police personnel with Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and basic first aid life support skills in a day which has been recognised by London Book of Records. The training was held at the Sri Kanteerava Indoor Stadium and organised in collaboration with the Sankalpa Chase Cancer Foundation on January 14. The event saw the participation of traffic and law and order police, security personnel from the Vidhana Soudha, and 48 security personnel from Raj Bhavan.
- Russian troops recently hit Kharkiv, Ukraine, with a Grom-E1 hybrid missile.
- The Union Cabinet recently gave the green light to Kaynes Semicon Pvt Ltd to establish a new semiconductor unit in Sanand, Gujarat, which is the fifth semiconductor unit to be approved under the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM).

- Thanjavur Veena is the first musical instrument in the country to get the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Karnataka has declared dengue fever an epidemic, requiring property owners, occupiers, and managers to cover water storage, dispose of waste properly, and prevent water collection in unused sites. BBMP Chief Commissioner oversees Bengaluru while Deputy Commissioners handle other districts. Enforcement includes property inspections, notice issuance, and penalties: Rs 400 in urban areas, Rs 200 in rural areas, with increased fines for commercial establishments and continued non-compliance. As of September 3, 2024, there have been 25,589 cases and 12 deaths. The aim is to reduce mosquito populations and control dengue spread statewide.
- Union Agriculture Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan has launched the AgriSURE Fund, a Rs 750 crore initiative supported by the Government of India, NABARD, and private investors to finance technology-driven start-ups and rural enterprises in agriculture, aimed at transforming India's rural economy.
- The Union Labour Ministry has approved a Centralised Pension Payment System (CPPS) under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995, benefiting around 78 lakh pensioners. Starting January 1, 2025, pensioners will be able to receive payments from any bank or branch nationwide without needing to transfer Pension Payment Orders when changing locations or banks. This system, part of the EPFO's IT modernization initiative (CITES 2.01), is expected to provide significant relief to pensioners, especially those who relocate after retirement.
- The Centre and the Tripura government signed a peace accord with two insurgent groups, National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) and the All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF), in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. Over 328 armed cadres from these groups will give up violence and join the mainstream. The government has approved a ₹250 crore package for tribal development in Tripura. The insurgent groups, after 35 years of conflict, have agreed to lay down arms and participate in the democratic process. This is the 12th peace agreement in the Northeast, helping over 10,000 insurgents reintegrate into society.
- The Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI) has selected Reliance Industries Ltd. as the successful bidder under the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage. Production Linked Incentive (PLI) for 10 GWh Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) manufacturing with a maximum budgetary outlay of ₹3,620 crore was announced on January 24, 2024.
- Himachal Pradesh Assembly passed a Bill raising the minimum marriageable age for women from 18 to 21 years. The Prohibition of Child Marriage (Himachal Pradesh Amendment) Bill, 2024, was passed on the first day of the two-week

monsoon session. It seeks to amend the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 (2006 Act) to advance gender equality.

- A team of researchers has stumbled upon rare Arnoux's Beaked Whales off the coast of Antarctica recently.
- Karnataka's drugs control department has launched a real-time database to track stocks of Tapentadol, an addictive painkiller, to curb its misuse. Enforcement officers will update the portal daily with stock data from distributors, allowing them to monitor supply and demand between wholesalers and retailers. This system enables immediate action if discrepancies are found, aiming to deter chemists from facilitating misuse. Tapentadol misuse is significant, with many users injecting the oral drug to achieve a high, leading to addiction and a high incidence of Hepatitis C due to shared syringes. The initiative seeks to control the drug's availability, discourage new users, and reduce addiction risks. Medical professionals note that while Tapentadol is used for chronic pain, it should be prescribed cautiously and regulated strictly. The move is expected to help authorities catch distributors enabling misuse and make the supply chain more accountable.
- Recently, a P8I aircraft of the Indian Navy has reached France to participate in 'Exercise Varuna' with the French Navy.
- National Award for e-Governance 2024 (Gold) - Poshan Tracker Initiative + Purpose: Identifies and addresses growth issues in children aged 0-6 years through real-time monitoring and WHO growth charts + Role of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs): Evaluate health status and implement interventions for deviations from expected growth + Technology: Utilizes ICT tools and Growth Measuring Devices (GMD) at Anganwadi Centers (AWCs) for accurate data collection + Impact: Enhances child health outcomes under Mission Poshan 2.0, benefiting millions of children in India.
- Recently, zoologists in Assam have added a species of spider *Phrynarachne decipiens* whose web mimics a bird's excrement to India's list of arachnids.
- Union Minister of Textiles Shri Giriraj Singh launched 'VisioNxt', India's first fashion forecasting initiative. VisioNxt provides AI and EI-based trend insights to the fashion industry. The initiative aims to promote indigenous design and manufacturing. VisioNxt will foster healthy global competition and elevate Indian culture and design. The fashion industry will benefit from AI and EI-based trend insights. VisioNxt reduces dependence on global forecasting agencies and provides unique insights into Indian fashion consumers. The initiative combines artificial and human intelligence. VisioNxt offers trend insights, forecasting, consultancy services, academic courses, and workshops. The initiative empowers users to

design consumer-focused collections for the diverse Indian market. VisioNxt positions India globally among countries that predict fashion trends

- To strengthen the bond between the civil society & the Armed Forces and motivate the youth towards nation building, an exhibition, 'Sashakt Sena, Samridh Bharat' will be held at Morabadi Ground in Ranchi, Jharkhand
- 4th national conference on Bringing Evidence into Public Health Policy (EHPH) held virtually at IIM Bangalore with the theme "Health governance, policy, and institutional frameworks for just and sustainable health systems"
- Goa Challengers stunned Bengaluru Smashers 8-4 in the Ultimate Table Tennis semifinal, setting up a chance to break the record of no team winning two consecutive editions. The strategic decision to send captain Harmeet Desai in the second singles match proved pivotal, with Mihai Bobocica defeating the previously unbeaten Alvaro Robles, and Yangzi Liu extending the lead by beating Manika Batra. Despite losing the mixed doubles match, Harmeet's win over Jeet Chandra secured Challengers' place in the final.
- On September 10, World Suicide Prevention Day, NIMHANS will inaugurate a new Suicide Prevention Centre aimed at tackling the rising suicide and self-harm rates in India. The centre will focus on improving mental health assessments and care for self-harm patients in general hospitals. It follows the Urban Self-Harm Study (USHAS), which has counseled over 7,000 individuals across multiple hospitals in Karnataka since 2022. Key objectives include better mental health assessments, reducing self-harm repetitions, and enhancing healthcare professionals' skills. Supported by various institutions, the centre aims to create a sustainable, replicable suicide prevention framework.
- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has launched the Vishvasya-Blockchain Technology Stack to enhance transparency, security, and efficiency in digital services. The stack includes Blockchain-as-a-Service (BaaS), hosted in NIC Data Centers; NBFLite for rapid prototyping and learning; and Praamaanik for verifying mobile app origins. The National Blockchain Framework (NBF) supports reliable digital platforms with smart contracts and security features, aiming to position India as a global blockchain leader. Applications include e-Stamps, judiciary management, IoT security, and agriculture produce tracking.
- The President of India recently unveiled the new flag and insignia of the Supreme Court at the National Conference of District Judiciary in New Delhi. The flag is blue and features the Ashoka Chakra, the Supreme Court Building, and the Constitution of India. The insignia includes the phrases "Supreme Court of India" and "Yato Dharmastato Jayah" in Devanagari script, meaning "Where there is Dharma, there

is victory," symbolizing the Court's dedication to justice. Both the flag and insignia were designed by the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Delhi.

