THE HINDU REVIEW
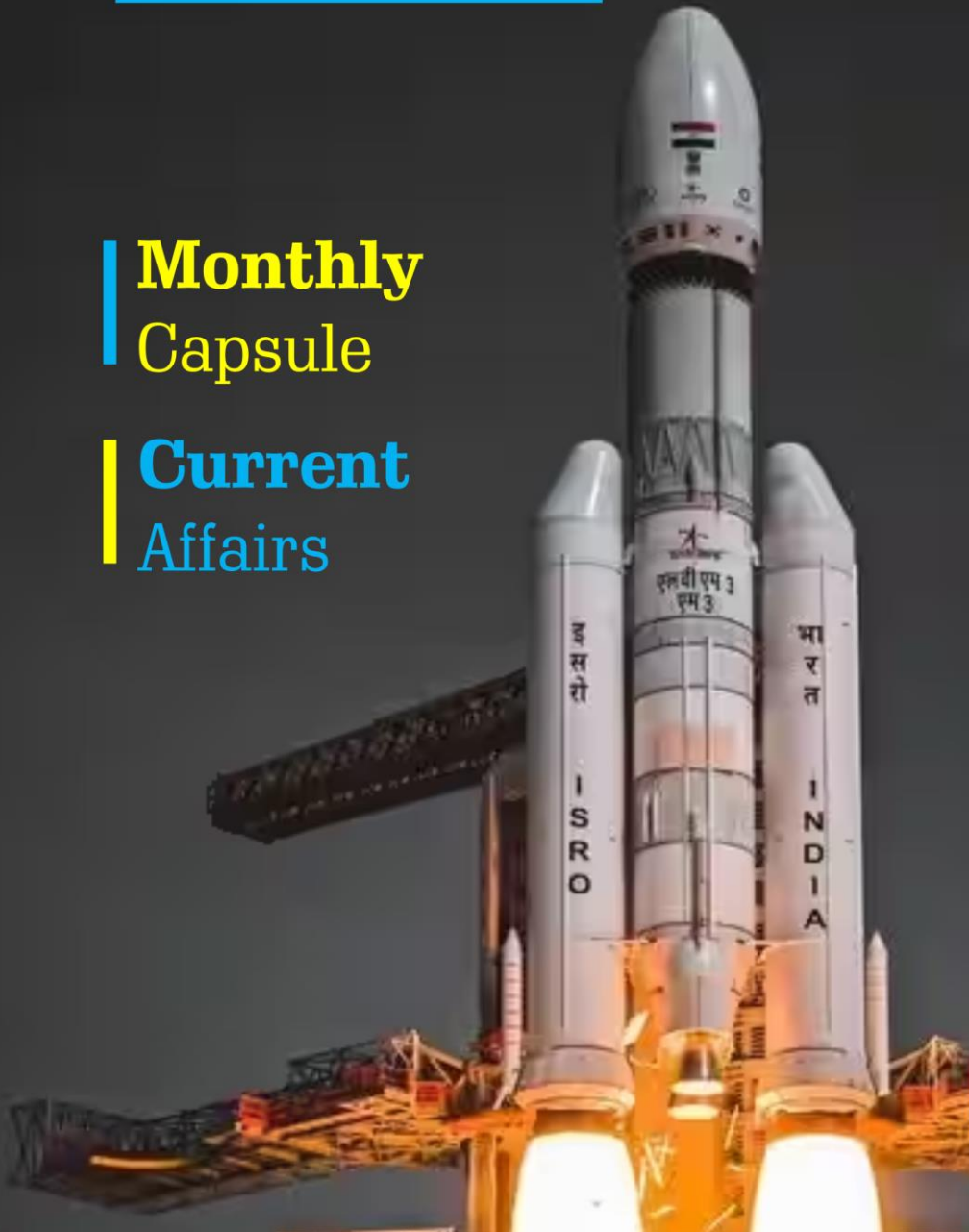
AUGUST 2023

Monthly Capsule

Current Affairs

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The Most Important Current Affairs August 2023

India's Tiger Population Reaches 3,925 with 6.1% Annual Growth Rate

In 1973, the Government of India launched **Project Tiger**, a comprehensive conservation project aimed at protecting the nation's tiger population and preserving biodiversity. Over the past fifty years, Project Tiger has achieved remarkable success, with India currently harboring **almost 75% of the world's wild tiger population**. On Global Tiger Day, 29th July 2023, Minister of State for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, **Ashwini Kumar**, released a comprehensive report revealing India's tiger population estimate of 3,925, with an annual growth rate of 6.1%.

I. Project Tiger's Success and Evolution:

- Project Tiger was initiated in 1973, initially covering nine tiger reserves spanning 18,278 km2. It has now expanded to 53 reserves spread across 75,796 km2, effectively covering **2.3% of India's total land area.**
- The first phase of tiger conservation focused on enacting the **Wildlife Protection Act** and establishing protected areas, while the second phase in 2005 adopted a landscape-level approach, community involvement, strict law enforcement, and scientific monitoring.

II. The Growth of India's Tiger Population:

- In 2022, during the celebration of **50 years of Project Tiger**, the Hon'ble Prime Minister declared the minimum tiger population estimate of 3,167 from the camera-trapped area.
- Further analysis of data by the Wildlife Institute of India, considering both camera-trapped and non-camera-trapped tiger presence areas, resulted in an estimated **tiger population of 3,925** with an annual growth rate of 6.1% per annum.
- Notably, Central India and the Shivalik Hills and Gangetic Plains saw significant increases in tiger population, particularly in Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Maharashtra. However, certain regions, like the Western Ghats, experienced localized declines, requiring targeted conservation efforts.

III. States with Largest Tiger Populations

BEST AND WORST PERFORMING STATES ON TIGER POPULATION			
STATES	TIGERS	STATES	TIGERS
Madhya Pradesh	785	Mizoram	0
Karnataka	563	Nagaland	0
Uttarakhand	560	Jharkhand	1
Maharashtra	444	Arunachal	9

India's Tiger Population Reaches 3,925 with 6.1% Annual Growth Rate, Holds 75% of Global Wild Tiger Population

State	Tiger Population
Madhya Pradesh	785
Karnataka	563
Uttarakhand	560
Maharashtra	444

IV. Tiger Reserve Abundance

Tiger Reserve	Tiger Population
Corbett	260
Bandipur	150
Nagarhole	141
Bandhavgarh	135
Dudhwa	135
Mudumalai	114
Kanha	105
Kaziranga	104
Sundarbans	100
Tadoba	97
Sathyamangalam	85
Pench-MP	77

V. Conservation Challenges and Measures:

- Approximately 35% of tiger reserves urgently require enhanced protection measures, habitat restoration, ungulate augmentation, and subsequent tiger reintroduction.
- Challenges like poaching continue to pose a threat to tiger conservation.
- To preserve ecological integrity, eco-friendly development, minimizing mining impacts, and addressing human-wildlife conflict are crucial steps.
- Fortifying protected area management and intensifying anti-poaching measures are essential for the future of India's tigers and their ecosystems.

Hiroshima Day 2023: Date, Background and Significance

On **6th August 1945**, the world witnessed the most devastating events in human history when the **United States dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima**. This act resulted in the loss of thousands of innocent lives and forever altered the course of humanity. Since, then August 6th **has been observed as Hiroshima Day**, a solemn occasion to commemorate the victims and reflect on the horrors of nuclear warfare. 6th August 2023, **78th Hiroshima Day**, holds a significant position in the history.

History of Hiroshima Day

Hiroshima, a city of cultural significance, was instantly transformed into a haunting landscape of death and destruction in the blink of an eye. **The atomic bomb**, named '**Little Boy**', killed an estimated **140,000 people by the end of 1945**, **either directly or through the subsequent effects of radiation.** Most of the people suffered severe injuries and the survivors endured lifelong health issues.

The tragedy of Hiroshima serves as a stark reminder of the consequences of unchecked aggression and the devastating potential of nuclear weapons.

Pursuit of Peace

Over the decades, Hiroshima has become a symbol of peace, reconciliation and hope. The city, once a monument of destruction, has risen up from the ashes and rebuilt itself, focusing on fostering peace and understanding among nations.

Significance of Hiroshima Day

Hiroshima Day holds a significant position in the history as it remembers the day when an atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan, in 1945, causing immense destruction and loss of lives. This day reminds us the **devastating consequences of war and the need of peace and the nuclear disarmament**. This day plays a significant role in promoting understanding, reconciliation and a more peaceful future.

Quit India Movement

Quit India Movement: Introduction

The Quit India Movement was a historic event in India's struggle for Independence from British colonial rule. The **year 2023** marks the **81st anniversary of this momentous movement** that changed the course of India's history. As we commemorate this significant milestone, it is essential to reflect the ideals and sacrifices of the past, drawing inspiration for the present and the future.

Launch and leadership

The Quit India Movement, also known as the **August Movement**, was initiated by the **Indian National Congress** on **8th August, 1942,** led by Mahatma Gandhi, who called for **"Do or Die"** in the struggle for India's independence.

Objective of Quit India Movement

The primary objective of the Quit India Movement was **to achieve immediate and complete independence from British colonial rule**. It demanded to end the control of British over India and establish a sovereign and self-governing nation.

Civil Disobedience and Non-violence

The Quit India Movement adapted the **principles of civil disobedience and non-violence**, inspired by **Mahatma Gandhi's** philosophy of Satyagraha. The hallmarks of this movement were peaceful protests, non-cooperation and non-violent resistance.

Mass Participation in Quit India Movement

The Quit India Movement witnessed the participation from people of all ages, genders and backgrounds. This movement got the support from students, farmers, laborers and women which unite the diverse population of India under a common goal.

Regression and Arrests

The British colonial authorities responded to the movement with brutal repression. Many leaders of the Indian National Congress, including Mahatma Gandhi, were arrested, and the British administration resorted to violence to suppress the protests.

Acts of Resistance

Indians organized strikes, **boycotted British goods** and **launched acts of civil disobedience** across the country. Public servants resigned from their posts and students **boycotted educational institutional** run by the British government.

Unity and National Pride

The Quit India Movement fostered a **sense of unity and national pride among Indians,** who were determined to stand together in their fight for independence.

Significance of Quit India Movement

The Quit India Movement had a significant impact on India's struggle for independence. It represented the power of non-violent resistance and united people from all backgrounds stood together for independence. Despite harsh repression, the movement fuelled the demand for self-rule and forced the British government to negotiate with Indian leaders.

Legacy of Quit India Movement

The Quit India Movement left a lasting legacy which showed how **non-violent protests and unity can lead to big changes**. This movement played a crucial role in achieving independence on 15th August, 1947.

RBI's August 2023 Monetary Policy Meeting Highlights

RBI's August 2023 **Monetary Policy meeting** highlights encompass the **RBI's decisions**, economic assessments, inflation forecasts, and policy measures discussed during the August 2023 Monetary Policy Meeting.

1. Repo Rate Unchanged at 6.5%:
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has maintained the repo rate at 6.50% during its August 2023 monetary policy meeting.
- The decision was taken unanimously by the six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).

2. Inflation Trends and Forecasts:
- Headline inflation, which dropped to 4.3% in May 2023, experienced a rise in June and is expected to further surge in July and August due to higher vegetable prices.
- The RBI has projected India's Q2 retail inflation at 6.2%, Q3 at 5.7%, and Q4 at 5.2% for the current fiscal year.
- The CPI inflation forecast for FY2023-24 has been revised from 5.1% to 5.4% due to shocks in vegetable prices.

3. Economic Outlook:
- Despite weak external demand, domestic economic activity remains robust and is likely to maintain its momentum.
- The RBI has retained the GDP growth forecast for the fiscal year at 6.5%, with balanced risks.

4. Monitoring Inflation Trajectory:
- The MPC remains committed to aligning inflation with the target of 4% and anchoring inflation expectations.
- The cumulative rate hike of 250 basis points implemented by the MPC is gradually affecting the economy.
- The MPC decided to stay vigilant and assess the evolving situation before making any policy changes.

5. Liquidity Measures:
- The RBI has instructed banks to maintain an incremental cash reserve ratio of 10% on the growth in deposits between May 19 and July 28, effective from the August 12 fortnight.

6. UPI Payment Updates:
- The RBI announced changes in UPI payments, allowing offline payments using near-field communication.
- The payment limit via UPI Lite has been increased from Rs 200 to Rs 500.

7. Transition to Fixed-Rate Regime:
- Home loan and other borrowers are permitted to switch to a fixed-rate regime, according to the RBI's directive.

8. Consistent Policy Stance:
- This marks the third consecutive monetary policy meeting in which the MPC has chosen to keep the repo rate unchanged at 6.50%.
- Previously, the MPC had increased the repo rate by 250 basis points from May 2022 to February 2023.

9. Positive Indian Economic Outlook:
- RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das noted that the Indian economy remains a bright spot in the global landscape.

RBI's Strategic Announcements Set to Transform UPI and UPI Lite Landscape

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has recently unveiled a trio of groundbreaking initiatives poised to revolutionize the digital payments landscape in India through the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and UPI Lite**. These initiatives were announced by Governor Shaktikanta Das during the RBI's bi-monthly policy review, emphasizing their potential to usher in a new era of the payments revolution.

Conversational Payments on UPI:
In a move to enhance the ease and reach of UPI, the RBI has unveiled plans to introduce Conversational Payments on the platform. This innovative feature empowers users to engage in transactions by conversing with an AI-powered system, ensuring safety and security throughout the process.
- **Enhancing Accessibility**: The integration of AI-driven conversational instructions is set to make UPI more user-friendly, thereby reducing barriers to adoption, particularly among senior citizens and people with disabilities.
- **Multilingual Support**: Initially available in Hindi and English, the Conversational Payments feature will subsequently extend to encompass various Indian languages, catering to the linguistic diversity of the nation.

UPI Lite Payment Limit Enhancement:
Acknowledging the evolving needs of users, the RBI has raised the transaction limit for UPI Lite from Rs 200 to Rs 500, aiming to facilitate more substantial and convenient transactions.
- **Optimized Processing**: UPI Lite, launched by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), allows swift small-value transactions by streamlining processing resources for banks. This optimization minimizes transaction failures and enhances overall efficiency.
- **Balancing Security**: While the transaction limit has been elevated, the balance ceiling for UPI Lite remains unchanged at Rs 2,000, ensuring a cautious approach towards relaxing two-factor authentication for higher transaction limits.

Offline UPI Payments with NFC Technology:
In a move to bolster the adoption of UPI Lite, the RBI is introducing offline payments using Near Field Communication (NFC) technology. This pioneering approach not only enables retail digital payments in scenarios of weak or absent internet connectivity but also guarantees speed and minimal transaction declines.
- **Addressing Connectivity Challenges**: The incorporation of NFC technology allows users to conduct transactions even when internet or telecom connectivity is compromised, making digital payments more reliable and accessible.
- **Seamless Transactions**: The use of NFC technology not only circumvents connectivity issues but also ensures smoother and more efficient transactions, adding to the appeal of UPI Lite as a dependable digital payment solution.

Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2023 full winners list

The Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) Awards once again took center stage, honouring the finest cinematic gems from the Indian film industry. The **14th** Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) Awards were held in Melbourne, Australia, on 11 August, honouring the best of film and OTT content from India globally.

Filmmaker Karan Johar was honoured for completing 25 years in the Indian film industry as a Filmmaker. He received a huge round of applause for his immense contributions in the field of entertainment.

Here is the complete list of winners:

Category	Winner
Jury Awards	
Best Documentary	To Kill A Tiger
Best Indie Film	Agra
Best Performance in Film (MALE)	Mohit Agarwal for Agra
Best Performance in a film (FEMALE)	Rani Mukerji for Mrs Chatterjee Vs Norway
Best Director	Prithvi Konanur – Hadinelentu (Seventeeners)
Best Film	Sita Ramam
Best Performance (MALE) in a Series	Vijay Varma for Dahaad
Best Performance (FEMALE) in a series	Rajshri Deshpande for Trial By Fire
Best Series	Jubilee
Best Short Film – People's Choice	Connection Kya Hain by Nilesh Naik
Best Short Film – Australia	Home by Mark Russel Bernard
Honourary Awards	
Equality in Cinema Award	Darlings
People's Choice Award	Pathaan
Award to Karan Johar	For his 25 years as a filmmaker
Rising Global Superstar of Indian Cinema	Kartik Aaryan
Diversity in Cinema Award	Mrunal Thakur
Disruptor Award	Bhumi Pednekar
Rainbow Stories Award	Onir for Pine Cone

About IFFM
This annual event, held in the heart of Australia, honours the remarkable talents of the Indian film fraternity, spanning movies and OTT series. The prestigious awards night was an evening of glamour and recognition, where the best of Indian cinema and the OTT landscape were acknowledged for their outstanding contributions. The awards ceremony, held at the iconic Hamer Hall in Melbourne in all its grandeur, witnessed the convergence of artists, filmmakers, and enthusiasts. The 2023 IFFM awards night not only paid tribute to the excellence achieved in the past year but also showcased the dynamic and evolving landscape of Indian entertainment celebrating the diversity of the films and content from the subcontinent.

77th Indian Independence Day 2023: Date, Celebrations, Theme and History

India celebrating their 77th Independence Day on **August 15, 2023.** The theme for this year's celebration is **"Nation First, Always First".** This theme is in line with the government's focus on national unity and development. The daybegin with the hoisting of the national flag at the Red Fort in Delhi by the Prime Minister. This followed by a military parade and a cultural program. There will also be flag hoisting ceremonies and cultural programs all over the country.

The 77th Independence Day is a significant milestone for India. It is a time to reflect on the country's journey since independence and to recommit to the values of freedom, democracy, and equality. It is also a time to celebrate the diversity and unity of the Indian nation.

Here are some of the events that will be held on 77th Indian Independence Day:

- The Prime Minister will hoist the national flag at the Red Fort in Delhi.
- There will be a military parade at Rajpath in New Delhi.
- There will be cultural programs at various places across the country.
- The government will release a commemorative postage stamp and coin.
- There will be special prayers and religious ceremonies in temples, mosques, churches, and gurudwaras.
- People will gather in public places to celebrate the occasion.

Celebrations of Independence Day 2023
Independence Day is a time to celebrate the freedom and unity of India. It is also a time to remember the sacrifices of the freedom fighters who fought for India's independence.

- **Flag hoisting ceremonies:** The Prime Minister of India hoists the national flag at the Red Fort in Delhi at the stroke of midnight on August 14-15. This is followed by flag hoisting ceremonies all over the country, in schools, colleges, government offices, and public places.
- **Military parades:** There is a military parade at Rajpath in New Delhi, which is attended by the President, Prime Minister, and other dignitaries. The parade showcases the might of the Indian Armed Forces.
- **Cultural programs:** There are cultural programs held at various places across the country, showcasing the rich culture and heritage of India. These programs feature music, dance, and drama.
- **Commemorative events:** The government releases a commemorative postage stamp and coin on Independence Day. There are also special prayers and religious ceremonies in temples, mosques, churches, and gurudwaras.
- **Public gatherings:** People gather in public places to celebrate the occasion. They sing patriotic songs, dance, and distribute sweets.

History of Independence Day 2023

The history of Indian Independence Day can be traced back to the early 19th century, when the Indian independence movement began to gain momentum. The movement was led by a number of prominent figures, including Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Subhas Chandra Bose.

- The movement was met with much resistance from the British, who ruled India at the time. However, the movement continued to grow in strength, and eventually led to India's independence on August 15, 1947.
- The date of August 15 was chosen as Independence Day because it was the day that the Indian Independence Act of 1947 came into effect. This act transferred power from the British to the Indian government.
- The first Independence Day celebration was held in 1947. The Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, hoisted the national flag at the Red Fort in Delhi. He gave a speech in which he outlined the challenges that India faced as an independent nation.
- Independence Day is a national holiday in India. It is a day to celebrate the freedom and unity of India. It is also a time to remember the sacrifices of the freedom fighters who fought for India's independence.

