

**August 2023 Monthly Current Affairs**

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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### **ORON Aircraft: Israel's Advanced Intelligence-Gathering Asset**

- The ORON aircraft, a result of Israel's Defense Ministry's groundbreaking progress, signifies a remarkable advancement in the nation's military capabilities.
- This intelligence-gathering aircraft is poised to revolutionize Israel's defense strategy with its cutting-edge technology and capabilities.

### **Zimbabwean President Mnangagwa re-elected for 2nd and final five-year term**

- Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa was re-elected for a second and final five-year term in August 2023.
- His victory over his closest competitor, Nelson Chamisa after his first full term in office, strengthened ZANU-PF 's grip on power.
- Zimbabwe has over the past two decades suffered under disastrous economic policies that have led to soaring prices, high unemployment, and a medical system lacking basic drugs and equipment.

### **African swine fever: Highly contagious virus hit 49 countries since 2021**

- Since its resurgence in January 2021, the highly contagious African Swine Fever (ASF) virus has rampantly spread across the globe, infiltrating 49 countries by August 2023. The virus, infamous for its nearly 100% fatality rate among domestic and wild pigs, has wrought havoc on pig populations, with over 1.5 million animals lost within this timeframe. The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), a prominent intergovernmental organization dedicated to combatting animal diseases, released a report detailing this alarming spread on August 21, 2023.
- Since January 2021, the highly contagious African Swine Fever (ASF) virus has spread to 49 countries by August 2023.
- This virus affects both domestic and wild pigs, causing nearly 100% mortality.
- Over 1.5 million animals have been lost due to ASF, with devastating consequences for pig populations.

### **Iran, Egypt, Saudi Arabia among 6 countries to join the BRICS alliance**

- In a significant geopolitical development, the BRICS alliance, comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, has announced the inclusion of six new member countries. This expansion marks a notable shift in the alliance's composition and has the potential to reshape the dynamics of global cooperation.
- President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa, the host nation of the recent BRICS summit, made a historic announcement on August 24th, revealing the names of the new entrants to the alliance. The expanded BRICS now welcomes Argentina, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, and Egypt into its fold. This move not only diversifies the alliance but also provides a platform for

emerging economies from different regions to align their interests on the global stage.

- This expansion was not a sudden development but rather the result of a well - considered decision. Official sources had previously indicated that BRICS was in the process of extending invitations to potential new members. This strategic move carries the potential to forge connections with nations eager to collaborate within a coalition dedicated to advancing the concerns of the “Global South.”

### **Srettha Thavisin elected Thailand PM as Thaksin returns from exile**

- Thai property tycoon Srettha Thavisin has been elected as the new prime minister of Thailand following a decisive win in a parliamentary vote. The 60-year-old Thavisin’s victory in the parliamentary vote, with the support of two-thirds of the assembly, ends weeks of political uncertainty that followed an election held 100 days ago.
- Srettha Thavisin after completing his studies in 1986, embarked on his professional path, assuming the role of an assistant product manager at Procter & Gamble. This initial chapter of his career spanned a duration of four years, during which he gained valuable insights and experience. However, it was in the year 1988 that he embarked on a transformative journey, co-founding Sansiri. This enterprise would go on to establish itself as one of Thailand’s foremost real estate development companies, leaving an indelible mark on the industry.
- Srettha Thavisin’s election as prime minister ushers in a new era of coalition politics. He faces the challenging task of holding together a potentially fragile coalition government, which includes parties affiliated with the royalist military. The military, notorious for orchestrating coups in 2006 and 2014 that toppled Pheu Thai (a major Thai political party) governments, holds a significant stake in this coalition. Thavisin’s ability to navigate the intricacies of this coalition will play a pivotal role in determining the stability and direction of Thailand’s government.

### **Russia's first robotic moon mission in nearly 50 years ends in failure**

- Russia’s eagerly anticipated lunar mission, the Luna-25, has suffered a significant setback as the spacecraft veered out of control and crashed onto the Moon surface. The failure is a poignant reminder of the unpredictable challenges inherent in space exploration, emphasizing that even the most advanced technology is susceptible to failure. This article delves into the details of the mission, the implications of its failure, and Russia’s unwavering commitment to lunar exploration.
- The Luna-25 mission was an ambitious undertaking by Russia, aimed at landing a spacecraft on the Moon’s South Pole. This region garnered intense scientific interest due to its potential to contain water ice, a precious resource for future lunar endeavors. Beyond its scientific objectives, the Luna-25 also served as a

preliminary step towards more advanced lunar missions, setting the stage for future missions that would gather and return lunar soil samples to Earth.

#### **India accounts for 35% of cargo handled by Russia's Arctic Murmansk port this year**

- India's collaboration with Russia's Arctic region is on the rise, evidenced by its substantial contribution to cargo handled at Murmansk port. This strategic port, positioned about 2,000 km northwest of Moscow, serves as a key northern gateway for Russia, and in the first seven months of 2023, it handled a total of eight million tonnes of cargo. Notably, India's share accounted for 35% of this cargo, primarily consisting of coal destined for the eastern coast of India.
- India emerges as a significant player in the cargo operations of Murmansk port, responsible for 35% of the handled cargo. This impressive figure underscores India's economic and trade connections with the Arctic region.
- India's engagement extends to the Northern Sea Route (NSR), a crucial shipping pathway connecting the Asia-Pacific region and western Eurasia. The NSR offers a shorter route than traditional alternatives, enhancing the efficiency and safety of maritime transport.

#### **China's Inner Mongolia reports two cases of bubonic plague**

- China's Inner Mongolia region has reported two cases of bubonic plague, causing concerns amid previous infections and highlighting the need for vigilant containment efforts. The new cases involve close relatives of a previously infected individual. Bubonic plague is a highly infectious disease, primarily transmitted through rodents, and can be fatal if not treated promptly. The region's health authorities are taking proactive measures to prevent the further spread of the disease.
- Following a prior bubonic plague infection detected on August 7, China's northern region of Inner Mongolia has once again encountered two cases of the disease. These new cases involve the husband and daughter of the previous infected person, as confirmed by the local government's official statement.
- To curb the potential spread of the disease, authorities have taken swift action by quarantining all close contacts of the newly infected individuals. It is reassuring to note that as of now, none of the quarantined contacts have exhibited any abnormal symptoms related to bubonic plague. This proactive approach emphasizes the region's commitment to preventing a wider outbreak.

#### **Typhoon Lan: mass power cuts hit western Japan as storm makes landfall**

- Typhoon Lan made landfall in Japan, August 15, bringing heavy rain and strong winds. The typhoon has caused flooding and power outages in several areas, and authorities have issued evacuation warnings for some residents. The typhoon made landfall near Shionomisaki in Wakayama prefecture, about 400 kilometers southwest of Tokyo. It had maximum sustained winds of 160 kilometers per hour (100 miles per hour), equivalent to a Category 2 hurricane.

- The typhoon has since weakened slightly, but it is still bringing heavy rain and strong winds to Japan. The Japan Meteorological Agency has warned that the typhoon could cause flooding and landslides in some areas. Evacuation warnings have been issued for residents in several areas, including Wakayama, Osaka, and Kyoto prefectures. More than 237,000 people have been advised to evacuate their homes. The typhoon has also caused power outages in some areas. More than 100,000 households are without power in Wakayama prefecture. Authorities are urging residents to stay safe and follow the instructions of local officials.
- Typhoon Lan has caused widespread damage in Japan. The typhoon has caused flooding and landslides, and has knocked down trees and power lines. More than 237,000 people have been evacuated from their homes, and more than 100,000 households are without power.

#### **Pakistan: Anwarul Haq Kakar Sworn In As Caretaker Prime Minister**

- Anwarul Haq Kakar, a prominent ethnic Pushtun leader with close ties to the influential military, has taken the oath as the country's caretaker prime minister. With this appointment, Kakar is entrusted with the responsibility of heading an impartial administration, supervising the forthcoming general elections, and addressing the economic hurdles confronting the country.
- Kakar is distinguished as the youngest interim Prime Minister in the history of Pakistan.
- In a modest ceremony held at the President House, President Arif Alvi administered the oath to Anwarul Haq Kakar. The event was attended by outgoing Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and several prominent leaders. This moment marked Kakar's elevation to the role of the 8th interim prime minister of Pakistan.
- Kakar formally resigned from the Senate and the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), solidifying his commitment to the neutrality demanded by his current position. The Senate chairman acknowledged Kakar's resignation in accordance with the provisions outlined in clause (1) of Article 64 of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

#### **Bahrain: INS Visakhapatnam and Deepak reach Port Mina Salman**

- Indian Navy ships INS Visakhapatnam and Deepak are visiting Port Mina Salman, Bahrain from August 14 to 17.
- The visit is aimed at strengthening ties between the Indian and Bahraini navies.
- The visit includes sharing best practices to enhance cooperation between the two navies.

#### **Canada to Starts Accepting PTE Scores For Student Direct Stream Applications**

- In a significant development for international students aspiring to study in Canada, the country's Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has



officially sanctioned the use of Pearson's PTE Academic test as an English language proficiency assessment.

- Earlier this year, the IRCC made a momentous decision by endorsing Pearson's PTE Academic test as a valid measure of English language proficiency. This move acknowledges the rigorous standards and accuracy of the PTE Academic assessment, further enhancing the credibility and global recognition of this language proficiency test.
- Students who have taken the PTE Academic test before August 10 are eligible to benefit from this new directive. As long as these scores are submitted within the stipulated expiry period set by the IRCC, they can be used for Student Direct Stream (SDS) applications.

#### **Chinese economy slips into deflation as recovery falters and demand slows**

- Deflation, the inverse of inflation, signifies a persistent decline in the general price levels of goods and services within an economy. The recent occurrence of deflation in China, the world's second-largest economy, has triggered concerns about its economic prospects and the need for robust policy responses from Beijing.
  - Deflation can be succinctly described as a continuous reduction in overall price levels across an economy. This situation contrasts with inflation, where prices increase over time. In China's case, both the consumer price index (CPI) and producer price index (PPI) reported declines in July.
1. Consumer Price Index (CPI) Decline: China's CPI dipped by 0.3 percent year-on-year in July, marking its first decrease since February 2021.
  2. Producer Price Index (PPI) Decline: The PPI experienced its tenth consecutive monthly decline, falling by 4.4 percent, surpassing the predicted 4.1 percent decrease.

#### **Cambodia's parliament to have woman as president for first time**

- In a move towards gender inclusivity and leadership diversity, Khuon Sudary is set to assume the esteemed role of President of the National Assembly of Cambodia.
- Currently serving as the second Vice-President of the National Assembly and a prominent member of the Standing Committee of the Cambodian People's Party (CPP), Khuon Sudary's ascent to the presidency reflects her years of dedication and service to her nation.
- The announcement was made by Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen, emphasizing the commitment to empowering women in pivotal roles within the government.

#### **Pakistan parliament dissolved to set stage for national election**

- In a significant political development, Pakistan's President took the step of dissolving the country's parliament as per the recommendation of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif.

- The lower house of the Parliament's five-year term is due to end on August 12. This move comes at a critical juncture as Pakistan grapples with both political and economic challenges.
- The decision to dissolve the parliament was executed just three days prior to the culmination of the current parliamentary term. As part of the process, a caretaker administration will be established, jointly chosen by Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and a representative from the outgoing parliament's opposition leadership.

#### **New Covid variant Eris spreading rapidly in UK**

- A new COVID variant Eris or EG.5.1 is rapidly spreading across the country United Kingdom. Startlingly, one out of every seven COVID-19 cases in the UK is now linked to this variant.
- The spread of Eris is not limited only to UK but also across Europe, Asia and North America, marking its impact globally.
- The Eris variant is believed to have originated from the Omicron lineage of the COVID-19.

#### **Cambodian king appoints Hun Manet as new PM**

- Cambodia's King, Norodom Sihamoni issued a royal decree appointing Hun Manet as Prime Minister, after Mr. Hun Sen had announced last month that he was stepping down and handing power to his eldest son.
- Hun Sen, one of the world's longest-serving leaders made the announcement days after a landslide victory in July polls that were widely decried as a sham, after main challenger the Candlelight Party was barred from participating.
- Cambodia Capital: Phnom Penh, Cambodia Currency: Cambodian riel, Cambodia Official language: Khmer.

#### **India imposes anti-dumping duty on optical fibre imports from China, Korea and Indonesia**

- Based on the recommendations of the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), the revenue department has imposed an anti-dumping duty on Dispersion Unshifted Single-Mode Optical Fiber (SMOF) imports from China, South Korea and Indonesia.
- As reported by the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), the domestic optical fiber industry has experienced detrimental consequences due to the surge of inexpensive and substandard imports from these nations.

#### **India receives Spike NLOS missiles from Israel, firing trials shortly**

- In a boost to its capabilities to destroy enemy targets hidden behind mountains, the Indian Air Force (IAF) has received the Israeli Spike Non Line of Sight (NLOS) antitank guided missiles which can hit targets from distances up to 30 km.
- The Israeli Spike NLOS anti-tank guided missiles have been delivered and its trials are going to be held soon,

- The NLOS missiles are now going to be integrated with the Russian-origin fleet of Mi-17V5 helicopters which would be able to take out targets from long ranges and can prove to be very effective against enemy targets and assets hidden behind mountains or hills, the sources added.

### **NATIONAL NEWS**

#### **Maharashtra tops in attracting FDI in Q1 of this fiscal: Fadnavis**

- In the first quarter of the fiscal year 2023-24, Maharashtra has emerged as the front-runner in attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis proudly announced that the state secured the top position by attracting FDI amounting to Rs 36,634 crore.
- This noteworthy achievement places Maharashtra ahead of other prominent states like Delhi, Karnataka, and Telangana, whose cumulative FDI values trail behind.

#### **Tata Power arm to set up 4.4 MW solar project for ANAND Group**

- In a significant partnership, ACME Group, a prominent renewable energy company, has joined forces with Tata Steel Special Economic Zone Ltd. (TSSEZL) to establish an expansive green hydrogen and green ammonia project within Odisha's Gopalpur Industrial Park.
- This venture is poised to become the largest facility of its kind in India, marking a significant stride towards sustainable energy production.

#### **Finance Minister Launched HSBC India's Green Hydrogen Partnerships**

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in partnership with the IIT Bombay, and Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation launched HSBC India's strategic partnerships to enable innovation in green hydrogen.
- Green hydrogen has a pivotal role to play as we counter climate change and work towards enabling a low-carbon and self-reliant economy

#### **MP announced Ladli Behna Yojana aid hike, 35% job reservation for women**

- Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan raised the financial aid given to women in the Ladli Behna scheme from Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,250 per month
- He also announced 35 percent reservation for them in government jobs and provided gas cylinders for Rs 450.
- Under the programme, women between the ages of 23 and 60, who do not pay income taxes and whose families make less than Rs 2.5 lakh annually, receive Rs 1,000 every month.

#### **Maharashtra signs MoU with Germany's professional association football**

- The Maharashtra Government has signed an MoU with Germany's professional association football league, 'Bundesliga', to build a football team for players under the age of 14.
- The Bundesliga is Germany's premier professional football league.



- It is one of the leading football leagues in Europe and the best football players and teams belong to the league.

#### **India, Asian Development Bank to set up climate change and health hub in Delhi**

- India is now all set to open a climate change and health hub in the national capital Delhi in partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- Earlier, India had bagged the first WHO Centre for Global Traditional Medicine. WHO Centre for Global Traditional Medicine was set up in Jamnagar, Gujarat.
- The new hub for climate change and health will facilitate knowledge sharing, promote partnerships and innovations, and also help countries beyond the G-20, especially developing countries.

#### **Ministry of education unveils smart India hackathon 2023**

- The Ministry of Education and the All India Council of Technical Education have launched the sixth edition of the Smart India Hackathon 2023.
- Aim: To showcase the growing culture of innovation in India's education sector.
- Objective: To bring together the creativity of India's young minds with real-world challenges faced by various government departments.
- It has become a global model for hackathons and innovation frameworks, reflecting its dynamic evolution over time.

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#### **SVAMITVA Scheme Of Ministry Of Panchayati Raj Won National Award For E - Governance 2023**

- The SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas) Scheme, initiated by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, has been honored with the prestigious National Award for e-Governance 2023 (Gold) in recognition of its groundbreaking application of emerging technologies to deliver citizen-centric services.
- The accolade was presented during the 26th National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) held in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, organized by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Government of India.

#### **Kolkata becomes the third Indian city to adopt an Air Quality Early Warning System**

- Kolkata became the third Indian city to adopt the Air Quality Early Warning System to combat rising air pollution.
- The system, developed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology in Pune, aims to address rising air pollution levels in urban areas.
- AQEWS in Kolkata uses an advanced sensor network to provide real-time monitoring of the Air Quality Index ).
- AQI is a standardized measure of the level of air pollution, with a value ranging from 0 to 500.

#### **Indian Navy participates in 5th 'AUSINDEX-23' held in Australia**

- From August 22 to 25, 2023, the 5th edition of the biennial AUSINDEX maritime exercise occurred in Sydney, Australia, conducted collaboratively by the Indian Navy and the Royal Australian Navy.
- Indian Navy and Royal Australian Navy (RAN) jointly organized the exercise.
- The participating ships included INS Sahyadri, INS Kolkata from the Indian Navy, and HMAS Choules and HMAS Brisbane from RAN

#### **India hand over B20 presidency to Brazil to host G20 in 2024**

- India has handed over the B20 presidency to Brazil to host G20 in 2024.
- According to B20 India Chair N Chandrasekaran India's B20 Presidency under the its G20 Presidency worked under the theme of Vasaudeva Katumbakam (One Earth, One Family, One Future).
- Worked on 9 themes which included the empowerment of women and youth, the transition towards an Artificial Intelligence world, building a global resilient supply chain, and financing for the global economic recovery.

#### **Second G20-Chief Scientific Advisers' Roundtable meeting began in Gujarat**

- The second G20-Chief Scientific Advisers' Roundtable meeting officially began in Gandhinagar in August 2023.
- Science advisors, Scientists, researchers from G20 countries, and invited countries will participate.

#### **Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal launches Tele-Law- 2.0**

- Law and Justice Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal launched Tele-Law- 2.0 which Integrates Tele-Law and Nyaya Bandhu App to ensure access to Justice in New Delhi.
- Aim: To enable the common citizen to access legal advice, legal assistance, and legal representation through a single registration and single gateway of Tele-Law.
- The Minister called upon legal professionals to contribute pro bono services to ensure that no citizen is deprived of essential legal assistance.

#### **NCGG completes training of 27th batch of civil servants**

- The 2-week Capacity Building Programme (CBP) for civil servants of Maldives organised by the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) concluded on 25th August, 2023 today at New Delhi. NCGG has signed MoU with the Government of Maldives to enhance the skills and capabilities of 1,000 civil servants in the field of public administration and governance by 2024. As part of the agreement, NCGG has already imparted training to 858 officers from Maldives which includes 29 officers of ACC, Maldives.
- NCGG's efforts are aligned with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's philosophy of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" and "Neighbourhood First" policy and keeping citizens at the forefront while designing developmental strategies and implementing public policies. It is in this context

that these programmes reinforce the principles of citizen centric governance and promote the exchange of knowledge, information and innovations and promote the adoption of best practices and digital governance. It is also an effort in the direction of strengthening bilateral ties and fostering regional cooperation with neighbouring countries.

#### **Assam Issues Notification Banning Plastic Water Bottles Below 1000 ml**

- In a decisive move towards environmental conservation, the Assam Environment and Forest Department has taken a significant step by announcing the ban on the use and production of plastic water bottles below 1000 ml capacity within the state. This transformative initiative, set to be enforced from October 2 this year, reflects Assam's commitment to combat plastic pollution and promote sustainable practices.
- Recognizing the environmental hazards posed by such smaller plastic bottles, the Assam government's decision aligns with its commitment to safeguard the state's natural beauty and biodiversity.
- The Assam government made headlines by declaring its intent to prohibit the production and use of drinking water bottles made from Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) with a volume of less than 1 litre. This commendable decision has now materialized into official action, with the Assam Environment and Forest Department issuing a resolute notification on August 23. The notification effectively puts an end to the manufacturing, import, stocking, distribution, and sale of plastic water bottles below the specified capacity.

#### **FM Nirmala Sitharaman launched HSBC India's Green Hydrogen partnerships**

- In a significant step towards fostering innovation in the field of green hydrogen, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has launched strategic partnerships between HSBC India and prominent institutions, namely the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, and the Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (SSEF).
- The collaboration, which comes with a substantial grant support totaling ₹15 crore (\$2 million), marks a pivotal moment in advancing projects that prioritize green hydrogen as a strategic alternative fuel. These initiatives are poised to play a crucial role in building a resilient green-hydrogen economy.
- The partnerships forged by HSBC India underline the nation's commitment to accelerating innovation in the realm of green hydrogen. As India strives to reduce its carbon footprint and make significant strides in the fight against climate change, green hydrogen has emerged as a game-changing solution that aligns perfectly with these goals. The strategic partnerships aim to channel resources and expertise into projects that will drive the adoption of green hydrogen across various sectors.

#### **First ABDM Microsite Under NHA '100 Microsites Project' Launched in Mizoram**

- Under the "100 Microsites" initiative, the National Health Authority (NHA) of India has unveiled the first Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) Microsite in the capital city of Mizoram. This achievement is poised to transform the healthcare sector by propelling the advantages of digitalization to the forefront.

- The ABDM Microsite project represents a pivotal shift in healthcare digitization efforts across India. The concept revolves around establishing defined geographical regions where targeted outreach efforts are concentrated to onboard small and medium-scale private healthcare providers into the digital healthcare ecosystem.
- With a robust support framework in place, these providers will play a vital role in offering digital health services to patients. The project's origin can be traced to the vision of providing a significant push to healthcare digitization, reaching even the smallest healthcare facilities across the country.

#### **Nagaland shawl to Gond painting: PM Modi's special gifts for BRICS leaders**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was on a three-day visit to South Africa to attend the 15th BRICS summit, presented special gifts to the organization's leaders including South African president Cyril Ramaphosa, First Lady of South Africa Tshepo Motsepe, and Brazilian president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. PM Modi gifts Bidri Surahi, Nagaland Shawl, and Gond Painting to BRICS leaders.
- PM Modi gifted Bidri a pair of 'Surahi' from Telangana to South African President Cyril Ramaphosa. Bidrivase is a purely Indian innovation of 500 -year-old Persian, exclusive to Bidar. Bidrivase is cast with an alloy of Zinc, Copper, and other non-ferrous metals with pretty patterns engraved on the casting and inlaid with pure Silver wire. The casting is then soaked in a solution mixed with the special soil of Bidar Fort which has special oxidizing properties. This causes the Zinc alloy to turn into a lustrous black leaving the silver inlay intact to contrast stunningly with the black background.
- The Prime Minister also gifted a Nagaland shawl to the First Lady of South Africa Tshepo Motsepe. Naga shawls are an exquisite form of textile art that has been woven for centuries by the tribes in the state of Nagaland. These shawls are known for their vibrant colors, intricate designs, and the use of traditional weaving techniques which have been passed down from generation to generation.

#### **Govt To Launch GST Reward Scheme In 6 States, UTs From September 1**

- In a significant move towards enhancing transparency in financial transactions and empowering consumers, the Indian government is set to launch the 'Mera Bill Mera Adhikar' invoice incentive scheme. This pioneering scheme, scheduled to commence from September 1, aims to promote the habit of requesting bills during purchases, thereby fostering a culture of fiscal responsibility and accountability.
- The 'Mera Bill Mera Adhikar' scheme, conceptualized by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), is designed to instill a sense of confidence and assurance among consumers while making purchases. The scheme is geared towards creating awareness about the importance of receiving genuine invoices for business-to-consumer transactions, fostering a more transparent economy.

- Under this scheme, consumers are offered a compelling incentive to demand bills for their purchases. The range of cash prizes extends from ₹10,000 to a whopping ₹1 crore. These prizes will be awarded through monthly and quarterly draws, making participation exciting and rewarding. The scheme's architecture ensures that individuals stand a chance to win substantial cash rewards by simply requesting legitimate invoices during their transactions.

#### **Bharat NCAP: New vehicle safety norms set for launch**

- The Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP) was launched by Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari on August 22, 2023, in New Delhi. The program aims to enhance road safety by elevating vehicle safety standards for up to 3.5-tonne vehicles in India. Bharat NCAP will also greatly push the safety and quality of the vehicles in India, while simultaneously promoting a healthy competition among OEMs to manufacture safer vehicles.