- Chinese President Xi Jinping has pledged \$51 billion to Africa under the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC). Established in 2000, FOCAC formalizes the strategic partnership between China and African nations, meeting every three years. China-Africa relations have evolved from support for liberation movements in the 1950s to becoming Africa's largest bilateral trading partner. With \$282 billion in trade in 2023, China is a major player in African exports and imports. The Belt and Road Initiative has seen over \$120 billion in investments, but there are criticisms of debt trap diplomacy. The 2024 FOCAC will focus on smaller, manageable projects and green technologies amidst China's economic slowdown.
- India has become the world's largest plastic polluter, releasing 9.3 million tonnes of plastic waste annually, which is three times more than other major polluters. Researchers using AI placed India at the top of the global plastic waste inventory, accounting for one-fifth of the global burden. India's waste management faces challenges with dumpsites outnumbering sanitary landfills and official data likely overestimating coverage. Rural areas contribute significantly to plastic waste, with 53% of emissions from uncollected waste. Globally, 52.1 million metric tonnes of plastic waste are discharged annually, with a significant portion uncollected. Policy responses, including India's single-use plastic ban, are essential but face ongoing challenges.
- The Karnataka State government has established a one-year expert committee, chaired by retired IAS officer K.P. Krishnan, to explore asset monetisation opportunities, particularly land in and around Bengaluru, for generating revenue, with members including former CBIC chairman Najib Shah, retired IAS officer H. Shashidhar, Professor Krishnaraju of ISEC Bengaluru, and the Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department (secretary of the panel); the committee will develop a roadmap for transparent and timely implementation of asset monetisation to boost non-tax revenues.
- The Karnataka government has abolished the electricity subsidy limit for power loom and pre-loom units. Agriculture Marketing Minister said this decision would help every weaver to save at least ₹40,000 a year. Units having 10.1 HP to 20 HP capacity would be fully subsidised and weavers would have to pay only ₹1.25 per unit of electricity
- Valley fever, a fungal disease endemic to the western United States, is seeing a significant rise in cases across California, prompting concerns among health officials and researchers.

- Recently, a new species of spider *Carrhotus piperus*, has been identified in the lower Palani Hills of Tamil Nadu
- INDIA - FRANCE BILATERAL NAVAL EXERCISE VARUNA
- Prime Minister launched of the 'Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari' initiative at Surat, Gujarat. Under this program, approximately 24,800 rainwater harvesting structures are being constructed across the state to enhance rainwater harvesting and ensure long-term water sustainability.
- CM launches Yettinahole Drinking Water Project's 1st phase, diverting west-flowing river water from 4 tributaries of Netravati (Yettinahole, Kadumanehole, Kerihole, Hongadahalla) to meet South Karnataka's (Kolar, Chickballapur, Bengaluru Rural, Ramanagara, Hassan, Tumakuru, and Chikkamagaluru.) drinking water needs, benefiting 75 lakh people across 7 districts, filling 527 tanks with 24 tmcft of water, at an estimated cost of ₹23,251.66 crore, with a focus on dam safety through expert committee audit.
- Greenpeace India's "Spare the Air" report on air quality in 10 cities, including Mysuru and Mangaluru, reveals that pollution levels significantly exceed WHO and NAAQS standards. WHO guidelines set annual limits for PM 2.5 at 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and PM 10 at 15 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, while NAAQS permits 40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for PM 2.5 and 60 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ for PM 10. Cities like Mysuru, Bengaluru, and Puducherry have PM 10 levels 4-5 times higher than WHO limits, with Visakhapatnam and Hyderabad showing up to 9 times higher levels. In Bengaluru, PM 2.5 and PM 10 levels exceed WHO standards by 5-6 times and 3-4.5 times, respectively. Mysuru's pollution correlates with transport expansion and has only one monitoring station, while Mangaluru also shows levels above both standards for PM 10 and PM 2.5.
- A parcel of land in Uttar Pradesh, once owned by the family of former Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf, is set to be auctioned under The Enemy Property Act. This act, which was established in 1968, pertains to properties belonging to individuals who migrated to Pakistan or China after the wars of 1965 and 1971 or the 1962 Sino-Indian War. The Government of India seized these properties under the Defence of India Rules, with the Custodian of Enemy Property managing them. Despite the Tashkent Declaration of 1966, which proposed discussions on property return, Pakistan disposed of these assets in 1971. The Act was amended in 2017 to address legal heirs and ensure continued vesting with the Custodian. The Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2016, reinforced these provisions. Notably, the Raja of Mahmudabad case highlighted challenges in control, with a 2005 Supreme Court ruling impacting the management of such properties.
- The Union Health Ministry has introduced the BPaLM regimen under the National TB Elimination Program to treat Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis (MDR-TB). This

new treatment combines four drugs—Bedaquiline, Pretomanid, Linezolid, and optionally Moxifloxacin. Pretomanid, recently approved by the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), is a key component. The BPaLM regimen is designed to be safer and more effective than traditional MDR-TB treatments, offering an all-oral regimen with a reduced pill burden. It shortens the treatment duration from 20 months to 6 months and is associated with fewer adverse effects.

- An aggressive weed, *Mikania micrantha*, is rapidly spreading in Bhadra Tiger Reserve (BTR), covering 10%-15% of the area and threatening biodiversity. Despite being known for its destructive impact in Nepal's Chitwan National Park and India's Valmiki Tiger Reserve, efforts to control the weed are stalled due to delays in fund release under Project Tiger. The spread of *Mikania micrantha* along with other invasive species is affecting native species like bamboo, raising concerns over increased human-animal conflict in Chikkamagaluru and Shivamogga districts.
- Top seed Velavan Senthilkumar beat fourth seed Noor Zaman of Pakistan 11-5, 11-7, 11-9 in the final of the \$12,000 Men's ACE Challenger tournament in Kuala Lumpur for his ninth PSA title.
- Google has identified a foot road near Kasarkod Tonka in Honnavar as the 'Olive Ridley Turtle Road' and the adjacent sandy beach as a conservation area, a move that has pleased local fishermen and environmental activists. The 1.4 km-long road has been disputed for five years, as a private port company wanted to widen it for port access, while locals argue it is a key nesting site for the critically endangered Olive Ridley sea turtle, protected under the Wildlife Protection Act of 1972. Scientists and visitors have tagged the area as a nesting site, possibly influencing Google's recognition, which may aid future conservation efforts.
- Two new ginger species named *Globba tyrnaensis* and *Globba janakiae* have been discovered in the Double Decker Living Root Bridge area of Meghalaya.
- The United Arab Emirates has successfully completed the Arab world's first nuclear power plant, the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant.
- The BepiColombo spacecraft, a joint mission by the European Space Agency (ESA) and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), recently provided its first clear view of Mercury's south pole. Launched on October 20, 2018, the mission is named after Italian mathematician Giuseppe "Bepi" Colombo and aims to study Mercury's surface, composition, magnetic field, and its interaction with the solar environment. The spacecraft comprises two main components: the Mercury Planetary Orbiter (MPO), provided by ESA to map and analyze Mercury's surface and composition, and the Mercury Magnetospheric Orbiter (MMO), provided by JAXA to examine Mercury's magnetic field and magnetosphere. The mission's objectives include investigating Mercury's geological history, studying its magnetic

field and interaction with the solar wind, measuring its exosphere, and testing principles of general relativity.

