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HIGHLIGHTED POINTS

- India Launches World's First Mobile Hybrid Rocket: RHUMI-1
- NHPC, SECI, Railtel, and SJVN Gain Navratna Status
- Pakistani Christian Becomes First Goan to Obtain Indian Citizenship Under CAA
- Jay Shah Elected as New International Cricket Council Chairman
- India Welcomes First Civilian Space Tourist Gopichand Thotakura



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Monthly Current Affairs Magazine – August 2024

National News

India Approves Eight New National High-Speed Road Corridors

On August 2, 2024, the Government of India took a significant step towards enhancing the country's transportation infrastructure. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the construction of eight new national high-speed corridor projects. This decision marks a pivotal moment in India's ongoing efforts to modernize and expand its road network to meet current and future demands.

“VIRAASAT”, 10th National Handloom Day Begins At Handloom Haat, New Delhi

“VIRAASAT”, a fortnight long exhibition dedicated to celebrating 10th National Handloom Day began at Handloom Haat in Janpath on 3rd August, 2024. National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd (NHDC) is organising the handloom expo under the aegis of the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India which will conclude on 16th August, 2024.

PM Marks 5 Years of Abrogation of Articles 370 and 35(A)

On the fifth anniversary of the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35(A), Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the decision as a pivotal moment in Indian history, marking the beginning of a new era of progress and prosperity for Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Ladakh. He emphasized that the abrogation ensured the full implementation of the Indian Constitution in these regions, aiming to enhance security, dignity, and development opportunities for marginalized communities while reducing corruption.

Pilgrimage to Shri Baba Buddha Amarnath Commences in J&K

In Jammu and Kashmir, the 10-day pilgrimage to Shri Baba Buddha Amarnath in the Loran Valley of Poonch district began today and will conclude on the 19th of this month, coinciding with Sawan Purnima and Raksha Bandhan. The journey is marked by tight security and significant arrangements to accommodate the influx of pilgrims.

India's Renewable Energy Capacity Soars by 165% in a Decade

India's renewable energy capacity has surged by 165% over the past decade, increasing from 76.38 GW in 2014 to 203.1 GW in 2024, according to Union Minister Pralhad Joshi. This growth positions India as the fourth largest globally in renewable energy capacity, with significant advancements in solar and wind power.

Why Waqf Board Amendment Bill 2024 In News?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government is all set to table the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, in the Lok Sabha on August 8. The new bill that proposes to amend the Waqf Act, 1995 will be introduced in the Lok Sabha by Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju. With over 40 amendments, the bill has proposed to revoke several clauses in the existing Waqf Act – the law governing Waqf boards. It has proposed far-reaching changes in the present Act, including ensuring the representation of Muslim women and non-Muslims in such bodies.

What is Broadcast Services Bill 2024?

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has prepared the draft Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill, 2024 which will replace the Television Network Act of 1995. According to reports the act will classify influencers or social media pages who make content or write about current affairs or any other news online as 'digital news broadcaster'.

UNICEF and Bengal Partner to Engage Fathers in Breastfeeding

The West Bengal government and UNICEF have teamed up to encourage fathers to play an active role in promoting breastfeeding among new mothers. This initiative aims to enhance family support for breastfeeding and improve the rates of exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of a child's life.

India Triumphs in 4th CAVA Women's Volleyball Nations League 2024

The Indian women's national volleyball team has once again proven their mettle on the international stage by clinching the gold medal at the 4th CAVA (Central Asian Volleyball Association) Women's Volleyball Nations League. In a thrilling final match, India overcame the host nation Nepal with a score of 3-2 sets, marking their second CAVA title. This prestigious event took place at the Dasharath Stadium in Kathmandu, Nepal, culminating on August 7, 2024.



Indian Cost Accounts Service (ICoAS) Foundation Day Celebration

The Indian Cost Accounts Service (ICoAS) celebrated its Foundation Day in New Delhi with the theme 'ICoAS @ Viksit Bharat'. The event highlighted the crucial role of ICoAS officers in shaping the economic future of India by 2047. Dr. T. V. Somanathan, Finance Secretary & Secretary (Expenditure), was the Chief Guest and emphasized the importance of ICoAS officers in realizing the vision of a developed India.

Govt. Approves Eight New Railway Line Projects

The Union Cabinet on August 9, approved eight new railway projects at an estimated cost of ₹24,657 crore to provide connectivity, facilitate ease of travelling, minimise logistics cost, reduce oil imports and lower carbon dioxide emissions.

India Advances Nuclear Submarine Capabilities

India is on the brink of commissioning its second nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine, INS Arighat, and has received approval to construct six additional nuclear submarines to enhance its maritime defence. The Indian Navy is preparing to commission INS Arighat, its second nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), which is nearing the completion of its trials and upgrades.

Government Restores Diamond Imprest Licence for Gems and Jewellery Sector

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has announced the restoration of the Diamond Imprest Licence, a move aimed at revitalizing India's gems and jewellery sector. The decision was made during the India International Jewellery Show (IIJS) 2024, organized by the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC). This policy shift is expected to address issues related to diamond imports and enhance India's export competitiveness.

Union Jal Shakti Ministry Launches FloodWatch India 2.0 App

The Union Minister for Jal Shakti, C.R. Patil, has launched the 2.0 version of the 'FloodWatch India mobile app, developed by the Central Water Commission (CWC). This upgraded app provides an enhanced and detailed overview of flood conditions across the country.

P.M Calls for Secular Civil Code in Independence Day Speech

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 15th August, stressed on the need to bring a 'Secular Civil Code' instead of using the term 'Universal Civil Code', hinting at the government's intention to broad-base the policy and avoid friction on the contentious issue, both within the ruling NDA and outside. This is the first time Modi has referred to the Universal Civil Code (UCC) as the 'Secular Civil Code', a move many within the BJP claim will leave the Opposition with no choice.

Kisan Ki Baat: Government Radio Program To Bridge Farm-Science Gap

The government is set to launch 'Kisan Ki Baat', a monthly radio programme aimed at bringing scientific knowledge to farmers, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced on August 15. This initiative seeks to modernize agricultural practices and empower farmers with cutting-edge scientific information.

PM Modi to Headline The ET World Leaders Forum

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will serve as the chief guest at the inaugural ET World Leaders Forum, scheduled for August 31 in New Delhi. The forum aims to address India's role in global economic growth, innovation, and policy-making amidst a backdrop of global economic stagnation.

Centre Launches New AI-Based Surveillance System To Manage Pests

The Union Government on August 15, launched the AI-based National Pest Surveillance System (NPSS) that will help farmers to connect with agriculture scientists and experts on controlling pests using their phones.

Centenary Commemorative Coin Honoring M. Karunanidhi

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on August 18, released the centenary commemorative coin of Dr. Kalamnagar M. Karunanidhi in Chennai. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister paid rich tributes to the late leader and described him as one of the icons of Indian politics.

India's First Constitution Museum Marks 75 Years of the Indian Constitution

India's first Constitution Museum, named "The Constitution Academy and The Rights & Freedoms Museum," is set to be inaugurated by OP Jindal Global University on November 26, 2024. This initiative celebrates the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Indian Constitution.

3 Online Platforms Launched to Boost Country's Power Sector Efficiency

The Union Ministry of Power launched three new online platforms—PROMPT, DRIPS, and JAL VIDYUT DPR—to enhance efficiency, transparency, and effectiveness in the power sector. These platforms, unveiled by Union Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on August 20, 2024, in New Delhi, were developed by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) under the Ministry of Power, with NTPC assisting in the development of the PROMPT platform.

Health Ministry constitutes the National Task Force on Healthcare Worker Safety

The Health Ministry has formed a 14-member National Task Force (NTF) to address the safety and working conditions of medical professionals in India. In response to ongoing protests and as mandated by the Supreme Court, the NTF will develop recommendations focused on preventing violence against healthcare workers and establishing national protocols for dignified and safe working conditions across the medical profession.

India's KAPS-4 Nuclear Plant Achieves Full Capacity

The Kakrapar Atomic Power Station (KAPS) in Gujarat, India, has reached full operational capacity with its second 700 MW nuclear reactor, KAPS-4, which started operating at full power on August 21, 2024. This achievement follows the reactor's commercial operation start on March 31, 2024, and its first criticality on December 17, 2023. The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) confirmed that Unit 4 at KAPS was previously operating at 90% capacity before reaching its full 700 MW output.

PM Modi Presents BHISHM Cubes to Ukraine

In a historic visit to Ukraine, Prime Minister Narendra Modi pledged extensive humanitarian support and handed over four BHISHM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita and Maitri) Cubes to the Ukrainian government. This marks the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Ukraine since its independence in 1991, emphasizing India's stance for peace amidst the ongoing conflict with Russia.

India Launches World's First Mobile Hybrid Rocket: RHUMI-1

India's space efforts received a significant boost with the successful launch of RHUMI-1, the world's first mobile hybrid rocket. This achievement also marks a milestone as the first reusable hybrid rocket in India. Developed by Chennai-based startup Space Zone India in collaboration with Martin Group, RHUMI-1 represents a leap forward in rocket technology, promising to enhance efficiency and reduce operational costs in space exploration.

India Celebrates National Space Day with Launch of 'Sapno ki Udaan' E-Magazine

On India's inaugural National Space Day, the nation witnessed a significant educational milestone with the release of 'Sapno ki Udaan', an innovative e-magazine. This launch, spearheaded by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, marks a fusion of science, creativity, and education, aimed at inspiring the next generation of Indian students.

