

AUGUST 21 TO AUGUST 27

- India achieved a significant milestone by successfully landing its Chandrayaan-3 mission on the lunar surface on August 23, 2023, becoming the fourth country to do so after the United States, Russia, and China. The Vikram lander touched down on the previously unexplored south pole of the moon. The Pragyan rover is poised to roll out from the lander and initiate its exploration of the lunar terrain in the coming days.
 - The triumphant landing of Chandrayaan-3 stands as a momentous accomplishment for India's space program, a testament to the relentless dedication of the scientists and engineers who worked tirelessly to achieve this feat. It propels India into an exclusive league of spacefaring nations and advances its aspiration to play a pivotal role in the global space race.
 - Chandrayaan-3's mission objectives encompass the collection of vital data from the lunar south pole, believed to be rich in water ice. This information holds the potential to support future human endeavors on the moon's surface. Additionally, the mission is expected to enhance our comprehension of the moon's formation and evolution.
 - This successful landing marks a proud juncture for India and a significant stride in our voyage through space. I am confident that this mission will pave the way for numerous accomplishments in the years ahead.
 - Chandrayaan-3: The Team behind India's Lunar Success The Indian spacecraft, Chandrayaan-3, has attained a significant feat with its gentle landing on the moon's surface. The touchdown occurred at 6:04 pm on August 23, 2023, in line with the schedule. This achievement has established India as the fourth nation, alongside the United States, China, and the former Soviet Union, to master the intricate technology of soft lunar landings. Notably, nearly 54 female engineers and scientists were integral to the Chandrayaan-3 mission. They held key roles as associate and deputy project directors, as well as project managers for various systems.
 - Key Individuals Behind Chandrayaan-3: S Somanath - ISRO Chairman At the forefront of India's ambitious lunar mission is ISRO chief S Somanath. He is also credited with accelerating ISRO's other pivotal missions, including Gaganyaan and the Aditya-L1 solar mission. Somanath's leadership was previously instrumental as the director of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) and the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre, which are the primary establishments for ISRO's rocket technology development.
 - P Veeramuthuvel - Chandrayaan-3 Project Director Heading the latest lunar touchdown endeavor is P Veeramuthuvel, the project director of Chandrayaan-3. Taking on this role in 2019, he was previously a deputy director in the Space Infrastructure Programme Office at ISRO headquarters. Veeramuthuvel's technical expertise is widely recognized, and he played a pivotal role in Chandrayaan-2, particularly in negotiations with NASA. Hailing from Villupuram in Tamil Nadu, he is an alumnus of the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M).
- S Mohana Kumar, a senior scientist from the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, assumes the role of mission director for Chandrayaan-3. Kumar was responsible for overseeing the successful commercial launch of the One Web India 2 satellites during the LVM3-M3 mission.
 - S Unnikrishnan Nair, Director of the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) S Unnikrishnan Nair leads the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) located in Thumba, Thiruvananthapuram district, Kerala. He and his team play a crucial role in various aspects of the significant mission. The Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) was also instrumental in developing the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) Mark-III, later renamed as Launch Vehicle Mark-III.
 - M Sankaran, Director of the U R Rao Satellite Centre (URSC) M Sankaran heads the U R Rao Satellite Centre, overseeing the satellite sector's efforts to meet national requirements in areas such as communication, navigation, remote sensing, meteorology, and inter-planetary

exploration. In June 2021, he took on the role of director at the lead centre in India for designing, developing, and realizing all of ISRO's satellites.

- A Rajarajan, Chief of the Launch Authorisation Board (LAB) A scientist and director of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR (SDSC SHAR), Sriharikota, A Rajarajan, is an expert in the field of composites. He played a crucial role in ensuring the successful production of solid motors and launch complex infrastructure to meet ISRO's growing demand for launches, including those for the Human Space Programme (Gaganyaan) and SSLV. The Launch Authorisation Board (LAB) is responsible for approving launches.
- Highlights of the BRICS Summit 2023: Enhancing Global South Collaboration and Expanding Ambitions The 15th BRICS Summit convened in Johannesburg, bringing together leaders from Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. The summit aimed to strengthen cooperation among these emerging economies, address global issues, and explore potential expansion of the group's membership.
- Highlights of the BRICS Summit 2023: Opening and Leaders' Participation • The 15th BRICS Summit occurred in Johannesburg, with a focus on the collaborative efforts of BRICS nations – Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. • This summit marked the first in-person meeting of BRICS leaders since 2019, underscoring the significance of discussing common concerns. • Among the attending leaders were Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India and Chinese President Xi Jinping. • Modi stressed the summit's importance in addressing matters relevant to the Global South and development-oriented issues.
- Highlights of the BRICS Summit 2023: Expanded Dialogue and Outreach • Prime Minister Modi announced his participation in BRICS-Africa Outreach and BRICS Plus Dialogue events, reflecting the desire to engage with nations beyond the core BRICS members. • The inclusion of guest countries provided a platform for broader discussions on global challenges and developmental matters.