- INDIA- USA JOINT MILITARY EXERCISE YUDH ABHYAS -2024 COMMENCES IN RAJASTHAN
- The Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) is conducting its first Combined Operational Review and Evaluation (CORE) Programme from September 9 to 13, 2024, in New Delhi. This five-day event is designed for Major Generals and equivalent officers from the Indian Armed Forces, as well as officials from the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of External Affairs, and Ministry of Home Affairs. The CORE Programme aims to enhance senior officers' leadership skills, strategic planning abilities, and preparedness for future threats by focusing on jointness, integration, and modern military concepts, with discussions on topics like changing warfare dynamics, globalization, cyber warfare, and the impact of AI and autonomous systems.
- The Karnataka Cabinet approved "Nipuna Karnataka," a state government initiative aimed at providing guaranteed employment through skilling programs that align youth skills with industry demands, especially in emerging technologies. The scheme has a total budget of Rs 300 crore, with Rs 100 crore from the state government and Rs 200 crore expected from corporate CSR contributions from companies like TCS, Infosys, and Wipro. It focuses on equipping the youth with industry-relevant skills such as cybersecurity, cloud computing, and artificial intelligence. The program will target youth across Karnataka, including women returning to work after maternity breaks, and will be implemented through public-private partnerships with companies and educational institutions. The delivery mode (online/offline) is yet to be finalised, but it will be standardized across the state.
- Sukanya Samridhi Yojana (SSY), launched in 2015 under the "Beti Bachao Beti Padhao" initiative, is a small-deposit savings scheme to promote education and savings for girl children. Accounts can be opened in authorized banks or post offices for girls under 10 years, with a maximum of two accounts per family. Deposits range from ₹250 to ₹1.5 lakh annually for 15 years, with the account maturing after 21 years. Withdrawals up to 50% are allowed for education after age 18 or completion of 10th grade. Tax benefits include deductions under Section 80C and tax-free interest and proceeds. Starting from October 2024, accounts under non-legal guardians must be transferred to legal guardians, and excess accounts will be closed.
- India's first study on 'teal carbon' at Keoladeo National Park, Rajasthan, highlights the importance of conserving non-tidal freshwater wetlands to tackle climate

adaptation and resilience challenges. Teal carbon is stored in wetlands through vegetation, microbial biomass, and organic matter, helping to sequester carbon and regulate greenhouse gases. However, degraded wetlands can emit methane and carbon dioxide due to pollution, land use changes, and water extraction. The study calls for holistic nature-based solutions like reducing methane emissions through biochar, improving water management, and selecting suitable vegetation for better flood mitigation and climate resilience.

- India reported its first confirmed case of mpox, a viral zoonotic disease caused by the monkeypox virus, with the first human case recorded in 1970 in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). There are two clades of the virus: Clade I (Central Africa) and Clade II (West Africa), with India's case involving Clade II. Mpox presents symptoms like skin rash, fever, and swollen lymph nodes, and spreads via direct contact with body fluids, lesions, or contaminated items. There is no specific treatment for mpox, but early supportive care helps manage symptoms.
- The Indian Navy launched two anti-submarine warfare shallow watercraft vessels, INS Malpe and INS Mulki, at Cochin Shipyard. These vessels measure 78 meters in length, 11.36 meters in width, and have a draught of 2.7 meters. They can achieve a maximum speed of 25 knots, covering up to 1,800 nautical miles with a displacement of approximately 900 tonnes. Armed with torpedoes, ASW rockets, mines, and a close-in weapon system, these vessels are designed for anti-submarine warfare, mine-laying, search and rescue, and low-intensity maritime operations. They will replace the in-service Abhay-class corvettes and are equipped with indigenous sonar technology.
- The Swachh Vayu Survekshan Award 2024, initiated by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), ranks 130 National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) cities to track progress in reducing air pollution by 40% by 2025-26. The initiative, started in September 2022, aims to raise awareness about air quality, assess city comparisons, and contribute to the goal of clean air for all. Cities are evaluated through the PRANA portal, and awards are presented in three categories based on population size, with winners like Surat, Firozabad, and Raebareli receiving cash prizes, trophies, and certificates
- The Karnataka government has approved an Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) project for Bengaluru, to be implemented through a 7-member committee, which will identify suitable land for the project, amidst concerns over potential favoritism and environmental impacts, with an estimated cost of Rs 45,000 crore and a 30-year contract with a private firm, aiming to manage collection, transportation, and processing of municipal solid waste through a door-to-door collection system, secondary transfer stations, and processing plants, with plans to

introduce a user fee of Rs 100 per month for households and a separate tariff for commercial establishments to address the increased expenditure.

- Karnataka's Hashika Ramachandra created a new National women's 400m freestyle record at the 77th senior National aquatic championships at the International Aquatic Complex in Mangaluru. Hashika's 4:24.70s broke Richa Mishra's mark of 4:25.76s set in 2011.
- The Pahadi Korwa tribe, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group (PVTG) in Chhattisgarh, will benefit from the Prime Minister JANMAN scheme, which aims to improve their socio-economic status through 11 critical interventions, including road connectivity, healthcare, education, and livelihoods, with a total outlay of Rs 24,104 crore, and also preserves their unique cultural practices, language, and traditions, such as their Korwa language, subsistence agriculture, ancestral worship, and migratory housing practices.
- Recently, Mumbai-based Entod Pharmaceuticals has announced that the Drug Controller General of India (DCGI) has approved its new eye drop PresVu, which has been developed to reduce dependency on reading glasses for individuals affected by presbyopia. Presbyopia: It is an age-related condition in which the eyes gradually lose the ability to focus on nearby objects.
- The Karnataka State Government has partnered with the British Council to enhance the skillsets of students, focusing on employability and improving the quality of higher education in the state. Several key programs have been launched under this partnership. The "Scholars for Outstanding Undergraduate Talent" (SCOUT) program aims to improve the skills of selected students and faculty members. Thirty individuals from six universities—Bangalore University, Bengaluru City University, Gulbarga University, Raichur University, Tumkur University, and Rani Channamma University—will participate in a two-week learning camp at the University of East London from November 9 to 22. The "Skills for Youth in Students" program, in collaboration with the British Council and Microsoft India, is designed to enhance English language proficiency, targeting 5,795 students from 16 government engineering colleges. Additionally, a "Capacity Building Training for International Officers" workshop has been organized to support the internationalization of Indian universities, involving 56 participants from 28 state universities. Lastly, a "Freemium Digital Library Wall" has been set up at Bengaluru Central University, offering free access to digital content for students and teachers.
- The Central Government of India has launched several initiatives to tackle cybercrime. The Central Suspect Registry is a centralized database of cybercrime suspects managed by the National Cybercrime Reporting Portal (NCRP) to aid law enforcement by sharing data on repeat offenders. The Cyber Fraud Mitigation

Centre (CFMC) combats online financial fraud by fostering cooperation among banks, telecoms, ISPs, and police. The Samanvaya Platform provides a unified data repository for cybercrime mapping and coordination. The Cyber Commandos Program aims to train and deploy 5,000 cyber security experts in Central Police Organizations. Additional measures include the Pratibimb App, which maps cybercrime hotspots, and the Helpline 1930, which received over 31 lakh complaints in 2023.

- The Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) is a new satellite-based road toll collection system designed to eventually replace the FASTag system. Under this system, vehicles equipped with GNSS will be allowed to travel up to 20 km in each direction daily on national highways and expressways without incurring toll charges. GNSS charges tolls based on the distance traveled, unlike FASTag, which uses fixed toll amounts. The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) has amended the National Highways Fee Rules, 2008, to include GNSS-based toll collection provisions, and specific lanes will be designated for this system.
- Bengaluru-based startup SpaceFields successfully hot-fires India's first aerospike rocket engine, a groundbreaking technology that enhances efficiency and reduces fuel consumption, paving the way for single-stage to orbit rockets and next-generation space exploration.
- Jayantian Extension Services of Kristu Jayanti College and the Department of Social Work of Karnataka inaugurated Yuva Avishkar, a Lab-on-Wheels initiative empowering the next generation to drive innovation, on September 10. A flagship programme of Jayantian Extension Services, it strives to establish a conducive environment for experiential learning for school pupils.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the "PM-eBus Sewa-Payment Security Mechanism" scheme, a Rs. 3,435 crore initiative to deploy over 38,000 Made-in-India electric buses across India by 2029, promoting eco-friendly transportation, reducing pollution, and supporting the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- Paralympic archery champions Ms. Sheetal Devi and Shri Rakesh Kumar team up to inspire voters nationwide as ECI's national icons for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs)
- National Health Authority and IIT Kanpur sign MoU for development of digital public goods for AI in Healthcare
- NASA recently captivated space enthusiasts with a breathtaking image of the Red Spider Nebula. It is a planetary nebula located 3,000 light-years from Earth and can be found in the constellation of Sagittarius.
- The weed, Mikania micrantha, is spreading quite fast in the Bhadra Tiger Reserve and threatening its biodiversity.