Dharmendra Pradhan Unveils First Edition of E-Magazine 'Sapno ki Udaan'

On India's National Space Day, marking the 1st anniversary of Chandrayaan-3's landing on the lunar South Pole, the Department of School Education & Literacy, in collaboration with NCERT, launched the e-magazine 'Sapno ki Udaan.' Union Minister of Education, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, released the inaugural edition virtually, with Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State for Education, also attending.

Union Government Launches New Guidelines for Effective Public Grievance Redressal

The Union Government has introduced new 2024 guidelines aimed at improving the handling of public grievances, focusing on citizen empowerment and streamlining the

redressal process. These guidelines are designed to enhance clarity and efficiency in addressing grievances and incorporate technological advancements through a 10-step reform process.

ICAR-CIFE and VAMNICOM Sign MoU to Enhance Cooperative Management in Fisheries

In a significant development, the Central Institute of Fisheries Education (ICAR-CIFE) and the Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management (VAMNICOM) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on August 26, 2024. This collaboration aims to advance cooperative management in the fisheries sector and supports the vision of establishing 200,000 Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), dairy, and fishery cooperatives in every Panchayat.

PM chairs 44th PRAGATI Interaction

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi earlier on August 28, chaired the meeting of the 44th edition of PRAGATI, the ICT-based multi-modal platform for Pro-Active Governance and Timely Implementation, involving Centre and State governments. This was the first meeting in the third term.

India's 2nd Nuclear Missile Submarine Commissioned by Rajnath Singh

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is set to commission India's second nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine (SSBN), INS Arighat (S-3), at a quiet event in Visakhapatnam, marking a significant boost to India's nuclear deterrence and second-strike capability. This submarine, armed with 750-km range K-15 nuclear ballistic missiles, will patrol the Indo-Pacific under India's strategic command.

Cabinet Approves Setting Up of 12 Industrial Smart Cities In 10 States

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has given the green light to 12 new project proposals under the National Industrial Corridor Development Programme (NICDP). This ambitious initiative, with an estimated investment of Rs. 28,602 crore, is set to transform India's economic geography, creating a robust network of industrial nodes and cities that promise to significantly boost economic growth and enhance global competitiveness.

Indian Army Launches Project NAMAN: SPARSH-Enabled Service Centres Nationwide

The Indian Army has launched the first phase of Project NAMAN, aimed at providing dedicated support and services to Defence pensioners, veterans, and their families. The project, inaugurated by Chief of the Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi and the President of the Army Wives Welfare Association, Mrs. Sunita Dwivedi, is a significant step toward enhancing the care and support for the Defence community.

NHPC, SECI, Railtel, and SJVN Gain Navratna Status

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman granted 'Navratna' status to four Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs): NHPC, Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI), Railtel Corporation of India (RCIL), and Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN). This brings the total number of Navratna CPSEs in India to 25. The Navratna status provides these entities with increased financial and operational autonomy.

International News**President Murmu's Six-Day Visit to Fiji, New Zealand, and Timor-Leste**

President Droupadi Murmu embarked on a six-day visit to Fiji, New Zealand, and Timor-Leste, marking significant diplomatic engagements. This visit is notable for being the first by an Indian Head of State to Fiji and Timor-Leste.

Jakarta Hosts 5th AITIGA Joint Committee Meeting

The 5th AITIGA Joint Committee meeting, marking a significant milestone in ASEAN-India economic cooperation, took place in Jakarta from July 29 to August 1, 2024. The discussions aimed at reviewing and enhancing the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) were co-chaired by Shri Rajesh Agrawal, Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, India, and Ms. Mastura Ahmad Mustafa, Deputy Secretary General (Trade), Ministry of Investment, Trade & Industry, Malaysia. Delegates from all 10 ASEAN countries and India participated in the meeting.

Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus To Lead Bangladesh Interim Government

Bangladesh's Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus will head the country's interim government after former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stepped down and fled the country amid a mass uprising against her rule led mostly by students. The announcement early on August 7, came from Joynal Abedin, the press secretary of President Mohammed Shahabuddin.

India's First GI-Tagged Fig Juice Exported to Poland

Purandar Highlands Farmers Producer Company Ltd has achieved a significant milestone by exporting India's first GI-tagged fig juice to Poland. This follows the successful export of India's first commercial consignment of GI-tagged Purandar figs to Hong Kong in February 2023.

Australia Announces Maitri Grants For Research And Cultural Collaboration With India

The Australian government has unveiled the Maitri Research and Cultural Partnerships Grants. These grants, aimed at fostering Australia-India collaboration, encompass sustainable manufacturing, energy transition research, and artistic projects. Minister Penny Wong praised the initiatives for strengthening bilateral ties, emphasizing the importance of human connections in the relationship.

China to Launch Satellite Constellation to Rival Musk's Starlink

China is close to launching its first batch of satellites for a mega constellation aimed at rivaling US company SpaceX's Starlink Internet network. As reported by Xinhua, state-run Shanghai Spacecom Satellite Technology (SSST) launched the first components on the network. SSST's constellation has been named "Thousand Sails".

Tunisia's President Replaces Prime Minister Ahead of October Election

In a recent political shakeup, Tunisia's President Kais Saied has dismissed Prime Minister Ahmed Hachani and appointed Kamel Maddouri, the former Social Affairs Minister, to the role. This change marks the sixth prime ministerial appointment under Saied's administration. The announcement comes just before Tunisia's presidential election on October 6, amid growing social and economic unrest.

Bill Gates Foundation to set up FSTP at Sarovaram

The city of Kozhikode in Kerala, India, is set to receive a significant upgrade to its waste management infrastructure. Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, in collaboration with the Habitat Charitable Trust, has proposed the construction of a state-of-the-art faecal sludge treatment plant (FSTP) at Sarovaram. This development marks a crucial step towards improving sanitation and water hygiene in the region.

India-New Zealand Sign Bilateral Customs Cooperation Agreement

India and New Zealand have signed a Bilateral Customs Cooperation Arrangement to facilitate easier trade between the two nations. The agreement was formalized in Wellington on 8 August 2024 during President Droupadi Murmu's official visit to New Zealand.

China Tests Largest Cargo Drone as Low-Altitude Economy Expands

China has taken a significant step in advancing its low-altitude economy by testing its largest unmanned cargo aircraft yet. This move highlights the country's push to expand its drone capabilities, with the goal of creating a \$279-billion industry by 2030.

A blue rectangular advertisement with a white 'A' in a circle at the top right. The text reads: 'CLERKSHIP, MISCELLANEOUS' in white, 'অফলাইন মক টেস্ট' in white, 'Total Test 2' in white, and 'Test Series' in white on a dark blue background at the bottom.

Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida Resigning

Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida announced on August 14, that he will be stepping down from the post next month, and will not contest in the upcoming vote to elect a new chief for the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP). Kishida has been having a torrid time in office, his government has been battered by scandals, and his 20% approval rating indicates a disastrous erosion of public trust.

Germany Joins United Nations Command in South Korea as 18th Member State

Germany's recent inclusion in the U.S.-led United Nations Command (UNC) in South Korea marks a significant expansion of the command's member states, now totaling 18 nations. This move underscores Berlin's commitment to global security, linking European stability to the broader Indo-Pacific region.

China Approves \$31 Billion for 11 New Nuclear Reactors Across Five Sites

China has approved the construction of 11 new nuclear reactors across five sites, with a total investment of approximately 220 billion yuan (\$31 billion). This marks a record number of permits as the government intensifies its reliance on nuclear energy to reduce carbon emissions. The State Council's approval includes reactors in Jiangsu, Shandong, Guangdong, Zhejiang, and Guangxi. The construction is expected to take about five years.

Nepal To Export 1000 MW Electricity To India

Nepal will export nearly 1,000 MW of electricity to India, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said after meeting his Nepalese counterpart Arzu Rana Deuba in New Delhi on August 19. He went on to describe the development as a "new milestone".

Ulchi Freedom Shield Exercises

For the first time in recent history, the 51st Fighter Wing at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea, is incorporating its recurring wing readiness exercise into Ulchi Freedom Shield 24. The 51st FW readiness exercise started on Aug. 19 and will continue until Aug. 23, 2024.

India Surpasses China As Top Importer Of Russian Oil

India overtook China as the world's biggest importer of Russian oil in July as Chinese refiners bought less because of lower profit margins from producing fuels, a comparison of import data showed.

India and Denmark Collaborate on Clean River Initiative

Diana Pundole, a teacher and mother from Pune, has made history as the first Indian woman to win the national championship in the saloon category at the MRF Indian National Car Racing Championship 2024 held in Chennai. Her achievement is especially notable as it comes in a sport traditionally dominated by men, highlighting her determination and skill despite numerous challenges.

North Korean Leader Kim Jong Un Unveils New 'Suicide Drones'

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un recently unveiled a new type of "suicide drone," with state media reporting that he personally oversaw a performance test of the weaponry. These drones, designed to carry explosives and crash into enemy targets like guided missiles, were showcased during a test conducted on August 24, 2024. The test was successful, with all drones accurately identifying and destroying their designated targets after flying along preset routes. Experts suggest that the technology behind these drones may have Russian origins.

India and Indonesia Resolve to Boost Anti-Terror Cooperation

India and Indonesia have reaffirmed their commitment to combating terrorism, including addressing the misuse of new and emerging technologies by terrorists. During the sixth meeting of the India-Indonesia Joint Working Group on Counter-Terrorism held in Jakarta, both nations condemned the use of terrorist proxies for cross-border terrorism, particularly in light of Pakistan's support to terror groups targeting Jammu and Kashmir.

