

Weekly One Liners 24th to 30th of July 2023

Union Minister Shri Anurag Thakur confers 8th and 9th Community Radio Awards

Union Minister, **Shri Anurag Thakur** presented the **8th and 9th National Community Radio Awards** during the Inaugural session of the **two-day Regional Community Radio Sammelon**.

What's in News?

The Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting presented the 8th and 9th National Community Radio Awards during the Inaugural Session of two-day Regional Community Radio Sammelon held at the **Indian Institute of Mass Communication in New Delhi**.

Award Winners:

Thematic Awards:

- First Prize: Radio Mind Tree, Ambala, Haryana. Programme: Hope Jeene Ki Raah.
- Second Prize: Radio Hirakhand, Sambalpur, Odissa. Programme: Adhar O Poshan Bigyan.
- Third Prize: Green Radio, Sabour, Bihar. Programme: Poshan Shrinkhla.

Most Innovative Community Engagement Awards:

- First Prize: Radio SD, Mazaffarnagar, UP. Programme: Hizra in Between.
- Second Prize: Kabir Radio, Sant Kabir Nagar, UP. Programme: Selfie Le Le Re.
- Third Prize: Radio Mind Tree, Ambala, Haryana. Programme: Book Bugs.

Promoting Local Culture Awards:

- First Prize: Voice of SOA, Cuttack, Odissa. Programme: Asmita.
- Second Prize: Friends FM, Tripura, Agartala. Programme: Revived a dying art: MASK & POT.
- Third Prize: Pantnagar Janvani, Pantnagar, Uttarakhand. Programme: Dadi Maa Ka Batua.

Sustainability Modern Awards:

- First Prize: Radio Hirakhand, Sambhalpur, Odissa.
- Second Prize: Vayalaga Vanoli, Madurai, Tamil Nadu.
- Third Prize: VAGAD Radio "90.8", Banswara, Rajasthan.

Role of Community Radio Stations:

Community Radio Stations played a vital role in realizing Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi's vision of Jan Bhagidari se Jan Andolan**. Union Minister, Anurag Thakur praised these stations for their contributions in keeping listeners informed during calamities and highlighted their significance in education, awareness generation, and problem solving across the remotest concerns of India.

Significance:

Community Radio Stations plays a significant role by making people aware about any calamities and also plays key role in the fields of education, health and awareness generation.

Union Minister during the Inaugural Session emphasized the increasing popularity of Community Radio Stations and expressed the government's commitment to realizing Prime Minister Modi's vision of having a Community Radio Station in each district.

Apurva Chandra, Secretary, highlighted the need for a platform to bring together the experiences of Community Radio Stations and lauded their contribution during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Government's Efforts:

- The licensing time has been significantly reduced **from four years to six months**.
- The number of processes involved has been **reduced from thirteen to eight**.
- The Government **will auction 808 channels in 284 cities** during the **3rd e-auction**, thereby expanding the reach of radio in India.

Amended Rules Relating to Retirement Benefits of IAS, IPS, IFOS Pensioners

The **central government** has made significant amendments to the rules governing retirement benefits for officers of the **Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS), and Indian Forest Service (IFoS)**.

The amendments empower the central government to take action against pensioners, including withholding or withdrawing their pension, even without a reference from the state government. Such actions can be taken if the pensioner is found guilty of grave misconduct or convicted of a **serious crime**, particularly one involving an offence under the **Official Secrets Act**.

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Definition of ‘Grave Misconduct’ and ‘Serious Crime’

The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) issued a notification on July 6, 2023, specifying that ‘grave misconduct’ includes the communication or disclosure of any document or information mentioned in the Official Secrets Act. Additionally, a ‘serious crime’ encompasses any offence under the Official Secrets Act.

Eliminating Dependency on State Government References

- The amended All India Services (Death-cum-Retirement Benefits) Rules, 1958, have removed the dependency on state government references for action against retired officials.
- Previously, the central government required a reference from the respective state government if a pensioner was convicted.
- However, the amended rules now include the phrase “or otherwise” after “...the State Government concerned,” allowing the central government to act on its own if a pensioner is found guilty of grave misconduct or convicted of a serious crime.

Addressing Challenges in Taking Action Against Officers

- The rationale behind this amendment was to address instances where state governments did not send references for action against retired officials, even after their conviction by courts of law.
- This lack of cooperation from state governments made it challenging for the central government to take appropriate action against the concerned officers, especially when dealing with All India Services officials.

Final Decision on Withholding or Withdrawing Pension

The amended rules now state that the decision of the central government regarding withholding or withdrawing pension shall be considered final.