Here are some of the key events that led to India's independence:

India's independence was a major achievement for the Indian people. It was the culmination of decades of struggle and sacrifice. It is a day to celebrate the freedom and unity of India, and to remember the sacrifices of the freedom fighters who fought for India's independence.

- **1857:** The Indian Rebellion, also known as the Sepoy Mutiny, was a major uprising against British rule in India. The rebellion was suppressed by the British, but it helped to raise awareness of the growing Indian independence movement.
- **1885:** The Indian National Congress was founded. The Congress was a political party that advocated for Indian independence.
- **1905:** The Partition of Bengal was a plan by the British to divide the province of Bengal into two parts, one Hindu-majority and one Muslim-majority. The partition was met with widespread protests, and it helped to further divide the Indian independence movement.
- **1920:** Mahatma Gandhi launched the Non-Cooperation Movement. The movement was a major turning point in the Indian independence movement. It was based on the principle of nonviolent resistance, and it helped to mobilize millions of Indians against British rule.
- **1930:** Mahatma Gandhi launched the Salt March. The Salt March was a major protest against the British salt monopoly. It helped to further popularize the Indian independence movement.
- **1942:** The Quit India Movement was launched by the Indian National Congress. The movement called for the British to immediately quit India. It was met with widespread protests, and it led to the imprisonment of many Indian leaders, including Mahatma Gandhi.
- **1947:** India gained independence from Britain. The independence was marked by the partition of India into two countries, India and Pakistan. The partition was a bloody and chaotic process, and it led to the deaths of millions of people.

Ashleigh Gardner and Chris Woakes Named ICC Players of the Month for July 2023

The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has revealed the latest set of international stars to be named **ICC Players of the Month** for July 2023. Australia's spin bowling all-rounder **Ashleigh Gardner** and England's seamer **Chris Woakes** have been honored as the International Cricket Council (ICC) Players of the Month for July 2023.

Ashleigh Gardner

Australia's prolific all-rounder Ashleigh Gardner becomes the first player to win back-to-back awards, claiming her fourth ICC Women's Player of the Month prize following another scintillating set of performances against England and Ireland in July.

Gardner scored 232 runs and took 15 wickets in eight ODI and T20I matches during the month, including a Player of the Match performance in the second ODI against England, where she scored 65 runs and took three wickets. She was also named Player of the Series in the ODI series against Ireland.

Chris Woakes

England seamer Chris Woakes wins the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for his fruitful contributions with the ball, helping his side claw back a two-nil deficit to close out their Ashes series on level terms.

Woakes took 19 wickets in three Tests against Australia, including a Player of the Match performance in the final Test at The Oval, where he took seven wickets and scored a vital 36 runs in the first innings. He was also named Player of the Series.

Other nominees

The other nominees for the ICC Women's Player of the Month award were Ellyse Perry and Nat Sciver-Brunt, while the other nominees for the ICC Men's Player of the Month award were Zak Crawley and Bas de Leede.

ICC Player of the Month awards

The ICC Player of the Month awards are voted for by a panel of experts, including former cricketers, journalists and broadcasters. The awards are designed to recognize the best performances by international cricketers across all three formats of the game. Last month, the **International Cricket Council (ICC)** announced **Wanindu Hasaranga,** the Sri Lankan spinner, and **Ashleigh Gardner,** the Australian women's team all-rounder, as the recipients of the 'Player of the Month' award for their remarkable performances in **June.**

India Becomes 4th Country landed Successfully on Moon

India successfully landed its **Chandrayaan-3 mission** on the lunar surface on **August 23, 2023,** making it the fourth country to do so after the **United States, Russia, and China.** The lander Vikram touched down on the south pole of the moon, a region that has never been explored before. The rover Pragyan is expected to roll out of the lander and begin its exploration of the lunar surface in the coming days.

The successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 is a major achievement for India's space program and a testament to the hard work and dedication of the scientists and engineers who made it possible. It also puts India in a select group of spacefaring nations and furthers its ambition to become a leading player in the global space race.

The Chandrayaan-3 mission is expected to collect valuable data about the lunar south pole, which is thought to be rich in water ice. This information could be used to support future human exploration of the moon. The mission is also expected to help scientists to better understand the formation and evolution of the moon.

The successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 is a proud moment for India and a significant step forward in our exploration of space. I am confident that this mission will pave the way for many more successes in the years to come.

Chandrayaan-3: Team behind India's Moon mission

Indian spacecraft **Chandrayaan-3** has completed the last endeavor and made a soft landing on the surface of the Moon. The touch down took place at 6:04 pm on August 23, 2023, as scheduled. With Chandrayaan-3's successful lunar touchdown, India has joined the ranks of the United States, China, and the former Soviet Union as the fourth nation to master the technology of soft lunar landings. Nearly 54 female engineers/scientists participated in Chandrayaan-3 mission. According to an ISRO official, they are "associate and deputy project directors and project managers of various systems."

Here are some of the key people behind Chandrayaan-3:

S Somanath, ISRO Chairman

The brain behind India's ambitious Moon mission is **ISRO chief S Somanath.** Somanath has also been given the credits for accelerating ISRO's other missions including **Gaganyaan and Sun-mision Aditya-L1.** Somanath has also served as the director of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) and the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre — the primary centres for development of rocket technologies for ISRO, before heading India's space organisation.

P Veeramuthuvel, Chandrayaan-3 project director

The project director for India's latest lunar touch-down mission is **P Veeramuthuvel.** In 2019, he took charge for the mission. Veeramuthuvel was serving as a deputy director in the Space Infrastructure Programme Office at the ISRO headquarters before the Moon mission started. He is known for his technical skills. Veeramuthuvel played a key role in Chandrayaan-2 mission as well, being the point person for its negotiations with National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). A native of Villupuram in Tamil Nadu, Veeramuthuvel is an alumni of Indian Institute of Technology in Madras (IIT-M).

Mohana Kumar, Mission director

S Mohana Kumar, a senior scientists from the **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre,** is the mission director for Chandrayaan-3. Kumar has worked as the director for the successful commercial launch of the One Web India 2 satellites on board the LVM3-M3 mission.

S Unnikrishnan Nair, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) director

S Unnikrishnan Nair is the head of **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)** at Thumba in Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram district. He and his team are responsible for the key functions of the crucial mission. The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) Mark –III, which was renamed as Launch Vehicle Mark-III, rocket, was also developed by the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)

M Sankaran, U R Rao Satellite Centre (URSC) director

The director of U R Rao Satellite Centre, **M Sankaran,** is responsible for leading the satellite fraternity to meet the national requirements in the areas like communication, navigation, remote sensing, meteorology and inter-planetary exploration. In June, 2021, he took over as director of the lead centre in India for design, development and realisation of all satellites of ISRO.

A Rajarajan, Launch Authorisation Board (LAB) chief

A scientist and director of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR (SDSC SHAR), Sriharikota, **A Rajarajan,** is an expert in the area of composites. He was looking after the fruition of solid motor production and launch complex infrastructure to meet ISRO's increased demand of launches including launches for Human Space Programme (Gaganyaan) and SSLV. The Launch Authorisation Board (LAB) gives the go-ahead for the launch.

BRICS Summit 2023 Highlights: Strengthening Global South Cooperation and Expansion Ambitions

The **15th BRICS Summit** took place in Johannesburg, bringing together leaders from **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**. The summit aimed to enhance cooperation among these emerging economies, discuss global concerns, and potentially expand the group's membership.

BRICS Summit 2023: Opening and Leaders' Participation
- The 15th BRICS Summit occurred in Johannesburg, focusing on the cooperation of the **BRICS nations** – Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.
- The summit marked the first in-person meeting of BRICS leaders since 2019, reflecting the significance of discussing shared issues.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** of India and Chinese President **Xi Jinping** were among the leaders attending.
- Modi emphasized the importance of the summit for addressing issues concerning the Global South and developmental matters.

BRICS Summit 2023: Expanded Dialogue and Outreach
- Prime Minister Modi announced his participation in BRICS-Africa Outreach and BRICS Plus Dialogue events, highlighting the intention to engage with other nations beyond the core BRICS grouping.
- The inclusion of guest countries provided an opportunity for broader discussions on global challenges and development.

Diplomatic Engagements

- Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived in Johannesburg for the summit, focusing on enhancing China's involvement in global affairs.
- Xi's change of plans, skipping a business forum and sending the Chinese Commerce Minister, raised questions about the reasons behind this decision.
- African countries urged China to shift its focus from infrastructure development to local industrialization to align with the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA).

BRICS Summit 2023: Key Addresses and Vision

- Leaders like Modi, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva emphasized the significance of BRICS in fostering cooperation among developing nations.
- Ramaphosa highlighted the need for global financial institutions to undergo reform to better address the challenges faced by developing economies.
- Brazilian President Lula da Silva clarified that BRICS aimed to organize the Global South and was not meant to rival established powers like the United States and G7 economies.

BRICS Summit 2023: Expansion Ambitions

- The possibility of expanding BRICS to include more countries generated discussions during the summit.
- China and Russia's aspirations to bolster BRICS aimed to counterbalance the influence of Western powers amid global tensions.
- South African President Ramaphosa expressed support for expanding BRICS and revealed that over 20 nations, including Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, and Egypt, had formally applied to join.

BRICS Summit 2023: Collective Influence and Global Partnerships

- President Xi Jinping called for increased collaboration between China and South Africa to bolster their influence in international affairs, particularly in the Global South.
- Xi emphasized support for South Africa's greater role in the G20, highlighting the nations' partnership and pursuit of justice in global affairs.

BRICS Summit 2023: Economic and Growth Aspects

- Prime Minister Modi highlighted India's rapid economic growth and projected it to become a $5 trillion economy in the near future.
- BRICS nations sought to strengthen cooperation to address economic challenges and enhance their combined influence on the global stage.

Chandrayaan-3: India to celebrate August 23 as 'National Space Day

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** on August 26 announced to celebrate **August 23,** when India's Chandrayaan-3 landed on the Moon, as **National Space Day.** He also announced that the spot where the lander landed on the Moon will be known as **'Shivashakti'** and where Chandrayaan-2 touched down will be called as **'Tiranga Point'.**

The Prime Minister was addressing the scientists at the **ISRO Telemetry Tracking and Command Network Mission Control Complex** in Bengaluru, Karnataka. PM Modi said that experts suggest that in a few years, India's space industry will become $16 billion from $8 billion.

PM Modi's visit to ISRO in Bengaluru

- To congratulate ISRO team for the successful touchdown of **Chandrayaan-3 lander** on August 23, PM Modi visited to Bengaluru, immediately after returning from his two-nation visit to Greece and South Africa. He was accorded a warm reception as he arrived at the ISRO headquarters in Bengaluru on Saturday morning.
- Afterwards, he also met the team of scientists with the **Indian Space Research Organisation,** who were involved in the mission. PM Modi joined the ISRO team in witnessing the historic landing of Vikram lander on Moon virtually from South Africa. At that time he was attending the **15th BRICS Summit.**
- The Prime Minister was received personally by ISRO Chairman **S Somanath.** The two greeeted each other with a warm hug, which was more of a celebration of the successful culmination of the daunting lunar landing mission. He also posed for a group photo with the team of scientists behind the project. Later, PM Modi received the briefing of ISRO's 40-day journey to the lunar South Pole by S Somanath.
- He said that Chandrayaan-2 left its footprint on the lunar surface in 2019. He also gave credit to the women scientists of ISRO in the success of India's mission to moon.

Indore Named Best City and Madhya Pradesh Best State in India Smart Cities Awards 2022

The **India Smart Cities Awards 2022**, organized by the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry, have recognized **Indore** as the best city and **Madhya Pradesh** as the best state in the Smart Cities Mission. The awards celebrate the progress and achievements of cities and states in promoting sustainable development and enhancing the quality of urban life across India.

Top City and State Recognized:

- **Best City Award: Indore** has been named the best city in the India Smart Cities Awards 2022. The city has a remarkable track record, being consistently ranked as the cleanest city in the Swachh Bharat Mission for six consecutive years.

- **Best State Award: Madhya Pradesh** has been recognized as the best state in the Smart Cities Mission. The state has shown significant commitment to urban development through the implementation of multi-sectoral projects aimed at improving citizens' quality of life.

Top Smart Cities:
- **Second Best City: Surat** secured the second position among the smart cities for its notable efforts in urban development.
- **Third Best City: Agra** claimed the third spot for its initiatives contributing to the Smart Cities Mission.

State Rankings:
- **Second Best State: Tamil Nadu** was placed second among the states, reflecting its strides in urban development and sustainable projects.
- **Shared Third Best State: Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh** shared the third position among the states for their contributions to the Smart Cities Mission.

Award Categories and Winning Projects:
- **Built Environment Category: Coimbatore's** model roads and restoration of lakes project was recognized as the top project in this category.
- **Economy Category: Jabalpur's** incubation center project was awarded the top position for its economic impact.
- **Mobility Category: Chandigarh's** public bike-sharing initiative stood out in the mobility category.
- **Governance Category:** Chandigarh also excelled in the governance category, specifically in e-governance services.
- **Union Territory Category:** Chandigarh received the overall award for being the best Union Territory in the India Smart Cities Awards.

Progress of Smart Cities Mission:
- The Smart Cities Mission, launched in 2015, has seen significant achievements. The 100 selected cities have completed 76% of the proposed projects worth Rs. 1.10 lakh crore.
- The remaining projects, valued at Rs. 60,095 crore, are expected to be completed by June 30, 2024. The deadline was extended to accommodate the completion of projects due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Integrated Command and Control Centers (ICCC):
- All 100 Smart Cities have operational Integrated Command and Control Centers (ICCC), which serve as the urban management nerve center. These centers have enhanced urban services, including crime tracking, safety measures, transport management, waste management, water supply, and disaster management.

ISAC Awards and Its Goals:
- The India Smart Cities Awards aim to recognize and reward cities, projects, and ideas that contribute to sustainable development and enhance the overall quality of life for urban residents.
- The awards promote inclusivity, equity, safety, health, and collaboration among cities.

Selection Process and Nominations:
- The ISAC 2022 had a two-stage submission process. The Qualifying Stage assessed cities' overall performance, while the Proposal Stage required nominations for six award categories.
- Out of 845 nominations from 80 qualifying smart cities, 66 winners were identified across various categories.

Banking and Financial Current Affairs

- **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** announced the establishment of the **Corporate Debt Market Development Fund (CDMDF)**. This fund, regulated by SEBI, is designed to function as a 'backstop facility,' providing support during stressed market conditions by purchasing investment-grade corporate debt securities. The **Guarantee Scheme for Corporate Debt (GSCD)** aims to offer guarantee cover against debt raised or to be raised by the CDMDF, adding stability to the market in times of dislocation. (Click here to read the article)
- In the fiscal year 2022-2023 (FY23), digital payments in India experienced remarkable growth, as indicated by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI)**. The RBI-DPI, a comprehensive measure of payment digitization, displayed a substantial increase across all parameters during this period, driven by significant advancements in payment infrastructure and performance across the country. The index for March 2023 recorded a value of 395.58, marking a 13.24% growth compared to September 2022 (377.46), as announced on January 31, 2023. (Click here to read the article)
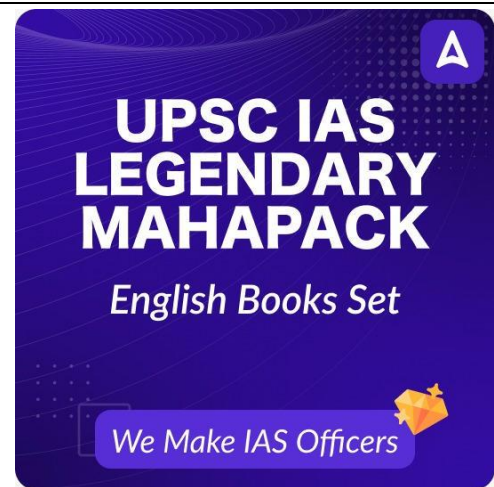
- The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) network witnessed remarkable growth in July 2023, setting new records in both transaction volume and value. After a minor dip in June, **UPI transactions surged by 44%** year-on-year (YoY) and reached a staggering ₹15.34 lakh crore. The number of transactions also hit a new high of **996 crore**, a significant increase of 58% compared to July 2022. (Click here to read the article)
- In a special event in New Delhi, **Jyotiraditya Scidia**, the Union Minister of Steel and Civil Aviation, **revealed the new logo of NMDC**. The launch of new logo is a big step for NMDC, showing its commitment to responsible mining and global standards. (Click here to read the article)
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed late submission fees amounting to ₹2,000 crore on **four** major public sector undertakings namely, **ONGC Videsh** Ltd, **Indian Oil** Corp. Ltd, **GAIL** (India) Ltd, and **Oil India Ltd** for failing to promptly report their overseas investments. The delayed reporting has prompted RBI to take **restrictive measures**, affecting further remittances and transfers until the discrepancies are resolved. (Click here to read the article)

- **Kiwi,** a fintech company specializing in enabling credit on UPI, has partnered with **Axis Bank** to introduce a lifetime free Axis Bank KWIK credit cards through its app. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **State Bank of India (SBI)**, one of India's largest public sector banks, reported its financial results for the April-June quarter of 2023-24. The bank achieved its **highest-ever quarterly profit** at ₹ 16,884 crore, representing a significant jump from ₹ 6,068 crore in the same period the previous year. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- In the **fiscal year 2023, Sashidhar Jagdidhan**, the **CEO of HDFC Bank** has taken the top spot as the **highest paid bank CEO**. With an overall **package of Rs.10.55 crore**, Jagdishan's compensation stands out among his peers in the banking sector. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The public sector banks (PSBs) have registered an **impressive profit** of over **Rs 34,774 crore** in the **first** quarter of June 2023 showcasing a substantial increase that more than doubles their previous earnings. As per the quarterly data published by public sector banks, the collective profit reported by the 12 state-owned banks amounted to **Rs 15,306 crore**, during the corresponding **April-June** period in the prior fiscal year. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- In a move to provide enhanced financial security and stable income to its policyholders, **IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company** has recently launched a groundbreaking insurance product – the **Guarantee of Life Dreams (G.O.L.D.) Plan**. This non-linked and non-participating insurance plan is designed to offer regular, **long-term income** to policyholders to ensure a prosperous and worry-free future. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- As per a Finance Ministry report, both **state-owned banks** and **leading private banks** have garnered more than ₹21,000 crore in fees primarily from account holders **failing to maintain the minimum balance**. Charges amounting to over ₹35,000 crore have been amassed **since 2018** due to reasons such as non-compliance with minimum balance requirements, additional **ATM transactions**, and SMS services. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- India's first payment bank, **Airtel Payment Bank** also became the first Indian Bank to launch an eco-friendly debit card for its new and existing customers with a savings bank account. The debit cards will be crafted from recycle-Poly Vinyl Chloride (r-PVC) material, a certified eco-friendly material, against normal PVC cards. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has taken stringent action by imposing monetary penalties totaling Rs4.20 lakh on four **co-operative banks**. These banks – Vita Urban Cooperative Bank Ltd, Shri Vinayak Sahakari Bank Ltd, Shreeji Bhatia Cooperative Bank Ltd, and Mizoram Urban Cooperative Development Bank Ltd – have been found to be in breach of various regulations set forth by the central banking authority. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **AU Small Finance Bank**, the largest small finance bank in India, has taken a remarkable step forward in customer service with the launch of their innovative **24×7 video banking platform**. This pioneering service enables customers to engage in face-to-face video interactions with expert bankers, akin to video calls. This move redefines convenience, as it provides round-the-clock support, even during weekends and holidays. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has taken a significant step to enhance the efficiency of **Initial Public Offerings (IPOs)** by halving the timeline for listing shares on stock exchanges after the IPO closure. This move aims to provide substantial benefits to both investors and issuers in the capital markets. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- In a recent mid-year macroeconomic review, the **National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP)** has forecasted that **India's economic growth** will likely decelerate to 6% in the financial year 2023-24 (FY24), down from the 7.2% recorded in FY23. This projected slowdown is attributed to prevailing headwinds in the global economy. The NIPFP analysis takes into consideration various economic indicators and trends, offering valuable insights into the potential trajectory of **India's economy**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has introduced the third edition of its UPI Safety Awareness Campaign named **"UPI Chalega."** Collaborating with key stakeholders in the payments ecosystem, the campaign aims to emphasize the ease, safety, and swiftness of using the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for transactions. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- In a significant move aimed at enhancing transparency and consumer protection in the home loan sector, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has introduced a comprehensive set of reforms pertaining to **floating rate home loans**. These reforms are designed to bring more clarity to the process of resetting interest rates, offer borrowers the option to switch to fixed interest rates, and prevent banks from unilaterally changing the loan tenure without proper consent. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** is taking a significant step towards bolstering its regulatory supervision over banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) through the integration of **artificial intelligence (AI)** and **machine learning (ML)** technologies. To achieve this, the RBI has partnered with two prominent global consultancy firms, McKinsey and Company India LLP, and Accenture Solutions Pvt Ltd India. This move aligns with the RBI's aim to harness the potential of advanced analytics to strengthen its supervisory functions. (Click here to read the article)