24th International Mother Teresa Awards Celebrated in Dubai

The 24th International Mother Teresa Awards Ceremony took place on August 26, 2024, at Millennium Plaza Dubai, marking the 114th birth anniversary of the esteemed humanitarian. Organized by the All-India Minority and Weaker Sections Council, this event was held outside.

Singapore Hosts 2nd India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR)

In a bid to enhance strategic ties, Singapore hosted the 2nd India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR) on 26 August 2024. This high-level platform, established to discuss and shape bilateral relations, follows the inaugural ISMR held in New Delhi on 17 September 2022. The first meeting, attended by four senior Singaporean ministers, set the stage for a robust dialogue between the two nations.

Typhoon Shanshan Makes Landfall On Japan's Kyushu Island

Typhoon Shanshan made landfall on Japan's southwestern main island of Kyushu on August 29, the weather agency said, bringing heavy rain and strong winds that left at least 40 people injured in three prefectures. The Japan Meteorological Agency urged residents in affected areas to remain on high alert for natural disasters, while public transport operators canceled trains and flights, and some homes were left without power as the storm advanced.

Iran Appoints Fatemeh Mohajerani As First Female Government Spokesperson

In Iran, for the first time, a woman will be the government spokesperson. At the suggestion of Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian and with the approval of the Cabinet of Ministers, Fatemeh Mohajerani was appointed as the first female government spokesperson.

INS Tabar Conducts Maritime Partnership Exercise with Spanish Navy Ship Atalaya

INS Tabar, a frontline frigate of the Indian Navy, visited Malaga, Spain, on 25 August 2024, for a two-day engagement. Upon departure on 27 August, it participated in a Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) with the Spanish Navy Ship Atalaya in the Mediterranean Sea. This exercise is a significant milestone in the growing maritime cooperation between India and Spain, reflecting the strengthening of bilateral relations in the maritime domain.

State News**Jharkhand Launches Mukhyamantri Maiyaan Samman Yojana**

The government of Jharkhand, led by Chief Minister Hemant Soren, has unveiled a significant welfare initiative aimed at empowering women in the state. The Mukhyamantri Maiyaan Samman Yojana, set to be officially launched on August 16, 2024, represents a major step towards providing financial assistance to eligible women across Jharkhand.

Rs 920 Cr Namami Gange Mission 2.0 Projects In UP And Bihar

In a significant stride towards rejuvenating and conserving the sacred River Ganga, the Government of India has successfully completed and operationalized four major projects under the Namami Gange Mission 2.0 in the first quarter of fiscal year 2024-25. These initiatives located across the mainstream of the river Ganga in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, are pivotal in the ongoing efforts to curb pollution and enhance the ecological health of the Ganga and its tributaries.

Madras High Court Strikes Down Section 77-A of Registration Act as Unconstitutional

In a significant judgment, the Madras High Court has declared Section 77-A of the Registration Act, 1908 unconstitutional. This ruling has far-reaching implications for property registration and ownership rights in Tamil Nadu. Section 77-A, introduced to the Central enactment by way of a 2022 State amendment, granted District Registrars the power to cancel documents related to immovable property if they were found to have been registered through fraud or on submission of forged revenue records.

Andhra Scraps 2-Child Policy For Individuals To Contest Local Body Polls

The Andhra Pradesh government has decided to scrap the two-child norm for contesting local body elections in view of the declining fertility rate in the state. The decision was taken at the meeting of the state Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, on August 7.

Chhattisgarh Approves Country's Third Largest Tiger Reserve

With its tiger population plunging in recent years, Chhattisgarh on August 7, cleared a long-pending proposal to notify a new tiger reserve – the third largest in the country. The Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve, which integrates an existing national park with a wildlife sanctuary, is Chhattisgarh's fourth reserve for the big cats. It spans 2,829 square kilometres across four northern districts of the state.

Odisha Launches India's First 'Rice ATM'

Odisha has introduced India's first round-the-clock grain dispensing machine, known as the Annapurta Grain ATM, designed to transform the Public Distribution System (PDS) for ration cardholders. Officially launched by Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister Krushna Chandra Patra, this innovative machine is located at a warehouse in Mancheswar and developed in collaboration with the World Food Programme.

Rajasthan Govt Secures Rs 5.21 Trillion in Investment Proposals Ahead of Summit

The Rajasthan government has received investment proposals amounting to over Rs 5.21 lakh crore (approximately USD 62 billion) in the lead-up to the 'Rising Rajasthan' Investment Summit 2024. These proposals, received within two weeks of the summit's announcement, are expected to generate approximately 1.55 lakh direct jobs. This investment sum represents more than 33% of the state's current Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), estimated at Rs 15.28 lakh crore for 2023-24.

South Indian Adivasi Knowledge Centre To Be Launched In B.R. Hills

Kaanu, a South Indian Adivasi Knowledge Centre, will be launched at the Tribal Health Resource Centre (THRC) at BR Hills, Karnataka on August 25. Prashanth N. Srinivas, a medical doctor and public health researcher working at the Institute of Public Health, Bangalore's field station in B.R. Hills, says that Kaanu, which means evergreen forest in both Kannada and Soliga language.

Mithun Recorded for the First Time in Assam

In a groundbreaking development, the state of Assam has officially recorded the presence of mithun (*Bos frontalis*) for the first time. This discovery comes generations after the semi-wild, gaur-like animal began to be reared by tribal communities in the state's hill district of Dima Hasao.

BPCL Launches Drone-Aided Aerial Seeding for Bihar Hills

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has introduced an advanced afforestation initiative named "Aranya" in Bihar, utilizing drone technology for aerial seeding. This project aims to enhance the state's green cover by deploying 100,000 seedballs across 50 hectares in three targeted forest regions.

Himachal Government Approves 'Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojana'

The Himachal Pradesh government has allocated Rs 53.21 crore annually to fund the 'Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojana,' aimed at supporting the education and well-being of children from vulnerable families. This initiative will provide financial aid to widows, destitute women, divorced women, and disabled parents.

Pakistani Christian Becomes First Goan to Obtain Indian Citizenship Under CAA

On August 28, 2024, Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant awarded Indian citizenship to Joseph Francis Pereira, a 78-year-old Pakistani Christian, under the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA). This marks the first instance of a Goan receiving citizenship through this amendment.

Economy News**Govt Reverses Decision: Indexation Benefits Restored For LTCG Tax**

The government has reversed its controversial decision to remove indexation benefits for long-term capital gains (LTCG) tax on property sales. Taxpayers now have a choice between a lower tax rate without indexation or a higher rate with indexation for properties bought before July 23, 2024.

RBI Hikes UPI Limit for Tax Payments to Rs 5 Lakh per Transaction

In a move aimed at boosting digital payments and facilitating larger transactions, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the upper limit for tax payments through the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) to Rs 5 lakh per transaction from the previous limit of Rs 1 lakh. This decision is expected to provide convenience to taxpayers, especially for high-value transactions, and is part of the RBI's ongoing efforts to promote digital payments and reduce reliance on cash transactions.

Retail Inflation Eases to 5-Year Low of 3.5% in July

India's retail inflation rate, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), fell to 3.54% in July, reaching a nearly 5-year low. This decline is attributed to a high base effect and a significant drop in food prices. The inflation rate has dipped below the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) medium-term target of 4% for the first time since August 2019. Despite this, the RBI is expected to maintain its current policy stance.

Rankings & Reports News**Top 10 Richest Global Central Banks in 2024**

Central banks are the backbone of a nation's financial system, playing a pivotal role in maintaining economic stability and fostering growth. Their primary responsibilities include implementing stable monetary policies and ensuring financial stability. As we delve into the rankings of the world's wealthiest central banks in 2024, we gain valuable insights into the global economic landscape and the financial prowess of various nations.

National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2024

Union Minister for Education Shri Dharmendra Pradhan on August 12, released the India Rankings 2024, which implements the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) drafted for this purpose by the Ministry of Education in 2015. According to the last year's ranking, IIT Madras secured the top spot in the 'overall' category, followed by IISc Bengaluru and IIT Delhi in second and third place respectively.

Amul Tops Global Food Brand Rankings in 2024

Amul has been named the world's strongest food brand in Brand Finance's Global Food & Drinks Report 2024. With a Brand Strength Index (BSI) score of 91 and a valuation of \$3.3 billion, Amul achieved an 11% increase in brand value from 2023. The company's dominance in India's dairy market and strong metrics in familiarity, consideration, and recommendation contributed to its AAA+ rating. Hershey's, which shared the AAA+ rating with Amul, saw a slight dip in its brand value, placing it second.

Hurun India Rich List 2024: Mumbai's Named as Asia's Billionaire Capital

The Hurun India Rich List 2024 has unveiled a significant shift in the landscape of wealth distribution across Asia, with Mumbai emerging as the new "billionaire capital of Asia". This development marks a pivotal moment in the economic narrative of India and Asia at large, showcasing the growing financial prowess of India's commercial hub.

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Business News

RIL Jumps Up 2 Places In Fortune's Global 500 List For 2024

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has achieved a milestone by advancing two positions in the 2024 Fortune Global 500 list, securing the 86th spot. This marks the highest ranking ever attained by the conglomerate on the list, underscoring its growth and stability within the global business arena.