- The Union Home Minister was recently re-elected as the Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee on Official Language. This committee, formed under Section 4 of the Official Languages Act, 1963, was established in 1976 to monitor and promote the use of Hindi in official communications. It consists of 30 members of Parliament (20 from Lok Sabha, 10 from Rajya Sabha) and submits its report to the President, who then presents it to Parliament and state governments. The committee's primary role is to review the progress of Hindi usage in official work and recommend ways to enhance it.
- The Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology (CSTT), under the aegis of the Union Education Ministry, has launched a unique website which provides technical terms in all 22 official Indian languages. The web portal 'shabd.education.gov.in' aims to be a central repository for all the terminologies prepared for Indian languages. Besides all the glossaries of CSTT, other institutions or agencies having such dictionaries are also able to host their work in digital form on this platform
- Commission for Scientific and Technical Terminology: It was set up in December 1960, to evolve and define scientific and technical terms in Hindi and all Indian languages. It was established under clause (4) of Article 344 of the Constitution of India. It is functioning under the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India with its headquarters in New Delhi.
- The Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) has launched the Air Quality Management Exchange Platform (AQMx), a comprehensive online platform providing guidance, tools, and knowledge sharing to enhance global air quality management, build capacity, inform policy development, and ultimately improve air quality and public health.
- The Union Cabinet has extended the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Aarogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) to include all senior citizens above 70 years of age. Over 6 crore senior citizens will benefit from this extension, which comes at an estimated first-year cost of Rs 3,437 crore. The scheme will cover 4.5 crore families, offering an additional top-up of Rs 5 lakh exclusively for senior citizens. Existing beneficiaries of other government or private health schemes can opt to switch or add AB PM-JAY coverage. However, West Bengal and Delhi are currently excluded. AB PM-JAY, launched in September 2018, aims to provide up to Rs 5 lakh per year in hospitalisation costs for vulnerable families. The National Health Authority (NHA) oversees its implementation and technology infrastructure.
- PM E-DRIVE Scheme Approved: The Union Cabinet approved the PM Electric Drive Revolution in Innovative Vehicle Enhancement (PM E-DRIVE) Scheme with a Rs.

10,900 crore budget over two years. The scheme aims to boost electric mobility and reduce carbon emissions through various measures

- **Mission Mausam:** The Union Cabinet approved this Rs. 2,000 crore initiative, led by the Ministry of Earth Sciences, to create a climate-smart and weather-ready India. It focuses on enhancing weather and climate science, utilizing advanced observation systems, AI, and high-performance computing. Key features include improved monsoon forecasts, cyclone alerts, and air quality monitoring. Benefiting sectors include agriculture, disaster management, and health. The mission involves lead institutions like IMD, IITM, and NCMRWF, with support from national and international agencies.
- Scientists from IISc Bengaluru have reported a significant breakthrough in neuromorphic computing using Memristor technology. This innovation, led by Prof. Sreetosh Goswami, replaces conventional silicon-based technology with a metal-organic film to mimic brain neural networks, which processes information more efficiently than traditional binary systems. The Memristor achieves energy efficiency of 4.1 tera-operations per second per Watt (TOPS/W), which is 220 times more efficient than the NVIDIA K80 GPU. This technology could revolutionize AI computing by enhancing performance and energy efficiency. Neuromorphic computing offers advantages over traditional Von Neumann architecture by processing data more quickly and with fewer steps. Demonstrations include processing complex space images from NASA and handling multiple states simultaneously. Future plans involve scaling up the technology and developing a commercial solution with funding from MEITY.
- SpaceFields, a Bengaluru-based startup, successfully conducted the hot-firing of India's first aerospike rocket engine at IISc's Challakere campus. Aerospike engines are more efficient than traditional bell-nozzle engines at various altitudes due to their altitude-compensating nozzle design.
- **Saragarhi Day (September 12):** Commemorates the Battle of Saragarhi, where 21 soldiers of the 36th Sikh Regiment, led by Havildar Ishar Singh, defended the communication tower Saragarhi against 8,000 tribal militants. Despite being heavily outnumbered, the soldiers fought valiantly, killing 200 militants and injuring 600 before being overrun. The battle is celebrated for its heroism and sacrifice, with memorials and observances, including a holiday in Punjab.
- Students in Rajasthan's government schools will now earn extra marks for good behavior and planting trees, with Class VI to XII students receiving 14-22 additional marks. The education department's initiative aims to improve students' general behavior, reduce stress, and enhance mental health. It encourages students to plant trees in their schools and neighborhoods, with teachers monitoring progress

via geo-tagging. Marks will be awarded based on the number of trees planted and their care. This move fosters environmental awareness and was preceded by a ban on sharp weapons in schools to prevent violence.

- Greenpeace India, along with women garment workers from the Tumakuru Road area, submitted 28,995 petitions to the Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT), demanding the implementation of 11 bus priority lanes in Bengaluru as proposed in the city's Comprehensive Mobility Plan and the reinstatement of a bus lane on the Outer Ring Road. Tumakuru Road, a major route connecting the central business district to northwestern suburbs and industrial areas, faces significant traffic congestion. The Shakti scheme, which provides free bus travel for women, has increased ridership. The garment workers also demand improved public bus infrastructure, a larger BMTC fleet, and better route management to enhance mobility for marginalized communities.
- A life-size mechanical elephant was inaugurated at the Siddalingeshwara Swamy Temple in Yedyur, Tumakuru, making it the first Muzrai temple to have the technology. Named Niranjana, the elephant was presented to the temple by actor Samyukta Hornad and NGOs Compassion Unlimited Plus Action (CUPA) and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India, in recognition of the temple's decision to never own or hire live elephants.
- Unnathi Aiyappa won the women's 100m hurdles quite comfortably in a record time of 13.93s in the South Asian junior athletics meet
- A new species of snake with a remarkably long snout has been discovered in India, marking an exciting addition to the country's rich biodiversity. The species, named the long-snouted vine snake (*Ahaetulla Longirostris*), was identified after two specimens were found in vastly different regions, Bihar in the eastern part of the country and Meghalaya in the northeastern region
- On 11th September 2024, the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, conferred the National Florence Nightingale Awards to 15 nursing professionals at Rashtrapati Bhavan, recognizing their exceptional service and commitment to society. Instituted in 1973 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the award acknowledges meritorious contributions by nurses, with recipients receiving a Certificate of Merit, a cash prize of Rs. 1,00,000, and a medal. Named after Florence Nightingale, a pioneering figure in modern nursing, the award honors her legacy, which began with her transformative role in nursing during the Crimean War and her establishment of the first scientifically based nursing school at St. Thomas' Hospital in London.
- The Union Minister for Commerce and Industry recently launched the Trade Connect e-platform, a digital initiative designed to enhance international trade for

Indian exporters, particularly MSMEs. This platform facilitates connections between Indian exporters, MSMEs, and various stakeholders like Indian Missions Abroad, Export Promotion Councils, and Partner Government Agencies. It provides vital trade-related information, including updates on global trade events and benefits from India's Free Trade Agreements (FTAs). Developed with the Ministry of MSME, EXIM Bank, DFS, and MEA, the platform aims to promote Digital India by streamlining trade processes, reducing costs, and empowering Indian businesses globally.