#### **New Car Assessment Programme Details-**

- The program is applicable to type approved motor vehicles of M1 category less than 3.5T GVW.
- This is a voluntary program in which the base variants of a given model shall be tested.
- The program will commence from October 1, 2023, and will be based on Automotive Industry Standard (AIS) 197.
- The program aims to create an ecosystem of competitive safety enhancements leading to increased awareness among consumers.
- Consumers can take an informed decision by making a comparative assessment on vehicle performance under crash test conditions.

#### **India announces definition of Green Hydrogen**

- India has announced the definition of Green Hydrogen. The Green Hydrogen Standard for India sets a criterion of 2 kg CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per kg H<sub>2</sub> as a 12 - month average emission threshold. It is a significant move for the progress of the National Green Hydrogen Mission. The guidelines established by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India, delineate the emission benchmarks that must be fulfilled for hydrogen production to qualify as 'Green', signifying its origin from renewable sources.
- The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy has characterized Green Hydrogen as having a well-to-gate emission (encompassing processes like water treatment, electrolysis, gas purification, hydrogen drying, and compression) that does not exceed 2 kg CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per kg H<sub>2</sub>.
- The scope of the definition encompasses both electrolysis-based and biomass-based hydrogen production methods. The notification explicitly states that the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy will define a comprehensive methodology for measuring, reporting, monitoring, on-site verification, and certifying green hydrogen and its derivatives. Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of



Power shall be the Nodal Authority for accreditation of agencies for the monitoring, verification and certification for Green Hydrogen production projects.

#### **TN CM Stalin Lays Foundation Stone For South-East Asia's Largest Desalination Plant**

- In a significant stride towards resolving the water crisis gripping Chennai city, Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister, M K Stalin, has laid the foundation stone for what is set to become South East Asia's largest water desalination project.
- Spearheaded by VA Tech Wabag, a renowned pure-play water technology Indian Multinational Group based in Chennai, this project is poised to revolutionize the region's water supply. With an ambitious investment of Rs 4,400 crore, this initiative holds the potential to alleviate Chennai's water scarcity concerns and elevate the city's status as a water-sustainable urban center.
- The goal of the project is to establish a Seawater reverse osmosis (SWRO) desalination facility with the capacity to generate an impressive 400 million liters per day (MLD) of clean, drinkable water. The financial backing for this project is being extended by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), exemplifying a collaborative endeavor aimed at tackling a critical regional concern.

#### **President Droupadi Murmu gives assent to Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill and Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill**

- President Droupadi Murmu has officially granted her assent to two crucial pieces of legislation, namely the Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023, and the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023. Both of these bills, which had recently received approval from the Parliament, have now become law with the President's endorsement.
- The Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023, is designed to introduce amendments to the existing Central Goods and Services Tax Act of 2017. This bill encompasses adjustments to key definitions and provisions to better align with evolving technological and economic landscapes.
- Defining Online Gaming and Virtual Digital Assets: The bill adds definitions for crucial terms such as "online gaming," "online money gaming," and "virtual digital assets." It clarifies that online gaming refers to the offering of games over the internet or electronic networks, encompassing money gaming as well.

#### **President launched 'My Bengal, Addiction Free Bengal'**

- At an occasion held at the Raj Bhavan, President Droupadi Murmu launched the 'My Bengal, Addiction-Free Bengal' campaign, a vital undertaking organised by the Brahma Kumaris, aimed at tackling the prevalent issue of drug usage among the youth.
- Acknowledging the joint endeavors of both the central and state governments in confronting this concern, the president underscored the pressing need to urgently discover viable solutions to eradicate this threat from society.

- President Droupadi Murmu outlined a multi-faceted approach to tackling the issue of drug abuse, advocating for solutions that involve spiritual awakening, medical intervention, social unity, and determined political will. She emphasized that addiction often stems from mental stress and peer pressure, resulting in harmful consequences for both the individuals involved and their families. She also applauded organizations such as the Brahma Kumaris for engaging in discussions around these critical matters and actively working to find resolutions.

**The Matti banana variety native to Kanniyakumari district has been granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.**

- The Matti banana variety native to Kanniyakumari district has been granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag. These bananas thrive uniquely in the district's climate and soil, resulting in a larger-than-human finger-sized fruit with a sweet aroma and honey-like taste.

**Distinctive Attributes:**

1. Size and Taste: Matti bananas are slightly larger-than-human finger-sized fruits with a sweet fragrance and honey-like taste that remains unmatched outside their native region.
2. Variety Diversity: There are six distinct types of Matti bananas, each boasting unique qualities in terms of color, aroma, and flav

**Tulip Garden of Srinagar Entered Record Books With 1.5mn Flowers**

- Nestled amidst the picturesque foothills of the Zabarwan range, the Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden has etched its name in the annals of the World Book of Records as Asia's largest and most spectacular park of its kind. The garden, adorned with a enchanting variety of 1.5 million blooming flowers, stands as a living testament to the beauty and diversity of nature.
- The World Book President and CEO, Santosh Shukla, bestowed the esteemed certification upon Fayaz Sheikh, the Secretary of Floriculture, Gardens, and Parks.
- With an enchanting collection of 68 distinctive tulip varieties, the Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden is a captivating tapestry of colors and shapes. Each tulip variety presents a unique personality, painting the landscape with hues that range from the most delicate pastels to the most vibrant and striking shades. The garden's meticulously curated collection showcases the tireless efforts of horticulturists and botanists in cultivating a breathtaking array of nature's wonders.

**Bhagwan Birsa Munda Jodaraste Scheme: Maharashtra govt to link all tribal villages in state with main roads**

- The Maharashtra government has taken a significant step towards enhancing connectivity and improving the lives of tribal communities in the state. The Bhagwan Birsa Munda Jodaraste Scheme aims to link all tribal villages in 17

districts of Maharashtra with main roads, effectively addressing the challenges faced by these communities in accessing essential services. The project, estimated at a cost of Rs 5,000 crore, will involve the construction of approximately 6,838 kilometers of roads.

#### **Built in 43 days: India's first 3D-printed post office inaugurated in Bengaluru**

- Bengaluru, often hailed as nation's tech capital, has welcomed the India's first 3D-printed post office. Located in Cambridge Layout near Ulsoor, this post office has set a new benchmark for efficiency, sustainability, and design.
- Inaugurating the post office, Ashwini Vaishnaw, the Union Minister for Railways, Communications, Electronics & Information Technology, commended Bengaluru's innovative spirit. The post office, encompassing an area of 1,021 square feet, was swiftly completed in just 43 days – a remarkable departure from the conventional construction period of around 10 months.
- Employing quick-setting materials and a specially engineered robotic arm extruder, the technique known as contour crafting was utilized to construct the building's intricate design. This method allowed for precise layering, resulting in a unique and visually captivating structure.

#### **Chairman, Central Water Commission Launches Mobile App**

- The Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC), Shri Kushvinder Vohra, has taken a groundbreaking step towards enhancing flood preparedness and response by unveiling the "FloodWatch" mobile application.
- This revolutionary app is designed to harness the power of mobile phones to disseminate real-time flood-related information and forecasts to the public, up to 7 days in advance. The app, which offers both readable and audio broadcasts, is available in two languages, English and Hindi, making it accessible to a wider audience.
- The core functionality of the "FloodWatch" app revolves around providing real-time flood monitoring. Users can conveniently access up-to-date flood situation reports from across the country. Drawing from near real-time river flow data from various reliable sources, the app empowers users with accurate and current flood-related information.
- One of the key features that set the "FloodWatch" app apart is its flood forecasting capabilities. Users can receive flood forecast for their nearest locations, enabling them to stay informed about potential flood threats. The app's Home Page offers easy access to flood advisories at the station closest to the user, simplifying the process of obtaining crucial information.

#### **G20 Film Festival kicks off in Delhi with Pather Panchali screening**

- The first G20 film festival, organized by the Ministry of External Affairs and India International Centre, commenced in Delhi with the screening of the renowned drama film "Pather Panchali" by Satyajit Ray.

- The distinguished veteran actor Victor Banerjee and G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant graced the festival's grand opening, symbolizing a significant stride towards nurturing cross-cultural comprehension through the medium of cinema.
- The festival unfolded against the backdrop of the Indian classic, "Pather Panchali", directed by the visionary Satyajit Ray in 1955. This cinematic masterpiece, celebrated for its emotional depth and timeless relevance, set the stage for a cinematic extravaganza that will span 17 days, culminating on September 3rd. The captivating journey will encompass 15 more exceptional films that have left an indelible mark on the global cinematic landscape.

**PM-eBus Sewa scheme will significantly boost landscape of cleaner public transport: SMEV**

- In a significant move towards enhancing urban transportation and promoting electric mobility, the Union Cabinet has given its nod to the "PM -eBus Sewa" scheme. This initiative is aimed at expanding city bus operations by deploying 10,000 electric buses through a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model.
1. Scheme Cost and Support: The PM-eBus Sewa scheme is projected to incur a total cost of Rs 57,613 crore. To facilitate its implementation, the Central government will provide financial support of Rs 20,000 crore.
  2. Coverage Criteria: The scheme will encompass cities with a population of three lakh and above as per the 2011 census, including capital cities of Union Territories, the North Eastern Region, and Hill States.
  3. Direct Job Creation: Implementation of the scheme is projected to result in the creation of 45,000 to 55,000 direct job opportunities.
  4. Segment A: Augmenting City Bus Services: One segment of the scheme, labeled Segment A, is dedicated to enhancing city bus services across 169 cities.
  5. Segment B: Green Urban Mobility Initiatives (GUMI): The second segment, Segment B, targets 181 cities and revolves around green mobility initiatives.
  6. Operational Framework: The responsibility of operating the bus services and making payments to bus operators will rest with the respective states and cities.
  7. Promoting E-Mobility: The scheme places a strong emphasis on promoting electric mobility.
  8. Environmental Benefits: The transition to electric mobility will yield positive environmental outcomes.

**Crafting a Better Future: PM Vishwakarma Yojana's Impact on Artisans - INVC**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent announcement of the Vishwakarma Yojana in his Independence Day address has paved the way for a new scheme aimed at bolstering the livelihood prospects of traditional artisans and craftspeople. Following this announcement, the Union Cabinet swiftly approved the scheme, demonstrating its commitment to promoting and preserving traditional skills and crafts.
- The Vishwakarma Yojana is a visionary initiative by the Indian government designed to extend financial assistance to individuals engaged in traditional

crafts and skills. This scheme seeks to provide a strong support system to artisans, enabling them to flourish in their crafts while also contributing to the preservation of India's rich cultural heritage.

- Under the umbrella of the Vishwakarma Yojana, a dedicated allocation of Rs 13,000 crore has been earmarked to empower artisans across the country. The scheme offers subsidized loans of up to Rs 2 lakh to craftsmen, aiming to alleviate financial constraints that might impede their artistic pursuits.

### **CSIR-NBRI launches improved lotus variety 'Namoh 108'**

- In a momentous celebration, the CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute (CSIR-NBRI) launched an extraordinary variety of the national flower, Lotus, named 'Namoh 108'. This unique flower boasts an astonishing 108 petals and was dedicated to the nation on the eve of Independence Day, underscoring its significance in the cultural and religious tapestry of India.
- The unveiling took place during the NBRI's week-long festival 'One Week One Lab Programme' in Lucknow, with CSIR Director General N Kalaiselvi leading the ceremony.
- The 'Namoh 108' lotus variety has been meticulously developed by NBRI scientists, who brought the original plant from Manipur for comprehensive research. It became the first Lotus variety to have its entire genome sequenced, ensuring its longevity and protection from potential extinction.
- Unlike its counterparts, the 'Namoh 108' lotus variety has exhibited exceptional resilience to varying weather conditions, showcasing its ability to bloom magnificently from March to December.

### **Goa becomes first state to provide IVF free at govt hospital**

- In a significant stride towards accessible and affordable healthcare, Goa has emerged as the trailblazer 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 officially inaugurated by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant at the Goa Medical College (GMC) in Bambolim.
- With this momentous development, Goa establishes itself as a trailblazer in healthcare services. Goa Medical College's super-speciality block is now equipped to offer IVF treatment, responding to the needs of the community with compassion and innovation. Approximately 100 hopeful parents have already registered with GMC, eager to avail the IVF facility.
- In India, the cost of IVF treatment has often been a significant deterrent for couples seeking fertility solutions. Depending on the hospital and the complexity of the IVF procedure, the expenses can range from Rs 70,000 to Rs 3 lakh per cycle. The financial burden often leaves many individuals and families grappling with limited options. The Goa government's decision to offer free IVF treatment directly addresses this pressing concern, easing the financial strain on couples and expanding access to reproductive healthcare.



**President to launch advanced frigate Vindhyagiri in Kolkata on 17 Aug**

- President Droupadi Murmu will launch Vindhyagiri, a Project 17A Frigate, on 17 August 2023 in Kolkata.
- Vindhyagiri is the sixth ship of the Project 17A Frigates, which are follow-ons of the Project 17 Class Frigates.
- Under the Project 17A program, the first five ships of the project have been launched by MDL and GRSE between 2019-2022.

**Skill ministry launches DBT in NAPS to strengthen apprenticeship ecosystem**

- Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Union Minister for Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, inaugurated the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) to strengthen apprenticeship training and encouraging the involvement of both industries and young individuals.
- During the launch event, an approximate sum of Rs. 15 crores was disbursed to one lakh apprentices, signifying the official commencement of DBT in NAPS.
- Since its inception in 2016 until July 31, 2023, the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme has engaged a total of 25 lakh youths as apprentices. The scheme has witnessed remarkable progress, with around 2.6 lakh apprentices successfully completing their training in the fiscal year 2023-24.
- A notable achievement attributed to the Government of India's proactive efforts is the exponential growth in the number of active establishments participating in apprenticeship training. The count has surged from 6,755 in 2018-19 to an impressive 40,655 in 2023-24.

**Railway Ministry to establish Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras at railway stations across India**

- The Railways Ministry is embarking on a significant endeavor aimed at establishing Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) at railway stations throughout the country. This initiative holds the primary objective of ensuring the availability of top-notch medicines to the public, all while maintaining an affordable price point.
- As part of this progressive initiative, the Ministry has meticulously curated a list of fifty railway stations that will serve as the launching grounds for the pilot project. This strategic selection aims to lay the groundwork for greater accessibility to Janaushadhi products for both passengers and visitors frequenting these bustling stations.
- The establishment of PMBJKs addresses the pressing healthcare requirements of passengers while fostering an improved overall experience.
- In summary, the Railways Ministry's groundbreaking move to establish Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras at railway stations heralds a new era of accessible and affordable healthcare solutions. Beyond its core mission of dispensing quality medicines, this initiative envisions a holistic transformation

that encompasses enhanced accessibility, economic empowerment, and entrepreneurial growth.

#### **DPIIT, Ministry of Rural Development jointly launch 'One District One Product' Wall at SARAS Ajeevika Store**

- In a significant stride towards showcasing the rich heritage of Indian craftsmanship and fostering self-reliance, the One District One Product (ODOP) program has joined hands with the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) to launch the captivating and innovative 'ODOP Wall'.
- This initiative not only celebrates India's artistic diversity but also amplifies the voices of rural artisans and women entrepreneurs, providing them with a platform to showcase their exceptional skills and craftsmanship to the world.
- The 'ODOP Wall' launch event marked a significant step towards the realization of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision to exhibit the unparalleled uniqueness of Indian crafts to the world. This collaboration between the ODOP program and DAY-NRLM aims to highlight the exceptional craftsmanship and cultural significance embedded within the products that originate from various districts across India.

#### **NCERT Constitutes 19-Member Panel for Textbook Revision in India**

- The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has formed a 19-member committee responsible for aligning school syllabi, textbooks, teaching materials, and learning resources with the National Curriculum Framework (NCF).
- The committee's mandate covers Classes 3 to 12, and it also aims to ensure a seamless transition from Classes 1 and 2 to subsequent grades.
- With a diverse range of expertise spanning mathematics, arts, economics, sports, policy, and administration, this committee aims to create an educational framework that aligns with contemporary needs while embracing cultural and regional diversity. Each member contributes their valuable insights, driving the transformation of India's school education system.

#### **Meghalaya Launches Rs 500 Crore Chief Minister's Solar Mission To Bridge Power Deficit**

- In a significant step towards harnessing renewable energy and reducing power deficits, Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma launched the Chief Minister's Solar Mission, a pioneering initiative aimed at ushering in a new era of green progress for the north eastern hill state.
- The mission, backed by an investment of Rs 500 crore from the government over the next five years, is set to transform the state's energy landscape and contribute to its sustainable development.
- The state government has allocated an annual investment of Rs 100 crore to kickstart the solar mission. Additionally, plans are underway to attract diverse funding partners, including

contributions from corporate social responsibility, carbon credits, and international organizations sharing the vision of sustainable energy.

### **India Aims to Increase Natural Gas Share to 15% by 2030**

- India is embarking on a bold journey to significantly enhance its current 6% share of natural gas within its energy mix to a robust 15% by the year 2030. This audacious endeavor is being spearheaded by Rameswar Teli, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas. The government is resolutely pursuing an array of far-reaching strategies to realize this vision, as elaborated by the minister in a written response to the Lok Sabha.

#### **Strategic Steps to Achieve the 2030 Target**

1. **Expansion of National Gas Grid Pipeline:** A pivotal step involves the expansion of the National Gas Grid Pipeline, creating an extensive network for efficient distribution of natural gas across the nation.
2. **City Gas Distribution (CGD) Network Enhancement:** The expansion of the City Gas Distribution network is another cornerstone of the strategy. This initiative ensures that urban and suburban areas have accessible and reliable sources of natural gas.
3. **Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Terminals Establishment:** Setting up LNG Terminals is a crucial aspect, facilitating the import and storage of liquefied natural gas to meet the growing demand.
4. **Domestic Gas Allocation for CNG and PNG:** The government is dedicated to ensuring a steady supply of domestic gas for Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) in the transportation sector and Piped Natural Gas (PNG) for domestic usage. This allocation is classified as “no cut,” ensuring stability.
5. **Market and Pricing Freedom for Specific Gas Sources:** The government’s forward-looking stance includes granting marketing and pricing freedom to gas extracted from high-pressure/high-temperature areas, deep water, ultra-deep water, and coal seams. This promotes exploration and utilization of diverse gas sources.
6. **Promotion of Bio-CNG through SATAT:** The Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) initiative takes center stage in promoting Bio-CNG, a sustainable and eco-friendly alternative for transportation fuel.

### **Govt moves to overhaul British-era criminal laws**

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah introduced three new bills in Lok Sabha to reform the criminal justice system in India. Among these bills is the Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, which aims to replace the outdated Indian Evidence Act of 1872. This move is in response to the need for legal reforms that align with technological advancements and societal changes.
- The Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, 2023, seeks to consolidate and establish general rules and principles of evidence to ensure a fair trial in criminal cases. The current Indian Evidence Act is outdated and lacks provisions that cater to the modern landscape. The new bill aims to rectify this by modernizing the laws surrounding evidence and aligning them with the current needs and aspirations of the populace.
- In addition to the Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, two other bills have been introduced: the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, which will replace the Indian Penal Code (IPC), and the Bharatiya

Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, which will replace the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC). These bills collectively aim to revamp the legal framework pertaining to criminal justice.

#### **Government forms new panel to review all NSO data**

- In a recent development, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) of the Government of India has taken a significant step by replacing the existing Standing Committee on Economic Statistics (SCES) with a more comprehensive entity called the Standing Committee on Statistics (SCoS).
- This new committee has been entrusted with a broader mandate, involving the review of both the framework and outcomes of all surveys conducted under the National Statistical Office (NSO).

#### **Keralam, Not Kerala: Assembly Approves Unanimous Resolution To Change State Name**

- In a significant move aimed at embracing its cultural and linguistic heritage, the Kerala Legislative Assembly has passed a resolution requesting the Central government to change the name of the state from 'Kerala' to 'Keralam'.
- The term 'Keralam' traces its roots to the fusion of two Malayalam words – "Kera," symbolizing coconut, and "Alam" denoting land. Thus, 'Keralam' intricately encase the essence of the "Land of Coconut Trees" paying homage to the state's prolific coconut cultivation, a pivotal contributor amounting to about 45% of India's overall coconut harvest.
- The proposal involves a modification of the current nomenclature to 'Keralam,' a change that is sought to be instituted through the provisions of Article 3 of the Constitution.

#### **CJI Chandrachud launched QR code-based ePass for entry at SC**

- In a proactive effort to modernize and streamline access to justice, Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y Chandrachud unveiled the 'SuSwagatam' portal.
- The 'SuSwagatam' portal, along with its user-friendly mobile application, empowers litigants and visitors with the convenience of a QR code-enabled ePass. This digital pass not only facilitates a smooth entry experience but also serves as an exit credential, enhancing the overall efficiency of access management.
- Ensuring the highest standards of security, 'SuSwagatam' offers role-based secure logins for different categories of users. During the registration process, individuals have the option to upload proof of identity and even capture a live photograph, further enhancing the validation process.

#### **Gujarat CM Launches Mobile App That Will Help Forest Dept Track Movement Of Lions**

- To celebrate World Lion Day, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel of Gujarat introduced a new mobile application called 'Sinh Suchna'.

- The launch event, held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, signifies a significant step towards modern wildlife conservation, enabling both the state's forest department and the general public to effectively monitor lion movements.
- The 'Sinh Suchna' app empowers individuals to directly report lion sightings to the forest department. This innovative approach facilitates real-time tracking and swift conflict resolution.

#### **Number of elephants in Karnataka has gone up by 346**

- According to a report on Asian Elephant population and demography 2023, the state of Karnataka has witnessed a remarkable increase in elephant population.
- The number of elephants in Karnataka has surged from an estimated 6,049 in 2017 to an impressive 6,395, making it the highest elephant-populated region in the country.

#### **Anantnag's Mushqbudji rice, Rajouri Chikri woodcraft receive GI Tag**

- In a significant recognition of local craftsmanship and agricultural heritage, the Geographical Indication (GI) Tags have been bestowed upon Rajouri Chikri Wood Craft from Rajouri district and the prized Mushqbudji Rice variety from Anantnag district.
- These labels signify the unique nature and exceptional qualities of these products, tracing their origins to specific regions. This achievement is a result of a collaborative effort involving NABARD, the Department of Handicrafts & Handloom, and the Department of Agriculture, commencing in December 2020.

#### **ISB inks MoU with Goa government for knowledge partnership**

- The Bharti Institute of Public Policy, a renowned think tank under the Indian School of Business (ISB), and the Government of Goa have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a knowledge partnership.
- This strategic alliance is geared towards advancing evidence-based policy formulation and fostering impactful governance in the state of Goa.
- Under the terms of the MoU, the Bharti Institute of Public Policy will join forces with the Goa Institute of Public Administration and Rural Development to conduct specialized workshops. These workshops are aimed at enhancing the capabilities of state officials, empowering them with the tools to create and implement evidence-backed policies effectively.

#### **GOI approved Rs 1.39 lakh cr for connecting 6.4 lakh villages with broad band**

- The Union Cabinet has approved the final phase of the last-mile optical fiber-based broadband connectivity plan, covering 6.4 lakh villages across India under the BharatNet project. This initiative is supported by a budget of Rs 1.39 lakh crore.
- Through this enhancement, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) seeks to accelerate the endeavor of linking all 6.4 lakh villages within the upcoming



two and a half years. The ongoing progress has seen nearly 1.94 lakh villages already integrated into the BharatNet project.

- BBNL (Bharat Broadband Network Limited) will provide customer premise equipment and additional fibre required for connecting homes while local entrepreneurs have been tasked with maintaining the network.

#### **Chhattisgarh CM Transfers Rs 15 Cr Online To Beneficiaries As Part Of Godhan Nyay Yojana**

- As part of the flagship Godhan Nyay Yojna (GNY) initiated 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.
- This initiative has empowered SHG women and surged farmer engagement in cattle rearing. The program has garnered national recognition, inspiring other states to adopt similar initiatives.
- Introduced in July 2020 by the Chhattisgarh government, the Godhan Nyaya Yojana involves the procurement of cow dung at a rate of Rs. 2 per kg within the state's gauthans.