Tata Group Unveils ₹27,000 Crore Semiconductor Facility in Assam

The Tata Group has inaugurated a ₹27,000 crore semiconductor assembly and test facility in Assam, aiming to produce 15 billion chips annually. This landmark project, set to be operational by next year, aligns with the Indian government's semiconductor mission and is poised to transform Assam into a key player in the global semiconductor ecosystem.

Pine Labs-owned Setu Launches UPISetu in Partnership with Axis Bank

Setu, a Pine Labs-owned API infrastructure provider, has launched UPISetu in collaboration with Axis Bank. This new platform focuses on Unified Payments Interface (UPI) solutions, catering to businesses and developers with a variety of UPI products and advanced functionalities.

UPI Merchant Transactions In Nepal Cross 100000 Milestone

NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) has achieved a major milestone by surpassing 100,000 cross-border Unified Payments Interface (UPI) Person-to-Merchant (P2M) transactions in Nepal, the NIPL said in a statement. NIPL is an international arm of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

NPCI Spins Off BHIM into a Separate Arm; Lalitha Nataraj Appointed CEO

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) is spinning off its Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) app into a standalone subsidiary to bolster its presence in the digital payments market. Lalitha Nataraj, previously with IDFC FIRST Bank and ICICI Bank, has been appointed as CEO of this new entity.

L&T Finance Achieves NBFC-ICC Status from RBI

L&T Finance Ltd. has transitioned from an NBFC-Core Investment Company (NBFC-CIC) to a Non-Banking Financial Company (Investment and Credit Company) (NBFC-ICC) following the merger of its wholly-owned subsidiaries, including L&T Finance, L&T Infra Credit Ltd., and L&T Mutual Fund Trustee Ltd. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued the certificate of registration on August 2. This change in registration is not expected to affect the company's compliance with the NBFC-ICC guidelines.

Net FDI Rises to \$6.9 Billion in Q1 FY25

According to the latest data from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), net foreign direct investment (FDI) in India surged to \$6.9 billion during the April-June quarter of FY25, compared to \$4.7 billion in the same period last year. This increase was driven by a significant rise in gross inward FDI, which grew by 26.4% year-on-year (Y-o-Y) to reach \$22.5 billion. Key sectors such as manufacturing, financial services, communication services, computer services, and energy accounted for about 80% of the total inflows.

NCLT Approves Slice and North East Small Finance Bank Merger

Fintech company Slice has received approval from the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) for its merger with North East Small Finance Bank. The Guwahati bench of the NCLT has sanctioned the scheme of arrangement and amalgamation involving several entities, including Garagepreneurs Internet, Quadrillion Finance, Intergalactory Foundry, RGVN (North East) Microfinance, and North East Small Finance Bank.

Bharti Airtel Announces Content Partnership with Apple

Bharti Airtel has unveiled a new content partnership with Apple, set to offer exclusive Apple Music and Apple TV+ deals to customers in India later this year. As part of this collaboration, Apple TV+ will be integrated into Airtel's Xstream video-streaming service available through premium Wi-Fi and postpaid plans. Additionally, Airtel's Wynk Premium music-streaming service will offer special deals for Apple Music subscribers.

Agreement News

State Govt, SBI General Insurance Sign MoU For DRTPS

In a significant move towards disaster preparedness, the State Government and SBI General Insurance signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Disaster Risk Transfer Parametric Insurance Solution (DRTPS). This makes Nagaland the first state in the country to implement this disaster management insurance.

MEA and NSIL Sign MoU for Launch of Nepalese Munal Satellite

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of ISRO, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to facilitate the launch of Nepal's Munal satellite. The MoU was formalized on Saturday, with Anurag Srivastava, Joint Secretary (North) from MEA, and Arunachalam A, Director from NSIL, representing their respective organizations.

NHA And MUHS Sign MoU To Drive Digital Health Education

In a significant step towards driving Digital Health education across India, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the National Health Authority (NHA) and Maharashtra University of Health Sciences (MUHS) in the presence of Union Health Minister, Shri J P Nadda, on August 13.

MSDE Exchanged An MoU With Flipkart’s SCOA

Flipkart’s Supply Chain Operations Academy (SCOA) exchanged a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) at the Samarth event with the mission to upskill thousands of employable youth across India.

Infosys And NVIDIA Revolutionize Telecom With GenAI Solutions

Infosys has expanded its partnership with NVIDIA to develop generative AI solutions tailored for telecom operators. Utilizing NVIDIA’s NIM inference microservices, NeMo Retriever models, NeMo Guardrails, and Riva. Infosys aims to enhance telecommunication operations and customer service. Early results show significant improvements in latency and accuracy.

Appointment News

DG SSB Daljit Singh Chawdhary Takes Over Additional Charge of Director General, BSF

Daljit Singh Chawdhary, the Director General of Sahastra Seema Bal (SSB), took over the additional charge of Director General Border Security Force on August 3. “On 03rd August 2024, Shri Daljit Singh Chawdhary ,IPS Director General SSB took over the additional charge of Director General Border Security Force, the largest Border Guarding Force of the world.

Lt Gen Vikas Lakhera Assumes Charge as Assam Rifles Director General

On Thursday, a significant change in leadership took place as Lt General Vikas Lakhera assumed charge as the new Director General of the Assam Rifles, an organization fondly known as the “Sentinels of the Northeast”. This transition marks a new era for the paramilitary force that has long been crucial to maintaining peace and security in India’s northeastern region.

Dinesh Karthik, A New Ambassador for SA20 League

In a move that bridges the cricketing worlds of India and South Africa, former Indian wicketkeeper-batsman Dinesh Karthik has been named the brand ambassador for the SA20 League. This appointment marks a significant step in the league’s efforts to expand its global reach and solidify its position in the competitive landscape of T20 cricket.

Government Appoints Challa Sreenivasulu Setty as SBI Chairman

On August 6, 2024, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the appointment of Challa Sreenivasulu Setty as the Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI). Setty, currently the senior-most Managing Director (MD) of SBI, will assume the role on August 28, 2024, succeeding Dinesh Kumar Khara, who will retire upon reaching the age limit of 63 for the position.

Centre Reshuffles Senior Bureaucrats, Amit Negi Made Additional Secretary

The Centre has implemented a significant top-level reshuffle, appointing senior IAS officer Amit Singh Negi as additional secretary in the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO). Mr. Negi, a 1999-batch IAS officer of the Uttarakhand cadre, is currently the joint secretary in the Department of Expenditure under the Union Ministry of Finance.

SEBI Approves Praveena Rai as New MD & CEO of MCX

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has approved Praveena Rai’s appointment as the Managing Director and CEO of the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), India’s largest commodity exchange. This decision comes after a three-month vacancy in the position.

DBS Appoints Tan Su Shan As First Female CEO

Indian-origin top Singapore banker Piyush Gupta is set to step down as the Chief Executive Officer of the DBS Group in March 2025. He will be succeeded by Tan Su Shan, who was appointed Deputy CEO yesterday, in addition to being Group Head, Institutional Banking, at DBS.

T.V. Somanathan Appointed as New Cabinet Secretary

Senior IAS Officer T.V. Somanathan has been appointed as the new Cabinet Secretary of India, succeeding Rajiv Gauba, whose term ends this month. Somanathan will begin his two-year tenure on August 30, 2024. He will also serve as Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Cabinet Secretariat until he formally assumes the role of Cabinet Secretary.

Raj Kumar Chaudhary Takes Helm as Chairman & Managing Director of NHPC Ltd

In a significant development for India’s hydroelectric power sector, NHPC Limited has announced the appointment of Shri Raj Kumar Chaudhary as its new Chairman & Managing Director. This appointment marks a crucial milestone for the company, bringing on board a leader with extensive experience and a proven track record in hydroelectric power development.

Rana Ashutosh Kumar Singh Assumes Role as MD at SBI

Rana Ashutosh Kumar Singh has been appointed as the Managing Director (MD) of the State Bank of India (SBI), overseeing the Risk Compliance and Stressed Assets Resolution Group (SARG) departments. This change follows government approval last week.

PR Sreejesh Appointed as New Head Coach of India's Junior Men's Hockey Team

Hockey India (HI) has officially announced that retiring goalkeeper PR Sreejesh will be the new head coach for the Indian junior men's hockey team. This decision follows India's recent bronze medal victory at the 2024 Olympics.

Ashok Kumar Singh Takes Over as Director General, ESIC

Shri Ashok Kumar Singh, IAS took over the charge of Director General of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) under Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India at its Headquarters in New Delhi on August 19.

Satya Prakash Sangwan Appointed as Chef de Mission for Paris Paralympics 2024

Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) made a significant announcement regarding the leadership of the Indian contingent for the upcoming Paris Paralympics. Satya Prakash Sangwan, the vice president of PCI, has been appointed as the Chef de Mission (CDM) for the Indian team.

M Suresh Appointed as Interim Chairman of Airports Authority of India

In a significant development in India's aviation sector, M Suresh has been appointed as the interim Chairman of the Airports Authority of India (AAI). This appointment, effective Tuesday, marks a crucial transition in the leadership of one of India's most important aviation bodies.

Rajesh Nambiar Named NASSCOM President-Designate

Rajesh Nambiar has been appointed as the president-designate of the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM), succeeding Debjani Ghosh, whose tenure concludes in November 2024. Following this appointment, Nambiar has resigned from his role as Chairman and Managing Director of Cognizant India. His extensive industry experience, including leadership roles at TCS, IBM, Ciena, and Cognizant, positions him as a key figure in guiding India's tech sector through its next phase of growth.

