

AUGUST 7TH TO AUGUST 14TH

Hiroshima Day: Remembering a Tragedy and Pursuing Peace

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

History of Hiroshima Day: Hiroshima, a city with cultural significance, was transformed into a landscape of death and destruction in an instant. The **atomic bomb, named 'Little Boy,' claimed around 140,000 lives** by the end of 1945, either directly or due to radiation effects. Many people suffered severe injuries, and survivors dealt with lifelong health issues. This tragedy serves as a stark reminder of the consequences of unchecked aggression and the destructive power of nuclear weapons.

Pursuit of Peace: Over the years, **Hiroshima has become a symbol of peace, reconciliation, and hope**. The city, once a symbol of devastation, has rebuilt itself, focusing on promoting peace and understanding among nations.

Significance of Hiroshima Day: **Hiroshima Day holds a significant place in history** as it commemorates the day when an atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, Japan, in 1945, causing immense destruction and loss of lives. This day reminds us of the devastating outcomes of war and emphasizes the importance of peace and nuclear disarmament. It plays a crucial role in promoting understanding, reconciliation, and a more peaceful future.

Quit India Movement: Striving for Independence

Introduction to the Quit India Movement: The **Quit India Movement was a pivotal event in India's struggle for independence** from British colonial rule. In 2023, we mark the **81st anniversary** of this significant movement that altered the course of India's history. As we remember this milestone, it's crucial to reflect on the ideals and sacrifices of the past while drawing inspiration for the present and the future.

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

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

Civil Disobedience and Non-Violence: The Quit India Movement embraced the principles of **civil disobedience and non-violence**, inspired by Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of Satyagraha. Peaceful protests, non-cooperation, and nonviolent resistance were the hallmarks of this movement.

Mass Participation in the Quit India Movement: People of all ages, genders, and backgrounds participated in the **Quit India Movement**. Students, farmers, laborers, and women supported the movement, uniting India's diverse population under a common cause.

Repression and Arrests: The **British colonial authorities responded to the movement with harsh repression**. Many leaders of the Indian National Congress, including Mahatma Gandhi, were arrested, and the British administration used violence to suppress the protests.

Acts of Resistance: Indians **organized strikes, boycotted British goods, and engaged in civil disobedience** across the country. Public servants resigned from their positions, and students boycotted educational institutions run by the British government.

Unity and National Pride The Quit India Movement instilled a sense of unity and national pride among Indians, uniting them in their resolute pursuit of independence.

Significance of Quit India Movement The Quit India Movement held immense significance in India's struggle for freedom. It showcased the potency of nonviolent resistance and rallied people from diverse backgrounds together for the cause of independence. Despite severe suppression, the movement fueled the demand for self-governance and compelled the British government to engage in negotiations with Indian leaders.

Legacy of Quit India Movement The Quit India Movement's enduring legacy underscores how nonviolent protests and solidarity can yield transformative outcomes. This movement played an instrumental role in achieving India's independence on August 15, 1947.

Highlights of RBI's August 2023 Monetary Policy Meeting The highlights of the Reserve Bank of India's August 2023 Monetary Policy meeting encompass the RBI's decisions, economic assessments, inflation forecasts, and policy measures discussed during the gathering.

