

JULY

Current Affair

2023

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By
Crack Notes

CONTENT

- 1.Sports News
- 2.Defence News
- 3.National News
- 4.International News
- 5.Science & Technology
- 6.Awards
- 7.Books
- 8.Important appointments
- 9.Ranks & Reports
- 10.Important government Schemes
- 11.Miscellaneous

SPORTS

- In the Asian Squash Mixed Doubles event, Dipika Pallikal & Sandhu Harinder won the Gold medal, while Anahat Singh & Abhay Singh secured the Bronze medal.
- Neeraj Chopra claimed the top position at the Lausanne Diamond League 2023.
- The Indian Kabaddi team clinched their 8th Asian Kabaddi Championship title.
- Dubai hosted the world's first international Women's Kabaddi final, with Uma Kolkata winning the championship against Punjab Panthers.
- The popular fantasy gaming platform Dream11 became the main jersey sponsor for the Indian cricket team, replacing Byju's, from July 2023 to March 2026.
- Diksha Dagar secured her second Ladies European Tour Title with a commanding victory at the Czech Ladies Open.
- In the 2023 World Archery Youth Championships in Limerick, Ireland, India secured the second position with an impressive haul of 11 medals, including six gold, one silver, and four bronze.
- Indian tennis player Yuki Bhambri won his first ATP World Tour title in doubles, partnering with Lloyd Harris, at the Mallorca Championships.
- The People's Republic of China emerged as champions in the 2023 FIBA Women's Asia Cup.
- Shreyanka Patil, a young spin bowler, created history by becoming the first Indian cricketer to be signed for the Women's Caribbean Premier League (WCPL).
- The 132nd edition of the Durand Cup, India's oldest football tournament, is set to commence in Kolkata.
- The Indian men's football team secured the SAFF Championship 2023 title by winning a thrilling penalty shootout against Kuwait 5-4.
- The Netherlands men's team were crowned champions of the FIH Hockey Pro League 2022/23 season.
- India's junior and cadet archers won a total of 11 medals at the 2023 World Archery Youth Championships.
- Indian badminton player Lakshya Sen emerged victorious in the Canada Open 2023.
- England won the 2023 UEFA European Under-21 Championship by defeating Spain at Batumi Arena, Georgia.
- The official mascot of the Asian Athletics Championships held in Thailand is Lord Hanuman.
- The Indian contingent won 27 medals at the 25th Asian Athletics Championship 2023.
- The schedule for the 2023 Asia Cup, co-hosted by Pakistan and Sri Lanka, has been announced, with the tournament running from August 30 to September 17.
- Shri Anurag Thakur unveiled the prestigious trophy for the Hero Asian Champions Trophy 2023 at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi.
- The winners of Wimbledon 2023 were Carlos Alcaraz and Marketa Vondrousova.

- In the Para Athletics Championships held in Paris, Ajeet Singh secured the gold medal in the finals of the Men's javelin throw event.
- India's sole medal at the ISSF Shotgun World Cup in Lonato, Italy, came from Prithviraj Tondaiman, who won the bronze medal in the trap event.
- Satwiksairaj Rankireddy broke the Guinness World Record for the fastest smash in Badminton history, with a speed of 565 kilometers per hour for his smash.
- The Indian pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty clinched the men's doubles title at the Korea Open 2023 badminton tournament in Yeosu.
- DD Sports has secured the television rights for the upcoming FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 in India. The tournament is co-hosted by Australia and New Zealand.
- Indian Grand Master Praggnanandhaa won the Super GM chess tournament in Hungary.
- Indian cricketing legend Virat Kohli achieved a significant milestone by becoming the 10th cricketer in history to make 500 international appearances.
- Virat Kohli surpassed South Africa's Jacques Kallis to become the fifth-highest run-scorer in international cricket history.
- South Zone emerged as champions of the Duleep Trophy, defeating West Zone by 75 runs on the final day of the final at the Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru.
- Shah Rukh Khan has been appointed as the brand ambassador of the ICC World Cup 2023.
- The 20th edition of the World Aquatics Championships took place in Fukuoka, Japan.
- Denmark's Jonas Vingegaard of the Jumbo-Visma team won the 110th edition of the Tour de France for the second straight year on the Champs-Elysees in Paris, France.
- Union Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur inaugurated the Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships, hosted in India for the first time, in Greater Noida.
- 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 distinction.
- Aditya Samant 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.
- Asmita Dey, representing Tripura, achieved remarkable success by securing a gold medal at the Junior Asia Cup Judo Championship hosted in Macau, China.
- The Indian women's hockey team won the Torneo del Centenario 2023 title by defeating hosts Spain 3-0 in Terrassa, Barcelona.
- Indian football team midfielder Lallianzuala Chhangte was named the AIFF Men's Footballer of the Year for 2022-23, while Manisha Kalyan won her second consecutive Women's Footballer of the Year award.