Restrictions on Publication of Sensitive Information

- The amended rules also introduce new provisions regarding the publication of sensitive information by officers who served in intelligence or security-related organizations.
- Such officers must seek prior clearance from the Head of the Organization before making any publication related to the domain of the organization, including any reference or information about personnel and their designations, as well as expertise or knowledge gained while working in that organization.
- Failure to adhere to this undertaking may result in severe action, including treating it as grave misconduct.

National Affairs

- **Power Finance Corporation Ltd (PFC)** has achieved a milestone by becoming the first Indian participant in the Asia Transition Finance Study Group (ATFSG), an initiative spearheaded by the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) to promote sustainable transition finance in Asian countries. By becoming a part of this initiative, PFC will not only contribute India’s perspective but also collaborate on devising policy considerations to facilitate efficient energy transition financing. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Lok Sabha was informed about the significant increase in the number of MGNREGA job card deletions in the financial year 2022-23 compared to the previous year. Rural Development Minister Giriraj Singh provided a written reply outlining the reasons for the deletions, which included issues like fake job cards, duplicates, people opting out, relocations, and deaths. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In the Lok Sabha, both the Congress party and K Chandrashekar Rao’s Bharat Rashtra Samithi (TRS) separately submitted notices for a no-confidence motion against Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s government. The motion was related to the Manipur issue. Subsequently, the no-confidence motion was accepted by the Speaker. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Amit Shah, the Union Home Minister, officially inaugurated a centralized Aviation Security Control Centre (ASCC) established by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) in New Delhi. The primary objective behind this initiative is to effectively address the prevailing security challenges. The ASCC will be responsible for monitoring all potential threats and social media activity pertaining to the 66 civil airports currently under the CISF’s security coverage. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- S Phangnon Konyak, a distinguished BJP leader and Nagaland’s first female Rajya Sabha MP, achieved a historic feat as she took on the role of presiding over the Rajya Sabha. This remarkable milestone in her political journey marks her as the first woman from Nagaland to assume this prestigious position. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- India has recently launched the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) with the aim of conserving seven major big cat species on Earth. Inspired by the success of Project Tiger, which has contributed to India being home to 70% of the world’s tigers, the IBCA will focus on protecting and conserving key big cat species, including Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Puma, Jaguar, and Cheetah. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- On a recent occasion, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the newly revamped **Pragati Maidan** complex in Delhi, unveiling the impressive International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC), also known as **‘Bharat Mandapam.’** The IECC is set to become the largest conference and exhibition site in India and will be the venue for the upcoming **G-20 Summit** in September. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Union Home Ministry has introduced a new Bill to amend the **Registration of Birth and Death Act 1969** in the ongoing session of Parliament. The proposed amendments seek to digitize birth records and make Aadhaar mandatory for **birth and death registration**. The key objective is to streamline documentation processes, ensure accurate record-keeping, and facilitate various government services. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- During the Sri Lanka President’s visit to India, Indian PM expressed his hope to implement **13th Amendment to Sri Lanka Constitution** which flows from the **Indo-Sri Lanka Accord 1987**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Noor Shekhawat** became the first transgender person in **Rajasthan** to be issued a birth certificate with the gender recorded as transgender. In her old birth certificate, her gender was marked as male. Shekhawat was handed her new birth certificate by municipal and state government officials. She runs an NGO for the transgender community and also wants to complete her graduation. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Bengaluru**, the capital of Karnataka became the first Indian city to be part of the **World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF)**, a global network of cities that share research and intelligence to explore the role of culture in future prosperity. Bengaluru became the 41st city to join the forum and the network currently includes 40 cities across six continents. **The forum includes cities like New York, London, Paris, Tokyo, and Dubai.** ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Madhya Pradesh** is set to launch its first online gaming industry named **“MP State Esports Academy”** to provide the young **esports player** an opportunity and platform to advance to a professional level. ([Click here to read the article](#))

States in the News

- **Naveen Patnaik of Odisha** has become the second longest serving chief minister of a state in India with a tenure of 23 years and 139 days on Sunday, surpassing the record of former West Bengal chief minister Jyoti Basu. Patnaik, the five-time Chief Minister of Odisha, took charge on March 5, 2000, and has been holding the post for the last **23 years and 139 days**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Agriculture Department of **Uttar Pradesh** is gearing up to implement the **Mukhya Mantri Khet Suraksha Yojana**, intending to uplift the welfare of farmers across the entire state. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Odisha’s Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik approved the **Mission Shakti Scooter Yojana**, a scheme aimed at providing interest subvention on bank loans up to INR 1,00,000 to beneficiaries, enabling them to purchase a scooter. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Rajasthan government presented the Rajasthan Platform Based Gig Workers Bill, 2023, becoming the **first** state in India to ensure social security assurance for gig workers. As part of this initiative, the Rajasthan Platform Based Gig Workers Welfare Board will be established, enabling **gig workers** in the state to register with all the state’s aggregators. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Nagaland** has been officially declared as a **Lumpy Skin Disease Positive State**. The declaration is made following the detection of the Lumpy skin disease in four districts of the state, under The Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act, 2009. ([Click here to read the article](#))