- 1. Unchanged Repo Rate at 6.5%:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) upheld the repo rate at 6.50% during its August 2023 monetary policy meeting. The unanimous decision was reached by the six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).
- 2. Inflation Trends and Projections:** After dipping to 4.3% in May 2023, headline inflation experienced an upswing in June and is anticipated to climb further in July and August due to elevated vegetable prices. The RBI has forecasted India's Q2 retail inflation at 6.2%, Q3 at 5.7%, and Q4 at 5.2% for the ongoing fiscal year. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation projection for FY2023-24 has been adjusted from 5.1% to 5.4% due to shocks in vegetable prices.
- 3. Economic Outlook:** Despite frail external demand, domestic economic activity remains robust and is poised to sustain its momentum. The RBI maintained the GDP growth projection for the fiscal year at 6.5%, with balanced risks.
- 4. Monitoring Inflation Trajectory:** The MPC remains committed to aligning inflation with the 4% target and anchoring inflation expectations. The cumulative 250-basis point rate hike implemented by the MPC is gradually impacting the economy. The MPC opted for vigilance and a thorough assessment of the evolving situation before contemplating policy adjustments.
- 5. Liquidity Measures:** The RBI directed banks to maintain an incremental cash reserve ratio of 10% on deposit growth between May 19 and July 28, effective from the August 12 fortnight.
- 6. UPI Payment Enhancements:** The RBI introduced modifications to UPI payments, enabling offline transactions using near-field communication. The payment limit for UPI Lite has been raised from Rs 200 to Rs 500.
- 7. Transition to Fixed-Rate Regime:** The RBI's directive permits home loan and other borrowers to transition to a fixed-rate regime.
- 8. Consistent Policy Stance:** This marks the third consecutive monetary policy meeting in which the MPC opted to maintain the repo rate at 6.50%. Previously, the MPC had raised the repo rate by 250 basis points from May 2022 to February 2023.
- 9. Positive Outlook for Indian Economy:** RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das acknowledged that the Indian economy continues to shine as a beacon in the global landscape.

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

Conversational Payments on UPI: In a move aimed at enhancing the convenience and accessibility of UPI, the RBI has disclosed plans to introduce Conversational Payments on the platform. This innovative feature empowers users to

engage in transactions through interactions with an AI-powered system, ensuring the utmost safety and security throughout the process.

- **Enhanced Accessibility:** The integration of AI-driven conversational capabilities is set to make UPI even more user-friendly, reducing adoption barriers, particularly among senior citizens and individuals with disabilities.
- **Multilingual Support:** Initially available in Hindi and English, the Conversational Payments feature will subsequently encompass a range of Indian languages, catering to the linguistic diversity of the nation.

UPI Lite Payment Limit Enhancement: Recognizing the evolving requirements of users, the RBI has raised the transaction limit for UPI Lite from Rs 200 to Rs 500, aiming to facilitate more substantial and convenient transactions.

- **Enhanced Processing:** UPI Lite, introduced by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), enables swift small-value transactions by optimizing processing resources for banks. This enhancement reduces transaction failures and improves overall efficiency.
- **Balancing Security:** While the transaction limit has been increased, the balance ceiling for UPI Lite remains unchanged at Rs 2,000. This cautious approach ensures that two-factor authentication remains in place for higher transaction limits.

Offline UPI Payments with NFC Technology: In a move to bolster the adoption of UPI Lite, the RBI is introducing offline payments using Near Field Communication (NFC) technology. This innovative approach not only facilitates retail digital payments in scenarios of weak or absent internet connectivity but also ensures speed and minimal transaction declines.

- **Addressing Connectivity Challenges:** The incorporation of NFC technology allows users to conduct transactions even when internet or telecom connectivity is compromised, ensuring more reliable and accessible digital payments.
- **Seamless Transactions:** Utilizing NFC technology not only mitigates connectivity issues but also guarantees smoother and more efficient transactions, enhancing UPI Lite's appeal as a dependable digital payment solution.

Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2023 Full Winners List: The Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) Awards once again took center stage, recognizing outstanding cinematic achievements from the Indian film industry. The 14th edition of the IFFM Awards was held in Melbourne, Australia, on August 11. This event celebrated the best in film and OTT content from India on a global scale.

Filmmaker Karan Johar was honored for completing 25 years in the Indian film industry. He received enthusiastic applause for his significant contributions to the entertainment field.

Here is the comprehensive list of winners:

Jury Awards

- Best Documentary: "To Kill A Tiger"
- Best Indie Film: "Agra"
- Best Performance in Film (Male): Mohit Agarwal for "Agra"
- Best Performance in a Film (Female): Rani Mukerji for "Mrs Chatterjee Vs Norway"
- Best Director: Prithvi Konanur for "Hadinelentu" (Seventeeners)
- Best Film: "Sita Ramam"
- Best Performance (Male) in a Series: Vijay Varma for "Dahaad"
- Best Performance (Female) in a Series: Rajshri Deshpande for "Trial By Fire"

- Best Series: "Jubilee"
- Best Short Film – People’s Choice: "Connection Kya Hain" by Nilesh Naik
- Best Short Film – Australia: "Home" by Mark Russel Bernard

