

# AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup> TO AUGUST 7<sup>TH</sup>

## 1. Bank Partners with IIM-A Startup Incubator for Tech Promotion

The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has teamed up with the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad's startup incubator, Center for Innovation, Incubation & Entrepreneurship. Their goal is to promote Deep Tech and science-led Innovation by providing startup companies with access to initial capital. The objective is to support startups with innovative ideas and technologies that are important for India's self-reliance goals by 2047.

## 2. Growth in India's Core Sectors for June 2023

According to data from the Ministry of Commerce, India's eight core sectors, including coal, crude oil, steel, cement, and electricity, saw a growth of 8.2 percent in June 2023. This growth is measured compared to the same period in the previous year. The core sector growth for May has been revised upwards from 4.3 percent to 5.0 percent. In June 2022, the core sector experienced a growth rate of 13.1 percent.

## 3. Bank Hosts Fintech Event for Innovation

Karnataka Bank hosted the inaugural edition of 'KBL - FinOne,' a fintech partnership event held in Bengaluru in July 2023. The event's aim was to create new and creative business models, offer a seamless banking experience, and present a comprehensive range of banking products. The event featured over 30 speakers from various fintech backgrounds, discussing topics like emerging lending models and neo-banks.

## 4. Rise in GST Revenues for July 2023

The Finance Ministry reported that the gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues for July 2023 are 11% higher compared to July 2022. This marks the fifth time that the gross GST collection has surpassed Rs 1.65 lakh crore. After regular settlement, the total revenue for CGST in July 2023 was Rs 69,558 crore, and for SGST, it was Rs 70,811 crore.

## 5. GST Rate for Casinos and Online Gaming

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that a GST rate of 28 percent will be applied to casinos and online gaming entry fees starting from October 1st. This rate will be applicable to the amount paid at the entry level for online gaming. The GST Council recommended amendments to the CGST Act 2017 and IGST Act 2017 to provide clarity on the taxation of supplies in casinos, horse racing, and online gaming.

## 6. India's GDP Growth Projection

S&P (S&P Global, a rating agency) predicts that India's gross domestic product (GDP) will grow at a rate of 6.7% per year from fiscal year 2024 to FY 2031. This growth is projected to increase India's GDP from \$3.4 trillion in fiscal year 2023 to \$6.7 trillion. S&P Global also expects the per capita GDP to rise to around \$4,500. The main driver of this growth is capital accumulation, with investment as a percentage of GDP reaching a 10-year high of 34% in fiscal 2023.

## 7. Sebi Cancels Stock Broker Registration

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has canceled the registration of Metals and Minerals Trading Corp of India (MMTC) Ltd. as a stock broker in August 2023. The reason behind this decision is MMTC's involvement in illegal "paired contracts" related to the now-defunct National Spot Exchange Ltd (NSEL) in August 2023. Sebi directed MMTC to allow existing clients to withdraw or transfer their securities or funds held by the company within 15 days.

## 8. Market Valuation Erosion for Top Firms

The combined market valuation of seven out of the top-10 most valued companies decreased by Rs 1,09,947.86 crore in the first week of August 2023. The State Bank of India (SBI) experienced the largest decline in valuation due to a weak trend in the stock market. SBI's valuation fell by Rs 38,197.34 crore to Rs 5,11,603.38 crore. During the first week of August 2023, the BSE benchmark dropped by 438.95 points or 0.66 percent. However, Tata Consultancy Services, HDFC Bank, and Infosys observed an increase in their market capitalization.

## 9. SBI's Strong Financial Results

In the April-June quarter of 2023-24, the State Bank of India (SBI) reported a significant increase in quarterly profit to ₹16,884 crore, compared to ₹6,068 crore in the same quarter of 2022. Additionally, the net income more than doubled to ₹18,537 crore from ₹7,325 crore in 2022. However, there was a slight decline in net interest income.

## Obituaries:

### 1. Marathi Poet Namdeo Dhondo Mahanor Passes Away

Namdeo Dhondo Mahanor, a respected Marathi poet, has passed away. He gained popularity for his poetry that captured the essence of nature. He also contributed songs to classic Marathi movies like "Jait Re Jait," "Ek Hota Vidushak," and "Sarja." He received the Padma Shri, the fourth-highest civilian award in India, for his literary contributions. He had also served as a member of the state legislative council.

### 2. Demise of Former IAS Officer N Vittal

N Vittal, a former IAS officer, passed away in Chennai. He served as the Telecom Secretary and Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC). While chairing the Telecom Commission, he initiated the process of liberalization in the telecom sector.

### 3. Demise of Folk Singer Gaddar

Folk singer Gaddar, who passed away in Hyderabad, was widely recognized for his contributions. He played a significant role in people's movements during the Naxal movement in combined Andhra Pradesh. His iconic song "Podustunna Poddu Meeda Nadustunna Kaalama Poru Telanganama" became synonymous with the Telangana agitation, showcasing his involvement in the Telangana cause.

## IMPORTANT DAYS:

### 1. World Wide Web Day

World Wide Web Day is celebrated on August 1st each year. The day highlights the significance of the web in improving people's lives through enhanced communication, access to information, education, and empowerment. The World Wide Web was created between 1989 and 1993 by Sir Tim Berners-Lee at CERN (the European Organization for Nuclear Research).

### 2. Muslim Women's Rights Day

Muslim Women's Rights Day is observed on August 1st across India. This day commemorates the enactment of a law against triple talaq on August 1, 2019. The law criminalized the practice of instant triple talaq, aiming to strengthen the self-reliance, self-respect, and self-confidence of Muslim women and protect their constitutional, fundamental, and democratic rights.

### 3. National Handloom Day

National Handloom Day is celebrated on August 7th. The day pays tribute to the extensive handloom community in India for their dedication to preserving traditional heritage and ensuring financial stability. It also commemorates the Swadeshi Movement's beginnings in Bengal, promoting the use of Indian-made goods and boycotting foreign products.

### 4. World Breastfeeding Week

World Breastfeeding Week begins on August 1st and concludes on August 7th. The week emphasizes the importance of regular breastfeeding for the healthy development of infants. The 2023 theme is "Let's make breastfeeding and work, work!"

### 5. Aadi Perukku in Tamil Nadu

Tamil Nadu's cultural community celebrates Aadi Perukku, also known as Pathinettam Perukku. This auspicious festival, observed on August 3rd, honors the monsoon season and the fertility of the soil.

## 6. World Lung Cancer Day

World Lung Cancer Day is observed on August 1st every year. It was established to raise awareness about lung cancer and encourage more research to break the stigma surrounding the disease.

## NEW APPOINTMENTS:

### 1. BRICS New Development Bank Appointment

Thuraiya Hamid Alhashmi has been elected as a member of the Board of Directors and a Constituency Director at BRICS' New Development Bank. She is the first Emirati and Arab woman to hold this position, contributing to global financial interests and various sectors.

### 2. Corporate Vice President of Microsoft India

Puneet Chandok has been appointed as the Corporate Vice President of Microsoft India and South Asia. He is responsible for integrating Microsoft's operations across South Asian countries and focusing on key industries using generative AI technology.

### 3. Extension of Cabinet Secretary's Tenure

Rajiv Gauba's tenure as Cabinet Secretary has been extended by one year. This marks his third extension in the same position, recognizing his contributions and expertise.

## IMPORTANT NEWS – INDIA:

### 1. G20 EMPOWER Summit

Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Zubin Irani will inaugurate the G20 EMPOWER Summit in Gandhinagar. The theme is "Women-Led Development," aiming to accelerate women's leadership and empowerment in the private sector across G20 countries.

### 2. National Digital Nagrik Forum (NDNF)

The Confederation of All India Traders introduced the National Digital Nagrik Forum (NDNF) to advance the rights of traders, consumers, and society. It aims to boost the digital trade economy and focuses on themes like consumer protection and online safety.