Amardeep Singh Bhatia Appointed as DPIIT Secretary

Amardeep Singh Bhatia, a 1993-batch IAS officer from the Nagaland cadre, has officially assumed the role of Secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). He succeeds Rajesh Kumar Singh, who has been appointed as Officer on Special Duty in the Department of Defence. Bhatia's extensive experience includes key roles in both central and state governments, particularly in the Ministries of Corporate Affairs and Health & Family Welfare.

Deepti Gaur Mukherjee Assumes Charge as MCA Secretary

Deepti Gaur Mukherjee, a 1993 batch IAS officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre, has taken over as the Secretary of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA), succeeding Manoj Govil, who recently assumed the role of Expenditure Secretary. Before this, Mukherjee served as the CEO of the National Health Authority.

Nestlé Announces Laurent Freixe to Succeed Mark Schneider as CEO

Nestlé made public its decision to appoint Laurent Freixe as the new Chief Executive Officer, replacing the outgoing Mark Schneider. This announcement marks a new chapter in the company's storied history and sets the stage for potential shifts in strategy and direction.

Chirag Paswan Re-Elected As President Of LJP For 5 years

Union Minister Chirag Paswan was on August 25 re-elected as the national president of Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) for the next five years. The decision was taken unanimously during the LJP(RV) national executive meeting held in Ranchi.

Arun Agarwal Named Chairman of Texas Economic Development Corporation

Texas Governor Greg Abbott has appointed Arun Agarwal, a Dallas-based Indian-American entrepreneur, as the Chairman of the Texas Economic Development Corporation (TEDC) Board of Directors. This role involves marketing Texas as a premier business destination both domestically and globally. Agarwal's appointment highlights Texas's commitment to diversity and the increasing influence of Indian-American leaders in significant economic positions.

Nasscom Appoints Sindhu Gangadharan as New Chairperson

The National Association of Software and Service Companies (Nasscom), India's premier IT industry body, has announced a significant change in its leadership. Sindhu Gangadharan, the Managing Director of SAP Labs India, has been appointed as the new chairperson of Nasscom. This appointment marks a crucial moment in the organization's history and sets the stage for new directions in India's technology sector.

Jay Shah Elected as New International Cricket Council Chairman

Jay Shah has been elected unopposed as the new Chair of the International Cricket Council (ICC), succeeding Greg Barclay. This appointment marks a significant moment in cricket administration, as Shah becomes the youngest person ever to hold this prestigious position.

Centre Appoints B Srinivasan as New NSG Director General

The Centre has appointed senior IPS officer B Srinivasan as the new Director General of the National Security Guard (NSG), according to a Personnel Ministry order issued on August 27. Srinivasan, a 1992 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer from the Bihar cadre, will serve as the NSG DG until August 31, 2027, the date of his superannuation. He is currently the director of Bihar Police Academy, Rajgir.

Satish Kumar Appointed as Railway Board Chairman and CEO

In a significant development for Indian Railways, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved a change in leadership at the highest level. This decision marks a new chapter in the administration of one of the world's largest railway networks.

Vice Admiral Rajesh Dhankhar Takes Over as Director General Project Seabird

On August 28, 2024, Vice Admiral Rajesh Dhankhar, NM, assumed duties as the Director General of Project Seabird, taking over from Vice Admiral Tarun Sobti. He is now responsible for overseeing India's largest defense infrastructure project at the Karwar Naval Base. The change of guard took place at the Headquarters of Project Seabird in New Delhi.

Dr. T.V. Somanathan Takes Over as Cabinet Secretary

Dr. T.V. Somanathan, a senior IAS officer of the 1987 Tamil Nadu cadre, has assumed the role of Cabinet Secretary for the Government of India, succeeding Rajiv Gauba after his superannuation. Dr. Somanathan brings extensive experience from both central and state government positions, as well as international roles, notably at the World Bank. His academic credentials include a Ph.D. in Economics, and he is a qualified Chartered Accountant, Cost Accountant, and Company Secretary.

Banking News**RBI Cancels Licenses of 78 UCBS Since 2014**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has canceled the licenses of 78 Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) since 2014. Maharashtra has seen the highest number of cancellations, with 36 UCBs losing their licenses, followed by Uttar Pradesh (14) and Karnataka (8). In 2024 alone, 10 UCB licenses were canceled, affecting banks across Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Assam, and Andhra Pradesh.

**RBI Revises NPA Provisioning Norms for Cooperative Banks**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued revised instructions for the treatment of Bad and Doubtful Debt Reserve (BDDR) across cooperative banks, aiming for uniformity in the accounting and prudential treatment of non-performing assets (NPAs). These new norms will apply to Urban Co-operative Banks, State Cooperative Banks, and Central Co-operative Banks, effective immediately. A one-time transition measure has been introduced to facilitate a smoother shift to the new accounting standards.

RBI August 2024 MPC Meeting: Repo Rate Unchanged at 6.5%

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) concluded its Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting on Thursday, maintaining the benchmark interest rates at 6.5% by a 4:2 majority. This decision marks the ninth consecutive instance of unchanged rates, reflecting the central bank's cautious approach to monetary policy in the face of economic challenges.

RBI Shortens Frequency of Credit Reporting to Fortnightly

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a significant change in the reporting frequency for credit information from monthly to every 15 days. This update, effective from now, aims to enhance the accuracy and timeliness of credit data available to lenders and borrowers alike.

RBI Announces Continuous Clearing Of Cheques Under CTS

The Reserve Bank has revamped the cheque truncation system (CTS), which currently processes cheques with a clearing cycle of up to two working days, to improve the efficiency of cheque clearing and reduce settlement risk for participants, apart from enhancing customer experience.

RBI Tightens Norms for HFCs to Align with NBFCs

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced stricter regulations for Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) to bring their public deposit norms in line with those for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs). This move aims to enhance regulatory parity between the two sectors.

RBL Bank Announces Vijay Fixed Deposits to Honor 78th Independence Day

RBL Bank has introduced a special "Vijay Fixed Deposits" scheme to commemorate India's 78th Independence Day. The bank offers a 500-day fixed deposit tenor with highly competitive interest rates, providing an opportunity for customers to grow their savings while paying tribute to the nation's brave soldiers.

Axis Bank and Visa Launch Exclusive 'PRIMUS' Credit Card for India's Elite

Axis Bank, in partnership with Visa, has unveiled the 'Primus' credit card, an ultra-premium offering tailored exclusively for India's ultra-high-net-worth individuals (UHNWIs). This invite-only card is designed to meet the discerning needs of the wealthy elite, offering unparalleled luxury, exclusivity, and personalized services. With a joining fee of Rs 5 lakh and an annual fee of Rs 3 lakh, the Primus card is positioned as a symbol of ultimate prestige.

Airtel Payments Bank Enhances Security with AI-Powered Face Match

Airtel Payments Bank has introduced a new security feature called Face Match, leveraging AI to enhance account protection. This advanced tool uses machine learning algorithms to detect potential threats and prompts facial recognition verification when needed.

Jana Small Finance Bank Sweeps 4 Awards At ICC Emerging Asia Banking Conclave

Jana Small Finance Bank has once again cemented its status as a frontrunner in the Indian banking industry. The bank's commitment to excellence and innovation was recognized at the prestigious 2nd ICC Emerging Asia Banking Conclave & Awards, where it clinched four coveted awards. Jana Small Finance Bank was honoured with the titles of Best Small Finance Bank, India, Best Performance on Profitability (Runners-up), Best Performance on Asset Quality, and Best Performance on Risk Management.

Science & Technology News

ISRO's EOS-08 Satellite Launch: Marking 55 Years of Space Exploration

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is set to celebrate its 55th foundation day on August 15, 2024, with a significant milestone – the launch of the Earth Observation Satellite-08 (EOS-08). This event not only commemorates ISRO's long-standing contribution to space science but also showcases India's growing capabilities in satellite technology and space exploration.

SpaceX's Polaris Dawn Mission: The First Private Spacewalk

SpaceX's upcoming Polaris Dawn mission is set to make history as the first private spacewalk. Scheduled for launch on August 26, 2024, at 3:38 a.m. EDT (0738 GMT), this five-day expedition will be led by American billionaire Jared Isaacman, who previously chartered the Inspiration4 mission in 2021. The mission will utilize a Falcon 9 rocket and the Crew Dragon capsule, Resilience, for its third flight.

India Welcomes First Civilian Space Tourist Gopichand Thotakura

Gopichand Thotakura, India's first civilian space tourist, received a warm welcome in Delhi upon his return on August 26, 2024. Thotakura made history by joining Blue Origin's New Shepard-25 (NS-25) mission, founded by Amazon's Jeff Bezos, becoming the second Indian citizen to travel to space after Rakesh Sharma's 1984 mission. His trip lasted about ten minutes, reaching a maximum altitude of 105 km.

India Develops Indigenous RT-PCR Testing Kit For Mpx

The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation has granted approval to Siemens Healthineers for the manufacture of RT-PCR testing kits for detection of Mpx, a senior Health Ministry official said. The kits will be manufactured by the company's molecular diagnostics manufacturing unit in Vadodara, which has a production capacity of one million tests per annum.

Bharat Biotech Unveils Oral Cholera Vaccine Amid Global Shortage

Bharat Biotech International Ltd has launched Hillchol (BBV131), a novel single-strain oral cholera vaccine (OCV) developed under license from Hilleman Laboratories. This launch is critical as global demand for OCVs exceeds 100 million doses annually, and there has been a deficit of approximately 40 million doses due to limited supply.

