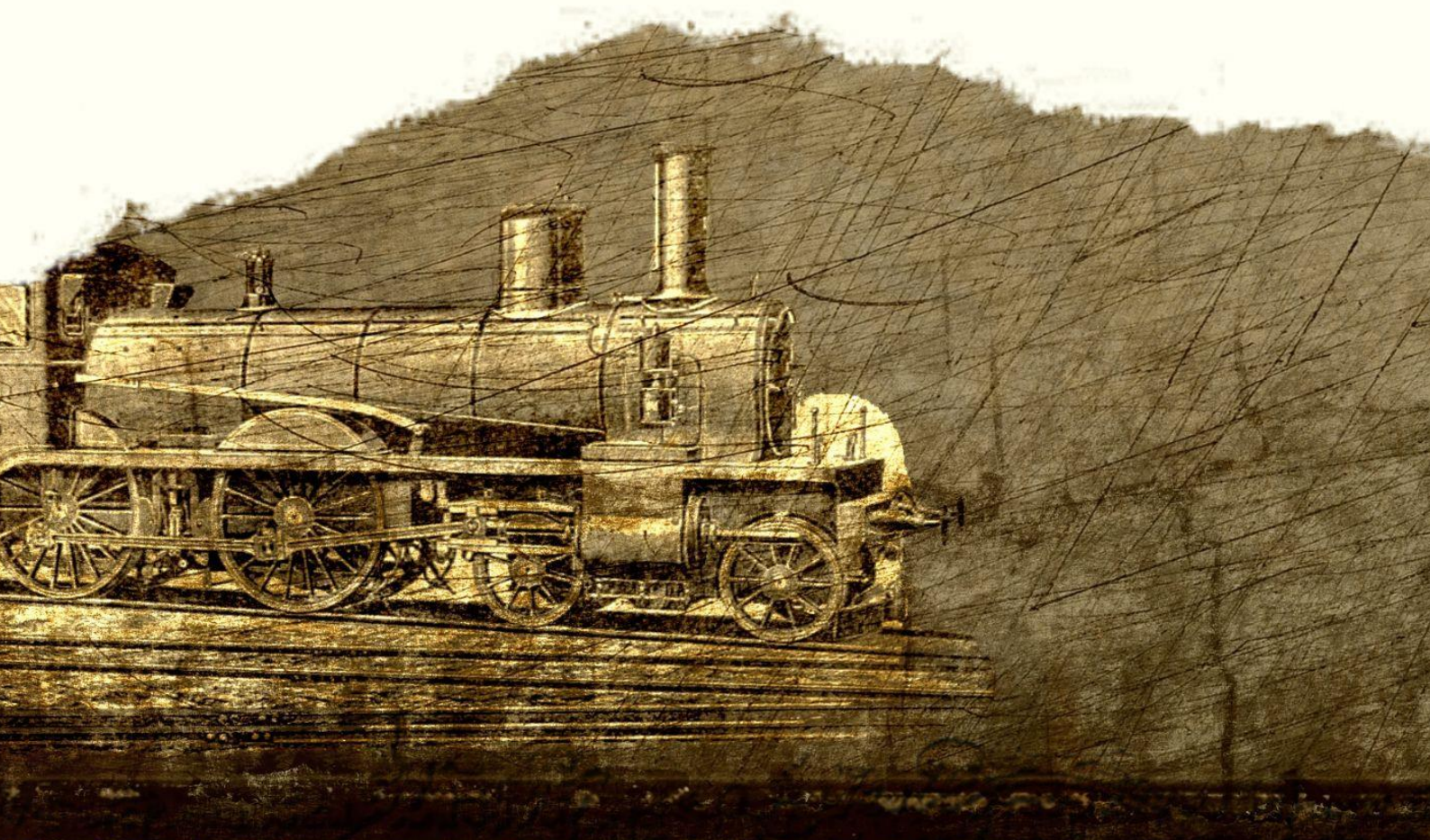




CURRENT AFFAIR  
**JANUARY**

by Crack Notes





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## SPORTS

- Haryana's women's hockey team emerged victorious in the Khelo India Youth Games 2022 Women's Under 18 Qualifiers. They secured their win by defeating Madhya Pradesh with a score of 2-0 in the final match held in Bhubaneswar.
- In the realm of hockey, Madhya Pradesh achieved a remarkable victory by defeating Odisha with a score of 6-5. This win earned them the title of Khelo India Youth Games 2022 Men's Under-18 Qualifiers, which took place in Bhubaneswar.
- Koneru Humpy, the former World rapid chess champion, showcased an exceptional performance at the World blitz chess championship in Almaty, Kazakhstan. She proudly brought home India's first-ever silver medal from the event.
- Koustav Chatterjee, a nineteen-year-old chess player from Kolkata, achieved a significant milestone by becoming India's 78th Grandmaster in chess.
- Odisha's Chief Minister, Naveen Patnaik, inaugurated one of India's largest hockey stadiums in Rourkela. This inauguration took place ahead of the Men's Hockey World Cup 2023.
- Belinda Clark of Australia achieved a historic milestone as she became the first female cricketer to have a bronze statue dedicated to her. The statue, honoring the trailblazing former captain, was unveiled outside the Sydney Cricket Ground.
- Pranesh M attained the prestigious title of India's 79th Grandmaster. He accomplished this feat by securing his three norms before the event. Pranesh M emerged as the champion of the Rilton Cup, the inaugural tournament of the FIDE Circuit.
- History will be made with the inaugural ABB FIA Formula E World Championship race in India, set to take place in Hyderabad.
- Sania Mirza, the former doubles World No. 1 in tennis from India, has officially announced her retirement from professional tennis.
- Novak Djokovic clinched the Adelaide International men's singles title by defeating Sebastian Korda of the United States in a thrilling final match.
- Gareth Bale, aged 33, bid farewell to his professional football career, marking his retirement from the sport.
- Dwaine Pretorius, the all-rounder for Proteas, has announced his retirement from international cricket, as confirmed by Cricket South Africa (CSA).