### 3. Earth's Plastic Overshoot Day

Earth Action has noted Earth's first Plastic Overshoot Day, signifying the point at which plastic consumption exceeds global waste management capacity. India is among the top contributors to mismanaged plastic waste.

### 4. National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction. The plan aims to raise awareness about substance use and provide support and treatment facilities.

### 5. Digital Crop Survey in 12 States

The government launched a digital crop survey on a pilot basis in 12 states during the Kharif season. This initiative aims to provide accurate crop sowing data for better planning and development of solutions.

## 6. Unemployment Rate Data

According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, the total unemployment rate in India decreased to 7.95% in July 2023 from 8.45% in June 2023. Rural unemployment declined due to increased demand for laborers in farming, while urban unemployment slightly increased.

## 7. Launch of e-CARe Portal

The government will launch the e-CARe (e-Clearance for Afterlife Remains) portal to facilitate the swift transfer of mortal remains of Indians who die abroad. The portal aims to avoid delays during transportation and streamline the process.

## 8. Utkarsh and Unmesh Festival

President Draupadi Murmu inaugurated the national festival "Utkarsh" and the international literature festival "Unmesh" in Bhopal. The events celebrate folk and tribal expressions as well as literature, with participants from 15 countries attending the Unmesh festival.

## 9. Launch of Study in India (SII) Portal

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar jointly introduced the Study in India (SII) portal in New Delhi. The portal aims to simplify the academic journey of international students in India. It provides comprehensive information about Indian Higher Education Institutions and offers an integrated platform for student registration and visa application. Additionally, it offers details about academic facilities and research support.

## 10. Launch of 'Rajmargyatra' Mobile Application

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) launched the 'Rajmargyatra' mobile application, designed to provide a user-friendly experience for highway users. The app focuses on enhancing the travel experience by providing real-time weather updates, timely notifications, and information about nearby toll plazas, petrol stations, and hospitals.

## 11. Launch of PHO Module under Sagar Setu - National Logistics Portal (Marine)

Sarbananda Sonowal, the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, inaugurated the Port Health Organisation (PHO) module under the Sagar Setu - National Logistics Portal (Marine). The initiative aims to streamline operations, promote Ease of Doing Business (EODB), and ensure the health and safety of citizens and port workers. This technology-driven module conducts disease surveillance, health inspections, and quarantine measures.

## 12. Prohibition of 'Ketoprofen' and 'Aceclofenac'

The production, sale, and distribution of 'ketoprofen' and 'aceclofenac,' along with their formulations, for animal use have been prohibited. The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare issued this notification under section 26A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. The ban was recommended by the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB), the apex authority for drug-related decisions in India.

## 13. Manufacturing of Vande Bharat Trains by RVNL

Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd (RVNL) is partnering with Russian company Metrowagonmash to manufacture and supply around 120 Vande Bharat trains to Indian Railways. The project costs ₹120 crore per train. RVNL aims to have a major share of 69%, leaving 26% for Metrowagonmash and 5% for Locomotive Electronic Systems. These air-conditioned trains will be produced in a railway factory in Maharashtra.

## 14. Approval of Outlay for BharatNet Project

The Cabinet approved an outlay of ₹1.39 lakh crore for BharatNet, the government's project to provide last-mile connectivity to 6.4 lakh villages across the country. This project aims to ensure broadband connectivity to all gram panchayats in India and is one of the largest rural telecom initiatives globally.

## 15. Imposition of Anti-Dumping Duty on Optical Fibre Imports

The Finance Ministry imposed definitive anti-dumping duty on certain optical fibre imports from China, South Korea, and Indonesia. This measure aims to support the domestic optical fibre industry, which has been impacted by low-price and low-quality imports. The anti-dumping duty ranges from \$122 per kfkms to \$857.23 per kfkms, with the commodity being traded in fkm (fibre kilometres).

#### **16. Implementation of Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana**

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing the Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana in August 2023. The scheme aims to provide assisted living devices to senior citizens suffering from age-related disabilities or infirmities. Assessment camps by ALIMCO identify beneficiaries requiring aids and appliances to restore near-normal bodily functions.

#### **17. Dues to States under MGNREGS**

Minister of State for the Ministry Of Rural Development, Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti, stated that the Centre owes Rs 6,366 crore in dues to states and Union Territories under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). West Bengal has the highest amount owed, which is Rs 2,770 crore. MGNREGS ensures livelihood security by providing wage employment to unskilled workers in rural areas.

#### **18. Monitoring App for Child Care Institutions**

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights developed the Monitoring App for Seamless Inspection (MASI) to facilitate real-time monitoring of Child Care Institutions (CCIs). This application aims to improve the effectiveness of the inspection mechanism outlined in the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, and enhance the monitoring process.

#### **19. Licensing Requirement for IT Hardware Imports**

Starting from November 1, 2023, a valid license will be required for the import of laptops, tablets, and personal computers. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade has prepared an online portal for companies or traders to apply for the license. This move follows the notification of the Production Linked Incentive Scheme 2.0 for IT Hardware.

#### **20. Inaugural World Coffee Conference in Bengaluru**

India is set to host its first World Coffee Conference, organized by the International Coffee Organization (ICO), in Bengaluru. The ICO is a global intergovernmental organization promoting coffee trade and collaboration among coffee-producing and consuming nations. Tennis player Rohan Bopanna will endorse the event as its brand ambassador.

#### **21. MoU between TRAI and Centre for Development of Telematics**

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and the Centre for Development of Telematics have signed an MoU to foster technical and institutional cooperation in telecommunications. This partnership aims to advance policy research, regulatory studies, and knowledge dissemination about upcoming technologies in the telecom and broadcasting sectors.

#### **22. CSR Support for Divyangjans by NHPC**

The National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited (NHPC) signed an MoU with the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) to provide CSR support for distributing aids and assistive devices to around 1,000 Divyangjans (Persons with Disabilities) near NHPC Projects in North and North Eastern states.

#### **23. Promotion of Football at Grassroots Level**

The Subroto Mukherjee Sports Education Society (SMSES) signed an MoU with the All India Football Federation (AIFF) to promote football at the grassroots level. SMSES will form a Subroto XI team under Junior Boys (Under-17) and participate in AIFF Youth Competitions. Workshops for coaches will also be organized to enhance their skills and knowledge.

## 24. MoUs for Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan and e-Vidya in Arunachal Pradesh

The Arunachal Pradesh state government signed two MoUs with the Union education ministry for the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan and the Pradhan Mantri e-Vidya in New Delhi. These initiatives aim to enhance the quality of higher education and digital learning in the state.

## 25. Establishment of India 5G Testbed by IIT Madras and Ministry of Railways

The Ministry of Railways and IIT Madras signed an MoU to establish the India 5G testbed at the Indian Railway Institute of Signal Engineering and Telecommunications (IRISSET). The testbed aims to enhance operational efficiency, passenger experience, and safety by conducting trials of 5G-enabled applications tailored for railway operations.

26. The Bureau of Indian Standards has joined hands with 35 prestigious institutions to work together on setting common standards and ensuring things meet those standards.
27. India has given Sri Lanka INR 450 million in advance to help fund its special digital identity project. This project aims to collect important information about people and issue identification cards.
28. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has started the construction of an archaeological museum in Adichanallur, Tamil Nadu. This museum will focus on showcasing the historical importance of the Thamirabarani valley.
29. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the redevelopment work of 13 railway stations in Karnataka under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. This initiative aims to improve these stations and make them modern travel hubs.

## Important News – State

1. The University of Agricultural Sciences in Bengaluru is creating a unique museum. This museum will teach people about the history of farming and agriculture.
2. The Uttar Pradesh state cabinet has approved the Water Tourism and Adventure Sports Policy 2023. This policy aims to make the state a popular destination for water-based tourism and adventure activities.