#### **Prime Minister launches Amrit Bharat Station Scheme in 13 railway stations**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) via video link to initiate the rejuvenation of 13 railway stations across the country.
- The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) aims to transform and revitalize 1,309 railway stations across the nation, enhancing the overall passenger experience and making them world-class travel hubs.
- As part of this initiative, work on 508 stations in various States commenced, with an investment of ₹25,000 crore. In the State, 13 railway stations will receive a modern makeover with an investment of ₹303 crore.

#### **A special art exhibition titled "Together We Art" begins at Bihar Museum, Patna**

- On 7 August 2023, a special art exhibition dedicated to the G-20 member countries in Bihar titled "Together We Art" will open at the Bihar Museum in Patna.
- The exhibition will run for two months starting today and will end on 7th October 2023. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar will inaugurate the exhibition.
- The event is organised by the Union Ministry of Art and Culture as part of India's chairmanship of G-20 countries. A total of 29 countries including India are participating in the exhibition. To mark the foundation day, the Bihar Museum Biennial 2023 will also begin, which will run for five months.

### **Bihar constitutes 'Rhino Task Force' to revive rhino conservation in Valmiki Tiger Reserve**

- The Bihar government set up a 'Rhino Task Force' to propose measures to restart the rhino conservation plan in 'Valmiki Tiger Reserve' (VTR) located in West Champaran district.
- The VTR has seen a significant increase in the tiger population, prompting state wildlife officials to focus on reviving the rhino population in the region.
- At present, VTR has only one rhino, while Patna Zoo has 14 rhinos. With the formation of a 'rhino task force', officials aim to bring more rhinos back into the reserve.
- Valmiki Tiger Reserve has been selected as a potential site under the National Rhino Conservation Plan. This national level scheme allows rhinos to be introduced into Valmiki Tiger Reserve from other reserves across the country to boost their conservation.

### **PM Modi To Lay Foundation Stone For Redevelopment Of 508 Railway Stations**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to virtually lay the foundation stone for the redevelopment of 508 railway stations across the country on Sunday, August 6. The initiative aims to transform railway stations into modern, state-of-the-art facilities, catering to the needs of millions of passengers. The event, scheduled for 11 am, will witness the Prime Minister's participation via video conferencing, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) informed in a statement.
- The redevelopment project, known as the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme, reflects the Prime Minister's unwavering commitment to providing world-class public transport. With railways being the preferred mode of travel for people across the nation, PM Modi has consistently emphasised the significance of offering top-notch amenities at railway stations. To this end, the ambitious scheme was launched to revamp a total of 1309 stations nationwide.

### **Union Minister Amit Shah launches digital portal of Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies in Pune**

- Union Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah today said that the cooperative movement cannot progress without transparency and the digital portal will serve that purpose. He asserted that the digital portal would be useful in promoting cooperative-based economic progress, as well as strengthening the cooperative movement in the country. Mr. Shah was speaking in Pune after launching the digital portal of the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies today.
- Praising Maharashtra's contribution in the cooperative sector Mr. Shah further said that Maharashtra is capital of the cooperative sector. He urged every cooperative sugar industry in the state to emphasize on production of ethanol.

### **Ministry implemented 'Naya Savera' or 'Free Coaching and Allied' scheme**

- The Ministry implemented 'Naya Savera' scheme also known as 'Free Coaching and Allied' scheme to assist students/candidates belonging to the six minority

communities namely Sikh, Jain, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist and Parsi by way of special coaching for qualifying examinations.

- The primary objectives of the scheme are to provide specialized coaching to students from the notified minority communities in the following areas:
- Preparing for qualifying examinations for admission into technical/professional courses like engineering, medical, law, management, information technology, etc., and language/aptitude examinations required for seeking admission to foreign universities.
- Assisting with competitive examinations for recruitment to Group 'A', 'B', and 'C' services, as well as other equivalent positions under the Central and State governments, including public sector undertakings, banks, insurance companies, and autonomous bodies.

#### **NHAI launches a mobile application called 'Rajmargyatra'**

- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) launched a citizen-centric integrated mobile application named 'Rajmargyatra' to enhance the highway user experience. The 'Rajmargyatra' app is available for download on Google Play Store and iOS App Store and currently supports Hindi and English languages.
- 'Rajmargyatra' provides comprehensive information on Indian National Highways, including real-time weather conditions, broadcast notifications, nearest toll plazas, petrol pumps, hospitals, hotels and other essential services for safe and seamless travel. The app has an efficient complaint redressal system, which allows users to report highway-related issues with geo-tagged videos or photos. The complaints are dealt with in a time bound manner, any delay is reported to the higher authorities. Users can track the status of their complaints for transparency.
- 'Rajmargyatra' integrates FASTag services with various bank portals, enabling users to recharge FASTags, avail monthly passes and access other related banking services within the app. The app also provides over-speed notification and voice assistance to promote responsible and safe driving behaviour. 'It aims to create a user-friendly experience for highway commuters, thereby ensuring a safer and more enjoyable journey on Indian National Highways.'

#### **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal Launches Port Health Organisation (PHO) under Sagar Setu**

- The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) and Ayush, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, introduced the Port Health Organisation (PHO) module as part of the Sagar Setu – National Logistics Portal (Marine). The goal is to create a quicker and simpler system that promotes Ease of Doing Business (EODB) in the maritime sector.
- The PHO module will be responsible for monitoring diseases, conducting health inspections, and implementing quarantine measures to ensure the safety of citizens and port workers. This digital initiative was launched in the presence of Shri T K Ramachandra, Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, and other senior officials of the ministry.

- This new system aims to streamline health-related processes and enhance efficiency in the maritime industry, ultimately benefiting businesses and improving the overall logistics ecosystem.

**Festival of Libraries 2023" to be Inaugurated by the President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi**

- The Ministry of Culture is organizing a unique "Festival of Libraries 2023", held on the 5th - 6th August 2023 at Hall No. 5 Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. President of India Smt. Droupadi Murmu will inaugurate the Two-day festival. Vice President of India, Sh. Jagdeep Dhankhar will grace the Valedictory Ceremony of the event. The festival will also highlight iconic libraries from across the world in order to initiate a conversation on the modernization and digitization of libraries in India.
- This festival is a part of the second phase of the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' and is in line with the Prime Minister's vision to foster the development and digitization of libraries and cultivate a culture of reading in India. It aims to facilitate the formulation of action-oriented policies for the development of Model Libraries in India, right down to the village and community levels.

**Steel Minister unveils new logo of NMDC**

- In a special event in New Delhi, Jyotiraditya Scindia, the Union Minister of Steel and Civil Aviation, revealed the new logo of NMDC. The launch of new logo is a big step for NMDC, showing its commitment to responsible mining and global standards.
- The new logo represents past achievements, present commitment and future aspirations of NMDC. It represents the scale and strength of the company's future, driven by innovation and sustainability.
- The new logo unveiled by Union Minister of Steel and Civil Aviation, signifies the company's future scale and strength after achieving a record production of 40 million tonnes for two consecutive fiscals. The new logo signifies the NMDC's journey of transformation and advancement.

**President Droupadi Murmu inaugurates International Literature Festival & Festival of Folk & Tribal Performing Arts in Madhya Pradesh**

- President Draupadi Murmu inaugurated the national festival of India's folk and tribal expressions "Utkarsh" and the international literature festival "Unmesh" in Bhopal today 3 August. Culture Department of Madhya Pradesh along with Sangeet Natak Akademi and Sahitya Akademi of the Union Ministry of Culture is organizing this event from 3rd to 5th August. Governor Mangubhai Patel and Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan were present at the inaugural ceremony.
- On this occasion, the President said that literature shows the mirror to humanity and takes it forward. It connects as well as connecting. He said that it is to be seen from the Amrit Kaal Mein Unmesh program that what is being created in literature today, which is being read by a large number of people. The President

said that Utkarsh means progress and the progress of the tribal group will lead to the progress of the country. It is the responsibility of all of us to preserve the tribal tradition, language and culture.

#### **Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma launches 'Amrit Brikshya Andolan' app**

- The Assam government has taken a significant step towards enhancing its forest cover and combating climate change by announcing a massive initiative called 'Amrit Brikshya Andolan'. This ambitious project aims to plant 1 crore saplings in a single day in September, marking a crucial milestone in the state's efforts to boost its green economy and contribute to the fight against global warming.
- The primary objective of this large-scale initiative is to significantly increase Assam's forest cover and encourage collective action in the face of climate change.
- While the immediate target of 'Amrit Brikshya Andolan' is to plant 1 crore saplings in a single day, the state government has set its sights on even more ambitious goals. By the year 2025, Assam aims to plant a staggering 5 crore saplings, further fortifying its commitment to environmental conservation and sustainable growth.

#### **President lays foundation stone of 'Divine Light House' in Odisha**

- President Draupadi Murmu laid the foundation stone of 'Divine Light House' at Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya at Dasabatia, Tamando near the Odisha capital.
- The occasion marked the launch of the theme for the year "Year of Positive Change", reflecting the emphasis on driving positive change.
- Recognizing the role of technology as a catalyst of change, President Murmu stressed the importance of both material and spiritual development for the betterment of humanity.
- Acknowledging the important role of Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwavidyalaya in promoting spirituality through meditation and disciplined lifestyle, leading to inner peace.
- The Divine Light House project and focus on positive change exemplify the commitment to promote holistic development and well-being within society.
- Prajapita Brahmakumaris Ishwariya Vishwavidyalaya stands out not only as an organisation but also as a powerful social and spiritual movement led by women.

#### **India to host World Coffee Conference in Bengaluru**

- India is set to host the 5th World Coffee Conference (WCC) in Bengaluru from September 25 to 28, where it will present its diverse coffees to buyers from over 80 countries. This is the first time that the event will be held in Asia. The conference aims to create pathways for innovative opportunities and markets, with a special emphasis on benefiting coffee farmers who play a crucial role in the coffee production chain.



- The central theme of the event will be “Sustainability through Circular Economy and Regenerative Agriculture” The event will encompass various activities, including conferences, exhibitions, skill-building workshops, a CEOs & global leaders forum, and a growers conclave. Participants from over 80 countries are anticipated to take part in WCC 2023.
- The International Coffee Organization (ICO) organizes World Coffee Conference to discuss on crucial matters concerning the global coffee industry. With 77 Member Countries and over 900 attendees, including coffee growers and government representatives, the conference serves as a platform for a diverse range of discussions.

#### **CM Command Centre’ launched in Uttar Pradesh for evaluating governance**

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated the ‘Chief Minister’s Command Centre’, and also the ‘CM Dashboard’, describing them as effective steps taken to provide timely solutions for the problems of the common people, and ensuring better implementation of government schemes.
- With the help of the Command Centre and Dashboard, the performance of officials working in the police service, municipal corporations, and development authorities, and the implementation of various government schemes, will be evaluated through monthly rankings and grades.
- In line with CM Yogi’s visionary approach focusing on the welfare of 24 crore people of U.P., the performance of officials of the police administration, municipal corporations, development authorities, universities, and various government schemes will be evaluated through monthly rankings and grading. With the assistance of the CM Dashboard, real-time monitoring will be carried out.

#### **Om Birla inaugurates new building of Assam Legislative Assembly**

- Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla inaugurated new building of Assam Legislative Assembly on 30th July in Guwahati in the presence of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.
- At the inauguration of the new building of Assam Legislative Assembly, Chief Minister expressed his gratitude to the Speaker of Lok Sabha that he is glittering personality in the democracy of India. He has a source of inspiration for all the parliamentarians of Assam to raise various questions on people’s welfare in the Parliament.
- The new building of Assam Legislative Assembly is equipped with the facilities of e-Vidhan, audio-visual and information technology. It has office chambers for Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chief Minister and other ministers, MLAs, conference hall, meeting halls etc. The new building will be a symbol of a developed and confident Assam. The new building constructed using the classical and ethnic arts, epitomises the confluence of modern and traditional design. The different rooms of the building are designed using the rich and diverse art forms of Assam.

## SPORTS

### **Kunlavut and An Se-young make history at Badminton World Championships**

- Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn became the first Thai to win the men's singles title at the World Championships 2023 and became the badminton world champion after a victory over Japan's Kodai Naraoka in Copenhagen.
- Earlier, world No. 1 An Se-young also became the first South Korean to win the women's singles gold at the World Championships 2023 after defeating Carolina Marin.
- She had knocked out Tokyo 2020 gold medallist Chen Yufei in straight games in the semi-finals

### **FIFA lifts ban on Sri Lanka Football Federation**

- World governing body FIFA has lifted the ban on the Sri Lanka Football Federation (FFSL).
- The ban was imposed in January 2023 due to government interference in the federation's affairs.
- In a letter dated August 28 by Fatma Samoura, the FIFA secretary General, it said that the FIFA bureau had decided on 27 August "to lift the suspension of the FFSL with immediate effect".
- The FFSL has also agreed to hold fresh elections for its executive committee.

### **Neeraj Chopra won the first gold medal for India at the World Athletics Championships**

- Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra won the first gold medal for India at the World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary.
- In the men's javelin final, Neeraj Chopra won the Gold medal with a throw of 88.17 meters.
- Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem won the silver medal in the men's javelin throw event with a throw of 87.82 metres.
- Jakub Vadlejch of the Czech Republic won the bronze medal in the same event.

### **Max Verstappen Clinches Third Consecutive Victory at Dutch Grand Prix 2023**

- On August 27, 2023, Max Verstappen took his third consecutive win at the Dutch Grand Prix at Circuit Zandvoort in the Netherlands.
- Max Verstappen's victory equaled Sebastian Vettel's record of nine consecutive F1 victories.
- Fernando Alonso secured a podium position by coming in second and Sergio Pérez, driving for Red Bull, initially finished third, but a five-second penalty resulted in Pierre Gasly taking third place on the podium.

### **BWF World Championships 2023 Results**

- The 2023 BWF World Championships was a badminton tournament which took place from 21 to 27 August 2023 in Royal Arena, Copenhagen, Denmark.

### **BWF World Championships 2023 Results**

#### **Men's doubles**

- Kang Min-hyuk and Seo Seung-jae (Gold)
- Kim Astrup and Anders Skaarup Rasmussen (Silver)
- Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik (Bronze)
- Liang Weikeng and Wang Chang (Bronze)

#### **Men's singles**

- Kunlavut Vitidsarn (Gold)
- Kodai Naraoka (Silver)
- HS Prannoy (Bronze)
- Anders Antonsen (Bronze)

#### **Women's singles**

- An Se-young (Gold)
- Carolina Marín (Silver)
- Chen Yufei (Bronze)
- Akane Yamaguchi (Bronze)

#### **Women's doubles**

- Chen Qingchen and Jia Yifan (Gold)
- Apriyani Rahayu and Siti Fadia Silva Ramadhanti (Silver)
- Zhang Shuxian and Zheng Yu (Bronze)
- Kim So-yeong and Kong Hee-yong (Bronze)

#### **Mixed doubles**

- Seo Seung-jae and Chae Yoo-jung (Gold)
- Zheng Siwei and Huang Yaqiong (Silver)
- Jiang Zhenbang and Wei Yaxin (Bronze)
- Yuta Watanabe and Arisa Higashino (Bronze)

### **In badminton, HS Prannoy won bronze medal at BWF World Championships**

- HS Prannoy bagged a bronze medal in badminton at BWF World Championships 2023 in Denmark.
- He registered a loss to Kunlavut Vitidsarn in the semifinals at the Championships and went down to world number three position.
- This is India's 14th medal at the World Championships.
- This includes one gold, four silvers and nine bronze medals.
- China is the most successful team in the tournament's history, with 196 medals, including 69 gold, 48 silver and 79 silvers.

### **India shines in blind cricket at IBSA World Games: Women's team wins gold, men's team secures silver**

- India's blind women's cricket team emerged victorious in the T20 final of the IBSA World Games held in Birmingham. They won the title by defeating Australia in the championship match.
- The Indian women's cricket team won the gold medal on the same day by defeating Australia by nine wickets using the DLS method.

- The Indian men's blind cricket team earned a silver medal at the IBSA World Games 2023 after losing to Pakistan in the men's T20 cricket final held at Edgbaston, Birmingham.

#### **World Athletics Championships 2023: Neeraj Chopra Qualifies for Final**

- Neeraj Chopra, the Olympic gold medalist in javelin throw, continues to make waves in the world of athletics. His recent performance at the World Athletics Championships has not only secured his place in the finals but has also guaranteed his participation in the Paris Olympics 2024.
- Neeraj Chopra's remarkable throw of 88.77 meters in the men's javelin throw event during the World Athletics Championships is an evident to his dedication and skill. This throw not only secured his spot in the finals of the championships but also surpassed the minimum qualification distance of 85.50 meters for Paris Olympics 2024. As the only athlete to achieve this qualification mark in the championship, Neeraj Chopra has showcased his consistence excellence.

#### **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports sanctions 634 athletes to take part in Asian Games**

- Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports sanctioned 634 athletes across 38 sporting disciplines for participation in the upcoming Asian Games. Neeraj Chopra, Praggnanandhaa Ramesh Babu, Lovlina Borgohain, Nikhat Zareen, Lakshay Sen and Mirabai Chanu Saikhom are among the others who met the set selection criteria. The selection was made against the 850 athletes recommended by the Indian Olympic Association.
- A total of 572 athletes participated in the last edition of Asian Games in 2018 where India returned with 70 medals including 16 Golds.

#### **Indian women bag free pistol gold in World Championship**

- The women's free pistol team helped India sign off from the World shooting championship on a golden note in Baku, Azerbaijan, on Friday.
- Even though the running target events would continue for the next few days, the regular shooting was done, as India wound up second on the medals' table with six gold and eight bronze medals.
- China was on top with 15 gold, seven silver and six bronze. USA was third with five gold, two silver and a bronze.
- Tiyyana Phogat, Sakshi Suryavanshi and Kirandeep Kaur won the 50-metre free pistol team gold with a total of 1573, six points ahead of China. Tiyyana also won the individual bronze with 533 as she missed silver by one point.

#### **Wrestling Federation of India membership suspended on International stage**

- The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), India's governing body for wrestling, has faced suspension from the United World Wrestling (UWW) due to ongoing controversies and prolonged delays in conducting essential elections. As a consequence of this suspension, Indian wrestlers will be unable to compete under the Indian flag in the upcoming World Championships. Instead, they will participate as 'neutral athletes' in the Olympic-qualifying World Championships.

- The WFI's scheduled elections, initially set for June 2023, have been repeatedly postponed due to protests by Indian wrestlers and legal challenges from various state units. This delay prompted the UWW, the global authority for wrestling, to suspend the WFI's membership. The suspension comes as a result of the federation's failure to meet the required election timeline.
- With the WFI's membership suspended, Indian wrestlers are compelled to compete as 'neutral athletes' in the upcoming Olympic-qualifying World Championships, commencing on September 16. This is a direct outcome of the ad-hoc panel, led by Bhupender Singh Bajwa, failing to organize the elections within the 45-day window. However, Indian athletes will still have the opportunity to compete under the Indian flag at the upcoming Asian Games, starting on September 23, as the entries were submitted by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) rather than the WFI.

#### **Khelo India Women's League to be renamed as Asmita Women's League**

- Anurag Singh Thakur, the Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, has unveiled that the esteemed Khelo India Women's League will be recognized as the "Asmita Women's League" from now on. This purposeful transformation underscores the government's commitment to advancing gender equality and nurturing the vibrant engagement of women in the realm of sports.
- The new name, "Asmita Women's League," carries a profound meaning. ASMITA stands for "Achieving Sports Milestone by Inspiring Women Through Action", encapsulating the spirit of resilience, determination, and achievement that defines women athletes across the nation. This change not only offers a new identity but also embodies the aspirations of countless women who strive to make their mark in the sporting arena.
- Thakur took to social media to commend the entire Khelo India team for their visionary concept of the Asmita Women's League. He also expressed his appreciation for the development of the Asmita Portal and its new logo, recognizing these advancements as significant steps towards the digital transformation of Indian sports. This demonstrates the government's commitment to leveraging technology to enhance the overall sports experience and engagement.

#### **TN CM lays foundation stone for Rs 4,276 cr 400 MLD desalination plant**

- In a remarkable feat of intellectual prowess, Raja Anirudh Sriram, a fourth-standard student hailing from Tirupati, has clinched a silver medal at the prestigious Singapore International Math Olympiad Challenge (SIMOC). This prodigious achievement has not only brought honor to his family and school but has also brought pride to the entire state of Andhra Pradesh.
- Among the 23 Indians representing the nation at the SIMOC, Raja Anirudh stood out as the sole participant from Andhra Pradesh. The event, which saw the participation of over 2000 students from 32 different countries, was a platform for young mathematical minds to showcase their skills and knowledge.



- Raja Anirudh's affinity for mathematics has been evident since an early age. His journey of success has been marked by numerous national and international awards that highlight his extraordinary capabilities.

#### **U-20 Wrestling World Championships 2023: Priya Malik wins gold, only second Indian to become junior world champion**

- Indian wrestler Priya Malik has achieved a remarkable feat by securing the gold medal at the U20 World Wrestling Championships held in Jordan. This victory marks a significant milestone in her career.
- Competing in the 76 kg category, Priya Malik showcased her prowess on the mat. In the gold medal match, she triumphed over Germany's Laura Kuehn with a resounding score of 5-0.
- Priya Malik's victory makes her only the second Indian woman to attain a gold medal in the prestigious U20 World Wrestling Championships. She joins the ranks of Antim Panghal, another Indian wrestler who had previously secured a gold medal in the same competition.
- Priya's success is not only a personal triumph but also a contribution to India's outstanding performance at the U20 World Wrestling Championships, supported by the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS).

#### **India's Anahat Singh clinches gold in Asian Junior Squash**

- Anahat Singh secured the gold medal in the U-17 category of the prestigious Asian Junior Squash Individual Championships, a remarkable achievement that adds another jewel to her growing crown of accomplishments. The championship, held from August 16 to 20, showcased Anahat's exceptional talent and determination as she emerged victorious on the court.
- The 15-year-old prodigy from India exhibited her prowess by defeating Hong Kong's Ena Kwong with a resounding 3-1 victory in the finals. In the quarterfinals and semifinals, she showcased her skill and determination by overcoming Malaysian players Doyce Lee and Whitney Isabelle Wilson, respectively.
- Last year, Anahat made her mark in the Asian Junior Squash Individual Championships held in Thailand, where she secured her first gold medal in this prestigious event.

#### **Women's World Cup final: England lose to Spain in Sydney**

- Spain secured their first ever Women's World Cup title with a 1-0 win over England at the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup final in Sydney. The win marks a historic FIFA Women's World Cup campaign for Spain who previously failed to make it past the Round of 16. Making it to the final after knockout wins over Switzerland, the Netherlands and Sweden, was already a first for Spain with the victory in the final cause for an even bigger celebration. Captain Olga Carmona smashed the decisive goal as Spain defeated England 1-0 to lift the FIFA Women's World Cup title.

- Spain's first major international trophy made it the first European team to win the Women's World Cup since Germany in 2007. In addition, Spain's victory makes them only the second nation to have won both the men's and the women's World Cups. The other nation is Germany, who won the men's World Cup in 1974 and 1990, and the women's World Cup in 2003 and 2007. Spain's victory is a historic moment for the team, for the country, and for the women's game. It is a moment that will be remembered for many years to come.

#### **ICC unveils two mascots for ODI World Cup 2023**

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has enthusiastically introduced a captivating pair of brand mascots for the upcoming World Cups. These mascots, unveiled at an event in Gurugram, India, in the presence of U19 World Cup Champions' captains Yash Dhull and Shafali Verma, embody the unity and spirit that cricket promotes worldwide. Representing gender equality and diversity, the mascots, a male and a female, originate from a distant cricket paradise called the Crictoverse.
- The male and female mascots from the Crictoverse symbolize unique traits that stand for gender equality and diversity. The ICC has also launched a naming competition for the mascots, allowing fans to leave their mark on the World Cup until August 27.

