

## Weekly Current Affairs 21st August to 26th August English

## National News

**President Droupadi Murmu Grants Assent to Central and Integrated GST Amendment Bills, 2023**

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. The Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023, is designed to introduce amendments to the existing Central Goods and Services Tax Act of 2017. This bill encompasses adjustments to key definitions and provisions to better align with evolving technological and economic landscapes.

The bill adds definitions for crucial terms such as "online gaming," "online money gaming," and "virtual digital assets." It clarifies that online gaming refers to the offering of games over the internet or electronic networks, encompassing money gaming as well.

**BRO Initiates Construction of World's Highest Motorable Road in Eastern Ladakh**

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. This strategic road will establish the world's highest motorable road, spanning an altitude of approximately 19,400 feet, surpassing the previous record held by Umling La Pass. The initiative was launched on India's 77th Independence Day, signifying its significance for national security.

**India announces 'Green' Hydrogen standard**

India has announced the definition of Green Hydrogen. The Green Hydrogen Standard for India sets a criterion of 2 kg CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per kg H<sub>2</sub> 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. The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy has characterized Green Hydrogen as having a well-to-gate emission (encompassing processes like water treatment, electrolysis, gas purification, hydrogen drying, and compression) that does not exceed 2 kg CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per kg H<sub>2</sub>.

**Nitin Gadkari launches Bharat NCAP(New Car Assessment Programme)**

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.

**Finance Minister Launches HSBC India's Green Hydrogen Partnerships**

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). The collaboration, which comes with a substantial grant support totaling ₹15 crore (\$2 million), marks a pivotal moment in advancing projects that prioritize green hydrogen as a strategic alternative fuel. These initiatives are poised to play a crucial role in building a resilient green-hydrogen economy. The partnerships forged by HSBC India underline the nation's commitment to accelerating innovation in the realm of green hydrogen. As India strives to reduce its carbon footprint and make significant strides in the fight against climate change, green hydrogen has emerged as a game-changing solution that aligns perfectly with these goals. The strategic partnerships aim to channel resources and expertise into projects that will drive the adoption of green hydrogen across various sectors.

Bengali

MISSION

WB FOOD SI

অনলাইন লাইভ ক্লাস+ রেকর্ডেড ভিডিও +  
ই বুক + হাতে লেখা নোটস্ + মক টেস্ট

Start Date: 1 Sept 2023

## International News

**Srettha Thavisin Elected As Thailand Prime Minister**

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. Srettha Thavisin after completing his studies in 1986, embarked on his professional path, assuming the role of an assistant product manager at Procter & Gamble. This initial chapter of his career spanned a duration of four years, during which he gained valuable insights and experience. However, it was in the year 1988 that he embarked on a transformative journey, co-founding Sansiri. This enterprise would go on to establish itself as one of Thailand's foremost real estate development companies, leaving an indelible mark on the industry.

**The Resilience of the Piripkura Tribe: Last Survivors Found Deep within the Amazon Rainforest**

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. The Piripkura tribe is a secluded indigenous group found in Brazil. Known for their extreme isolation, they have deliberately avoided contact with mainstream society. Their commitment to maintaining their traditional way of life has spanned generations. The Piripkura territory is nestled in the Brazilian state of Mato Grosso, within the Amazon rainforest. Their land is a treasure trove of biodiversity, playing a critical role in the ecological balance of the region. The tribe's close connection with their natural habitat underscores their role as stewards of the forest.

**African Swine Fever Spreads Globally: 49 Countries Affected Since 2021**

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. Since January 2021, the highly contagious African Swine Fever (ASF) virus has spread to 49 countries by August 2023. This virus affects both domestic and wild pigs, causing nearly 100% mortality.

**PM Modi first Indian prime minister to visit Greece in 40 years**

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. As Prime Minister Modi arrived in the Greek capital of Athens, he was warmly greeted by the Indian community residing in Greece. A symbolic gesture of cultural exchange was presented as they gifted him with a traditional Greek headdress, symbolizing the bridging of cultures and the strong ties that the two nations share. During his visit, Prime Minister Modi is set to engage in crucial talks with his Greek counterpart, Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis. The primary objective of these discussions is to further solidify the existing relationship between the two countries. The talks are expected to encompass a wide range of areas, including economic cooperation, defense collaboration, and people-to-people connections.

**Iran Unveils Mohajer-10 Combat UAV, Claiming Extended Range, Payload**

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). The unveiling of Mohajer-10 follows closely on the heels of another noteworthy display of Iran's unmanned systems. Merely a week prior, Tehran showcased an array of advanced drones at the Army 2023 defense expo held in Russia. Among these were the Arash, Ababil-5 Karrar, and Shahin combined-type UAVs.

**PM Modi Pays Tribute to Tomb of the Unknown Soldier during Greece Visit**

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. Prior to his visit to Greece, Prime Minister Modi participated in the 15th BRICS Summit held in South Africa. This summit served as a platform for bilateral discussions with various world leaders, reinforcing India's diplomatic ties with these nations. Subsequently, Modi's journey took him to Greece, where he embarked on a schedule filled with diplomatic engagements. The 'Tomb of the Unknown Soldier,' situated at Syntagma Square in Athens, stands as a poignant tribute to Greek soldiers who sacrificed their lives in different conflicts. Located in front of the Old Royal Palace, this cenotaph carries deep historical significance.