## Important News – World

1. Bhutan's tiger population has gone up by 27% since 2015. This shows successful efforts in conserving tigers in the country.
2. A climate change service report by the EU states that the oceans are now at their hottest-ever recorded temperature. This is due to the impact of climate change.

## Honor & Awards

1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has received the Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2023 on August 1. This award is given to individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the country's progress.
2. Medec Dragon Pvt Ltd has been honored with the "Best Managed Pharmaceutical Sustainable Organizations 2023" award. The company's Managing Director, Deepak Shenoy, was also recognized as the "Global Visionary Entrepreneur of the year 2023."
3. Actor Manoj Bajpayee has won the 'Best Actor' trophy, and cinematographer Piyush Puty has won the award for 'Best Cinematography' at the Durban International Film Festival 2023. This festival recognizes outstanding achievements in the film industry.
4. Mrunal Thakur has received the Diversity in Cinema Award at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne 2023. This award acknowledges her versatile performances in films of different languages.
5. Tamil Nadu has been awarded the Best Performing State award 2023 in cadaver organ donation. This recognition highlights the state's efforts in promoting organ donation and saving lives.

## Sports News

1. Sangampreet Singh Bisla and Avneet Kaur have won gold medals in archery at the World University Games 2023 in China. They represented India and performed exceptionally well.
2. Iga Swiatek, a Polish tennis player, has won her fourth Women's Tennis Association title of 2023. She defeated Laura Siegemund from Germany in a tournament held in Warsaw.
3. Stuart Broad, a cricketer, has announced his retirement. He's known for being a successful fast bowler and achieving milestones in his cricket career.

1. Who won the men's singles title at the Japan Open 2023 in Tokyo by defeating Indonesian Jonatan Christie? It's Viktor Axelsen.

- Notably, An Se-young from Korea won the women's singles title by outplaying He Bing Jiao of China.
- Viktor Axelsen, the world's top-ranked player, secured his third BWF title of the year with this victory.
- Se Young from Korea is currently the world number two in women's singles.

2. After a remarkable two-decade-long career, former Uruguay captain Diego Godin announced his retirement from which sport? Professional football.

- He made 627 professional appearances, scored 38 goals, and won 10 titles, including two Europa League trophies and three UEFA Super Cups, all during his captaincy at Atletico Madrid.
- Godin also played in four World Cups and spent a significant part of his club career in Spain.

3. In August 2023, who became India's top chess player, surpassing Viswanathan Anand?

- It's Grandmaster Gukesh D.
- Gukesh qualified for the third round of FIDE World Cup 2023 and secured a victory against Azerbaijani Misratdin Iskandarov.
- He currently holds a live rating of 2755.9 in Classic chess, slightly higher than Anand's live rating of 2754.0.
- Gukesh is now ranked 9th in the live rankings, while Anand has slipped to 10th place.

4. At the World University Games 2023 in China, who secured a gold medal in the mixed archery team?

- Indian archers Aman Saini and Pragati clinched the gold medal by defeating Korea's Sua Cho and Seunghyun Park.
- India currently holds the fourth position in the overall medal standings.
- Additionally, India won two more medals in archery in the men's and women's team events.

5. Who became the first-ever Indian to win the individual World Title at the World Archery Championships final 2023 in Berlin?

- It's Aditi Swami.
- Aditi Swami defeated Andrea Becerra of Mexico with a score of 149-147 in the final of the compound women's event.
- Similarly, Ojas Deotale of India also made history by becoming the new world champion in the Men's Individual compound event.

6. Under the 'Cheer4India' campaign, which organization launched a short movie series called 'Halla Bol' to motivate Asian Games-bound athletes?

- It's the Sports Authority of India (SAI).
- The initiative aims to inspire athletes for the Hangzhou Asian Games and raise awareness about the event.
- This initiative also intends to encourage young people in the country to take up sports.

7. Which edition of the Durand Cup was inaugurated by Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh in Assam, marking the beginning of the annual football competition?

- It's the 132nd edition.
- The event is being organized by the Indian Army in collaboration with the Assam Government and Bodo Territorial Region.
- The opening match of the tournament was played between Bodoland FC and Rajasthan United FC.

8. Which Direct-to-home (DTH) company plans to expand its network capacity by 50% by adding 24 new Ku-band transponders to the GSAT-24 communication satellite \_\_\_\_\_ Tata Sky. Note: ➤ Goal: To offer more TV channels, services, and improve picture quality. ➤ The GSAT-24 satellite was launched in June 2022 by NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL) to specifically enhance Tata Sky's DTH services. ➤ NSIL operates satellite missions based on demand.

9. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced that it has transferred the IMS-1 Satellite Bus technology to which organization \_\_\_\_\_ Alpha Design Technologies. Note: ➤ The technology transfer was facilitated by ISRO's commercial arm, NewSpace India Limited, through an agreement. ➤ The IMS-1 satellite bus was developed by the UR Rao Satellite Centre and is a small satellite platform designed to enable affordable space access. ➤ This platform weighs around 100 kilograms and can carry a payload of up to 30 kilograms.

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## AUGUST 7<sup>TH</sup> TO AUGUST 14<sup>TH</sup>

### 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

## AUGUST 14 TO AUGUST 20

- India will mark its 77th Independence Day on August 15, 2023. The theme for this year's celebration is "Nation First, Always First," aligning with the government's emphasis on national unity and development. The day kicks off with the Prime Minister hoisting the national flag at Delhi's Red Fort, followed by a military parade and cultural performances. Flag-raising ceremonies and cultural events will also take place throughout the nation.
- The 77th Independence Day is a significant milestone for India, prompting reflection on its journey since gaining independence and reaffirming values such as freedom, democracy, and equality. The occasion is an opportunity to rejoice in the diversity and unity of the Indian nation.

### Key Events of the 77th Indian Independence Day:

- The Prime Minister will raise the national flag at the Red Fort in Delhi.
- A military parade will be held at Rajpath in New Delhi.
- Cultural programs will take place at various locations across the country.
- The government will release a commemorative postage stamp and coin.
- Special prayers and religious ceremonies will be observed in temples, mosques, churches, and gurdwaras.
- People will come together in public spaces to celebrate.

Independence Day Celebrations 2023: Independence Day signifies the freedom and unity of India and honours the sacrifices of its freedom fighters. The celebrations encompass:

- **Flag hoisting:** The Prime Minister hoists the flag at the Red Fort, followed by flag-raising ceremonies nationwide.
- **Military parade:** A parade at Rajpath showcases the strength of the Indian Armed Forces, attended by dignitaries.
- **Cultural programs:** Across the country, cultural events highlight India's rich heritage through music, dance, and drama.
- **Commemorative moments:** The government issues special postage stamps and coins, alongside religious ceremonies.
- **Public gatherings:** People gather in public places, singing patriotic songs, dancing, and sharing sweets.

History of Independence Day 2023: Indian Independence Day's history dates back to the early 19th century when the independence movement gained momentum, led by figures like Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, and Subhas Chandra Bose.

- The movement faced British resistance, but India's independence was achieved on August 15, 1947.
- The date symbolizes the enactment of the Indian Independence Act of 1947, transferring power from Britain to India.
- The inaugural Independence Day in 1947 featured Jawaharlal Nehru's flag hoisting and a speech addressing India's challenges.
- Independence Day is a national holiday, celebrating India's freedom, unity, and the sacrifices of freedom fighters.