DEFENCE

- The Indian Navy and French Navy conducted a Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) in the Bay of Bengal along the coast of Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The exercise involved the participation of Indian Naval ships INS Rana, a guided missile destroyer, and INS Sumedha, an indigenously built offshore patrol vessel.
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) is set to host its first-ever multi-national air exercise called 'Tarang Shakti'. It is expected to be the largest multi-national air exercise ever hosted by India, showcasing the IAF's commitment to global engagement.
- The Indian Coast Guard and Indian Navy signed an MoU with Indian Port Rail & Ropeway Corporation Ltd for developing a gallery on the theme "Evolution of Indian Navy & Indian Coast Guard" at the National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC), being constructed at the historic Indus Valley civilization region of Lothal, Gujarat.
- The seventh edition of the bilateral Japan-India Maritime Exercise 2023 (JIMEX 23) hosted by the Indian Navy is being conducted at Visakhapatnam. This edition marks the 11th anniversary of JIMEX, since its inception in 2012.
- The Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, was invited as the Guest of Honour at the Bastille Day Parade in France. The parade witnessed a tri-services contingent of the Indian Armed Forces marching alongside their French counterparts.
- The seventh edition of the Indian Navy – US Navy (IN – USN) Salvage and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) exercise, SALVEX, was conducted at Kochi.
- The Indian Navy initiated an outreach program called 'Julley Ladakh' to strengthen connections with the Union Territory of Ladakh. The program aims to encourage greater participation of youth from Ladakh in the Defence Services, promote nation-building, and foster maritime consciousness in the region.
- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh launched an NCC Integrated Software in New Delhi, aimed at promoting digitization and aligned with the Digital India mission. The software follows an 'Entry to Exit Model' and provides a single window interactive platform for NCC cadets.
- Chief of Defense Staff (CDS), General Anil Chauhan, inaugurated the LRMR Hangar & Dispersal at Naval Air Station, INS Utkrosh in Port Blair.
- INS Sunayna participated in Op Southern Readiness 2023 conducted by Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) at Seychelles.
- The 15th edition of the India-Mongolia joint military exercise "Nomadic Elephant – 2023" commenced in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
- Troops from China and Russia participated in the Military drills in the central region of the Sea of Japan. The exercise, named Northern/Interaction 2023, was organized by the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Northern Theatre Command.
- To commemorate 24 years of victory over Pakistan in the Kargil War of 1999 and highlight the spirit of women, the Indian Army launched a Tri-Services 'Nari Sashaktikaran Women Motorcycle Rally' from the National War Memorial, Delhi, to Kargil War Memorial, Dras (Ladakh).

- The Indian Air Force celebrated its 91st anniversary on October 8, 2023. The Air Force Day parade and Air Display were held in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh.
- The Defence Ministry of Argentina signed a Letter of Intent with HAL (Hindustan Aeronautics Limited) to procure light and medium utility helicopters for its armed forces.
- On completing 32 years of illustrious service to the nation, Indian Naval Ship Kirpan was decommissioned from the Indian Navy and handed over to the Vietnam People's Navy (VPN).
- The nomination of Admiral Lisa Franchetti marked a significant milestone in the history of the US Navy as she became the first woman to serve as the Chief of Naval Operations and a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
- Australia's largest bilateral military exercise with the United States, Exercise Talisman Sabre, officially commenced with an opening ceremony on-board HMAS Canberra.
- Italy is planning to purchase German-made Leopard 2 battle tanks in order to enhance its ground forces, particularly in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