**State News**

**TN CM Stalin Lays Foundation Stone For South-East Asia's Largest Desalination Plant**

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. Spearheaded by VA Tech Wabag, a renowned pure-play water technology Indian Multinational Group based in Chennai, this project is poised to revolutionize the region's water supply. With an ambitious investment of Rs 4,400 crore, this initiative holds the potential to alleviate Chennai's water scarcity concerns and elevate the city's status as a water-sustainable urban center. The goal of the project is to establish a Seawater reverse osmosis (SWRO) desalination facility with the capacity to generate an impressive 400 million liters per day (MLD) of clean, drinkable water. The financial backing for this project is being extended by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), exemplifying a collaborative endeavor aimed at tackling a critical regional concern. This undertaking not only enhances Chennai's water security by establishing a dependable source of potable water through desalination but also has the potential to bestow upon the city the prestigious designation of the "Desalination Capital of India". The combined production of desalinated water along the Chennai coastline is projected to approach an astounding 750 MLD, presenting a remarkable achievement that could potentially reshape Chennai's water dynamics.

**Onam 2023: History, Significance and Celebrations of Kerala's Harvesting Festival**

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. Each day of Onam is imbued with its own unique significance, contributing to the grand tapestry of this festive period. The sequence of days – Atham, Chithira, Chodi, Vishakam, Anizham, Thriketta, Moolam, Pooradam, Uthradom, and finally, Thiruvonam – is carefully woven into the cultural fabric of the event. These days hold rituals, traditions, and festivities that resonate with the hearts of the people.

**Kerala's First AI School Launched In Thiruvananthapuram**

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. This initiative is the brainchild of a collaboration between iLearning Engines (ILE) USA, a renowned educational platform, and Vedhik eSchool, steered by a committee of distinguished professionals including former Chief Secretaries, DGPs, and Vice Chancellors. The AI School, meticulously crafted by the iLearning Engines and Vedhik eSchool partnership, emerges as a beacon of innovative learning. Rooted in artificial intelligence technology, it promises an unparalleled educational experience for students, fortified by international standards and an unwavering commitment to quality learning. This revolutionary approach ensures that the benefits of school studies transcend classroom hours, extending to the virtual realm through the school's website.

**Telangana Partners With UNESCO To Implement Recommendation On Ethics Of AI**

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. This partnership is designed to cultivate a profound impact on how AI is developed and utilized, ensuring that the benefits are shared across all segments of society. The collaboration encompasses multiple dimensions, including-

Ethical Development and Use of AI, Awareness Raising, Capacity Building, Contributions to UNESCO's Global Observatory on AI Ethics.

The partnership between UNESCO and the Telangana Government is a pledge to intertwine technology with the fundamental principles that safeguard human rights and dignity. By synergizing diverse strengths and viewpoints, this collaboration envisions harnessing the potential of AI for the collective good, creating a future that knows no boundaries and resonates with equity and inclusivity.

**NHA Launches First ABDM Microsite In Mizoram**

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. The ABDM Microsite project represents a pivotal shift in healthcare digitization efforts across India. The concept revolves around establishing defined geographical regions where targeted outreach efforts are concentrated to onboard small and medium-scale private healthcare providers into the digital healthcare ecosystem. With a robust support framework in place, these providers will play a vital role in offering digital health services to patients. The project's origin can be traced to the vision of providing a significant push to healthcare digitization, reaching even the smallest healthcare facilities across the country.



**Assam Govt Issues Notification Banning Plastic Water Bottles Below 1 Litre**

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. Recognizing the environmental hazards posed by such smaller plastic bottles, the Assam government's decision aligns with its commitment to safeguard the state's natural beauty and biodiversity. Last month, the Assam government made headlines by declaring its intent to prohibit the production and use of drinking water bottles made from Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) with a volume of less than 1 litre. This commendable decision has now materialized into official action, with the Assam Environment and Forest Department issuing a resolute notification on August 23. The notification effectively puts an end to the manufacturing, import, stocking, distribution, and sale of plastic water bottles below the specified capacity.

**West Bengal News****President Launches 'My Bengal, Addiction-Free Bengal' Campaign In Kolkata**

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. Acknowledging the joint endeavors of both the central and state governments in confronting this concern, the president underscored the pressing need to urgently discover viable solutions to eradicate this threat from society. President Droupadi Murmu outlined a multi-faceted approach to tackling the issue of drug abuse, advocating for solutions that involve spiritual awakening, medical intervention, social unity, and determined political will. She emphasized that addiction often stems from mental stress and peer pressure, resulting in harmful consequences for both the individuals involved and their families. She also applauded organizations such as the Brahma Kumaris for engaging in discussions around these critical matters and actively working to find resolutions. The event was graced by the presence of West Bengal Governor CV Ananda Bose and state minister for women and child development and social welfare Shashi Panja. President Murmu extended her appreciation to Prajapita Brahmakumari Ishwariya Vishwavidyalaya for launching the 'My Bengal, Addiction Free Bengal' initiative as part of the 'Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan'.