Honorary Awards

- Equality in Cinema Award: "Darlings"
- People’s Choice Award: "Pathaan"
- Award to Karan Johar: For his 25 years as a filmmaker
- Rising Global Superstar of Indian Cinema: Kartik Aaryan
- Diversity in Cinema Award: Mrunal Thakur
- Disruptor Award: Bhumi Pednekar
- Rainbow Stories Award: Onir for "Pine Cone"

About IFFM This annual event, hosted in the heart of Australia, honors the exceptional talents of the Indian film fraternity, spanning both movies and OTT series. The prestigious awards night was a blend of glamour and recognition, acknowledging the outstanding contributions of Indian cinema and the OTT landscape. The awards ceremony, held at the iconic Hamer Hall in Melbourne, united artists, filmmakers, and enthusiasts. The 2023 IFFM awards night not only celebrated excellence achieved in the past year but also showcased the dynamic and evolving landscape of Indian entertainment, celebrating the diversity of films and content from the subcontinent.

National Affairs

1. On August 5, 2023, marks four years since the revocation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir. This move by the Indian Government on August 5, 2019, abolished the region's special status, aiming to transform and revitalize 1,309 railway stations across India through the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS). The goal is to enhance the passenger experience and create world-class travel hubs.
2. Following recommendations from the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), anti-dumping duties have been imposed on Dispersion Unshifted Single-Mode Optical Fiber (SMOF) imports from China, South Korea, and Indonesia by the revenue department.
3. Complaints have been raised by Jaydeep Dhankar, the Chairman of Rajya Sabha, against prominent opposition members Derek O’Brien from TMC and Raghav Chadha from Aam Aadmi Party. The complaints relate to alleged breaches of parliamentary privileges, contributing to the ongoing political tensions.
4. The Union Cabinet has approved the final phase of the BharatNet project, which aims to provide optical fiber-based broadband connectivity to 6.4 lakh villages across India. With a budget of Rs 1.39 lakh crore, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) seeks to achieve this connectivity within the next two and a half years.
5. The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023, also known as the Delhi Services Bill, has been passed with 131 votes in favor and 102 against in Rajya Sabha. This bill aims to replace an existing ordinance and addresses conflicts between the Aam Aadmi Party and the Central Government.
6. The Atal Pension Yojana (APY) scheme has completed eight successful years of implementation, enrolling over 5.25 crore subscribers.
7. Union Health & Family Welfare Minister, Mansukh Mandaviya, announced the target to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis by 2027 during the inauguration of the second phase of the Annual Nationwide Mass Drug Administration (MDA) initiative.

8. Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y Chandrachud introduced the 'SuSwagatam' portal, providing a convenient platform for advocates, litigants, and citizens to obtain QR code-based ePasses for entry to the Supreme Court.
9. The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) has replaced the Standing Committee on Economic Statistics (SCES) with the more comprehensive Standing Committee on Statistics (SCoS), responsible for reviewing surveys conducted by the National Statistical Office (NSO).
10. As part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) initiative, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar flagged off the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' motorcycle rally, encouraging individuals to display the national flag at their residences from August 13 to 15.
11. India is ambitiously aiming to increase its current 6% share of natural gas in its energy mix to 15% by 2030, led by Rameswar Teli, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.
12. Union Home Minister Amit Shah introduced three bills in Lok Sabha to reform the criminal justice system in India, including the Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, which aims to replace the outdated Indian Evidence Act of 1872.

States in the News

1. The Bihar government plans to establish a 'Rhino Task Force' for reintroducing the rhino conservation scheme in the 'Valmiki Tiger Reserve' in West Champaran district.
2. The Bharti Institute of Public Policy, under the Indian School of Business (ISB), and the Government of Goa have formed a partnership to promote evidence-based policy formulation and impactful governance in Goa.