- 'Rangeen Machhli' App launched. The "Rangeen Machhli" app provides multilingual information on popular ornamental fish species in eight Indian languages, making it accessible to a wide audience.
- The Medical Education department in Karnataka has decided to implement an Artificial Intelligence-enabled security system at healthcare institutions and medical colleges, including a central control room, CCTV surveillance, personal security alarms, and 24x7 helpline, to strengthen safety and security for women staff and students
- Indian Army contingent departed to participate in the 5th edition of Exercise AL NAJAH. It is a joint military exercise between India and Oman.
- The Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) has launched the Saarthi app in collaboration with Bhashini, a reference application that enables businesses to create customized buyer-side apps with multilingual features, including real-time translation, transliteration, and voice recognition, initially supporting five languages (Hindi, English, Marathi, Bangla, and Tamil) and planning to scale up to all 22 languages, to expand market reach and increase customer acquisition.
- The Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation recently dissolved the 14-member Standing Committee on Statistics (SCoS) due to overlapping functions with the newly formed 17-member Steering Committee for National Sample Surveys. The SCoS had played a vital role in advising on survey methodologies but was replaced by the new committee, which assumes similar responsibilities, such as advising on survey methodology and sampling designs. The Steering Committee differs by having more official members compared to the SCoS, which included more non-officials. Concerns raised by SCoS members over census delays may have contributed to its dissolution.
- Port Blair, originally named after British naval surveyor Archibald Blair, was historically a penal colony and strategic harbour for the British. It gained significance post-1857 as a site for imprisoning freedom fighters. The Chola Empire, under Rajendra I, used the islands as a naval base during the 11th century, with historical records linking the islands to "Ma-Nakkavaram." Renamed Sri Vijaya

Puram, the islands retain geostrategic importance, controlling vital shipping lanes and hosting INS Jarawa, a major Indian Navy base, ensuring its ongoing cultural and military relevance.

- India's first home-grown All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV), developed by A-Thon in collaboration with the AI and Robotics Technology Park (Artpark) at IISc, was showcased at the International Autoshow 2024. This ATV, designed for diverse agricultural applications, underscores India's focus on autonomous farming technology. Artpark, supported by the Department of Science and Technology and the Government of Karnataka, aims to address job market shifts due to AI and robotics. The showcased Ashva 4x4 targets large farms in challenging conditions, while a 6x6 autonomous vehicle, Adbhut, features advanced technology for data collection and potential adventure sports use. These innovations are expected to improve farming efficiency and create up to three times more rural jobs by enhancing crop management and driving labor demand in related sectors.
- Operation Sadbhav: India rapidly deployed urgent relief supplies to Myanmar, Laos, and Vietnam, totaling 55 tons of aid, including food, medicine, water purification items, and shelter materials, in response to the devastating impact of Typhoon Yagi, which killed over 210 people and caused massive floods across the three countries, with the Indian Navy's swift response demonstrating its commitment to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts.
- Ace Indian athlete Neeraj Chopra, after finishing as the runner-up in the Diamond League Final in Brussels with an agonizing difference of 1 cm to the champion Anderson Peters, finished his successful year with 7/7 top-three finishes.
- Rajbhasha Kirti Award to Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances
- Iran has successfully launched its research satellite, Chamran-1, into space recently.
- The Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP) will host the second edition of the eARTh event, an initiative launched in 2023 to use art for climate action. The event, held at the Bangalore International Centre, brings together artists, environmentalists, and policymakers to explore how art can inspire sustainability. The eARTh Climate Fellows, mentored through a nine-month fellowship, will display their art, with a performance by the Vasu Dixit Collective. CSTEP is partnering with Slam Out Loud, a non-profit that empowers children through art, to guide attendees in creating climate-focused art.
- The BBMP is set to launch a new mobile app called 'Shwana' to enhance accountability and transparency in its Animal Birth Control (ABC) and Anti-Rabies Vaccination (ARV) programmes. After successful trial runs, the app is ready for

rollout, offering improved tracking features compared to the private app currently in use. The app will record all ABC and ARV procedures with photos, accessible to officials for real-time monitoring. Integrated with CCTV cameras at BBMP shelters, it ensures close supervision. Over 13,390 dogs have undergone ABC, and 43,656 dogs have been vaccinated in 2024-25. Public can report stray dog issues via helpline.

- Karnataka is taking a major step to promote science and technology among its people, especially the younger generation. The state government has formed a nine-member advisory committee, headed by Ekroop Caur, to boost the appeal of science centers and planetariums across the state. This committee comprises renowned experts like Dr. Jahnavi Phalkey and Pramod Galgali, who will provide insights on popularizing science and familiarizing people with the latest developments in science and technology
- India defeated hosts China 1-0 in the final, securing their fifth Asian Champions Trophy title – Hockey , with defender Jugraj Singh scoring the winning goal in the 51st minute, capping off an unbeaten tournament run, and earning a record-extending fifth title, with Hockey India rewarding the team with Rs 3 lakh for each player and Rs 1.5 lakh for each support staff member.
- Researchers recently discovered a new species of parasitoid wasp named *Syntretus perlmani* that matures inside living adult fruit flies before bursting out, much like a scene from the Alien films.
- A rainwater harvesting project, undertaken by the Koduvayur grama panchayat, led to an unusually large number of megalithic urn burials on top of a hill in the Kollengode range of Nenmara forest division in Kerala.
- On September 15, Karnataka formed a historic 2,500-km-long human chain to celebrate the International Day of Democracy, highlighting equality, unity, fraternity, and participative governance. This day, established by the UN General Assembly in 2007, is observed globally to emphasize democracy's significance and requires active engagement from global organizations, nations, and civil society. The 2024 theme focuses on Artificial Intelligence for good governance. The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), founded in 1889, promotes parliamentary diplomacy, with 179 member parliaments advocating for representative democracy under the slogan "For democracy. For everyone."
- Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced 56 projects worth Rs 12,692 crore, including 46 projects valued at Rs 11,770 crore specifically for the Kalyana Karnataka region. Key initiatives include the creation of a separate secretariat for the Kalyana Karnataka Region Development Board (KKRDB), with an annual allocation of Rs 5,000 crore from the state. The state also plans to urge the central

government for an additional Rs 5,000 crore. Projects include regular drinking water supply in Bidar and Kalaburagi districts, upgrading Bidar and Raichur to municipal corporations, filling 17,439 vacant posts, renovating historical monuments, and setting up 45 primary health centres and 31 community health centres. A committee led by economist Govindaraj will study regional imbalances.

- National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) – located in Bengaluru, expanding beyond accreditation, is launching social responsibility programs through accredited Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) to enhance academic performance, employability, and career prospects, while promoting well-being. Key activities include skill training, sports coaching, cultural and STEM education camps, employability training for students, and youth cultural camps. Additionally, NAAC is accrediting yoga courses for global recognition, furthering holistic development and career readiness across India.
- The Government of India has launched the Smart Precision Horticulture Programme under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) with a budget of Rs 6,000 crore, aiming to boost precision farming across 15,000 acres over five years, benefiting 60,000 farmers. The programme integrates AI, drones, IoT, and data analytics to optimize resource use, improve yields, and mitigate climate risks. Financial support through the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) provides 3% interest subvention on loans for purchasing smart farming tools. The initiative includes international collaborations, expanding 32 Indo-Israel Centres of Excellence (CoEs) to 100, and establishing 22 Precision Farming Development Centres (PFDCs) for localized technology adaptation. Additionally, states/UTs are receiving funds for AI projects in agriculture under the National e-Governance Plan.
- The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, is launching BHASKAR (Bharat Startup Knowledge Access Registry), a digital platform to centralize and streamline India's startup ecosystem. BHASKAR will offer resources, tools, and personalized IDs to startups, investors, mentors, and service providers, fostering networking, collaboration, and efficient decision-making. With enhanced discoverability features and global branding, the platform aims to promote India as a global innovation hub, aligning with the government's vision to transform the country into a leader in entrepreneurship and economic growth.
- India successfully test-fired the Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VLSRSAM) on consecutive days from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur, Odisha, by DRDO and the Indian Navy. The missile intercepted high-speed, low-altitude aerial targets, simulating sea-skimming threats, which are difficult to

defend against due to their low altitude. VLSRSAM is equipped with advanced guidance systems for enhanced precision and agility and incorporates cutting-edge technology for rapid response to aerial threats. These successful tests strengthen India's indigenous defence capabilities, boosting self-reliance and enhancing the Indian Navy's air defence systems.