International Affairs

- “The **“V.C Yeshwant Ghadge Sundial Memorial”** was jointly unveiled by the Commune of Monotone in Italy and Italian military historians at Montone, Perugia, Italy. This memorial stands as a tribute to the valor and sacrifices of the Indian troops who fought in the Italian Campaign during the **Second World War**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- As per a notification issued by the **Directorate General of Foreign Trade**, India, world’s top rice exporter, has implemented a **ban** on all exports of **“non-basmati white rice”** to stabilize domestic prices. However, the government will permit the export of white rice to other nations upon request, subject to the fulfillment of their food security requirements and their government’s formal approval. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Russian President **Vladimir Putin** has signed a new legislation that deals a significant blow to the **LGBTQ+** community in the country. The act, passed unanimously by both houses of parliament, strictly prohibits individuals from officially or medically changing their gender, further marginalizing Russia’s embattled **LGBTQ+ population**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- According to WHO, a first case of **Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus (MERS-COV)** has been identified in a **28-year old male** from **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Pan Gongsheng** was named **China's central bank governor on July 25** in the widely anticipated final major appointment of the ruling Communist Party's once-a-decade change of power. Mr. Pan, a deputy central bank governor and veteran of China's state-owned banking industry, succeeds **Yi Gang**, an American-trained economist who held the post for five years. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- On **13th July**, the **World Bank** issued an official approval for the **Bank of Israel to join the International Committee on Credit Reporting (ICCR)**, consists of worldwide committees on credit reporting. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** has urged to prohibit the use of smartphones in schools, asserting the need for a more "human-centred vision" of education. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Cambodia's Prime Minister, **Hun Sen** recently announced his decision to step down and appoint his eldest son, **Hun Manet**, as the new prime minister. Despite leaving the prime ministerial position, **Hun Sen** will continue to hold leadership roles as the head of the ruling **Cambodian People's Party** and as a member of the National Assembly. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Antarctica's sea ice** has been recorded low level of **about 14.2 million sq. km**, significantly below the **normal extent of 16.7 million sq. km for this time of year**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **China's** issuance of stapled visas to Indian citizens from **Arunachal Pradesh** has sparked controversy and diplomatic tensions between the two neighboring countries. This practice involves attaching a separate piece of paper to the visa instead of directly stamping it on the passport. The recent incident involving three Indian wushu players receiving stapled visas led to India's withdrawal of its wushu contingent from the Summer World University Games in Chengdu. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **James Ferguson 'Jim' Skea** of the **United Kingdom** was elected as the new chair of the **Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**, in Nairobi, Kenya. Skea beat his nearest rival, **Thelma Krug** of Brazil, in a run-off. He won 90 votes while Krug won 69. Krug, an IPCC vice-chair and former researcher at Brazil's national space institute, narrowly missed a chance to be the first female chair of the IPCC. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Agreements/MoUs Signed

- **Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT)** and **Meta**, the parent company of **Facebook**, have announced the expansion of their '**WhatsApp Se Wyapaar**' program. The initiative aims to digitally train and upskill **10 million** local traders using the **WhatsApp Business App**, with the goal of empowering small enterprises across India. This collaboration comes as a continuation of Meta's commitment to upskill one million traders on the WhatsApp Business App, as announced in **June**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Indian government and the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** have joined hands once again to enhance infrastructure in **Bihar**. Through a \$295-million loan, the project aims to upgrade approximately **265 km of state highways in Bihar**, incorporating climate and disaster-resilient designs and road safety measures. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Books and Authors

- **Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan** released the Malayalam translation of **Krishna – the 7th Sense** by **Debashis Chatterjee**, Director IIM-Kozhikode. He also unveiled the latest edition of Mr. Chatterjee's work **Karma Sutras, Leadership and Wisdom in Uncertain Times**, the lead book of the IIM-Penguin Series for New Managers. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- On the occasion of **Rayala Corporation's Diamond Jubilee**, the Managing Director of Rayala Corporation, **Ranjit Pratap** has released an insightful book that offers a captivating account of his remarkable journey in the world of business. Titled "**As the wheel turns,**" this compelling narrative hopes to motivate readers by sharing **Ranjit Pratap's** personal experiences, hardships, and triumphs. ([Click here to read the article](#))

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Banking/Economy/Business News