National Affairs

- A recent report on Asian Elephant population and demography in 2023 has highlighted a notable increase in the elephant population in Karnataka. Over the years, the number of elephants in the state has risen significantly from approximately 6,049 in 2017 to an impressive 6,395, making Karnataka the region with the highest elephant population in the country. This report was released ahead of World Elephant Day on August 12, aiming to raise awareness about the importance of conserving and protecting these magnificent animals.
- Embracing its cultural and linguistic heritage, the Kerala Legislative Assembly has passed a resolution requesting the Central government to change the state's name from 'Kerala' to 'Keralam'. The move reflects a deeper connection to its roots and traditions.
- Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel of Gujarat marked World Lion Day by introducing a new mobile application named 'Sinh Suchna' (Lion Information). This app launch signifies a significant advancement in wildlife conservation, allowing both the state's forest department and the general public to effectively monitor lion movements.
- Based on data from the Indian Council of Medical Research Cancer Registry, Uttar Pradesh has recorded the highest number of cancer cases in India. In 2022, the state reported a staggering 210,000 new cases, indicating a notable increase from the 201,000 cases registered in 2020.
- In a significant stride towards renewable energy adoption, Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma launched the Chief Minister's Solar Mission. This pioneering initiative

aims to usher in a green revolution by harnessing solar power to address energy needs and reduce deficits in the state.

- International Affairs
 - The World Health Organization (WHO) officially recognized Iraq as the 18th country to eliminate trachoma as a public health concern. This achievement is a significant milestone for Iraq, making it the fifth nation in the WHO's Eastern Mediterranean Region to accomplish this feat.
 - A new variant of COVID-19, known as Eris or EG.5.1, is rapidly spreading across the United Kingdom. Alarming, approximately one in seven COVID-19 cases in the UK is now linked to this variant, which has also gained traction across Europe, Asia, and North America.
 - Cambodia's King Norodom Sihamoni appointed Hun Sen's son, Hun Manet, as the country's new leader, initiating a transfer of power that ends nearly four decades of rule. While the outgoing Premier promised that this is not the end of his political career, this development marks a significant shift in Cambodia's leadership.
 - The International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) conducted the Bhumi Pujan ceremony for the construction of the India International Centre for Buddhist Culture and Heritage (IICBCH) in Lumbini, Nepal. This event signifies a crucial step towards the establishment of a center dedicated to promoting Buddhist culture and heritage.
 - July 2023 witnessed an unprecedented increase in global temperatures, making it the hottest month ever recorded. This alarming trend underscores the pressing need to address climate change and its underlying causes, particularly greenhouse gas emissions.
 - China is grappling with a substantial economic challenge as its exports experienced a double-digit decline of 14.5% in July compared to the previous year. This decline raises concerns and emphasizes the urgency for policy measures to revitalize economic growth.
 - The media regulatory body of Iraq has issued a directive to avoid using the term 'homosexuality', instead instructing both media and social media entities to use the term 'sexual deviance'.
 - In a significant political move, Pakistan's President dissolved the country's parliament following the recommendation of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif. This dissolution comes at a critical juncture as Pakistan addresses political and economic challenges.
- Australia's participation in the AUKUS (Australia, United Kingdom, United States) pact has attracted attention due to its potential role as a testing ground for advanced hypersonic and long-range precision weapons. Originally centered on supplying Australia with nuclear-powered submarines, the agreement has evolved to address China's growing influence in the Asia-Pacific region. U.S. Secretary of the Army Christine Wormuth highlighted Australia's distinctive contributions and the collaborative nature of the pact.
- Deflation, which signifies a sustained decrease in the general price levels of goods and services within an economy, has emerged in China, the world's second-largest economy. This occurrence has raised concerns about China's economic prospects and the need for strong policy responses from Beijing.

- Following a recent coup in Niger on July 26, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) confronts a critical situation. The coup leaders have defied ECOWAS' deadline to reinstate the ousted president, sparking discussions among regional leaders. This article delves into the ongoing crisis, ECOWAS' response, and potential ramifications for the region.
- In a significant move for international students aspiring to study in Canada, the country's Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has officially approved the use of Pearson's PTE Academic test as an assessment of English language proficiency.

Books and Authors

- Indian poet-diplomat Abhay Kumar (Abhay K), Deputy Director-General of the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR), unveiled his new book titled "Monsoon: A Poem of Love and Longing." This book-length poem spans 150 four-line stanzas and was launched at Kathika Culture Centre in Old Delhi, Delhi.