Diplomatic Engagements

- Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived in Johannesburg for the summit, with a focus on elevating China's global engagement.
- Xi's decision to skip a business forum and send the Chinese Commerce Minister in his place raised questions about the rationale behind this change.
- African nations urged China to shift its focus from infrastructure development to local industrialization in alignment with the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA).

BRICS Summit 2023: Key Addresses and Vision

- Leaders such as Modi, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, and Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva underscored BRICS' significance in fostering collaboration among emerging economies.
- Ramaphosa emphasized the necessity for global financial institutions to undergo reforms that address the challenges faced by developing economies.
- Brazilian President Lula da Silva clarified that BRICS aimed to unite the Global South and wasn't intended as a rival to established powers like the United States and G7 economies.

BRICS Summit 2023: Expansion Ambitions

- The prospect of expanding BRICS to include more nations sparked discussions during the summit.
- China and Russia's ambitions to strengthen BRICS served to counterbalance the influence of Western powers amid global tensions.
- South African President Ramaphosa voiced support for BRICS expansion and revealed that over 20 nations, including Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, and Egypt, had formally expressed interest in joining.

BRICS Summit 2023: Collective Influence and Global Partnerships

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

BRICS Summit 2023: Economic and Growth Aspects

- Prime Minister Modi highlighted India's rapid economic growth and projected its trajectory to become a \$5 trillion economy in the near future.
- BRICS nations aimed to reinforce cooperation to address economic challenges and amplify their collective impact on the global stage.

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

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced on August 26 that India would observe August 23 as National Space Day to commemorate the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the Moon. He also revealed that the landing site of the lander would be named 'Shivashakti,' while the location where Chandrayaan-2 touched down would be referred to as 'Tiranga Point.'

PM Modi's Visit to ISRO in Bengaluru

- To congratulate the ISRO team for the successful Chandrayaan-3 landing on August 23, PM Modi visited Bengaluru right after his return from his visits to Greece and South Africa.
- At the ISRO headquarters in Bengaluru, he was warmly received, and he met the team of scientists responsible for the mission.
- PM Modi joined the ISRO team virtually from South Africa to witness the historic landing of the Vikram lander on the Moon while attending the 15th BRICS Summit.
- He was personally welcomed by ISRO Chairman S Somanath, and they celebrated the successful mission culmination. He also engaged with the team and received a briefing on ISRO's lunar journey.

Indore Named Best City and Madhya Pradesh Best State in India Smart Cities Awards 2022 The India Smart Cities Awards 2022, organized by the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry, recognized Indore as the best city and Madhya Pradesh as the best state in the Smart Cities Mission. These awards acknowledge cities' and states' efforts to promote sustainable development and enhance urban living quality across India.

Top City and State Recognized:

- **Best City Award:** Indore has been honored as the best city in the India Smart Cities Awards 2022, maintaining its impressive record as the cleanest city in the Swachh Bharat Mission for six consecutive years.

Madhya Pradesh Recognized as Best State: Madhya Pradesh has garnered recognition as the top-performing state in the Smart Cities Mission. The state's dedicated efforts towards urban development, characterized by the implementation of multi-sectoral projects, have significantly enhanced the quality of life for its citizens.

Top Smart Cities:

- **Second Best City:** Surat secured the second position among smart cities, attributed to its notable contributions to urban development.
- **Third Best City:** Agra achieved the third rank for its commendable initiatives that contribute to the Smart Cities Mission.