- **Canara Bank** has unveiled a specialized savings account aimed at **pensioners** and those nearing retirement, designed to provide an array of benefits catering to their unique financial needs. This new offering, known as **Canara Jeevan Dhara**, extends its advantages to retirees who've opted for voluntary or regular retirement. Through this account, Canara Bank seeks to provide financial security and flexibility to individuals in their post-employment phase. (Click here to read the article)

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has unveiled a groundbreaking solution for individuals seeking their unclaimed deposits. Named the **UDGAM (Unclaimed Deposits – Gateway to Access Information) portal**, this centralized web platform is designed to simplify the process of locating unclaimed deposits across various banks. (Click here to read the article)

- In a significant partnership, **Axis Bank** has joined forces with the **Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)**, a subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), to introduce two groundbreaking lending products. These products are powered by the **Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit (PTPFC)**, a pioneering initiative launched by RBIH. (Click here to read the article)

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has recently introduced updated guidelines for **Infrastructure Debt Fund-Non-Banking Financial Companies (IDF-NBFCs)**. These revisions aim to enhance the role of IDF-NBFCs in financing the infrastructure sector and to align the regulations governing infrastructure sector financing by Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs). The review of these guidelines has been carried out in collaboration with the Government of India. (Click here to read the article)

- **Canara Bank**, a leading player in the Indian banking sector, has taken a monumental step by introducing the UPI interoperable digital rupee mobile application. This move places Canara Bank at the forefront of innovation, becoming the first bank across both the public and commercial sectors to offer this pioneering feature. The app, named the **Canara Digital Rupee app**, marks a significant milestone as a part of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC)** pilot project. (Click here to read the article)

- In a significant leap forward for India's digital banking landscape, YES BANK has introduced its groundbreaking mobile banking app, **IRIS by YES BANK**. This innovative app is poised to redefine the way customers engage with their financial institutions, offering an unparalleled combination of convenience, efficiency, and personalization. (Click here to read the article)

- **Life Insurance Corporation** (LIC) has announced its acquisition of a 6.7% stake in **Jio Financial Services** (JFSL), a non-banking financial services unit that emerged from the conglomerate helmed by Mukesh Ambani – **Reliance Industries**. The acquisition, carried out through a **demerger action** by Reliance Industries, is poised to have a notable impact on both entities and the broader financial markets. (Click here to read the article)

- In a groundbreaking collaboration, **HDFC Bank**, India's leading private sector bank, has partnered with **Marriott Bonvoy**, the acclaimed **travel program** by Marriott International, to unveil the '**Marriott Bonvoy HDFC Bank Credit Card**'. (Click here to read the article)

- In a recent development, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has made changes to the **offline payment transaction** regulations, aiming to enhance user convenience and digital payment adoption. The central bank has decided to increase the upper limit of offline payment transactions **from ₹200 to ₹500**, with immediate effect. This move is part of RBI's ongoing efforts to streamline payment processes and adapt to evolving consumer needs. (Click here to read the article)

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted its approval for the amalgamation of **Akola Merchant Co-operative Bank** with **The Jalgaon Peoples Co-operative Bank.** This strategic move is set to be enacted from **August 28,** as announced by the central bank. (Click here to read the article)

- **Airtel Payments Bank,** in collaboration with **Mastercard Center** and **Frontier Markets,** has introduced a transformative initiative named **She Leads Bharat:Udyam.** This initiative is designed to uplift **100,000** women-owned small businesses by providing them with opportunities to learn and earn. (Click here to read the article)

- The **State Bank of India** (SBI) has taken a significant step towards enhancing **financial inclusivity** and **social welfare** by introducing an innovative **Customer Service Points** (CSP) functionality. This functionality allows customers to seamlessly **enrol** in essential **social security schemes** using just their Aadhaar cards. The move was unveiled by SBI's Chairman, **Dinesh Khara**, who emphasized the bank's commitment to breaking down barriers to financial security through **technology-driven solutions**. (Click here to read the article)

- **Axis Bank**, a prominent player in India's private banking sector, has taken a groundbreaking step by launching the '**Infinity Savings Account.**' This innovative savings account variant is designed to cater to the needs of digitally savvy customers who are avid users of subscription-based services. (Click here to read the article)
- In a significant development, **Bandhan Bank** has been granted authorization by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to serve as an authorized pension disbursement bank. This authorization is in association with the **Central Pension Accounting Office (CPAO)**, a part of the Ministry of Finance. The bank is set to collaborate closely with the CPAO to initiate and streamline the process of disbursing civil pensions. (Click here to read the article)

Economy Current Affairs

- On July 28, 2023, the **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)** announced a significant change in the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)** rules in India. As per the new guidelines, companies with a turnover of more than ₹5 crore will be required to generate electronic invoices (e-invoices) for their business-to-business (B2B) transactions or exports. (Click here to read the article)
- The **fiscal deficit** of the Indian government has reached 25.3% of the full-year target at the end of June 2023, as per data released by the **Controller General of Accounts (CGA)**. This article provides an overview of the fiscal deficit situation in India, comparing it to previous years and the government's projected targets for the current financial year (2023-24). (Click here to read the article)
- The Ministry of Finance has released data showing that the gross **goods and services tax (GST)** collection for July 2023 has surpassed the **Rs 1.65 lakh crore** mark. This marks the fifth instance of GST revenue crossing this threshold since its inception. The revenue for July 2023 is 11 percent higher than the same month last year, reflecting a positive trend in the country's economic growth. (Click here to read the article)
- **India's manufacturing sector** experienced a slight dip in growth momentum in July, with the **Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)** falling to 57.7 from 57.8 in June and 58.7 in May. However, the figure still indicates expansion in the sector. The buoyant demand, both domestic and in exports, played a crucial role in maintaining the growth momentum. Despite the recent easing in inflation, higher inflationary pressures remained a challenge for manufacturers. (Click here to read the article)
- In March 2023, the Indian government's debt stood at **₹155.6 lakh crore**, accounting for **57.1% of the country's GDP**. This represents a reduction from 61.5% of GDP in 2020-21, indicating efforts to manage debt levels. (Click here to read the article)

- The **51st** meeting of the **Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council** has decided to impose a **28% tax** on the full face value of bets placed on **online gaming**, which will be implemented from **1st October.** (Click here to read the article)
- In July, **India's services sector** experienced a significant rebound, achieving its highest growth in 13 years. The recovery was driven by robust demand and new business gains, leading to an increase in the S&P Global India **Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)** to a record high of 62.3. The PMI is a survey-based index that measures activity levels in the services sector. An index reading above 50 indicates expansion, while a reading below 50 suggests contraction. This positive trend has been ongoing for 23 consecutive months since August 2021. (Click here to read the article)
- S&P Global's report, titled **"Look Forward: India's Moment,"** projects India's economic growth trajectory from fiscal year 2023-24 (FY24) to FY31. The country is set to remain the fastest-growing large economy, with an expected GDP growth rate of 6% in FY24. S&P Global is optimistic about India's potential, forecasting an average growth rate of 6.7% per year during this period, driven primarily by capital expansion. The report envisions India's GDP to reach **$6.7 trillion by FY31**, and per capita GDP to rise to approximately **$4,500**. (Click here to read the article)
- In July, **retail inflation** in India experienced a significant upswing, reaching 7.44%, marking the highest rate since April 2022. This surge contrasts with the preceding four-month period of inflation below the central bank's 6% tolerance threshold. The increase is largely attributed to an 11.5% spike in food prices, making it the first time since September 2022 that the **price rise** has crossed the 7% mark. (Click here to read the article)

- In July, the **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** continued to exhibit deflationary trends for the fourth consecutive month, although the decline was notably mitigated by a substantial increase in food and primary article prices. While the overall **WPI deflation** shrank from June's 92-month low of -4.1% to -1.36%, a surge of over 7.5% in food and primary article prices played a pivotal role in this shift. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- In a recent development, the Indian government has decided to enhance the **windfall profit tax** on domestically produced crude oil and exported diesel. This decision is accompanied by the reintroduction of the tax on **aviation turbine fuel (ATF)** shipments abroad. These changes are being implemented through a **special additional excise duty (SAED)** mechanism, aimed at regulating profits derived from these energy sources. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- India's journey towards becoming a developed economy by 2047 has gained momentum, with a recent study conducted by SBI Research economists projecting a remarkable increase in per capita income. The study suggests that **India's per capita income** is poised to surge by 7.5 times, from Rs 2 lakh ($2,500) in FY23 to **Rs 14.9 lakh ($12,400)** per annum by FY47. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has emphasized this objective, aiming to turn the vision of a developed India into a reality by 2047. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- Crisil, a prominent rating agency, anticipates **India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth** to reach 6% in the fiscal year 2024. This projection is lower than the 7% estimated by the **National Statistical Organisation (NSO)** for the fiscal year 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- ICRA Ratings recently released a comprehensive report projecting a robust economic growth for India in the first quarter of the fiscal year 2023 (FY24). The report suggests that the country's **Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth** is expected to accelerate to **8.5% during the April-June period**, a significant increase from the **6.1% growth rate** witnessed in the preceding quarter (January-March). This projected growth is attributed to multiple factors, including a supportive base effect and a notable recovery in the services sector. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The latest government data reveals a noteworthy **decline** in **Foreign Direct Investment** (FDI) inflows into India during the **first quarter** of the fiscal year 2023-24. The decline, amounting to **34%**, saw FDI plummeting to **$10.94** billion from **$16.58** billion in the same period of the previous fiscal year. This downward trend was primarily influenced by **reduced investments** in key sectors such as **computer hardware and software**, **telecommunications**, **automotive**, and **pharmaceuticals**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- On **25th August**, the **Indian Cricket Board** announced that the **IDFC First Bank** has grabbed the title rights for **home international series of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for three years**. The IDFC First Bank will provide a sum of **Rs.4.2 crore per international match**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Business Current Affairs

- **Amazon India** has inaugurated its **first**-ever floating store on **Dal Lake** in Srinagar, Kashmir. This initiative aligns with Amazon India's commitment to providing customers with reliable and convenient delivery services, while simultaneously enabling small businesses to seize profitable earning prospects. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **India's eight core infrastructure sectors** have shown a notable growth rate of 8.2% in June, marking the highest in five months, according to the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry's** latest data released on July 31. These core sectors, including coal, crude oil, steel, cement, electricity, fertilizers, refinery products, and natural gas, play a crucial role in the country's industrial production. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- Tata Sons, the parent company of **Air India,** has introduced a new appearance and brand identity for the airline. This change includes a new logo and design, replacing the well-known mascot **"Maharaja."** This move comes as part of Tata Group's ongoing efforts to transform Air India since its acquisition more than a year ago. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Viacom18**, a prominent player in the Indian media and entertainment industry, has made significant strides in merging its two Over-The-Top (OTT) platforms, **JioCinema** and **Voot**. The integration process has reached an advanced stage, with technology backends fully aligned and a majority of Voot Select subscribers smoothly transitioning to JioCinema. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Hyundai Motor** Co's Indian subsidiary has announced its intention to acquire **General Motors' Talegaon plant** located in **Maharashtra**. This strategic move not only allows General Motors to exit the Indian market but also presents Hyundai with the opportunity to **increase** its annual production capacity. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Wipro Limited** has announced the establishment of a groundbreaking **Center of Excellence** (CoE) on **Generative Artificial Intelligence** (AI) in partnership with the esteemed **Indian Institute of Technology** (IIT) **Delhi**. This collaboration manifests Wipro's commitment to drive **continuous innovation** in emerging technologies, solidifying its position as a frontrunner in the tech industry. ([Click here to read the article](#))
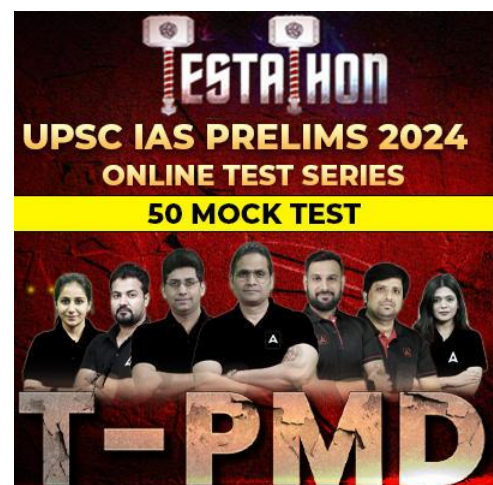
- **OpenAI** has successfully acquired **Global Illumination**, an ingenious startup based in **New York**, which harnesses the power of AI to **craft innovative creative tools**, digital experiences, and robust infrastructure. The acquisition signals OpenAI's commitment to amplify its capabilities and revolutionize the AI landscape. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- After a four-year interval, standalone **Microfinance Institutions (MFIs)** have reclaimed their dominant position in microlending, surpassing banks. This resurgence is attributed to their recovery from pandemic-induced setbacks and strategic efforts, with standalone MFIs now holding a 40% share of microfinance loans in the country. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The **Competition Commission of India** (CCI) has recently taken a stern stance against **Bharti Airtel**, imposing a **penalty of Rs 1 crore** for its failure to adhere to the stipulations outlined in **Section 6(2) of the Competition Act, 2002**. This move comes in relation to Bharti Airtel's acquisition of a stake in **Bharti Telemedia** from Lion Meadow Investment Limited, an affiliate entity of **Warburg Pincus**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- In a significant stride towards environmental responsibility, **Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL)**, a prominent state-owned engineering company, has successfully developed the first set of indigenous **Selective Catalyst Reactors (SCR) Catalysts**. These catalysts play a crucial role in mitigating nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions from thermal power plants. Previously reliant on imports, this achievement underscores the 'Make in India' initiative championed by the government. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Reliance Retail**, the retail arm of billionaire Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Ltd, has taken a significant step in the fashion retail sector with the introduction of its new brand, **Yousta**. The brand's debut was marked by the opening of its flagship store in **Hyderabad's Sarath City Mall**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- Online grocery delivery startup **Zepto** has successfully raised **$200 million** in a Series-E funding round, achieving a valuation of **$1.4 billion.** This achievement marks Zepto as the first unicorn of 2023. The funding was led by StepStone Group, a US-based private markets investment firm, and is StepStone Group's inaugural direct investment in an Indian company. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- In a significant partnership, **ACME Group**, a prominent renewable energy company, has joined forces with **Tata Steel Special Economic Zone Ltd. (TSSEZL)** to establish an expansive green hydrogen and green ammonia project within **Odisha's Gopalpur Industrial Park**. This venture is poised to become the largest facility of its kind in India, marking a significant stride towards sustainable energy production. ([Click here to read the article](#))

International Current Affairs

- China's capital, **Beijing**, experienced a historic deluge, recording a staggering 744.8 millimeters of rainfall over the course of five days. This torrential downpour, the **highest in 140 years**, was triggered by the remnants of **Typhoon Doksuri**, leaving streets submerged and residents stranded. The disaster has resulted in tragic fatalities, with at least 21 people losing their lives and 26 others still reported missing. Beijing and the surrounding **province of Hebei** faced severe flooding, causing extensive damage to infrastructure and posing a significant challenge to rescue operations. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- On July 26, an attempted **coup in Niger** shook the country's political stability and raised concerns over its efforts to combat the growing Islamist insurgency in the Sahel region. **President Mohamed Bazoum**, who came to power in 2021 through the country's first peaceful democratic transition, was ousted by mutinous soldiers. This article delves into the reasons behind the coup, its implications for the region, and the international response. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- In a significant development, the federal cabinet of **Pakistan** has quietly approved the signing of a new security pact with the **United States**. The Communication Interoperability and Security Memorandum of Agreement (CIS-MOA) will pave the way for enhanced defense ties between the two nations and may allow Pakistan to procure **military hardware** from Washington DC. This move comes after the previous agreement, signed in 2005, expired in 2020. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- In recent news, **Fitch**, one of the top-three global ratings agencies, downgraded the **United States' credit rating** from AAA to AA+. The AAA rating is the highest possible rating, indicating a country's strong ability to repay its debts. This article explores the significance of a AAA credit rating, lists the nations still holding the prestigious rating, and discusses the consequences of the U.S. losing its AAA status. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Iraq** has been officially recognized by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** as the 18th country to successfully eliminate trachoma as a public health concern. This achievement also marks Iraq as the fifth nation within the WHO's Eastern Mediterranean Region to accomplish this milestone. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- A new **COVID variant Eris or EG.5.1** is rapidly spreading across the country **United Kingdom**. Startlingly, one out of every seven COVID-19 cases in the UK is now linked to this variant. The spread of Eris is not limited only to **UK** but also across **Europe, Asia and North America**, marking its impact globally. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Cambodia's** King appointed **Hun Sen's** son the country's new leader, beginning a handover of power that ends nearly four decades of rule, but the outgoing Premier promised this was "not the end" of his political career. King Norodom Sihamoni issued a royal decree appointing **Hun Manet as Prime Minister,** after Mr. Hun Sen had announced last month that he was stepping down and handing power to his eldest son. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The **International Buddhist Confederation** (IBC) held the Bhumi Pujan ceremony for the construction of the **India International Centre for Buddhist Culture and Heritage** (IICBCH) in Lumbini, **Nepal.** ([Click here to read the article](#))