Banking/Economy/Business News

- In the fiscal year 2023, Sashidhar Jagdishan, CEO of HDFC Bank, has emerged as the highest-paid bank CEO. With a total package of Rs. 10.55 crore, Jagdishan's compensation stands out among his peers in the banking sector.
 - Public sector banks (PSBs) have reported a substantial profit of over Rs. 34,774 crore in the first quarter of June 2023, showcasing a significant increase that more than doubles their previous earnings. According to quarterly data published by public sector banks, the collective profit reported by the 12 state-owned banks amounted to Rs. 15,306 crore during the corresponding April-June period in the prior fiscal year.
 - IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company has launched a groundbreaking insurance product, the Guarantee of Life Dreams (G.O.L.D.) Plan. This non-linked and non-participating insurance plan aims to provide regular, long-term income to policyholders for a prosperous and worry-free future.
 - A Finance Ministry report reveals that both state-owned and leading private banks have collected over ₹21,000 crore in fees primarily from account holders failing to maintain the minimum balance. Since 2018, charges totaling over ₹35,000 crore have accumulated due to reasons such as non-compliance with minimum balance requirements, additional ATM transactions, and SMS services.
 - Airtel Payment Bank, India's first payment bank, has launched an eco-friendly debit card crafted from recycled Poly Vinyl Chloride (r-PVC) material, certified as eco-friendly. This marks a significant step towards sustainability.
 - The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed monetary penalties totaling Rs. 4.20 lakh on four co-operative banks for breaches of various regulations set forth by the central banking authority. These banks include Vita Urban Cooperative Bank Ltd, Shri Vinayak Sahakari Bank Ltd, Shreeji Bhatia Cooperative Bank Ltd, and Mizoram Urban Cooperative Development Bank Ltd.
 - AU Small Finance Bank, India's largest small finance bank, has introduced a 24x7 video banking platform, allowing customers to engage in face-to-face video interactions with expert bankers, providing round-the-clock support.
 - The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has halved the timeline for listing shares on stock exchanges after the closure of Initial Public Offerings (IPOs), enhancing the efficiency of IPOs and offering benefits to investors and issuers in the capital markets.
1. Tata Sons, the parent company of Air India, has introduced a fresh appearance and brand identity for the airline. This transformation includes a novel logo and design, replacing the familiar mascot "Maharaja." This change is part of Tata Group's ongoing endeavors to reshape Air India following its acquisition over a year ago.
 2. In a recent mid-year review of the economy, the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) has projected that India's economic growth is likely to slow down to 6% in the fiscal year 2023-24 (FY24), a decrease from the 7.2% recorded in FY23. This anticipated deceleration is attributed to prevailing global economic challenges. The NIPFP analysis considers various economic indicators and trends, offering valuable insights into India's economic trajectory.

3. Vaibhav Taneja, of Indian origin, has been appointed as Tesla's new Chief Financial Officer after the previous finance chief, Zachary Kirkhorn, announced his decision to step down. Taneja was named Tesla CFO in addition to his existing role as Chief Accounting Officer (CAO) of the US-based electric car giant after Kirkhorn, Tesla's former finance chief, resigned from the position.
4. Justice Subhasis Talapatra has officially assumed the role of the 33rd Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court. The oath of office was administered by Governor Ganeshi Lal, marking his succession of Justice S Muralidhar.
5. IRS officer Sanjay Kumar Agarwal has taken over as the Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC). Agarwal succeeds Vivek Johri, who retired as CBIC chief on May 31. Agarwal, who was in charge of CBIC member compliance management, responsible for investigations, was appointed by the finance ministry.
6. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has approved the appointment of Amit Jhingran as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of SBI Life Insurance Company Limited.
7. Bollywood actress Kareena Kapoor Khan has become an investor and brand ambassador of Pluckk, a company engaged in the fresh fruit and vegetables business. The company offers a range of 400 products in more than 15 categories, including essentials, exotics, hydroponics, and cuts and mixes.
8. The Indian Army has recently introduced a new addition to its arsenal, the "Swathi Mountains," a lighter and more compact version of the indigenous Weapon Locating Radar (WLR-M). This advanced radar system, developed by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) in Bengaluru, plays a crucial role in enhancing military operations, especially in challenging terrains.
9. The highly anticipated Malabar series of naval exercises, involving maritime forces from India, Japan, the United States, and Australia, is set to commence along the eastern coast of Australia. This edition of the exercises will focus on enhancing anti-submarine warfare capabilities, underscoring the participants' shared commitment to maritime security and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.
10. As a significant move to bolster its cyber defenses, India's Ministry of Defence has made a strategic decision to replace the Microsoft operating system with a domestically developed alternative called the "Maya" operating system. This strategic step aims to enhance the nation's cybersecurity measures amid increasing cyber threats.
11. Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha of Jammu and Kashmir inaugurated the 9th India International MSME Expo and Summit 2023 in New Delhi. This prestigious event, organized by the MSME Development Forum, served as a platform to foster collaboration between policymakers and entrepreneurs in the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector, driving the nation's economic growth.