**Key Events Leading to Independence: India's independence was a significant achievement after decades of struggle.**

- 1857: The Indian Rebellion, known as the Sepoy Mutiny, marked a major uprising against British rule, raising awareness of the independence movement.
- 1885: The Indian National Congress was established as a political party advocating for Indian independence.
- 1905: The Partition of Bengal was a British plan to split Bengal into Hindu-majority and Muslim-majority regions, leading to protests and division in the independence movement.
- 1920: Mahatma Gandhi launched the Non-Cooperation Movement, uniting millions through nonviolent resistance against British rule.
- 1930: Mahatma Gandhi initiated the Salt March, protesting against British salt monopoly and advancing the independence cause.
- 1942: The Quit India Movement was launched by the Indian National Congress, demanding British withdrawal and resulting in protests and arrests.
- 1947: India gained independence, marked by partition into India and Pakistan, a process with tragic consequences.

#### Ashleigh Gardner and Chris Woakes Honored as ICC Players of the Month for July 2023

Australia's Ashleigh Gardner and England's Chris Woakes have been recognized as the ICC Players of the Month for July 2023. Gardner, an all-rounder, earned her fourth ICC Women's Player of the Month award for remarkable performances against England and Ireland. She scored 232 runs and took 15 wickets in ODIs and T20Is during the month. Woakes, an England seamer, won the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for his contributions to the Ashes series against Australia. He claimed 19 wickets and played a vital role in their series draw.

#### National Affairs

- Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, inaugurated Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) to boost apprenticeship training and encourage industry and youth participation.
  - The Railways Ministry is initiating Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) at railway stations nationwide to provide quality medicines at affordable prices to the public.
  - The Union Cabinet, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved seven railway projects with an investment of ₹32,500 crore. These projects, using the EPC model, aim to enhance Indian Railways' efficiency and connectivity.
  - The Union Cabinet greenlit the "PM-eBus Sewa" scheme to promote urban transportation and electric mobility. This initiative plans to deploy 10,000 electric buses through a PPP model to expand city bus operations.
1. The historical utilization of air power during the 1966 insurgency in Mizoram has garnered recent attention due to its mention by Prime Minister Modi in response to a no-confidence motion. This article delves into the occurrences surrounding the 1966 Mizoram insurgency, the government's response, the involvement of the Indian Air Force (IAF), and the aftermath of Operation Jericho.
  2. Bengaluru, often recognized as the nation's technological capital, has welcomed India's inaugural 3D-printed post office. Situated in Cambridge Layout near Ulsoor, this post office has set a fresh standard for efficiency, sustainability, and design.
  3. Shri Kushvinder Vohra, Chairman of the Central Water Commission (CWC), has taken a significant step toward improving flood preparedness and response by introducing the "FloodWatch" mobile application. This innovative app aims to utilize mobile phones to provide real-time flood-related information and forecasts up to 7 days in advance.

4. In a notable stride towards accessible and affordable healthcare, Goa has taken the lead among Indian states by introducing free In vitro fertilization (IVF) treatment. This groundbreaking initiative, coupled with assisted reproductive technology (ART) and intrauterine insemination (IUI), was inaugurated by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant at the Goa Medical College (GMC) in Bambolim.
5. The Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO), responsible for overseeing the Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor (TNDIC), is set to establish India's first Unmanned Aerial Systems (Drone) Common Testing Centre with an investment of Rs 45 crore.
6. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has sanctioned a USD 40.5 million loan for the northeastern Indian state of Meghalaya to enhance early childhood development and maternal mental health. This initiative aims to strengthen childcare services through the establishment and enhancement of Anganwadi centers.
7. Goa's Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has introduced a remarkable initiative, "The Biodiversity Atlas of Mayem Village," aimed at preserving and celebrating India's rich socio-cultural heritage.
8. Anwarul Haq Kakar, a prominent ethnic Pushtun leader with close ties to the military, has been sworn in as Pakistan's caretaker prime minister, responsible for leading an impartial administration, supervising upcoming general elections, and addressing economic challenges.
9. The Dutch economy has entered a recession, contracting 0.3% in the second quarter, following a 0.4% decline in the first quarter. This marks the first recession since the pandemic and is attributed to decreased consumer spending and exports.
10. China's Inner Mongolia region has reported two cases of bubonic plague, raising concerns amid prior infections and emphasizing the need for vigilant containment efforts.
11. India's collaboration with Russia's Arctic region is on the rise, evident from its substantial contribution to cargo handled at the Murmansk port, a key northern gateway for Russia. In the first seven months of 2023, India's share accounted for 35% of the cargo, primarily coal bound for the eastern coast of India.

**Russia Launches E-Visa Facility for Indians:** Russia has introduced an electronic visa (e-visa) system for Indian travelers starting from August 1. This new system allows travelers to bypass the usual complexities associated with obtaining a regular visa. The e-visa option, which is also extended to travelers from 54 other nations, eliminates the need for consular or embassy visits.

**Collaboration Between MakeMyTrip and Ministry of Tourism:** MakeMyTrip, a well-known travel company, has announced a partnership with the Ministry of Tourism to introduce more than 600 distinctive and unconventional travel destinations. To facilitate this initiative, the company has introduced a specialized microsite named "Traveller's Map of India."

**Advancing AI and Data Science in Education - AICTE and Jio Institute Collaboration:** The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has taken a significant step toward incorporating Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Science (DS) into education. AICTE has joined forces with the esteemed Jio Institute to introduce a comprehensive faculty development program. The program aims to equip academic leaders and senior faculty members with a profound understanding of AI and DS.

**India and Trinidad and Tobago's Partnership on INDIA STACK Technology:** India and Trinidad and Tobago have recently established a significant partnership by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to share India's renowned INDIA STACK technology. This collection of open Application Programming Interfaces (APIs) and digital public goods, pioneered by India, aims to enhance identity, data, and payment services on a large scale. This collaborative step underscores India's commitment to assisting the digital transformation of nations.

**NPCI Launches UPI Safety Awareness Campaign "UPI Chalega":** The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched the third edition of its UPI Safety Awareness Campaign called "UPI Chalega." In collaboration with key stakeholders in the payments ecosystem, this campaign seeks to highlight the convenience, security, and speed of using the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for transactions.

**RBI's Comprehensive Reforms for Floating Rate Home Loans:** In a significant move to enhance transparency and consumer protection in the home loan sector, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced a comprehensive set of reforms regarding floating rate home loans. These reforms aim to provide greater clarity in resetting interest rates, offer borrowers the option to switch to fixed interest rates, and prevent banks from unilaterally changing the loan tenure without proper consent.

**RBI Incorporates AI and ML for Regulatory Supervision:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is taking a significant stride in strengthening its regulatory oversight over banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) by integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) technologies. In collaboration with global consultancy firms McKinsey and Company India LLP, and Accenture Solutions Pvt Ltd India, the RBI aims to leverage advanced analytics to bolster its supervisory functions.

**Inflation and Wholesale Price Index Trends in India:** In July, retail inflation in India witnessed a significant increase, reaching 7.44%, the highest rate since April 2022. This surge, in contrast to the previous four-month period of inflation below the central bank's 6% tolerance threshold, is mainly attributed to an 11.5% rise in food prices. Similarly, the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) exhibited deflationary trends for the fourth consecutive month in July.

**India's Vision for Developed Economy by 2047:** India's journey toward becoming a developed economy by 2047 is gaining momentum. A recent study conducted by SBI Research economists projects a remarkable surge in per capita income. The study suggests that India's per capita income is set to increase significantly, reflecting the nation's aspiration to achieve the vision of a developed India by 2047.

**Viacom18's Merger of JioCinema and Voot Platforms:** Viacom18, a prominent player in India's media and entertainment industry, is making substantial progress in merging its two Over-The-Top (OTT) platforms, JioCinema and Voot. The integration process has reached an advanced stage, benefiting from aligned technology backends and a smooth transition of Voot Select subscribers to JioCinema.

**Hyundai's Acquisition of General Motors' Talegaon Plant:** Hyundai Motor Co's Indian subsidiary has announced its intent to acquire General Motors' Talegaon plant located in Maharashtra. This strategic move not only allows General Motors to exit the Indian market but also offers Hyundai the opportunity to enhance its annual production capacity.