[www.fundamakers.com](http://www.fundamakers.com)

#### **AFI chief Adille Sumariwalla elected to World Athletics Executive Board**

- Adille Sumariwalla has been elected as one of the four vice presidents of World Athletics, the highest post ever held by an Indian in the global track and field governing body. The 65-year-old Sumariwalla, who is the president of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI), received the third-highest number of votes cast during the WA elections held on Thursday in Budapest, Hungary. He will serve a four-year term.
- In his new role as vice president, Sumariwalla will be responsible for helping to shape the future of athletics at the global level. He will also be involved in decision-making on a range of issues, including the development of the sport, anti-doping, and the World Championships. The other three vice presidents elected were Ximena Restrepo (Colombia), Raul Chapado (Spain), and Jackson Tuwei (Kenya).
- Sumariwalla is a former Olympian who competed in the 100 meters at the 1980 Summer Olympics in Moscow. He has been president of the AFI since 2012 and has been a member of the WA Council since 2015.

#### **Wahab Riaz announces international retirement to focus on franchise cricket**

- Pakistan fast bowler Wahab Riaz has announced his retirement from international cricket, bringing an end to a 15-year career. The 38-year-old made his international debut in 2008 and went on to play 27 Tests, 91 ODIs and 36 T20Is, taking 237 wickets in total.

- Riaz was a key member of the Pakistan team that reached the semi-finals of the 2011 Cricket World Cup, where he took five wickets against India. He was also a regular in the ODI and T20I teams, and was known for his fiery bowling and aggressive approach. However, Riaz's Test career was less successful. He struggled to find consistency with his line and length, and was often guilty of bowling too many loose deliveries. He retired from Test cricket in 2019.

#### **Dutee Chand Receives Four-Year Ban From NADA For Failing Out-Of-Competition Doping Test**

- Indian sprinter Dutee Chand, renowned as India's fastest female athlete and holder of the national 100m record, has been handed a significant blow 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 the decision to suspend her from competitive sports. Chand's remarkable athletic career has now been marred by this doping incident.
- Chand's ban, which commences from January 3, 2023, stems from her failed out-of-competition dope test for SARMs, which occurred on December 5, 2022. As a consequence of her violation, all competitive outcomes she achieved from the date of sample collection will be annulled. This includes the forfeiture of any medals, points, and prizes she earned during this period. The verdict, delivered by the National Anti Doping Agency (NADA), found Chand in breach of "article 2.1 and 2.2 of the NADA," resulting in a four-year ineligibility period under "article 10.2.1.1 of the NADA ADR 2021."

#### **Australia's Ashleigh Gardner and England's Chris Woakes Named ICC Players of the Month for July 2023**

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has revealed the latest set of international stars to be named ICC Players of the Month for July 2023. Australia's spin bowling all-rounder Ashleigh Gardner and England's seamer Chris Woakes have been honored as the International Cricket Council (ICC) Players of the Month for July 2023.
- Australia's prolific all-rounder Ashleigh Gardner becomes the first player to win back-to-back awards, claiming her fourth ICC Women's Player of the Month prize following another scintillating set of performances against England and Ireland in July.
- Gardner scored 232 runs and took 15 wickets in eight ODI and T20I matches during the month, including a Player of the Match performance in the second ODI against England, where she scored 65 runs and took three wickets. She was also named Player of the Series in the ODI series against Ireland.
- England seamer Chris Woakes wins the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for his fruitful contributions with the ball, helping his side claw back a two-nil deficit to close out their Ashes series on level terms.
- Woakes took 19 wickets in three Tests against Australia, including a Player of the Match performance in the final Test at The Oval, where he took seven wickets

and scored a vital 36 runs in the first innings. He was also named Player of the Series.

#### **Neymar quits PSG to sign for Saudi Arabias Al-Hilal on two-year deal**

- Brazil forward Neymar Jr has signed for Saudi Arabia's Al-Hilal from Paris Saint-Germain (PSG), the clubs announced, joining Cristiano Ronaldo and Karim Benzema. Neymar, 31, scored 118 goals in 173 matches for PSG in six injury-plagued seasons. He won five Ligue 1 titles and three French Cups, but was on the losing side as PSG were beaten by Bayern Munich in the 2020 Champions League final.
- Neymar joined PSG from Barcelona in 2017 for a world record fee of 222 million euros (\$242 million), a few weeks before they recruited Kylian Mbappe. The Brazilian scored 118 goals in 173 matches for PSG, winning five Ligue 1 titles and three French Cups, but his time at PSG was blighted by a catalogue of injuries. Although he helped the club to the 2020 Champions League final, which they lost 1-0 to Bayern Munich, he was sidelined for key games. Last month Al-Hilal made a 300-million-euro bid for Mbappe, though the striker reportedly refused to meet with officials from the team.

#### **India defeats Malaysia 4-3 to win Asian Champions Trophy 2023 Final**

- India beat Malaysia 4-3 and clinch a record fourth Asian Champions Trophy title at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium in Chennai. Malaysia were aggressive in the first half as the Indians found it difficult to restrict their opponent. With four Asian Champions Trophy titles, India is the most successful team in the history of the tournament. Pakistan, with three titles, are at the second spot now. Akashdeep led the attack scoring the opening goal and overall, India had five different goal scorers in the semi-finals of which four of them scored field goals – Karthi Selvam, Mandeep Singh, Akashdeep Singh, and Sumit.
- Japan take 3rd spot after beating South Korea 5-3. Japan finished behind Malaysia in the Asian Champions Trophy tournament after the beat defending champion South Korea 5-3 in the third-place playoff tie in Chennai.

#### **Indian wrestlers claim 11 medals at World u-17 championships 2023**

- India ended their 2023 World Cadet Wrestling Championships, meant for under-17 grapplers, with a total of 11 medals, including a gold, at Istanbul, Turkey.
- Savita, who entered the event as the defending champion, won the only gold medal for India at Istanbul in the women's 61kg weight division.
- India finished sixth in the men's freestyle and fourth in men's Greco-Roman team rankings as well.

#### **Prarthana Thombare clinches women's tennis doubles title in Barcelona, Spain**

- Prarthana Thombare has clinched the doubles title at the women's tennis hardcourt event in Barcelona, Spain. The Asian Games bronze medallist, combined with Russian Anastasia Tikhonova, edged out France's Estelle Cascino

and Latvia's Diana Marcinkevica 3-6, 6-1, 10-7 in the final. It is the second title of the year and 26th overall for Prarthana, who bagged bronze with Sania Mirza in 2014 at Incheon.

- Siddhant Banthia and Sai Karteek Reddy won their second title this season in ITF men's event in Astana, Kazakhstan. They defeated Estonia's Daniil Glinka and Karl Kiur Saar 7-5, 6-7, 10-4 to lift the trophy in the hard-court event. It is the first crown for both the players who had triumphed in their first appearance as a team in an event in Jakarta in June.

#### **SAI launched short movie series 'Halla Bol' Under 'Cheer4India' Campaign**

- Sports Authority of India (SAI) under the Umbrella Campaign 'Cheer4India' has launched a short movie series 'Halla Bol' on the journey of Asian Games bound athletes to motivate them for Hangzhou Asian Games and spread awareness about the upcoming Asian Games.
- In the upcoming weeks, SAI has ambitious plans to release a total of 12 short films. This initiative aims to not only motivate athletes participating in the Asian Games 2023 but also to encourage the youth of the nation to embrace sports and pursue a career in the field. The first episode in the series was also unveiled which gave a glimpse onto the life of star Indian athlete Neeraj Chopra. The first video featuring Neeraj Chopra instantly became a hit on social media and has amassed massive views. The series is expected to rake in huge popularity as it focusses on the successful journey of athletes.

#### **Aditi Swami becomes 1st Indian to clinch individual World Title at World Archery Championships, and more**

- Aditi Swami created history on Saturday by becoming the first -ever Indian to clinch the individual World Title at the World Archery Championships final in Berlin. Less than two months after clinching the junior world title, 17-year-old Aditi, became the senior world champion when she defeated Andrea Becerra of Mexico, 149-147 in the summit clash of the compound women's event. With the win, the Satara teenager became the first Indian world champion in an individual event at the Senior World Championships.
- Soon after Aditi Swami's gold in the women's event, India's Ojas Deotale created history when he defeated Lukasz Przybylski of Poland 150-149 in a thrilling final to become the new world champion in Men's Individual compound event.

#### **Alex Hales: England batter announces retirement from international cricket with immediate effect**

- England batter Alex Hales has announced his retirement from international cricket with immediate effect.
- Hales' three-year England exile for failing a recreational drugs test came to an end in late 2022 when he was added to his country's T20 World Cup squad as a replacement for the injured Jonny Bairstow.



- The 34-year-old scored 212 runs in the tournament, with a best of 86 not out against India in the semi-finals, as England won the trophy but has now decided to focus on domestic white-ball cricket with Nottinghamshire and in franchise leagues across the world.
- Alex Hales played 156 times for England across the formats, featuring in 70 one-day internationals, 75 T20 internationals and 11 Tests; batter returned from three-year international exile last year to help England win the T20 World Cup in Australia, scoring 212 runs with a best of 86.

#### **World Archery Championships 2023: Indian women's compound team wins historic gold medal**

- The Indian women's compound team of Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Parneet Kaur and Aditi Gopichand Swami won the gold medal at the World Archery Championships 2023 in Berlin, Germany. It was India's first-ever gold at the archery world championships in any category.
- The triumphant team comprised Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Parneet Kaur, and Aditi Gopichand Swami. In the final round, they showcased an exceptional performance against the Mexican team, consisting of Dafne Quintero, Ana Sofia Hernandez Jeon, and Andrea Becerra. The Indian trio emerged victorious with a score of 235-229, demonstrating their prowess and precision in the sport.
- In the semi-finals, the Indian trio, seeded second in the qualification round, had knocked out defending champions Colombia 220-216 to enter the title clash. Earlier, the Indian women's compound team defeated Chinese Taipei and Turkey in the quarter-finals and the pre-quarterfinals, respectively after receiving a bye in the first round. Heading into the Berlin meet, India had won 11 medals – nine silvers and two bronze – at the World Archery Championships.

#### **Stuart Broad announces retirement from all forms of cricket after the Ashes**

- England pacer Stuart Broad has announced his retirement from cricket. He will call it quits from the game after the ongoing Ashes series. Broad announced the decision at the end of the third day of the fifth Ashes Test at the Oval. The 37-year-old has played 167 Test matches, picking 602 wickets. He has also featured in 121 ODIs and 56 T20Is.
- Broad, who made his Test debut against Sri Lanka in 2007, will go down as one of the great pacers in the sport – he sits at fifth on the all-time list of wicket-takers, and is one of only two fast bowlers to take over 600 wickets, alongside long-time bowling partner Jimmy Anderson.
- He is the only English player with two hat-tricks to his name in Test cricket. His finest hour in Test cricket came against his arch-rivals Australia when put himself in cricketing folklore with a stunning 8/15 at Trent Bridge in 2015. Broad was still firing at all cylinders even at 37 years of age but decided to call time on his career while he was still at the top of his game, informing his decision to the captain last night.

- Career: Broad made his Test debut for England in 2007 and went on to play 167 matches, taking 604 wickets at an average of 27.68. He also played 121 ODIs, taking 178 wickets at an average of 30.13, and 56 T20Is, taking 65 wickets at an average of 22.94.
- Retirement: Broad announced his retirement from cricket on July 29, 2023, at the end of the 5th Ashes Test against Australia. He said that he wanted to “finish at the top of the game”.

#### **India beat West Indies by massive 200 runs in the 3<sup>rd</sup> ODI, to win the 3 match series**

- Team India defeated West Indies by a massive 200 runs in the third and final ODI to clinch the three-match series 2-1 on Tuesday. West Indies struggled during their chase, allowing India to dominate the game.
- The West Indies openers fell quickly, followed by their captain, who was caught out by Mukesh Kumar. Unadkat took out another batsman, leaving the West Indies in a difficult position at 35/4. Thakur then took two more wickets in quick succession. Some lower-order players tried to save the situation, but it wasn't enough.
- Thakur's four wickets and Mukesh Kumar's impressive bowling denied West Indies the chance to win their first ODI series against India since 2006. India's strong batting performance had already secured the victory, with four players scoring half-centuries to help them reach a total of 351.

#### **Moeen Ali confirms his Retirement from Test Cricket and more**

- England all-rounder Moeen Ali confirms his test cricket retirement after the end of the Ashes series and he will play in other formats of cricket. On the request of England Test captain Ben Stokes, he played the Ashes series. But he retired from test cricket in September 2021.
- He played for England in 68 test matches taking 204 wickets and scored 3094 runs. He was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in June 2023 for his services to cricket.
- Australia cricket team retained the 5 match test series 'Ashes 2023' after the 2-2 draw against England. It was held from 16th June to 31st July in the United Kingdom (UK). This marks Australia's 4th consecutive win in the series. So far in the Ashes series, Australia won 34 Ashes and England won 33 Ashes, 5 series were drawn.

#### **Indian women's hockey team wins 100th Anniversary Spanish Hockey Federation tournament**

- The Indian Women's Hockey Team reigned supreme in the 100th Anniversary Spanish Hockey Federation International tournament, beating hosts Spain 3-0 in a one-sided contest in Barcelona. Goals from Vandana Katariya (22'), Monika (48'), and Udita (58') helped the Indian Women's Team stand tall in the end and remain unbeaten in the tournament.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Telangana, Unesco join hands to implement UN recommendation on ethics of AI

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Information Technology, Electronics and Communications (ITE&C) Department of the Government of Telangana have forged a pioneering partnership to infuse the Ethics of AI into the very essence of artificial intelligence systems.
- This partnership is designed to cultivate a profound impact on how AI is developed and utilized, ensuring that the benefits are shared across all segments of society. The collaboration encompasses multiple dimensions.
- Ethical Development and Use of AI: The alliance is focused on advocating for the ethical development and deployment of AI systems. This encompasses establishing guidelines and principles that prioritize the well-being of humanity, privacy, accountability, and fairness in AI technologies.
- Awareness Raising: UNESCO and the Telangana Government recognize the importance of raising awareness about the ethical implications of AI. They aim to educate individuals, organizations, and governments about the ethical challenges and opportunities presented by AI, fostering a deeper understanding of its potential impacts.
- Capacity Building: To ensure that AI ethics are integrated into every level of society, the collaboration will work towards building the necessary capacity among professionals, policymakers, and educators. By providing training and resources, they aspire to empower individuals to make informed decisions regarding AI.

### LCA Tejas successfully test-fires ASTRA air-to-air missile: Aeronautical Development Agency

- The Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas achieved a significant milestone as it successfully fired the Astra indigenous Beyond Visual Range (BVR) air-to-air missile off the coast of Goa. This achievement marks a notable advancement in the Indian defense capabilities and showcases the country's progress in developing cutting-edge military technology.
- According to a statement released by the Defence Ministry, the missile release was executed flawlessly from the Tejas aircraft at an altitude of approximately 20,000 feet. The test not only met all its predetermined objectives but also demonstrated a perfect textbook launch, affirming the precision and readiness of the Astra missile system. To ensure a comprehensive monitoring of the event, a Chase Tejas twin-seater aircraft closely observed the entire process, adding an extra layer of validation to the test.
- The successful test launch was carried out under the vigilant supervision of the Test Director and scientists hailing from prominent institutions like the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). The Center for Military Airworthiness and Certification (CEMILAC) and the Directorate General

of Aeronautical Quality Assurance (DG-AQA) also played pivotal roles in ensuring the comprehensive assessment of the launch.

#### **India becomes 4th country to successfully land spacecraft on moon**

- India successfully landed its Chandrayaan-3 mission on the lunar surface on August 23, 2023, making it the fourth country to do so after the United States, Russia, and China. The lander Vikram touched down on the south pole of the moon, a region that has never been explored before. The rover Pragyan is expected to roll out of the lander and begin its exploration of the lunar surface in the coming days.
- The successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 is a major achievement for India's space program and a testament to the hard work and dedication of the scientists and engineers who made it possible. It also puts India in a select group of spacefaring nations and furthers its ambition to become a leading player in the global space race.
- The Chandrayaan-3 mission is expected to collect valuable data about the lunar south pole, which is thought to be rich in water ice. This information could be used to support future human exploration of the moon. The mission is also expected to help scientists to better understand the formation and evolution of the moon.

[www.fundamakers.com](http://www.fundamakers.com)

#### **President Murmu launches INS Vindhyagiri, 6th stealth frigate in Navy's arsenal**

- In a significant stride towards bolstering India's maritime prowess, President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the latest addition to the Indian Navy's fleet, INS Vindhyagiri. The launch event was held at the Kolkata-based Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE).
- Following the launch of INS Vindhyagiri, the vessel will join its sister ships, INS Himgiri and INS Dunagiri, at the Outfitting Jetty at GRSE.
- The vessel derives its name from the mighty Vindhya mountain range, symbolizing strength, determination, and unwavering resolve. As INS Vindhyagiri touches the waters of the River Hooghly for the first time, it embarks on a journey that mirrors the resilience of the mountains after which it is named, upholding the cherished values that define our nation.
- One of the cornerstones of the launch of INS Vindhyagiri is the profound impact it has on bolstering India's defense industrial base.

#### **Government clears Rs 20,000 cr deal to build five warships for Indian Navy**

- In a significant development aimed at enhancing the operational capabilities of the Indian Navy, the Central Government has granted its final approval for a pivotal project to construct five fleet support ships. These vessels, designed to serve as vital logistical lifelines, will play a crucial role in replenishing war ships with essential supplies including fuel, food, and ammunition during missions.

- The responsibility for constructing these crucial fleet support ships has been entrusted to the Visakhapatnam-based Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), a flagship enterprise under the defense ministry.
- By opting for indigenous construction, the Indian Navy is not only reinforcing its operational capabilities but also contributing significantly to the government's vision of self-reliance. This decision aligns with the broader goal of reducing dependence on foreign imports and bolstering domestic industries.
- Beyond its military significance, the project is set to deliver substantial economic benefits. The creation of thousands of new jobs over an extended period will inject fresh energy into the workforce, fostering growth and prosperity. The ripple effect of this venture will extend to industries aligned with the project, further solidifying India's position as a strategic maritime player.

#### **ISRO plans to launch Aditya L1 satellite in August**

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is launching its first solar mission, Aditya-L1, to study the Sun. The mission will be placed in a halo orbit around the Lagrange point 1 (L1), which is about 1.5 million kilometers from Earth. From this vantage point, Aditya-L1 will be able to study the Sun's atmosphere, magnetic fields, and space weather impacts.
- Halo Orbit Placement: Aditya-L1 is designed to be positioned in a halo orbit around the L1 Lagrange point, ensuring a stable vantage point for continuous solar observations.
- Launch and Deployment: The mission will be launched using the ISRO PSLV rocket from the Sathish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR (SDSC SHAR) in Sriharikota. The spacecraft will initially be placed in a low Earth orbit, which will then be transformed into an elliptical orbit before reaching L1 using on-board propulsion.
- Cruise Phase and Halo Orbit: As the spacecraft journeys towards L1, it will exit Earth's gravitational sphere of influence, marking the commencement of the cruise phase. Once at L1, it will enter a vast halo orbit around the Lagrange point.

#### **INS Kulish participates in celebration of 77th Independence Day in Singapore**

- In a notable display of maritime cooperation, the guided missile corvette INS Kulish made its presence felt during Singapore's 77th Independence Day festivities. As part of its ongoing engagement in the multinational SEACAT 2023 exercise, the crew and officers of INS Kulish celebrated the occasion at the High Commission of India in Singapore.
- Currently embarked on a four-day tour, INS Kulish is participating in the multinational SEACAT 2023 exercise. Hailing from the Andaman and Nicobar Command's Port Blair, the corvette's primary mission is to contribute to the Harbour Phase of SEACAT 2023.
- This initiative aims to bolster interoperability and collective action on various maritime security challenges. The exercise, which commenced on August 14 and



is scheduled until August 17, will transition to the sea phase, continuing until August 25.

- SEACAT, an acronym for Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training, aims to amplify Maritime Domain Awareness. This comprehensive exercise delves into a wide array of geopolitical concerns, illicit activities, and potential contingencies.

#### **India's first long-range revolver 'Prabal' to be launched this week on August 18**

- In a significant stride towards indigenous manufacturing and innovation, the state-owned company Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWEIL), based in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, is all set to unveil 'Prabal', India's first long-range revolver. The launch date is marked for August 18, ushering in a new era of personal defense firearms.
- Designed and manufactured by AWEIL, this lightweight 32 bore revolver boasts an exceptional range, capable of accurately hitting targets up to 50 meters away. This remarkable range is more than double that of other revolvers currently in production, establishing Prabal as a frontrunner in the field of long-range handguns.
- A remarkable feature that sets Prabal apart from its counterparts is the incorporation of a side swing cylinder. This innovative design element eliminates the need to fold the firearm for cartridge insertion, simplifying the reloading process and enhancing user convenience.
- With a mere weight of 700 grams (excluding cartridges), a barrel length of 76 mm, and an overall length of 177.6 mm, Prabal is ergonomically designed for ease of use. Its trigger pull is designed to be effortless, enabling a wide range of individuals, including women, to handle it confidently.

#### **Indian Air Force Inducts Heron Mark 2 Drones That Can Cover Borders With**

- The Indian Air Force has inducted its latest Heron Mark 2 drones, which have strike capability and can carry out surveillance along the borders with both China and Pakistan in a single sortie itself. The four new Heron Mark-2 drones, which can be equipped with long-range missiles and other weapons systems, have been deployed at a forward air base in the northern sector.
- The induction of the Heron Mark-2 is a major boost for the IAF's surveillance capabilities. The drone will be used for a variety of missions, including intelligence gathering, border patrol, and counter-insurgency operations. It will also be used to support the IAF's combat aircraft, providing them with real-time imagery and targeting data.

#### **Indian Defence Ministry Set To Use Locally Developed OS Maya To Prevent Cyberattacks**

- The Defence Ministry has said that they are going to switch to Operating System Maya in all their computers in place of the Microsoft OS to prevent cyber and malware attacks. OS Maya was built locally based on open-source Ubuntu.

- With the increase of cyberattacks on defence and the critical infrastructure of the country has led the Defence Ministry to take this step.
- An official involved in this process told The Hindu, "Maya has the interface and all functionality like Windows and users will not feel much difference as they transition to it. To begin with, the direction is to install Maya on all computers connected to the Internet in South Block before August 15."
- Reportedly, a Chakravyuh will also be installed in the systems to avail an 'end point detection and protection system'.
- The OS Maya is being installed on the computers of the Defence Ministry only and not on the rest of the Services. But the report says that the three other Services will soon adopt the operating system as the Navy has already cleared it and currently it is being evaluated by the Army and the Air Force.

#### **Centre launches ULLAS mobile application to promote basic literacy**

- The Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam 2023 witnessed its inauguration at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi gracing the event.
- The occasion also saw the Union Minister of Education and Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Dharmendra Pradhan, introducing the logo, slogan - "Jan Jan Sakshar", and mobile application of the ULLAS: Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram. The occasion coincided with the third anniversary of NEP 2020.
- The ULLAS initiative aims to revolutionise education and literacy across the nation by fostering a comprehensive learning ecosystem that caters to every individual, bridging gaps in basic literacy and critical life skills. Its focus extends to promoting functional literacy, vocational skills and essential life skills such as financial literacy, legal literacy, digital literacy and empowerment of citizens to participate in nation-building.

#### **OBITUARY**

##### **Marathi actress Seema Deo passed away at the age of 81**

- Veteran Marathi actress Seema Dev passed away on 24 August 2023 at the age of 81 in Mumbai.
- Seema Deo had an illustrious career spanning over six decades, during which she acted in around 90 Hindi and Marathi movies.

##### **'RIP superstar,' tributes pour in after WWE Superstar Bray Wyatt dies of heart attack**

- Windham Rotunda, also known as Bray Wyatt, passed away at age 36. Rotunda was an American professional wrestler. He was best known for his tenure in WWE, where he performed under the ring name Bray Wyatt.
- Windham Lawrence Rotunda was born in Brooksville, Florida, on May 23, 1987. He attended Hernando High School, where he won a state wrestling championship at 275 pounds (125 kg) in 2005. He graduated in 2005. He also played football as a defensive tackle and guard. Rotunda played at the College of

the Sequoias for two seasons, earning second-team All-American honors as a sophomore offensive guard. He earned a football scholarship to Troy University, where he played collegiate football for two years. He left Troy 27 credit hours short of earning a bachelor's degree after deciding to become a professional wrestler.