- **Sberbank's** branch in **India** has been granted permission by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** to set up an **IT unit in Bengaluru**. The newly established IT office will serve as **Sberbank's in-house Data Processing Center**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced the next auction of **Treasury bills** and **state development loans (SDLs)** with attractive yields for various maturities. The T-bill yields for three-month, six-month, and 364-day maturities are set at **6.71 per cent, 6.83 per cent, and 6.86 per cent**, respectively. The auction will see the participation of 11 states, including **Punjab, Rajasthan, West Bengal**, and others. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Algerian President **Abdelmadjid Tebboune** announced that **Algeria** has formally submitted an application to join the **BRICS** group of nations. The move aims to create new economic prospects for the oil and gas-rich nation in **North Africa**, as it seeks to diversify its economy and strengthen ties with countries like **China**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a recent notification, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has announced the addition of "**NongHyup Bank**" to the **Second Schedule of the RBI Act, 1934**. This significant move marks a pivotal moment for NongHyup Bank, which hails from **Jung-gu, Seoul, South Korea**, and has been actively operating in India since its establishment in **2016**. The inclusion in the Second Schedule is set to enhance the bank's presence and further its financial endeavors in the Indian market. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **India's foreign exchange** reserves have recorded their most substantial weekly surge in four months, witnessing a remarkable increase of **\$12.74 billion**, reaching an impressive total of **\$609.02 billion**, as reported by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)**. This surge comes after a previous uptick of **\$1.23 billion** in the preceding week ending on July 7. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** has recently revised **India's GDP growth** forecast for the current fiscal year to 6.1%, up from the previous prediction of 5.9%. This upward revision is attributed to stronger domestic investments and reflects the momentum from stronger-than-expected growth in the fourth quarter of 2022 (FY23). ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Union government has approved an increased interest rate of 8.15% on **Employees Provident Fund (EPF) deposits** for the financial year 2022-23. This decision comes after the EPFO trustees ratified the proposal to raise the interest rates, which had been at a four-decade low of 8.10% for the previous fiscal year. The higher interest rate will benefit over six crore EPF subscribers and is expected to be credited to their accounts soon. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Canara Bank** has once again emerged as the leading public sector bank in lending to state-owned corporations and **Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)** for the fifth consecutive year. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Swiggy**, a popular food delivery platform, has collaborated with **HDFC Bank** to launch a co-branded **credit card**. This move follows the trend of various ecommerce platforms partnering with banks to introduce similar credit cards. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Jio Financial Services Ltd (JFS)** of the Reliance Industries Ltd Group and global asset manager **BlackRock** have joined forces to create a groundbreaking 50:50 joint venture called "**Jio BlackRock**." This strategic partnership aims to provide millions of Indian investors with access to affordable and innovative investment solutions through technology-enabled platforms. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- On July 26, 2023, **Mahindra & Mahindra**, a prominent Indian conglomerate, confirmed its investment in **RBL Bank** by acquiring a 3.53% stake for ₹417 crores. The acquisition was announced through a regulatory filing, and Mahindra & Mahindra expressed its potential to make further investments in RBL Bank, subject to pricing, regulatory approvals, and required procedures. However, the company clarified that it would not exceed a stake of 9.9%. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In the fiscal year ending March 2023, Indian banks wrote off bad loans amounting to Rs 2.09 lakh crore, bringing the total loan write-off by the banking sector to Rs 10.57 lakh crore in the past five years. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** disclosed this information in response to a Right to Information (RTI) query. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The RBI has taken a pivotal step by permitting 20 banks operating in India to open **92 Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (SRVAs)** with partner banks from 22 countries. This allows exporters and importers from these nations to conduct trade transactions in domestic currencies, facilitating smoother and more efficient trade practices. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **India** will become the **third largest economy by FY28**, two years earlier than projected, said SBI Research economists in a note. SBI economists said India will likely grow 8.1% in the first quarter of FY24, pushing the overall growth rate to 6.5%. India recorded a 13.5% growth in the first quarter of FY23. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Standard Chartered's India research team has projected a transformative growth trajectory for **India's economy**, expecting it to reach **\$6 trillion by 2030**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- In 2023, **HDFC Bank**, India's largest private lender, achieved a significant milestone by overtaking **State Bank of India (SBI)** to secure the top spot in CRISIL's Greenwich market share Leaders in Large Corporate Banking. The report by Coalition Greenwich, a division of CRISIL, highlights the changing dynamics in India's corporate banking landscape, with larger private and foreign banks gaining traction at the expense of smaller banks, including public sector banks. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Banknotes with a Star (*) symbol have recently become a subject of discussion on social media platforms. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued a press release to clarify that these banknotes, known as the "**Star Series**" banknotes, are legitimate and have a specific purpose. The Star symbol is added to identify banknotes used as replacements for defectively printed ones in a packet of 100 serially numbered banknotes. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Appointments/Resignations