State Rankings:

- **Second Best State:** Tamil Nadu claimed the second position among the states, showcasing remarkable progress in urban development and sustainable projects.
- **Shared Third Best State:** Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh jointly secured the third spot among the states, reflecting their substantial contributions to the Smart Cities Mission.

Award Categories and Winning Projects:

- **Built Environment Category:** Coimbatore's model roads and restoration of lakes project garnered recognition as the most outstanding project in this category.
- **Economy Category:** Jabalpur's incubation center project clinched the top position for its significant economic impact.
- **Mobility Category:** Chandigarh's public bike-sharing initiative stood out as a prominent endeavor in the mobility category.
- **Governance Category:** Chandigarh demonstrated excellence in the governance category, particularly in the realm of e-governance services.
- **Union Territory Category:** Chandigarh received the overall award for being the most exemplary Union Territory in the India Smart Cities Awards.

Progress of Smart Cities Mission:

- Launched in 2015, the Smart Cities Mission has achieved substantial milestones. The 100 designated cities have successfully executed 76% of the proposed projects valued at Rs. 1.10 lakh crore.
- The remaining projects, totaling Rs. 60,095 crore, are projected for completion by June 30, 2024. The extension of the deadline accommodates project completion due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Integrated Command and Control Centers (ICCC):

- All 100 Smart Cities have established operational Integrated Command and Control Centers (ICCC) that function as urban management nerve centers. These centers have significantly improved urban services, encompassing crime tracking, safety measures, transport management, waste management, water supply, and disaster management.

ISAC Awards and Its Goals:

- The India Smart Cities Awards aim to acknowledge and honor cities, projects, and ideas that contribute to sustainable development and elevate the overall quality of urban life.

- The awards promote inclusivity, equity, safety, health, and collaboration among cities.

Selection Process and Nominations:

- ISAC 2022 involved a two-stage submission process. The Qualifying Stage assessed cities' overall performance, while the Proposal Stage invited nominations for six award categories.
- Out of 845 nominations from 80 qualifying smart cities, 66 winners were selected across various categories.

National Affairs:

- The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has undertaken a groundbreaking initiative to construct the 'Likaru-Mig La-Fukche' road in Ladakh's Demchok sector.
- President Droupadi Murmu has formally granted her assent to two significant pieces of legislation: the Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023, and the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023.
- In a noteworthy tribute to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has unveiled a new lotus species named 'Namoh 108', characterized by its 108 petals.
- India has introduced the definition of Green Hydrogen through the Green Hydrogen Standard, setting an emission threshold for hydrogen production from renewable sources. This move aligns with the National Green Hydrogen Mission's objectives and emphasizes sustainability.

Bharat NCAP Launched to Elevate Vehicle Safety Standards in India

Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari, inaugurated the Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP) on August 22, 2023, in New Delhi. This initiative aims to enhance road safety by raising vehicle safety standards for vehicles weighing up to 3.5 tonnes in India. The program not only aims to improve the safety and quality of vehicles but also fosters healthy competition among Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) to produce safer vehicles. [\[Read more\]](#)(Link to the article).

PM Modi Presents Special Gifts to BRICS Leaders during South Africa Visit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his three-day visit to South Africa for the 15th BRICS summit, offered distinctive gifts to BRICS leaders. Special gifts, including a Bidri Surahi, Nagaland Shawl, and Gond Painting, were presented to South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, First Lady Tshepo Motsepe, and Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. [\[Read more\]](#)(Link to the article).

Finance Minister Launches Strategic Partnerships for Green Hydrogen Innovation

In a significant move towards advancing green hydrogen innovation, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched strategic partnerships between HSBC India and prominent institutions, namely the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, and the Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (SSEF). [\[Read more\]](#)(Link to the article).

Initiatives and Developments in Various States

- President Droupadi Murmu launched the 'My Bengal, Addiction-Free Bengal' campaign in an effort to combat drug usage among youth. [\[Read more\]](#)(Link to the article).
- Guwahati's Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport introduces the innovative 'Digi Yatra' facility, enhancing air travel experience in the Northeastern region. [\[Read more\]](#)(Link to the article).
- Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister, M K Stalin, lays the foundation stone for South East Asia's largest water desalination project, addressing Chennai's water crisis. [\[Read more\]](#)(Link to the article).
- The vibrant Onam celebrations in Kerala, commemorating the return of King Mahabali, add splendor to the state's rich cultural heritage. [\[Read more\]](#)(Link to the article).