- Indian Railways renamed the Vande Metro as 'Namo Bharat Rapid Rail,' designed to connect urban centers with peripheral towns, covering 360 km between Bhuj and Ahmedabad in about six hours. The train can seat 1,150 passengers and features inclusivity options like Divyangjan-friendly toilets and a fully sealed flexible gangway. It boasts rapid acceleration and deceleration, eliminating turnaround time with driving cabins at both ends. The train has 12 air-conditioned coaches, automatic sliding doors, modular interiors, continuous LED lighting, vacuum toilets, and panoramic windows, along with safety systems such as KAVACH, smoke/fire detection, and emergency lights.
- Karnataka's government has taken decisive steps to combat the rising drug menace, with 1,042 arrests, including 21 foreigners, made in the first three months of 2024 for selling narcotic substances. To address the issue, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has formed a six-member ministerial task force, led by Home Minister G Parameshwara, to create a plan for eradication. The government is considering amendments to make drug offenses non-bailable, with lifetime prison sentences for peddlers. The task force includes ministers Dinesh Gundu Rao, Priyank Kharge, Madhu Bangarappa, Sharan Prakash Patil, and MC Sudhakar. The initiative involves collaboration across departments like police, higher education, social welfare, urban development, and health, alongside awareness campaigns involving students, resident welfare associations, NGOs, and social welfare departments. The government also plans stricter regulation of pharmacies, with regular inspections and cancellation of licenses for unauthorized synthetic drug sales. However, challenges remain, as Bengaluru accounts for 50% of drug-related cases, followed by Mangaluru at 22%, with drugs entering Karnataka from states like Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, and Haryana. The government aims for "zero tolerance" toward drug-related offenses to ensure a safer Karnataka.
- The Central Silk Technological Research Institute (CSTRI) in Bengaluru is introducing a new silk purity-testing technology in collaboration with Germany-based startup Senorics, using near-infrared (NIR) spectroscopy to verify fabric authenticity. This advanced, non-destructive method offers an alternative to traditional tests like burn and chemical analyses, ensuring the yarn is pure mulberry silk. P Sivakumar, CEO of the Central Silk Board (CSB), announced that a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Senorics will be signed within six months. The

technology aims to reassure customers about the quality of silk, especially as Karnataka is India's largest silk producer. S Periyasamy, Director of CSTRI, noted that the device could analyze other materials such as polyester, nylon, and cotton, allowing sellers to install sensors in stores for customer verification. As the CSB celebrates its 75th anniversary, a Seri Stakeholders Meet will be held at the University of Agricultural Sciences to further promote silk and its byproducts, which have anti-aging properties.

- The government, as promised by Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa, is set to introduce a biometric attendance system for students in government and aided schools. The Department of School Education has submitted a proposal and pilot project report to implement this system, which aims to track student attendance. The pilot project, conducted at one school per district, was successful without any technical issues. This system, already in use in several private schools in Bengaluru, allows parents to receive notifications about their child's attendance.
- Riyad Mathew, chief associate editor and director of the Malayala Manorama Group, has been unanimously elected as the chairman of the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC) for 2024-25
- Bengaluru-based space start-up Bellatrix Aerospace unveiled Project 200, a revolutionary satellite designed to operate in ultra-low Earth orbit (180-250 km), at the Bengaluru Space Expo 2024. This cutting-edge satellite promises transformative impact, exponentially enhancing satellite functions and reimagining Earth-satellite interactions. As a technology demonstration mission, Project 200 aims to qualify innovative propulsion systems, paving the way for high-resolution Earth observation, advanced telecommunications, and scientific research applications, poised to redefine the space technology landscape.
- The Union Cabinet approved the continuation of the Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay SanraksHan Abhiyan (PM-AASHA) schemes, which aim to provide remunerative prices to farmers and control price volatility for consumers. The financial outlay for PM-AASHA will total ₹35,000 crore during the 15th Finance Commission cycle up to 2025-26, with a separate budget of ₹24,475.53 crore allocated for nutrient-based subsidies on phosphatic and potassic fertilisers for the upcoming rabi season. The schemes will now include components such as the Price Support Scheme (PSS), Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF), Price Deficit Payment Scheme (PDPS), and Market Intervention Scheme (MIS). Additionally, the PSF extension will help manage price volatility and maintain strategic buffer stocks of essential commodities like pulses and onions, while the fertiliser subsidy aims to ensure affordable availability amidst fluctuating international prices.

- Chief Minister Siddaramaiah announced that writer Hampa Nagarajaiah will inaugurate the Mysuru Dasara atop Chamundi Hill on October 3. The 'Jamboo Savari' procession will take place on Vijayadashami, October 12. Speaking at Mysuru Airport, the chief minister said he was responsible for selecting the inaugurator. Preparations for Dasara are in full swing, with the Mysuru district administration, 19 Dasara sub-committees, and the Forest Department training Dasara elephants.
- India and Brazil have recently decided to collaborate on the production and use of Sustainable Aviation Fuels (SAF), also known as bio-jet fuel. Made from renewable biomass and waste resources, SAF delivers performance comparable to petroleum-based jet fuel while reducing CO2 emissions by up to 80%. It can be produced from various sources, including waste oils, fats, municipal waste, and non-food crops, and can also be synthesized by capturing carbon directly from the air. The significance of SAF lies in its much lower carbon footprint compared to aviation turbine fuel (ATF), and it is considered sustainable as its raw materials do not compete with food crops or deplete water resources. While SAF represents a major pathway to decarbonizing the aviation sector, it currently accounts for only 0.3% of total aviation fuel use.
- National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), in collaboration with the Southern Command of the Indian Army organised a two-day national symposium, 'Exercise AIKYA', on disaster management in Chennai.
- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is expanding the Special Fast Track Immigration-Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP) to 20 additional airports in India. Launched initially at Delhi's IGI Airport, the program aims to expedite immigration clearance for eligible Indian nationals and foreign nationals holding OCI cards, facilitating smoother and secure international mobility. Similar to the U.S. Global Entry Program, FTI-TTP allows pre-approved, low-risk travelers to bypass long immigration queues upon arrival. The program is managed through an online portal by the Bureau of Immigration, where applicants must register with required details and documents. Approved applicants will enjoy a seamless experience using e-gates, with FTI registration valid for up to five years or until passport validity, whichever is shorter.
- Researchers suggest that kleptoparasitism, or food theft, among seabirds could be a transmission pathway for the H5N1 avian influenza virus, potentially explaining its rapid global spread.
- India has achieved a significant milestone in its cybersecurity efforts by attaining Tier 1 status in the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) 2024, published by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The GCI measures countries'

commitment to cybersecurity across five pillars: Legal Measures, Technical Measures, Organizational Measures, Capacity Development, and Cooperation, aggregating these into an overall score. In the 2024 report, India scored 98.49 out of 100, placing it among 46 countries recognized as “role modelling” nations that demonstrate strong commitment in all areas of cybersecurity. This achievement highlights India’s dedication to advancing cybersecurity practices globally, especially as many countries remain at lower tiers, such as “establishing” (Tier 3) or “evolving” (Tier 4).