### **Legendary statistical scientist CR Rao die at the age of 103**

- C Radhakrishna Rao, one of India's greatest mathematicians and statisticians of India, passes away at the age of 103. He had recently received the prestigious "International Prize in Statistics-2023", often referred to as the "statistics' equivalent of the Nobel Prize".
- C R Rao was born into a Telugu family in Ballari, which was part of the Madras Presidency and is now in Karnataka. In 1941, he completed his MSc in Mathematics from Andhra University and joined Indian Statistical Institute in Calcutta in 1943 as research scholar.
- In 1945, when Rao was just 25, his paper titled 'Information and accuracy attainable in the estimation of statistical parameters' was published in the Bulletin of the Calcutta Mathematical Society, a lesser-known journal in the statistics community.
- His influential work has stretched beyond statistics, impacting diverse fields such as economics, genetics, anthropology, geology, national planning, demography, biometry, and medicine. Rao's active contributions persist even today, leading him to be celebrated as a "living legend" whose influence extends, as recognised by the American Statistical Association.

### **Professional wrestling legend Terry Funk dies at 79**

- Terry Funk, the pioneer of the World Wrestling Entertainment and the WWE Hall of Famer, has passed away at the age of 79. Funk had an intriguing and remarkable career over five decades (1965 to 2017). He was known for his hardcore style, his charisma, and his passion for the business. The late 79-year-old was inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame in 2009 by his longtime friend and rival, Dusty Rhodes. In 2021, he also received recognition from the International Professional Wrestling Hall of Fame.
- The iconic WWE figure has secured multiple championship victories, encompassing the NWA World Heavyweight Championship, the ECW World Heavyweight Championship, and the WWF Tag Team Championship. He was also a part of several memorable feuds and matches with icons such as Ric Flair, Dusty Rhodes, Mick Foley, and Bret Hart. Funk was not only a wrestler, but also an actor, and performer. He appeared in several Hollywood films, such as Roadhouse with Patrick Swayze, Paradise Alley, and Over the Top with Sylvester Stallone. He also had roles in television shows like Quantum Leap and Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction.

## **Dr John Warnock, Adobe Co-Founder, dies At 82**

- Adobe co-founder Dr. John Warnock passed away at the age of 82, Adobe announces. He founded the revolutionary software company Adobe with his partner, the now-late Dr. Charles Geschke, in 1982. Marva Warnock designed the company's original logo, and Adobe released its first program, the desktop publishing software Adobe PostScript, two years later. Warnock served mostly as the company's CEO until 2000 and was co-chairman of the board along with Geschke until 2017. Warnock remained on the company board of directors afterward.
- Adobe is widely-associated with Adobe Acrobat and Adobe Photoshop, but the company has maintained an impressively broad portfolio of well-regarded staple applications in multiple industries. During Warnock's tenure as its CEO, Adobe created industry-standard software for business, graphic design, photography, video editing, audio recording, and more. Warnock co-founded Adobe in 1982. He retired as CEO in 2000 and was chairman of the board, a position he shared with Geschke, until 2017.

## **Academician, rights activist Deven Dutta passes away**

- Consumer rights activist and former vice-principal of Cotton University, Deven Dutta passed away at the age of 81. Born on April 5, 1944 at Nazira in Sivasagar, Deven Dutta was residing in Guwahati's Sundarpur area. He completed his post-graduation in English in the year 1965 and started his career as a professor of English at Cotton College. He was also a renowned litterateur and columnist.
- Prof Dutta was a prolific writer and had published several books and articles on a variety of topics, including literature, education, and social issues. He was also a regular columnist in several newspapers and magazines.
- In addition to his academic and literary achievements, Prof Dutta was also a social activist. He was involved in several social organizations and campaigns, including the fight for consumer rights and the protection of the environment.

## **Britain's 'Chat Show King' Michael Parkinson Dies At 88**

- Michael Parkinson, the seasoned British chat show host renowned for his conversations with notable personalities, has passed away at the age of 88. His family said that he peacefully departed at his residence after a brief period of illness.
- Hailing from the coalmining village of Cudworth in northern England, Michael Parkinson took his initial steps into the professional world after leaving school at the age of 16.
- He ventured into the realm of journalism, starting his journey at local newspapers and eventually establishing himself at esteemed publications such as the Manchester Guardian and the Daily Express.
- Beginning in June 1971, television presenter Michael Parkinson hosted his talk show named 'Parkinson' captivating viewers with his distinctive interview approach, characterized by his amiable charm. The show enjoyed a prosperous

run until 1982, later making a comeback in 1998, further solidifying Parkinson's status as a true chat show maestro.

#### **Eminent scientist Padma Shri MRS Rao passes away in Bengaluru at 75**

- Padma Shri awardee and former President of Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), Prof. M.R. Satyanarayana Rao passed away at his residence in Tata Nagar in Bengaluru on August 13 night. He was 75. Born in Mysuru, Prof Rao obtained his undergraduate and postgraduate degrees from Bangalore University. He got his PhD from the Indian Institute of Science and did his Postdoctoral Research at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas, USA.

#### **Centre clears appointment of R. Doraiswamy as LIC MD**

- Government of India had appointed R. Doraiswamy as the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) managing director. He is currently executive director at the central office in Mumbai. He has been appointed as managing director of LIC in place of Mini Ipe with effect from the date of assumption of charge of office on or after September 1, 2023, and up to the date of his superannuation August 31, 2026, or until further orders, whichever is earlier, the national insurer said in a regulatory filing.
- The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB), the headhunter for directors of state-owned banks and financial institutions, had in June recommended the name of Mr. Doraiswamy as MD. The FSIB is headed by Bhanu Pratap Sharma, former secretary, Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT). Other members of the headhunter are the Secretary, Department of Financial Services; Secretary, Department of Public Enterprises; IRDAI Chairman Debasish Panda, former LIC managing director Usha Sangwan, and former Oriental Insurance managing director A.V. Girija Kumar.
- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is an Indian multinational public sector life insurance company headquartered in Mumbai. It is India's largest insurance company as well as the largest institutional investor with total assets under management worth ₹45.7 trillion (US\$570 billion) as of March 2023. It is under the ownership of Government of India and administrative control of the Ministry of Finance.

#### **William Friedkin, director of 'The Exorcist' and 'The French Connection' passes away at 87**

- Renowned American filmmaker William Friedkin, known for directing iconic movies like "The Exorcist" and "The French Connection," has passed away at the age of 87.
- Friedkin had been residing in Los Angeles and had been facing various undisclosed health challenges in the past few years, according to Stephen Galloway, a former executive editor at the Hollywood Reporter.



- AFP reported that director Guillermo del Toro took the forefront in honouring William Friedkin, by hailing him as "one of the Gods of Cinema."

#### **Renowned Malayalam director, screenwriter Siddique Ismail passes away**

- Renowned Malayalam director and screenwriter Siddique Ismail has passed away at 63. He was known for making movies like Friends (2001), Engal Anna (2004), Sadhu Miranda (2008), Kaalavan (2011), and Bhaskar Oru Rascal (2018). His final directorial venture was the 2020 action thriller film Big Brother, which starred Mohanlal, Arbaaz Khan, Anoop Menon, and Honey Rose.
- Starting their directorial journey as the 'Siddique-Lal' duo, they marked their debut with the timeless comedy Ramji Rao Speaking (1989), which was funded by Fazil. This kickstarted a series of remarkable successes in Malayalam cinema history, including iconic films like In Harihar Nagar (1990), Godfather (1991), Vietnam Colony (1992), Kabooliwala (1993), and Hitler (1996).

#### **Telangana folk singer Gaddar passes away at 77**

- Renowned folk singer and activist Gaddar, who had been battling severe heart disease, passed away at the age of 74. He had been undergoing treatment at the Apollo Hospital in Hyderabad for the past 10 days following a cardiac arrest.
- Gaddar, also known as Gummadi Vittal Rao, gained popularity primarily through his stage name. He earned the title of the people's singer due to his songs that brought attention to various issues faced by the common people. Additionally, he showcased his acting skills in a few films, including "Maa Bhoomi" and "Rangula Kala".

#### **N Vittal, architect of India's IT sector passes away**

- The Padma Bhushan awardee and IAS officer of the Gujarat cadre, 1960 batch, N Vittal passed away in Chennai. With the passing of N Vittal, 85, former Telecom Secretary and Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) on Thursday, the country has lost the person who had sown the seeds for the growth of the information technology sector four decades ago.
- His experience of more than 40 years covered a wide spectrum with focus on industrial administration, science and technology and security. As Secretary of the Department of Electronics (1990-1996), he initiated policies for boosting software, setting up software technology parks and strategic alliance with the industry. This eventually led to the formation of the Software Technology Parks of India (STPI).
- As Chairman of the Telecom Commission, he also initiated the process of liberalisation in the telecom sector and played a major role in getting the National Telecom Policy 1994 approved.

#### **Nitin Desai a renowned art director passes away**

- Art director Nitin Chandrakant Desai was found dead at his ND Studio in Karjat. He was known for his work in films such as Lagaan and Jodhaa Akbar.

- Postmortem of Bollywood art director Nitin Chandrakant Desai was conducted by a team of four doctors on Wednesday. As per preliminary findings, the cause of death is due to hanging.

#### **Noted Marathi poet Namdeo Dhondo Mahanor, Passes away at 81**

- Noted Marathi poet and lyricist Namdeo Dhondo Mahanor, popularly known as Na Dho Mahanor, died at a hospital in Maharashtra's Pune on Thursday morning. He was 81.
- Mahanor was undergoing treatment at Ruby Hospital in Pune and was on life support systems for the last few days, his grandson Shashikant Manohar said. Mahanor was best known for his poems and lyrics for Marathi movies.
- Born in 1942, Namdeo Dhondo Mahanor was awarded Padma Shri in 1991. He had also been a member of the state legislative council.
- Mahanor penned several popular poems and songs, including 'Jagala Prem Arpave', 'Ganga Wahu De Nirmal' and 'Divelaganichi Vel', and also wrote songs for Marathi movies like 'Ek Hota Vidushak', 'Jait Re Jait', 'Sarja' and others. He is survived by two sons and three daughters.

#### **Senior Congress leader and former Speaker Vakkom Purushothaman passes away**

- Former two-time Kerala Assembly Speaker Vakkom Purushothaman, 96, passed away. Mr. Purushothaman commenced his political life as a Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP) activist in 1952. He won a seat in the Vakkom panchayat council on the party ticket. When practising as lawyer at the Thiruvananthapuram Bar, former Chief Minister R. Shankar spotted Mr. Purushothaman's flair for politics and persuaded him to quit the RSP and join the Congress.
- He served as Minister for Agriculture and Labour in the Achutha Menon government (1971-77) and Mr. Purushothaman retained Attingal for Congress in the 1977, 1980 and 1982 State elections. After the 'A' group split from the Congress, he joined as Health and Tourism Minister in the 1980 E.K. Nayanar government. He aligned himself with the Left Democratic Front (LDF) government.
- In 1984, he bagged the Alappuzha Lok Sabha constituency for the Congress by defeating CPI(M) leader Susheela Gopalan.
- Purushothaman bid farewell to electoral politics and assumed charge as Lieutenant Governor in Andaman Nicobar. He later served as Mizoram and Meghalaya Governor. He enacted laws ensuring the welfare of farm and headload workers.

### **APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS**

#### **Geetika Srivastava becomes first woman to lead Indian mission in Pakistan**

- Geetika Srivastava, currently serving as joint secretary at the headquarters of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), will be India's new chargé d'affaires at its high commission in Islamabad, Pakistan.

- She will succeed Suresh Kumar, who is likely to return to New Delhi. After 77 years of Independence, India has appointed a female head of mission in Pakistan.

#### **Ex-CJI Ramana appointed member of Singapore's International Mediator Panel**

- Former Chief Justice of India (CJI) N.V. Ramana has been appointed as member of the International Mediator Panel of Singapore International Mediation Centre (SIMC). Chairman of SIMC George Lim presented Justice Ramana the letter of appointment on Tuesday in Singapore. The former CJI is in Singapore to take part in the "Singapore Convention Week", the annual convention organised by Singapore's Ministry of Law, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) and over 20 partner organisations.
- Justice Ramana met representatives of SIMC and four top Indian corporate majors Tata, Reliance, Mahindra and Aditya Birla groups, who came forward to sign 'Declaration of Intent' to support mediation at the initiative of Justice Ramana.

#### **FIDC Announces Appointment of Umesh Revankar as Chairman**

- In a meeting convened in Mumbai, the managing committee of the Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC) has appointed Mr. Umesh Revankar, who presently serves as the Executive Vice Chairman for Shriram Finance Limited, as the new Chairman of FIDC.
- This decision comes in recognition of Revankar's extensive experience and profound expertise in the financial services sector.

#### **Infosys Signs Women's Tennis Champ Iga Swiatek As Brand Ambassador**

- Infosys Enters Partnership with Women's Tennis Champion Iga Swiatek as Global Brand Ambassador Focused on Advancing Digital Innovation and Empowering Women Globally.
- In a groundbreaking move that further bridges the worlds 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. The collaboration establishes Swiatek as the global brand ambassador for Infosys, with a key focus on promoting Digital Innovation and inspiring women worldwide.
- This announcement comes on the heels of Infosys signing tennis legend Rafael Nadal for the same prestigious role, solidifying the company's commitment to both tennis excellence and technological advancement.

#### **Infosys onboards tennis player Iga Świątek as global brand ambassador**

- In a groundbreaking move that further bridges the worlds 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. The collaboration establishes Swiatek as the

global brand ambassador for Infosys, with a key focus on promoting Digital Innovation and inspiring women worldwide.

- This announcement comes on the heels of Infosys signing tennis legend Rafael Nadal for the same prestigious role, solidifying the company's commitment to both tennis excellence and technological advancement.
- Central to this partnership is the strategic alignment between Infosys and Swiatek's team to create a cutting-edge data analytics and video dashboard powered by artificial intelligence (AI). The ultimate goal is to enhance Swiatek's training regimen by leveraging AI insights, amplifying her strengths, and devising precise match strategies.

### **Infosys signs tennis legend Rafael Nadal as brand ambassador**

- Infosys announces a three-year partnership with global tennis icon Rafael Nadal, appointing him as the brand ambassador and the face of Infosys' Digital Innovation. This partnership not only marks a milestone for Nadal but also signifies Infosys' dedication to transforming the tennis landscape through cutting-edge technologies.
- At the heart of this collaboration lies the creation of a match analysis tool infused with the power of artificial intelligence. This personalized tool is set to offer real-time insights to Nadal's coaching team, enabling them to simultaneously track data from his live matches during his return to the tour. The tool will merge this live data with historical match information, facilitating a comprehensive analysis that will undoubtedly enhance Nadal's performance strategy.

### **Former CJ Of Calcutta High Court Justice Prakash Shrivastava Appointed As Chairperson of National Green Tribunal**

- Justice Prakash Shrivastava has been appointed as Chairperson of National Green Tribunal (NGT). After the former Chairperson Justice A.K Goel retired. After the former Chairperson Justice A.K Goel retired in July, Justice Sheo Kumar Singh was appointed as the Acting Chairperson. Justice Shrivastav Enrolled as Advocate on February 2, 1987. He Practised on Tax, Civil and Constitutional sides in the Supreme Court of India at New Delhi. He was later appointed as a Judge of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh on January 18, 2008 and became a permanent Judge on January 15, 2010.
- Justice Shrivastava was born on March 31, 1961. In the year 1987, he was enrolled as an advocate and practiced in tax, civil, and constitutional law, at the Supreme Court. Later, he was appointed as an additional judge at the Madhya Pradesh High Court on January 18, 2008 before being made permanent on January 15, 2010. Subsequently, Justice Shrivastava served as the Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court from October 11, 2021 till his retirement on March 30, 2023.

### **Sachin Tendulkar recognised as 'national icon' of Election Commission of India**

- Former Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar will become a "national icon" of the Election Commission (EC) and spread awareness regarding the need for greater voter participation in the electoral process. The poll body will sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Mr. Tendulkar in the national capital on

Wednesday. It will be a three-year agreement as part of which the cricketing legend will spread voter awareness.

- The EC's decision to appoint Tendulkar as its national icon is a significant step towards encouraging greater voter participation in India. Tendulkar's popularity and influence among the youth make him a powerful force for good, and he is sure to make a positive impact on the electoral process.
- This collaboration will mark a significant step towards leveraging Mr. Tendulkar's unparalleled impact with the youth for increasing voters' participation in the forthcoming elections, especially in General Elections 2024, the EC said in a statement. Through this partnership, the EC aims to bridge the gap between citizens, especially youth and urban populations, and the electoral process thereby, trying to address the challenges of urban and youth apathy, it said.

### **Google's Kiran Mani joins Viacom18 as CEO of Digital Business**

- In a strategic move to bolster its digital business operations, Viacom18 has welcomed Kiran Mani, a seasoned executive from Google, as the new CEO. Mani's impressive track record and extensive experience position him well to lead Viacom18's digital endeavors. Currently serving as the General Manager and MD for Android and Google Play in the Asia Pacific region, Mani's 13-year tenure at Google underscores his deep understanding of digital markets.
- Kiran Mani's longstanding association with Google speaks volumes about his ability to navigate the dynamic landscape of digital platforms. His role as the head of Android and Google Play in the Asia Pacific region has equipped him with valuable insights into user behaviors, content consumption patterns, and market trends. This expertise will undoubtedly play a pivotal role in his new role as CEO of Viacom18's digital business.
- One of the significant responsibilities that Mani will shoulder is spearheading the expansion of JioCinema. This task aligns with Viacom18's strategic vision to enhance its digital offerings and tap into the burgeoning digital content market. JioCinema, under Mani's guidance, is poised to reach new heights, benefiting from his strategic acumen and digital industry insights.

### **Axis Bank's Neelkanth Mishra appointed part-time chairperson of UIDAI**

- The Centre has announced the appointment of Neelkanth Mishra as the part-time Chairperson of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). Mr. Mishra, known for his expertise in economics and research, currently serves as the Chief Economist of Axis Bank and also holds the position of Head of Global Research at Axis Capital.
- Neelkanth Mishra boasts an impressive professional journey that spans several decades, during which he has made significant contributions to the world of finance and research. Prior to his association with Axis Bank, he spent twenty years at Credit Suisse, a prominent financial institution based in Zurich.
- Throughout his tenure, Mishra held various crucial roles, such as co-head of APAC Strategy, India Equity Strategy Head, and Head of Research in India. This



diverse range of responsibilities allowed him to gain an in-depth understanding of the intricacies of financial markets, strategic planning, and economic analysis.

**Rahul Dravid becomes new Bharat Petroleum brand ambassador**

- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) has announced cricketer Rahul Dravid as its new brand ambassador. He will endorse BPCL's Pure for Sure initiative and range of MAK lubricants. This exciting partnership highlights Bharat Petroleum's strong dedication to quality, authenticity, and excellence. Rahul Dravid embodies exceptional sportsmanship, serves as a role model, and possesses qualities such as integrity, dependability, and trustworthiness that align perfectly with our values at BPCL. Rahul Dravid will endorse BPCL's well-known Pure for Sure initiative and their range of MAK lubricants.
- As an icon who elevated Indian cricket to new heights, Rahul truly represents our values of trust, ethics, service, and consistency. His association with BPCL will further emphasize our commitment to delivering quality products consumers can rely on throughout the country.

**RBI appoints P R Seshadri as South Indian Bank MD & CEO; stock zooms 11%**

- The Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of PR Seshadri as Managing Director & CEO of the South Indian Bank for a period of three years with effect from October 1, 2023
- PR Seshadri is an accomplished banker with experiences spanning multiple businesses, functional lines and geographies. He has significant experiences in enterprise level management and in the management of all key commercial banking business lines and he has substantial experience in successfully managing investors, boards and regulatory relationships in multiple geographies.
- PR Seshadri is a respected business leader with a proven track record of building and leading large teams to execute and deliver complex business objectives. He demonstrated his ability in creating new businesses as well as in problem solving. He is successful in scaling businesses – both existing and new – taking advantage of new technologies and new market opportunities.

**Parminder Chopra takes over as CMD of PFC**

- Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has appointed Parminder Chopra as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD); she becomes the first woman to lead India's largest NBFC. Chopra assumed the top job at the power sector lender with effect from August 14, 2023. She earlier held additional charge as CMD from June 1, and was Director (Finance) from July 1, 2020. She also played a key role in the successful implementation of a Rs 1.12 lakh crore Liquidity Infusion Scheme (LIS) for the power distribution sector, which was rolled out as part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.
- Chopra has over 35 years of experience in the power and financial sector. At PFC, she has headed key finance functions, including resource mobilisation

(domestic and international markets), banking, treasury, asset liability management and stressed asset resolution.

- Her prior experience includes stints in power sector majors such as NHPC and Power Grid Corporation of India.
- Under her leadership, PFC has increased funding to clean energy projects, including funding of electric vehicles, bio-fuels, hybrid renewables like Round The Clock, renewable equipment manufacturing, and recently signed MoUs with clean energy developers worth Rs 2.40 lakh crore, to emerge a principal financier of clean energy projects.

#### **Government appoints two whole time members to Sebi board**

- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Kamlesh Varshney and Amarjeet Singh as SEBI Whole-Time Members. While Varshney, a 1990-batch officer of the Indian Revenue Service, is a joint secretary at the revenue department in the Finance Ministry, Singh is an executive director at the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- Both Varshney and Singh have been appointed for three years from the date of assumption of charge or until further orders, whichever is earlier, according to an order issued by the Secretariat of the ACC. At SEBI, Varshney and Singh will fill in the vacancies created by the retirement of S K Mohanty and Ananta Barua.
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is the regulator of the securities market in India. It was established in 1992 by the Government of India to protect the interests of investors in securities and to promote the development of, and to regulate, the securities market and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

#### **Pluckk signs on Kareena Kapoor Khan as investor, brand ambassador**

- Bollywood actress Kareena Kapoor Khan has signed on as an investor and brand ambassador of Pluckk, which is engaged in the fresh fruit and vegetables business.
- The company has a range of 400 products in more than 15 categories, including essentials, exotics, hydroponics, and cuts and mixes. The range includes innovative do-it-yourself (DIY) meal kits crafted within certified food-tech facilities. Pluckk has also introduced ozone-washed products and traceability concepts.
- Founded in July 2021, Pluckk has rapidly emerged as a digital leader in the lifestyle-oriented fresh produce market. Co-founded by Pratik Gupta and backed by seed funding from Exponentia Ventures, the brand currently operates in Bengaluru and Mumbai.

#### **SBI Life gets IRDAI approval for appointment of Amit Jhingran as MD & CEO**

- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) approved the appointment of Amit Jhingran as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer for SBI Life Insurance Company Limited.

- Amit Jhingran has over three decades of experience in the insurance sector and serves as the Assistant General Manager of the Hyderabad Circle.
- He joined the company in 1991 as a probationary officer and has been with SBI Life since then. Amit Jhingran had also held the post of CEO of SBI, Chicago.

#### **Musk's Tesla appoints India-origin Vaibhav Taneja as CFO**

- Indian-origin Vaibhav Taneja has been named Tesla's new Chief Financial Officer as the previous finance chief Zachary Kirkhorn announced his decision to step down.
- He was appointed Tesla CFO in addition to his current role as Chief Accounting Officer (CAO) of the US-based electric car major after Kirkhorn, Tesla's Master of Coin and finance chief for the last four years, stepped down from the post.
- Taneja is a commerce graduate. He did his Bachelor of Commerce degree from Delhi University between 1996 and 1999. His Tesla's journey began in 2017 as he switched from a dynamic solar energy firm, SolarCity, which had been acquired by Tesla.

#### **Cabinet secretary Rajiv Gauba gets another one-year-extension**

- Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba was given one-year extension, beyond August 30, 2023, in service by the government, according to a Personnel Ministry order. This is his third extension on the post.
- Gauba, a former Union home secretary, was in 2019 appointed to the country's top bureaucratic post for two years. He was given one-year extension in 2021 and then in August last year.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the extension in service to Gauba, a 1982-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Jharkhand cadre, for a further period of one year beyond 30.08.2023, in relaxation of the All India Services (Death-cum-Retirement Benefits) Rules, 1958, and Rule 56(d) of the Fundamental Rules, it said.

