



Rapid Fire Current Affairs

World Cities Day 2023

World Cities Day, designated by the [United Nations General Assembly](#), is celebrated **annually on 31st October and was first celebrated in 2014.**

- The Day serves as an opportunity to promote the **international community's interest in [global urbanization](#)**, push forward cooperation among countries in addressing challenges of urbanization and contribute to sustainable urban development around the world.
- **Theme for 2023:** "Financing sustainable urban future for all."
- The UN-Habitat programme promotes the development of **sustainable cities in line with [sustainable development goal 11](#)**.
 - The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) is the United Nations agency for human settlements and sustainable urban development.

Read more: [World Cities Day](#)

Rajyotsava Awards in Karnataka

On **Karnataka Rajyotsava Day**, celebrated on **1st November**, Karnataka government bestows the prestigious **Rajyotsava Award, the state's second-highest civilian honor.**

- Rajyotsava Award recognizes exceptional contributions of Individuals in diverse fields.
- Karnataka Formation Day(Rajyotsava Day), celebrated on November 1st, marks the state's birth in **1956**. It resulted from **merging Kannada-speaking regions of South India**.
 - At India's independence, South India was ruled by Mysuru, **Nizams of Hyderabad, Madras Presidency, and Bombay Presidency**. To improve administration, regions were **redefined based on language**.
 - In 1956, Mysuru's boundaries were adjusted to include Kannada-speaking areas.
 - The name changed from **'Mysuru' to 'Karnataka' on November 1, 1973**. Since then each year **November 1 marks the celebration of state formation.**

Ballon d'Or 2023

Lionel Messi secured his **eighth Ballon d'Or**, a record in football history, and **Aitana Bonmati** claimed the **Ballon d'Or Féminin Award** for her exceptional contributions to Spain's Women's World Cup win and Barcelona's success.

- The Ballon d'Or is an annual football award presented by French news magazine France Football since 1956.
- The Ballon d'Or awards are based on a **player's individual performance in the previous season**. This is a change from previous criteria, which were based on player performance during the calendar year.
- The award was temporarily merged with the **FIFA World Player of the Year** from 2010 to 2015 and is known as the FIFA Ballon d'Or. However, in 2016, this partnership concluded.

Read more: [Indian Football's Vision 2047](#)

Strong Growth Across Core Industries in India

- The [Index of Eight Core Industries \(ICI\)](#) in India for **September 2023** indicates robust growth, rising by **8.1% compared to September 2022**.
- The ICI measures combined and individual performance of production of eight core industries viz. Cement, Coal, Crude Oil, Electricity, Fertilizers, Natural Gas, Refinery Products and Steel.
 - The Eight Core Industries comprise 40.27% of the weight of items included in the [Index of Industrial Production \(IIP\)](#).
- Specifically, **coal production surged by 16.1%**, while steel and electricity generation also saw impressive increments of 9.6% and 9.3%, respectively.
 - However, the **production of crude oil witnessed a slight decline by 0.4%**.
- This growth trajectory reflects an overall positive momentum in India's core industries, highlighting a promising economic landscape for the nation.

Read more: [Core Sector Industries](#)

Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat)

Recently, the Indian Prime Minister launched the '**Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat)**' platform aiming to be a **technology-driven facilitator for [youth development](#) and youth-led development**.

- **MY Bharat** will benefit the youth in the age group of **15-29 years**, in line with the definition of '**Youth**' in the **National Youth Policy**.
 - In case of programme components specifically meant for the adolescents, the beneficiaries will be in the age group of **10-19 years**.
- It is a '**Phygital Platform**' (**physical + digital**) comprising physical activity along with an opportunity to connect digitally.
 - It envisions a framework where the **youth of our country can seamlessly connect with programs, mentors, and their local communities**.
 - This engagement is designed to **deepen their understanding of local issues** and empower them to contribute to constructive solutions.

Read more: [Youth in India 2022 Report](#)

India Shines at Para Asian Games 2023

- Indian **para-athletes** mark a monumental achievement in the history of **Para Asian Games held in Hangzhou, China** with an **all-time high medal tally of 111**, including an impressive 29 gold medals.
 - With this India clinches the **5th position in the overall medal tally behind China, Iran, Japan and the Republic of Korea**.
 - Out of the 111 medals secured, **female para-athletes** have contributed significantly, accounting for **40 medals**, constituting 36% of the total medal tally.

Read more: [Paralympic Games](#)