**The proposal to specify the state anthem of West Bengal has been adopted**

Recently, a proposal to specify a 'State Anthem' for West Bengal is also going to be taken up in the State Assembly. A song with which the people of Bengal have a spiritual connection, is being thought of as 'Rajya Sangeet'. Several songs have already been discussed and a list of them is being prepared, sources in the assembly said. Note that the national anthem of India is Jana-Gana-Mana. Similarly, it is known that the idea of state anthem is going on along with the national anthem. Basically, any music that has a spiritual connection with the local people, with whom the people of the state can unite, is accepted as state music. This time in the case of West Bengal, such thinking is being done. Incidentally, different states of the country have such patterns of state music. Neighboring Assam, Bihar, Odisha also have their own state music. For example, 'Bande Utkal Janani' has been adopted as the state anthem of Odisha in 2020. Again in 2012, 'Mere Bharat Ke Kanthahar' was adopted as the State Anthem of Bihar. Again the state anthem of Assam is 'O Mur Apunar Desh'.

**Economy News****ICRA Forecasts India's GDP Growth of 8.5% in Q1, 2023**

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.

The projected growth of 8.5% for Q1 FY24 is primarily attributed to two key factors:

**Supportive Base Effect:** The growth rate is expected to receive a boost from a supportive base effect, meaning that the comparison is made against a lower growth rate in the same period of the previous year.

**Services Sector Recovery:** The services sector, a significant contributor to India's economy, is anticipated to exhibit a noteworthy recovery. The report indicates that a continued catch-up in services demand and improved investment activity have positively impacted growth.

**Rankings & Reports News**

**Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan-2023: Madhya Pradesh's IT Hub Indore Secures First Rank**

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. The Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan -2023 witnessed a remarkable display of dominance by Madhya Pradesh, particularly in the category of cities with a population of more than 10 lakhs. Out of the top five positions, two were secured by cities from the state. While Indore claimed the prestigious first position, Bhopal secured a commendable fifth rank. This achievement reinforces Madhya Pradesh's proactive approach to tackling pollution and promoting cleaner air quality.

Indore's remarkable performance was underpinned by its impressive score of 187 out of 200, a testament to its robust and comprehensive measures for environmental preservation. Bhopal secured a respectable fifth position with a score of 181, while Jabalpur and Gwalior secured the 13th and 41st positions with scores of 172 and 114, respectively. These rankings mirror the concerted efforts undertaken by these cities to combat pollution and enhance their environmental footprint.

Below are the top five positions among cities with a population exceeding 10 lakhs:

Rank	Population Category	City
1st	> 10 lakhs	Indore
2nd	> 10 lakhs	Agra
3rd	> 10 lakhs	Thane
4th	> 10 lakhs	Srinagar
5th	> 10 lakhs	Bhopal

**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. 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. 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. Award Categories and Winning Projects are Built Environment Category, Economy Category, Mobility Category, Governance Category, Union Territory Category.

**Business News**

**LIC Acquires 6.7% Stake In Jio Financial Services Via RIL De-Merger Action**

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. Jio Financial Services made its debut on the stock exchanges on August 21, entering the financial markets with a promising trajectory. The company, post-listing, boasted a market capitalization of approximately Rs 1.60 lakh crore, indicative of the investor interest and confidence in its potential. Despite its strong market capitalization, the stock faced challenges in its initial trading sessions. The stock experienced a downward trajectory for the second consecutive session, hitting the lower circuit limit - a threshold set by the stock exchanges to curb excessive volatility - for both BSE and NSE. The stock's price declined by 4.99% to Rs 239.20 on BSE and by 5% to Rs 236.45 on NSE. This phenomenon has led to discussions regarding the market's reaction to the demerger and the implications of this volatility on the company's valuation.

**BHEL Achieves Milestone in Curbing NOx Emissions: Indigenous SCR Catalysts Manufactured**

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. Underlining their commitment to self-reliance and national innovation, BHEL has crafted a monumental milestone by producing homegrown SCR Catalysts. The catalysts are integral to tackling NOx emissions, a prevalent pollutant resulting from coal combustion in thermal power plants. This development aligns perfectly with the 'Make in India' campaign, boosting indigenous manufacturing and self-sufficiency.

**Reliance Retail Launches ‘Yousta’ Fashion Stores; First Outlet In Hyderabad**

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. This move is set to revolutionize the retail market by catering to the fashion needs of the youth segment while offering contemporary, technology-enabled shopping experiences. Yousta is positioned as a youth-centric fashion retail format that embraces contemporary trends and offers them at affordable prices. The brand recognizes the purchasing power and preferences of young consumers, aiming to provide them with high-fashion options that won’t break the bank. In line with this approach, all products within the Yousta range are priced below Rs 999, and a majority of them are available for less than Rs 499. This pricing strategy is poised to resonate with budget-conscious young shoppers.