- Kerala introduces its first AI school in Thiruvananthapuram, inaugurated by Former President of India, Ram Nath Kovind, marking a new era in education. [Read more](Link to the article).
- The National Health Authority (NHA) introduces the first Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) Microsite in Mizoram, transforming healthcare through digitalization. [Read more](Link to the article).
- UNESCO and Telangana's ITE&C Department collaborate to infuse Ethics of AI into artificial intelligence systems. [Read more](Link to the article).
- Assam Environment and Forest Department bans plastic water bottles below 1000 ml capacity, contributing to environmental conservation. [Read more](Link to the article).
- Uttar Pradesh Cabinet under Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath approves significant proposals for education and youth empowerment. [Read more](Link to the article).

International Affairs

- The captivating story of the Piripkura tribe in the Amazon rainforest illustrates the struggle of indigenous people against modern encroachment. [Read more](Link to the article).
- Srettha Thavisin, Thai property tycoon, becomes the new prime minister of Thailand, ending political uncertainty following a parliamentary vote. [Read more](Link to the article).
- The U.S. FDA approves the first vaccine to prevent Respiratory Syncytial Virus-associated LRTD and severe cases in infants, providing hope for infant health. [Read more](Link to the article).

Global Spread of African Swine Fever: Since its resurgence in January 2021, the highly contagious African Swine Fever (ASF) virus has rapidly extended its reach worldwide, infiltrating 49 countries by August 2023. This virus, notorious for its near 100% fatality rate among domestic and wild pigs, has wreaked havoc on pig populations, leading to the loss of over 1.5 million animals within this timeframe. On August 21, 2023, the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), a prominent intergovernmental organization dedicated to combating animal diseases, published a report detailing this alarming global spread.

1. **Expansion of BRICS Alliance:** In a significant geopolitical development, the BRICS alliance, consisting of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, has announced the inclusion of six new member countries. This expansion marks a notable shift in the composition of the alliance and has the potential to reshape global cooperation dynamics. Argentina, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, and Egypt have now joined the expanded BRICS fold.
2. **Introduction of Mohajer-10 Drone:** In a noteworthy event attended by senior Iranian officials, the Islamic Republic has unveiled its latest achievement in unmanned aerial technology – the Mohajer-10 drone. This cutting-edge unmanned aerial vehicle boasts an impressive range of 2,000 kilometers (1,240 miles), as reported by state media.
3. **Indian PM Modi's Historic Visit to Greece:** Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi embarked on a historic visit to Greece, marking a significant diplomatic milestone as he became the first Indian Prime Minister to set foot in the country in 40 years. This visit aims to strengthen the bilateral relationship between India and Greece and comes at the invitation of Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis.
4. **PM Modi's Tribute at 'Tomb of the Unknown Soldier':** During his visit to Greece, Prime Minister Narendra Modi engaged in a solemn and symbolic act by paying his respects at the 'Tomb of the Unknown Soldier' in Athens. This gesture occurred amidst a series of diplomatic activities during his European tour, highlighting India's commitment to global partnerships.

5. **India and ASEAN Free Trade Pact Review:** In a significant move, India and the ASEAN countries have reached an agreement to review their existing free trade pact for goods. The aim of this review is to address trade imbalances and disparities between the two parties, with the Commerce Ministry signaling a commitment to enhance bilateral trade relations.
6. **Mastercard's Partnership with ICC World Cup:** The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced a thrilling collaboration with Mastercard, which is set to become a Global Partner for the upcoming ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023. Scheduled to take place in India from October 5 to November 19, 2023, the partnership aims to enhance the cricketing experience for fans worldwide.
7. **Books Released by Goa Governor:** Goa governor PS Sreedharan Pillai released three books at a function held at the Raj Bhavan. His recently authored three new books are 'Heritage Trees of Goa,' 'When Parallel Lines Meet,' and 'Ente Priya Kavithakal' ('My Dear Poems'), a collection of poems.
8. **RBI's Guidelines for IDF-NBFCs:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced updated guidelines for Infrastructure Debt Fund-Non-Banking Financial Companies (IDF-NBFCs). These revisions aim to enhance the role of IDF-NBFCs in financing the infrastructure sector and align the regulations governing infrastructure sector financing by Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs).
9. **Canara Bank's UPI Interoperable App:** Canara Bank, a major player in the Indian banking sector, has taken a significant step by introducing the UPI interoperable digital rupee mobile application. This innovative move positions Canara Bank as the first bank across both the public and commercial sectors to offer this pioneering feature, marking a milestone in the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) pilot project.