- In **July 2023**, our planet experienced an unprecedented rise in temperatures, marking it as the **hottest month** ever recorded. This alarming trend underscores the urgency of addressing global climate change and its root cause, greenhouse gas emissions. Let's delve into the key highlights and findings of this extraordinary month. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **China**, facing a significant economic challenge, saw its exports plummet by double digits in July, raising concerns for the Communist Party to steer the nation's economy out of its current slump. The decline, encompassing a 14.5% drop in exports compared to the previous year, is intensifying the urgency for policy measures to revive economic growth. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The media regulatory body of Iraq has issued a prohibition on the usage of the term '**homosexuality**' instructing both media and social media entities to employ the term '**sexual deviance**' in its place. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- In a significant political development, **Pakistan's President** took the step of dissolving the country's parliament as per the recommendation of Prime Minister **Shehbaz Sharif**. The lower house of the Parliament's five-year term is due to end on August 12. This move comes at a critical juncture as Pakistan grapples with both political and economic challenges. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- Australia's involvement in the **AUKUS (Australia, United Kingdom, United States)** pact has gained attention due to its potential role as a testing ground for advanced hypersonic and long-range precision weapons. The agreement, initially focused on supplying Australia with nuclear-powered submarines, has evolved to address the growing influence of China in the Asia-Pacific region. U.S. Secretary of the Army Christine Wormuth highlighted Australia's unique contributions and the collaborative nature of the pact. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- Deflation, the inverse of inflation, signifies a persistent decline in the general price levels of goods and services within an economy. The recent occurrence of deflation in China, the world's second-largest economy, has triggered concerns about its economic prospects and the need for robust policy responses from Beijing. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- In the aftermath of a recent **coup in Niger** on July 26, the **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)** faces a critical situation. The coup leaders have defied ECOWAS' deadline to reinstate the ousted president, prompting discussions among regional leaders. This article delves into the ongoing crisis, ECOWAS' response, and the potential implications for the region. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- In a significant development for **international students** aspiring to study in **Canada**, the country's Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has officially sanctioned the use of Pearson's **PTE Academic test** as an English language proficiency assessment. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Anwarul Haq Kakar**, a prominent ethnic **Pushtun leader** with close ties to the influential military, has taken the oath as the country's **caretaker prime minister**. With this appointment, Kakar is entrusted with the responsibility of **heading** an impartial administration, **supervising** the forthcoming general elections, and addressing the economic hurdles confronting the country. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **The Dutch economy** has entered a recession, shrinking **0.3%** on a quarterly basis in the second quarter. This is the first recession since the pandemic, and follows a 0.4% contraction in the first three months of the year. The eurozone's fifth largest economy was driven by a drop in consumer spending and exports. Consumer spending fell 1.6%, while exports were 0.7% lower than in the first three months of the year. Inflation in the Netherlands has dropped since hitting a peak of 14.5% in September 2022, but was still relatively high at about 6% in the second quarter of 2023. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **China's Inner Mongolia region** has reported two cases of bubonic plague, causing concerns amid previous infections and highlighting the need for vigilant containment efforts. The new cases involve close relatives of a previously infected individual. **Bubonic plague** is a highly infectious disease, primarily transmitted through rodents, and can be fatal if not treated promptly. The region's health authorities are taking proactive measures to prevent the further spread of the disease. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- India's collaboration with **Russia's Arctic region** is on the rise, evidenced by its substantial contribution to cargo handled at **Murmansk port**. This strategic port, positioned about 2,000 km northwest of **Moscow**, serves as a key northern gateway for Russia, and in the first seven months of 2023, it handled a total of eight million tonnes of cargo. Notably, India's share accounted for 35% of this cargo, primarily consisting of coal destined for the eastern coast of India. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Russia** has launched an **e-visa facility for Indians** from August 1, allowing travellers to the country to surpass the hassles of obtaining a regular visa. The e-visa facility, also available for travellers from 54 other countries, does not require a visit to consulates or embassies. (Click here to read the article)

- Deep within the heart of the **Amazon rainforest** lies an extraordinary tale – that of the **Piripkura tribe.** This story revolves around Tamandua Piripkura, one of the last remaining three survivors of this indigenous community. Their journey encapsulates the unyielding struggle of Indigenous people against the encroachment of the modern world. (Click here to read the article)

- Thai property tycoon **Srettha Thavisin** has been elected as the new **prime minister of Thailand** following a decisive win in a parliamentary vote. The 60-year-old Thavisin's victory in the parliamentary vote, with the support of two-thirds of the assembly, ends weeks of political uncertainty that followed an election held 100 days ago. (Click here to read the article)

- The **U.S. Food and Drug Administration** (FDA) recently grants approval to the **first vaccine** created to forestall **(Respiratory Syncytial Virus) RSV-associated LRTD (Lower respiratory tract disease)** and severe cases in infants spanning **birth to 6 months**. This momentous decision is fostering optimism among parents and healthcare providers working diligently to protect the well-being of these susceptible infants. (Click here to read the article)

- Since its resurgence in January 2021, the highly contagious **African Swine Fever (ASF) virus** has rampantly spread across the globe, infiltrating 49 countries by August 2023. The virus, infamous for its nearly **100% fatality rate** among domestic and wild pigs, has wrought havoc on pig populations, with over 1.5 million animals lost within this timeframe. The **World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)**, a prominent intergovernmental organization dedicated to combatting animal diseases, released a report detailing this alarming spread on August 21, 2023. (Click here to read the article)

- In a significant geopolitical development, the **BRICS** alliance, comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, has announced the inclusion of six new member countries. This expansion marks a notable shift in the alliance's composition and has the potential to reshape the dynamics of global cooperation. The expanded BRICS now welcomes **Argentina, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, and Egypt** into its fold. (Click here to read the article)

- In a significant event attended by senior Iranian officials, the Islamic Republic recently introduced its latest achievement in unmanned aerial technology – the **Mohajer-10 drone**. As reported by state media, this cutting-edge unmanned aerial vehicle boasts an impressive range of **2,000 kilometers** (1,240 miles). (Click here to read the article)

- Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** embarked on a landmark visit to **Greece**, marking a significant diplomatic milestone as he became the first Indian Prime Minister to set foot in the country in 40 years. This visit is aimed at fortifying the bilateral relationship between India and Greece, and it comes at the invitation of Greek Prime Minister **Kyriakos Mitsotakis**. (Click here to read the article)

- On his visit to **Greece**, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** engaged in a solemn and symbolic act by paying his respects to the **'Tomb of the Unknown Soldier'** in Athens. This gesture took place amidst a series of diplomatic activities during his European tour, highlighting India's commitment to global partnerships. (Click here to read the article)

- **Emmerson Mnangagwa** has been declared the winner of **Zimbabwe's presidential election**, securing a **second term** as the nation's leader. The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) announced Mnangagwa as the victor with **52.6% of the vote**, while his closest rival, **Nelson Chamisa** of the **Citizens' Coalition for Change** (CCC), trailed behind at 44%. (Click here to read the article)

- The **Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment, and Climate Change (KDMECC)** is a significant agreement adopted by **48 African countries** to address the complex relationship between human mobility and climate change. This declaration, initially signed by 15 African states in 2022, provides an action-oriented framework for member states to manage climate-induced migration effectively. (Click here to read the article)

- The **ORON aircraft**, a result of **Israel's Defense Ministry's** groundbreaking progress, signifies a remarkable advancement in the nation's military capabilities. This **intelligence-gathering aircraft** is poised to revolutionize Israel's defense strategy with its cutting-edge technology and capabilities. (Click here to read the article)

National Current Affairs

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** announced the launch of "**Meri Mati Mera Desh**" campaign in run-up to Independence Day to **honor the martyred bravehearts** of the country. (Click here to read the article)

- The **Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam 2023**, graced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, witnessed the inauguration of the ULLAS: Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. The initiative, introduced by Union Minister **Dharmendra Pradhan**, aims to revolutionize education and literacy in India by creating a comprehensive learning ecosystem that bridges gaps in basic literacy and critical life skills. It coincided with the third anniversary of NEP 2020. (Click here to read the article)

- Union Minister **Bhupender Yadav**, in line with India's G20 Presidency, launched the **Resource Efficiency Circular Economy Industry Coalition (RECEIC)** in Chennai. The coalition aims to promote resource efficiency and circular economy practices worldwide, bringing together companies from various sectors and countries. The event took place during the G20's Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group and Environment and Climate Ministers meeting. (Click here to read the article)

- The **Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)** recently conducted a comprehensive analysis of the assets of MLAs from various political parties in India. The report sheds light on the average wealth of MLAs, the percentage of **billionaire MLAs**, and the representation of women in state assemblies. **Karnataka** emerges as the state with the highest average assets per MLA and the highest number of billionaire MLAs, while Uttar Pradesh lags behind in both categories. (Click here to read the article)

- The **Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023**, was recently passed by the Indian Parliament, enabling the private sector to undertake mining operations for six out of **12 atomic minerals, including lithium**, as well as deep-seated minerals like gold and silver. This landmark decision seeks to boost domestic exploration and production of critical minerals and accelerate the growth of industries relying on these resources. (Click here to read the article)

- The **Union Education Ministry** on **2nd August** constituted an **Expert Panel to revise anti-discrimination guidelines** with respect to the Scheduled caste, ST, OBC, person with disabilities and other minorities in higher educational institution. (Click here to read the article)

- The National Deep Tech Startup Policy (NDTSP) Consortium has unveiled the **Draft National Deep Tech Startup Policy** for public consultation, seeking to meet the demands and **strengthen** the **Indian deep tech startup ecosystem. (**Click here to read the article**)**

- The President of India commenced the **'Unmesha'** International Literature Festival and the **'Utkarsh'** Festival of Folk and Tribal Performing Arts in Bhopal, **Madhya Pradesh**. These festivals, organized by the **Sahitya Akademi** and **Sangeet Natak Akademi**, respectively, have a shared purpose of celebrating inclusivity and cultural diversity in the region. With the participation of over 800 artists from various states and Union Territories, the events promise to be a vibrant showcase of artistic expressions. (Click here to read the article)

- **To improve the highway user experience and offer seamless travel on Indian National Highways, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has taken a significant step by introducing the 'Rajmargyatra' mobile application. This unified app aims to provide comprehensive information and efficient complaint redressal for national highway users, making travel safer and more convenient. (**Click here to read the article**)**

- The Lok Sabha pass**ed the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023**, replacing the ordinance on control of services in Delhi. The passage of the Bill was met with protests and a walkout by some Opposition parties. (Click here to read the article)

- The Finance Ministry of India elevated two major oil sector companies, **Oil India** and **ONGC Videsh**, to the esteemed **Maharatna** and **Navratna** categories, respectively, granting them increased autonomy for investment, joint venture establishment, and other financial decisions. (Click here to read the article)

- **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** introduced a new **Ayush (AY) visa for foreign nationals for treatment under Ayush systems/Indian systems of medicine like therapeutic care, wellness and Yoga.** With this, a new chapter i.e. chapter 11A – Ayush Visa has been incorporated after Chapter 11 – Medical visa of the Visa Manual, which deals with treatment under the Indian systems of medicine and accordingly necessary amendments has been made in various chapters of the Visa Manual, 2019. AYUSH is an acronym for Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy. (Click here to read the article)

- The **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade** (DPIIT) has recognized 98,911 entities under the Startup India initiative since its launch on January 16, 2016. The primary goal behind this initiative is to create a robust ecosystem that fosters **innovation**, encourages entrepreneurship, and attracts **private investments** in the startup sector, thereby driving sustainable economic growth and generating employment opportunities on a large scale.

- In a significant late-night decision, the **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)** announced the postponement of the licensing mandate for the import of laptops, tablets, and personal computers in India. The government had earlier imposed import restrictions on these products due to security concerns and to boost domestic manufacturing. However, in light of recent developments, the implementation of the restrictions has been deferred until November 1, 2023. (Click here to read the article)

- The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has developed The **'MASI'** application for **real-time monitoring** of Child Care Institutions (CCIs) and their inspection process across the country. (Click here to read the article)

- **As of 5 August 2023**, it has been **four years since the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir**. The decision to abolish the special status of the region and end its autonomy was a significant and historic move made by the Indian Government on **August 5, 2019.** The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) aims to transform and revitalize 1,309 railway stations across the nation, enhancing the overall passenger experience and making them world-class travel hubs. **(**Click here to read the article**)**

- Based on the recommendations of the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), the revenue department has imposed an **anti-dumping duty** on Dispersion Unshifted **Single-Mode Optical Fiber** (SMOF) imports from China, South Korea and Indonesia. (Click here to read the article)

- Recently, the **Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Jaydeep Dhankar** raised complaints against two prominent opposition members- **Derek O'Brien from the TMC and Raghav Chadha from Aam Aadmi Party**. The complaints, which pertain to alleged breaches of parliamentary privileges, have further intensified the ongoing political tussle during the sittings. (Click here to read the article)

- The Union Cabinet has approved the final phase of the **last-mile** optical fiber-based broadband connectivity plan, covering 6.4 lakh villages across India under the **BharatNet project**. This initiative is supported by a budget of Rs 1.39 lakh crore. Through this enhancement, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) seeks to accelerate the endeavor of **linking** all 6.4 lakh villages within the upcoming two and a half years. The ongoing progress has seen nearly **1.94 lakh villages** already integrated into the BharatNet project. (Click here to read the article)

- The **Delhi Services Bill**, officially known as the **Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023** has been passed with total **131 votes votes in favour and 102 against in Rajya Sabha**. It aims to replace an existing ordinance that has caused conflicts between the **Aam Aadmi Party,** led by the Delhi **CM Arvind Kejriwal and the Central Government. (**Click here to read the article**)**

- The **Atal Pension Yojana** (APY) scheme has reached a remarkable milestone as it completes **eight years** of successful implementation, gathering an impressive enrollment of over 5.25 crore subscribers. (Click here to read the article)

- Union Health & Family Welfare Minister, Mansukh Mandaviya, made the announcement to **eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis** by **2027** during the inauguration of the second phase of the Annual Nationwide Mass Drug Administration (MDA) initiative. (Click here to read the article)

- In a proactive effort to modernize and streamline access to justice, Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y Chandrachud unveiled the **'SuSwagatam'** portal. This innovative platform offers a convenient way for advocates, litigants, and citizens to secure **QR code-based ePasses**, granting them entry to the esteemed halls of the Supreme Court. (Click here to read the article)

- In a recent development, the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** of the Government of India has taken a significant step by replacing the existing Standing **Committee on Economic Statistics (SCES)** with a more comprehensive entity called the Standing Committee on Statistics (SCoS). This new committee has been entrusted with a broader mandate, involving the review of both the framework and outcomes of all surveys conducted under the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**. (Click here to read the article)

- Vice President **Jagdeep Dhankhar** has flagged off the **'Har Ghar Tiranga'** motorcycle rally at **Pragati Maidan in Delhi.** As part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) initiative, the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign is scheduled to take place nationwide from August 13 to 15. The campaign aims to inspire individuals to proudly display the national flag at their residences. (Click here to read the article)

- India is embarking on a bold journey to significantly enhance its current 6% share of **natural gas** within its energy mix to a robust 15% by the year 2030. This audacious endeavor is being spearheaded by **Rameswar Teli**, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. The government is resolutely pursuing an array of far-reaching strategies to realize this vision, as elaborated by the minister in a written response to the Lok Sabha. (Click here to read the article)

- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** introduced three new bills in **Lok Sabha** to reform the criminal justice system in India. Among these bills is the **Bharatiya Sakshya Bill**, which aims to replace the outdated **Indian Evidence Act of 1872**. This move is in response to the need for legal reforms that align with technological advancements and societal changes. (Click here to read the article)

- Shri **Dharmendra Pradhan**, Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, inaugurated the **Direct Benefit Transfer** (DBT) in the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) to **strengthen apprenticeship training** and encouraging the involvement of both industries and young individuals. (Click here to read the article)

- The **Railways Ministry** is embarking on a significant endeavor aimed at establishing **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras** (PMBJKs) at **railway stations** throughout the country. This initiative holds the primary objective of ensuring the **availability of top-notch medicines** to the public, all while maintaining an **affordable price** point. (Click here to read the article)

- The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, has given its approval for seven ambitious railway projects, signaling an investment of **₹32,500 crore**. These projects, announced by Union Railway Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw**, are set to revolutionize Indian Railways' efficiency and capacity through transformative initiatives. The projects, adopting the **Engineering, Procurement, and Construction (EPC) model**, are expected to usher in a new era of connectivity and accessibility across various regions. (Click here to read the article)

- In a significant move towards enhancing urban transportation and promoting **electric mobility**, the Union Cabinet has given its nod to the **"PM-eBus Sewa" scheme**. This initiative is aimed at expanding city bus operations by deploying **10,000 electric buses** through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. (Click here to read the article)

- The historical use of air power in **Mizoram** during the 1966 insurgency has recently gained attention due to its mention by **Prime Minister Modi** in response to a no-confidence motion. This article delves into the events surrounding the Mizoram insurgency of 1966, the government's response, the involvement of the **Indian Air Force (IAF)**, and the aftermath of **Operation Jericho**. (Click here to read the article)

- **Bengaluru**, often hailed as **nation's tech capital**, has welcomed the **India's first** 3D-printed post office. Located in **Cambridge Layout** near Ulsoor, this post office has set a new benchmark for efficiency, sustainability, and design. (Click here to read the article)

- The Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC), Shri **Kushvinder Vohra**, has taken a groundbreaking step towards **enhancing flood preparedness and response** by unveiling the "**FloodWatch**" mobile application. This revolutionary app is designed to harness the power of mobile phones to disseminate **real-time flood-related information and forecasts** to the public, up to **7 days in advance**. The app, which offers both readable and audio broadcasts, is available in two languages, **English** and **Hindi**, making it accessible to a wider audience. (Click here to read the article)

- The **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** has embarked on a groundbreaking project to construct the **'Likaru-Mig La-Fukche' road** in the Demchok sector of Ladakh. (Click here to read the article)

- **President Droupadi Murmu** has officially granted her assent to two crucial pieces of legislation, namely the **Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023**, and the **Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023**. Both of these bills, which had recently received approval from the Parliament, have now become law with the President's endorsement. (Click here to read the article)

- In a significant tribute to the tireless efforts and remarkable leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has introduced a new lotus species called **'Namoh 108'**. This unveiling took place during a special event at the **CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI)** in Lucknow. The lotus, which boasts an astonishing 108 petals, was discovered several years ago in the region of Manipur and has since been part of the institute's collection of flora under study. (Click here to read the article)

- **India** has announced the definition of **Green Hydrogen.** The **Green Hydrogen Standard for India** sets a criterion of 2 kg CO2 equivalent per kg **H2 as a 12-month average emission threshold.** It is a significant move for the progress of the National Green Hydrogen Mission. The guidelines established by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India, delineate the emission benchmarks that must be fulfilled for hydrogen production to qualify as 'Green', signifying its origin from renewable sources. (Click here to read the article)

- **The Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP)** was launched by Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways **Shri Nitin Gadkari** on August 22, 2023, in New Delhi. The program aims to enhance road safety by elevating vehicle safety standards for up to 3.5-tonne vehicles in India. Bharat NCAP will also greatly push the safety and quality of the vehicles in India, while simultaneously promoting a healthy competition among OEMs to manufacture safer vehicles. (Click here to read the article)

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was on a three-day visit to South Africa to attend the 15th BRICS summit, presented special gifts to the organization's leaders including South African president Cyril Ramaphosa, First Lady of South Africa Tshepo Motsepe, and Brazilian president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. PM Modi gifts **Bidri Surahi, Nagaland Shawl, and Gond Painting to BRICS leaders. (**Click here to read the article**)**

- In a significant step towards fostering innovation in the field of **green hydrogen**, Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** has launched strategic partnerships between **HSBC India** and prominent institutions, namely the **Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay**, and the **Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation** (SSEF). (Click here to read the article)

- President **Droupadi Murmu** unveiled a commemorative coin in honor of the legendary **actor** and **former chief minister** of **Andhra Pradesh**, late **N T Rama Rao**. The ceremony took place at the esteemed **Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre**, marking the **centenary year** of N T Rama Rao's remarkable life and contributions. (Click here to read the article)

- **Akashvani,** India's national public radio broadcaster, organized a special event on **28th August in New Delhi** as part of the **Know India Programme (KIP),** an initiative **under the aegis of Ministry of External Affairs.** The event witnessed the participation of **around 55 students of Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs)** who had gathered from various corners of the world. (Click here to read the article)
- The **National Council of Educational Research and Training** (NCERT) has taken a significant step towards **fostering patriotism** and inculcating core values in school children by introducing a new chapter in the **Class 7** English textbook. The chapter, titled "**A Homage to Our Brave Soldiers,**" revolves around the **National War Memorial** and its profound significance in the history of India. (Click here to read the article)
- **India** is now all set to open a climate change and health hub in the national capital Delhi in partnership with the **Asian Development Bank (ADB).** Earlier, India had bagged the first **WHO Centre for Global Traditional Medicine.**

WHO Centre for Global Traditional Medicine was set up in **Jamnagar, Gujarat.** (Click here to read the article)
- In a groundbreaking move towards a more sustainable automotive industry, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister **Nitin Gadkari** introduced the world to a remarkable innovation: a **100% ethanol-fueled variant of Toyota's Innova HyCross car**. The newly unveiled car stands as the world's premier **BS-VI (Stage-II) electrified flex-fuel vehicle**, demonstrating the union of **cutting-edge technology** and a commitment to **reducing carbon emissions**. (Click here to read the article)
- India, as the current chair of the **Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)** and the G20, is set to host the first-ever **Global IndiaAI 2023 Summit** on October 14 and 15. This momentous event will bring together prominent figures in the field of **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**, including researchers, startups, investors, and leading AI players, from around the world. (Click here to read the article)