#### **Indian American Shohini Sinha becomes FBI special agent**

- Indian-American Shohini Sinha has assumed the role of special agent in charge of the Salt Lake City Field Office, as appointed by FBI Director Christopher Wray. Her appointment marks a momentous milestone in her career, as she becomes the fortieth sovereign to undergo the prestigious coronation ceremony at the renowned Westminster Abbey.
- Shohini Sinha's ascendancy to the position of special agent in charge underscores her exceptional capabilities and dedication to the United States' national security.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### National Small Industry Day

- On August 30th every year, India observes National Small Industry Day, a day dedicated to recognizing and celebrating the invaluable contribution of small industries to the nation's economic development.
- This occasion serves as a platform for both central and state governments to showcase their commitment to nurturing and supporting the se enterprises that form the bedrock of the Indian economy.

### International Day for People of African Descent

- On August 31, 2021, a significant milestone was reached as the United Nations marked the first-ever International Day for People of African Origin.
- This day serves as a global recognition of the cultural, social, and historical contributions made by individuals with African heritage.

### International Whale Shark Day

- International Whale Shark Day is celebrated every year on August 30 to raise awareness about the plight of whale sharks, the largest fish in the world.
- Whale sharks are filter feeders and do not pose a threat to humans. However, they are vulnerable to overfishing, habitat loss, and boat strikes.

### National Sports Day is observed on 29th August 2023

- The National Sports Day in India is celebrated on 29 August every year. It is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand Singh.
- The day also serves as a reminder for all of us to recall the contributions, determination and extraordinary achievements of the athletes and their influence in shaping societies.
- The theme for this year's National Sports Day celebration is "Sports are an enabler to an inclusive and fit society".

### International Dog Day 2023: 26th August

- International Dog Day, observed on August 26th every year, is a heartwarming tribute to our furry companions who enrich our lives with their unwavering devotion and boundless affection. This day holds a special place in the hearts of animal lovers worldwide, as it acknowledges the profound impact that dogs have on our lives, from their incredible abilities to their role in rescue operations, and, most importantly, their capacity for unconditional love.
- Dogs, often referred to as "man's best friend," occupy a unique place in our hearts and homes. Their unwavering loyalty and boundless love create an unbreakable bond that transcends words. Beyond companionship, dogs play pivotal roles in various aspects of human life. Some are trained to provide essential support to people with disabilities, enhancing their independence and quality of life. Others showcase their exceptional

olfactory senses in search and rescue operations, saving lives with their remarkable ability to locate individuals in dire circumstances.

#### **After Chandrayaan-3: India to celebrate August 23 as 'National Space Day**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 26 announced to celebrate August 23, when India's Chandrayaan-3 landed on the Moon, as National Space Day. He also announced that the spot where the lander landed on the Moon will be known as 'Shivashakti' and where Chandrayaan-2 touched down will be called as 'Tiranga Point'.
- The Prime Minister was addressing the scientists at the ISRO Telemetry Tracking and Command Network Mission Control Complex in Bengaluru, Karnataka. PM Modi said that experts suggest that in a few years, India's space industry will become \$16 billion from \$8 billion.
- To congratulate ISRO team for the successful touchdown of Chandrayaan-3 lander on August 23, PM Modi visited to Bengaluru, immediately after returning from his two-nation visit to Greece and South Africa. He was accorded a warm reception as he arrived at the ISRO headquarters in Bengaluru on Saturday morning.

#### **International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition 23rd August 2023**

- International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is observed on August 23. It commemorates the day when an uprising began in Saint Domingue, now called Haiti, on August 23, 1791, against the slave trade. Haiti was a French settlement and a centre of the slave trade across Europe. The uprising led to a revolution against the rulers of the country.
- 2023 Theme: "Fighting slavery's legacy of racism through transformative education"
- The International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is an important day to remember the victims of the slave trade and to reaffirm our commitment to fighting racism and discrimination. It is also a day to celebrate the progress that has been made and to recommit ourselves to building a more just and equitable world.

#### **World Water Week 2023: 20 to 24 August**

- World Water Week is a global event which is organised by the Stockholm International Water Institute every year since 1991. The programme will be held from August 20 to 24 at the Waterfront Congress Center. It is a non-profit event which aims to develop solutions for the international water crisis (alongside several other problems). Water is one of the most essential gifts of nature that we require in our daily lives. From drinking to cleaning, water serves multiple purposes in our lives. Hence, it becomes equally important for us to conserve it.
- The theme, Seeds of Change: Innovative Solutions for a Water-Wise World, invites a rethink of how water is managed, and urges consideration of the ideas, innovations, and governance systems that are needed in an increasingly unstable and water scarce world.



### **International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism 2023: 21st August**

- The International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism is observed annually on August 21. This is the sixth commemoration of the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, on 21 August 2023.
- The International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism was established by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 72/165 of 20 December 2017. The resolution was adopted by consensus, reflecting the strong international commitment to combating terrorism and supporting its victims.
- The day was chosen to commemorate the bombing of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq, on August 21, 2003, which killed 22 people, including Sergio Vieira de Mello, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- The International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism is a day to remember and honor the victims and survivors of terrorism. It is also a day to reaffirm the international community's commitment to combating terrorism and to promoting and protecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all people.

### **Sadbhavana Diwas 2023: 20th August**

- Sadbhavana Diwas, also known as Harmony Day, is an annual celebration observed on 20th August in India. 20th August 2023 marks the 79th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. This day commemorates the birthday of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, a visionary leader who championed the cause of national integration, peace and public harmony among the diverse population of India.
- The term "Sadbhavana" in English refers to "goodwill and bonafide". Being the youngest Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi's thought process was modern and different from others. He had the vision of a developed nation via many national as well as international projects that he pioneered. The main theme of Sadbhavana Diwas is to promote national integration and communal harmony among people of all religions and languages.
- Rajiv Gandhi, born on 20th August 1944, is the former Prime Minister of India. He held office from 1984-1989 and made significant contributions to the development of the country. He introduced several progressive policies aimed at modernizing India's education system and economy. Some of his notable achievements include:

### **World Mosquito Day 2023: 20th August**

- Every year, World Mosquito Day is celebrated on August 20. This is done to commemorate the contributions of British doctor Sir Ronald Ross who was the

first person to discover the connection between malaria and female anopheline mosquitoes. Every year, World Mosquito Day is celebrated to create awareness about the dangers of mosquitoes, the ways by which we can protect ourselves from these diseases, and to rise together to combat these insects. As we gear up to celebrate this day, here are a few facts to keep in mind.

- This day is also observed by raising awareness about the dangers of these diseases. Fundraising is done to explore the cure for malaria. The works of scientists such as Ronald Ross and others are also applauded on this day.

#### **World Photography Day 2023: 19<sup>th</sup> August**

- World Photography Day, observed annually on August 19, marks the celebration of photography's rich history and its role as both an art form and a scientific achievement. This day commemorates the invention of the daguerreotype, an early photographic process developed by Louis Daguerre in 1837, which paved the way for modern photography.
- World Photography Day highlights photography as a legitimate form of art, encouraging photographers to experiment with different techniques, compositions and styles. It encourages people to appreciate the power of photography in telling stories, capturing emotions and preserving memories.
- It is a day to discuss the technical aspects of photography, advancements in equipment and the evolution of photographic techniques when photographers and enthusiasts often share their favourite photos, stories behind the images and insights into their creative process.

#### **Parsi New Year 2023: 16th August**

- The Parsi New Year, also referred to as Navroz or Nowruz, is a joyous occasion celebrated between July and August, this year Parsi New Year marked on 16th August. Rooted in the Persian words 'Nav' and 'Roz', which means 'new day', this cherished festival has a rich history spanning over 3,000 years.
- While the global celebration of Navroz aligns with the Spring Equinox on March 21, the Parsi community in India follows the Shahenshahi calendar. This unique calendar doesn't consider leap years, resulting in a shift of celebration by 200 days from the original date.
- The festival roots are linked to Zoroastrianism, which is among the world's oldest beliefs in one god. It started more than 3,500 years ago in ancient Iran when a wise person named Prophet Zarathustra shared this faith. The happiness of Zoroastrianism lasted until 1,400 years ago when a religion called Islam started spreading in the 7th century. Because of this change, many Zoroastrianism left their homes in Iran and went to India and Pakistan. In these new places, a group called Parsis formed and found safety.

#### **Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Death Anniversary: 16th August**

- As the nation observed the solemn occasion of the death anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, leaders from various political backgrounds

and affiliations converged at the 'Sadaiv Atal' memorial in Delhi. Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari, Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh, Praful Patel, Arjun Ram Meghwal, Union Minister, Anupriya Patel and HAM's Jitan Ram also paid tribute to the Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Former PM Atal Bihari's foster daughter Namita Kaur Bhattacharya pays floral tribute at 'Saidav Atal' on his death anniversary.

### **Partition Horrors Remembrance Day 2023**

- India observed Partition Horrors Remembrance Day to remember the victims of the 1947 violence that accompanied the country's partition. The day was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2021 to commemorate the sufferings of millions of people who were displaced and lost their loved ones during the partition. The day was observed with a number of events across India. In New Delhi, a candlelight vigil was held at the India Gate war memorial. In Punjab, a special exhibition was organized to showcase the stories of partition survivors. And in Kolkata, a blood donation camp was organized to mark the day.
- In a speech on Sunday, Modi said that the partition was a "dark chapter" in India's history and that the country must never forget the "horrors" that were inflicted on its people. He urged Indians to "remove the poison of social divisions" and to "strengthen the spirit of oneness" in order to prevent such a tragedy from happening again.
- Partition Horrors Remembrance Day is a reminder of the dark side of history. But it is also a day to remember the resilience and courage of the people who survived the violence. It is a day to reflect on the importance of peace and harmony, and to rededicate ourselves to building a better future for all.

### **Pakistan Independence Day 2023:14th August**

- Pakistan's Independence Day, observed annually on August 14th, marks a significant milestone in history. On this day in 1947, the British Indian Empire underwent a division, leading to the emergence of two independent states, India and Pakistan. Pakistan's journey to sovereignty, under the astute leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, culminated after seven years of determined struggle. As the 14th of August aligns with a Monday this year, the celebrations take on added significance, offering an extended weekend for enthusiastic participation in various festive events and activities.
- The Indian subcontinent, once a single vast region encompassing present-day Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh, witnessed conflicts and Hindu-Muslim tensions following the introduction of Islam. The aftermath of the War of Independence in 1857 gave rise to ideologies aimed at safeguarding the rights of the Muslim minority.
- In 1906, the All-India Muslim League was established, advocating for a separate state for Muslims. Notably, on October 1 of the same year, a committee of 36 Muslim leaders presented this demand to the viceroy of India in Simla. Muhammad Ali Jinnah, a prominent lawyer and politician, later emerged as the

driving force behind Pakistan's creation. He led the All-India Muslim League from 1913 until Pakistan's eventual independence.

#### **International Left-Handers Day 2023: 13<sup>th</sup> August**

- International Left-Handers Day, observed annually on August 13th, is a global celebration that recognizes and appreciates the diverse skills, talents, and viewpoints of left-handed individuals. The day highlights the distinctive contributions left-handers make across various domains, from art and science to sports and daily life, emphasizing the value of diversity.
- International Left-Handers Day 2023 is dedicated to commemorating the uniqueness of left-handed people worldwide. It raises awareness about the achievements and challenges faced by left-handers, fostering inclusiveness and empathy in a predominantly right-handed world. With only around 10% of the global population being left-handed, this occasion serves as an opportunity to honor and celebrate our left-handed friends and family members.
- The theme for International Left-Handers Day 2023 revolves around "Left-Handers in Sports." This theme acknowledges and pays tribute to the numerous left-handed sports icons who have excelled in their respective fields. Renowned figures like Diego Maradona, Pele, and Lionel Messi exemplify exceptional left-handed athletes in the realm of football.

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#### **World Organ Donation Day 2023: 13<sup>th</sup> August**

- World Organ Donation Day 2023 is observed on August 13, 2023. It is a global event that is observed to raise awareness about the importance of organ donation and to encourage people to become organ donors.
- Organ donation is the process of giving an organ or tissue to someone else who needs it to survive or improve their quality of life. Organs that can be donated include kidneys, livers, hearts, lungs, pancreases, and intestines. Tissues that can be donated include corneas, skin, bone, heart valves, and tendons.
- There are currently over 100,000 people in the United States waiting for an organ transplant. Every day, 22 people die while waiting for a transplant. In India, there are over 5 lakh people waiting for an organ transplant.
- The theme for World Organ Donation Day 2023 is "Step up to volunteer; need more organ donors to fill the lacunae".
- By becoming an organ donor, you can save the lives of others. Please consider becoming an organ donor today.

#### **World Elephant Day 2023: 12th August**

- World Elephant Day, observed globally on August 12, is a significant event dedicated to raising awareness about the pressing challenges faced by elephants and advocating for their protection and conservation. This observance serves as a vital platform to highlight issues such as habitat loss, ivory poaching, human-elephant conflicts, and the urgent need for improved conservation efforts.

- This occasion aims to promote the importance of safeguarding these magnificent creatures for future generations and to encourage actions that contribute to their welfare and survival. It's a day to appreciate the vital role elephants play in maintaining ecosystems, as well as to support organizations and initiatives that work towards their preservation. From date to history here is everything you need to know about this day.

### **International Youth Day 2023: 12th August**

- Every year, on the 12th of August, the global community comes together to celebrate International Youth Day. This annual occasion serves as a dedicated day of awareness and action, recognized by the United Nations (UN), to address pertinent issues affecting the world's youth population.
- The roots of International Youth Day can be traced back to 1965 when the United Nations General Assembly initiated a deliberate focus on the younger generation. By endorsing the Declaration on the Promotion among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect, and Understanding between Peoples, the UN marked the inception of its commitment to empowering youth.
- This effort involved allocating time and resources to nurture emerging leaders and equip them to meet the evolving needs of the global community.

### **World Nagasaki Day**

- Nagasaki Day, observed annually on August 9th, holds a somber significance in global history. It marks the day when the Japanese city of Nagasaki was devastated by an atomic bomb during World War II. This day serves as a reminder of the immense destructive power of nuclear weapons and the need for lasting peace. Japan's Nagasaki on Wednesday marked the 78th anniversary of the US atomic bombing.
- As World War II raged on, the United States, along with its allies, sought to end the conflict with Japan. The decision to use atomic bombs was driven by the desire to expedite Japan's surrender and avoid a protracted, costly invasion.
- The First Atomic Bomb: Hiroshima, another Japanese city, became the first target of an atomic bomb on August 6, 1945. The destruction caused by the bomb prompted global shock and horror, leading to calls for Japan's surrender.
- The Fateful Day: On August 9, 1945, a second atomic bomb, codenamed "Fat Man," was dropped on Nagasaki. The bomb detonated above the city, causing widespread devastation and loss of life.

### **International Day Of The World's Indigenous Peoples**

- Annually, on August 9th, the world observes World Tribal Day, dedicated to advocating for and safeguarding the rights of indigenous populations.
- It's a day to recognize their valuable contributions and accomplishments that have enhanced global living conditions.
- Also referred to as World Indigenous Day or International Day of World's Indigenous People, this occasion offers a prime opportunity to actively work towards safeguarding the fundamental rights of tribal communities worldwide.



- History - In December 1994, the United Nations General Assembly decided that the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples should be observed on August 9th each year. The date was chosen in recognition of the first meeting of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights held in Geneva in 1982.

### **Quit India Movement Day: 8<sup>th</sup> August**

- The Quit India Movement was a historic event in India's struggle for Independence from British colonial rule.
- The year 2023 marks the 81st anniversary of this momentous movement that changed the course of India's history. As we commemorate this significant milestone, it is essential to reflect the ideals and sacrifices of the past, drawing inspiration for the present and the future.
- The Quit India Movement, also known as the August Movement, was initiated by the Indian National Congress on 8th August, 1942, led by Mahatma Gandhi, who called for "Do or Die" in the struggle for India's independence.

### **National Handloom Day: India**

- National Handloom Day is observed across India on August 7 every year. The primary goal of celebrating Handloom Day is to promote the handloom and to recognise the efforts as well as skills of the community of weavers engaged in the sector.
- History - The National Handloom Day was first observed in 2015 which was inaugurated by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The day was initiated with the objective of spreading awareness about the importance of the handloom sector.
- August 7 was chosen for celebrating National Handloom Day to commemorate the launch of the Swadeshi Movement on the same day in 1905 in Calcutta (now Kolkata). The movement was then led by Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal and Lala Lajpat Rai.
- The Swadeshi Movement was initiated to improve the usage of India-made goods which prominently involved handlooms. This movement also played a major role in Independence of the country during British Rule.

### **National Javelin Day: India**

- August 7 is celebrated as National Javelin Day in India. The Athletics Federation of India, the apex body for the athletics in India, took the decision to celebrate August 7 as the National Javelin Day to commemorate Neeraj Chopra's historic gold medal during the Tokyo Olympics.
- It was on August 7 2021, that Chopra hurled javelin at a distance of 87.58m during the men's Javelin Throw final of the Tokyo Games to win the gold medal. Chopra scripted history as it was India's first -ever gold medal in Track and Field events in Olympics. With the gold medal at Tokyo, Chopra also became the

second individual gold medalist from India after Abhinav Bindra's gold-medal winning performance at the 2008 Beijing Games.

#### **PM Narendra Modi participated in 9th National Handloom Day celebration today in New Delhi**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the 9th National Handloom Day celebration today Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, Delhi. During the programme, Mr Modi also launch the e-portal of 'Bhartiya Vastra evam Shilp Kosh'- a Repository of Textiles and Crafts that has been developed by the National Institute of Fashion Technology NIFT.
- In a tweet, Mr Modi underlined the significance of the occasion in reinforcing the nation's dedication to promote indigenous textiles and handlooms in line with the 'Vocal For Local' initiative
- The programmel was attended by over 3000 handloom and khadi weavers, artisans and stakeholders from the textile and MSME sectors. It bring together handloom clusters across India, NIFT campuses.

#### **Hiroshima Day**

- On 6th August 1945, the world witnessed the most devastating events 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 altered the course of humanity. Since, then August 6th has been observed as Hiroshima Day, a solemn occasion to commemorate the victims and reflect on the horrors of nuclear warfare. 6th August 2023, 78th Hiroshima Day, holds a significant position in the history.
- Hiroshima, a city of cultural significance, was instantly transformed into a haunting landscape of death and destruction in the blink of an eye. The atomic bomb, named 'Little Boy', killed an estimated 140,000 people by the end of 1945, either directly or through the subsequent effects of radiation. Most of the people suffered severe injuries and the survivors endured lifelong health issues.
- The tragedy of Hiroshima serves as a stark reminder of the consequences of unchecked aggression and the devastating potential of nuclear weapons.

#### **Ninth edition of Malabar River Festival opens in Kerala**

- In Kerala, the ninth edition of the Malabar River Festival opens at Thusharagiri in Kozhikode this morning August 4 . The three-day event, organised by the Kerala Adventure Tourism Promotion Society and the Kozhikode District Tourism Promotion Council will be held at Iruvanjhipuzha and Chalipuzha rivers at Thusharagiri.
- Besides Indian Kayakers, paddlers from ten countries including the US, UK, Israel, Kazakhstan and South Africa are participating in the event. The competition will be held in Kayak Slalom, Boardercross and Down River events. The National Whitewater Kayaking Championship will also be held as part of the Malabar River Festival this year.

### **India Tamil monsoon festival 'Aadi Perukku'**

- Aadi Perukku is celebrated on August 3rd, coinciding with the 18th day of the Tamil month of Aadi. Traditionally observed in late July or early August, this festivity centers around expressing gratitude to water bodies, as the entire month of Aadi is considered to herald the onset of the monsoon season.
- The Tamil Cultural community celebrates Aadi Perukku, also known as Pathinettam Perukku, as an auspicious festival to honor the monsoon season and the fertility of the soil.
- Aadi Perukku is a monsoon festival celebrated in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, that occurs on the 18th day of the Tamil month of Aadi. This joyous event revolves around promoting water sustainability and encompasses a variety of rituals and customs. Families unite to prepare special delicacies and partake in a lavish feast, expressing gratitude to the water deities for a prosperous year ahead.
- An intriguing facet of the Aadi Perukku celebration is the veneration of Goddess Parvati, with women offering prayers to both her and the divine. The festivities also showcase an array of rice-based dishes, including traditional favorites such as tamarind rice and curd rice, complemented by the delightful sweetness of Pongal.

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### **SUMMITS AND MOU'S**

#### **India plans to host first edition of 'Global IndiaAI 2023 ' in October**

- India, as the current chair of the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI) and the G20, is set to host the first-ever Global IndiaAI 2023 Summit on October 14 and 15.
- This momentous event will bring together prominent figures in the field of Artificial Intelligence (AI), including researchers, startups, investors, and leading AI players, from around the world. The summit aims to bolster local innovation, showcase AI-enabled public infrastructure tools, and foster international collaboration.
- Assuming the chairmanship of GPAI in November, India has gained an unprecedented chance to take the lead in emerging technology. This summit marks a pivotal moment for India to showcase its capabilities in AI and contribute significantly to shaping the global technology landscape.

#### **NITI Aayog and UNDP sign Memorandum of Understanding on fast tracking SDGs**

- The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog), the central think tank responsible for monitoring India's progress towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have signed a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) aimed at expediting India's journey towards achieving its SDGs.
- This collaboration underscores the commitment to drive sustainable and inclusive development in the country.

## **Defence Ministry Inks Rs 19,000 Cr Deal with HSL**

- The defence ministry has signed a contract with Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), Visakhapatnam, to acquire five Fleet Support Ships (FSS) for the Indian Navy at a total cost of approximately Rs 19,000 crore. These FSS ships will be designed and constructed indigenously by HSL, Visakhapatnam. The Cabinet Committee on Security approved this acquisition during its meeting on August 16.
- The primary role of the FSS ships will be to replenish other naval vessels at sea with fuel, water, ammunition, and stores, allowing the Indian Naval Fleet to operate for extended periods without returning to harbour. This acquisition will enhance the strategic reach and mobility of the fleet and significantly boost the Indian Navy's blue-water capability. Additionally, these ships can be deployed for evacuation and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) operations.

## **BRICS summit: China's Xi visits South Africa in second trip**

- Leaders from the BRICS economic alliance, consisting of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, are converging in the bustling financial district of Sandton, Johannesburg, for a highly anticipated three-day summit. This gathering marks a pivotal moment in international diplomacy as discussions unfold regarding the consolidation of political and economic influence within the developing world.
- The summit is set to witness extensive deliberations on strategies aimed at bolstering the collective political and economic clout of the BRICS alliance. Notably, China's President Xi Jinping's active participation reaffirms China's deep-rooted commitment to the BRICS alliance as a crucial instrument for advancing its strategic ambitions on the global stage.

## **India to get \$25 million grant for strengthening animal health system**

- The G20 Pandemic Fund has recently granted a significant sum of \$25 million to India's Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying. This funding is aimed at bolstering the country's animal health system, which is a crucial component of the comprehensive One Health strategy for preventing and responding to pandemics. The ongoing global pandemic has emphasized the necessity of integrated One Health frameworks in tackling emerging infectious diseases, often originating from animals.
- Notably, a substantial majority of the World Health Organization's (WHO) declared international health emergencies in recent times have been of animal origin. This reinforces the significance of addressing animal health as a pivotal facet of pandemic readiness and reaction.
- Under the guidance of Indonesia's G20 Presidency, the Pandemic Fund has greenlit a proposal submitted by India's Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD). This proposal, titled "Animal Health Security Strengthening in India for Pandemic Preparedness and Response," has been allocated the \$25 million grant.

### **Om Birla inaugurates 9th C'wealth Parliamentary Conference in Udaipur**

- The eagerly awaited Ninth India Region Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) took place in the historic city of Udaipur, located in the state of Rajasthan. Stretched across a duration of two days, the event received its inauguration from the distinguished Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla. With the core objective of exploring the theme “Enhancing Democracy and Effective Governance in the Digital Era,” the conference aimed to facilitate insightful discussions and exchange of ideas among its participants.
- The event witnessed the presence of esteemed personalities from the political and parliamentary spectrum. Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh, Rajasthan Assembly Speaker CP Joshi, and CPA Chairperson Ian Liddell-Grainger, among others, graced the occasion with their presence.