HDFC Bank Collaborates with Marriott Bonvoy for New Credit Card: HDFC Bank, a leading private sector bank in India, has joined forces with Marriott Bonvoy, the renowned travel program by Marriott International, to introduce the 'Marriott Bonvoy HDFC Bank Credit Card'. This partnership aims to offer enhanced benefits to customers through the credit card.

ICRA Ratings Projects Robust Economic Growth for India in Q1 FY24: ICRA Ratings, in a comprehensive report, has forecasted a robust economic growth of 8.5% for India in the first quarter of the fiscal year 2023 (FY24). This projection reflects a significant acceleration from the 6.1% growth rate observed in the preceding quarter (January-March). Multiple factors, including a supportive base effect and a recovery in the services sector, contribute to this outlook.

Standalone Microfinance Institutions Regain Dominance in Microlending: Standalone Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) have regained their dominant position in microlending, surpassing banks after a four-year interval. This resurgence is attributed to their recovery from pandemic-related setbacks and strategic efforts, with standalone MFIs now accounting for a 40% share of microfinance loans in the country.

BHEL Develops Indigenous Catalysts to Mitigate Thermal Plant Emissions: Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL), a prominent state-owned engineering company, has achieved a significant milestone by successfully developing indigenous Selective Catalyst Reactors (SCR) Catalysts. These catalysts play a vital role in reducing nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions from thermal power plants. This achievement aligns with the 'Make in India' initiative.

CCI Imposes Penalty on Bharti Airtel for Competition Act Violation: The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has taken a stern stance against Bharti Airtel, imposing a penalty of Rs 1 crore for violating the stipulations outlined in Section 6(2) of the Competition Act, 2002. This penalty is related to Bharti Airtel's acquisition of a stake in Bharti Telemedia from Lion Meadow Investment Limited.

RBI Raises Offline Payment Transaction Limit to Enhance User Convenience: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced changes to the regulations governing offline payment transactions to enhance user convenience and promote digital payment adoption. The upper limit of offline payment transactions has been increased from ₹200 to ₹500, effective immediately. This move is part of RBI's ongoing efforts to streamline payment processes.

Indian Navy Signs Contract for Fleet Support Ships with Hindustan Shipyard Limited: The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed a significant contract with Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), a state-owned company, to acquire five Fleet Support Ships (FSS) for the Indian Navy. This contract marks a new era in naval logistics, enabling extended missions without returning to port. The estimated cost of this venture is around ₹19,000 crore.

Reliance Retail Launches New Fashion Brand 'Yousta': Reliance Retail, the retail arm of Reliance Industries Ltd, has ventured into the fashion retail sector with the introduction of its new brand, Yousta. The brand's debut was celebrated with the opening of its flagship store in Hyderabad's Sarath City Mall.

Rahul Dravid Appointed as Brand Ambassador for Bharat Petroleum: Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) has named cricketer Rahul Dravid as its new brand ambassador. He will endorse BPCL's Pure for Sure initiative and range of MAK lubricants.

Neelkanth Mishra Appointed as Part-Time Chairperson of UIDAI: Neelkanth Mishra has been appointed as the part-time Chairperson of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). Mishra, an expert in economics and research, currently serves as the Chief Economist of Axis Bank and the Head of Global Research at Axis Capital.

Kiran Mani Joins Viacom18 as CEO to Lead Digital Initiatives: Viacom18 has appointed Kiran Mani, an experienced executive from Google, as its new CEO. Mani's extensive experience, particularly his role as the General Manager and MD for Android and Google Play in the Asia Pacific region, positions him to lead Viacom18's digital endeavors.