Schemes and Committees News

Update on Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) and Related Schemes

As of July 19, 2024, the Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) has achieved significant milestones with 52.81 crore accounts having a total deposit balance of Rs. 2,30,792 crore. Launched in August 2014, PMJDY aims to provide universal banking services to unbanked households with the core principles of banking the unbanked, securing the unsecured, funding the unfunded, and serving underserved areas.

Centre Forms Committee to Monitor Bangladesh Border Situation

In response to the volatile situation in Bangladesh, the Indian government has established a committee to monitor the Indo-Bangladesh border and ensure the safety of Indian nationals and minority communities in the neighboring country. The committee will maintain communication with Bangladeshi authorities and oversee security measures at the border.

Postal Dept launches Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana to Encourage Philately

The Department of Post under the Union Ministry of Communication has launched the Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana to promote research and scholarship in philately among students across India. Announced by the Postmaster General of North Gujarat Region, Ahmedabad, Krishna Kumar Yadav, during the closing ceremony of the 'The Ideal and Great Stamps' Paintings exhibition, the scheme aims to foster the hobby of stamp collection among children.

Cabinet Approves 'Vigyan Dhara' Scheme by Department of Science and Technology

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the continuation of three umbrella schemes merged into a unified central sector scheme called 'Vigyan Dhara' under the Department of Science and Technology (DST). The scheme is designed to enhance efficiency in fund utilization and ensure better synchronization among the sub-schemes and programs. With an outlay of ₹10,579.84 crore for the 15th Finance Commission period (2021-22 to 2025-26), 'Vigyan Dhara' aims to bolster the Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) ecosystem in India.

23 Lakh Government Employees Will Benefit From UPS

In a big announcement ahead of assembly elections in one state and a Union Territory this year, the government has launched the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) amid protests by several non-BJP-ruled states over the New Pension Scheme (NPS).

Spices Board Launches SPICED Scheme to Boost Spice Exports and Productivity

The Spices Board of India has introduced the SPICED scheme, a strategic initiative to enhance spice exports and productivity. This scheme, officially named 'Sustainability in Spice Sector through Progressive, Innovative and Collaborative Interventions for Export Development,' will be implemented throughout the remainder of the 15th Finance Commission cycle.

Celebrating 10 Years Of Jan Dhan Yojana

The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) has completed a milestone 10 years today. Acknowledging this, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took to social media to congratulate the beneficiaries.

Union Minister Launches SHe-Box Portal to Enhance Workplace Safety for Women

The Union Minister of Women and Child Development, Annapurna Devi, launched the new SHe-Box portal, a centralized platform aimed at making workplaces safer for women by addressing complaints of sexual harassment. The launch event, held in New Delhi, also included the introduction of a revamped ministry website.

Summits & Conference News

India To Host BIMSTEC Business Summit

The Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India in association with Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) will host the 1st BIMSTEC Business Summit in New Delhi on August 6, 2024. The first edition of the Business Summit aims to foster greater regional collaboration through robust trade and investment relations among the member countries of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC).

PM Inaugurates The 32nd International Conference of Agricultural Economists

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the 32nd International Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE) at National Agricultural Science Centre (NASC) Complex, New Delhi on August 3. Around 1,000 delegates from around 75 countries took part in the conference.

India To Host Third Voice Of Global South Summit

India will host the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit on 17 August 2024. This unique initiative began as an extension of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas aur Sabka Prayas', and is underpinned by India's philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.

Two-Day India-EU Regional Conference

The European Union (EU) and the External Affairs Ministry are organising a regional conference in New Delhi to discuss emerging threats in online radicalisation and to jointly counter the exploitation of online spaces by terrorists.

2nd India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable To Held In Singapore Today

The 2nd India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR), aimed at further strengthening trade and economic ties between the two countries, will be held in Singapore on August 26. For India, Singapore has been a major source of FDI (foreign direct investment).

Jitendra Singh Chaired Bilateral Meeting On US-India Civil Nuclear Commerce

Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh has chaired a bilateral meeting on US-India Civil Nuclear Commerce in New Delhi. The Ministry of Science and Technology said that the meeting highlighted the deepening cooperation between the two nations in critical areas including science, technology, and clean energy.

2nd Meeting of Joint Russian- Indian Commission

The Second Meeting of the Joint Russian- Indian Commission on the Cooperation in the Field of Emergency Management was held on 28th August 2024 in Moscow, Russia. Shri Nityanand Rai, Minister of State for Home Affairs, India is leading the Indian delegation.

INDUS-X Summit 2024

The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum announced the third edition of the India-US Defense Acceleration Ecosystem (INDUS-X) Summit at Stanford University on Sept 9-10, 2024. The summit will focus on leveraging private investment to advance defense innovation and will feature top policymakers, panel discussions, and a tech expo.

Awards & Honors News

President Droupadi Murmu Conferred “Companion of the Order of Fiji” in the Capital Suva

Indian President Droupadi Murmu embarked on a significant two-day state visit to Fiji, marking a milestone in the diplomatic relations between the two nations. The visit, characterized by ceremonial honors and high-level meetings, underscored the growing partnership between India and Fiji in various spheres of cooperation.

Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar 2024 Announced: Check the Complete list

In a significant move to recognize and honor outstanding contributions to science, technology, and innovation, the Indian government has announced the inaugural Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskars. This new award system, replacing over 300 previous awards from various science departments, aims to celebrate the achievements of academics, technologists, and inventors across the country.

“King Khan” Receives Lifetime Award At Locarno Film Festival

Bollywood’s charismatic ‘King Khan’, graced the 77th Locarno Film Festival with his presence on August 10, receiving a career achievement award that further gilds his storied career. Shah Rukh delivered his acceptance speech to a rapt audience of 8,000 at Locarno’s famed Piazza Grande.

RGIA Clinches Best Airport Award for Third Consecutive Year

The Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) in Hyderabad has once again been recognized as the Best Airport at the prestigious India Travel Awards, marking its third consecutive win in this category.

President Murmu Gives Away First-Ever Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar

President Droupadi Murmu presided over the first-ever investiture ceremony for the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar (National Science Awards). These awards, instituted last year to replace all existing science accolades, mark a new chapter in recognizing scientific excellence in the country.

National Geoscience Awards 2023: Honoring Excellence in Earth Sciences

President Droupadi Murmu presided over a distinguished ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi to confer the prestigious 2023 National Geoscience Awards to outstanding individuals and teams in the field of geosciences. The highlight of the event was the presentation of the Lifetime Achievement Award to Prof. Dhiraj Mohan Banerjee, Emeritus Scientist at the Indian National Science Academy (INSA).

11th Puthiya Thalaimurai Tamilan Awards

The 11th edition of the Puthiya Thalaimurai Tamilan Awards recently honored outstanding individuals across various fields, recognizing both seasoned professionals and emerging talents. This prestigious event showcased the rich diversity of accomplishments in Tamil Nadu and beyond.

FICCI Honours Ayushmann Khurrana and Neeraj Chopra as Youth Icons of India

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) recently organized its prestigious Young Leaders Awards in New Delhi, bringing together a diverse array of talented individuals from various fields.

The ceremony was graced by two outstanding personalities who received the coveted FICCI Young Leaders Youth Icon award:

Ayushmann Khurrana: Bollywood superstar and versatile actor

Neeraj Chopra: Olympic gold medalist in javelin throw

Kerala Tourism Clinches PATA Gold Award 2024 for Innovative ‘Holiday Heist’ Campaign

In a significant achievement for Indian tourism, Kerala Tourism has once again put India on the global tourism map by winning the prestigious Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Gold Award 2024. This accolade recognizes the state’s innovative online contest, ‘Holiday Heist’, in the Digital Marketing Campaign category, further cementing Kerala’s position as a leader in creative tourism promotion.

Important Dates News

Commemorating the 14th Indian Organ Donation Day

On August 3, 2024, India observes its 14th Indian Organ Donation Day, a significant event in the country’s healthcare calendar. This annual observance serves multiple crucial purposes: raising awareness about organ donation, honoring the selfless contributions of deceased donors and their families, and dispelling myths surrounding this life-saving practice.



National Javelin Day 2024: Celebrating India's Golden Moment in Athletics

On August 7, 2021, Neeraj Chopra etched his name in history by winning India's first-ever Olympic gold medal in track and field. His historic javelin throw of 87.58 metres not only secured the gold but also made him the second Indian to win an individual Olympic gold, following Abhinav Bindra.

Nagasaki Day 2024: Date, Significance and History

Nagasaki Day is an annual observance that commemorates one of the most devastating events in human history – the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, Japan, during World War II. This solemn occasion serves as a powerful reminder of the catastrophic consequences of nuclear warfare and underscores the critical importance of global peace and disarmament efforts.

Hiroshima Day 2024: Commemorating the 79th Anniversary of World War II Atomic Bombings

Hiroshima Day, observed annually on August 6th, stands as a solemn reminder of one of the most devastating events in human history. This year marks the 79th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima during World War II. The city of Hiroshima, once reduced to ashes, now stands as a powerful symbol of peace, resilience, and the enduring human spirit.

Quit India Movement Day, Know the History of India's Freedom Struggle

Quit India Movement Day, also known as August Kranti Day, is a significant date in India's history that commemorates the launch of the Quit India Movement in 1942. This pivotal moment in India's struggle for independence from British colonial rule called for the immediate withdrawal of British forces from India. Led by Mahatma Gandhi, the movement mobilized millions of Indians in a non-violent civil disobedience campaign against British colonialism.