NATIONAL

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the 17th Indian Cooperative Congress in New Delhi. The main theme of the congress is 'Amrit Kaal: Prosperity through Cooperation for a Vibrant India'. During the event, PM Modi also launched the EPortals of the e-Commerce website for Cooperative Marketing and the Cooperative Extension and Advisory Services Portal.
- Prime Minister launched the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission from Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh. The mission aims to eliminate Sickle Cell Anaemia by the year 2047.
- Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, launched a campaign to transform 75 iconic lighthouses into tourism spots in India. The campaign began by transforming three iconic lighthouses in Gujarat's Dwarka, Gopnath, and Veraval into tourist attractions.
- The state unit of the Geological Survey of India (GSI) proposed declaring the 'Natural Arch' in the Kanika range of Sundargarh forest division, Odisha, a Geo Heritage Site. If approved, it will become the largest natural arch in the country to receive the Geo Heritage tag.
- The authorities of Lansdowne Cantonment, a popular hill station in Uttarakhand, passed a resolution to change its name to Jaswantgarh in honor of Rifleman Jaswant Singh, a hero of the Sino-Indian War.
- Amit Shah, Union Home Minister, virtually launched the 'Akshar River Cruise', a Made in India initiative, on the Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad, developed by the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation and Sabarmati Riverfront Development Corporation Limited.
- Mumbai hosted the G20 Research and Innovation Initiative Gathering (RIIG) Summit and Research Ministers' Meeting. The theme of RIIG during India's G20 Presidency in 2023 is "Research & Innovation for an Equitable Society".
- The National Anti-Doping Agency of India signed an MoU with the South Asia Regional Anti-Doping Organization (SARADO) in New Delhi. The MoU aims to enhance regional cooperation in anti-doping efforts in sports.

- The Startup20 Shikhar Summit, organized by the Startup20 Engagement Group under India's G20 Presidency, marked a significant milestone in the global startup ecosystem. During the closing ceremony, the torch was officially handed over to Brazil, which will hold the G20 presidency for the next year.
- Saudi Arabia became the first country to extend support towards the \$1 trillion milestone for global startups.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Sai Hira Global Convention Centre in Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh, via video conferencing.
- Union Power and New & Renewable Energy Minister R. K. Singh inaugurated the International Conference on Green Hydrogen (ICGH 2023) in New Delhi. The three-day conference aims to establish a Green Hydrogen Ecosystem and accelerate the achievement of global decarbonization goals through green hydrogen.
- India's first indigenously developed 700 MW nuclear power reactor at the Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP) in Gujarat has successfully commenced commercial operations, marking a significant milestone in the country's nuclear energy sector.
- The Greater Chennai City Police (GCP) has launched the 'Police Drone Unit' for aerial surveillance over vast areas and quick detection of criminal activities.
- The world's largest sea turtle, the Leatherback, made a rare appearance in Visakhapatnam, seen after a gap of seven years.
- In a significant milestone for the AI industry, Odisha TV, an Odia-based news station, has unveiled "Lisa," India's first regional AI news anchor.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the closing ceremony of the centenary celebrations of the historic Gita Press in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, and released the Chitramaya Shiva Purana Granth.
- Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) in Madhya Pradesh, India, has made history by becoming the first urban body in the country to receive Extended Producers Responsibility (EPR) credit for recycling banned single-use plastic items.
- Amit Shah laid the foundation stone of the first cooperative-run Sainik School in Mehsana, Gujarat. This is set to become the first Sainik School in India to be operated by a cooperative organization.

- Madhya Pradesh, known as the 'Tiger State,' is poised to get its seventh tiger reserve with the state government going forward with the notification of Nauradehi and Durgavati Wildlife Sanctuaries as a combined protected area.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi hailed the Guinness World Record for the 'largest display of Lambani items' with a total of 1755 items during the 3rd G20 Culture Working Group Meeting in Hampi, Karnataka.