States Current Affairs

- The **Maharashtra Government** will confer Tata group Chairman **Ratan Tata** with the first prestigious **Maharashtra Udyog Ratna Award this year,** state industries minister Uday Samant announced in the State Legislative Assembly. (Click here to read the article)
- **Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath** launched **Command Centre and CM Dashboard** to ensure needy and deserving have access to the benefits of the government schemes and services. (Click here to read the article)
- **Foxconn** Technology Group, a prominent Taiwanese company and a key supplier to Apple Inc., has pledged to invest ₹1,600 crore in establishing a manufacturing facility in **Kancheepuram** district, **Tamil Nadu**. The commitment was made in the presence of Chief Minister M.K. Stalin and Foxconn Chairman Young Liu during Mr. Liu's first visit to the state. The investment is expected to create significant employment opportunities and boost the electronics manufacturing sector in Tamil Nadu. (Click here to read the article)
- The Assam government has taken a significant step towards enhancing its forest cover and combating climate change by announcing a massive initiative called '**Amrit Brikshya Andolan**'. This ambitious project aims to plant **1 crore** saplings in a single day in September, marking a crucial milestone in the state's efforts to boost its **green economy** and contribute to the fight against global warming. (Click here to read the article)
- The **Patna High Court** ordered to resume the **caste based survey** in Bihar, which was first started by **Patna DM Chandrashekhar** himself in **Ward 10, Phulwarisharif, Patna**. (Click here to read the article)
- The **Tamil** Cultural community celebrates **Aadi Perukku**, also known as Pathinettam Perukku, as an auspicious festival to honor the **monsoon season** and the fertility of the soil. (Click here to read the article)

- Odisha Government expanded the coverage of Social Security Scheme to **50 more categories** of unorganised workers which include **delivery boys, boatmen and photographers**, the scheme aims to provide financial assistance in case of accidental or natural death. (Click here to read the article)
- The **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development** (NABARD) has sanctioned a total amount of Rs 1,974.07 crore to the **Rajasthan government** under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for the financial year 2023-24. This substantial funding aims to uplift the living conditions of rural communities and drive economic growth in the region. (Click here to read the article)
- The **Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board (TNPCB)** is set to conduct a public hearing on the proposed expansion of **Adani group's Kattupalli Port** in Tiruvallur district. The project, which was initially scheduled for a hearing in January 2021 but was delayed due to COVID-19, has drawn strong opposition from environmentalists and opposition parties. (Click here to read the article)
- The **Bihar government** to constitute **'Rhino Task Force'** for suggesting measures for the reintroduction of rhino conservation scheme in **'Valmiki Tiger Reserve'** in **West Champaran district**. (Click here to read the article)
- The **Bharti Institute of Public Policy**, a renowned think tank under the Indian School of Business (ISB), and the Government of **Goa** have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a **knowledge partnership**. This strategic alliance is geared towards advancing evidence-based policy formulation and **fostering impactful governance** in the state of Goa. (Click here to read the article)

- According to a report on **Asian Elephant population and demography 2023**, the state of **Karnataka** has witnessed a remarkable increase in elephant population. The number of elephants in Karnataka has surged from an estimated 6,049 in 2017 to an impressive **6,395**, making it the **highest elephant-populated region** in the country. The report was introduced ahead of the approaching World Elephant Day on **August 12**, with the aim of raising awareness about the critical need to conserve and safeguard these animals. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- In a significant move aimed at embracing its cultural and linguistic heritage, the **Kerala** Legislative Assembly has passed a resolution requesting the Central government to change the name of the state from 'Kerala' to '**Keralam**'. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- To celebrate **World Lion Day,** Chief Minister **Bhupendra Patel of Gujarat** introduced a new mobile application called '**Sinh Suchna'.** The launch event, held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, signifies a significant step towards modern wildlife conservation, enabling both the state's forest department and the general public to effectively monitor lion movements. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- According to the **Indian Council of Medical Research Cancer Registry data, Uttar Pradesh**, registered the highest count of cancer cases in India. During the year 2022, the state documented an astonishing **210,000** new cases, marking a significant uptick from the 201,000 cases registered in 2020. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- In a significant step towards harnessing renewable energy and reducing power deficits, Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma launched the **Chief Minister's Solar Mission**, a pioneering initiative aimed at ushering in a **new era of green progress** for the north eastern hill state. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- In a significant stride towards accessible and affordable healthcare, **Goa** has emerged as the trailblazer among Indian states by introducing free **In vitro fertilization** (IVF) treatment. This groundbreaking initiative, coupled with assisted reproductive technology (ART) and intrauterine insemination (IUI), was officially inaugurated by Chief Minister **Pramod Sawant** at the **Goa Medical College** (GMC) in Bambolim. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation** (TIDCO), the nodal agency overseeing the implementation of the Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor (TNDIC), is set to establish India's **first Unmanned Aerial Systems (Drone) Common Testing Centre** at an outlay of Rs 45 crore. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- In a significant move towards improving early childhood development and maternal mental health, the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has sanctioned a USD 40.5 million loan for the northeastern Indian state of **Meghalaya**. This strategic initiative, supported by the Meghalaya government's contribution of USD 15.27 million, aims to fortify both home-based and center-based childcare services through the establishment and enhancement of daycare centers known as **Anganwadi centers. (**[Click here to read the article](#)**)**

- In a significant step towards preserving and celebrating India's rich socio-cultural heritage, Goa's Chief Minister Pramod Sawant unveiled a groundbreaking initiative – The **Biodiversity Atlas of Mayem Village**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- At an occasion held at the Raj Bhavan, President **Droupadi Murmu** launched the '**My Bengal, Addiction-Free Bengal**' campaign, a vital undertaking organised by the **Brahma Kumaris**, aimed at tackling the prevalent issue of **drug usage** among the youth. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- In a significant stride towards **enhancing the air travel experience** in the Northeastern region of India, **Guwahati's Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport** (LBBI) has become the **first airport** in the area to introduce the innovative '**Digi Yatra**' facility. This cutting-edge service is set to revolutionize the way passengers navigate through airports, providing a seamless and hassle-free journey. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- In a significant stride towards resolving the water crisis gripping **Chennai** city, Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister, M K Stalin, has laid the foundation stone for what is set to become **South East Asia's largest water desalination project**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The enchanting festivities of **Onam**, a significant cultural celebration in the state of **Kerala**, have graced the calendar from **August 20** to **August 31** this year. Stretching over a span of ten days, the Thiru-Onam or **Thiruvonam** celebrations carry an air of excitement and exuberance as they commemorate the return of the revered **King Mahabali**, also known as Maveli. This vibrant festival is an emblem of Kerala's rich heritage and cultural splendor. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- The state of **Kerala** introduces its **first AI school** situated at **Santhigiri Vidyabhavan** in **Thiruvananthapuram**. It was inaugurated by the Former President of India, **Ram Nath Kovind**. This inaugural ceremony heralded the inception of a fresh era in the educational domain, distinguished by innovative technology and forward-looking pedagogical methods. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- Under the "**100 Microsites**" initiative, the **National Health Authority** (NHA) of India has unveiled the **first Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission** (ABDM) **Microsite** in the capital city of **Mizoram.** This achievement is poised to transform the healthcare sector by propelling the **advantages of digitalization** to the forefront. (Click here to read the article)

- The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization** (UNESCO) and the Information Technology, Electronics and Communications (ITE&C) Department of the **Government of Telangana** have forged a pioneering partnership to infuse the **Ethics of AI** into the very essence of artificial intelligence systems. (Click here to read the article)

- In a decisive move towards environmental conservation, the **Assam** Environment and Forest Department has taken a significant step by announcing the ban on the use and production of **plastic water bottles below 1000 ml capacity** within the state. This transformative initiative, set to be enforced from **October 2** this year, reflects Assam's commitment to **combat plastic pollution** and promote sustainable practices. (Click here to read the article)

- The **Uttar Pradesh Cabinet**, under the leadership of Chief Minister **Yogi Adityanath**, has given the green light to several important proposals, highlighting the government's commitment to education and youth empowerment. (Click here to read the article)

- The Indian city of **Kolkata** has taken a significant step forward by adopting an **Air Quality Early Warning System** (AQEWS), developed by the **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology** (IITM) based in **Pune**. This system offers both **real-time air pollution data and forecasts**, with the objective of enhancing readiness and facilitating measures to **tackle the escalating air pollution levels** within the city. (Click here to read the article)

- In a significant move aimed at enhancing **decentralization of governance** and improving the convergence of line departments, the Assam cabinet has taken a bold step by creating **four new districts** that were previously abolished last year in December. With the addition of these new districts, Assam's total district count will reach **35**. The newly formed districts are **Hojai**, **Biswanath**, **Tamulpur**, and **Bajali**. (Click here to read the article)

- **Illegal coal mining** poses a significant risk to both the environment and the economy of India. In response to this issue, the government has introduced the **Khanan Prahari App.** This mobile application allows citizens to report any suspicious activities related to coal mining in their vicinity, thereby contributing to the fight against this illegal practice. (Click here to read the article)

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** on 27 August raised the financial aid given to women in the **Ladli Behna Scheme from ₹1,000 to ₹1,250 per month.** Apart from this, the MP CM also announced 35 percent reservation for them in government jobs and said cooking gas cylinders will be provided to women at ₹450 in August to mark 'Sawan'. (Click here to read the article)

- In the first quarter of the fiscal year 2023-24, **Maharashtra** has emerged as the front-runner in attracting **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)**. Deputy Chief Minister **Devendra Fadnavis** proudly announced that the state secured the top position by attracting FDI amounting to **Rs 36,634 crore**. This noteworthy achievement places Maharashtra ahead of other prominent states like Delhi, Karnataka, and Telangana, whose cumulative FDI values trail behind. (Click here to read the article)

Schemes and Committees

- In Financial Year (FY) 2022-23, the **Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY)** has achieved a significant milestone by sanctioning over 6.23 crore loans. The Union Minister for State for Finance, **Dr. Bhagwat Kisanrao Karad**, shared this information in a written reply during a Lok Sabha session. The PMMY aims to facilitate access to institutional finance for new and existing micro units or enterprises, offering loans of up to 10 lakh rupees. (Click here to read the article)

- The **National Mission on Libraries** is an initiative of the **Ministry of Culture** under the Government of India, aimed at the modernization and digital interconnection of almost 9,000 libraries throughout the country. Its primary goal is to grant readers easy **access** to a vast array of books and information. The ambitious project is estimated to cost approximately 1000 crores. It has been specifically designed to cater the needs of a diverse audience, including students, researchers, scientists, professionals,

children, artists, and **differently-abled** individuals. (Click here to read the article)

- Project Tiger and Project Elephant, two significant conservation initiatives in India, have been merged under a new division called **'Project Tiger and Elephant Division'** by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). Recently, the Prime Minister also commended the success of Project Tiger on its **50th** anniversary. (Click here to read the article)

- The **NTA has started the registration** procedure of the applicants for the scholarship programme on the **NTA's website** by **10th August 2023 under the YASASVI Scheme.** The National Testing Agency (NTA) has started the application procedure **for the scholarship entrance examination 2023** launched under the scheme of PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India (YASASVI). (Click here to read the article)

- The ministry of education has selected **Oracle Cloud Infrastructure** to modernise the national education technology platform **Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA), t**he company. The migration will help make DIKSHA more accessible and lower its IT costs. Under the seven-year collaboration pact, OCI will help the ministry use DIKSHA to provide educational resources to millions of additional students, teachers and collaborators across the country. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Department of Expenditure** under the Ministry of Finance has launched **Vivad se Vishwas 2 .0** also known as **Contractual Disputes scheme** to settle long-standing contractual disputes involving the government and government undertakings. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** is set to virtually lay the foundation stone for the redevelopment of 508 railway stations across **India** on August 6. The ambitious project, executed under the **Amrit Bharat Scheme**, aims to enhance passenger amenities and improve **railway infrastructure**. With an estimated cost of ₹24,470 crore, the redevelopment work is a significant step towards modernizing the railway system. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The State government of **Kerala** has launched a groundbreaking scheme called **'Shubhayatra'**. The scheme aims to provide much-needed **financial support** to first-time **overseas emigrants** from Kerala, facilitating a positive and productive migration ecosystem. With a financial assistance of up to ₹2 lakh, a tax holiday for six months, and attractive interest subvention, the scheme intends to help eligible candidates cover the incidental expenses associated with **overseas employment**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Ministry implemented **'Naya Savera'** scheme also known as **'Free Coaching and Allied'** scheme to assist students/candidates belonging to the **six minority communities** namely Sikh, Jain, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist and Parsi by way of special coaching for qualifying examinations. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Chief Justice of India, D.Y. Chandrachud** has announced the formation of an **all-women panel** to help bring healing and relief to the violence-stricken region in **Manipur.** The panel will consist of **three former High Court judges**, with **Justice Gita Mittal as its head.** The panel aims to provide healing touch to the situation in Manipur. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- As part of the flagship **Godhan Nyay Yojna** (GNY) initiated by the Chhattisgarh government, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel conducted **online transfers** exceeding Rs **15 crore** to support cattle rearers, women's self-help groups (SHGs), and 'gauthan' committees. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Bhu-Vision (also known as KRISHI-RASTAA Soil Testing System)** is a revolutionary IoT-based automated soil testing and agronomy advisory platform that was recently launched in India. This system is a game-changer for India's agriculture sector. It is a smart, fast, easy, affordable, and accessible solution for soil testing and agronomy. It has

- been jointly developed by **ICAR-IIRR(Indian Council of Agricultural Research -Indian Institute of Rice Research) and KrishiTantra. (**[Click here to read the article](#)**)**
- According to the recent data, a significant backlog of pending crop **insurance claims** totally approximately **Rs.2,716.10 crore** was revealed **till 2021-22** under the **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY)**. The maximum pendency of crop insurance claims is in **Rajasthan, followed by Maharashtra and Gujarat.** ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Chief Minister **Ashok Gehlot of Rajasthan** has launched the **"Indira Gandhi Free Smartphone Yojana 2023."** This program provides free mobile phones, internet, and voice call services to women in the state. The distribution of smartphones will take place from August 10 to August 30, 2023, prioritizing widows and divorced women. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)**, India's top advisory body for school education, has taken a significant step towards textbook revision. The council has formed a 19-member committee responsible for aligning school syllabi, textbooks, teaching materials, and learning resources with the **National Curriculum Framework (NCF)**. The committee's mandate covers Classes 3 to 12, and it also aims to ensure a seamless transition from Classes 1 and 2 to subsequent grades. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's** recent announcement of the Vishwakarma Yojana in his Independence Day address has paved the way for a new scheme aimed at bolstering the livelihood prospects of **traditional artisans and craftspeople**. Following this announcement, the Union Cabinet swiftly approved the scheme, demonstrating its commitment to promoting and preserving traditional skills and crafts. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Ministry of Education** has introduced the **Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan** (PM-USHA), a central scheme aimed at enhancing access, equity, and excellence in higher education across States and Union Territories. However, the requirement for implementing the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and **adopting certain academic criteria** to avail funds has sparked controversy, making the scheme seem exclusivist. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)** in India has taken a proactive step towards promoting **gender equality** within the nation's **aviation sector**. On August 10, 2023, the DGCA established a four-member committee composed of senior officers to devise strategies and recommendations aimed at achieving gender parity in the industry. The committee's objective is to propose actionable measures that the DGCA can implement to foster gender equality in the aviation sector. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- In a significant development, the cabinet has given its nod to the extension of the **Digital India project**, allocating a substantial budget of ₹14,903 crore. Union Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** announced this decision, highlighting that the extended initiative will build upon the achievements of its previous iteration. (Click here to read the article)

- In a significant move to empower women and foster economic growth, the Indian government has announced the **'Lakhpati Didi' scheme**, aiming to provide skill training to two crore women across the nation. The scheme, previously implemented in select states, now seeks to expand its reach and impact on a national scale. (Click here to read the article)

- The Maharashtra government has taken a significant step towards enhancing connectivity and improving the lives of tribal communities in the state. The **Bhagwan Birsa Munda Jodaraste Scheme** aims to link all tribal villages in 17 districts of **Maharashtra** with main roads, effectively addressing the challenges faced by these communities in accessing essential services. The project, estimated at a cost of Rs 5,000 crore, will involve the construction of approximately 6,838 kilometers of roads. (Click here to read the article)

- In an impressive achievement, the total number of **Jan Dhan accounts** in India has crossed the significant 50 crore mark within a span of fewer than 9 years. This successful initiative has brought about substantial changes in the nation's financial landscape, according to an official statement from the finance ministry. (Click here to read the article)

- On August 21, 2023, the **Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region** announced the continuation of the **North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS)** with an approved budget of Rs. 8139.50 crore for the period 2022-2023 to 2025-2026. This initiative aims to bolster infrastructure development, particularly in connectivity and social sectors, within the North Eastern States. (Click here to read the article)

- The **Ministry of Defence** in India has taken a significant decision to undertake a **comprehensive revamp** of the **Defence Research and Development Organisation** (DRDO). Long recognized for its delayed projects and cost overruns, the DRDO is now set to undergo a transformation **to enhance its technological advancements** beyond the missile program. (Click here to read the article)

- In a significant move towards **enhancing transparency** in financial transactions and empowering consumers, the Indian government is set to launch the '**Mera Bill Mera Adhikar**' invoice incentive scheme. This pioneering scheme, scheduled to commence from **September 1**, aims to promote the habit of requesting bills during purchases, thereby fostering a culture of fiscal responsibility and accountability. (Click here to read the article)

- The **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana** (PMJDY) – the **National Mission for Financial Inclusion** – completes **nine years** of successful implementation. Launched on **28th August 2014** by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the PMJDY stands as one of the most extensive financial inclusion initiatives globally, aimed at liberating the economically marginalized from a cycle of poverty. (Click here to read the article)

Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

- On July 31, 2023, a meeting was held between the Minister of State for Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, **Sushri Shobha Karandlaje**, and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture & Food Industries of Moldova, **Mr. Vladimir Bolea**, at Krishi Bhawan in New Delhi. (Click here to read the article)

- The **Ministry of Railways** and the **Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras)** signed a memorandum of understanding ((MoU) to establish the India 5G testbed at the Indian Railway Institute of Signal Engineering and Telecommunications (IRISET) in Secunderabad; the facility would be dedicated to the testing and development of 5G use cases for Indian Railways. (Click here to read the article)

- The **Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board** (PNGRB) and the **World Bank** have joined forces to develop a comprehensive roadmap for integrating **hydrogen blending** in natural gas and establishing the **infrastructure** for their transmission through gas pipelines in the country. (Click here to read the article)

- Travel company **MakeMyTrip** has announced a collaboration with the **Ministry of Tourism** to introduce over 600 unique and unconventional **travel destinations**. The company has introduced a specialized **microsite** named '**Traveller's Map of India**' to facilitate this initiative. (Click here to read the article)

- The **All India Council for Technical Education** (AICTE) has taken a significant step towards advancing the integration of **Artificial Intelligence** (AI) and **Data Science** (DS) within the realm of education. Partnering with the renowned **Jio Institute**, AICTE has unveiled a **comprehensive faculty development programme** aimed at equipping academic leaders and senior faculty members with an in-depth understanding of AI and DS. (Click here to read the article)

- **India and Trinidad and Tobago** have recently entered into a significant partnership by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to share the renowned **INDIA STACK** technology. This collection of open APIs and digital public goods, pioneered by India, is designed to enhance identity, data, and payment services on a large scale. This move reflects India's commitment to aiding the digital transformation of nations through collaboration and technology sharing. (Click here to read the article)

- In a significant move, **India and the ASEAN** countries have come to an agreement to reevaluate their existing **free trade pact for goods**. The aim of this review is to address the existing trade imbalances and disparities between the two parties. The announcement was made by the Commerce Ministry, indicating the commitment to enhance bilateral trade relations. (Click here to read the article)