World Lion Day 2024, Date, History and Significance

World Lion Day, celebrated annually on August 10th, marks a crucial moment in wildlife conservation efforts. As we approach the 2024 edition, the urgency to protect these majestic creatures has never been more pressing. Lions, scientifically known as *Panthera leo*, are not just symbols of strength and courage but play a vital role in maintaining ecological balance. This article delves into the significance of World Lion Day 2024 and the ongoing efforts to ensure the survival of these magnificent big cats.

International Youth Day 2024, Date, Theme and History

International Youth Day, observed annually on August 12th, is a global celebration that recognizes the contributions of young people to society and addresses the challenges they face. The day serves as a platform to raise awareness about socio-economic and socio-political issues affecting youth worldwide. The 2024 theme, "From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development," highlights the crucial role of digital technologies in advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

World Organ Donation Day 2024: Know Date, History and Significance

World Organ Donation Day is observed every year on August 13 to raise awareness about the importance of organ donation and encourage people to register as organ donors. Organ Donation Day serves as a crucial reminder of the importance of this life-saving act. In India, the government has taken significant steps to promote organ donation through nationwide campaigns and educational programs. These initiatives aim to dispel myths, raise awareness about the critical need for organs, and educate the public on the donation process.

National Space Day 2024: A Celebration of India's Space Achievements

India is set to commemorate its first National Space Day in 2024, marking a historic milestone in the nation's journey of space exploration. Spearheaded by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), this day represents a momentous occasion to celebrate India's growing prominence in the global space community. National Space Day is not merely a reflection on past triumphs but a forward-looking event aimed at inspiring future generations and underscoring the pivotal role of space science and technology in shaping our world.

World Water Week 2024: 25-29 August

The Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) is organising the next World Water Week on 25-29 August 2024. World Water Week is the leading conference on global water issues, held every year since 1991.

International Day against Nuclear Tests 2024 Observed on 29th August

Every year on August 29, the world observes the International Day Against Nuclear Tests. This significant day serves as a global reminder of the devastating effects of nuclear weapons testing and the urgent need for a world free from the threat of nuclear destruction. Since the dawn of the nuclear age in 1945, over 2,000 nuclear tests have been conducted, leaving a legacy of environmental damage and human suffering.

National Sports Day 2024, Date, Significance and History

Every year on August 29, India celebrates National Sports Day, a special occasion dedicated to honouring the spirit of sports in the country. This day goes beyond celebrating India's athletic achievements; it emphasizes the crucial role of sports in maintaining health, fostering community, and inspiring generations. At the heart of this celebration is the legacy of India's legendary hockey player, Major Dhyan Chand, whose extraordinary skills and contributions to the sport have left an indelible mark on the nation's sporting history. While the theme for 2024 has not been announced at the time of writing, the previous year's theme was "Sports are an enabler to an inclusive and fit society".

Sports News**Celebration of Paris Olympics 2024: India Releases Commemorative Postage Stamps**

In a significant gesture to commemorate the upcoming Paris Olympics, the Department of Posts is set to release a special set of postage stamps. This event, scheduled for Monday, 5th August 2024, at 12:00 PM, will take place at the prestigious Rang Bhawan, All India Radio, in New Delhi. The occasion marks a celebration of sportsmanship, international unity, and India's enthusiastic support for the Olympic movement.

Novak Djokovic Clinches First Olympic Gold Medal at the Paris 2024 Olympics

Novak Djokovic of Serbia secured his first Olympic gold medal at the Paris 2024 Olympics. The 37-year-old tennis legend overcame Spain's Carlos Alcaraz in a gripping men's singles final at Roland Garros on Sunday, cementing his status in the annals of tennis history.

Star Shooter Manu Bhaker Set To Be India's Flagbearer In Closing Ceremony

Manu Bhaker, India's two-time Olympic bronze medallist, has been chosen to be India's flagbearer for the closing ceremony of the Paris Olympics. According to sources from the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), Bhaker will represent India as the women's flagbearer during the event.

Vinesh Phogat Disqualified In Paris Olympic 2024

Indian wrestler Vinesh Phogat has been disqualified from the Paris Olympics after failing to meet weight requirement for her 50 kg gold medal. As per the report, Phogat was reportedly over the permissible weight limit by just 100 grams, which may lead to her disqualification. According to competition rules, she will not be eligible for a silver medal, leaving only gold and bronze winners in the 50 kg category.

Paris Olympics 2024: Vinesh Phogat Announces Retirement From Wrestling

Vinesh Phogat, one of India's most promising wrestlers, has announced her retirement from the sport following a devastating turn of events at the Paris Olympics 2024. The announcement came after a series of unfortunate incidents that unfolded during the final stages of the Olympic wrestling competition.

Neeraj Chopra Clinches Silver in Javelin at Paris 2024 Olympics

Neeraj Chopra, the reigning Olympic champion, put on an impressive display at the Paris Olympics, winning the silver medal in the men's javelin throw event. Chopra's season-best throw of 89.45m earned him the runner-up position, but he was unable to defend his title, as Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem broke the Olympic record with a stunning throw of 92.97m.

India Men's Hockey Team Secures Bronze at Paris 2024 Olympics

In a thrilling encounter, the Indian men's hockey team secured the bronze medal at the Paris 2024 Olympics after defeating Spain 2-1 in the third-place match at the Yves du Manoir Stadium in Paris on Thursday. This victory marks a significant milestone for Indian hockey, as the team secured its first back-to-back Olympic medals since the 1972 Munich Games.

Sreejesh and Bhaker to Co-Flag Bear for India at Paris 2024 Closing Ceremony

The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has announced that hockey goalkeeper PR Sreejesh and pistol shooter Manu Bhaker will be the co-flag bearers for India at the closing ceremony of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. This decision highlights Sreejesh's illustrious career and Bhaker's recent achievements.

India's Participation in the 2024 Paris Paralympics

The Paralympic Committee of India has made a significant announcement regarding the country's representation at the upcoming 2024 Paris Paralympics. This article delves into the details of India's participation, the event's background, and the nation's historical performance in the Paralympic Games.

ICC Moves Women's T20 World Cup 2024 to UAE Due to Bangladesh Unrest

The ICC has announced the relocation of the Women's T20 World Cup 2024 from Bangladesh to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) due to significant safety concerns. The event, originally set to be hosted in Bangladesh, will now take place from October 3 to 20 in Dubai and Sharjah. This decision follows a series of political upheavals in Bangladesh, including unrest and the flight of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, which led to travel advisories from several participating countries.

Germany Captain Ilkay Gundogan Announces International Retirement from Football

Ilkay Gundogan, the 33-year-old captain of the German national football team, has officially announced his retirement from international football. This decision comes on the heels of Germany's performance at Euro 2024, where Gundogan led his country to the quarterfinals before falling to the eventual champions, Spain, in extra time.

Neeraj Chopra Finishes Second in Lausanne Diamond League

Neeraj Chopra, India's star javelin thrower, showcased his resilience and skill at the Lausanne Diamond League meet. Despite facing challenges, Chopra secured a commendable second-place finish, marking another significant achievement in his illustrious career.

26th CEAT Cricket Awards 2024: Celebrating Excellence in Cricket

Rohit Sharma, the captain of the Indian men’s cricket team, was bestowed with the coveted CEAT International Cricketer of the Year Award. This recognition came on the back of his exemplary performance in the 2023-24 season.

Diana Pundole: First Indian Woman Racer to Win National Championship

Diana Pundole, a teacher and mother from Pune, has made history as the first Indian woman to win the national championship in the saloon category at the MRF Indian National Car Racing Championship 2024 held in Chennai. Her achievement is especially notable as it comes in a sport traditionally dominated by men, highlighting her determination and skill despite numerous challenges.

Shikhar Dhawan Announces Retirement from International Cricket

Indian cricket’s prolific white-ball opener, Shikhar Dhawan, has officially announced his retirement from international cricket at the age of 38. While stepping away from representing India, Dhawan hinted at his intention to continue participating in league cricket, most notably the Indian Premier League (IPL).

India Shines at Asian Surfing Championships 2024: A Milestone for Indian Surfing

In a significant achievement for Indian surfing, the national team secured a silver medal at the prestigious Maruhaba Cup, a team event at the Asian Surfing Championships 2024. The competition, held in Thulusdhoo, Maldives, concluded on Sunday, marking a new chapter in India’s surfing history.

Indian Prodigy Triumphs at Asian U-15 Junior Badminton Championships 2024

In a remarkable display of skill and determination, 14-year-old Tanvi Patri from Odisha, India, has etched her name in the annals of badminton history. Patri clinched the women’s singles title at the prestigious Asian U-15 Junior Championships 2024, held in Chengdu, People’s Republic of China, from August 20-25, 2024.

Karthik Venkataraman Clinches Second Indian National Title

Karthik Venkataraman won the 61st edition of the Indian National Championship after scoring 9/11 points at the event organised by the Haryana Chess Association. This is the second victory in a national championship for Karthik, who had also won the tournament in 2022. Surya Ganguly and Neelash Saha scored as many points as the champion, but finished in second and third place on tiebreaks.

Bangladesh Triumphs in SAFF U-20 Championship 2024

Bangladesh has emerged as the new champion of the SAFF (South Asian Football Federation) U-20 Championship football tournament. This victory marks a significant milestone in Bangladesh’s football history, as it is the first time the nation has claimed this prestigious title. The tournament, which showcased the talent of young South Asian footballers, concluded with a thrilling final match that saw Bangladesh defeat the host nation, Nepal.