1. The State Bank of India (SBI) has nominated four directors, namely Ketan Shivji Vikamsey, Mrugank Madhukar Paranjape, Rajesh Kumar Dubey, and Dharmendra Singh Shekhawat, to the central board of the bank. They will hold their positions for a three-year term from June 26, 2023, to June 25, 2026.
2. Justice Prakash Shrivastava has been designated as the Chairperson of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), succeeding the former Chairperson, Justice A.K Goel. Following Justice A.K Goel's retirement in July, Justice Sheo Kumar Singh temporarily held the position. Justice Shrivastava, who enrolled as an advocate on February 2, 1987, will now lead the NGT.
3. Former Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar will serve as a "national icon" of the Election Commission (EC) to raise awareness about the importance of greater voter participation in the electoral process. The Election Commission will enter into a three-year agreement with Mr. Tendulkar for this purpose.

4. Infosys has initiated a three-year partnership with global tennis icon Rafael Nadal, appointing him as the brand ambassador and face of Infosys' Digital Innovation. This collaboration signifies Infosys' commitment to revolutionizing the tennis landscape through innovative technologies.

Defence News

5. The Indian Navy's submarine, INS Vagir, has achieved a remarkable milestone by setting the record for the longest deployment of any Scorpene-class submarine. Covering a distance of 7,000 kilometers on its journey to Australia for joint military exercises, INS Vagir's achievement reflects naval prowess and international collaboration.
6. The Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas has accomplished a significant feat by successfully firing the Astra indigenous Beyond Visual Range (BVR) air-to-air missile off the coast of Goa. This accomplishment underscores India's progress in advancing military technology.
7. The Chief of the Naval Staff and the Commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard have signed the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the exchange of White Shipping Information. This cooperation between the Philippine Coast Guard and the Indian Navy aims to enhance maritime safety and security in the region.

Awards and Recognitions

8. Five Indian youths have been recognized among 17 teen environmental activists worldwide to receive the 2023 International Young Eco-Hero Award. These young eco-warriors, honored by the US-based nonprofit organization "Action For Nature," are acknowledged for their initiatives addressing pressing environmental challenges.
9. Eminent industrialist Ratan Tata has been conferred with the inaugural 'Udyog Ratna' award by the Maharashtra government. The award was presented to the 85-year-old chairman emeritus of Tata Sons in recognition of his contributions to industry.
10. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been honored with the Grand Cross of the Order of Honour by Greek President Katerina N. Sakellariopoulou during his visit to Athens. This award, Greece's highest civilian honor for foreign heads of government, underscores the significance of the bilateral relationship.

Summits and Conferences News

11. Leaders from the BRICS economic alliance—Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa—are convening in Johannesburg's financial district for a three-day summit. This gathering holds significant implications for international diplomacy and discussions on political and economic influence in the developing world.
 12. The G20 Pandemic Fund has allocated a substantial amount of \$25 million to India's Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying. This funding aims to strengthen the country's animal health system, a vital component of the comprehensive One Health strategy for pandemic prevention and response.
 13. The Ninth India Region Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) took place in Udaipur, Rajasthan. With the theme "Enhancing Democracy and Effective Governance in the Digital Era," the conference provided a platform for insightful discussions and idea exchange among participants.
1. The B20 (Business 20) Summit India 2023 is currently in progress, with several prominent figures sharing their insights on various subjects. The theme for B20 India 2023 is "Responsible, Accelerated, Innovative, Sustainable, Equitable (R.A.I.S.E) Businesses."
 2. In a move towards fostering innovation and collaborative problem-solving, the Ministry of Education's Innovation Cell and the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) have unveiled the highly anticipated sixth edition of the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2023. This significant event continues to showcase the growing spirit of innovation within India's education landscape.

Ranks and Reports:

3. The city of Indore has secured the top position in the Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan - 2023 conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board in the category of cities with a population exceeding 10 lakhs. The survey results not only highlight the city's dedicated efforts but also underscore the overall progress made by several cities in Madhya Pradesh.