- The World Hindu Foundation has announced that the third World Hindu Congress (WHC) will be held in Bangkok in November 2023. The theme is "Jayasya Aayatnam Dharmah," meaning "Dharma, the Abode of Victory."

- Prime Minister launched the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission from Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh. The mission aims to eliminate Sickle Cell Anaemia by 2047.

- The 7th edition of the India Mobile Congress is set to take place in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. It is Asia's Premier Digital Technology Exhibition. The theme of IMC-2023 is 'Global Digital Innovation.'

- Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated 'SAGAR SAMPARK,' a Differential Global Navigation Satellite System to strengthen the maritime sector. This 'Made in India' system will provide more accurate information to ships for safe navigation.

- The Odisha state cabinet approved a proposal recommending the inclusion of the Kui language in the 8th schedule of the Constitution of India.

- New Delhi hosted the India-ASEAN conference on Traditional Medicines after an interval of nearly ten years in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the International Convention Centre 'Bharat Mandapam' at Pragati Maidan.

- In an effort to mitigate the escalating human-elephant conflict (HEC) issue, Assam has launched the "Gajah Kotha" campaign, involving more than 1,200 individuals and promoting coexistence.

- Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) achieved a significant milestone as it became India's first airport to have four runways.

- The Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship flagged off the first batch of Namda Art products for export to the United Kingdom (UK). • Namda is a type of traditional Kashmiri felted carpet that is created using sheep wool and has colorful hand embroidery.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the New Integrated Terminal Building of Veer Savarkar International Airport, Port Blair via video conferencing.
- The Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC), the Maharashtra government, and the Indian Ministry of Textiles joined hands by signing a memorandum of understanding to establish the PM Mega Integrated Textile Regions and Apparel Park (PM MITRA Park) in Amravati, Maharashtra.
- The Chachin grazing festival was celebrated by the local graziers of the Tawang region near Bumla Pass, Arunachal Pradesh.
- S. Phangnon Konyak becomes the first woman member from Nagaland to preside over the Rajya Sabha.
- Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurated SemiconIndia 2023 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. With the theme "Catalyzing India's Semiconductor Ecosystem."
- 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.
- Shri Amit Shah laid the foundation stone of a 108 feet tall statue of Lord Shri Ram in Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh through video conferencing.
- Jammu is set to pioneer India's first Cannabis Medicine Project. • The 'Cannabis Research Project' of CSIR-IIIM Jammu is the first of its kind in India under a Private-Public Partnership with a Canadian firm.
- Gujarat will host the 69th edition of the Filmfare Awards in 2024, and a MoU has been signed between the state government's tourism corporation and Worldwide Media (WWM) to host the event and promote the state as a film destination.
- Shri Jyotiraditya M Scindia inaugurated Heli Summit 2023 and UDAN 5.2 in Khajuraho. The theme of Heli Summit 2023 is "Reaching the Last Mile: Regional Connectivity through Helicopters & Small Aircraft."
- 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.
- Madhya Pradesh is preparing to inaugurate its first online gaming industry, known as the "MP State Esports Academy," to provide young esports players an opportunity and platform to advance to a professional level.
- PM Modi, during his visit to Rajasthan, launched a new type of Urea called "Urea Gold" which is coated with sulfur that can help improve soil quality and reduce farmers' expenses.
- The Union government has launched the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign, envisaged as a culminating event of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebration of 75 years of Indian Independence, in which soil brought from all parts of the country will be used to develop a unique garden called Amrit Vatika along the Kartavya Path in Delhi; tributes will be paid to martyrs and freedom fighters.

- The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) under the Ministry of Communications launched the Bharat 6G Alliance (B6GA) to foster innovation and leadership in 6G technology, the next frontier of wireless communication.
- The Prime Minister of India has proposed to share India's AI-based language platform, Bhashini, with the member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) to facilitate communication and cooperation within the regional bloc.