**Hindustan Shipyard Signs ₹19,000 cr Contract With Defence Minister**

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. The Fleet Support Ships (FSS) serve a crucial role in maritime operations by facilitating the replenishment of ships at sea. These vessels, weighing an impressive 44,000 tonnes each, are equipped to provide essential resources such as fuel, water, ammunition, and supplies to naval fleets on extended missions. This capability to operate independently for extended periods will significantly enhance the Indian Navy’s reach and effectiveness, particularly in the vast expanse of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

**Agreement News**

**India, ASEAN agree to review FTA by 2025**

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. The Joint Committee of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA), which was originally signed in

2009, convened to discuss the roadmap for revisiting the pact. The committee successfully finalized the terms of reference for commencing fresh negotiations, setting the stage for a comprehensive review of the trade agreement. During a pivotal ASEAN-India Economic Ministers’ meeting held in Indonesia, the ministers collectively agreed to a strategic approach for the review process. They decided to adhere to a quarterly negotiation schedule and set a definitive goal: concluding the review by the year 2025. This forward-looking target underlines the commitment to foster trade that is mutually beneficial and conducive to both parties’ growth

**Appointment News**

**BPCL announces Rahul Dravid as Brand Ambassador**

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) has announced cricketer Rahul Dravid as its new brand ambassador. He will endorse BPCL’s Pure for Sure initiative and range of MAK lubricants. This exciting partnership highlights Bharat Petroleum’s strong dedication to quality, authenticity, and excellence. Rahul Dravid embodies exceptional sportsmanship, serves as a role model, and possesses qualities such as integrity, dependability, and trustworthiness that align perfectly with our values at BPCL. Rahul Dravid will endorse BPCL’s well-known Pure for Sure initiative and their range of MAK lubricants. As an icon who elevated Indian cricket to new heights, Rahul truly represents our values of trust, ethics, service, and consistency. His association with BPCL will further emphasize our commitment to delivering quality products consumers can rely on throughout the country.

**Neelkanth Mishra appointed part-time chairman of UIDAI**

The Centre has announced the appointment of Neelkanth Mishra as the part-time Chairperson of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). Mr. Mishra, known for his expertise in economics and research, currently serves as the Chief Economist of Axis Bank and also holds the position of Head of Global Research at Axis Capital. Neelkanth Mishra boasts an impressive professional journey that spans several decades, during which he has made significant contributions to the world of finance and research. Prior to his association with Axis Bank, he spent twenty years at Credit Suisse, a prominent financial institution based in Zurich. Throughout his tenure, Mishra held various crucial roles, such as co-head of APAC Strategy, India Equity Strategy Head, and Head of Research in India. This diverse range of responsibilities allowed him to gain an in-depth understanding of the intricacies of financial markets, strategic planning, and economic analysis.



**Justice Prakash Shrivastava appointed as NGT chairperson**

Justice Prakash Shrivastava has been appointed as Chairperson of National Green Tribunal (NGT). After the former Chairperson Justice A.K Goel retired. After the former Chairperson Justice A.K Goel retired in July, Justice Sheo Kumar Singh was appointed as the Acting Chairperson. Justice Srivastav Enrolled as Advocate on February 2, 1987. He Practised on Tax, Civil and Constitutional sides in the Supreme Court of India at New Delhi. He was later appointed as a Judge of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh on January 18, 2008 and became a permanent Judge on January 15, 2010. Justice Shrivastava was born on March 31, 1961. In the year 1987, he was enrolled as an advocate and practiced in tax, civil, and constitutional law, at the Supreme Court. Later, he was appointed as an additional judge at the Madhya Pradesh High Court on January 18, 2008 before being made permanent on January 15, 2010. Subsequently, Justice Shrivastava served as the Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court from October 11, 2021 till his retirement on March 30, 2023.

**SBI Appoints Four Directors To The Board**

The State Bank of India (SBI) has appointed four directors namely Ketan Shivji Vikamsey, Mrugank Madhukar Paranjape, Rajesh Kumar Dubey and Dharmendra Singh Shekhawat to the central board of the bank. They were appointed for a period of 3 years with effect from 26th June 2023 to 25th June 2026. Ketan Shivji Vikamsey and Mrugank Madhukar Paranjape have been reappointed as the director (elected under Section 19(c) of SBI Act 1955) at SBI's Central board. They have been holding this position since June 2020. Rajesh Kumar Dubey and Dharmendra Singh Shekhawat have been appointed as the Directors (elected under section 19 (c) of the SBI Act, 1955) at SBI's Central Board. Rajesh Kumar Dubey and Dharmendra Singh Shekhawat have replaced B Venugopal and Ganesh Natarajan, whose tenure as Director ended on 25th June 2023



Bengali

**MISSION**

• **WB FOOD SI** •

অনলাইন লাইভ ক্লাস+ রেকর্ডেড ভিডিও +  
ই বুক + হাতে লেখা নোটস্ + মক টেস্ট

Start Date: 1 Sept 2023

**Banking News****Canara Bank Pioneers UPI-Interoperable Digital Rupee Mobile App for CBDC Transactions**

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. This forward-thinking initiative empowers customers to seamlessly complete transactions through their smartphones. With the Canara Digital Rupee app, customers can effortlessly scan merchant UPI QR codes, facilitating payments using the digital currency. This streamlined process brings a new level of convenience to digital payments, enhancing the overall transaction experience for users.