- **Justice Alok Aradhe** has taken oath as **Chief Justice of Telangana High Court** at a ceremonial programme held at **Raj Bhavan in Hyderabad** on **23rd July**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- In a formal ceremony held at **Raj Bhavan**, **Justice Ashish Jitendra Desai** took the oath as the **38th Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court**. Kerala Governor **Arif Mohammed Khan** administered the oath of office to the newly appointed Chief Justice, signifying the commencement of his tenure. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Newly-appointed **Noida** Authority Chief Executive Officer (CEO) **Lokesh M** took charge and held a meeting with officials. The CEO highlighted that industrial growth and a better public hearing system would be his key priorities. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **T V Narendran** has been reappointed as the Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director of **Tata Steel** for a term of five years, starting from September 19, 2023, which will last until September 18, 2028. This decision was made based on the recommendation of the '**Nomination and Remuneration Committee**'. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The appointment of Justice **Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya** as the new chief justice of Bombay High Court has been officially notified by the Central Government, while **Justice Dhiraj Singh Thakur** has been appointed as the chief justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **R Seshasayee** has been appointed as the Chairman of Asian Paints' board of directors from October 1, 2023, to January 22, 2027. He will succeed the current Chairman, Deepak Satwalekar, whose term is set to conclude on September 30 this year. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- A three-judge bench led by Justice B R Gavai has granted an extension to the term of **SK Mishra**, the Director of the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) until September 15. According to the previous judgment, Mishra's term was set to conclude on July 31, as previous extensions provided to him were deemed unlawful. The bench clarified that this extension was made in the 'interest of the larger public' and will be the final one allowed for him. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Defence News

- **Indian Naval Ship Kirpan**, a corvette that served the **Indian Navy for 32 years**, has been decommissioned and handed over to the **Vietnam People's Navy (VPN)** in a ceremony held at **Cam Ranh, Vietnam**. The momentous occasion marked the first time India has transferred a fully operational corvette to a foreign country. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Australia's** largest bilateral military exercise with United States, **Exercise Talisman Sabre**, officially commenced, with an opening ceremony on-board HMAS Canberra. Now in its tenth edition, 2023 is the largest Exercise Talisman Sabre in terms of its geographical area and the number of participating partners. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Shri Sanjay Chander, Director General of Railway Protection Force (RPF), unveiled the recently constructed **National Martyr's Memorial** and National Museum for Railway Security at Jagjivan RPF Academy, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)**, observed its **85th Raising Day on 27 July 2023**. The day celebrates the immense and unparalleled contribution of the force in upholding the unity, integrity, and sovereignty of the nation. CRPF is India's largest Central Armed Police Force, which operates under the authority of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Pixxel**, a prominent space-tech startup supported by renowned entities such as Google, Blume Ventures, and Omnivore VC, has been awarded a significant grant from **iDEX (Innovations For Defence Excellence)**, an initiative established by the **Ministry of Defence**. This grant will enable Pixxel to develop small, multi-purpose satellites for the **Indian Air Force**, contributing to India's ambitious space and defense plans. The grant is part of the Mission DefSpace Challenge under the broader iDEX Prime (Space) initiative. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Awards and Recognitions

- Bollywood actor **Kartik Aaryan** will be honoured with the **Rising Global Superstar of Indian Cinema award** at the annual awards Gala night of the 14th Indian Film Festival of Melbourne on August 11. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Ten years ago, Sri Lankan-origin Australian writer **Shankari Chandran** faced difficulty in getting her debut book published. The reason: publishers thought her novel wasn't "Australian" enough to be successful in their local market. And now, Chandran has been announced as the winner of the **2023 Literary Award for her novel 'Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens'**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Mumbai's Byculla Railway Station** received **UNESCO's Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage Award** on Monday i.e. **24th July**, which was declared in November 2022. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Summits and Conferences News

- In a significant development, two prominent officials from the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** have been elected to key positions in international organizations. Dr. Thani Al Zeyoudi, the UAE Minister for Foreign Trade, has been chosen as the chair of the 13th Ministerial Conference of the **World Trade Organization (WTO)**, to be held in Abu Dhabi in February 2024. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Heli Summit 2023, the **5th** edition of the Helicopter & Small Aircraft Summit, was collaboratively hosted by the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the Government of **Madhya Pradesh**, Pawan Hans Ltd., and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) with the theme **"Reaching the Last Mile: Regional Connectivity through Helicopters & Small Aircraft"**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **second** edition of **'SemiconIndia 2023'** in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, was inaugurated by Chief Minister Bhupendrabhai Patel. Organized by the India Semiconductor Mission in collaboration with various industry associations and under the guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, this event is scheduled from 25th to 30th July. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Sports News