- The **International Cricket Council** (ICC) has made a significant announcement, revealing a thrilling collaboration with **Mastercard**, which is set to become a Global Partner for the upcoming **ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023**. Scheduled to take place in India from **October 5 to November 19, 2023**, the partnership between Mastercard and ICC is poised to enhance the cricketing experience for fans worldwide. (Click here to read the article)

- In a significant step towards elevating the status of football in **Maharashtra**, the state government has entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the renowned German professional football league, **Bundesliga**. (Click here to read the article)

- In a significant move aimed at **bolstering collaboration in the field of civil aviation**, the governments of **India** and **New Zealand** have recently inked a **Memorandum of Understanding** (MoU). The MoU encompasses a wide array of aspects within the **aviation sector**, ranging from the introduction of **new flight routes** to code share services, traffic rights, and capacity entitlement. (Click here to read the article)

- With its efforts to **enhance security** of the **Indian Ocean Region** (IOR), especially on the eastern coast of Africa, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between **Goa Shipyard Limited** (GSL) and **Kenya Shipyards Limited** (KSL) to strengthen **maritime security cooperation** between the two nations. (Click here to read the article)

- The **National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog)**, the central think tank responsible for monitoring India's progress towards **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, and the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** have signed a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at expediting India's journey towards achieving its SDGs. This collaboration underscores the commitment to drive sustainable and inclusive development in the country. (Click here to read the article)

New Appointments

S.No.	Designation/Post	Who is appointed
1.	33rd Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court	Justice Subhasis Talapatra
2.	The Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)	IRS officer Sanjay Kumar Agarwal
3.	Chairperson of National Green Tribunal (NGT)	Prakash Shrivastava
4.	India's new chargé d'affaires at its high commission in Islamabad, Pakistan	Geetika Srivastava
5.	member of the International Mediator Panel of Singapore International Mediation Centre (SIMC)	N.V. Ramana
	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) as its new brand ambassador	Rahul Dravid
	Part-time Chairperson of the Unique Identification Authority of India	Neelkanth Mishra

S.No.	Designation/Post	Who is appointed
1.	Tesla's new Chief Financial Officer	Vaibhav Taneja
2.	Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer for SBI Life Insurance Company Limited	Amit Jhingran
3.	Brand ambassador of Pluckk	Bollywood actress Kareena Kapoor Khan
4.	Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) managing director	R. Doraiswamy
5.	SEBI Whole-Time Members	Kamlesh Varshney and Amarjeet Singh
6.	Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Power Finance Corporation (PFC)	Parminder Chopra
7.	Managing Director & CEO of the South Indian Bank	PR Seshadri
8.	Viacom18 new CEO	Kiran Mani
9.	State Bank of India (SBI) appointed four directors	Ketan Shivji Vikamsey, Mrugank Madhukar Paranjape, Rajesh Kumar Dubey and Dharmendra Singh Shekhawat
10.	"National icon" of the Election Commission (EC)	Sachin Tendulkar
11.	Infosys brand ambassador	Rafael Nadal and Iga swiatek
12.	New Chairman of Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC)	Mr. Umesh Revankar

Ranks and Reports

- As reported by the **Food and Agriculture Organization** (FAO), the FAO All Rice Price Index witnessed a **2.8 percent** escalation in July compared to the preceding month, with an average value of 129.7 points. This reflects an approximate 20 percent surge from the same period in the previous year and marks the most elevated level observed since September 2011. ([Click here to read the article)

- India, a rapidly developing nation in the realm of technology and connectivity, has achieved an overall score of **43 percent** in the **Internet Resilience Index** (IRI). This achievement positions India as the **sixth**-ranked country in the **South Asian region. (**[Click here to read the article](**)

- The **Srinagar** district has become the highest-performing district under the Jal Jeevan Survekshan (JJS-2023),

outshining **114 Har Ghar Jal certified villages** across India. This remarkable recognition solidifies Srinagar's commitment to the successful implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), a visionary initiative aimed at ensuring **universal access** to clean and safe drinking water. ([Click here to read the article)

- The city of **Indore** has clinched the **top spot** in the **Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan -2023** conducted by the **Central Pollution Control Board**, in the category of cities with a population **exceeding 10 lakhs**. The results of the survey reflect not only the city's dedicated efforts but also highlight the overall progress made by several cities in Madhya Pradesh. ([Click here to read the article)

Sports Current Affairs

- England pacer **Stuart Broad** has announced his retirement from cricket. He will call it quits from the game after the ongoing Ashes series. Broad announced the decision at the end of the third day of the fifth Ashes Test at the Oval. The 37-year-old has played 167 Test matches, picking 602 wickets. He has also featured in 121 ODIs and 56 T20Is. ([Click here to read the article)

- **Iga Swiatek** achieved a significant achievement by securing her **fourth** WTA title of the year and her very first on home soil. The Polish tennis player showcased her dominance in the final, defeating Germany's **Laura Siegemund** with an incredible 6-0, 6-1 scoreline in just 68 minutes, denying her opponent any break points throughout the match. ([Click here to read the article)

- The **Indian women's hockey team** wins the title of **Torneo del Centernario 2023** by defeating hosts Spain **3-0** in Terrassa, Barcelona on 30th July. ([Click here to read the article)

- Defending Formula One champion **Max Verstappen** emphatically won the **Belgian Grand Prix** for an eighth straight win and 10th overall of a crushingly dominant season. He finished 22.3 seconds ahead of teammate **Sergio Perez** to give Red Bull and easy 1-2. It moved Verstappen ominously closer to a third straight world title and his own F1 record of 15 wins from last year. ([Click here to read the article)

- Former Uruguay defender **Diego Godin** retired from professional soccer, ending a 20-year career at age 37. Godin played in four World Cups and spent much of his club career in Spain, notably at Atlético Madrid from 2010 to 2019. This season, he played in Argentina for Velez Sarsfield. Godin announced his retirement a day after his final appearance for Velez in a 1-0 loss to Huracan. ([Click here to read the article)

- The 17-year-old chess prodigy, **D. Gukesh,** has dethroned Grandmaster **Viswanathan Anand** as India's top-ranked chess player in the live world rankings. Gukesh achieved this feat by defeating Mistradin Iskandarov in the second round of the FIDE World Cup, reaching a live rating of **2755.9** and climbing to the 9th position in the classic open category. ([Click here to read the article)

- **Alex Hales** has announced his retirement from international cricket with immediate effect, at the age of 34. He signs off from his England career as a T20 World Cup winner, having played his last game in their five-wicket win over Pakistan at the MCG in November last year. ([Click here to read the article)

- The Indian women's compound archery team etched their names in history by clinching a gold medal at the **World Archery Championships held in Berlin, Germany**. This victory marked India's first-ever gold at the archery world championships in any category. It was India's first-ever gold at the archery world championships in any category. ([Click here to read the article)

- **Sports Authority of India (SAI)** under the Umbrella Campaign 'Cheer4India' has launched a short movie series **'Halla Bol'** on the journey of Asian Games bound athletes to motivate them for Hangzhou Asian Games and spread awareness about the upcoming Asian Games. (Click here to read the article)

- India ended their **2023 World Cadet Wrestling Championships,** meant for under-17 grapplers, with a total of 11 medals, including a gold, at **Istanbul, Turkey.** Savita, who entered the event as the defending champion, won the only gold medal for India at Istanbul in the women's 61kg weight division. (Click here to read the article)

- Brazil forward **Neymar Jr** has signed for Saudi Arabia's **Al-Hilal** from **Paris Saint-Germain (PSG),** the clubs announced, joining Cristiano Ronaldo and Karim Benzema. Neymar, 31, scored 118 goals in 173 matches for PSG in six injury-plagued seasons. (Click here to read the article)

- The **Tamil Nadu government** and **Racing Promotions Private Limited (RRPL)** have launched a new street circuit in **Chennai.** The 3.5km track will be located around the Island Grounds and will be the first-ever street circuit in India and South Asia to host a night race. (Click here to read the article)

- Sri Lankan all-rounder **Wanindu Hasaranga** has announced his retirement from Test cricket. The 26-year-old made the decision to focus on his limited-overs career, where he is a key figure for Sri Lanka. (Click here to read the article)

- **Pakistan** fast bowler **Wahab Riaz** has announced his retirement from international cricket, bringing an end to a 15-year career. The 38-year-old made his international debut in 2008 and went on to play **27 Tests, 91 ODIs and 36 T20Is, taking 237 wickets in total. (**Click here to read the article**)**

- Indian sprinter **Dutee Chand,** renowned as India's fastest female athlete and holder of the national 100m record, has been handed a significant blow with a four-year ban following her failure in an out-of-competition dope test. The test revealed the presence of **selective androgen receptor modulators (SARMs),** leading to the decision to suspend her from competitive sports. Chand's remarkable athletic career has now been marred by this doping incident. (Click here to read the article)

- **Adille Sumariwalla** has been elected as one of the four vice presidents of **World Athletics,** the highest post ever held by an Indian in the global track and field governing body. The 65-year-old Sumariwalla, who is the president of the **Athletics Federation of India (AFI),** received the third-highest number of votes cast during the WA elections held on Thursday in Budapest, Hungary. He will serve a four-year term. (Click here to read the article)

- **Mohit Kumar** has made a permanent mark in the records of Indian wrestling. He has achieved the distinction of being the **first Indian wrestler** to attain the junior world championship title **since 2019**. In the final match, Mohit Kumar was trailing 0-6 against Russia's **Eldar Akhmaduninov**. Through adeptly executed maneuvers, he garnered nine consecutive points, ultimately securing the coveted **gold medal**. (Click here to read the article)

- **Anahat Singh** secured the **gold medal** in the **U-17 category** of the prestigious **Asian Junior Squash Individual Championships**, a remarkable achievement that adds another jewel to her growing crown of accomplishments. The championship, held from **August 16 to 20**, showcased Anahat's exceptional talent and determination as she emerged victorious on the court. (Click here to read the article)

- Indian wrestler **Priya Malik** has achieved a remarkable feat by securing the **gold medal** at the **U20 World Wrestling Championships** held in **Jordan**. This victory marks a significant milestone in her career. (Click here to read the article)

- In a remarkable feat of intellectual prowess, **Raja Anirudh Sriram**, a **fourth-standard student** hailing from **Tirupati**, has clinched a **silver medal** at the prestigious **Singapore International Math Olympiad Challenge** (SIMOC). This prodigious achievement has not only brought honor to his family and school but has also brought pride to the entire state of **Andhra Pradesh**. (Click here to read the article)

- **Anurag Singh Thakur**, the Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, has unveiled that the esteemed **Khelo India Women's League** will be recognized as the "**Asmita Women's League**" from now on. This purposeful transformation underscores the government's commitment to advancing **gender equality** and nurturing the vibrant engagement of women in the realm of sports. (Click here to read the article)

- The **Wrestling Federation of India (WFI),** India's governing body for wrestling, has faced suspension from the **United World Wrestling (UWW)** due to ongoing controversies and prolonged delays in conducting essential elections. As a consequence of this suspension, Indian wrestlers will be unable to compete under the Indian flag in the upcoming World Championships. Instead, they will participate as 'neutral athletes' in the Olympic-qualifying World Championships. (Click here to read the article)

- **Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa** finished **second in FIDE World Cup.** After three days and four games of intensely nervy chess across two formats, **Magnus Carlsen** finally managed to win the **FIDE World Cup** for the first time in his career. Carlsen defeated Praggnanandhaa in the final, but not before the 18-year-old teenage had dragged him through the tie-breaker. (Click here to read the article)

- In a groundbreaking move that further bridges the worlds of sports and technology, **Infosys**, a global leader in consulting and digital services, has announced a multi-year partnership with women's tennis World No. 1, **Iga Swiatek**. The collaboration establishes Swiatek as the global brand ambassador for Infosys, with a key focus on **promoting Digital Innovation and inspiring women** worldwide. This announcement comes on the heels of Infosys signing tennis legend **Rafael Nadal** for the same prestigious role, solidifying the company's commitment to both tennis excellence and technological advancement. (Click here to read the article)

- **Neeraj Chopra** made history by winning the gold medal in the men's javelin throw event at the **World Athletics Championships** held in **Budapest, Hungary.** Neeraj's exceptional performance was highlighted by a remarkable throw of **88.17 meters** during his second attempt. This outstanding achievement showcased his skill and dominance in the event, solidifying his position as a global contender. (Click here to read the article)

- **Max Verstappen** has won the **Dutch Grand Prix** for the third consecutive year, once again prevailing at his home race. With the dominant win, Verstappen has now matched Sebastian Vettel's all-time record of nine F1 victories in a row. (Click here to read the article)

- Indian badminton player **HS Prannoy** secured the **bronze medal** in the men's singles category at the prestigious **BWF World Badminton Championships 2023**. (Click here to read the article)

- World governing body **FIFA** has lifted the ban on the **Sri Lanka Football Federation (FFSL).** The ban was imposed in **January 2023** due to government interference in the federation's affairs. In a letter dated August 28 by Fatma Samoura, the FIFA secretary General, it said that the FIFA bureau had decided on 27 August "to lift the suspension of the FFSL with immediate effect". The FFSL has also agreed to hold fresh elections for its executive committee. (Click here to read the article)

- On **28th August**, India defeated **Thailand 7-2 in the final** to win the inaugural **Women's Asian Hockey 5s World Cup Qualifier**. The final match witnessed an outstanding performance by the Indian side, as they triumphed over **Thailand** with an impressive **score of 7-2.** This victory marked not only their Asian Cup but also secured their coveted spot in the forthcoming **Women's Hockey 5s World Cup 2024. (**Click here to read the article**)**

Summits And Conferences

- India is set to host the **5th World Coffee Conference** (WCC) in **Bengaluru** from September 25 to 28, where it will present its diverse coffees to buyers from over 80 countries. This is the **first time** that the event will be held in Asia. (Click here to read the article)

- Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has confirmed his attendance at the **BRICS Summit** in Johannesburg, **South Africa**, from August 22 to 24, 2023. This comes after Russian President **Vladimir Putin** canceled his visit to the same event. The summit gains significance due to the ongoing crisis in Ukraine and discussions on expanding the membership of BRICS, a topic of interest to both Russia and China. (Click here to read the article)

- Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha of Jammu and Kashmir commenced the **9th India International MSME Expo and Summit 2023** in **New Delhi**. This prestigious gathering, organized by the **MSME Development Forum**, served as a platform to foster collaboration between policymakers and entrepreneurs in the **Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises** (MSME) sector, driving forward the nation's economic growth. (Click here to read the article)

- The **first** WHO **Traditional Medicine Global Summit** is set to unfold on August 17 and 18, 2023, in the city of Gandhinagar, **Gujarat**, India. This event will intertwine with the **G20 health ministerial meeting**, creating a dynamic platform aimed at galvanizing both **political commitment** and **evidence-based actions** in the realm of **traditional medicine**. This age-old practice serves as the initial recourse for millions across the globe, catering to their diverse health and well-being requisites. (Click here to read the article)

- Leaders from the **BRICS** economic alliance, consisting of **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**, are converging in the bustling financial district of Sandton, **Johannesburg**, for a highly anticipated **three-day summit**. This gathering marks a pivotal moment in international diplomacy as discussions unfold regarding the consolidation of political and economic influence within the developing world. (Click here to read the article)

- The **G20 Pandemic Fund** has recently granted a significant sum of **$25 million** to India's Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying. This funding is aimed at bolstering the country's animal health system, which is a crucial component of the comprehensive One Health strategy for preventing and responding to pandemics. (Click here to read the article)

- The eagerly awaited **Ninth India Region Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association** (CPA) took place in the historic city of **Udaipur**, located in the state of Rajasthan. Stretched across a duration of two days, the event received its inauguration from the distinguished Lok Sabha Speaker, **Om Birla**. With the core objective of exploring the theme "**Enhancing Democracy and Effective Governance in the Digital Era,**" the conference aimed to facilitate insightful discussions and exchange of ideas among its participants. (Click here to read the article)

- The **B20(Business 20) Summit India 2023** is currently taking place, and several prominent figures have shared their insights on various topics. The theme for the B20 India 2023 is **Responsible, Accelerated, Innovative, Sustainable, Equitable (R.A.I.S.E) Businesses. (**Click here to read the article**)**

- In a stride towards nurturing innovation and collaborative problem-solving, the **Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell** and the **All India Council of Technical Education** (AICTE) have unveiled the much-anticipated **sixth edition** of the **Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2023**. This landmark event continues to be a testament to the growing spirit of innovation in India's educational landscape. (Click here to read the article)

- In a significant development for global business and economic collaboration, India has gracefully handed over the **B20 presidency to Brazil,** making the transition towards the **G20 summit in 2024**. (Click here to read the article)

Important Days

Date	Day & Theme
August 1st	• National Mountain Climbing Day • August 1 while it concludes on August 7. • World Breastfeeding Week | Theme: "Let's make breastfeeding and work, work!" • Muslim Women's Rights Day • World Lung Cancer Day • World Wide Web Day
August 7th	• National Javelin Day • National Handloom Day • Death anniversary of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore
August 9	• International Day of the World's Indigenous People | Theme: Indigenous Youth as Agents of Change for Self-determination. • Nagasaki Day • World Tribal Day
August 10th	• World Lion Day • World Biofuel Day
August 11th	World Steelpan Day
August 12	• World Elephant Day • International Youth Day
August 13th	• International Left-Handers Day | Theme: Left-Handers in Sports • World Organ Donation Day 2023 | Theme: "Step up to volunteer; need more organ donors to fill the lacunae".
14 August	Partition Horrors Remembrance Day
16th August	• Death Anniversary Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee • The Parsi New Year, also referred to as Navroz or Nowruz
August 19	• World Humanitarian Day • World Photography Day
August 20	World Mosquito Day
August 21	• International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism • World Senior Citizen Day
August 22nd	International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief
August 20 to 24	World Water Week
August 23	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition | Theme: Fighting slavery's legacy of racism through transformative education
August 26	• Women's Equality Day • International Dog Day
29 August	• National Sports Day • International Day Against Nuclear Tests
August 30	• International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances • National Small Industry Day • International Whale Shark Day
August 31	• International Day for People of African Origin • World Sanskrit Day

Defence Current Affairs

- **Indian Air Force (IAF)** received air-launched Israeli **Spike Non Line of Sight (NLOS)** Anti-Tank Guided Missiles(ATGM) from Israel which can hit targets upto 50 km from a helicopter and 32 km from the ground. The NLOS missiles will be integrated with the fleet of Russian-origin Mi-17V5 helicopters, manufactured by Kazan Helicopters. (Click here to read the article)

- India's indigenous **Nag Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM)** and the variant of **HELINA (Helicopter-launched NAG) Weapon System** called 'Dhruvastra' are set to be inducted into the Indian army and Indian Air Force (IAF) after clearing all the trials. Both the Nag ATGM and Helina (Dhruvastra) missiles are developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation(DRDO) and manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Limited(BDL). Nag is the surface-to-air missile and Dhruvastra is the air-to-surface missile. (Click here to read the article)

- The **Indian Army** has recently inducted a new addition to its arsenal, the "**Swathi Mountains,**" a lighter and more compact version of the indigenous **Weapon Locating Radar (WLR-M)**. This advanced radar system, developed by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) in Bengaluru, holds a pivotal role in enhancing military operations, particularly in challenging terrains. Let's delve deeper into the features, capabilities, and significance of this cutting-edge technology. (Click here to read the article)

- The eagerly anticipated **Malabar series of naval exercises**, involving the maritime forces of India, Japan, the United States, and Australia, is about to kick off along the eastern coast of Australia. This iteration of the exercises will be centered on enhancing anti-submarine warfare capabilities, signaling the participants' shared commitment to maritime security and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region. (Click here to read the article)

- In a significant step towards strengthening its cyber defenses, India's Ministry of Defence has taken a decisive step by opting to replace the Microsoft operating system with a **domestically developed** alternative named the '**Maya**' operating system. This strategic move aims to **elevate** the nation's cybersecurity measures in the face of escalating cyber threats. (Click here to read the article)