Sports News:

4. Mohit Kumar has etched his name in the annals of Indian wrestling history. He has become the first Indian wrestler to claim the junior world championship title since 2019. In the final match, Mohit Kumar was trailing 0-6 against Russia's Eldar Akhmaduninov. Through skillfully executed maneuvers, he managed to accumulate nine consecutive points, ultimately securing the coveted gold medal.
5. Anahat Singh clinched the gold medal in the U-17 category of the prestigious Asian Junior Squash Individual Championships, adding another jewel to her growing list of accomplishments. The championship, held from August 16 to 20, showcased Anahat's exceptional talent and determination as she emerged victorious on the court.
6. Indian wrestler Priya Malik has accomplished a remarkable feat by clinching the gold medal at the U20 World Wrestling Championships held in Jordan. This victory marks a significant milestone in her career.
7. Demonstrating exceptional intellectual prowess, Raja Anirudh Sriram, a fourth-standard student from Tirupati, has won a silver medal at the prestigious Singapore International Math Olympiad Challenge (SIMOC). This remarkable achievement has not only brought honor to his family and school but has also filled the entire state of Andhra Pradesh with pride.
8. Anurag Singh Thakur, the Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, announced that the esteemed Khelo India Women's League will now be recognized as the "Asmita Women's League." This purposeful change underscores the government's commitment to advancing gender equality and nurturing women's vibrant engagement in sports.
9. The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), the governing body for wrestling in India, has been suspended by the United World Wrestling (UWW) due to ongoing controversies and prolonged delays in conducting essential elections. Consequently, Indian wrestlers will participate in the upcoming World Championships as 'neutral athletes' instead of under the Indian flag.
10. Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa secured second place in the FIDE World Cup. After three days and four games of intense chess across two formats, Magnus Carlsen finally secured the FIDE World Cup for the first time in his career by defeating Pragganandhaa in the final. The 18-year-old teenager had given Carlsen a tough fight in the tie-breaker.
11. In a pioneering move that further bridges the realms of sports and technology, Infosys, a global leader in consulting and digital services, has announced a multi-year partnership with women's tennis World No. 1, Iga Swiatek. This collaboration designates Swiatek as the global brand ambassador for Infosys, focusing on promoting Digital Innovation and inspiring women globally. This announcement follows Infosys signing tennis legend Rafael Nadal for the same prestigious role, reaffirming the company's dedication to both tennis excellence and technological progress.

Schemes and Committees News:

12. In an impressive achievement, the total number of Jan Dhan accounts in India has surpassed the significant milestone of 50 crore within less than 9 years. This successful initiative has brought about substantial changes in the nation's financial landscape, according to an official statement from the finance ministry.
13. On August 21, 2023, the Ministry of Development of the North Eastern Region announced the extension of the North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS) with an approved budget of Rs. 8139.50 crore for the period 2022-2023 to 2025-2026. This initiative

aims to enhance infrastructure development, particularly in connectivity and social sectors, within the North Eastern States.

14. The Ministry of Defence in India has taken a significant step to overhaul the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). Long known for project delays and cost overruns, the DRDO is set to transform and advance its technological capabilities beyond its missile programs.
15. In a significant move towards fostering transparency in financial transactions and empowering consumers, the Indian government is gearing up to launch the 'Mera Bill Mera Adhikar' invoice incentive scheme. Starting from September 1, this innovative scheme aims to encourage the habit of requesting bills during purchases, thereby promoting a culture of financial responsibility and accountability.

Science & Technology

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has achieved a notable milestone on YouTube's live streaming platform. The Chandrayaan-3 Mission Soft-landing LIVE Telecast, broadcasted on August 23, 2023, garnered the attention of over 80 lakh peak concurrent viewers (PCVs), making it the most-watched live stream globally.
- ISRO's Chief S Somanath has announced that the Aditya-L1 mission, India's first space-based observatory to study the Sun, is likely to be launched in the first week of September. This announcement came shortly after ISRO's successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the lunar surface.
- The captivating image of the irregular galaxy ESO 300-16 has been captured by the renowned Hubble Space Telescope. Celebrated for its ability to provide high-resolution images of celestial objects, the telescope continues to unlock the mysteries of the universe.
- ISRO is preparing for another lunar mission, this time in collaboration with the Japanese space agency, The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). The LUPEX (Lunar Polar Exploration) mission is scheduled for 2024-25 and will provide ISRO with another opportunity to explore the Moon's surface.
- The International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism is observed annually on August 21. This year marks the sixth commemoration of this day, dedicated to honoring and remembering the victims of terrorism.
- World Senior Citizen Day is celebrated on August 21 each year to raise awareness about the contributions of older adults to society. In India, a senior citizen is defined as anyone who is sixty years of age or above.
- The International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief is observed annually on August 22nd.
- World Water Week, organized by the Stockholm International Water Institute since 1991, will be held from August 20 to 24 at the Waterfront Congress Center.
- International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is observed on August 23. It commemorates the uprising that began in Saint Domingue (now Haiti) on August 23, 1791, against the slave trade.
- Women's Equality Day, observed on August 26, commemorates the ongoing struggle for equal rights and opportunities for women. The theme for 2023 is "Embrace Equity," aligned with the strategic plan from 2021 to 2026.
- International Dog Day, celebrated on August 26th annually, pays tribute to our loyal companions who enrich our lives with their unwavering devotion and boundless affection.