**Yes Bank Launches All-In-One 'IRIS' Mobile App**

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. With over 100 features and services available at the touch of a button, iris by YES BANK represents a quantum leap in digital banking. Designed to cater to both existing and new customers, IRIS by YES BANK introduces a new era of banking convenience. The app's sleek and intuitive user interface is crafted to provide a simplified banking experience that appeals to users of all age groups and backgrounds. Beyond its user-friendly design, the app is fortified with state-of-the-art safety features, including Biometric Authentication, Sim-Binding, and a 2-factor Verification system, ensuring utmost security for customers' financial data. A highlight of iris by YES BANK is its co-creation process. Based on valuable feedback from YES BANK customers, the app is a product of collaboration between the bank and its clientele.

**RBI Raises Offline Payment Transaction Upper Limit to ₹500 from ₹200**

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.

**Science & Technology News**

**Schemes and Committees News**

**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.

**Aditya-L1 Mission to be Launched in September**

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. Aditya L1 will be ISRO's 2 space-based astronomy mission after AstroSat, which was launched in 2015. Aditya 1 was renamed as Aditya-L1. The Aditya 1 was meant to observe only the solar corona. AstroSat, was launched in September, 2015, by PSLV-C30 from Sriharikota (Andhra Pradesh). It is the first dedicated Indian astronomy mission aimed at studying celestial sources in X-ray, optical and UV spectral bands simultaneously.

**ISRO's next mission to Moon is with Japanese, named LUPEX**

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. As its name suggests, LUPEX will also explore the polar regions of the Moon, this time venturing into the permanently shaded regions. One half of the Moon never faces the Sun, and is therefore permanently dark. To land in these areas, the spacecraft and the onboard instruments have to have an alternative power supply option through an onboard battery.

**BRICS Summit 2023 in South Africa**

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. The summit is set to witness extensive deliberations on strategies aimed at bolstering the collective political and economic clout of the BRICS alliance. Notably, China's President Xi Jinping's active participation reaffirms China's deep-rooted commitment to the BRICS alliance as a crucial instrument for advancing its strategic ambitions on the global stage. Russian President Vladimir Putin's involvement takes an innovative turn as he joins the summit via video link. This unconventional approach is a direct response to an International Criminal Court arrest warrant issued against him in relation to the Ukrainian conflict. Despite the warrant, Russia maintains its engagement in the summit, demonstrating the enduring importance of the BRICS alliance.

**'Mera Bill Mera Adhikar' GST Reward Scheme To Launch Soon**

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. The 'Mera Bill Mera Adhikar' scheme, conceptualized by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), is designed to instill a sense of confidence and assurance among consumers while making purchases. The scheme is geared towards creating awareness about the importance of receiving genuine invoices for business-to-consumer transactions, fostering a more transparent economy. Under this scheme, consumers are offered a compelling incentive to demand bills for their purchases. The range of cash prizes extends from ₹10,000 to a whopping ₹1 crore. These prizes will be awarded through monthly and quarterly draws, making participation exciting and rewarding. The scheme's architecture ensures that individuals stand a chance to win substantial cash rewards by simply requesting legitimate invoices during their transactions.

**North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS) with an approved outlay of Rs.8139.50 crore**

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. This segment focuses on improving road infrastructure across the North Eastern States. It incorporates the merger of the erstwhile North East Road Sector Development Scheme (NERSDS). The funding for this component is fully borne by the central government. The objective is to enhance road connectivity and accessibility within the region.

## Summits & Conference News

### Jan Dhan Accounts Cross 50 Crore-Mark In Less Than 9 Years: Centre

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. **Diverse Ownership:** Out of the total Jan Dhan accounts, an encouraging 56 percent are owned by women, indicating a remarkable step towards gender inclusivity in financial matters. **Rural and Semi-Urban Embrace:** Around 67 percent of these accounts have been opened in rural and semi-urban areas, showcasing the program's widespread reach and positive impact in less urbanized regions. **Substantial Deposits:** The cumulative deposits in these Jan Dhan accounts have surged beyond ₹2.03 lakh crore, underlining the financial engagement and empowerment of a significant portion of the population. **Average Balance:** On average, the balance held in each Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) account amounts to ₹4,076, revealing a tangible impact on individuals' savings and financial stability.

### BRICS Welcomes New Members: Inclusion of Argentina, Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, and Egypt

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. President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa, the host nation of the recent BRICS summit, made a historic announcement on August 24th, revealing the names of the new entrants to the alliance. The expanded BRICS now welcomes Argentina, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, and Egypt into its fold. This move not only diversifies the alliance but also provides a platform for emerging economies from different regions to align their interests on the global stage.

### Panel Formed For 'Restructuring And Redefining' Role Of DRDO

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. This initiative comes after persistent concerns expressed by various stakeholders, including the armed services, regarding the organization's efficiency and effectiveness. To spearhead this transformation, a nine-member committee has been formed, bringing together experts from the defence sector, industry, and academia. The committee's task is to restructure and redefine the DRDO's role, foster collaborations with foreign entities, attract and retain top-tier talent, and streamline its research efforts. The newly appointed committee will be led by K. Vijay Raghavan, former Principal Scientific Advisor to the government.