INTERNATIONAL

- New Zealand has taken a momentous step towards reducing plastic waste by becoming the first country to implement a complete ban on thin plastic bags commonly used in supermarkets for fruit and vegetable purchases.
- Iran has officially become a full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) during an India-hosted virtual summit of the influential grouping.
- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for setting up a campus of IIT Madras in Zanzibar, Tanzania, was signed between the Ministry of Education (MoE), Govt. of India, IIT Madras, and Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (MoEVT) Zanzibar, Tanzania.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Ministry of Education and Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge (ADEK), and the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IIT Delhi) to establish the 1st campus of IIT Delhi in Abu Dhabi.
- India has joined the Champions Group of the Global Crisis Response Group (GCRG) at the invitation of the UN Secretary-General. It was established to address urgent global issues in food security, energy, and finance, and to coordinate a global response.
- Peru declared a state of emergency for sixty days in areas around the Ubinas volcano. Ubinas is in Moquegua, a region that lies 1,200 kilometers or 746 miles southeast of the capital city Lima and is the country's most active volcano.
- Peru declared a state of national emergency amid a surge in patients suffering from Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS), which is a neurological condition characterized by an uncommon immune system mistakenly attacking the nervous system.
- Goldman Sachs' report suggests India's potential to become the world's second-largest economy by 2075.
- The report suggests India will surpass the US in terms of GDP, reaching \$52.5 trillion by 2075.
- China is expected to overtake the US to become the largest economy by the 2030s.
- India and the United States have jointly launched 'Operation Broader Sword' with the goal of stopping the illegal transportation of pharmaceuticals, equipment, and precursor chemicals through the International Mail System (IMS).
- **Key Takeaways from PM Modi's France Visit:**
 - Joint Commitment to Eliminate Single-Use Plastic Products Pollution.

- Issuance of five-year validity short-stay Schengen Visa for Indians who are degree holders from French educational institutions (Masters and above).
 - India and France are teaming up for enhanced cooperation in AI, Supercomputing, and Quantum Computers.
 - France becomes India's chosen partner for a new National Museum in New Delhi.
 - Enhanced cooperation between India's National Security Guard & France's GIGN sets a powerful example in the fight against terror.
 - France welcomes UPI; Indian tourists will soon explore the charm of France while making payments in rupees.
 - India & France have sealed the deal on TRISHNA, a joint Earth observation satellite, bringing a new understanding of our precious planet.
 - India and France join forces to overcome space challenges from mitigating satellite security issues to cooperation on reusable launchers.
- During Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visit to the UAE, a joint statement was issued outlining key collaborations:
 - Central Bank Governors of both countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding to interlink payment and messaging systems.
 - A Memorandum of Understanding was also signed to explore the establishment of an Indian Institute of Technology - Delhi campus in Abu Dhabi.
 - Notably, the UAE will host the 28th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28).
 - Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj, India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, announced that India has voluntarily contributed \$1 million to the UN. This financial support aims to promote the Hindi language within the organization and foster inclusive dialogue and understanding.
- The Batagaika crater, which is the world's largest permafrost crater, is rapidly expanding in Russia's Far East, raising concerns about its environmental impact.
- India Post and Canada Post have entered into an agreement to introduce the International Tracked Packet Service (ITPS) between the two countries. This collaborative effort aims to facilitate e-commerce exports. India Post already offers ITPS with 38 partner nations, with Canada becoming the 39th country to join this initiative.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- The Indian Railways is collaborating with the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, to develop a secure signalling system using blockchain technology. This innovative system aims to enhance safety and will work alongside the existing Data Logger, often referred to as the 'Black Box' of rolling stock.
- A pioneering move was made by a Chinese private company as they successfully launched the world's first methane-fuelled space rocket into orbit, naming it "Zhuque-2".
- Elena Geo Systems, based in Bengaluru, has introduced India's inaugural handheld navigation device that utilizes the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (NavIC). This device is designed to offer accurate navigation for diverse infrastructure projects, including land surveying, railways, telecoms, and hydrocarbon exploration.
- In a bid to reduce dependence on US technology and establish an independent software system, China has introduced its own open-source desktop operating system, OpenKylin 1.0.
- The European Space Agency (ESA) achieved a significant feat by successfully launching the Euclid space telescope with the assistance of a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Florida's Space Station.
- North Korea recently conducted a test of its latest intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), known as the Hwasong-18.
- India's ambitious lunar mission, Chandrayaan-3, took off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, launched by the ISRO using the Launch Vehicle Mark-III (LVM3). This mission, a continuation of Chandrayaan-2, aims to demonstrate safe landing and roving capabilities on the lunar surface.
- Ritu Karidhal, fondly referred to as the "Rocket Woman of India," is at the helm of Chandrayaan 3, overseeing the nation's lunar space project.
- ISRO, the Indian Space Research Organisation, achieved another milestone with the successful launch of the PSLV-C56, carrying Singapore's DS-SAR satellite along with six other satellites, from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.
- SpaceX, the renowned space company, launched the world's largest private communications satellite named "Jupiter-3" from LC-39A at Kennedy Space Centre in Florida, USA.
- The European Space Agency (ESA) made history by launching the Euclid space telescope using a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Florida's Space Station.
- NASA's OSIRIS-REx spacecraft, currently en route back from asteroid Bennu, made a crucial course correction to ensure its successful return to Earth.
- NASA's IXPE Mission recently unveiled new insights into the mysteries surrounding the supermassive black hole Markarian 421.