- Anahat Singh emerged victorious in the Girl's U-15 squash category at the British Junior Open Tournament. She was also one of the youngest participants at the Commonwealth Games 2022.
- Virat Kohli, the Indian cricketer, etched his name in history by scoring the first century for India in 2023. He achieved this milestone against Sri Lanka in the first One-Day International held at Baraspara Cricket Stadium in Guwahati.
- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) disclosed that Viacom 18 secured the media rights for the upcoming Women's IPL.

- Akane Yamaguchi and Viktor Axelsen claimed victory in the Malaysia Open Super 1000, securing the women's and men's singles titles in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- Barcelona emerged triumphant in the Spanish Super Cup for the first time since its revamp and relocation to Saudi Arabia. They secured a 3-1 victory over Real Madrid.
- Shubman Gill, the Indian batter, showcased an impressive performance by hitting three consecutive sixes to reach his double century (208 off 149 balls with 4s-19 and 6s-9). This achievement made him the eighth and youngest player (23 years old) in ODI Cricket history.
- Laxman Rawat of PSPB emerged as the winner in the 'Baulkline' NSCI All India Snooker Open, defeating Aditya Mehta 9-6 in the final match.
- An Seyoung claimed victory in the women's singles final of the India Open Badminton Championship, held at D. Jadhav Indoor Stadium in New Delhi. She defeated the World No. 1 Japanese player, Akane Yamaguchi.
- Kunlavut Vitidsarn, a talented shuttler from Thailand, secured the men's singles title in the India Open Badminton Championship 2023 by defeating Denmark's Viktor Axelsen.
- India emerged triumphant over England in the first-ever ICC U-19 Women's T20 World Cup final held in Potchefstroom, South Africa.
- Germany clinched victory in the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2023 by defeating Belgium 5-4 in a thrilling penalty shootout at Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar, India.
- Murali Vijay, the veteran Indian opener, officially announced his retirement from all forms of international cricket.
- Anish Giri, a Dutch player, secured victory in the 85th edition of Tata Steel Chess. This win marked his success after being a five-time runner-up in Wijk aan Zee.