Ranks and Reports

- The FAO All Rice Price Index saw a 2.8 percent increase in July from the previous month, reaching an average value of 129.7 points, marking a nearly 20 percent surge compared to the same period last year. This is the highest level observed since September 2011.
- India, a rapidly advancing nation in technology and connectivity, achieved an overall score of 43 percent in the Internet Resilience Index (IRI). This places India as the sixth-ranked country in the South Asian region.
- The Srinagar district has emerged as the highest-performing district under the Jal Jeevan Survekshan (JJS-2023), surpassing 114 Har Ghar Jal certified villages across India. This recognition solidifies Srinagar's dedication to the successful implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), an initiative aiming to ensure universal access to clean and safe drinking water.

Awards News

- Subhash Runwal, Chairman of Runwal, a prominent real estate developer with a legacy of over four decades, was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the inaugural RICS South Asia Awards. RICS (Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors) is a global industry body representing professionals across the country.

Sports News

- Sports Authority of India (SAI) has launched a short movie series 'Halla Bol' under the 'Cheer4India' campaign, showcasing the journey of Asian Games-bound athletes. This initiative aims to motivate athletes for the Hangzhou Asian Games and raise awareness about the upcoming event.
- India concluded the 2023 World Cadet Wrestling Championships, an event for under-17 wrestlers, with a total of 11 medals, including a gold, in Istanbul, Turkey. Savita, the defending champion, secured the only gold medal for India in the women's 61kg weight category.

Schemes and Committees News

- Chief Justice of India, D.Y. Chandrachud, announced the formation of an all-women panel to bring healing and relief to the violence-affected region in Manipur. The panel consists of three former High Court judges, with Justice Gita Mittal serving as its head. The aim is to provide healing in Manipur.
- As part of the flagship Godhan Nyay Yojna (GNY) by the Chhattisgarh government, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel conducted online transfers exceeding Rs 15 crore to support cattle rearers, women's self-help groups (SHGs), and 'gauthan' committees.
- Bhu-Vision (also known as KRISHI-RASTAA Soil Testing System) is an IoT-based automated soil testing and agronomy advisory platform recently launched in India. This system revolutionizes India's agriculture sector, providing a smart, fast, affordable, and accessible solution for soil testing and agronomy. Developed jointly by ICAR-IIRR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research - Indian Institute of Rice Research) and KrishiTantra.
- Recent data revealed a substantial backlog of pending crop insurance claims, amounting to approximately Rs. 2,716.10 crore, until 2021-22 under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY). The maximum pending crop insurance claims are in Rajasthan, followed by Maharashtra and Gujarat.
- Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot of Rajasthan launched the "Indira Gandhi Free Smartphone Yojana 2023." This program offers free mobile phones, internet, and voice call services to women in the state. Smartphone distribution will take place from August 10 to August 30, 2023, prioritizing widows and divorced women.