AWARDS

- Recognized children's author and performance poet, Michael Rosen, has been bestowed the prestigious PEN Pinter Prize for the year 2023.

- In a ceremony attended by Britain's King Charles III and Queen Camilla, Indian conservationists, including filmmaker Kartiki Gonsalves of the Oscar-winning documentary 'The Elephant Whisperers' and the Real Elephant Collective (TREC) of 70 Adivasi artists, received the esteemed Elephant Family environmental award.
- The National Mineral Development Corporation was honored with the 'Mineral Development Award' and the 'Employer Brand of the Year Award' at the 2023 ASSOCHAM Business Excellence Awards held in Kolkata.
- Tennis icon Justine Henin has been declared the winner of the 2023 ITF Philippe Chatrier Award, the highest accolade bestowed by ITF, in recognition of her remarkable playing career and ongoing contributions to tennis.
- His Excellency Mr. Emmanuel Macron, the President of the Republic of France, presented Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, France's most prestigious award.
- The Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihood (JKRL) has been honored with the SKOCH Award under the theme "State of Governance India 2047" in the Gold category for its exceptional efforts in creating marketing avenues for Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in the Union Territory.
- The "Bhoomi Samman" 2023 was conferred by the President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, during a ceremony organized by the Union Ministry of Rural Development in New Delhi.
- State Secretaries and District Collectors, along with their teams, who excelled in achieving saturation of the core components of the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme (DILRMP), received the awards.
- Prof. Thalappil Pradeep from the Department of Chemistry at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras has been distinguished with the prestigious 'Eni Award,' a globally acclaimed recognition for scientific research in the fields of energy and the environment.
- Bollywood actor Kartik Aaryan is set to receive the Rising Global Superstar of Indian Cinema award at the annual awards Gala night of the 14th Indian Film Festival of Melbourne.
- Shankari Chandran emerged as the winner of the Miles Franklin Literary Award for 2023.
- The Maharashtra Government is planning to confer the inaugural Maharashtra Udyog Ratna Award on Tata Group Chairman Ratan Tata this year.

APPOINTMENTS

- Ajay Bhatnagar (IPS) has assumed the role of Special Director in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
- Vice Admiral Atul Anand has taken charge as the Additional Secretary in the Department of Military Affairs.
- Qu-Dongyu has been re-elected as the Director General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

- Lt Gen M U Nair has been appointed as the National Cybersecurity Coordinator (NCSC) by the government.
- Ajit Agarkar has been named the chairman of the Senior Men's Cricket Selection Committee by the Board of Control of Cricket (BCCI).
- Aadhav Arjuna has been elected as the president of the Basketball Federation of India (BFI).
- Kuwait's Sheikh Talal Fahad Al Ahmad Al Sabah has been chosen as the new President of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA).
- DG Rakesh Pal has officially taken on the role of the 25th Director General of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).
- Manoj Yadava, a seasoned IPS officer from the Haryana cadre, has been appointed as the new Director General of the Railway Protection Force (RPF).