- Seiyhama village in Nagaland celebrated the third edition of the Naga king chilli festival.
- Prime Minister of India launched ‘SUBHADRA’, the flagship Scheme of Government of Odisha, in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. It is named after Goddess Subhadra, the younger sibling of Lord Jagannath, the presiding deity of Odisha. All eligible beneficiaries between the age of 21-60 years would receive Rs. 50,000/- over a period of 5 years between 2024-25 to 2028-29.
- Belagavi is on the verge of establishing Karnataka's first striped hyena sanctuary, with a proposal to designate approximately 120 sq km of reserve forest along the Belagavi and Gokak taluks border as a protected area primarily for this critically endangered scavenger species. Currently, hyenas share habitats in a few sanctuaries in India alongside wolves and blackbucks, leading to inadequate conservation efforts. The proposed sanctuary aims to address the species' declining population, which is threatened by habitat loss, human activities, and a lack of prey, as highlighted by forest officials and conservationists.
- Dr Harini Amarasuriya, a rights activist and an academic who pursued her undergraduate degree from Delhi’s Hindu College, was sworn in as Sri Lanka’s 16th prime minister
- At the 74th annual convocation of Karnatak University Dharwad (KUD), a momentous occasion unfolded as 89-year-old researcher Markandeya Doddamani was awarded a PhD, demonstrating that age is merely a number in the pursuit of knowledge. His dedication culminated in the completion of his thesis titled ‘Shivasharana Dohara Kakkayya Ondu Adhyayana,’ which he submitted to the department of Kannada, showcasing his unwavering commitment to academic excellence and inspiring others in the community
- Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla announced that artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning technologies are being utilized to provide House proceedings in various regional languages, aiming to make legislative processes more accessible and bring the Constitution closer to the public. This initiative will also extend to Vidhan Sabhas across the country. Additionally, the Lok Sabha Secretariat is digitizing over

18,000 hours of audio-visual content from parliamentary proceedings dating back to 1992, including memorable exchanges like the 1999 interaction between Lalu Prasad Yadav and Mamata Banerjee. This digitization effort will enhance public access to speeches, allowing individuals to search for specific discussions, such as Atal Bihari Vajpayee's views on primary healthcare or Mulayam Singh Yadav's statements on caste, with precise timestamps for easy navigation.

- India's Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and his partner Vijay Sundar Prashanth clinched their maiden ATP title together, winning the Hangzhou Open men's doubles event, while Yuki Bhambri and his French partner Albano Olivetti finished runners-up at Chengdu Open
- World leaders on September 22 adopted by consensus the "Pact of the Future", promising to "reform the Security Council, recognising the urgent need to make it more representative, inclusive, transparent, efficient, effective, democratic and accountable".
- India, Japan, Australia, and the United States have joined forces to send a strong message to China, expressing serious concerns over China's aggressive actions in the South China Sea. The four nations have agreed to launch a joint mission in the Indo-Pacific region in 2025, which will include a Quad-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission to improve interoperability and maritime safety
- India made history at the 45th Chess Olympiad, securing its first-ever gold medals in both the men's and women's categories. This triumph marks India's maiden gold in the open category, adding to two previous bronze medals (2014, 2022). The women's team built on their 2022 bronze, delivering a remarkable double gold for India.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched three indigenously developed PARAM Rudra supercomputers under the National Supercomputing Mission, emphasizing that technology should empower the poor. These supercomputers, deployed in Pune, Delhi, and Kolkata, will facilitate cutting-edge research in fields like astronomy, material science, atomic physics, and cosmology. Modi highlighted the importance of technology in achieving self-reliance and noted the government's focus on quantum computing and space exploration, with plans for a space station by 2035. Additionally, he inaugurated a Rs 850 crore High-Performance Computing system to enhance weather and climate research, boosting India's predictive capabilities for critical weather phenomena.
- Researchers at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) have developed a groundbreaking, patented technique to improve the recyclability of carbon fibre-reinforced polymer (CFRP) composites, commonly used in aerospace, construction, and wind turbines. The technique, led by Prof. Suryasarathi Bose and Prof. Subodh

Kumar from the Department of Materials Engineering, involves a bio-based aqueous solution called SaLSo that selectively breaks down the epoxy resin in CFRP, enabling easy recovery of carbon fibres and epoxy. This innovative method addresses the limitations of traditional recycling, which is energy-intensive and emits CO₂, while also maintaining the structural integrity of the recycled materials for reuse. As India's CFRP production grows, this breakthrough could significantly reduce the environmental impact and support a circular economy, making India a key player in the global CFRP market. By 2025, with global CFRP waste projected to reach 20,000 tons annually, this solution offers a vital step towards sustainable waste management.

- Hurricane Helene has claimed at least 30 lives across Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina, according to an Associated Press report. The storm, with sustained winds of 140 mph (225 kph), made landfall in Florida's rural Big Bend area, causing widespread destruction across the southeastern US. Flooding extended hundreds of miles, reaching as far as North Carolina, where a dam at a lake used in the movie "Dirty Dancing" was overtopped. In southern Georgia, several hospitals lost power, and one in Tennessee was forced to close due to the storm's impact.
- In a move to make use of its advanced training infrastructure and provide driving training to the general public, the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTc) has launched a driving training programme for light motor vehicles (LMV) and heavy passenger vehicles (HPV). The initiative aims to generate additional revenue for the BMTc while equipping the public with driving skills, opening opportunities in the transport sector.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifted U.S. President Joe Biden an antique silver hand-engraved train model, a masterpiece crafted by artisans from Maharashtra, symbolizing India's metalworking artistry. Made of 92.5% silver, the intricate model pays tribute to the steam locomotive era, merging artistic brilliance with historical significance. It features the inscription 'Delhi-Delaware' on the main carriage and 'Indian Railways' on the engine in both English and Hindi. For First Lady Jill Biden, Modi chose a pashmina shawl in a papier mache box, showcasing J&K's rich handcrafting legacy, blending tradition with contemporary design influences.
- Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences (ARIES), Nainital, have signed an MoU to collaborate on space technologies, particularly focusing on Space Situational Awareness (SSA). Image processing techniques, software for data analytics solutions, as well as instruments and laboratories, will soon be developed for tracking space objects, especially near-earth objects and artificial satellites, to ensure the safety of

satellites and their users. Such a practice of tracking is called SSA. SSA is required for predicting, warning and avoiding any potential collisions between objects in space.

- The State-run Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology (KMIO) has touched a milestone by taking up 100 bone marrow transplants (BMTs), including eight allogeneic transplants, since April 2022, giving tough competition to private hospitals in Bengaluru.
- The State Cabinet has decided to set up University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering (UVCE), the State's first autonomous institute on the IIT model, on 50 acres on the Jnana Bharathi campus of Bengaluru University.
- The 2024 SASTRA Ramanujan Prize will be awarded to Alexander Dunn of the Georgia Institute of Technology, U.S. A press release said the prize is being given to Mr. Dunn, who has achieved several breakthroughs in the study of modular forms, half-integral weight forms, metaplectic forms and their connections to prime numbers and integer partitions. The SASTRA Ramanujan Prize, instituted in 2005, is awarded annually by SASTRA University near Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu, on Ramanujan's birth anniversary, December 22. It recognizes mathematicians under the age of 32 from around the world whose work is influenced by Srinivasa Ramanujan, honoring the remarkable contributions he made in his brief life. The prize includes a citation and a cash award of \$10,000, and it has gained global repute since its inception, with notable recipients including Manjul Bhargava and Akshay Venkatesh.
- The Union Home Ministry on Thursday extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) in parts of Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh for another six months. The areas under the purview of the Act remain unchanged since the last notification issued in March. The AFSPA gives unbridled power to the armed forces and the Central Armed Police Forces deployed in "disturbed areas" to kill anyone acting in contravention of law and arrest. Both the State and Union governments can issue notification regarding AFSPA.
- The Indian Chamber of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) has formed a 40-member Karnataka Agriculture Council to serve as a catalyst for ensuring that agriculture remains at the forefront of Karnataka's economic growth. The committee led by K.S. Narayanaswamy, president of the Karnataka Seed Producers and Marketers Association, is formed to drive collaboration, partnerships and creating communication platforms between farmers, policymakers, and industry leaders.
- The Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO), in collaboration with researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, has developed a new lightweight bulletproof jacket named ABHED (Advanced Ballistics for High

Energy Defeat). Made from polymers and indigenous boron carbide ceramic, these jackets are designed based on the characterization of various materials at high strain rates, followed by appropriate modeling and simulation. ABHED jackets are capable of mitigating the highest threat levels while remaining lighter than the maximum weight limits stipulated for the Army, thus enhancing soldier protection and mobility. With a minimum weight of 8 kg and 9.3 kg for different Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) levels, these modular-design jackets feature front and rear armor that provide 360-degree protection. Classified as BIS level 5 and BIS level 6 by the Bureau of Indian Standards, they incorporate modular armor plates that can be adapted for different mission requirements, offering soldiers flexibility in various combat scenarios.