Science and Technology News

- Astronomers have made a remarkable discovery known as the "Einstein Cross," where light from a distant galaxy is split and magnified by a foreground elliptical galaxy. This event, predicted by Albert Einstein's theory of general relativity in 1915, has now been observed.
- The National Health Authority (NHA) and the Ministry of Health are actively working on an Organ Donation Registry to improve the National Organ Tissue Transplantation Organisation (NOTTO). This digital registry is expected to eliminate intermediaries in the organ transplantation process.
 - The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) unveiled a recent publication titled "75 Endemic Birds of India" on its 108th foundation day. This publication reveals a surprising fact: an impressive 5% of India's bird species exist exclusively within the country's borders, making them unique avian treasures not found anywhere else on the planet.
- Astronomers used the James Webb Space Telescope to capture a striking new image of Messier 57, commonly known as the Ring Nebula. The nebula in the image represents the glowing remnants of a sun-like star, with its center containing a white dwarf, the star's hot core.
- In a strategic partnership, NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) collaborates with Tata Play to introduce GSAT-24. This partnership aims to enhance satellite broadcasting capabilities and provide high-quality entertainment across the

nation. This collaboration signifies a significant advancement in India's telecommunications sector, driven by cutting-edge indigenous technology.

- Russia is set to launch its first lunar landing spacecraft, Luna 25, on August 11, marking a significant step in its renewed lunar exploration endeavors. This mission closely follows India's Chandrayaan-3 lunar lander launch, reflecting global interest in exploring the moon's south pole, which holds potential resources like ice for future human habitation.

Important Days News

- August 7th witnessed a historic moment in Indian athletics history. The Athletics Federation of India, the apex governing body for athletics in the country, declared this day as National Javelin Day. This occasion is dedicated to celebrating Neeraj Chopra's remarkable achievement, commemorating his impact on the global stage. This year, nations observed the 3rd Javelin Throw Day.

- The Indian government has designated August 7 as National Handloom Day, with the primary objective of promoting the handloom industry and acknowledging the skills of the weaving community. Artisans, weavers, and producers in this sector have played a pivotal role in preserving the nation's rich cultural and traditional heritage. This year marks the 9th National Handloom Day.

- August 7 marks the death anniversary of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore. A Bengali poet, novelist, musician, painter, and playwright, Tagore transformed Bengali literature and music. He passed away at the age of 80 on August 7, 1941, due to acute uraemia and a urinary bladder blockage.

- The United Nations observes the International Day of the World's Indigenous People on August 9 each year to advocate for and safeguard the rights of the world's Indigenous population. This year's theme is "Indigenous Youth as Agents of Change for Self-determination."

- Nagasaki Day, observed annually on August 9th, carries significant historical importance. It commemorates the day when the Japanese city of Nagasaki was devastated by an atomic bomb during World War II. This day serves as a poignant reminder of the immense destructive power of nuclear weapons and the imperative of lasting peace.

- Every year on August 10th, people worldwide observe World Lion Day, aiming to raise awareness about the conservation and protection of lions. This global event informs individuals about the challenges these magnificent animals face and promotes initiatives for their preservation. World Lion Day was established in 2013 by Big Cat Rescue, co-founded by Dereck and Beverly Joubert, who recognized the need to draw attention to the declining lion populations and the threats they face in the wild.

- World Biofuel Day is observed on August 10th every year to raise awareness about the significance of non-fossil fuels as alternatives to conventional fossil fuels. The day also highlights the Government's efforts in the biofuel sector.

- Today, August 9, 2023, is World Tribal Day, observed by the United Nations to promote and protect the rights of the world's indigenous peoples. It's also a day to celebrate their contributions and achievements in society.

- The Indian government has taken a significant step by committing to investigate the potential existence of the enigmatic 'Havana Syndrome' within the country. This decision follows a petition submitted to the Karnataka High Court by A Amarnath Chagu, a Bengaluru resident. The petitioner sought an inquiry into the syndrome's presence in India and strategies to prevent its transmission. The Centre's legal representatives have pledged a thorough investigation within three months.

1. **UN to Declare August 11 as World Steelpan Day** On July 24th, the United Nations is expected to take a significant step by adopting a draft resolution. This resolution will officially declare August 11th as World Steelpan Day, an annual celebration on the UN's calendar.
2. **World Elephant Day Advocates for Elephant Conservation** Globally observed on August 12, World Elephant Day is a crucial event dedicated to raising awareness about the challenges elephants face and promoting

their protection. Established in 2012 by Patricia Sims and the Elephant Reintroduction Foundation of Thailand, the day highlights the importance of elephant conservation.