1. Wipro Limited has announced the establishment of a pioneering Center of Excellence (CoE) on Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) in collaboration with the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi. This partnership underscores Wipro's dedication to driving continuous innovation in emerging technologies, further solidifying its position as a leader in the technology industry.
2. Canara Bank has introduced a specialized savings account tailored to pensioners and individuals approaching retirement, offering a range of benefits designed to meet their unique financial requirements. Named Canara Jeevan Dhara, this new offering extends its advantages to retirees who have opted for voluntary or regular retirement, aiming to provide financial security and flexibility during their post-employment phase.
3. OpenAI has successfully acquired Global Illumination, an innovative startup based in New York that leverages AI to develop creative tools, digital experiences, and robust infrastructure. This acquisition reflects OpenAI's commitment to enhancing its capabilities and revolutionizing the landscape of artificial intelligence.
4. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has unveiled a groundbreaking solution for individuals seeking their unclaimed deposits. Named the UDGM (Unclaimed Deposits – Gateway to Access Information) portal, this centralized web platform simplifies the process of locating unclaimed deposits across various banks.
5. Axis Bank has partnered with the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), a subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), to introduce two pioneering lending products. These products are powered by the Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit (PTPFC), an innovative initiative launched by RBIH.



6. Crisil, a prominent rating agency, projects India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth to reach 6% in the fiscal year 2024. This projection is lower than the 7% estimate provided by the National Statistical Organisation (NSO) for the fiscal year 2023.
7. The Government of India has appointed R. Doraiswamy as the Managing Director of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC). Currently serving as the executive director at the central office in Mumbai, he takes on this role to further contribute to LIC's mission.
8. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointments of Kamlesh Varshney and Amarjeet Singh as SEBI Whole-Time Members. Varshney, a 1990-batch officer of the Indian Revenue Service, is a joint secretary at the revenue department in the Finance Ministry, while Singh is an executive director at the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
9. Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has appointed Parminder Chopra as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), making her the first woman to lead India's largest NBFC. Chopra assumed her role on August 14, 2023, aiming to contribute to the growth of the power sector.
10. The Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of PR Seshadri as the Managing Director & CEO of the South Indian Bank for a three-year term effective from October 1, 2023.

## DEFENCE

- The Indian Air Force has introduced its latest Heron Mark 2 drones with strike capability for surveillance along the borders with both China and Pakistan. These four new Heron Mark-2 drones, equipped with long-range missiles and other weapons systems, have been stationed at a forward air base in the northern sector.
- In a significant advancement towards indigenous manufacturing and innovation, the state-owned company Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWEIL) is preparing to unveil 'Prabal', India's first long-range revolver. The launch date is scheduled for August 18, ushering in a new era of personal defense firearms.
- The guided missile corvette INS Kulish of the Indian Navy celebrated Singapore's 77th Independence Day as part of its participation in the multinational SEACAT 2023 exercise. The crew and officers of INS Kulish marked the occasion at the High Commission of India in Singapore, demonstrating maritime cooperation.
- The Central Government has granted final approval for a pivotal project aimed at enhancing the operational capabilities of the Indian Navy. The project involves the construction of five fleet support ships, designed to play a vital role in replenishing warships with essential supplies, including fuel, food, and ammunition, during missions.
- To commemorate 75 years of Independence, several Air Force Stations in and around Delhi celebrated the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) from August 9 to 15, 2023. The events were coordinated under the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh Campaign,' initiated by the Government of India as part of the ongoing AKAM celebrations.
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) is preparing to host a large-scale multinational military exercise named 'Tarang Shakti,' originally scheduled for October but rescheduled to mid-2024. The decision to postpone the exercise to the next year was made due to several participating air forces expressing their inability to join the exercise in the current year.
- In a significant move to strengthen India's maritime capabilities, President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the latest addition to the Indian Navy's fleet, INS Vindhyagiri. The launch ceremony took place at the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) in Kolkata.

## Awards and Recognitions:

1. Union Home Minister Amit Shah congratulated the team behind the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS) of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) for achieving the Gold Award in the Excellence in Government Process Re-engineering for Digital Transformation Category-1.

2. President Smt Droupadi Murmu approved 76 Gallantry awards for members of the Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces on the occasion of Independence Day 2023. These honors include four Kirti Chakra awards (awarded posthumously), 11 Shaurya Chakra awards (including five posthumous), two Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry), 52 Sena Medals (Gallantry), three Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry), and four Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry).
3. Raj Chetty, an Indian-American economist, and Michael Springer, a biologist, have been honored with Harvard University's George Ledlie Prize for their groundbreaking contributions in their respective fields.

#### Summits and Conferences News:

- The inaugural WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit is scheduled to take place on August 17 and 18, 2023, in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India. This event will coincide with the G20 health ministerial meeting, creating a platform to enhance political commitment and evidence-based actions in the field of traditional medicine, which serves as an initial recourse for millions worldwide.

#### Sports News:

1. Brazil forward Neymar Jr has completed a move to Saudi Arabia's Al-Hilal from Paris Saint-Germain (PSG), joining the likes of Cristiano Ronaldo and Karim Benzema. Neymar, 31, scored 118 goals in 173 matches for PSG over six injury-plagued seasons.
2. The Tamil Nadu government, in collaboration with Racing Promotions Private Limited (RRPL), has introduced a new street circuit in Chennai. The 3.5km track around the Island Grounds will be the first-ever street circuit in India and South Asia to host a night race.
3. Sri Lankan all-rounder Wanindu Hasaranga has announced his retirement from Test cricket. The 26-year-old has decided to focus on his limited-overs career, where he plays a pivotal role for Sri Lanka.
4. Pakistan fast bowler Wahab Riaz has declared his retirement from international cricket, bringing a 15-year career to a close. The 38-year-old represented Pakistan in 27 Tests, 91 ODIs, and 36 T20Is, claiming a total of 237 wickets.
5. Indian sprinter Dutee Chand, renowned as India's fastest female athlete and holder of the national 100m record, has faced a significant setback with a four-year ban following her failure in an out-of-competition dope test. The test revealed the presence of selective androgen receptor modulators (SARMs), leading to her suspension from competitive sports.
6. Adille Sumariwalla has been elected as one of the four vice presidents of World Athletics, the highest position ever held by an Indian in the global track and field governing body. The 65-year-old Sumariwalla, president of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI), received the third-highest number of votes during the WA elections held in Budapest, Hungary. He will serve a four-year term.

#### Schemes and Committees News

- The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), India's primary advisory body for school education, has taken a significant step towards revising textbooks. A 19-member committee has been formed by the council to align school syllabi, textbooks, teaching materials, and learning resources with the National Curriculum Framework (NCF). The committee's responsibility spans from Classes 3 to 12 and aims to ensure a smooth progression from Classes 1 and 2 to higher grades.
- The Vishwakarma Yojana, announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his Independence Day speech, has led to the introduction of a scheme aimed at enhancing the livelihood prospects of traditional artisans and craftspeople. The Union Cabinet has promptly approved the scheme, underscoring its dedication to promoting and safeguarding traditional skills and crafts.

- The Ministry of Education has launched the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA), a central initiative focused on improving access, equity, and excellence in higher education across States and Union Territories. However, the requirement to adhere to certain academic criteria for funding under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 has sparked controversy, potentially excluding certain institutions from the scheme.

- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in India has taken a proactive stance in promoting gender equality within the aviation sector. On August 10, 2023, the DGCA established a four-member committee comprised of senior officials to formulate strategies and recommendations for achieving gender parity in the industry. The committee's goal is to propose actionable measures that the DGCA can implement to foster gender equality in aviation.