### Ministry Of Education Announces Launch Of Smart India Hackathon-2023

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. The Smart India Hackathon acts as a remarkable platform that unites the ingenuity of India's young minds with the practical obstacles encountered by diverse government entities and ministries. With a vast network comprising more than 7500 Innovation Institutes spanning the nation, SIH is a breeding ground for unconventional solutions and fresh perspectives. Since its establishment in 2017, the initiation of the Smart India Hackathon has marked a significant milestone. It has evolved into a global exemplar of a Hackathon and innovation framework, embodying its dynamic progression over time. The array of themes embraced by this Hackathon reflects its diversity, spanning from agriculture and health tech to transportation and even extending beyond these domains.

## Awards & Honors News

### PM Modi honoured with Greece's Grand Cross of the Order of Honour

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the Grand Cross of the Order of Honour by Greek President Katerina N. Sakellariopoulou in Athens. The award is the highest civilian honour that can be bestowed by Greece to a foreign head of government. The citation for the award said that it was being given to PM Modi "in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the promotion of bilateral relations between Greece and India". It also praised his "commitment to strengthening the ties between the two countries in the political, economic, cultural and people-to-people spheres". PM Modi is the first Indian prime minister to be conferred with the Grand Cross of the Order of Honour. He is also the first foreign head of government to be awarded the honour since 2017. The award is a significant recognition of PM Modi's efforts to strengthen ties between India and Greece.

The two countries have a long history of friendship and cooperation, and the award is a testament to the growing importance of this relationship.

### Important Dates News

#### World Senior Citizen Day 2023: Date, Significance and History

World Senior Citizen Day is celebrated on August 21 every year to raise awareness of the contributions of older adults to society. In India, a senior citizen means any person who has attained the age of sixty years or above. In a more general sense, senior citizens are elderly people, especially those who have retired. This day is celebrated to recognise the wisdom, knowledge, and accomplishments of older individuals while raising awareness about the issues they face and advocating for their well-being. The significance of World Senior Citizen Day is twofold. First, it is a day to honor the contributions of senior citizens to society. Senior citizens have made significant contributions in all areas of life, from raising families and building businesses to serving in the military and leading governments. They have also passed on their wisdom and knowledge to younger generations, helping to shape the world we live in today. Second, World Senior Citizen Day is a day to raise awareness about the issues faced by senior citizens. As the population ages, the number of senior citizens is increasing. This is putting a strain on resources, such as healthcare and housing. Senior citizens are also more likely to be victims of crime and abuse. World Senior Citizen Day is an opportunity to raise awareness about these issues and to advocate for policies that will improve the lives of senior citizens.

#### International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism 2023

The International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism is observed annually on August 21. This is the sixth commemoration of the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, on 21 August 2023. The International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism was established by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 72/165 of 20 December 2017. The resolution was adopted by consensus, reflecting the strong international commitment to combating terrorism and supporting its victims. The day was chosen to commemorate the bombing of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq, on August 21, 2003, which killed 22 people, including Sergio Vieira de Mello, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

#### World Water Week 2023: Date, Theme, Significance and History

World Water Week is a global event which is organised by the Stockholm International Water Institute every year since 1991. The programme will be held from August 20 to 24 at the Waterfront Congress Center. It is a non-profit event which

aims to develop solutions for the international water crisis (alongside several other problems). Water is one of the most essential gifts of nature that we require in our daily lives. From drinking to cleaning, water serves multiple purposes in our lives. Hence, it becomes equally important for us to conserve it. The theme, Seeds of Change.

#### Women's Equality Day 2023: Date, Theme, Significance and History

Women's Equality Day, observed annually on August 26, marks a global recognition of the ongoing struggle for equal rights and opportunities for women. It serves as a tribute to the universal suffrage movement, celebrates women's advancements, and reinforces the commitment to gender equality. The theme for Women's Equality Day 2023 is "Embrace Equity," echoing through the strategic plan spanning from 2021 to 2026. This theme underscores the importance of achieving gender equality, not just for economic growth, but also as a fundamental human right.

#### International Dog Day 2023: Date, Significance, Celebration and History

International Dog Day, observed on August 26th every year, is a heartwarming tribute to our furry companions who enrich our lives with their unwavering devotion and boundless affection. This day holds a special place in the hearts of animal lovers worldwide, as it acknowledges the profound impact that dogs have on our lives, from their incredible abilities to their role in rescue operations, and, most importantly, their capacity for unconditional love. Dogs, often referred to as "man's best friend," occupy a unique place in our hearts and homes. Their unwavering loyalty and boundless love create an unbreakable bond that transcends words. Beyond companionship, dogs play pivotal roles in various aspects of human life.

### Sports News

#### Priya Malik Wins Gold at U20 World Wrestling Championships In Jordan

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. Competing in the 76 kg category, Priya Malik showcased her prowess on the mat. In the gold medal match, she triumphed over Germany's Laura Kuehn with a resounding score of 5-0. Priya Malik's victory makes her only the second Indian woman to attain a gold medal in the prestigious U20 World Wrestling Championships. She joins the ranks of Antim Panghal, another Indian wrestler who had previously secured a gold medal in the same competition. Priya's success is not only a personal triumph but also a contribution to India's outstanding performance at the U20 World Wrestling Championships, supported by the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS).