- **Max Verstappen** won the **Hungarian GP** at the Hungaroring, by a comfortable 33.731 secs margin over **McLaren's Lando Norris**. Verstappen's lead at the top of the standings grows to an even more gargantuan 110 points, and the Dutchman seems firmly on course to pick up a second world championship in a row. Teammate Perez also furthered his advantage over third place man Fernando Alonso, who finished a disappointing ninth in Hungary. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty secured their **fourth** championship this year as they emerged triumphant in the men's doubles final at the Korea Open. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Sri Lanka batter **Lahiru Thirimanne** has announced his retirement from international cricket after a 13-year career. The 33-year-old top-order batter made his international debut in 2010 and went on to represent Sri Lanka in 44 Tests, 127 ODIs, and 26 T20Is. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Shubhankar Sharma** achieved a remarkable feat, securing the best result ever by an Indian golfer at the Open At the Royal Liverpool Golf Club in Merseyside, **England**. He finished in a tied-**eighth** position alongside Cameron Young from USA. Sharma displayed his skill and determination, carding an impressive 68-71-70-70 to finish just five strokes behind the leaders. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Pakistan A** cricket team won **Asian Cricket Council (ACC) Men's Emerging Teams Asia Cup 2023** by defeating **India A** in the finals at R. Premadasa Stadium, Colombo, Sri Lanka. This marks Pakistan's second consecutive win in the tournament, previously it won the cup in the 2019 finals against Bangladesh in Dhaka, Bangladesh. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Denmark's **Jonas Vingegaard** of the Jumbo-Visma, Dutch professional bicycle racing team, has won **110th edition of the Tour de France** for a second straight year on the Champs-Elysees in Paris, France. The Tour de France (Tour of France) is an annual men's multiple-stage bicycle race primarily held in France. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Indore-based Buley sisters, **Nidhi and Ritika Buley**, are among the four retired female cricketers who have made their way into the BCCI umpires' panel with a distinction. Nidhi played a Test and ODI for India back in 2006 while her younger sister Ritika represented Madhya Pradesh in 31 First-Class games. The BCCI conducted the exam for retired cricketers from June 10-13 and the result was declared. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Aditya Samant**, hailing from Maharashtra, achieved the title of India's **83rd** Grandmaster by obtaining his third GM norm during the Master Tournament (MTO) at the Biel International Chess Festival. His journey began with his first GM norm earned at the Abu Dhabi Masters in August 2022, followed by securing his second GM norm at the 3rd El Llobregat Open in December of the same year. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports has made the decision to grant official recognition to the **Handball Association of India (HAI)** as the National Sports Federation (NSF) responsible for promoting and regulating the sport within the country. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **Asmita Dey**, representing Tripura, has achieved remarkable success by securing a **gold medal** at the **Junior Asia Cup Judo Championship** hosted in Macau, China. In addition to her gold medal at the Junior Asian Judo Championships 2023 in Macau, China, she had secured a silver medal at the Asian Open 2023 held in Kuwait City in April of this year and a bronze medal at the Asian Junior Championships in 2022. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **ISSF Junior World Championships 2023** took place at Changwon Shooting Range, **South Korea** from July 16 to 24. In its **third edition** this year, the event featured 90 skilled Indian shooters participating in pistol, rifle, and shotgun disciplines within the under-21 age category, all striving to secure medals. India's impressive performance led to a total of **17 medals**, including **six gold**, six silver, and five bronze at the ISSF Junior World Championships 2023. Remarkably, **seven** Indian shooters managed to secure more than one medal during the competition. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- India captain **Harmanpreet Kaur** has been suspended for her team's next two international matches following two separate breaches of the **ICC Code of Conduct** during the third match of their **ICC Women's Championship** series against Bangladesh in Dhaka. Harmanpreet Kaur becomes 1st women cricketer to breach ICC Code of Conduct. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, under the leadership of Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi**, has been given its nod for the continuation of the **umbrella scheme "Atmosphere & Climate Research-Modelling Observing Systems & Services (ACROSS)"** for the next finance cycle of five years (**2021-2026**). The **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)** is implementing the **ACROSS scheme** through its units, namely India Meteorological Department (IMD), National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), and Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS). ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Under the SAUNI (Saurashtra Narmada Avtaran Irrigation) scheme, the Government of Gujarat has successfully completed the construction of Package 8 and Package 9 of **Link-3**. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate and dedicate this significant project to the people of Saurashtra in the near future. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Minister of State for health S.P. Singh Baghel** told about the target achievement of **Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna** which has resulted in huge out-of-pocket expenditure savings related to hospitalisations for the targeted beneficiaries. Minister of State for health stated a **total of 3.14 crore beneficiaries are benefitted** under the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna **during the last two years**. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Schemes and Committees News