## DEFENCE

- During the Chillai Kalan festival in the Kashmir Valley, the 44th Battalion of CRPF organized an event named "Jashn-e-Chillai Kalan" at the HMT Complex in Zainakote, Srinagar.
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Headquarters in New Delhi celebrated its 65th Foundation Day on January 1.
- Captain Shiva Chauhan, a member of the Corps of Engineers, has been stationed at a frontline post in Siachen Glacier. She is the first woman Army officer to be deployed in such a position.
- India is sending a group of women peacekeepers to the UN Mission in Sudan. This marks the largest unit of women peacekeepers from India in a UN Mission since the first all-women contingent was sent to Liberia in 2007.
- Squadron Leader Chaturvedi, a pilot of the Su-30MKI aircraft, will take part in the Veer Guardian 2023 air exercise in Japan. She is the first female fighter pilot in the Indian Air Force.
- India successfully test-launched the Prithvi-II tactical ballistic missile from the Integrated Test Range on the Odisha coast.

- The Japan Air Self Defense Force and the Indian Air Force jointly participated in the "Veer Guardian-2023" air exercise at Hyakuri Air Base in Japan, starting on January 12.
- The "Aadi Shaurya - Parv Parakram Ka Tribal Dance Festival and Military Tattoo" will be held at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi on the 23rd of this month.
- Captain Surbhi Jakhmola of the Indian Army's 117 Engineer Regiment will be the first woman officer to serve on a foreign assignment with the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).
- The inaugural edition of the bilateral air exercise between the Indian Air Force and the Japan Air Self-Defence Force concluded in Japan.
- The Indian Navy's major maritime exercise, Theatre Level Operational Readiness Exercise (TROPEX) 2023, is currently taking place in the Indian Ocean Region.
- The 21st edition of the "Varuna" naval exercise between India and France began on the western seaboard. This exercise involves INS Chennai, INS Teg, P-81 aircraft, Dornier aircraft, helicopters, and MIG29K fighter aircraft.
- The Indian Air Force will conduct the extensive air exercise "Pralay" to assess its operational readiness. This exercise will occur near the Line of Actual Control in India's northeast and involve significant Air Force units.
- The Indian Navy, along with the Indian Army and Indian Air Force, carried out the "largest" biennial tri-services amphibious exercise, AMPHEX 2023, near Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh.
- A joint training exercise named "Exercise Trishakri Prahar" was conducted in North Bengal. The aim was to enhance battle preparedness using modern weapons and equipment, involving various units of the Army, Indian Air Force, and CAPFs.
- The Indian Coast Guard celebrated its 47th Raising Day on February 1, 2023. From its modest beginning in 1978, it has grown significantly.
- Air Marshal A P Singh has been appointed as the new Vice Chief of the Indian Air Force, succeeding Air Marshal Sandeep Singh upon his retirement.
- The joint air exercise between the Indian Air Force and the Japan Air Self-Defence Force, named "Veer Guardian 2023," concluded in Japan.

## **NATIONAL**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Dr. Syama Prasad National Institute of Water & Sanitation (SPM-NIWAS) in Kolkata's Joka.
- PM Narendra Modi is set to launch the world's longest river cruise, "Ganga Vilas," from Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh to Dibrugarh, Assam.
- India assumed leadership of the Asia Pacific Postal Union (APPU) in January 2023. Dr. Vinaya Prakash Singh will serve as the Secretary General of the Union for a four-year term.
- India overtook Japan in auto sales last year, becoming the world's third-largest auto market for the first time.