- The cabinet has approved the extension of the Digital India project, allocating a substantial budget of ₹14,903 crore. Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced this decision, emphasizing that the extended initiative will build upon the achievements of its previous phase.

- In a significant move to empower women and spur economic growth, the Indian government has introduced the 'Lakhpati Didi' scheme, aiming to provide skill training to two crore women nationwide. Originally implemented in select states, the scheme now seeks to expand its impact on a national scale.

- The Maharashtra government is taking a significant step towards improving connectivity and the lives of tribal communities. The Bhagwan Birsa Munda Jodaraste Scheme aims to connect all tribal villages in 17 districts of Maharashtra with main roads, addressing challenges these communities face in accessing essential services. The project, with an estimated cost of Rs 5,000 crore, involves building approximately 6,838 kilometers of roads.

### Science and Technology News

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is launching its inaugural solar mission, Aditya-L1, to study the Sun. The mission will orbit around the Lagrange point 1 (L1), approximately 1.5 million kilometers from Earth. Aditya-L1 will study the Sun's atmosphere, magnetic fields, and space weather impacts from this advantageous location.

- The Korea Advanced Institute of Science & Technology (KAIST) is making groundbreaking strides in aviation with the development of "Pibot," a humanoid robot designed to fly aircraft using advanced AI capabilities. Pibot's ability to manipulate flight instruments, understand complex manuals, and respond swiftly to emergencies holds potential to revolutionize aviation and other industries.

- Chennai-based Agnikul Cosmos has initiated the integration of its innovative launch vehicle, Agnibaan SORTeD (Sub-Orbital Technological Demonstrator), with its private launchpad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. While the exact launch date remains undisclosed, this milestone signifies Agnikul Cosmos's progress in space innovation.

### Important Days News

- International Left-Handers Day, observed annually on August 13th, celebrates and acknowledges the diverse skills, talents, and perspectives of left-handed individuals. The theme for International Left-Handers Day 2023 centers around "Left-Handers in Sports."

• World Organ Donation Day 2023 falls on August 13, 2023. This global event raises awareness about organ donation's significance and encourages people to become organ donors. The theme for World Organ Donation Day 2023 is "Step up to volunteer; need more organ donors to fill the lacunae."

1. India observed Partition Horrors Remembrance Day to honor the memory of the victims of the 1947 violence that accompanied the country's partition. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced this day in 2021 to remember the sufferings of millions who were displaced and lost loved ones during the partition.
2. On the 16th of August, as the nation commemorated the death anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, leaders from diverse political affiliations gathered at the 'Sadaiv Atal' memorial in Delhi.
3. The Parsi New Year, also known as Navroz or Nowruz, is a joyful occasion celebrated between July and August. This year, Parsi New Year fell on the 16th of August. Rooted in the Persian words 'Nav' and 'Roz,' which mean 'new day,' this cherished festival holds a rich history spanning over 3,000 years.
4. Every year on August 19, the global community comes together to honor the extraordinary efforts of humanitarians who tirelessly work to improve the lives of those affected by crises. World Humanitarian Day stands as a testament to the unwavering spirit of individuals who provide unwavering support despite challenges and risks.
5. World Photography Day, observed annually on August 19, celebrates photography's rich history and its dual role as an art form and a scientific achievement.
6. World Mosquito Day is observed every year on August 20 to commemorate the contributions of British doctor Sir Ronald Ross. He was the first to discover the connection between malaria and female anopheline mosquitoes.

#### 7. In Memoriam:

- Former India captain and legendary footballer Mohammed Habib has passed away. He represented India in numerous international tournaments from 1965-76.
- Prof. M.R. Satyanarayana Rao, a Padma Shri awardee and former President of Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), passed away at his Bengaluru residence on August 13, aged 75.
- V S Arunachalam, a prominent scientist in India's nuclear program, passed away at the age of 87. Known for his leadership roles at DRDO, he played a pivotal role in shaping India's defense capabilities.
- Michael Parkinson, the seasoned British chat show host renowned for his conversations with notable personalities, peacefully departed at the age of 88.
- Consumer rights activist and former vice-principal of Cotton University, Deven Dutta, passed away at the age of 81.

#### Miscellaneous News

8. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during the No Confidence debate in Parliament on August 10, referred to the island of Katchatheevu. He mentioned that the Indira Gandhi government had given away Katchatheevu to Sri Lanka in 1974, responding to Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Mata remarks that were later expunged.
9. The One District One Product (ODOP) program has partnered with the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) to launch the innovative 'ODOP Wall.' This initiative aims to showcase India's rich craftsmanship and promote self-reliance.

10. The CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute (CSIR-NBRI) celebrated a momentous occasion by introducing a unique variety of the national flower, Lotus, named 'Namoh 108.' This extraordinary flower with 108 petals was dedicated to the nation on the eve of Independence Day.
11. Typhoon Lan made landfall in Japan on August 15, bringing heavy rain and strong winds. The typhoon caused flooding, power outages, and evacuation warnings in several areas. It had maximum sustained winds of 160 kilometers per hour (100 miles per hour), equivalent to a Category 2 hurricane.
1. With a spectacular display of grandeur and profound religious devotion, the annual Budha Amarnath Yatra was inaugurated by the administration of Jammu and Kashmir. Spanning 10 days across the scenic terrains of Poonch district, this pilgrimage holds immense significance for devotees who seek blessings from Lord Shiva. (Read the article)
2. The inaugural G20 film festival, organized jointly by the Ministry of External Affairs and the India International Centre, kicked off in Delhi with the screening of the iconic drama film "Pather Panchali" directed by Satyajit Ray. (Read the article)

#### Key Takeaways:

- Vivek Gogia serves as the Director of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).
- Rajesh Magow is the Co-Founder and Group CEO of MakeMyTrip.
- Shri Giriraj Singh holds the position of Minister of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj.
- Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus is the Director-General of WHO.
- Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari is at the helm of the Indian Air Force.
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) was established on October 8, 1932, with headquarters in New Delhi.
- A.K Maurya is the Director of Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWEIL).
- General Asim Munir is the Chief of the Army Staff of Pakistan.
- Vishwajit Pratapsingh Rane is the Health Minister of Goa.
- Lee Hsien Loong holds the position of Prime Minister of Singapore.
- Amsterdam is the capital of the Netherlands, which uses the euro as its currency, and is led by Prime Minister Mark Rutte.
- Mr. Unsoo Kim serves as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Hyundai Motor India Limited.
- Subha Tatavarti holds the role of Chief Technology Officer at Wipro Limited.
- Hemant Khatri is the Chairman of Hindustan Shipyard Limited.
- Nilesh Cabra is the Minister of Environment & Climate Change in Goa.
- Srinath Ravichandran serves as the CEO of AgniKul Cosmos Private Limited.
- Sam Altman is the CEO of OpenAI.
- Project 17A was initiated by the Indian Navy in the year 2019.
- The Athletics Federation of India was founded in 1946 and is headquartered in New Delhi, India.
- S Rajendra Kumar is the Chief Post Master General of Bengaluru.
- TG Sitharam is the Chairman of the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE).

- Moscow is the capital of Russia, led by President Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin, using the Russian Ruble as its currency, and governed by Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin.