Mona Agrawal Won Her First Paralympic Bronze Medal

Mona Agarwal made history at the 2024 Paralympics by securing a bronze medal in the women’s 10m air rifle standing SH1 event on August 30. Her journey to the podium was not just about athletic excellence but also a testament to her resilience as a mother of two. Challenges, she faced leading up to the competition, particularly the struggle of balancing her responsibilities as a mother with her ambitions as an athlete.

Obituaries News

Iconic Classical Dancer Yamini Krishnamurthy Passes Away

On August 3, 2024, India lost one of its most revered classical dancers, Yamini Krishnamurthy, who passed away at the age of 83 at Apollo hospital in New Delhi. Known for her mastery over Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi, and Odissi, Krishnamurthy was a luminary who helped elevate Indian classical dance to the global stage.

Former England cricketer Graham Thorpe Passes Away at 55

The cricketing world mourns the loss of Graham Thorpe, a former England cricketer and coach, who passed away on Monday at the age of 55. The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) announced his death, marking the end of an era for English cricket. Thorpe’s contributions to the sport, both as a player and coach, left an indelible mark on cricket history.

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Gandhian Shobhana Ranade Passes Away at 99

The passing of Shobhana Ranade at the age of 99 in Pune marks the end of an era in India's social reform movement. A renowned Gandhian and Padma Bhushan recipient, Ranade dedicated her life to uplifting the underprivileged, especially women and children, leaving an indelible mark on India's social landscape.

Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, Former W.B Chief Minister, Passes Away

Former chief minister of West Bengal and veteran CPIM leader Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee passed away on August 8, at his residence in Kolkata's Palm Avenue. Buddhadeb, who had been suffering from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease for some years, was 80. He is survived by his wife Mira and daughter Suchetana.

Nobel Prize-Winning Physicist Tsung-Dao Lee Passed Away

Chinese-American physicist Tsung-Dao Lee, who in 1957 became the second-youngest scientist to receive a Nobel Prize, died on August 4, at his home in San Francisco at age 97. Prof. Lee, whose work advanced the understanding of particle physics, was one of the great masters in the field.

Former Foreign Minister Natwar Singh Passes Away

Former External Affairs Minister Natwar Singh passed away at 95, due to a prolonged illness on August 10. He took his last breath at Medanta Hospital in Gurugram near Delhi, where he was admitted for the past couple of weeks.

Father of Agni Missiles, Dr. Ram Narain Agarwal Passes Away

Dr. Ram Narain Agarwal, a renowned Indian scientist and the driving force behind India's missile program, passed away on Thursday in Hyderabad at the age of 84. Known affectionately as the 'Father of Agni Missiles', Dr. Agarwal's contributions to India's defence capabilities have been nothing short of revolutionary.

Death Anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Observed on August 16th

On August 16, India observes the death anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, a distinguished statesman, poet, and visionary leader who profoundly influenced the country's political landscape. Vajpayee, the 10th Prime Minister of India, is celebrated for his leadership and his ability to unite diverse ideologies while championing democratic principles.

ICG DG Rakesh Pal Dies of Cardiac Arrest

Director General of the Indian Coast Guard, Rakesh Pal, died of a severe cardiac arrest in Chennai. He was 59. He was in Chennai to participate in the Coast Guard function led by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

Indian Army Mourns The Loss Of General S Padmanabham

Former Chief of Army Staff General Sundararajan Padmanabhan, who passed away at his Chennai residence on August 19, was cremated with full military honours at Besant Nagar on August 20. The Indian Army bid a solemn farewell to the late Gen S Padmanabhan, who died at 83 due to age-related ailments.

Olympic Cyclist Daniela Chirinos Passes Away at 51

The cycling world mourns the loss of Daniela Larreal Chirinos, a celebrated Venezuelan Olympic cyclist who passed away at the age of 51. Chirinos, known for her remarkable career spanning over a decade, left an indelible mark on the sport of track cycling and represented her nation with distinction on the global stage.

Defence News**ITBP To Get Russian KAMAZ Typhoon Vehicle For LAC**

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has successfully conducted a demonstration and trial of the formidable Typhoon vehicle at its Transport Battalion in Chandigarh. The event, attended by officials from Vehicle Factory Jabalpur, marks an important step in upgrading the force's vehicles.

Indian Army Conducts 'Parvat Pahaar' Exercise in Ladakh

The Indian Army has conducted a strategic military exercise, 'Parvat Pahaar', in Ladakh, focusing on high-altitude warfare and operations. This exercise is crucial for maintaining the readiness and effectiveness of the Army in the region, which is close to the India-China border.

Exercise Udara Shakti 2024: Strengthening Indo-Malaysian Air Force Cooperation

The bilateral air exercise "Udara Shakti 2024" between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) concluded successfully on August 9, 2024. This exercise, hosted by the RMAF at its base in Kuantan, Malaysia, marked a significant milestone in military cooperation between the two nations.

Mitra Shakti 2024: Strengthening Indo-Sri Lankan Military Ties

The Mitra Shakti military exercise, an annual bilateral engagement between the Indian Army and the Sri Lankan Army, commenced on August 12, 2024. This year's exercise, held at the Sri Lankan Army Training School in Maduru Oya, marks a significant milestone in the military cooperation between these two South Asian nations. Set to run until August 25, this combined training exercise exemplifies the commitment of both countries to enhance their military capabilities and foster stronger bilateral relations.

DRDO Successfully Test Long Range Glide Bomb 'GAURAV' From Su-30 MK-1

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on August 13, 2024 successfully carried out the maiden flight test of the long-range glide bomb (LRGB) Gaurav from a Su-30 MK-I fighter jet of the Indian Air Force.

Army Chief General Chairs High-Level Meeting

Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi on August 20, chaired a high-level meeting focusing on the ongoing transformational initiatives by the Indian Army and its contribution towards achieving the objective of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

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Indian Air Force's Sarang Team to Showcase at Egypt International Airshow 2023

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has taken a significant step in international aviation diplomacy by dispatching its renowned Sarang Helicopter Display Team to participate in the inaugural Egypt International Airshow. This event, scheduled from September 3 to 5, 2023, at the Al-Alamein International Airport in Egypt's El Dabaa, marks a crucial moment for India to demonstrate its indigenous aviation capabilities on the global stage.

India to Ink Repeat Order for 73,000 SiG 716 Rifles from the US

The Indian Defence Ministry is finalizing a repeat order for 73,000 SiG 716 G2 patrol assault rifles from the US to equip its frontline troops. This follows a 2019 procurement of 72,400 SiG 716 rifles (7.62 x 51mm calibre) under the 'Buy (Global)' category through a fast-track procedure, which were distributed across the Army, Air Force, and Navy.

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Indian Air Force Launches First Comic Book Series Celebrating Its Heroes

In a groundbreaking initiative to inspire and educate the youth about the rich history and heroic deeds of the Indian Air Force (IAF), Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari has launched the first comic book in a series dedicated to IAF heroes. This innovative approach to storytelling marks a significant step in the IAF's efforts to connect with younger generations and foster a sense of pride and duty towards the nation.

Books & Authors News**Piyush Goyal Launches 'India@100': A Vision for India's Economic Future**

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, unveiled a significant publication that charts India's economic trajectory towards 2047. The book, titled "India@100: Envisioning Tomorrow's Economic Powerhouse", authored by Prof. K V Subramanian, was launched at a high-profile event in New Delhi. This launch marks a pivotal moment in India's discourse on economic development and its aspirations to become a developed nation by its centenary year of independence.

Book Launch Spotlight: '75 Great Revolutionaries of India'

Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh attended the launch of '75 Great Revolutionaries of India,' a book by MP Bhim Singh. Singh praised the work for highlighting lesser-known freedom fighters. The book aims to inspire a developed India by recognizing historical sacrifices.

Soumya Swaminathan Releases Autobiography of Activist Kalpana Sankar

In a significant event celebrating women's empowerment and social entrepreneurship, Dr. Kalpana Sankar's autobiography, "The Scientist Entrepreneur: Empowering Millions of Women", was unveiled at Cathedral Road. The book launch brought together notable figures from various fields, highlighting the impact of grassroots initiatives on women's economic empowerment and community development.

Miscellaneous News**Neelakurinji: The Endangered Purple Bloom of the Western Ghats**

The Neelakurinji (*Strobilanthes kunthiana*), a remarkable flowering shrub native to the montane grasslands of southwest India, has recently been added to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species. This iconic plant, known for its mass blooming once every 12 years, has been classified as Vulnerable according to the IUCN criteria.

Ancient Solar Calendar Discovered in Turkey

In a groundbreaking discovery, archaeologists may have uncovered the world's oldest solar calendar at the renowned archaeological site of Göbekli Tepe in southern Turkey. This finding, published in the journal Time and Mind on July 24, offers a fascinating glimpse into the sophisticated astronomical knowledge of our ancient ancestors.

Ladakh Gets Five New District

The Ministry of Home Affairs has decided to create five new districts in the union territory of Ladakh, said home minister Amit Shah on August 26. "In pursuit of Narendra Modi's vision to build a developed and prosperous Ladakh, the MHA has decided to create five new districts in the union territory.

Five-Year-Old Teghbir Singh Conquers Mount Kilimanjaro

Teghbir Singh, a five-year-old boy from Ropar, Punjab, has etched his name in the annals of mountaineering history. Teghbir has become the youngest Asian to successfully scale Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak, standing at an impressive 5,895 meters above sea level.

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