**India's Anahat Singh Clinches Gold In Asian Junior Squash Championships**

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. The 15-year-old prodigy from India exhibited her prowess by defeating Hong Kong's Ena Kwong with a resounding 3-1 victory in the finals. In the quarterfinals and semifinals, she showcased her skill and determination by overcoming Malaysian players Doyce Lee and Whitney Isabelle Wilson, respectively. Last year, Anahat made her mark in the Asian Junior Squash Individual Championships held in Thailand, where she secured her first gold medal in this prestigious event.

**Mohit Kumar becomes U-20 World Champion in Men's 61 kg Freestyle category**

Through a captivating display of skill and unwavering resolve, 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. Prior to Mohit's victory, Deepak Punia had clinched the title in 2019, before making a transition to the senior circuit. Mohit's accomplishment places him among an elite group of Indian wrestlers who have achieved this honor. Notable wrestlers like Palwinder Cheema (2001) and Ramesh Kumar (2001) have previously secured the prestigious world junior title, making Mohit only the fourth Indian wrestler to ascend to this wrestling throne.

**FIFA Women's World Cup 2023: Spain wins the title with 1-0 victory over England**

Spain secured their first ever Women's World Cup title with a 1-0 win over England at the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup final in Sydney. The win marks a historic FIFA Women's World Cup campaign for Spain who previously failed to make it past the Round of 16. Making it to the final after knockout wins over Switzerland, the Netherlands and Sweden, was already a first for Spain with the victory in the final cause for an even bigger celebration. Captain Olga Carmona smashed the decisive goal as Spain defeated England 1-0 to lift the FIFA Women's World Cup title. Spain's first major international trophy made it the first European team to win the Women's World Cup since Germany in 2007. In addition, Spain's victory makes them only the second nation to have won both the men's and the women's World Cups. The other nation is Germany, who won the men's World Cup in 1974 and 1990, and the women's World Cup in 2003 and 2007. Spain's victory is a historic moment for the team, for the country, and for the women's game. It is a moment that will be remembered for many years to come.

**Tirupati boy bags silver at Singapore Math Olympiad**

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. Among the 23 Indians representing the nation at the SIMOC, Raja Anirudh stood out as the sole participant from Andhra Pradesh. The event, which saw the participation of over 2000 students from 32 different countries, was a platform for young mathematical minds to showcase their skills and knowledge.

**Khelo India Women's League To Be Known As Asmita Women's League**

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. The new name, "Asmita Women's League," carries a profound meaning. ASMITA stands for "Achieving Sports Milestone by Inspiring Women Through Action", encapsulating the spirit of resilience, determination, and achievement that defines women athletes across the nation. This change not only offers a new identity but also embodies the aspirations of countless women who strive to make their mark in the sporting arena. Mr. Thakur took to social media to commend the entire Khelo India team for their visionary concept of the Asmita Women's League. He also expressed his appreciation for the development of the Asmita Portal and its new logo, recognizing these advancements as significant steps towards the digital transformation of Indian sports. This demonstrates the government's commitment to leveraging technology to enhance the overall sports experience and engagement.

**Wrestling Federation of India membership suspended on world stage**

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. The WFI's scheduled elections, initially set for June 2023, have been repeatedly postponed due to protests by Indian wrestlers and legal challenges from various state units. This delay prompted the UWW, the global authority for wrestling, to suspend the WFI's membership. The suspension comes as a result of the federation's failure to meet the required election timeline.



## Obituaries News

**Adobe Co-Founder Dr. John Warnock Passes Away at 82**

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. Marva Warnock designed the company's original logo, and Adobe released its first program, the desktop publishing software Adobe PostScript, two years later. Warnock served mostly as the company's CEO until 2000 and was co-chairman of the board along with Geschke until 2017. Warnock remained on the company board of directors afterward.

**Legendary statistical scientist CR Rao passes away at the age of 103**

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". C R Rao was born into a Telugu family in Ballari, which was part of the Madras Presidency and is now in Karnataka. In 1941, he completed his MSc in Mathematics from Andhra University and joined Indian Statistical Institute in Calcutta in 1943 as research scholar. In 1945, when Rao was just 25, his paper titled 'Information and accuracy attainable in the estimation of statistical parameters' was published in the Bulletin of the Calcutta Mathematical Society, a lesser-known journal in the statistics community. His influential work has stretched beyond statistics, impacting diverse fields such as economics, genetics, anthropology, geology, national planning, demography, biometry, and medicine. Rao's active contributions persist even today, leading him to be celebrated as a "living legend" whose influence extends, as recognised by the American Statistical Association.

**Wrestling icon and WWE Hall of Famer, Terry Funk, passes away**

Terry Funk, the pioneer of the World Wrestling Entertainment and the WWE Hall of Famer, has passed away at the age of 79. Funk had an intriguing and remarkable career over five decades (1965 to 2017). He was known for his hardcore style, his charisma, and his passion for the business. The late 79-year-old was inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame in 2009 by his longtime friend and rival, Dusty Rhodes. In 2021, he also received recognition from the International Professional Wrestling Hall of Fame. The iconic WWE figure has secured multiple championship victories, encompassing the NWA World Heavyweight Championship, the ECW World Heavyweight Championship, and the WWF Tag Team Championship. He was also a part of several memorable feuds and matches with icons such as Ric Flair, Dusty Rhodes, Mick Foley, and Bret Hart.