- The first-ever coal gasification-based Talcher Fertilizer Plant in Odisha is set to be dedicated to the nation by October 2024.
- Union Home Minister Amit Shah unveiled a 120-foot-tall statue of a polo player riding a polo horse at Marjing Polo Complex in Manipur's Imphal.
- Dr. Jitendra Singh revealed the theme for "National Science Day 2023" - "Global Science for Global Wellbeing."
- Digital India Startup Hub, in collaboration with the Software Technology Parks of India, is establishing India's first Centre of Excellence in Online in Shillong.
- 'Shruti Amrut' presents the 'Music in the Park' series: SPIC MACAY, in partnership with the Ministry of Culture and the New Delhi Municipal Council, introduces "Shruti Amrut."
- The Union Minister for Science and Technology launched the Geospatial Hackathon to foster innovation and start-ups in India's geospatial sector.
- The Zeliangrong Community celebrated Gaan Ngai in Manipur. Gaan Ngai festival is a significant event in Manipur, celebrated annually after harvesting.
- Imoinu Day, a part of Meitei Cultural ritual, is celebrated in Manipur. This traditional festival takes place on the 12th day of the Meitei Lunar Month of Wakching.
- The Union Cabinet approved the naming of Goa's Mopa Greenfield International Airport as Manohar International Airport, in honor of former Defence Minister and Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar.
- Kuldeep Singh Pathania, a five-time MLA from Bhattiyat, is set to become the next Speaker of the Himachal Pradesh Assembly.
- Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the Palm Leaf Manuscript Museum with modern audio-visual technology at Central Archives Fort area in Thiruvananthapuram.
- The "Purple," India's first Inclusion Festival, commenced in Goa. This inclusive festival is designed for people with Disabilities (PwDs).
- Kerala has achieved the distinction of becoming the first state in India to go fully digital in its banking services, boosting the state's economy.
- Kerala set a Guinness World Record by taking 4,500 penalty kicks in 12 hours.
- Mongeet, a festival celebrating music, poetry, art, craft, food, indigenous herbs, and culture, is observed in Majuli, Assam.
- The renowned Jallikattu bull-taming competition began in Avaniyapuram village, Tamil Nadu.
- Kollam district in India has become the country's first constitution literate district.
- Puducherry Lieutenant Governor Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan announced that the first G-20 meeting will be held in Puducherry. A 'Think 20' meeting of G20 also began in Bhopal.
- Hyderabad has been selected as the host of the WEF Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution.
- The Union Territory Administrator inaugurated northern India's largest floating solar power project of 2000kWp in Chandigarh.



- A rare orange-colored bat was discovered in Kanger Valley National Park in Bastar, Chhattisgarh.
- India's first underwater metro service, the East-West Metro Corridor project in Kolkata, is anticipated to be completed by December 2023.
- MSN Group launched the world's first generic Palbociclib tablets for advanced breast cancer therapy under the brand Palborest.
- Jammu and Kashmir Government is set to host its first SARAS Fair, showcasing crafts, handicrafts, handloom, and food.
- The Uttarakhand tableau showcasing the state's wildlife and religious sites won the top prize at the 74th Republic Day parade.
- Minister for Ports, Shipping & Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the National Logistics Portal (marine) in New Delhi.
- The Mughal Garden of Rashtrapati Bhavan has been renamed Amrit Udyan.
- South Africa is transferring more than 100 cheetahs to India as part of a project to reintroduce the spotted cats in the country.
- The biennial air show and aviation expo, Aero India 2023, is scheduled for February at Yelahanka Air Force Station in Bengaluru.
- Google marked India's 74th Republic Day with a creative artwork by Gujarat-based artist Parth Kotheekar.
- India's deepest Metro station is being constructed at Pune Civil Court.
- The 17th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2023 will take place in Indore in January next year, commemorating Mahatma Gandhi's return from South Africa to Mumbai in 9<sup>th</sup> January 1915.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

- Inacio Lula da Silva was sworn in as Brazil's President for the third time.
- Croatia transitioned to the euro and joined Europe's passport-free zone, significant steps after being part of the European Union (EU) for almost a decade.
- China appointed Qin Gang, its ambassador to the United States and a close aide to President Xi Jinping, as the new foreign minister.
- China's CRRC Corporation Ltd. introduced an urban hydrogen train, marking Asia's first and the world's second such train. Germany introduced similar eco-friendly trains a few months ago.
- Kevin McCarthy of the Republican Party was elected as the speaker of the House of Representatives in the United States Parliament.
- Manpreet Monica Singh, an Indian-origin Sikh woman, became the first female Sikh judge in the US after taking the oath as a Harris county judge.
- Hawaii's Kilauea volcano erupted again, sending lava fountains and volcanic ash into the air.

- Gabon's President Ali Bongo appointed Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda as the Vice-President, making her the country's first female Prime Minister.
- Brazil's President-elect Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva named Sônia Guajajara as the first minister of the new Ministry of Indigenous People. She is tasked with overseeing policies related to land demarcation and healthcare.
- European officials and Swedish King Carl XVI Gustaf inaugurated the EU's first mainland orbital launch complex.
- Petr Pavel, the former chairman of NATO's Military Committee, has become the new president of the Czech Republic.
- Brazil's ministry of health declared a medical emergency in the Yanomami territory, the largest indigenous reservation in the country that borders Venezuela.
- Chris Hipkins is set to replace Jacinda Ardern as the Prime Minister of New Zealand.
- Janani Ramachandran took the oath as an Oakland City Council member in the U.S. state, making her the youngest and the first queer woman of color to hold the position.