- The **Indian Air Force** has inducted its latest **Heron Mark 2 drones,** which have strike capability and can carry out surveillance along the borders with both China and Pakistan in a single sortie itself. The four new Heron Mark-2 drones, which can be equipped with long-range missiles and other weapons systems, have been deployed at a forward air base in the northern sector. (Click here to read the article)

- In a significant stride towards **indigenous manufacturing** and innovation, the state-owned company **Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited** (AWEIL), based in Kanpur, **Uttar Pradesh**, is all set to unveil '**Prabal**', India's **first** long-range revolver. The launch date is marked for August 18, ushering in a new era of personal defense firearms. (Click here to read the article)

- In a notable display of maritime cooperation, the guided missile corvette **INS Kulish** made its presence felt during **Singapore's 77th Independence Day** festivities. As part of its ongoing engagement in the multinational **SEACAT 2023** exercise, the crew and officers of INS Kulish celebrated the occasion at the High Commission of India in Singapore. (Click here to read the article)

- In a significant development aimed at enhancing the operational capabilities of the **Indian Navy**, the Central Government has granted its final approval for a pivotal project to construct **five fleet support ships**. These vessels, designed to serve as vital logistical lifelines, will play a crucial role in replenishing warships with **essential supplies** including fuel, food, and ammunition during missions. (Click here to read the article)

- To commemorate 75 years of Independence, various **Air Force Stations in and around Delhi** celebrated the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) from 09 to 15 August 2023. The events were organized under the aegis of the **'Meri Maati Mera Desh Compaign',** launched by the Government of India as a continuation for celebration of AKAM. (Click here to read the article)

- The **Indian Air Force** (IAF) is gearing up to host a colossal multilateral military exercise, '**Tarang Shakti**', which was originally slated for October but has been rescheduled to the **middle of 2024**. The decision to push the exercise to next year comes as several participating air forces expressed their inability to join the wargame if held in the current year. (Click here to read the article)

- In a significant stride towards bolstering India's maritime prowess, President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the **latest addition** to the Indian Navy's fleet, **INS Vindhyagiri**. The launch event was held at the Kolkata-based Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE). (Click here to read the article)

- The Indian Navy's submarine, **INS Vagir**, has made history by achieving an impressive milestone – it now holds the record for the **longest-ever deployment** of any scorpene-class submarine. The submarine covered an astonishing distance of **7,000 kilometers** on its journey to **Australia** to participate in joint military exercises, marking a significant moment for both naval prowess and international cooperation. (Click here to read the article)

- The **Light Combat Aircraft** (LCA) **Tejas** achieved a significant milestone as it successfully fired the **Astra indigenous Beyond Visual Range** (BVR) air-to-air missile off the coast of **Goa**. This achievement marks a notable advancement in the Indian defense capabilities and showcases the country's progress in developing cutting-edge military technology. (Click here to read the article)

- **Chief of the Naval Staff and Commandant of Philippine Coast Guard** signed the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for exchange of **White Shipping Information** on 23 August 2023. The signing of the SOP between Philippine Coast Guard and Indian Navy would facilitate the operationalization of information exchange on merchant shipping traffic, which will contribute to enhanced maritime safety and security in the region. (Click here to read the article)

- The **Ministry of Defence** (MoD) took a significant step towards bolstering the Indian Navy's operational capabilities by signing a groundbreaking contract with **Hindustan Shipyard Limited** (HSL), a state-owned company based in **Visakhapatnam**. The contract entails the acquisition of **five Fleet Support Ships** (FSS), marking a new era in naval logistics. This pioneering endeavor is set to provide unprecedented advantages to the Indian Navy, enabling prolonged and sustained missions without the need to return to port. The overall cost of this venture is estimated to be approximately **₹19,000 crore**. (Click here to read the article)

- An **Indian Air Force** (IAF) contingent has embarked on a significant journey, marking the **first-ever participation** in Exercise **BRIGHT STAR-23**. This biennial multilateral tri-service exercise is taking place at **Cairo** (West) **Air Base in Egypt**, spanning from **August 27** to **September 16, 2023**. The participation of the IAF in this exercise underscores a new chapter of cooperation and collaboration among nations. (Click here to read the article)

- India's defence sector is poised to achieve a significant milestone as the country's latest warship, **Mahendragiri**, is set to be launched on **September 1 at the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders in Mumbai**. The launch of Mahendragiri, the **seventh and final stealth frigate of Project 17A,** symbolizes the remarkable progress India has made in constructing a self-sufficient naval force. (Click here to read the article)

Awards News

- The Lokmanya Tilak National Award was granted to the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, in Pune, **Maharashtra**, during a ceremony that commemorated the **103rd** death anniversary of Lokmanya Tilak. The prestigious award, instituted by the **Tilak Smarak Mandir Trust** in 1983, aims to honor the lasting legacy of Lokmanya Tilak. Shri Narendra Modi became the **41st** distinguished individual to receive this esteemed recognition. (Click here to read the article)

- **Subhash Runwal,** Chairman of Runwal, a leading real estate developer with a legacy of over four decades, has been recognized with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the first-ever RICS South Asia Awards. **RICS (Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors)** is a global industry body representing professionals across the country. (Click here to read the article)

- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** congratulated the team of **National Automated Fingerprint Identification System** (NAFIS) of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) for securing the **Gold Award** in the Excellence in Government Process Re-engineering for Digital Transformation **Category-1**. (Click here to read the article)

- President Smt **Droupadi Murmu** has given her approval for **76 Gallantry awards** to members of the Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces on the occasion of Independence Day 2023. Among these honors are four Kirti Chakra awards (awarded posthumously), 11 Shaurya Chakra awards (including five posthumous), two Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry), 52 Sena Medals (Gallantry), three Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry), and four Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry). (Click here to read the article)

- **Raj Chetty,** an Indian-American economist, and **Michael Springer,** a biologist, have been awarded **Harvard University's George Ledlie Prize** for their groundbreaking work in their respective fields. (Click here to read the article)

- Five youths from **India** have been named among **17 teen environmental** activists from across the globe to receive the **2023 International Young Eco-Hero Award** who have taken initiatives to tackle the world's most pressing environmental challenges. The young eco-warriors who were recognised for their efforts by the US-based non-profit organisation, "Action For Nature", are **Eiha Dixit from Meerut, Manya Harsha from Bengaluru, Nirvaan Somany and Mannat Kaur from New Delhi and Karnav Rastogi from Mumbai. (**Click here to read the article**)**

- Eminent industrialist **Ratan Tata** was conferred with the first ever **'Udyog Ratna' award** instituted by the Maharashtra government. The award was presented to the 85-year-old chairman emeritus of Tata Sons by **Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Cheif Ministers Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar** at the industrialist's home in Colaba in south Mumbai. (Click here to read the article)

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was conferred with the **Grand Cross of the Order of Honour** by Greek President **Katerina N. Sakellaropoulou i**n Athens. The award is the highest civilian honour that can be bestowed by Greece to a foreign head of government. (Click here to read the article)

- The **SVAMITVA** (Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas) Scheme, initiated by the **Ministry of Panchayati Raj**, has been honored with the prestigious **National Award for e-Governance 2023** (Gold) in recognition of its groundbreaking application of emerging technologies to deliver citizen-centric services. (Click here to read the article)

- **Priyan Sain** clinched the title of **Miss Earth India 2023** during the **Miss Divine Beauty 2023** national final held on **August 26** in New Delhi. (Click here to read the article)

Science and Technology

- **Open AI CEO Sam Altman** along **with two co-founders** launched the **Worldcoin crypto project** to grant users a verified digital identity and access to a financial project. (Click here to read the article)

- The **Chandrayaan-3** spacecraft, which marks India's **third** lunar exploration mission, has accomplished a noteworthy achievement by entering the moon's sphere of influence. This successful entry was made possible through a TransLunar Injection (TLI) executed by the **Indian Space Research Organisation** (ISRO). The upcoming crucial step is the Lunar Orbit Insertion (LOI) scheduled for August 5, during which the spacecraft's liquid engine will be activated once more to position it into a lunar orbit. (Click here to read the article)

- Astronomers have made a stunning discovery of "Einstein Cross," where light from a distant galaxy is split and magnified by a foreground elliptical ground. This event was **first predicted by Albert Einstein in 1915** as a consequence of his theory of general relativity. (Click here to read the article)

- The National Health Authority (NHA) and the Ministry of Health are actively engaged in the development of an **Organ Donation Registry**, aimed at introducing structural improvements to the **National Organ Tissue Transplantation Organisation** (NOTTO). The NOTTO is responsible for arranging **organ transplantation operations** throughout the nation. The establishment of this digital registry is anticipated to **eradicate intermediaries** within the system. (Click here to read the article)

- The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) unveiled a recent publication titled "**75 Endemic Birds of India**" on the occasion of its **108th** foundation day. This publication highlights a surprising fact: A remarkable **5%** of India's bird species are confined solely within the nation's boundaries, making them true avian treasures that are not reported anywhere else on the planet. (Click here to read the article)

- Astronomers used the **James Webb Space Telescope** to capture this striking new image of **Messier 57,** more popularly known as the **Ring Nebula.** The nebula in the image is actually the glowing remains of a sun-like star and at its centre is the star's hot core, which is called a white dwarf. (Click here to read the article)

- In a strategic partnership, **NewSpace India Limited (**NSIL) teams up with **Tata Play** to introduce **GSAT-24**. The objective of this partnership is to augment **satellite broadcasting capabilities** and provide **high-quality entertainment** to every part of the nation. This partnership signifies a significant advancement in India's telecommunications sector, propelled by state-of-the-art indigenous technology. (Click here to read the article)

- **Russia** is to launch its first lunar landing spacecraft, **Luna-25,** on August 11, marking a significant step in its renewed lunar exploration efforts. This mission follows closely after India's Chandrayaan-3 lunar lander launch, reflecting a global interest in exploring the moon's south pole, potentially rich in resources like ice for future human habitation. (Click here to read the article)

- **The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** is launching its first solar mission, **Aditya-L1,** to study the Sun. The mission will be placed in a halo orbit around the Lagrange point 1 (L1), which is about 1.5 million kilometers from Earth. From this vantage point, Aditya-L1 will be able to study the Sun's atmosphere, magnetic fields, and space weather impacts. (Click here to read the article)

- The **Korea Advanced Institute of Science & Technology (KAIST)** is making groundbreaking advancements in aviation with the development of **"Pibot,"** a humanoid robot designed to fly aircraft using its own dexterity and advanced AI capabilities. Pibot's ability to manipulate flight instruments, understand complex manuals, and react quickly to emergency situations showcases its potential to transform aviation and other industries. (Click here to read the article)

- **Chennai-based Agnikul Cosmos** has commenced the **integration process** of its groundbreaking launch vehicle, **Agnibaan SOrTeD** (Sub-Orbital Technological Demonstrator), with its private launchpad situated at the **Satish Dhawan Space Centre** in Sriharikota. While the exact launch date remains undisclosed, the recent event marks a pivotal milestone in Agnikul Cosmos's pursuit of space innovation. (Click here to read the article)

- **The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** has achieved an impressive feat on **YouTube's live streaming platform.** The Chandrayaan-3 Mission Soft-landing LIVE Telecast, broadcasted on August 23, 2023, captured the attention of over **80 lakh peak** concurrent viewers (PCVs), making it the most-watched live stream globally. (Click here to read the article)

- **Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO)** Chief **S Somanath** announced that Aditya-L1 mission, the first space-based Indian observatory to study the Sun will be likely launched by the first week of September. This announcement comes hours after ISRO's third lunar mission Chandrayaan-3 made a successful landing on the lunar surface. (Click here to read the article)

- The awe-inspiring image of the **irregular galaxy ESO 300-16** has been captured by none other than the renowned **Hubble Space Telescope**. This remarkable deep space observatory is celebrated for its unrivaled ability to provide high-resolution and meticulously detailed images of celestial objects, truly unlocking the mysteries of the universe. (Click here to read the article)
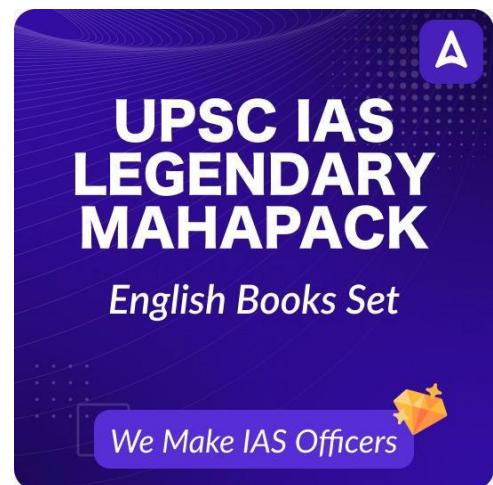
- **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** is preparing for one more lunar mission, this one in collaboration with Japanese space agency, **The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA).** This mission, called **LUPEX, or Lunar Polar Exploration,** is slated for 2024-25. But there would be more in the Chandrayaan series as well. LUPEX will offer ISRO another opportunity to probe the surface of the Moon. (Click here to read the article)

- Union Minister **Jitendra Singh** provided a significant update on the progress of the **Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Gaganyaan mission**, stating that trials for the mission will commence in **October. (**Click here to read the article**)**

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has achieved a significant milestone by successfully testing its innovative device named **'Nabhmitra'.** This device, developed at ISRO's Space Applications Centre in Ahmedabad, aims to enhance the safety of fishermen during their sea expeditions. The successful testing took place at **Neendakara**, where the device was installed on a fishing vessel, and its capabilities were assessed in the presence of both scientists and officials from the Fisheries department. (Click here to read the article)

- In a groundbreaking announcement, the **Indian Space Research Organisation** (ISRO) revealed that **Chandrayaan-3's Pragyan rover** module has successfully confirmed the presence of **sulphur (S)** on the surface of the Moon. This significant revelation comes as a result of the first-ever in-situ recordings conducted near the **lunar south pole**. The confirmation of sulphur's presence holds paramount importance in unraveling the **Moon's elemental composition** and furthering our understanding of its geological history. (Click here to read the article)
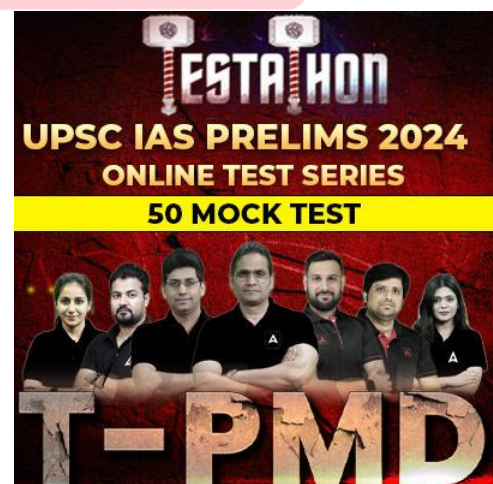
Books & Authors

- Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah released the **'Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam: Memories Never Die'** book in Rameshwaram. The Union Home Minister visited Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam House, Mission of Life Gallery Museum and Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam National Memorial. (Click here to read the article)

- London-based Indian-origin author **Chetna Maroo's** debut novel **'Western Lane'** is among 13 books to make the cut for the 2023 Booker Prize longlist revealed. Kenya-born Maroo's novel, set within the context of the British Gujarati milieu, has been praised by the Booker judges for its use of the sport of squash as a metaphor for complex human emotions. It revolves around the story of an 11-year-old girl named Gopi and her bonds with her family. (Click here to read the article)

- Ajay Bhatt, Minister of State (MoS), Ministry of Defence (MoD), released the book and illustrations titled **"Kargil: Ek Yatri Ki Jubani"** (Hindi Edition) authored by **Rishi Raj** at the Constitution Club of India, New Delhi, Delhi. The book which pays tribute to the Martyrs of Kargil War was published by **Prabhat Prakashan. (**Click here to read the article**)**

- A new book, titled **How Prime Ministers Decide,** by veteran journalist **Neerja Chowdhury** recalls the drama that led to Sonia's announcement, prompted by Rahul's "fear for his mother's life". A new book also claimed that former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had good relations with several RSS leaders but carefully kept a distance between the organisation and herself. (Click here to read the article)

- Indian poet diplomat **Abhay Kumar (Abhay K),** Deputy Director General of Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR), launched his new book titled **"Monsoon: A Poem of Love and Longing",** a booklength poem running across 150 fourline stanzas, at Kathika Culture Centre in Old Delhi, Delhi. (Click here to read the article)

- Goa governor **PS Sreedharan Pillai** released three books at a function held at the Raj Bhavan. His recently authored three new books namely **'Heritage Trees of Goa', 'When Parallel Lines Meet', and 'Ente Priya Kavithakal' ('My Dear Poems' a collection of poems).** (Click here to read the article)

- A book titled **'Pitchside: My Life in Indian Cricket'** by long-term cricket administrator **Amrit Mathur.** In the book, Mr. Mathur brings alive insightful first-person accounts of some of Indian Cricket's most memorable moments. (Click here to read the article)

Miscellaneous Current Affairs

- A female cheetah named **Dhatri** (Tbilisi) has recently passed away at Kuno National Park in **Madhya Pradesh.** This brings the total number of deaths to **nine**, including **six adult** cheetahs relocated from Namibia and South Africa, along with **three cubs** born in India, all since March this year. Currently, a post-mortem examination is underway to determine the cause of death. (Click here to read the article)

- The Assam State Zoo recently recorded the breeding of a Himalayan Vulture in captivity for the first time in India. Details of the successful breeding were recently published in a paper titled **'Breeding of Himalayan Vulture Gyps himalayensis Hume, 1869 in the Assam State Zoo, Guwahati, Assam.** The species categorised as **'Near Threatened'** with an estimated **population of 66,000**, witnessed a significant moment of hope in their conservation journey. (Click here to read the article)

- According to a notification issued by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on July 31, 2023, the production, sale, and distribution of **'ketoprofen'** and **'aceclofenac'**, along with their formulations, for animal use is prohibited under **section 26A** of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 (23 of 40). The recommendation of this ban was made by the **Drugs Technical Advisory Board** (DTAB). (Click here to read the article)

- In a significant recognition of local craftsmanship and agricultural heritage, the **Geographical Indication (GI) Tags** have been bestowed upon **Rajouri Chikri Wood Craft** from Rajouri district and the prized **Mushqbudji Rice variety** from Anantnag district. These labels signify the unique nature and exceptional qualities of these products, tracing their origins to specific regions. This achievement is a result of a collaborative effort involving NABARD, the Department of Handicrafts & Handloom, and the Department of Agriculture, commencing in December 2020. (Click here to read the article)

- Central Railway's **New Amravati station** has engraved its place in history as the **first** station in **Bhusaval Division** and the **third** station within the **Central Railway** to be designated a "**Pink Station**" – a station that is wholly managed by women staff. (Click here to read the article)

- Nestled amidst the picturesque foothills of the Zabarwan range, the **Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden** has etched its name in the annals of the World Book of Records as **Asia's largest** and most spectacular park of its kind. The garden, adorned with a enchanting variety of **1.5 million blooming flowers**, stands as a living testament to the beauty and diversity of nature. (Click here to read the article)

- The **Matti banana variety** native to Kanniyakumari district has been granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag. These bananas thrive uniquely in the district's climate and soil, resulting in a larger-than-human finger-sized fruit with a sweet aroma and honey-like taste. (Click here to read the article)

- In a remarkable feat that's reverberating through steel circles, the **Nagarnar Steel Plant** has achieved an unprecedented milestone. A mere 9 days after commencing hot metal production, the plant has successfully rolled out its inaugural **Hot Rolled (HR) Coil**. This achievement by **NMDC**, a mining major stepping into steel production, is indeed astonishing and underscores the plant's technological prowess. (Click here to read the article)