3. **International Youth Day Recognized Annually on August 12** Every year on August 12, the global community comes together to celebrate International Youth Day. This day, recognized by the United Nations (UN), aims to raise awareness and take action on important issues affecting young people worldwide.
4. **Renowned Folk Singer Gaddar Passes Away at 74** Gaddar, a renowned folk singer and activist, has sadly passed away at the age of 74 due to severe heart disease. He had been undergoing treatment at Hyderabad's Apollo Hospital for the past 10 days following a cardiac arrest.
5. **Renowned Malayalam Director Siddique Ismail Dies at 63** Siddique Ismail, a well-known Malayalam director and screenwriter, has passed away at the age of 63. Known for his films like Friends, Engal Anna, and Big Brother, he made significant contributions to the film industry.
6. **Oscar-Winning Director William Friedkin Passes Away at 87** William Friedkin, the Oscar-winning director of films like The Exorcist and The French Connection, has sadly passed away in Los Angeles, California, USA, at the age of 87.
7. **Renowned Nuclear Physicist Bikash Sinha Passes Away at 78** Bikash Sinha, a renowned nuclear physicist, has passed away at the age of 78 due to old age-related ailments. Recognized with Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan awards, he made significant contributions to the field.
8. **GI Tags Awarded to Rajouri Chikri Wood Craft and Mushqbudji Rice** In a significant recognition of local craftsmanship and agricultural heritage, Geographical Indication (GI) Tags have been granted to Rajouri Chikri Wood Craft and the prized Mushqbudji Rice variety. These labels highlight the unique qualities of these products and their specific origins.
9. **Central Railway's New Amravati Station Designated as a "Pink Station"** Central Railway's New Amravati station has made history by becoming the third "Pink Station" within the Central Railway and the first in the Bhusaval Division. This designation signifies that the station is entirely managed by women staff.
10. **Key Information**
 - President of Athletics Federation of India: Adille J Sumariwalla
 - Athletics Federation of India Founded: 1946
 - Athletics Federation of India Headquarters: New Delhi
 - Director General of United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO): Qu Dongyu
 - Director-General of World Health Organization (WHO): Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
 - WHO Founded: April 7, 1948
 - WHO Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland
 - Rabindranath Tagore's Nobel Prize Year: 1913
 - Sports Authority of India (SAI) Founded: 1984
 - SAI Headquarters: Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium (Delhi), Lodhi Road, Delhi, India
 - Director General of Directorate General of Trade Remedies: Sh. Anant Swarup
 - Director of Zoological Survey of India: Dhriti Banerjee
 - Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL) Founded: February 25, 2012
 - Tesla Founders: Elon Musk, Martin Eberhard, JB Straubel, Marc Tarpenning, Ian Wright

- Tesla Founded: July 1, 2003, San Carlos, California, United States
- Tesla CEO: Elon Musk
- Tesla Headquarters: Austin, Texas, United States
- MD & CEO of IndiaFirst: Ms R.M.Vishakha
- Minister of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries: Giriraj Singh
- Capital of Cambodia: Phnom Penh
- Currency of Cambodia: Cambodian riel
- Official language of Cambodia: Khmer
- Prime Minister of Iraq: Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani
- National Cyber Security Coordinator: General M U Nair
- Chairperson of CBIC: Vivek Johri
- CBIC was established on: January 1, 1964
- Chairman of Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA): Deepak Mohanty
- Chairman of NewSpace India Limited: Shri Radhakrishnan Durairaj
- President and Chief Executive Officer of Internet Society: Andrew Sullivan
- Chairperson of the JJM Board within Srinagar: Mohammad Aijaz Asad
- Executive Director of the Bharti Institute of Public Policy: Ashwini Chhatre
- Minister for Forests, Ecology, and Environment in Karnataka: Eshwar Khandre
- MD & Chief Executive Officer of Airtel Payment Bank: Anubrata Biswas
- Headquarters of Airtel Payment Bank: New Delhi, Delhi
- Airtel Payment Bank was established in: 2017
- 23rd and current Prime Minister of Canada: Justin Trudeau
- Health Minister of Uttar Pradesh: Jai Pratap Singh

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