- The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council has set up a 10-member GoM, chaired by Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhary, to decide on the taxation of luxury, sin and demerit goods once the compensation cess ends in March 2026.
- The Mao Council, the apex tribal body of the Mao Nagas in Manipur, has officially accepted the judgment and order of the Tenyimia People's Organisation (TPO) Presidential Council regarding the traditional land dispute along the Nagaland-Manipur border. The Mao Nagas are one of the indigenous tribes of Northeast India, primarily located in the northern part of Manipur, adjacent to southern Nagaland. They speak the Mao language, and the region they inhabit is also called Mao. Known as Ememei or Memei in their language, the Mao Naga community, with a population of approximately 97,195 according to the 2011 census, lives in well-protected hilltop villages. Their society follows a patriarchal structure, with clans and sub-clans playing a significant role in their social organization. Economically, the Mao Nagas are agrarian, with rice as their staple food, engaging in terraced rice cultivation through cooperative and mutual exchange practices. Before converting to Christianity, the Mao Nagas practiced a traditional religion called 'Opfupe Chüna-Chüno,' believing in a benevolent Supreme being known as 'Iyi Koki Chüku Kapi Oramei.' Today, Christianity predominates, and the Mao Nagas celebrate four main festivals: Chüthuni, Chüjüni, Saleni, and Onuni.
- Recently, Scientists have discovered more than 300 never-before-seen Nazca Lines in Peru. The Nazca Lines are a group of large human-carved geoglyphs located in a roughly 170-square-mile (440 square kilometres) area of Peru's Nazca Desert. The ancient artworks were likely created between 200 B.C. and A.D. 500 by members of the pre-Incan civilisation, known as the Nazca (or Nasca), who removed the upper layers of the desert's red-tinged surface pebbles to reveal sections of lighter soil in a wide range of different shapes and sizes.

- India ranked third in the annual Asia Power Index, released by an Australian think tank. It was launched by the Lowy Institute in 2018. It is an annual measure of power dynamics in the Asia-Pacific region. It evaluates 27 countries across the Asia-Pacific, examining their ability to shape and respond to the external environment.
- Infrasound: It refers to sound waves with very low frequencies, in contrast to the more ubiquitous ultrasound. It can be produced by a passing meteor, a storm, an aurora up north, volcanoes, earthquakes or even nuclear explosions.
- The Women in Space Leadership Programme (WiSLP) is a collaborative initiative launched by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the British Council under the UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI). Its primary goal is to empower women in space sciences by fostering leadership through a strategic framework that promotes gender-inclusive practices and equitable distribution of leadership roles. The program is built on foundational pillars such as intersectionality, culturally sensitive approaches, and leadership theories from social sciences and STEM. Coventry University serves as the delivery partner for this initiative. UKIERI, established in 2006, has strengthened educational and research collaboration between the UK and India, with WiSLP representing a key step in advancing women's leadership in the field of space sciences.
- Doctrine of 'Constructive Possession': It is a legal doctrine that attributes possession of an item or substance to an individual, even if they do not have physical control or immediate possession of it.
- Union Minister for Power inaugurated the Computer Security Incident Response Team for the power sector (CSIRT-Power) in New Delhi. It was launched in collaboration with CERT-In and it is in alignment with the National Cyber Security Policy of 2013. It will serve as the central agency for responding to cyber incidents and ensuring coordinated responses.
- Recently, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) adopted a "Pact for the Future" a comprehensive agreement designed to reshape global governance for the twenty-first century at the Summit of the future. It is a landmark declaration reaffirming the commitment of UN Member States to sustainable development, peace, and stronger global governance.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change recently achieved its 100-day target of creating 100 Nagar Vans under the Nagar Van Yojana (NVY), launched in 2020 to enhance urban greenery and improve the quality of life in cities. The scheme provides financial assistance of Rs. 4 lakh per hectare for the creation and maintenance of urban forests, involving citizens, students, and stakeholders in green space management. Nagar Van areas range from 10 to 50 hectares and cover cities with Municipal Corporations, Municipalities, and Urban Local Bodies. The

emphasis is on biodiversity, with fruit-bearing, medicinal, and native species planted to attract wildlife and promote ecological balance. Each Nagar Van requires two-thirds of its area under tree cover and may include Biodiversity Parks, Smriti Vans, Butterfly Conservatories, Herbal Gardens, and Matri Vans under the "Ek Ped Ma Ke Naam" initiative. The scheme aims to develop 1000 Nagar Vans by 2027 with financial support from the National CAMPA Fund.

- Thermobaric weapons, often referred to as “vacuum bombs” or “enhanced blast weapons,” have gained attention due to their devastating impact, as seen in Russia's use of them in Ukraine. These weapons consist of a fuel container with two explosive charges and can be launched as rockets or dropped as bombs. Upon impact, the first charge disperses a fuel cloud that can penetrate unsealed buildings or defenses. The second charge ignites the cloud, creating a massive fireball, powerful blast wave, and a vacuum that sucks up surrounding oxygen, causing destruction to reinforced structures and severe harm to people and equipment.
- The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Bristol Myers Squibb’s new oral medicine, Cobenfy, for the treatment of schizophrenia in adults
- The Union Ministry of Tourism recently launched the Paryatan Mitra and Paryatan Didi initiative, a national responsible tourism program aimed at enhancing the tourist experience across India. This initiative focuses on training local women and youth to become proud ambassadors and storytellers of their destinations, thereby offering tourists a warm, hospitable, and memorable experience. Piloted in six destinations—Orchha, Gandikota, Bodh Gaya, Aizawl, Jodhpur, and Sri Vijaya Puram—the initiative emphasizes the creation of new tourism products like heritage walks, food tours, and nature treks. Guided by the "Atithi Devo Bhava" philosophy, the program equips locals with tourism-specific skills and digital literacy, helping them find employment as homestay owners, cultural guides, and adventure leaders, and ensuring their offerings are visible to a global audience.
- A groundbreaking suicide prevention project, initiated by the state government, is set to expand to eight more districts in October after a promising pilot study in five government hospitals in Bengaluru. The Urban Self-Harm Study (USHAS), led by NIMHANS and the state health department, will extend to districts like Yadgir, Raichur, Kolar, Tumakuru, and Mandya. Launched under the National Health Mission (NHM) in October 2022, the project began in hospitals such as Victoria, Bowring, and KC General Hospital in Bengaluru. Over the next two years, trained staff at 13 hospitals will provide interventions aimed at suicide prevention, screening for suicidal risks, and offering psychosocial support to self-harm survivors. As part of the pilot study, 7,960 survivors admitted to emergency wards

were monitored for 1.5 years, with telephonic follow-ups, highlighting the importance of early intervention to reduce re-attempt risks.

- Over the past few days, Bengaluru's skies have showcased a rare celestial event with the appearance of Comet C/2023 A3 (Tsuchinshan–ATLAS), a non-periodic comet discovered by the Purple Mountain Observatory in China in January 2023 and later observed by ATLAS in South Africa. According to Bengaluru-based astrophysicist R.C. Kapoor, this comet, an Oort Cloud object, passed its closest point to the sun on September 27/28, remaining visible in the early morning hours. Amateur astronomers, like Deepak Choudhary, have captured stunning images of the comet, which will stay visible in the morning sky until early October