CrackNotes.in

## 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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## AUGUST 28 TO 31 AUGUST CURRENT AFFAIR

1. Neeraj Chopra achieved a historic milestone by securing the gold medal in the men's javelin throw event at the 2023 World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary, with a remarkable throw of 88.17 meters. This remarkable achievement made him the first-ever Indian athlete to claim the gold at this prestigious event, marking a significant moment in Indian athletics. Neeraj faced tough competition, especially from Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem, who secured the silver medal with an impressive throw of 87.82 meters.
2. Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired the 26th meeting of the Western Zonal Council (WZC) in Gandhinagar. The primary objective of this meeting was to foster cooperation and collaboration among the states through regular dialogue and discussions. This event was organized by the Inter-State Council Secretariat, under the Ministry of Home Affairs, in partnership with the Government of Gujarat. The Western Zonal Council includes the states of Gujarat, Goa, Maharashtra, as well as the Union Territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu.
3. The Indian Air Force (IAF) participated in Exercise BRIGHT STAR-23, a biennial multilateral tri-service exercise, for the first time. This exercise took place at Cairo Air Base, Egypt, from August 27 to September 16, 2023, with the aim of strengthening strategic partnerships and enhancing joint operational capabilities. The primary objective was to practice the planning and execution of joint operations. The IAF contingent included five MiG-29, two IL-78, two C-130, and two C-17 aircraft.
4. NASA and SpaceX successfully launched the Dragon spacecraft, carrying four astronauts, to the International Space Station (ISS). The launch took place from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. The crew of four astronauts hailed from different countries, including the United States, Denmark, Japan, and Russia. This mission, known as SpaceX Crew-7, marks the seventh commercial crew rotation mission for NASA.
5. India, in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank, is gearing up to establish a hub focused on climate change and health in the national capital, Delhi. The primary aim of this initiative is to foster knowledge sharing, foster partnerships, encourage innovation, and extend support to countries beyond the G-20, particularly developing nations. Recognizing the far-reaching impact of climate change, this center will serve as a platform for diverse partners to engage in critical discussions and mutual learning.
6. The Ministry of Education, in conjunction with the All India Council of Technical Education, has unveiled the sixth edition of the Smart India Hackathon 2023. The main objective is to showcase the burgeoning culture of innovation within India's education sector. The hackathon brings together the creative talents of India's youth to address real-world challenges faced by various government departments. Over time, it has evolved into a global model for hackathons and innovation frameworks, reflecting its dynamic growth.
7. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given its approval for the merger of The Jalgaon Peoples Co-operative Bank and Akola Merchant Co-operative Bank. This move aims to streamline operations and services for customers under a unified entity, with Akola Merchant Co-operative Bank branches operating as part of The Jalgaon Peoples Co-operative Bank. Additionally, the central bank has granted approval for the merger of Twin Cities Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd and Kranti Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd.
8. Airtel Payments Bank, in collaboration with Frontier Markets and the Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth, has introduced 'She Leads Bharat: Udyam,' a pioneering initiative. The goal is to empower women-owned small businesses (WOSB) by providing them with resources, tools, and opportunities to expand and diversify

their incomes. This initiative brings together the private sector and social enterprise to demonstrate a digital-first model designed to empower WOSBs to enhance their incomes.

9. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the transaction limits for small-value digital payments in offline mode to ₹500, up from the previous cap of ₹200. This decision aims to facilitate faster, more dependable, and contactless payments for everyday small-value purchases, transit payments, and more by eliminating the need for two-factor verification for such transactions. In practical terms, this means that parties can now conduct digital transactions of up to ₹500 each in offline mode.
10. At the World Athletics Championships 2023, the Indian men's 4x400 meters relay team, comprised of Muhammed Anas Yahiya, Amoj Jacob, Muhammed Ajmal, and Rajesh Ramesh, secured the fifth position in the 4x400 meters relay race final. The gold medal went to the USA relay team, consisting of Quincy Hall, Vernon Norwood, Justin Robinson, and Rai Benjamin. France clinched the silver medal, while Great Britain took home the bronze.
11. Kunlavut Vitidsarn from Thailand made history by becoming the first Thai player to secure the men's singles title at the 2023 Badminton World Championships, earning the esteemed title of badminton world champion after triumphing over Japan's Kodai Naraoka in Copenhagen. Additionally, An Se-young, the world's top-ranked player, etched her name in history as the first South Korean to claim the women's singles gold at the 2023 World Championships by defeating Carolina Marin. An Se-young's remarkable journey included a straight-game victory over Tokyo 2020 gold medalist Chen Yufei in the semi-finals.
12. Max Verstappen, representing Red Bull Racing, clinched victory at the Dutch Grand Prix 2023 for the third consecutive year, maintaining his dominance at his home race hosted at Circuit Zandvoort in the Netherlands. This triumph also matched Sebastian Vettel's record of nine consecutive F1 victories. The second position was secured by Fernando Alonso of Aston Martin, while Pierre Gasly of Alpine took the third spot.
13. National Sports Day in India, celebrated every year on August 29th, commemorates the birth anniversary of the legendary hockey player Major Dhyan Chand Singh. This special day serves as a reminder to honor the remarkable contributions, unwavering determination, and outstanding achievements of athletes, highlighting their significant role in shaping societies. The theme for this year's National Sports Day celebration is "Sports are an enabler to an inclusive and fit society."
14. Keralites worldwide are joyously celebrating "Thiruvonam" on the 10th, the most auspicious day of Onam, Kerala's largest cultural festival. Onam, the harvest festival of Kerala, represents values of prosperity, secularism, and harmony. It's a time when Keralites welcome the legendary and virtuous king Mahabali, reminiscing about the good old days. The celebration of Thiruvonam is steeped in cultural traditions and glory, filling hearts with hope.
15. The Development Bank of Singapore (DBS) has joined forces with commodities trader Maptrusco to successfully complete the first-ever "live" transaction involving electronic Bills of Lading for shipments between Singapore and India. The primary objective is to facilitate digital trade finance for live shipments of goods between the two nations. This transaction was conducted under the TradeTrust framework, an initiative led by the Infocomm Media Development Authority and supported by Enterprise Singapore.
16. Yes Bank has introduced a co-branded Corporate Credit Card in partnership with the spend management platform Zagggle, offering businesses direct control over their company expenditures. This initiative aims to empower businesses to re-imagine their payment processes, streamline reconciliation, and efficiently manage corporate expenses. It includes features such as setting individual spending limits, implementing merchant category restrictions, and applying various controls.
17. Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has increased the financial aid provided to women under the Ladli Behna scheme from Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,250 per month. Furthermore, he announced a 35 percent reservation for women in government jobs and provided gas cylinders at the cost of Rs 450. The Ladli

Behna scheme offers monthly financial assistance to women aged 23 to 60 who do not pay income taxes and come from families earning less than Rs 2.5 lakh annually.