## **SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is set to launch a satellite constructed by 750 girls from government schools across the country, in collaboration with Chennai-based space tech company Space Kidz India.

- Startup company IG Drones, originating from Veer Surendra Sai University of Technology (VSSUT) in Odisha's Sambalpur, has developed a 5G-enabled drone capable of vertical take-off and landing.
- India's first intranasal Covid vaccine, named iNCOVACC, was introduced by Minister Jitendra Singh and Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya. It marks the first nasal vaccination produced in India against Covid-19.
- A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket successfully launched more than 40 Starlink satellites into low-Earth orbit from the California coast.
- The Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) handed over the Visible Line Emission Coronagraph (VELC), the primary payload on board Aditya-L1, India's first dedicated scientific mission to study the Sun, to ISRO. The launch is planned for June or July.
- The European Space Agency's Jupiter Icy Moons Explorer (JUICE) is the upcoming mission to explore Jupiter and its three moons with oceans: Ganymede, Callisto, and Europa, providing in-depth insights into the outer Solar System.
- An IIT Madras-incubated company has developed an indigenous mobile operating system called BharOS. It's tailored for organizations with strict privacy and security requirements, particularly those handling sensitive information.



## AWARDS

- Visakhapatnam railway station of East Coast Railways has been granted the esteemed 'Green Railway Station Certification' with the highest Platinum rating.
- Odisha received the UN-Habitat's World Habitat Awards 2023 for its Jaga Mission, a state initiative known as 5T. The ODISHA JAGA Mission is recognized for its achievements in habitat development.
- Writer Ambikasuthan Mangad was chosen for the Odakuzhal Award 2022 in recognition of his collection of short stories titled "Pranavayu."
- The Harvard Law School Center on the Legal Profession honored Chief Justice of India Dr. DY Chandrachud with the "Award for Global Leadership" in 2022. This award acknowledges his extensive contributions to the legal profession in India and worldwide.
- Composer MM Keeravani, along with singers Kaala Bhairava and Rahul Sipligunj, secured the Golden Globe for Best Original Song for their track "Naatu Naatu" from the epic drama "RRR."
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare's flagship initiative, e-NAM, received the Platinum Award in the Digital Empowerment of Citizens Category at the Digital India Awards 2022 held in New Delhi.
- The title of Miss Universe 2022 was bestowed upon R'Bonney Gabriel from the United States during a ceremony held in New Orleans, Mexico.
- Hindustani vocalist Padma Vibhushan, Dr. Prabha Atre, was honored with the Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her remarkable contributions to music.
- Dr. Sanduk Ruit was granted the ISA Award for Service to Humanity, a prestigious civilian award of Bahrain, in acknowledgment of his significant humanitarian efforts.
- New Zealand Cricket (NZC) announced that a standout women's cricketer will be recognized with the inaugural Debbie Hockley Medal at the upcoming annual cricket awards ceremony.

## BOOKS

- An internationally recognized Indian expat, Dr. Ashwin Fernandes, has globally released the book "India's Knowledge Supremacy: The New Dawn."
- "COACHING BEYOND: My Days with the Indian Cricket Team" authored by R. Kaushik & R. Sridhar is a new book that delves into coaching experiences.
- Economist Sanjeev Sanyal unveiled the book "Revolutionaries- The Other Story of How India Won Its Freedom" at an event in New Delhi.
- "Braving A Viral Storm: India's Covid-19" is the title of a book launched by Mansukh Mandaviya.
- Prince Harry, a member of the British royal family, has published his memoir titled "Spare."
- Arvind Mandloi authored a book on veteran writer-lyricist Javed Akhtar titled "Jadunama."

- Professor K.K. Abdul Gaffar, a techno-educationalist, had his autobiography "Njaan Sakshi" (me as the witness) released by cricket legend Mahendra Singh Dhoni. The book's introduction was written by senior journalist T.A. Shafi.