BOOKS

- "Through The Broken Glass: An Autobiography" is penned by T.N. Seshan, the former Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India, who left a significant impact on Indian elections.
- An insightful book titled "India Rising Memoir of a Scientist" is authored by R. Chidambaram and Suresh Gangotra.
- A recently published book titled 'Prism: The Ancestral Abode of Rainbow' was launched ahead of the Chandrayaan 3 mission. This book is authored by the National award-winning filmmaker-writer Vinod Mankara, and its release took place at the rocket launchpad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- An enlightening book named "Colours of Devotion" is written by Anita Bharat Shah. 'Colours of Devotion' aims to delve into the deeper connections between Indian philosophical concepts of Pushti Marg.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

- The government has initiated Mission Karmayogi and Mid-Career Training programs with the aim of training officers for the priorities of Amrit Kaal and equipping them to contribute to the development of Atmanirbhar Bharat through the optimal utilization of new technology.
- To enhance marketing support for products crafted by women from Self-help Groups (SHGs), the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojna National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAYNRLM) introduced the eSARAS mobile App. This app complements e-commerce initiatives for SHGs' products.
- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has taken a significant stride in promoting education and empowering mothers through the implementation of the Jagananna Amma Vodi scheme. This scheme provides financial assistance of ₹15,000 annually to around 42 lakh mothers, encouraging them to send their children to school.

- The Ministry of Home Affairs launched the "Scheme for Expansion and Modernization of Fire Services in the States" to enhance and modernize fire services with the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF). This scheme aims to strengthen state-level fire services through preparedness and capacity-building components of the NDRF.
- The Central Government has introduced a relief scheme under the 'Mission Vatsalya' program to address the abandonment of families of minor girls who become pregnant after being victims of rape.
- Mission Vatsalya, launched in 2021 by the Ministry of Women and Child Development, is centered on the protection and welfare of children.
- The New Swarnima Scheme, a term loan scheme by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, extends financial assistance to women entrepreneurs from backward classes.
- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and bioscience company Absolute® have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to bolster India's flagship Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

RANKS & REPORT

- In FY23, Tamil Nadu has emerged as India's foremost exporter of electronic goods, surpassing Uttar Pradesh. Its exports have nearly tripled compared to FY22.
- India has been positioned 126th in the Global Peace Index 2023. Iceland has secured the top rank in the Global Peace Index 2023.
- The Ministry of Education has released the Performance Grading Index 2.0 report for States/UTs for the Year 2021-22. The PGI 2.0 framework includes 73 indicators grouped into two categories: Outcomes and Governance Management (GM), totaling 1000 points.
- The PGI 2.0 assessment for 2021-22 has categorized the States/UTs into ten grades. The highest achievable grade is "Daksh," awarded to State/UT scoring over 940 points out of a total of 1000. The lowest grade, "Akanshi-3," is designated for scores up to 460.
- NITI Aayog has unveiled the 3rd edition of the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) for Indian States/UTs for the year 2022.
- Tamil Nadu has secured the first rank in the EPI 2022, followed by Maharashtra and Karnataka.
- Uttarakhand has claimed the top position among hilly/Himalayan states in the EPI 2022.
- Haryana leads among landlocked regions, showcasing its readiness for exports.
- Among union territories and small states, Goa has achieved the first rank in the EPI 2022.
- Singapore now holds the title of the world's most powerful passport, enabling its citizens to visit 192 travel destinations out of 227 visa-free. Germany, Italy, and Spain share the second position. Japan shares the third position with Austria, Finland, France, Luxembourg, South Korea, and Sweden.
- India has been ranked 81st in the latest Henley Passport Index, providing its citizens visa-free access to 57 destinations.

OBITUARIES

- Alan Arkin, the renowned actor who won an Oscar, has passed away at the age of 89.
- Nikki McCray Penson, a basketball star and Olympic gold medallist, has sadly passed away.
- Eminent mathematician Dr. Mangala Narlikar has passed away at the age of 80.
- Former Chief Minister of Kerala, Oommen Chandy, has passed away at the age of 79.