### **Lakhpati Didi Scheme: Centre Plans To Train Over Two Crore Women With Skill Development Courses**

- In a significant move to empower women and foster economic growth, the Indian government has announced the ‘Lakhpati Didi’ scheme, aiming to provide skill training to two crore women across the nation. The scheme, previously implemented in select states, now seeks to expand its reach and impact on a national scale.
- During his recent Independence Day address, Prime Minister Narendra Modi outlined his ambitious vision of cultivating two crore ‘lakhpati didis’ (women millionaires) in rural areas. Drawing attention to the vital roles played by women such as ‘bank-wali didi’ (banking sisters), ‘Anganwadi didi’ (childcare sisters), and ‘dawai-wali didi’ (medical sisters), he underscored the need to elevate women’s economic standing.
- The ‘Lakhpati Didi’ scheme is designed to empower women by equipping them with essential skills that pave the way for the establishment of micro-enterprises. A senior official shared that the scheme’s core objective is to train two crore women, thereby encouraging them to initiate and manage small-scale businesses effectively.

### **The First WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit**

- The first WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit is set to unfold on August 17 and 18, 2023, in the city of Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India.
- This event will intertwine with the G20 health ministerial meeting, creating a dynamic platform aimed at galvanizing both political commitment and evidence-based actions in the realm of traditional medicine. This age-old practice serves as the initial recourse for millions across the globe, catering to their diverse health and well-being requisites.



- The Global Summit will be jointly orchestrated by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Government of India, which presently holds the esteemed presidency of the G20 for the year 2023.
- As an inclusive stage, the Summit will convene an array of stakeholders encompassing traditional medicine practitioners, users, communities, national policymakers, international organizations, academia, private sector representatives, and civil society entities.
- Together, they will share pearls of wisdom, groundbreaking evidence, transformative data, and pioneering innovations that underscore the indispensable role of traditional medicine in both health and sustainable development.

#### **India, Vietnam holds 5th joint Trade Sub-Commission meeting**

- The 5th meeting of India-Vietnam Joint Trade Sub-Commission JTSC was held in New Delhi today. The meeting was co-chaired by the Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce Rajesh Agrawal from the Indian side, and Deputy Minister, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ms. Phan Thi Thang from the Vietnam side. This meeting was held after a gap of more than four years since 4th JTSC meeting held in January 2019, on account of COVID-19 pandemic and other factors.
- Vietnam is the 23rd largest global trade partner of India and the 5th largest among ASEAN countries with bilateral trade of 14.70 Billion dollars during 2022-23. Vietnam accounts for 11.2 percent of India's total trade with ASEAN. Vietnam is an important destination for India's iron and steel and agricultural and animal products mainly meat products, animal fodder, cereals, and marine products.

#### **UP government inks MoU with Mexican state for investment in tourism, infra sectors**

- The Uttar Pradesh government signed an MoU with Mexican state of Nuevo Leon for investments in tourism, infrastructure and pharma and medical sectors in the state.
- The MoU was signed in the presence of UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Nuevo Leon's Governor Samuel Garcia Cefalveda.
- As the delegation of Nuevo Leon is exploring possibilities of industrial investment in UP, the state has positioned itself as a key destination for various sectors including the logistics and tourism sectors, led by modern infrastructure, expressways, interstate connectivity, air connectivity, rail network, inland waterway and a dedicated freight corridor junction.
- As many as 25 sectoral policies are in place to attract industrial investment, and facilities for investment are being extended to investors, as stated by UP Chief Minister.

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#### **India, Nepal sign 4 MoUs on education, water supply and sanitation facilities**

- The Indian embassy in Kathmandu and the Ministry of Federal Affairs and general administration in Nepal signed 4 MoUs to undertake the developmental projects, which will be built under the grant assistance of India
- Among the 4 projects, three will be in the education sector and one project in water supply and sanitation, at a total estimated cost of INR 170 million

#### **Bureau of Indian Standards signs MoU with 35 institutions for fostering collaboration in standardization and conformity assessment**

- Bureau of Indian Standards, the National Standards Body of India signed Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) with 35 prestigious institutions across the country for fostering collaboration in standardization and conformity assessment. The institutions included some prominent NITs, Government and Private Engineering colleges from different states across the country.
- The MoU will pave the way for the partner institutions to participate in standardization activities by associating with the technical committees of the Bureau at the national and international level, getting infrastructure support for relevant R&D Projects, jointly organizing events on Standardization and Conformity Assessment, exchanging publications, introducing standardization curricula in academics, exploring a Centre of Excellence for Standardization, testing, and Conformity Assessment, and sharing laboratory facilities.

#### **PNGRB partners with World Bank to chalk out roadmap for hydrogen blending in natural gas**

- The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) and the World Bank have joined forces to develop a comprehensive roadmap for integrating hydrogen blending in natural gas and establishing the infrastructure for their transmission through gas pipelines in the country.
- The primary objective of the study is to develop a comprehensive roadmap for the rapid implementation of hydrogen blending in India. The study covers the following aspects:
- Analysis of hydrogen demand and supply.

- Technical assessment of the current pipeline network's compatibility for hydrogen blending.
- Evaluation of the commercial potential of the pipeline sector.
- Identification of policy and regulatory bottlenecks.
- The study's recommendations include proposing amendments to the regulatory frameworks to align with the national objective of achieving a hydrogen consumption target of 5 million metric tonnes per annum by 2030. The study is scheduled to be completed within 16 weeks.

#### **Indian Railways & IIT-Madras ink MoU for 5G testbed**

- The Ministry of Railways and the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) signed a memorandum of understanding ((MoU) to establish the India 5G testbed at the Indian Railway Institute of Signal Engineering and Telecommunications (IRISET) in Secunderabad; the facility would be dedicated to the testing and development of 5G use cases for Indian Railways.
- The MoU between IRISET and IIT-Madras aims to accelerate the indigenisation efforts of Indian Railways in the field of communications and create a testing facility for Indian Railways. The Indian Railways aims to leverage the potential of 5G technology to enhance its operational efficiency, passenger experience and overall safety. By simulating real-world scenarios, researchers and industry experts will explore innovative solutions to modernise various aspects of Railway communication and services.

#### **Subroto Mukherjee Sports Education Society sign MoU with AIFF to promote football**

- For the first time ever, Subroto Mukherjee Sports Education Society (SMSES) today signed MoU with the All India Football Federation (AIFF) to promote football at the grassroots level.
- SMSES, which has been conducting the Subroto Cup International Football Tournament since 1960, will form a Subroto XI (eleven) team under Junior Boys (Under-17) from this edition onwards. Addressing media in New Delhi,
- Air Vice Marshal and SMSES member Alok Sharma announced that the team will also participate in AIFF Youth Competition from the 2023-24 season. He said that an education workshop will also be undertaken by AIFF for coaches of final-round teams to update and educate them. Clubs from the Indian Super League, Indian Women's League, and I-League will also pick up players from the Subroto Cup.

#### **G20 Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment to begin today at Gandhinagar in Gujarat**

- G20 Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment will begin in Gandhinagar, Gujarat today – August 2 . Prime Minister Narendra Modi will deliver a special video address at the beginning of the Conference. The three -day conference will be chaired by Union Minister of Women and Child Development,

Smriti Irani. The theme of the conference is 'Women-led Inclusive Development as Cusp of Inter-Generational Transformation'.

- AIR correspondent reports that the deliberations and discussions during the conference will focus on priority areas such as Education; Women's Entrepreneurship, Creating a Partnership for Promoting Women's Leadership at all Levels; Women and Girls as Change-makers in Climate Resilience Action, and Digital Skilling for Women's Empowerment. The three-day Ministerial meeting will witness the participation of more than 150 delegates led by their respective Heads of Delegations from G20 members, invitee countries, and International Organisations.

#### **NHPC and ALIMCO sign MoU for providing aids and assistive devices to Divyangjans**

- NHPC Limited and Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, under which NHPC will provide CSR support for distribution of aids and assistive devices to around 1,000 Divyangjans (Persons with Disabilities) in the vicinity of NHPC Projects located in North and North Eastern states.
- The MoU was signed at NHPC Corporate Office, Faridabad, today, August 1st 2023, under the CSR initiative of NHPC. The MoU was signed by Group Deputy General Manager (HR), CSR & SD, NHPC and General Manager - Marketing, ALIMCO in the presence of Shri Uttam Lal, Director (Personnel), NHPC; Executive Director (CSR & SD), NHPC, and other senior officers from NHPC CSR&SD Division and ALIMCO.

#### **TRAI and C-DoT sign MoU for cooperation in telecommunications sector**

- Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai) and the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DoT) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Monday to establish mechanism of technical and institutional cooperation in telecommunications.
- The Ministry of Communications informed in a press release that the Trai Centre of Studies and Research (Trai CSR) was established as an entity within Trai with a mandate to conceptualise, coordinate, and enable technological studies in the telecom and broadcasting sectors.
- Its task is to enable technology-driven growth in India by combining the energies of different industries and sectors. The MoU has brought the two parties, Trai CSR and C-DoT together to reach the common goal of establishing a mechanism of technical and institutional cooperation in the field of telecommunications. The partnership aims to promote cooperation for research on regulatory practices and bridge gaps in our understanding.

#### **G20 EMPOWER Summit begin today - 1 August in Gandhinagar, Gujarat**

- The two-day long G20 EMPOWER Summit begin in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Zubin Irani inaugurated the summit. The inaugural session saw the launch of key outcomes under the G20

EMPOWER agenda this year including the G20 EMPOWER Tech Equity Digital Inclusion Platform, the Best Practices Playbook, the KPI Dashboard, and the adoption of the G20 EMPOWER Communique 2023.

- The summit, organized around the theme- ‘Women-Led Development: ensuring a sustainable, inclusive, and equitable global economic growth’, will witness the participation of delegates from across G20 nations, invited guest countries and international organizations in addition to many global experts, policymakers and stakeholders. Besides, a host of esteemed speakers, including Minister of State for Women and Child Development Dr Munjpara Mahendrabhai, Secretary in Ministry of Women and Child Development Indevvar Pandey, Vice-President of World Bank Lakshmi Shyam Sunder, Executive Director of UN Women Sima Bahous will also address the inaugural session.

### **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

#### **Miss World 2023 to be held in Indian-administered Kashmir**

- In an exciting announcement, Julia Eric Morely, the CEO of Miss World, held a press conference in the picturesque region of Kashmir, India. The occasion marked the anticipation and preparation for the 71st edition of the prestigious Miss World beauty pageant, which is scheduled to be hosted in India.
- Morely’s words echoed the sentiment of excitement and emotion surrounding the event, saying, “Truthfully, I am so happy. It is emotional for us, to see such beauty.”

#### **Rajasthan’s Priyan Sain Clinches Miss Earth India 2023 Crown, Embarks on a Green Mission**

- Priyan Sain clinched the title of Miss Earth India 2023 during the Miss Divine Beauty 2023 national final held on August 26 in New Delhi. The 20-year-old student, dancer, and taekwondo player from Jaipur, Rajasthan succeeds last year’s winner Vanshika Parmar, and will now prepare to represent India at the Miss Earth 2023 pageant in Vietnam this December.
- She received her crown from reigning Miss Earth from Korea Mina Sue Choi who was invited as a special guest along with Miss Earth Air from Australia Sheridan Mortlock.

#### **Ratan Tata conferred Maharashtra's first Udyog Ratna award**

- Eminent industrialist Ratan Tata was conferred with the first ever ‘Udyog Ratna’ award instituted by the Maharashtra government. The award was presented to the 85-year-old chairman emeritus of Tata Sons by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Ministers Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar at the industrialist’s home in Colaba in south Mumbai.
- The contribution of the Tata group in all sectors is immense. The steel-to-salt group operates in more than 100 countries across six continents. In 2021-22, the collective revenue of Tata companies stood at \$128 billion. The honour comprised a shawl, a citation and a memento from the Maharashtra Industrial



Development Corporation (MIDC). The award comprises a shawl, a citation, and a memento. It is presented by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra.

**Raj Chetty an Indian-American economist awarded top Harvard University prize**

- Raj Chetty, an Indian-American economist, and Michael Springer, a biologist, have been awarded Harvard University's George Ledlie Prize for their groundbreaking work in their respective fields.
- Chetty, a professor of economics at Harvard University, is known for his work on economic mobility. He has used big data to study the factors that influence a person's ability to move up the economic ladder. His research has shown that the American Dream is not as attainable as many people believe, and that there are significant obstacles that prevent people from achieving upward mobility.
- Springer, a professor of systems biology at Harvard Medical School, is known for his work on developing new diagnostic tests. He was instrumental in developing a faster and more accurate COVID-19 test, which has helped to improve the fight against the pandemic. He also helped to design and operate the new Harvard University Clinical Laboratory (HUCL), which has managed testing and samples for the university community.

**President approves 76 Gallantry awards including four Kirti Chakras, 11 Shaurya Chakras to Armed Forces and CAPF personnel**

- President Smt Droupadi Murmu has given her approval for 76 Gallantry awards to members of the Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces on the occasion of Independence Day 2023. Among these honors are 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).
- Additionally, the President has sanctioned 30 Mention-in-Despatches awards to Army personnel, including a posthumous award for Army dog Madhu, and one for an Air Force member. These recognitions acknowledge their significant contributions in various military operations, such as Operation Rakshak, Operation Snow Leopard, Operation Casualty Evacuation, Operation Mount Chomo, Operation Pangsau Pass, Operation Meghdoot, Operation Orchid, Operation Kalisham Valley, Rescue Operation, and Operation Evacuation.

**Following is the list of Gallantry awards approved by the President:**

**KIRTI CHAKRA**

S No	Name and Rank	Service	Award
1	Late Shri Dilip Kumar Das	Insp/GD	CRPF (Posthumous)
2	Late Shri Raj Kumar Yadava	HC/GD	CRPF (Posthumous)
3	Late Shri Bablu Rabha	Constable/GD	CRPF (Posthumous)
4	Late Shri Sambhu Roy	Constable C/GD	CRPF (Posthumous)

## SHAURYA CHAKRA

S No	Name and Rank	Service	Award
1	IC-76052K Major Vijay Verma	The Rajput Regiment, 44th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
2	IC-76877P Major Vikas Bhambhu, Sena Medal (Posthumous)	252 Army Aviation Squadron	Army
3	IC-81741P Major Mustafa Bohara (Posthumous)	252 Army Aviation Squadron	Army
4	IC-79120X Major Sachin Negi	The Grenadiers, 55th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
5	SC-00905H Major Rajendra Prasad Jat	The Dogra Regiment, 62nd Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
6	SC-00971L Major Ravinder Singh Rawat	The Armoured Corps, 44th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
7	16013482F Hav Vivek Singh Tomar (Posthumous)	5th Battalion, The Rajputana Rifles	Army
8	16022160H Naik Bhim Singh	The Rajputana Rifles, 9th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
9	13779235X Rifleman Kulbushan Manta (Posthumous)	The Jammu and Kashmir Rifles, 52nd Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army

S No	Name and Rank	Service	Award
10	Late Shri Saifullah Qadri, Sg. Constable (Now Posthumous)	J&K Police	MHA
11	Shri Gamit Mukesh Kumar, Constable 61 CRPF	—	MHA

#### BAR TO SENA MEDAL (GALLANTRY)

S No	Name and Rank	Service	Award
1	IC-76180F Major Nitish Tyagi, Sena Medal	12th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces)	Army
2	IC-80201K Major A Ranjith Kumar, Sena Medal	The Parachute Regiment, High Altitude Warfare School	Army

#### SENA MEDAL (GALLANTRY)

S No	Name and Rank	Service	Award
1	IC-64244P Lieutenant Colonel Yogesh Kumar Sati	523 Intelligence and Field Security Unit	Army
2	IC-71048X Lieutenant Colonel Dhruv Rajan	The Grenadiers, 29th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
3	IC-74633H Major Abhimanyu Repswal	The Armoured Corps, 22nd Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
4	IC-75393H Major Neikhotso Secu Angami	3rd Battalion, The 8th Gorkha Rifles	Army
5	IC-76219H Major Vikas Giri	The Parachute Regiment, 50th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
6	IC-77779F Major Abhishek Tyagi	The Grenadiers, 55th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
7	IC-78013K Major Borawake Apoorv Suhas	The Corps of Engineers, 3rd Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army

S No	Name and Rank	Service	Award
8	IC-78151L Major Aashish Dhonchak	The Sikh Light Infantry, 19th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
9	IC-78779N Major Navdeep Goswami	6th Battalion, The Jat Regiment	Army
10	IC-79029F Major Rishabh Negi	The Corps of Engineers, 3rd Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
11	IC-80202M Major Sanjay Singh Jamwal	4th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces)	Army
12	IC-80568K Major Abhishek Katoch	5th Battalion, The Rajput Regiment	Army
13	IC-81592M Major Saurabh Kumar	15th Battalion, The Kumaon Regiment	Army
14	IC-81775H Major Ranjit Kumar	The Brigade of the Guards, 50th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
15	IC-83008H Major Santosh Kumar	11 Gorkha Rifles, 1 Sikkim Scouts Battalion	Army
16	IC-83108N Major Rishabh Kumar Nashine	9th Battalion, The Dogra Regiment	Army
17	IC-85077X Major Ronish Kumar	19th Battalion, The Punjab Regiment	Army
18	SC-00943Y Major Dhumal Rohan Shahaji	The Rajput Regiment, 44th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
19	SS-46282H Major Maanas Narla	The Corps of Engineers, 30 (Independent) Reconnaissance and Observation Flight	Army
20	SS-46286Y Major Jaiveer Yadav	2nd Battalion, The Bihar Regiment	Army
21	SS-48532X Major Thakre Akash Ashok	61 Engineer Regiment	Army
22	SS-48926W Major Vikas Lamba	12th Battalion, The Mahar Regiment	Army

S No	Name and Rank	Service	Award
23	IC-82947Y Captain Aayush Chauhan	The Rajputana Rifles, 9th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
24	C-85483X Captain Saurabh Gupta	12th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces)	Army
25	SS-50195M Captain Chetan Singh	The Corps of Signals, 34th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
26	JC-247925L Risaldar Sanjay Kumar	55 Armoured Regiment	Army
27	JC-551984N Naib Subedar Dipti Kumar Hazwari	5th Battalion, The Assam Regiment	Army
28	3202898H Havildar Manoj Kumar	The Jat Regiment, 34th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
29	4008286N Havildar Arun Kumar	The Dogra Regiment, 62nd Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
30	4193965P Havildar Ranveer Singh	The Kumaon Regiment, 50th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
31	4199936W Havildar Pradeep Kumar Singh	15th Battalion, The Kumaon Regiment	Army
32	13630562K Naik Sovindra Kumar	12th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces)	Army
33	18005135A Naik Dharmvir	The Corps of Engineers, 3rd Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
34	19002538L Naik Hardeep Singh	24th Battalion, The Sikh Regiment	Army
35	2706631X Naik Munish Kumar	The Grenadiers, 55th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
36	3012008F Naik Satyendra Singh	The Rajput Regiment, 44th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
37	3012377Y Naik Khemchand	5th Battalion, The Rajput Regiment	Army



S No	Name and Rank	Service	Award
38	4486359P Naik Harjinder Singh	The Sikh Light Infantry, 19th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
39	9114169H Naik Rafiq Ahmad Mir	The Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry, 50th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
40	20004865Y Lance Naik Abhishek	The Dogra Regiment, 62nd Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
41	3018169A Lance Naik Sanwra Choudhary	The Rajput Regiment, 44th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
42	20007762L Sepoy Yashwant Singh	The Dogra Regiment, 62nd Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
43	2518207X Sepoy Akashdeep Singh	18th Battalion, The Punjab Regiment	Army
44	3016460N Sepoy Sateram	The Rajput Regiment, 44th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
45	3018182K Sepoy Lakshmi Narayan Adhana	The Rajput Regiment, 44th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
46	3018252X Sepoy Dhan Singh Gurjar	The Rajput Regiment, 44th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
47	3211310X Sepoy Vikash	The Jat Regiment, 34th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
48	12975042N Rifleman Shaheen Husain Gan	162 Infantry Battalion (Territorial Army)	Army
49	15511217Y Sowar Ravi Sharma	The Armoured Corps, 22nd Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
50	16123961L Sapper Vishal Yadav	The Corps of Engineers, 44th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
51	2713315F Grenadier Salim Khan	The Grenadiers, 29th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
52	15251500W Gunner Ramalingam K	The Regiment of Artillery, 19th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army

#### NAO SENA MEDAL (GALLANTRY)

S No	Name and Rank	Service
1	Lieutenant Commander Paneerselvam Vishnu Prasanna (08495-F)	Navy
2	Commander Kaustab Banerjee (06158-W)	Navy
3	Commander Hanish Singh Karki (05093-Z)	Navy

#### VAYU SENA MEDAL (GALLANTRY)

S No	Name and Rank	Service
1	Wing Commander Shiv Kumar Chauhan (28472) Flying (Pilot)	Air Force
2	Wing Commander Shrey Tomar (30170) Flying (Pilot)	Air Force
3	Squadron Leader GL Vineeth (31529) Flying (Pilot)	Air Force
4	Flight Lieutenant Pradeep Murugan (36071) MET/GARUD	Air Force

#### Union Home Minister Amit Shah hails the team of NAFIS of NCRB for winning Gold Award

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah congratulated the team of National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS) of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) for securing the Gold Award in the Excellence in Government Process Re-engineering for Digital Transformation Category-1.
- The accolade, conferred by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), stands as a testament to the exceptional efforts of the NAFIS team in achieving a new standard of efficient governance. The Gold Award recognizes NAFIS for its commitment to crafting an impregnable fingerprint identification system, aligning with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for a secure India.
- The Ministry of Home Affairs underscored NAFIS's pivotal role in revolutionizing the landscape of fingerprint identification systems within crime control. The establishment of a central database containing fingerprints of criminals accessible to users across all States, Union Territories, and Central Agencies has significantly augmented the efficiency and effectiveness of criminal detection and investigation processes.

### Indian real estate entrepreneur Subhash Runwal receives the Lifetime Achievement Award at the RICS South Asia Awards

- Subhash Runwal, Chairman of Runwal, a leading real estate developer with a legacy of over four decades, has been recognized with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the first-ever RICS South Asia Awards. RICS (Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors) is a global industry body representing professionals across the country.
- Hosting its first-ever awards, it aimed to recognize global and Indian industry-leading achievements and demonstrate the upholding of the highest standards of professionalism and ethics by individuals and teams across built and natural environments. This recognition is a testimony to Runwal's exceptional contributions, outstanding achievements, and unwavering dedication to the real estate sector.

### IFFM 2023 full winners list: Pathaan, Rani Mukerji, Sita Ramam win top honours

- The Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) Awards once again took center stage, honouring the finest cinematic gems from the Indian film industry. The 14th Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) Awards were held in Melbourne, Australia, on 11 August, honouring the best of film and OTT content from India globally.
- Filmmaker Karan Johar was honoured for completing 25 years in the Indian film industry as a Filmmaker. He received a huge round of applause for his immense contributions in the field of entertainment.

Category	Winner
Jury Awards	
Best Documentary	To Kill A Tiger
Best India Film	Agra
Best Performance in Film (MALE)	Monty Agarwal for Agra
Best Performance in a film (FEMALE)	Rani Mukerji for Mrs Chatterjee Vs Norway
Best Director	Priyvi Kottanur – Hadnalenlu (Seventeeners)
Best Film	Sita Ramam
Best Performance (MALE) in a Series	Vijay Varma for Dastaad
Best Performance (FEMALE) in a series	Rajshri Deshpande for Tital By Fire
Best Series	Jubilee
Best Short Film – People's Choice	Connection Kya Hai by Nilesh Nair
Best Short Film – Australia	Home by Mark Russell Bernard
Honourary 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	Munni Thakur
Disruptor Award	Bhumi Pednekar
Rainbow Stories Award	Chir for Pine Cone

### Industrialist Ratan Tata To Be Conferred With Maharashtra's First 'Udyog Ratna'

- The Maharashtra government has decided to celebrate Ratan Tata, the Tata group's former Chairman, with the inaugural Maharashtra Udyog Ratna Award. Uday Samant, the state industries minister, revealed this significant honour during a session of the State Legislative Assembly

- Following in the footsteps of the Maharashtra Bhushan award, the highest state honour bestowed upon remarkable persons, the Maharashtra government has decided to institute the renowned Udyog Ratna Award beginning this year. Tata will be the first recipient of this honour.
- About: The Maharashtra Udyog Ratna Award - The 'Udyog Ratna' award is a state-level award given to individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the industrial sector of Maharashtra. Ratan Tata is being awarded the award for his contributions to the growth and development of the Tata Group, which is one of the largest conglomerates in India.