- India is considering expanding its solar STAR-C initiative operated by ISA, to a number of Pacific Island countries. **Solar Technology and Application Resource Centre (STAR-C)** is one of the initiative of **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, **M K Stalin** has inaugurated a **camp on 24th July to facilitate the registration of applicants** to avail the Rs.1,000 monthly assistance scheme. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North Eastern Region (PM-DevINE) scheme** was announced as a new Central Sector Scheme. This scheme was 100% funded by Central Government in the Union Budget of 2022-23 with initial list of seven projects and an initial allocation of Rs.1500 crore. PM-DevINE scheme got approval by the Cabinet on 12th October 2022 with an overall outlay of **Rs.6,600 crore** for the 4 years period from 2022-23 to 2025-26 (remaining years of the 15th Finance Commission period). ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Ministry of Cooperation** has taken various initiatives in order to envision '**Sahkar Se Samridhi**' scheme, strengthening the cooperation movement in the country, deepening its reach to the grassroots and to enhance the performance, productivity and profitability of cooperative societies. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Science and Technology News

- **Elon Musk**, owner of Twitter launched the **new logo of Twitter 'X'** by replacing the iconic bird logo. The "X" logo has been in the pipeline for a while with Musk's strong want of an "everything app". Before he bought Twitter for \$44 billion, Musk described the platform as "an accelerant to creating X, the everything app" - something he plans to launch eventually. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- ISRO to launch **PSLV-C56 with six co-passenger satellite on 30th July at 6:30 AM** from the first launch pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- A new Internet ransomware virus called '**Akira**' has surfaced in cyberspace, designed to steal crucial personal information and encrypt data, thereby coercing individuals into paying ransom money. The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) said in a latest advisory to Internet users. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **India AI and Meta** have forged a collaborative partnership with the shared objective of propelling the progress of AI & Emerging Technologies research and development. The partnership's primary aim is to achieve groundbreaking advancements in AI technology and its practical applications. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Important Days News

- **World Drowning Prevention Day** is marked each year on **July 25** with the objective of increasing awareness about the devastating and enduring consequences of drowning on families and communities, as well as educating people about crucial methods to prevent such incidents. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Kargil Vijay Diwas** is celebrated annually across the country on **July 26th** to pay tribute to the bravery and valor of the Indian soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice for the country during the **Kargil War in 1999**. The day commemorates the victory of Operation Vijay, which was a significant military victory over Pakistan during the Kargil War in 1999. In 2023, India is celebrating its **24th anniversary of the Kargil Vijay Diwas**. The day is also known as Kargil War or Kargil conflict. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **World Hepatitis Day** is observed on **July 28th** annually with the primary aim of spreading awareness about hepatitis on a global scale. This year's theme is **'one life, one liver'**.
- Every year, **World Nature Conservation Day is celebrated on July 28**. On this day, people raise awareness about the importance of nature conservation. The theme of World Nature Conservation Day 2023 is **"Forests and Livelihoods: Sustaining People and Planet"**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **International Tiger Day** has been observed annually on **July 29th** since its inception in 2010 during the **Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit**. The main purpose of this day is to bring attention to the drastic decline in wild tiger populations, which has pushed them to the edge of extinction. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Every year on **July 30th**, people around the world celebrate **International Friendship Day**. Since 2011, this special day has been dedicated to expressing gratitude to our friends for their companionship and support. ([Click here to read the article](#))

- **World Day against Trafficking in Persons** is held on **July 30th** each year, and is an annual event. This year's theme, **"Reach every victim of trafficking, leave no one behind,"** calls on governments, law enforcement, public services and civil society to assess and enhance their efforts to strengthen prevention, identify and support victims, and end impunity. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Obituaries News

- Former Australia and New South Wales wicketkeeper **Brian Taber** has passed away at the age of 83. Taber, who played 16 Test matches for Australia between 1966 and 1970. He made his Test debut against South Africa in Johannesburg where he claimed seven catches and a stumping. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Shirish Kanekar**, Veteran Marathi writer and columnist passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra at the age of 80. He was born on June 6, 1943 in Pune, Maharashtra. He worked at Marathi and English language publications like Loksatta, Indian Express, Samana, and Free Press Journal. He was popular for his newspaper columns on Cinema, Cricket and Politics.Pune, Maharashtra. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Miscellaneous News

- Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal unveiled Delhi's first **'water ATM'** aiming to offer water access in regions without piped supply and reducing reliance on water tankers. These water ATM machines will grant underprivileged sections of the city the same quality of RO(Reverse Osmosis) water that has traditionally been available to more affluent segments of society. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **'Cannabis Research Project'** of CSIR-IIIM Jammu, spearheaded by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, marks the first-ever initiative of its kind in India. This groundbreaking project is carried out in partnership with a Canadian firm **'IndusScan'** with the aim of harnessing the potential of cannabis, a substance known for its abuse potential, for the benefit of humanity, particularly for patients afflicted with neuropathies, cancer, and epilepsy. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **Ladakh**, the Union Territory, has marked a momentous occasion with the establishment of its first-ever women police station. This significant step is aimed at empowering women and ensuring their safety within the region. **The inauguration of the police station in Kargil**, overseen by Additional Director General of Police **S D Singh Jamwal**, demonstrates the commitment to addressing crimes against women. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- **27th July** is celebrated as **death anniversary of Missile Man of India APJ Abdul Kalam**. 27th July 2023 is celebrated as **8th death anniversary** of APJ Abdul Kalam. ([Click here to read the article](#))

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- The **Batagaika crater**, the world's largest permafrost crater is expanding at an alarming rate in **Russia's Far East**. Aerial footage of the world's largest permafrost crater, the Batagaika crater has revealed its details. The crater has been seen in the **far- eastern Siberian taiga (that is, boreal forest)**. It's a **rapidly growing 1 km (0.6 mile) pit**. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The **Boarder Road Organization** is cutting a new road through which the devotees will soon be able to visit **Mount Kailash** from Indian Territory. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- The yearly **Machail Mata Yatra** began as numerous devotees gathered to pay their respects at the high-altitude temple located in the Kishtwar district of **Jammu and Kashmir**. The yatra was initiated with a ceremonial "Pratham Pooja" at the shrine, which is devoted to goddess Durga, also known as 'Kaali' or 'Chandi'. ([Click here to read the article](#))
- Scientists from the **Indian Institute of Science (IISc)** and **Japan's Niigata University** have made a groundbreaking discovery by finding water droplets in rocks from the **Himalayas**. These water droplets are believed to be from an ancient ocean that existed around **600 million** years ago. ([Click here to read the article](#))

Static Takeaways

- Sri Lanka Capitals: Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte;
- Sri Lanka Currency: Sri Lankan Rupee;
- Sri Lanka Official languages: Sinhala, Tamil;
- Sri Lanka President: Ranil Wickremesinghe;
- Sri Lanka Prime minister: Dinesh Gunawardena.
- Chairman & Managing director of Power Finance Corporation: Ravinder Singh Dhillon
- Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court: Augustine George Masih
- Chief Minister of Rajasthan: Ashok Gehlot
- Delhi Water Minister : Saurabh Bharadwaj
- Chief Scientist at CSIR-IIIM Jammu: Dr Zabeer Ahmed
- World Animal Health Organization Founded: 1924;
- World Animal Health Organization Founder: Emmanuel Leclainche;
- World Animal Health Organization Headquarters: Paris;
- Director General of the World Animal Health Organization: Dr Monique Eloit.
- Founder of Tata Group: Jamsetji Tata
- Chief minister of Madhya pradesh: Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- Asian Cricket Council(ACC) President: Jay Shah;
- Asian Cricket Council(ACC) Headquarters: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia;
- Asian Cricket Council(ACC) Established: 1983.
- Director General of Railway Protection Force (RPF): Sanjay Chander

- WHO Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland; Director general: Tedros Adhanom.
- CRPF Founded: 27 July 1939;
- CRPF Headquarters: New Delhi;
- CRPF Founder: Parliament of India;
- Director General of CRPF: Dr. Sujoy Lal Thaoson, IPS.
- 50th and current Chief Justice of India: Dhananjaya Yeshwant Chandrachud
- Minister of Law and Justice in India: Arjun Ram Meghwal
- Current Chairman of Asian Paints Ltd: Deepak Satwalekar
- Rajasthan Capital: Jaipur
- Rajasthan Chief Minister: Ashok Gehlot
- Rajasthan Governor: Kalraj Mishra
- Central Bank of Israel Establishment: 1954
- Central Bank of Israel Headquarter: Kiryat HaMemshala in Jerusalem with a branch in Tel Aviv.
- Central Bank of Israel Current Governor: Amir Yaron
- Central Bank of Israel Director General: Shulamit Geri
- Central Bank of Israel Establishment: 1954
- Central Bank of Israel Headquarter: Kiryat HaMemshala in Jerusalem with a branch in Tel Aviv.
- Central Bank of Israel Current Governor: Amir Yaron
- Central Bank of Israel Director General: Shulamit Geri
- 2023 FIDE World Champion: Ding Liren
- President of Handball Association India (HAI): Digvijay Chautala
- World Wildlife Fund Headquarters: Gland, Switzerland;
- World Wildlife Fund Founded: 29 April 1961;
- World Wildlife Fund Director General: Marco Lambertini.
- CEO of India AI: Shri Abhishek Singh
- WHO Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland; Director general: Tedros Adhanom.
- CEO of India AI: Shri Abhishek Singh
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Founded: 1988;
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Founder: Bert Bolin;
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.