- **Zika virus,** initially identified in **Uganda in 1947,** is primarily transmitted by **Aedes mosquitoes,** which are active during the day. While many infections are asymptomatic, those who show symptoms typically experience rash, fever, conjunctivitis, muscle and joint pain, malaise, and headache for around 2-7 days. (Click here to read the article)

- Chokuwa rice, fondly known as **"Magic rice,"** has recently been bestowed with the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag, a recognition of its exceptional attributes and heritage. This remarkable rice variety is deeply intertwined with the culinary legacy of Assam and has a rich historical connection with the powerful Ahom dynasty. (Click here to read the article)

- In an exciting announcement, **Julia Eric Morely**, the **CEO of Miss World**, held a press conference in the **picturesque region of Kashmir**, **India**. The occasion marked the anticipation and preparation for the **71st edition of the prestigious Miss World beauty** pageant, which is scheduled to be hosted in **India**. **Morely's** words echoed the sentiment of excitement and emotion surrounding the event, saying, **"Truthfully, I am so happy. It is emotional for us, to see such beauty."** (Click here to read the article)

Obituaries Current Affairs

- Noted Marathi poet and lyricist **Namdeo Dhondo Mahanor,** popularly known as Na Dho Mahanor, passed away. He was 81. Mahanor was best known for his poems and lyrics for Marathi movies. Born in 1942, Namdeo Dhondo Mahanor was awarded Padma Shri in 1991. He had also been a member of the state legislative council. (Click here to read the article)

- The Padma Bhushan awardee and IAS officer of the Gujarat cadre, 1960 batch, **N Vittal** passed away in Chennai. With the passing of N Vittal, 85, former Telecom Secretary and Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) on Thursday, the country has lost the person who had sown the seeds for the growth of the information technology sector four decades ago. (Click here to read the article)

- Renowned **folk singer** and activist **Gaddar**, who had been battling severe heart disease, passed away at the age of 74. He had been undergoing treatment at the Apollo Hospital in Hyderabad for the past 10 days following a cardiac arrest. (Click here to read the article)

- Renowned Malayalam director and screenwriter **Siddique Ismail** has passed away at 63. He was known for making movies like Friends (2001), Engal Anna (2004), Sadhu Miranda (2008), Kaalavan (2011), and Bhaskar Oru Rascal (2018). His final directorial venture was the 2020 action thriller film Big Brother, which starred Mohanlal, Arbaaz Khan, Anoop Menon, and Honey Rose. (Click here to read the article)

- **William Friedkin,** the Oscar-winning American director of films like The Exorcist and The French Connection passed away in Los Angeles(LA), California, United States of America (USA) at the age of 87. Friedkin was born in Chicago, Illinois, USA on 29 August 1935. (Click here to read the article)

- Renowned nuclear physicist **Bikash Sinha** has passed away at the age of 78, was suffering from old age-related ailments. A recipient of **Padma Shri in 2001 and Padma Bhusan in 2010,** he was the former director of the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics and Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre. (Click here to read the article)

- Former India captain and legendary footballer **Mohammed Habib** passed away. He represented India in many international tournaments from 1965-76. (Click here to read the article)

- Padma Shri awardee and former President of Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), **Prof. M.R. Satyanarayana Rao** passed away at his residence in Tata Nagar in Bengaluru on August 13 night. He was 75. (Click here to read the article)

- **V S Arunachalam,** a prominent scientist and instrumental figure in India's nuclear program, has died at the age of 87. He was Known for his leadership roles at the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO),** he played a crucial role in shaping India's defense capabilities. (Click here to read the article)

- **Michael Parkinson**, the seasoned **British chat show host** renowned for his conversations with notable personalities, has **passed away** at the age of 88. His family said that he peacefully departed at his residence after a brief period of illness. (Click here to read the article)

- Consumer rights activist and former vice-principal of Cotton University, **Deven Dutta** passed away at the age of 81. Born on April 5, 1944 at Nazira in Sivasagar, Deven Dutta was residing in Guwahati's Sundarpur area. (Click here to read the article)

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi,** in his speech in the Parliament during the No Confidence debate on August 10, mentioned the island of Katchatheevu. Hitting out at Rahul Gandhi for his now expunged Bharat Mata remarks, PM Modi said it was the Indira Gandhi government which gave away **Katchatheevu to Sri Lanka in 1974. (**Click here to read the article**)**

- In a significant stride towards showcasing the **rich heritage of Indian craftsmanship** and fostering self-reliance, the **One District One Product** (ODOP) program has joined hands with the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) to launch the captivating and innovative '**ODOP Wall**'. (Click here to read the article)

- In a momentous celebration, the **CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute** (CSIR-NBRI) launched an extraordinary variety of the national flower, **Lotus**, named '**Namoh 108**'. This unique flower boasts an astonishing **108 petals** and was dedicated to the nation on the eve of Independence Day, underscoring its significance in the **cultural** and religious tapestry of India. (Click here to read the article)

- **Typhoon Lan** made landfall in **Japan, August 15,** bringing heavy rain and strong winds. The typhoon has caused flooding and power outages in several areas, and authorities have issued evacuation warnings for some residents. The typhoon made landfall near Shionomisaki in Wakayama prefecture, about 400 kilometers southwest of Tokyo. It had maximum sustained winds of 160 kilometers per hour (100 miles per hour), equivalent to a Category 2 hurricane. (Click here to read the article)

- In a display of grandeur and deep religious devotion, the Jammu and Kashmir administration inaugurated the yearly **Budha Amarnath Yatra** across the rolling terrains of **Poonch district**. The pilgrimage, spanning over a period of 10 days, is a journey of profound significance for devotees seeking blessings from **Lord Shiva**. (Click here to read the article)

- The **first G20 film festival**, organized by the **Ministry of External Affairs** and **India International Centre**, commenced in Delhi with the screening of the renowned drama film **"Pather Panchali**" by **Satyajit Ray**. (Click here to read the article)

- Adobe co-founder **Dr. John Warnock** passed away at the age of 82, Adobe announces. He founded the revolutionary software company Adobe with his partner, the now-late Dr. Charles Geschke, in 1982. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **C Radhakrishna Rao,** one of India's greatest mathematicians and statisticians of India, passes away at the age of 103. He had recently received the prestigious **"International Prize in Statistics-2023",** often referred to as the "statistics' equivalent of the Nobel Prize". ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Windham Rotunda,** also known as **Bray Wyatt,** passed away at age 36. Rotunda was an American professional wrestler. He was best known for his tenure in WWE, where he performed under the ring name Bray Wyatt. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Veteran actor **Seema Deo,** remembered for her roles in Anand and Kora Kagaz, passes in Mumbai due to age-related ailments, she was 81. Seema Deo acted in nearly 90 Hindi and Marathi movies in a career spanning over six decades from the black-and-white to the colour era of the Indian film industry. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Jayanta Mahapatra,** one of India's best known English poets, passed away at the age of **95**. The legendary poet has left an imprint in the Indian English poetry with his writings spanning over 50 years. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Static Current Affairs

- Chairman & CEO of Foxconn: Young Liu
- Lokmanya Tilak National Award was instituted in: 1983
- Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change: Shri Bhupender Yadav
- Oracle Headquarters: Austin, Texas, United States;
- Oracle Founders: Larry Ellison, Bob Miner, Ed Oates;
- Oracle CEO: Safra Catz (18 Sept 2014–).
- Minister for Animal Husbandry in Madhya Pradesh: Ms. Kusum Mehandele
- Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India: Ajay Kumar Sood
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) was founded in: 12 July 1982
- Chief General Manager of NABARD Rajasthan: Dr. Rajiv Siwach
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) was founded in: 12 July 1982
- Chief General Manager of NABARD Rajasthan: Dr. Rajiv Siwach
- Chairperson of National Highways Authority of India: Santosh Kumar Yadav
- Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Oil India Limited: Dr. Ranjit Rath
- Chairperson of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet: Narendra Modi;
- Israel Prime Minister: Benjamin Netanyahu;
- Israel President: Isaac Herzog;
- Israel Capital: Jerusalem;
- Israel Currency: New Israeli Shekel (NIS).
- Chairman of Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board: AK Jain
- Chairman of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights : Priyank Kanoongo
- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare: Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya
- Minister of Minority Affairs: Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani
- Athletics Federation of India President: Adille J Sumariwalla;
- Athletics Federation of India Founded: 1946;
- Athletics Federation of India Headquarters location: New Delhi.
- Director General of United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO): Qu Dongyu
- WHO Director-General: Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus;
- WHO Founded: 7 April 1948;
- WHO Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.
- Rabindranath Tagore was awarded The Nobel Prize in: 1913
- Sports Authority of India (SAI) Founded: 1984;
- Sports Authority of India (SAI) Headquarters: Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium (Delhi), Lodhi Road, Delhi, India.
- Director General of the Directorate General of Trade Remedies: Sh. Anant Swarup
- Zoological Survey of India Director: Dhriti Banerjee
- Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) founded on: 25 February 2012
- Tesla Founders: Elon Musk, Martin Eberhard, JB Straubel, Marc Tarpenning, Ian Wright;
- Tesla Founded: 1 July 2003, San Carlos, California, United States;
- Tesla CEO: Elon Musk (Oct 2008–);
- Tesla Headquarters: Austin, Texas, United States.
- MD & CEO of IndiaFirst: Ms R.M.Vishakha
- Minister of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries: Giriraj Singh
- Cambodia Capital: Phnom Penh;
- Cambodia Currency: Cambodian riel;
- Cambodia Official language: Khmer.
- Prime Minister of Iraq: Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani
- National Cyber Security Coordinator: General M U Nair
- CBIC Chairperson: Vivek Johri;
- CBIC Founded: 1 January 1964.
- Chairman of Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA): Deepak Mohanty

- Chairman of NewSpace India Limited: Shri Radhakrishnan Durairaj
- President and Chief Executive Officer of Internet Society: Andrew Sullivan
- Chairperson of the JJM Board within Srinagar: Mohammad Aijaz Asad
- Executive Director of the Bharti Institute of Public Policy: Ashwini Chhatre
- Karnataka's Minister for Forests, Ecology, and Environment: Eshwar Khandre
- Airtel Payment Bank MD & Chief Executive Officer: Anubrata Biswas;
- Airtel Payment Bank Headquarters: New Delhi, Delhi;
- Airtel Payment Bank Established: 2017.
- 23rd and current prime minister of Canada: Justin Trudeau
- Minister of Health of Uttar Pradesh: Jai Pratap Singh
- Director of National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB): Vivek Gogia
- Co-Founder and Group CEO of MakeMyTrip: Rajesh Magow
- Minister of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj: Shri Giriraj Singh
- Director-General of WHO: Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
- Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari;
- IAF Founded: 8 October 1932, India;
- IAF Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Dirrector of Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWEIL): A.K Maurya
- Chief of the Army Staff of Pakistan: General Asim Munir
- Health Minister of Goa: Vishwajit Pratapsingh Rane
- Prime Minister of Singapore: Lee Hsien Loong
- Netherland Capital: Amsterdam;
- Netherland Currency: The euro.;
- Netherland Prime Minister: Mark Rutte.
- Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Hyundai Motor India Limited: Mr. Unsoo Kim
- Chief Technology Officer at Wipro Limited: Subha Tatavarti
- Chairman of Hindustan Shipyard Limited: Hemant Khatri
- Minister of Environment & Climate Change in Goa: Nilesh Cabra
- CEO of AgniKul Cosmos Private Limited: Srinath Ravichandran
- CEO of OpenAI: Sam Altman
- Project 17A was launched by the Indian Navy in: 2019
- Athletics Federation of India Founded: 1946
- Athletics Federation of India Headquarters: New Delhi, India
- Chief Post Master General of Bengaluru: S Rajendra Kumar
- Chairman of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE): TG Sitharam

- Russia Capital: Moscow;
- Russia President: Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin;
- Russia Currency: Russian Ruble;
- Russia Prime minister: Mikhail Mishustin.
- The inauguration of the Tulip Garden took place in: 2007
- President of Asian Squash Federation: Mr David Mui
- Governor of West Bengal: CV Ananda Bose
- Adobe CEO: Shantanu Narayen (1 Dec 2007–);
- Adobe Headquarters: San Jose, California, United States;
- Adobe Founders: Charles Geschke, John Warnock;
- Adobe Founded: December 1982, Mountain View, California, United States.
- Assam's Industries & Commerce Minister: Chandra Mohan Patowary
- The Chairman and Managing Director of VA Tech Wabag: Rajiv Mittal
- Singapore's Minister for Education: Mr Chan Chun Sing
- State Bank of India(SBI) Chairman – Dinesh Kumar Khara
- State Bank of India(SBI) Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra
- State Bank of India(SBI) Established in – 1955
- State Bank of India(SBI) Tagline – The Banker to Every Indian
- Managing Director & CEO of YES BANK: Mr. Prashant Kumar
- Chief executive officer (CEO) of Jio Financial Services: Hitesh Sethia
- Official currency of Thailand: Thai baht
- Khelo India Programme was launched in the year: 2018
- Chief Marketing and Communications Officer at Mastercard: Raja Rajamannar
- Chief Executive Officer of ICC: Geoff Allardice
- Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL): Shri Mihir Kanti Mishra
- Wrestling Federation of India President: Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh;
- Wrestling Federation of India Founded: 27 January 1967;
- Wrestling Federation of India Headquartered in New Delhi, India.
- Minister of Assam for Environment and Forest: Chandra Mohan Patowary
- Competition Commission of India (CCI) was formed on: October 14, 2003.
- Chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI): Ravneet Kaur.
- Minister of Assam for Environment and Forest: Chandra Mohan Patowary
- Competition Commission of India (CCI) was formed on: October 14, 2003.
- Chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI): Ravneet Kaur.

- Chairman of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE): T G Sitharam
- Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) Founded: 1 October 2003;
- Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) Headquarters: Chōfu, Tokyo, Japan.
- Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change: Bhupender Yadav
- Chief of the Air Staff of India: Vivek Ram Chaudhari
- Chief Minister of Assam: Himanta Biswa Sarma
- President of Badminton World Federation: Poul-Erik Hoyer Larsen
- Headquarters of Badminton World Federation: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysi

List of Hydro, Thermal& Nuclear Power Plants in India

Name	State
Tarapur Nuclear power plant	Maharashtra
Kaiga Nuclear Power Plant	Karnataka
Kakrapar Nuclear Power Plant	Gujarat
Kalpakkam Nuclear Power Plant	Tamil Nadu
Rawatbhata Nuclear Power Plant	Rajasthan
Narora Nuclear Power Plant	Uttar Pradesh
Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant	Tamil Nadu
Chutka Nuclear Power Plant	Madhya Pradesh
Mithi Virdi Nuclear Power plant	Gujarat

Thermal Power Plant:

Name	State
Simhadri Super Thermal power Station	Andhra Pradesh
Rayalaseema Thermal power station	
DrNarlaTatarao Thermal Power Station	
Bongaigon Thermal Power Station	Assam
Lakwa Thermal power Station	
Namrup Thermal Power Station	
Barauni Thermal Power station	Bihar
Kahalgaon Thermal Power Station	
Muzaffarpur Thermal Power Plant	
Korba Super Thermal Power Plant	Chattisgarh
Bhillai Expansion Power Plant	
Sipat Thermal power Plant	
Jindal Mega Power Plant	
Dr Shyam Prakash Mukharjee Thermal Power Plant	
LancoAmarkantak	

Name	State
Indraprashta Power Station	Delhi
Rajghat Power Station	
Badarpur Thermal Power Plant	
Gandhinagar Thermal Power Plant	Gujarat
Ukai Thermal Power Station	
Kawas Thermal Power Station	
Jhanor- Gandhar Thermal power Station	
Kutch Lignite Thermal Power Station	
Mundra Thermal power Plant	
Sabarmathi Thermal Power Station	
Surat Lignite Thermal Power Station	
Sikka Thermal power Station	
Wanakbori Thermal Power Station	
Dhuruvan Thermal Power Plant	
Patratu Thermal Power Station	Jharkhand
Bokaro Thermal Power Station	
Chandrapura Thermal Power Station	
Rajiv Gandhi Thermal Power Plant	Haryana
Faridabad Thermal Power Station	
Deenbandhu Chhotu Ram Thermal Power Station	
Udupi Thermal Power Plant	Karnataka
Bellary Thermal Power Plant	
Raichur Super Thermal Power Station	
JSW Vijayanagar TPS	
Rajiv Gandhi Combined Cycle Power Plant	Kerala
Brahmapuram Diesel Power Plant	
Amarkantak Thermal Power Station	Madhya Pradesh
Sanjay Gandhi thermal power Station	
Vindhyanchal Super Thermal Power Station	
Satpura Thermal Power Station	
SantSingaji Thermal Power Plant	
Chandrapur Super Thermal Power Plant	Maharashtra
Amravati Thermal power Plant	
Bhusawal Thermal Power Station	
Parli Thermal power Station	
Khaperkheda Thermal Power Station	
Nashik Thermal power Station	
Tirora Thermal Power Plant	
Trombay Thermal Power Station	
Dahanu Thermal Power Station	

Name	State
Talcher Super Thermal Power Station	**Odisha**
Hirakud Captive Power Plant	
Guru Nanak Dev Thermal Power Station	**Punjab**
Guru Hargobind Thermal Power Station	
Suratgarh Super Thermal Power Station	**Rajasthan**
Chhabra Thermal Power Plant	
Giral Lignite Thermal Power Station	
VS Lignite Power Plant	
Anta Thermal Power Station	
Barsingsar Lignite Power Plant	
Rajwest Lignite Power Plant	
Neyveli Thermal Power Station	**Tamil Nadu**
North Chennai Thermal Power Station	
Ennore Thermal Power Station	
Tuticorin Thermal power Station	
Mettur Thermal Power Station	
KothagudemThemal Power Station	**Telangana**
Ramagundam Thermal Power Station	
Kaktiya Thermal Power Station	
Rihand Thermal Power Station	**Uttar Pradesh**
Tanda Thermal Power Plant	
Obra Thermal Power Station	
Anpara Thermal Power Station	
Auraiya Thermal Power Station	
Harduaganj Thermal Power Station	
National Capital Thermal Power Plant	
Panki Thermal power Plant	
Parichha Thermal Power Station	
Rosa Thermal Power Station	
Feroz Gandhi Unchahar Thermal Power Plant	
Singrauli Super Thermal Power Station	
Durgapur Thermal Power Station	**West Bengal**
BakreswarThemal Power Station	
Farakka Super Thermal Power Station	
Kolaghat Thermal Power Station	
Mejia Thermal Power Station	
Bakreswar Thermal Power Station	
Bandel Thermal Power Station	
Santaldih Thermal Power Station	

Hydroelectric Power Plants:

Name	State
Idukki Hydro electric Plant	Kerala
Koyna Hydro Electric Power Plant	Maharashtra
Hirakund Hydro Electric Power Plant	Odisha
Balimela Hydro Electric Power Plant	
Tehri Hydro Electric Power Plant	Uttarakhand
Nagarjuna Hydro Electric Power Plant	Andhra Pradesh
Srisailam Hydro Electric Power Plant	
Machkund Hydro Electric Power Plant	
NathpaJhakri Hydro Electric Power Plant	Himachal Pradesh
BhakraNangal Hydro Electric Power Plant	
Dehar Hydro Electric Power Plant	
Baira- Siul Hydro Electric Power Plant	
Sardar Sarovar Hydro Electric Power Plant	Gujarat
Indirasagar Hydroelectric Power Plant	Madhya Pradesh
Bansagar Hydro Electric Power Plant	
Rihand Hydro Electric Power Plant	Uttar Pradesh
Sharavathi Hydro Electric Power Plant	Karnataka
Kalinadi Hydro Electric Power Plant	
Shivanasamudra Hydro Electric Power Plant	
Teesta Hydro Electric Power Plant	Sikkim
Rangit Hydro Electric Power Plant	
Salal Hydro Electric Power Plant	Jammu and Kashmir
Uri Hydro Electric Power Plant	
Subarnarekha Hydro Electric Power Plant	Jharkhand
Loktak Hydro Electric Power Plant	Manipur