## **APPOINTEMENTS**

- Vikas Purohit has been appointed as the new global business head of Meta in India.
- Santhi Kumari has become the First Woman Chief Secretary of Telangana.
- Clare Lombardelli, who served as Chief Economic Adviser to the Treasury, has taken up the position of the new Chief Economist at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation & Development (OECD).
- Pankaj Kumar Singh, a retired director general of the Border Security Force, has been designated as the Deputy National Security Adviser at the National Security Council Secretariat for a two-year term.
- Praveen Sharma has been chosen for the role of Director at the National Health Authority under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- Former Supreme Court judge AK Sikri has been appointed as the Administrator of the Shooting World Cup 2023.
- Vikram Dev Dutt has been named the next Director General of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).
- Shamalbhai B Patel has been appointed as the chairman of Amul.
- Professor Bharat Bhasker has been selected as the new director of IIM Ahmedabad.
- Naresh Lalwani has assumed the position of General Manager at Central Railway.
- The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) has recommended Dr. Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi as the new Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI).
- Hein Schumacher has been announced as the new Chief Executive Officer of Unilever.

## **GOVERNMENT SCHEMES**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the 'Aarogya Maitri' project, which aims to provide essential medical supplies to developing countries grappling with natural disasters or humanitarian crises.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi granted approval for a new integrated food security scheme to offer free foodgrains to beneficiaries of Antyodaya Ann Yojana (AAY) and Primary Household (PHH).
- The Commerce and Industry Minister, Piyush Goyal, will introduce the MAARG (Mentorship, Advisory, Assistance, Resilience, and Growth) platform.
- The Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) initiated the Prajjwala Challenge to encourage innovative ideas, solutions, and actions that can bring about transformative change in rural development.

- The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) launched an extensive district outreach program across all districts in the country through a revamped Nidhi Aapke Nikat initiative. This program aims to cover all districts within the same day.

## RANKS & REPORTS

- Delhi and Bangalore were recognized as top-performing global airports in the year 2022.
- In 2022, Delhi was identified as the most polluted city in India, with the third-highest average PM10 concentration and PM2.5 levels. This analysis was based on data from the Central Pollution Control Board.
- Japan retained its position as having the most favorable passport in the world according to the latest Henley Passport Index. The Indian passport was ranked 85th.
- In the Global Firepower Index, which assesses countries based on their potential military strength, India secured the fourth rank.
- Reliance Jio has been acknowledged as the strongest brand in India and secured the ninth position among the world's strongest brands, as per the 'Global 500-2023' report published by Brand Finance.
- India stood among the top three countries globally where the area dedicated to organic agriculture witnessed the highest expansion in 2020.
- Aska Police Station in Odisha was honored with the title of the Best Police Station in India.

## OBITUARIES

- R Krishnakumar, a long-time associate of Ratan Tata and a seasoned member of the group, has passed away. He hailed from Kerala.
- Gianluca Vialli, the former Italian and Chelsea striker, has died at the age of 58 following a lengthy battle with pancreatic cancer.
- Keshari Nath Tripathi, a senior leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party and former West Bengal governor, has passed away at the age of 88.
- Padma Awardee Dr. Tehemton Erach Udawadia, a notable Indian Surgeon and Gastroenterologist known as the "father of laparoscopic surgery," has passed away.
- Professor Rehman Rahi, a distinguished poet and the first Jnanpith awardee from Kashmir, has passed away.
- Constantine II, the former and final King of Greece who ruled before the country's transition to a republic in 1974, has passed away in Athens, Greece, at the age of 82.
- Mukarram Jah Bahadur, the last Nizam of Hyderabad, has passed away in Turkey during the night.
- Gina Lollobrigida, the legendary Italian actress who symbolized Italy's vibrant revival after World War Two in the 1950s, has passed away at the age of 95.



- The world's oldest person, French nun Lucile Randon, known as the oldest living person, has passed away at the age of 118.
- Former Vice Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Harjeet Singh Arora has passed away at the age of 61.
- Dr. Balkrishna Vitaldas Doshi, a highly respected figure in the field of architecture, has passed away.
- Sabir Ali, nicknamed the 'Ironman of India,' who secured the decathlon gold at the 1981 Asian Athletics Championships in Tokyo, has passed away.
- Former Union law minister and distinguished jurist Shanti Bhushan has passed away at the age of 97.