

National Geoscience Awards for 2023

The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, conferred the prestigious National Geoscience Awards (NGA) for the year 2023.

Key Points

- ❖ This year, a total of 12 awards to 21 Geoscientists, including academicians and professionals from across the country.
- ❖ There are three categories: National Geoscience Award for Lifetime Achievement (01 award), National Geoscience Award (10 awards), and National Young Geoscientist Award (01 award) in various specialized fields of geosciences.
- ❖ The National Geoscience Award for Lifetime Achievement was bestowed upon Prof. Dhiraj Mohan Banerjee, Emeritus Scientist at the Indian National Science Academy (INSA).
- ❖ The National Geoscience Awards continue to symbolize recognition and appreciation for outstanding achievements in geosciences, mineral exploration, and natural hazard investigations driving forward the pursuit of excellence and sustainable development.

Central Banker Report Cards 2024

For the second time in a row, Reserve Bank of India Governor, Shaktikanta Das, has been graded 'A+' in the Global Finance Central Banker Report Cards 2024.

Key Points

- ❖ The Central Banker Report Cards, issued by the Global Finance since 1994 concerns the efficiency of nearly 100 central bank governors of the countries, territories and regions such as the European Union, Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, Bank of Central African States, and the Central Bank of West African States.

- ❖ **Rankings:** The rankings are given out of “A+” to “F” depending on the performance in facets such as inflation, economic growth, stability of the currency, and interest rate control.

SC on RG Kar Medical College

On August 20, 2024, a three-judge Bench led by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud heard the case concerning the rape and murder of a postgraduate trainee doctor at R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata.

Steps taken:

- ❖ The Supreme Court has established a 10-member National Task Force (NTF).
- ❖ **Purpose of Task Force:** The NTF is tasked with developing a national protocol to enhance the safety and facilities for doctors.
- ❖ The Task Force is required to submit an interim report within three weeks and a final report within two months addressing institutional safety measures and systemic issues.

Jan Poshan Kendras

Food Minister Pralhad Joshi launched a pilot project to transform 60 Fair Price Shops (FPS), also called ration shops, into 'Jan Poshan Kendras' across UP, Gujarat, Rajasthan, and Telangana,

Key Points

- ❖ **Aim:** It aims to boost their viability and improve nutrition access.
- ❖ The pilot allows FPS dealers to diversify their inventory beyond subsidized grains.
- ❖ **Diversification:** The revamped shops can now stock millets, pulses, dairy products, and daily essentials, potentially opening up new revenue streams for the dealers.

PROMPT, JAL VIDYUT DPR and DRIPS Portal

Union Minister of Power Manohar Lal Khattar has launched **three online platforms to enhance the efficiency, transparency, and effectiveness of the power sector.**

Key Points

- ❖ These platforms were developed by the **Central Electricity Authority (CEA)** under the Ministry of Power, with NTPC assisting in the development of the PROMPT platform.
- ❖ The portals are named as:
 - Portal for Online Monitoring of Projects Thermal (PROMPT),
 - Disaster Resilient Infrastructure for Power Sector (DRIPS), and
 - JAL VIDYUT DPR.

PROMPT

- ❖ The PROMPT (Portal for Online Monitoring of Projects—Thermal) allows **real-time tracking and analysis of thermal power projects under construction in India.** It aims to identify and resolve issues causing delays in these projects efficiently.

JAL VIDYUT DPR Platform

- ❖ The JAL VIDYUT DPR (Monitoring Survey and Investigation Activities of Hydroelectric Projects and Pumped Storage Projects) provides **real-time updates on hydroelectric and pumped storage projects under construction, improving coordination and management.**

DRIPS Portal

- ❖ The Disaster Resource Inventory for Power Sector (DRIPS) portal is **designed to quickly identify and address power disruptions caused by natural disasters like cyclones, earthquakes, and floods.** It connects nodal officers from various power sector departments and agencies to facilitate swift power restoration in affected areas.


The Central Electricity Authority was established in 1951 under the Electricity (Supply) Act of 1948 and now governed by the Electricity Act 2003, the Central Electricity Authority operates under the Ministry of Power.

Sports


Cincinnati Open

- ❖ **Men's Final:** Jannik Sinner, the world number one, defeated Frances Tiafoe in straight sets to win the Cincinnati Open. Sinner became the youngest Cincinnati champion since Andy Murray in 2008. It was Sinner's first title at the tournament.
- ❖ **Women's Final:** Aryna Sabalenka (Belarusian), ranked No. 2, claimed her first Cincinnati Open title by defeating Jessica Pegula (American). This victory marks Sabalenka's first title since the Australian Open in January and her 15th WTA title overall.

Person In News- Appointments

Rajesh Nambiar	<p>He has been appointed as the NASSCOM president. He will succeed Debjani Ghosh.</p> <p>National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) is an Indian non-governmental trade association and advocacy group that primarily serves the Indian technology industry. It was founded in 1988.</p>	
-----------------------	--	--

Person In News- Obituary

Maria Branyas Morera	<p>He was the oldest living person. Hw passed at the age of 117 in a nursing home in Spain.</p> <p>Guinness World Records had previously confirmed him as the oldest living person in the world in January 2023 after the death of France's Lucile Randon, aged 118 years.</p>	
-----------------------------	--	---

Important News- Other States

Kerala	Supreme Court Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai opened India's first digital court, 24*7 ONCOURTS, in Kollam to handle issues involving bounced checks.
---------------	--

Important News- Worldwide

Pakistan	The Pakistani military successfully conducted a training launch of the Shaheen-II ballistic missile on August 20, 2024.
UAE	ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024 to be held in Dubai, Sharjah after political turmoil forced the tournament out of Bangladesh. The tournament will take place from October 3 to October 20, 2024, at two venues in the UAE: Dubai and Sharjah.

Miscellaneous

- ❖ SpaceX's Polaris Dawn mission, set for August 26, 2024, will be the first private spacewalk in history. The mission will launch on a Falcon 9, with the Dragon Resilience spacecraft carrying four private astronauts. The mission will have Zero Gravity Cool Ranch Doritos.
- ❖ Amul has been recognized as the strongest food and dairy brand globally, according to the Brand Finance Food & Drink 2024 report.
- ❖ O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) is set to launch India's first Constitution Museum, marking the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of India. The museum, named "The Constitution Academy and The Rights & Freedoms Museum," will be inaugurated on November 26, 2024, at the JGU campus.

○○○○