18. The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has partnered with Saraswat Cooperative Bank Ltd to enhance the penetration of life insurance through the Bancassurance channel in Mumbai. Saraswat Cooperative Bank is India's largest Urban Cooperative Bank. This partnership enables the bank's customers and citizens in general to fulfill their life insurance protection needs by purchasing LIC insurance products directly through the bank.
19. Indian athlete Parul Chaudhary made a remarkable achievement at the World Athletics Championships 2023 in Budapest, Hungary. She finished in the eleventh position in the 3000 meters steeplechase final and, in the process, broke the national record. This achievement also secured her a spot in the Paris Olympics 2024. The gold medal in the steeplechase was won by Brunei's Winfred Mutile Yavi, with Kenya's Beatrice Chepkoech claiming silver and another Kenyan athlete, Faith Cherotich, taking home the bronze.
20. Eminent poet and writer Jayanta Mahapatra passed away at the age of 95. He was the first Indian poet to receive a Sahitya Akademi award for English poetry and was also honored with the Padma Shri in 2009. Notably, he returned the Padma Shri in 2015 as a protest against "rising intolerance in India." Jayanta Mahapatra is best known for his iconic poems like "Indian Summer" and "Hunger," which are considered classics in modern Indian English literature.
21. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin inaugurated the expansion of the state government's breakfast scheme in Thirukkuvalai. This expansion benefits 17 lakh students across 31,000 government schools in the state. Initially designed to provide nutritious breakfast to 1,14,095 students in classes 1 to 5 across 1,545 government schools, the scheme has received an allocation of Rs 33.56 crore for its expansion.
22. The Maharashtra Government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Germany's professional association football league, 'Bundesliga,' with the aim of establishing a football team for players under the age of 14. The primary objective is to nurture young football talent, helping them develop their skills and potentially compete at a high level. The Bundesliga is renowned as Germany's premier professional football league and one of the leading leagues in Europe.
23. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, in collaboration with IIT Bombay and Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation, launched HSBC India's strategic partnerships to drive innovation in green hydrogen. This initiative is aimed at reducing carbon intensity in the economy and fostering the creation of green job opportunities. Green hydrogen is seen as a crucial element in countering climate change and advancing towards a low-carbon and self-reliant economy.
24. Nitin Gadkari, the Minister of Road Transport and Highways, introduced the world's first car powered by 100 percent Ethanol in New Delhi. This pioneering step aims to reduce carbon emissions, promote sustainable mobility, and decrease the nation's reliance on conventional fuel sources. Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri highlighted that implementing a 20 percent ethanol blend in petrol will result in annual savings of ₹35,000 crore in import bills for the country.
25. BJP President J P Nadda unveiled the coffee table book 'Sikhs and Modi (A Journey of Nine Years)' by Prabhleen Singh, published by the Outlook Group, in New Delhi. The book recognizes the teachings of Sikh Gurus, which have played a pivotal role in fostering unity, patriotism, and religious dedication in society. This marked the first-ever observance of 'Veer Bal Diwas' since Independence, commemorating the sacrifice of young sahibzade of Guru Gobind Singh for the unity and integrity of the nation.
26. NITI Aayog and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) formalized a cooperative framework through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to expedite India's progress toward achieving its sustainable development goals (SDGs). The collaboration focuses on various areas, including localizing SDGs and data-driven monitoring. NITI Aayog serves as the central institution for coordinating the adoption and monitoring of SDGs at both national and sub-national levels.
27. The government is set to launch a new scheme aimed at promoting research and innovation in the Pharma-Med Sector with a total budget of ₹5,000 crore. The primary objective is to transition the Indian Pharma-Med Tech sector from cost-based competitiveness to growth driven by innovation, bolstering research infrastructure within the country. This initiative seeks to boost drug manufacturing and stimulate research and innovation in the sector.

28. India and New Zealand have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance cooperation in civil aviation in New Delhi. This agreement encompasses the scheduling of new routes, codeshare services, traffic rights, and capacity entitlement. New Zealand's designated airlines are granted the flexibility to operate services with various aircraft types, with third and fourth freedom traffic rights to and from six Indian points: New Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, and Kolkata.
29. The Gujarat government has announced a 27 percent reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) in local bodies such as panchayats, municipalities, and civic corporations. In Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas (PESA) notified regions, the reservation for OBCs will remain at 10 percent to safeguard tribal interests. The existing quotas for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes remain unchanged, and the 50 percent reservation limit has not been exceeded.
30. Umesh Revankar has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC). Currently serving as the Executive Vice Chairman of Shriram Finance, Umesh Revankar brings decades of experience and expertise in the financial services sector. He has advanced through the ranks, assuming various leadership roles in business operations and played a crucial role in establishing Shriram Transport Finance company as the largest commercial vehicle financier in India.
31. ISRO-Space Applications Centre (Ahmedabad) has successfully tested 'Nabhmitra,' a device designed for the safety of fishermen, at Neendakara. This satellite-based communication system enables two-way messaging between the sea and authorities, allowing for the transmission of weather and cyclone warnings in the local language. Fishermen can also send distress messages in case of emergencies such as capsizing or fires.
32. Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has launched the 'Gruha Lakshmi' women's financial aid scheme in Mysuru. This initiative aims to provide ₹2,000 each to approximately 1.1 crore women who are heads of their families. The 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme is one of the Congress party's pre-election 'guarantees' and has been allocated ₹17,500 crore in the current fiscal year.
33. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Fourth Partner Energy Private Limited have signed a long-term loan agreement of up to ₹1.2 billion to construct and operate a 25-megawatt solar photovoltaic-based power plant. This project aims to increase the supply of clean and cost-effective energy to commercial and industrial customers. The power plant, located in Tamil Nadu, is projected to generate approximately 50.7 gigawatt-hours of electricity annually, supplying power directly to commercial and industrial users.
34. Axis Bank has introduced the 'Infinity Savings Account,' a new savings account variant tailored for digitally savvy customers who frequently embrace subscription-based models. The account offers exclusive benefits such as waived Average Monthly Balance (AMB) requirements, complimentary debit cards, and the absence of domestic charges in exchange for a small monthly recurring fee of ₹150 or an annual fee of ₹1,650.
35. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has produced India's first set of Catalysts for Selective Catalyst Reactors (SCR) designed to limit NOx emissions from thermal power plants. The inaugural set of SCR catalysts has been manufactured for use in the 5x800 MW Yadadri Thermal Power Station in Telangana. The manufacturing milestone was achieved at BHEL's Solar Business Division (SBD) unit in Bengaluru. BHEL stands as India's largest engineering and manufacturing company in its category.
36. Chandrayaan-3's Pragyan rover, developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), has confirmed the presence of sulphur in the lunar surface near the south pole. This groundbreaking discovery was made through the rover's Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy, marking the first-ever in-situ measurements of lunar surface composition. The spectroscopy also detected elements such as Aluminium, Calcium, Iron, Chromium, Titanium, Manganese, Silicon, and Oxygen as expected, with ongoing efforts to search for hydrogen.
37. India is set to host the inaugural 'Global IndiaAI 2023' in October 2023, organized by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. This event will bring together leading AI experts, researchers, startups, and investors from India and around the world.
38. The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and the National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the period of 2023-25. The aim is to uplift the socio-economic status of Safai Karamcharis and their dependents, focusing on empowering marginalized communities across the nation.
39. The renowned local products of Jammu and Kashmir, Bhaderwah Rajma, and Ramban Sulai Honey, have received the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) Tag. The Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare,

Jammu, initiated the GI Tagging process, which is expected to boost the economic well-being of local producers.

40. The Indian Army has signed contracts for the acquisition of 130 tethered drones and 19 tank-driving simulators under Emergency Procurement (EP). Tethered drones are unmanned aerial vehicles connected to the ground via a tether (cable) and will enhance the armed forces' capabilities.
41. NASA is launching a groundbreaking technology demonstration, the Integrated LCRD Low Earth Orbit User Modem and Amplifier Terminal (ILLUMA-T), to the Space Station. This initiative aims to improve space communication capabilities, and it will be launched on SpaceX's 29th Commercial Resupply mission.
42. Chandrayaan-3 has revealed a significant temperature difference between the moon's surface and a point approximately 8 cm below it. This information was gathered by an instrument called ChaSTE (Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment) and shows valuable insights into lunar surface temperature variations.
43. The Textiles ministry has introduced the GREAT scheme (Grant for Research and Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles) to promote innovation in technical textiles. The scheme provides grants of up to Rs 50 lakh for startups and individuals, fostering innovation in this specialized segment.
44. Chef Sanjeev Kapoor has been appointed as the brand ambassador for IndianOil's Indane XTRATEJ LPG brand. This announcement was made at the Indane XtraTej Hotelier Harmony Meet in Bengaluru, emphasizing Indian Oil's dedication to culinary innovation and efficiency.
45. The government plans to establish 1,000 Khelo India Centres across the country within a year. These centers will receive financial support for equipment procurement and operational expenses, aimed at promoting sports at the grassroots level.
46. The 'Awareness Campaign and Training of Trainers' initiative has been launched by Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda to educate grassroots workers about sickle cell anemia, with the goal of eradicating the disease by 2047 under the National Sickle Cell Anaemia Elimination Mission.
47. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan unveiled a unique comic book titled "Let's Move Forward" at Kaushal Bhawan, New Delhi. The book encourages students to prioritize holistic well-being, focusing on good health and wellness through storytelling.