Obituaries News

- Adobe co-founder Dr. John Warnock, who established the pioneering software company Adobe alongside his partner Dr. Charles Geschke in 1982, has passed away at the age of 82. (Click here to read the article)
- India's celebrated mathematician and statistician, C Radhakrishna Rao, known for his remarkable contributions, has passed away at the age of 103. He was recently honored with the "International Prize in Statistics-2023," often referred to as the "Nobel Prize of Statistics." (Click here to read the article)
- Bray Wyatt, also known as Windham Rotunda, a 36-year-old American professional wrestler renowned for his tenure in WWE under the ring name Bray Wyatt, has sadly passed away. (Click here to read the article)
- Veteran actress Seema Deo, who graced the silver screen with her memorable roles in films like "Anand" and "Kora Kagaz," has left us at the age of 81 in Mumbai due to age-related ailments. Over her six-decade-long career, she appeared in nearly 90 Hindi and Marathi movies. (Click here to read the article)

Miscellaneous News

- The enchanting Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden, nestled amidst the scenic foothills of the Zabarwan range, has earned a spot in the World Book of Records as Asia's largest and most splendid park of its kind. With a diverse array of 1.5 million blooming flowers, the garden stands as a living testament to nature's beauty. (Click here to read the article)
- The unique Matti banana variety native to Kanniyakumari district has been granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag. Flourishing in the district's specific climate and soil conditions, these bananas produce finger-sized fruit with a delightful honey-like taste and aroma. (Click here to read the article)
- The Nagarnar Steel Plant has achieved an astonishing milestone by successfully rolling out its inaugural Hot Rolled (HR) Coil a mere 9 days after commencing hot metal production. This feat by NMDC, a mining major venturing into steel production, showcases the plant's remarkable technological prowess. (Click here to read the article)

Key Takeaways

- The Tulip Garden was inaugurated in: 2007
- President of Asian Squash Federation: Mr. David Mui
- Governor of West Bengal: CV Ananda Bose
- CEO of Adobe: Shantanu Narayen (since 1 Dec 2007)
- Adobe Headquarters: San Jose, California, United States
- Adobe Founders: Charles Geschke, John Warnock
- Adobe Founded: December 1982, Mountain View, California, United States.
- Assam's Industries & Commerce Minister: Chandra Mohan Patowary
- Chairman and Managing Director of VA Tech Wabag: Rajiv Mittal
- Singapore's Minister for Education: Mr. Chan Chun Sing
- State Bank of India (SBI) Chairman: Dinesh Kumar Khara
- State Bank of India (SBI) Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra
- State Bank of India (SBI) Established: 1955
- State Bank of India (SBI) Tagline: The Banker to Every Indian
- Managing Director & CEO of YES BANK: Mr. Prashant Kumar
- Chief executive officer (CEO) of Jio Financial Services: Hitesh Sethia

- Official currency of Thailand: Thai baht
- Khelo India Programme was launched in the year: 2018
- Chief Marketing and Communications Officer at Mastercard: Raja Rajamannar
- Chief Executive Officer of ICC: Geoff Allardice
- Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL): Shri Mihir Kanti Mishra
- Wrestling Federation of India President: Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh
- Wrestling Federation of India Founded: 27 January 1967
- Wrestling Federation of India Headquartered in New Delhi, India
- Minister of Assam for Environment and Forest: Chandra Mohan Patowary
- Competition Commission of India (CCI) was formed on: October 14, 2003
- Chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI): Ravneet Kaur
- Chairman of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE): T G Sitharam
- Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) Founded: October 1, 2003
- Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) Headquarters: Chōfu, Tokyo, Japan.

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