**Veteran Marathi actress Seema Deo passes away at 81**

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. She is hugely remembered for her major role in the musical blockbuster 'Anand', along with her husband Ramesh, and Amitabh Bachchan among other actors. Some of her renowned Marathi films are 'Jagachya Pathivar', 'Vardakshina', among many others. She was last seen in 'Jivan Sandhya' released in 2021. She was born Nalini Saraf on March 27, 1942, in Girgaum, Mumbai. She made her film debut in the Marathi film "Jagachya Pathivar" in 1962. She went on to act in over 90 Hindi and Marathi films, including "Anand" (1971), "Kora Kagaz" (1974), "Apradh" (1975), "Janaki" (1977), "Bezubaan" (1980), "Koshish" (1982), and "Sansar" (1987). She was married to actor Ramesh Deo from 1966 until his death in 2021.

## Defence News

**LCA Tejas Successfully Test-Fires Astra Beyond Visual Range Air-To-Air Missile**

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. According to a statement released by the Defence Ministry, the missile release was executed flawlessly from the Tejas aircraft at an altitude of approximately 20,000 feet. The test not only met all its predetermined objectives but also demonstrated a perfect textbook launch, affirming the precision and readiness of the Astra missile system. To ensure a comprehensive monitoring of the event, a Chase Tejas twin-seater aircraft closely observed the entire process, adding an extra layer of validation to the test. The successful test launch was carried out under the vigilant supervision of the Test Director and scientists hailing from prominent institutions like the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). The Center for Military Airworthiness and Certification (CEMILAC) and the Directorate General of Aeronautical Quality Assurance (DG-AQA) also played pivotal roles in ensuring the comprehensive assessment of the launch.

**Books & Authors News**

**PS Sreedharan Pillai Released Three New Books on Nature, Trees, and Geopolitics**

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). Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant inaugurated the event in Panaji, Goa. West Bengal governor CV Ananda Bose unveiled the book 'Heritage Trees of Goa', while Goa chief minister Pramod Sawant inaugurated the event. Goa state minister for tourism Rohan Khaunte and Jnanpith winner Damodar Mauzo released two other books: 'When Parallel Lines Meet' and 'Ente Priya Kavithakal'.

**Miscellaneous News**

**Granting of Geographical Indication (GI) Tag to Matti Banana Variety of Kanniyakumari District**

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. Size and Taste: Matti bananas are slightly larger-than-human finger-sized fruits with a sweet fragrance and honey-like taste that remains unmatched outside their native region. Variety Diversity: There are six distinct types of Matti bananas, each boasting unique qualities in terms of color, aroma, and flavor.

**Srinagar's Tulip Garden Enters Record Books With 1.5mn Flowers**

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 an enchanting variety of 1.5 million blooming flowers, stands as a living testament to the beauty and diversity of nature. The World Book President and CEO, Santosh Shukla, bestowed the esteemed certification upon Fayaz Sheikh, the Secretary of Floriculture, Gardens, and Parks. With an enchanting collection of 68 distinctive tulip varieties, the Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden is a captivating tapestry of colors and shapes. Each tulip variety presents a unique personality, painting the landscape with hues that range from the most delicate pastels to the most vibrant and striking shades. The garden's meticulously curated collection showcases the tireless efforts of horticulturists and botanists in cultivating a breathtaking array of nature's wonders.

**Why Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary in news?**

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) recently addressed a serious issue concerning the Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary, located in the Balasore district of Odisha. The NGT's intervention reflects its commitment to safeguarding the delicate balance between development and conservation.

Illegal mining is happening in a sensitive area of the Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary, and someone has complained about it. They are worried because this mining is taking place near a place called Similipal-Hadgarh-Kuldiha-Conservation Reserve, specifically in the Sukhuapata Reserved Forest area. The person who complained said that around 97 places where sand is being dug up have been given permission for this mining. They're saying that this is not allowed according to a law called the Forest (Conservation) Act, which was made in 1980. They are concerned that these mining activities could harm the environment and the animals living there. The person who complained also talked about a decision by the highest court in India, called the Supreme Court. This decision said that mining can only happen if they have a good plan to take care of the animals and nature. They also mentioned that an important path that elephants use should be protected as a special area.

**India's First Hydrogen Bus Hits the Public Roads in Leh, Ladakh**

NTPC Limited, a prominent Maharatna Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) operating under the Ministry of Power (MoP), has embarked on a groundbreaking venture by launching the trial of India's inaugural hydrogen bus in the picturesque region of Leh, situated in the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh. This remarkable endeavor not only marks the country's first utilization of hydrogen buses on public roads but also reflects NTPC's commitment towards fostering sustainability and reducing carbon emissions. The maiden hydrogen bus has arrived in Leh, symbolizing the commencement of a significant three-month-long process. This process encompasses rigorous field trials, comprehensive roadworthiness assessments, and essential regulatory clearances, all of which are vital steps towards integrating hydrogen-powered buses into Ladakh's transport ecosystem.

Bengali

**MISSION**

● **WB FOOD SI** ●

অনলাইন লাইভ ক্লাস+ রেকর্ডেড ভিডিও +  
ই বুক + হাতে লেখা নোটস্ + মক টেস্ট

Start Date: 1 Sept 2023