#### **PM Narendra Modi to be conferred with Lokmanya Tilak National Award in Pune**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on a day-long visit to Pune in Maharashtra today. He will flag off Metro trains marking inauguration of services on completed sections of the two corridors of Pune Metro Phase I. Mr. Modi will also be conferred the Lokmanya Tilak National Award for his outstanding contributions towards the progress of the country. Prime Minister will begin his Pune visit by performing Darshan and Pooja at Dagdusheth Mandir.
- Prime Minister will be honored with the Lokmanya Tilak award by Deepak Tilak, President of Tilak Smarak Mandir Trust. The Award was instituted in 1983 by the Tilak Smarak Mandir Trust and is given every year on 1st August, the death anniversary of Lokmanya Tilak, to persons who have made remarkable contributions, for development of the nation. Prime Minister will offer floral tributes at the statue of Lokmanya Tilak. Modi will also flag off Metro trains marking inauguration of services on completed sections of the two corridors of Pune Metro. The foundation of this project was laid by the Prime Minister himself in 2016.

### **RANKING**

#### **MP: Indore secures 1st position, Bhopal 5th in Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan -2023**

- The city of Indore has clinched the top spot 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 results of the survey reflect not only the city's dedicated efforts but also highlight the overall progress made by several cities in Madhya Pradesh.
- The Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan -2023 witnessed a remarkable display of dominance by Madhya Pradesh, particularly in the category of cities with a population of more than 10 lakhs. Out of the top five positions, two were secured by cities from the state. While Indore claimed the prestigious first position, Bhopal secured a commendable fifth rank.

#### **Maharashtra tops fiscal health report**

- In a recent development, Maharashtra has emerged as the front -runner in the Fiscal Health Report, showcasing commendable financial stability. Surprisingly,

Chhattisgarh, a state often associated with economic challenges, secured an unexpected second position in the rankings.

**The Fiscal Health Report's assessment is based on four crucial fiscal parameters:**

1. **Fiscal Deficit:** This indicator evaluates the gap between a state's total expenditures and its total revenue. A lower fiscal deficit indicates better financial management.
2. **Own Tax Revenue:** The proportion of revenue generated by a state through its internal taxation system reflects its self-sufficiency in funding its operations.
3. **State Debt Levels:** The extent of a state's indebtedness relative to its economic output, as measured by the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP), gauges its ability to manage financial obligations.
4. **Interest Payment to Revenue Receipts:** This parameter underscores the ratio of interest payments on debts to the overall revenue earned by the state, revealing its debt servicing capability.

**Srinagar Tops In Implementing JJM Among Har Ghar Jal Certified Districts In India**

- The Srinagar district has become the highest-performing district under the Jal Jeevan Survekshan (JJS-2023), outshining 114 Har Ghar Jal certified villages across India.
- The district's achievements include Har Ghar Jal certification, meticulous water quality testing through laboratories and Field Test Kits (FTKs), specialized training for women to effectively utilize FTKs, and comprehensive skill training for Operations and Maintenance (O&M) staff.
- The Jal Jeevan Mission was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 15, 2019. Its goal is to provide adequate quantities of clean, safe, and pressurized drinking water on a consistent basis.

**Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu top 3 states with maximum Jan Dhan**

- In the fiscal year 2022-23, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu emerged as the leading three states in terms of the most number of beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana.
- The aim of the "Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is to ensure equitable access to a range of financial services, including the availability of fundamental savings accounts, access to customized credit, seamless remittance capabilities, insurance coverage, and pension benefits for underserved segments, notably weaker sections and low-income groups.

State	Beneficiary Rank	Beneficiary Count	Fiscal year	Scheme Impact
Bihar	1 <sup>st</sup>	84, 89,231 individuals	2022-23	Exemplary success underscores scheme triumph, inclusive growth
Uttar	2 <sup>nd</sup>	68, 08,721	2022-23	Penetration in populous



Pradesh		individuals		regions, financial stability, self-sufficiency
Tamil nadu	3 <sup>rd</sup>	64,06,513 individuals	2022-23	Impact in developed economic landscape widespread scheme reach

#### India Trails Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh On Internet Resilience: Report

- India, a rapidly developing nation in the realm of technology and connectivity, has achieved an overall score of 43 percent in the Internet Resilience Index (IRI). This achievement positions India as the sixth-ranked country in the South Asian region.
- The IRI, developed by the global non-profit organization Internet Society, provides a comprehensive assessment of a country's internet ecosystem, taking into account factors such as security, performance, infrastructure, and market readiness.

Rank	Country	Internet Resilience Index (IRI) Ranking
1	Bhutan	58 percent
2	Bangladesh	51 percent
3	Maldives	50 percent
4	Sri Lanka	47 percent
5	Nepal	43 percent

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#### BOOKS AND AUTHORS

##### Amrit Mathur's autobiography Pitchside: My Life in Indian Cricket'

- The book "Pitchside: My Life in Indian Cricket" is written by Amrit Mathur, a cricket administrator with vast experience.
- In the book, Mathur presents a first-person perspective on notable moments in Indian cricket history.
- Mathur managed the Indian cricket team during the historic 1992 tour of South Africa.

##### Goa governor Sreedharan Pillai releases three books on trees, nature, geopolitics

- Goa governor PS Sreedharan Pillai released three books at a function held at the Raj Bhavan. His recently authored three new books namely 'Heritage Trees of Goa', 'When Parallel Lines Meet', and 'Ente Priya Kavithakal' ('My Dear Poems' a collection of poems). Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant inaugurated the event in Panaji, Goa. West Bengal governor CV Ananda Bose unveiled the book

‘Heritage Trees of Goa’, while Goa chief minister Pramod Sawant inaugurated the event. Goa state minister for tourism Rohan Khaunte and Jnanpith winner Damodar Mauzo released two other books: ‘When Parallel Lines Meet’ and ‘Ente Priya Kavitalakal’.

#### **The Life, Vision and Songs of Kabir' by Vipul Rikhi**

- The book, “Drunk on Love: The Life, Vision and Songs of Kabir”, published by HarperCollins India and written by writer-singer Vipul Rikhi, presents the 15th-century poet, as he is described, quoted, and loved in popular imagination. A new book aims to capture the life of mystic poet Kabir through popular legends, his vision and his poetry that has been quoted and translated extensively.
- The book brings into one place stories from Kabir’s life, his most famous songs, “as well as his fiercely iconoclastic and inspiring vision”. The essence of Kabir to a contemporary readership. Through his lived, practical understanding of the centuries-old verses, he reacquaints us with their core wisdom, which we can apply to our own lives. This is Kabir for the modern mind to engage with and learn from,” Swati Chopra, associate publisher, HarperCollins.

#### **Indian Poet-Diplomat Abhay Kumar Unveils "Monsoon**

- Indian –poet –diplomat Abhay Kumar (Abhay K), Deputy Director General of Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR), launched his new book titled “Monsoon: A Poem of Love and Longing”, a book–length poem running across 150 fourline stanzas, at Kathika Culture Centre in Old Delhi, Delhi. The book was published by Sahitya Akademi on the occasion of its 68th anniversary (13th March 2022). The book is a poem that follows the monsoon which originates from Madagascar and travels to the Srinagar in the Himalayas and back to Madagascar.
- In the preface to Monsoon: A Poem of Love and Longing, the poet traces how he came to write a love poem that connects India and Madagascar. One of Abhay K’s books is a translation of Kalidasa’s Meghaduta into English. So, this preoccupation with topos – topography, so to say – remains firmly in the poet’s oeuvre.

#### **A new book “How Prime Ministers Decide”, by veteran journalist Neerja Chowdhury released**

- A new book, titled How Prime Ministers Decide, by veteran journalist Neerja Chowdhury recalls the drama that led to Sonia’s announcement, prompted by Rahul’s “fear for his mother’s life”. A new book also claimed that former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had good relations with several RSS leaders but carefully kept a distance between the organisation and herself.
- The author analyses the operating styles of the country’s prime ministers through the prism of six decisions of historic significance. These are as follows: the strategy that Indira Gandhi devised to return to power in 1980, after her humiliating defeat post the Emergency in 1977; the errors of judgment that led Rajiv Gandhi to undo the Supreme Court’s judgment in the Shah Bano case; V. P.

Singh's implementation of the Mandal Commission Report to save his government which forever changed the face of contemporary politics;

- How Prime Ministers Decide is an unparalleled book about modern Indian politics which will change the way we view how prime ministers govern the country.

#### **Kargil: Ek Yatri Ki Jubani" a book by Rishi Raj**

- Ajay Bhatt, Minister of State (MoS), Ministry of Defence (MoD), released the book and illustrations titled "Kargil: Ek Yatri Ki Jubani" (Hindi Edition) authored by Rishi Raj at the Constitution Club of India, New Delhi, Delhi. The book which pays tribute to the Martyrs of Kargil War was published by Prabhat Prakashan.
- About: Rishi Raj - Rishi Raj has authored as many as 21 books, out of which four bagged the Rahul The event was graced by Subedar Major (Then Rifleman) Sanjay Kumar, who was awarded Param Vir Chakra in the Kargil War. Sankrityayan Award from the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India (GoI).
- Kargil War also referred as "Operation Vijay" was fought between India and Pakistan from May to July 1999 to 26th July 1999 in the Kargil district of Jammu and Kashmir(J&K). July 26th has been observed as 'Kargil Vijay Diwas', which annually commemorates the sacrifices made by soldiers in this war.

### **BANKING AND ECONOMY**

#### **Axis Bank Launched 'Infinity Savings Account' with Zero Domestic Transaction Fees**

- Axis Bank, a prominent player in India's private banking sector, has taken a groundbreaking step by launching the 'Infinity Savings Account.' This innovative savings account variant is designed to cater to the needs of digitally savvy customers who are avid users of subscription-based services.
- With the 'Infinity Savings Account,' Axis Bank is set to redefine the banking experience, offering exclusive privileges and removing barriers that traditionally accompanied banking services.

#### **RBI appoints Bandhan Bank to disburse civil pension**

- In a significant development, Bandhan Bank has been granted authorization by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to serve as an authorized pension disbursement bank.
- This authorization is in association with the Central Pension Accounting Office (CPAO), a part of the Ministry of Finance. The bank is set to collaborate closely with the CPAO to initiate and streamline the process of disbursing civil pensions.

#### **DBS partners with Maptrusco to complete the first eBL transaction**

- Development Bank of Singapore (DBS) partnered with commodities trader Maptrusco, announced the completion of the first "live" transaction of electronic Bills of Lading for shipments between Singapore and India .

- Transaction was implemented under the TradeTrust framework, an initiative by the Infocomm Media Development Authority and supported by Enterprise Singapore.

#### **RBI approves merger of Akola Merchant Co-operative Bank**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the merger of The Jalgaon Peoples Co-operative Bank and Akola Merchant Co-operative Bank.
- The Akola Merchant Co-operative Bank branches would operate as branches of The Jalgaon Peoples Co-operative Bank.
- The merger of Twin Cities Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd and Kranti Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd was also given the go-ahead by the central bank.

#### **RBI enhances transactions limits for small value digital payments to ₹500**

- RBI has announced to enhance transaction limits for small value digital payments in offline mode to ₹500 from the earlier cap of ₹200.
- Aim: To enable faster, more reliable, and contactless payments for everyday small value purchases, transit payments, and so on by eliminating the need for two-factor verification for small value transactions.
- This effectively means that transacting parties can carry out digital transactions amounting to ₹500 each in the offline mode.

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#### **BHEL manufactures first set of indigenous SCR Catalysts to limit NOx emission**

- In a significant stride towards environmental responsibility, Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL), a prominent state-owned engineering company, has successfully developed the first set of indigenous Selective Catalyst Reactors (SCR) Catalysts. These catalysts play a crucial role in mitigating nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions from thermal power plants. Previously reliant on imports, this achievement underscores the 'Make in India' initiative championed by the government.
- Underlining their commitment to self-reliance and national innovation, BHEL has crafted a monumental milestone by producing homegrown SCR Catalysts. The catalysts are integral to tackling NOx emissions, a prevalent pollutant resulting from coal combustion in thermal power plants. This development aligns perfectly with the 'Make in India' campaign, boosting indigenous manufacturing and self-sufficiency.

#### **First time in 4 years, MFIs overtake banks in microlending with 40% share**

- After a four-year interval, standalone Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) have reclaimed their dominant position in microlending, surpassing banks. This resurgence is attributed to their recovery from pandemic-induced setbacks and strategic efforts, with standalone MFIs now holding a 40% share of microfinance loans in the country.
- The pandemic had severely impacted MFIs, causing a significant drop in collections and disbursements.

- Standalone MFIs have shown remarkable growth, rebounding from a 32% share in FY20 to 40% in FY23.
- Banks, on the other hand, saw a decline in their microlending share from 44% in FY21 to 34% in FY23.
- The microfinance industry witnessed a robust 37% growth in FY23, driven by a favorable macroeconomic climate and renewed demand.
- This growth translated into higher disbursements and expansion of the microfinancing landscape.

#### **RBI approves voluntary amalgamation of Twin Cities Co-operative Urban Bank with Kranti Co-operative Urban Bank**

- In a recent development, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted its approval for the voluntary amalgamation of Twin Cities Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd with Kranti Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd. The amalgamation scheme is set to take effect from August 23, 2023. This decision, as outlined in an official release from the central bank, marks a significant step in the consolidation of cooperative urban banks.
- The RBI's decision further entails that the branch of Twin Cities Co-operative Urban Bank will seamlessly operate as a branch of Kranti Co-operative Urban Bank starting from August 23, 2023. This move ensures a smooth transition of operations and services, providing customers with continued access to banking facilities without interruption.
- The RBI had previously established a comprehensive framework for the amalgamation of Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs). This framework, introduced on March 23, 2021, serves as a guideline for facilitating amalgamation processes in the UCB sector.

#### **LIC gets 6.66% stake in Jio Financial Services through demerger process**

- Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has announced its acquisition of a 6.7% stake in Jio Financial Services (JFSL), a non-banking financial services unit that emerged from the conglomerate helmed by Mukesh Ambani – Reliance Industries. The acquisition, carried out through a demerger action by Reliance Industries, is poised to have a notable impact on both entities and the broader financial markets.
- Jio Financial Services made its debut on the stock exchanges on August 21, entering the financial markets with a promising trajectory. The company, post-listing, boasted a market capitalization of approximately Rs 1.60 lakh crore, indicative of the investor interest and confidence in its potential. Despite its strong market capitalization, the stock faced challenges in its initial trading sessions.
- The stock experienced a downward trajectory for the second consecutive session, hitting the lower circuit limit – a threshold set by the stock exchanges to curb excessive volatility – for both BSE and NSE. The stock's price declined by 4.99% to Rs 239.20 on BSE and by 5% to Rs 236.45 on NSE. This phenomenon has



led to discussions regarding the market's reaction to the demerger and the implications of this volatility on the company's valuation.

#### **Canara Bank introduces UPI interoperable digital rupee mobile app**

- Canara Bank, a leading player in the Indian banking sector, has taken a monumental step by introducing the UPI interoperable digital rupee mobile application. This move places Canara Bank at the forefront of innovation, becoming the first bank across both the public and commercial sectors to offer this pioneering feature. The app, named the Canara Digital Rupee app, marks a significant milestone as a part of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) pilot project.
- This forward-thinking initiative empowers customers to seamlessly complete transactions through their smartphones. With the Canara Digital Rupee app, customers can effortlessly scan merchant UPI QR codes, facilitating payments using the digital currency. This streamlined process brings a new level of convenience to digital payments, enhancing the overall transaction experience for users.

#### **RBI allows IDF-NBFCs to raise money via external commercial borrowings**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently 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 to align the regulations governing infrastructure sector financing by Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs).

##### **Enhanced Capital Requirements**

1. Net Owned Fund (NOF) Requirement: Under the new guidelines, IDF-NBFCs are mandated to maintain a minimum Net Owned Fund (NOF) of Rs 300 crore. This measure ensures that these entities possess adequate financial strength to engage significantly in infrastructure financing.
2. Capital Adequacy (CRAR): The revised norms stipulate a Capital-to-Risk Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) of at least 15%, with a minimum Tier 1 capital of 10%.

#### **CRISIL forecasts India's GDP growth at 6% next fiscal**

- Crisil, a prominent rating agency, anticipates India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth to reach 6% in the fiscal year 2024. This projection is lower than the 7% estimated by the National Statistical Organisation (NSO) for the fiscal year 2023.
- Crisil offers an optimistic medium-term outlook for the Indian economy. The agency foresees the economy maintaining an average growth rate of 6.8% over the next five fiscal years. This projection is driven by factors such as increased capital investment and productivity enhancements.
- The global economic environment is currently clouded by complex geopolitical events and persistently high inflation. As a result, central banks have resorted to

sharp interest rate hikes to counter inflationary pressures, leading to a more challenging global landscape.

- Crisil identifies the peak effect of interest rate hikes as a crucial factor for the Indian economy in fiscal year 2024. The agency notes that the cumulative increase of 250 basis points in interest rates since May 2022 has elevated rates above pre-Covid-19 levels. This impact is expected to unfold in the coming fiscal year.

#### **Axis Bank partners with RBI innovation hub to launch KCCs**

- In a significant partnership, Axis Bank has joined forces with the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), a subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), to introduce two groundbreaking lending products. These products are powered by the Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit (PTPFC), a pioneering initiative launched by RBIH.
- Digital Agricultural Financing: Axis Bank is set to revolutionize agricultural financing by launching the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) through the PTPFC platform.
- Initial Rollout: As a pilot project, the KCC will be initially offered in Madhya Pradesh, catering to the agricultural community in the region.
- Limit and Accessibility: Eligible customers will be able to access KCCs with a credit limit of up to Rs 1.6 lakh, empowering them to invest in their agricultural endeavors.
- Streamlined Application Process: The entire application process for KCC will be conducted digitally, eliminating the need for customers to submit physical documents.

#### **RBI launched UDGAM portal: You can get unclaimed bank deposits with ease now**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has unveiled a groundbreaking solution for individuals seeking their unclaimed deposits. Named the UDGAM (Unclaimed Deposits – Gateway to Access Information) portal, this centralized web platform is designed to simplify the process of locating unclaimed deposits across various banks. Here's a comprehensive breakdown of the key features and steps involved:
- The RBI's UDGAM portal serves as a user-friendly tool for individuals to track down their unclaimed deposits seamlessly, consolidating information from multiple banks into a single accessible location. With the growing prevalence of unclaimed deposits, RBI has been proactively promoting awareness campaigns to educate the public about this issue. Through UDGAM, RBI aims to empower citizens to identify their unclaimed deposits and engage with their respective banks to initiate claims.
- The UDGAM portal simplifies the process of identifying and claiming unclaimed deposits by streamlining the steps involved. RBI collaborated with Reserve Bank Information Technology Pvt Ltd (ReBIT), Indian Financial Technology & Allied Services (IFTAS), and select banks to develop this platform.

## Digital India expansion gets ₹14903 crore outlay

- In a significant development, the cabinet has given its nod to the extension of the Digital India project, allocating a substantial budget of ₹14,903 crore. Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw announced this decision, highlighting that the extended initiative will build upon the achievements of its previous iteration.
- Under the ambit of this extended Digital India project, several crucial objectives have been outlined, each aimed at bolstering India's technological capabilities:
  1. IT Professional Upskilling: A substantial portion of the allocated funds will be directed towards the reskilling and upskilling of approximately 5.25 lakh IT professionals. This effort is intended to enhance the digital proficiency of the workforce.
  2. IT Training: An equally important focus area is the training of around 2.65 lakh individuals in the field of information technology, equipping them with valuable skills for the digital age.
  3. Expansion of Supercomputing Infrastructure: As a part of the National Supercomputing Mission, the extension plan includes the addition of nine more supercomputers. This move is set to amplify India's computational capabilities, contributing to scientific research and innovation.
  4. Digital Empowerment for Enterprises: The Digital India project aims to extend the benefits of the Digilocker app to micro, small, and medium enterprises. By leveraging this app, these enterprises can conveniently access credit and other services, with their documents securely stored and verified.
  5. Information Security Training: Around 2.65 lakh individuals will receive training in information security through the Information Security and Education Awareness Phase (ISEA) Programme. This initiative is crucial in the age of increasing cyber threats.
  6. Cyber Awareness for Students: A significant stride in the project involves conducting cyber awareness courses for a staggering 12 crore college students. This educational effort aims to equip the younger generation with the knowledge and skills to navigate the digital world safely.
  7. Enhancement of Cyber Forensics: The expansion of CertIn, which specializes in cyber forensics, emergency response, and cyber diagnosis, is also on the cards. This expansion will bolster India's capabilities in handling cyber threats effectively.
  8. Strengthening National Knowledge Network: The National Knowledge Network, currently connecting 1,787 universities and research institutes, will be elevated to the status of Digital India Infoways. This move will foster collaboration and information exchange among academia and research.
  9. AI Center of Excellence: Acknowledging the significance of artificial intelligence, a center of excellence in this field will be established. This center will explore AI applications in critical sectors such as agriculture, health, and sustainability.
  10. Cyber Security Advancements: The extended project includes initiatives to enhance cyber security, including tool development and integration of over 200 sites with the National Cyber Coordination Centre.

11. Startup Support in Tier 2 and 3 Cities: Encouraging entrepreneurship, the project has provisions for funding assistance to 1,200 startups based in tier 2 and 3 cities. This move aims to foster innovation in regions beyond major urban centers.

#### **OpenAI acquires design company Global Illumination**

- OpenAI has successfully acquired Global Illumination, an ingenious startup based in New York, which harnesses the power of AI to craft innovative creative tools, digital experiences, and robust infrastructure. The acquisition signals OpenAI's commitment to amplify its capabilities and revolutionize the AI landscape.
- Founded in the year 2021 by the dynamic trio of Thomas Dimson, Taylor Gordon, and Joey Flynn, Global Illumination has swiftly carved a niche for itself in the tech realm.
- The startup's illustrious portfolio boasts a dazzling array of products crafted for tech titans including Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, Google, Pixar, and Riot Games.
- The endorsement of venture capital heavyweights such as Paradigm, Benchmark, and Slow further underscores the startup's profound potential.

#### **Wipro Launched Center Of Excellence On Generative AI at IIT Delhi**

- Wipro Limited has announced the establishment of a groundbreaking Center of Excellence (CoE) on Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) in partnership with the esteemed Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi. This collaboration manifests Wipro's commitment to drive continuous innovation in emerging technologies, solidifying its position as a frontrunner in the tech industry.
- The CoE's launch resonates as a significant milestone within Wipro's larger strategic vision, the Wipro ai360 ecosystem, which earmarks a staggering \$1 billion investment toward catalyzing AI-led innovation.
- The Wipro CoE on Generative AI is strategically nested within the Yardi School of Artificial Intelligence (ScAI) at IIT Delhi.
- With its roots embedded within the vibrant academic ecosystem of IIT Delhi, this CoE will serve as a vessel for foundational and applied research.
- Its overarching objectives encompass the nurturing of exceptional talent, forging new horizons of innovation, and propelling the state of the art in this pivotal field of Generative AI.

#### **Viacom18 completes merger of JioCinema and Voot OTT platforms, majority subscribers transitioned**

- Viacom18, a prominent player in the Indian media and entertainment industry, has made significant strides in merging its two Over-The-Top (OTT) platforms, JioCinema and Voot. The integration process has reached an advanced stage, with technology backends fully aligned and a majority of Voot Select subscribers smoothly transitioning to JioCinema.

- The merger has led to the dissolution of Voot as a standalone platform, both in terms of functionality and visibility.
- A simple Google search for Voot redirects users to the JioCinema website, consolidating Viacom18's OTT presence under a single brand.
- The transition is also evident on app platforms, where only the JioCinema app is now available, marking a cohesive and streamlined user experience.
- The merger process gained significant momentum in April 2023, when Viacom18 completed a complex merger scheme involving Reliance Industries, Bodhi Tree Systems, and Paramount Global.
- This strategic move facilitated the integration of JioCinema into Viacom18, making it the primary platform for marquee content.

#### **India's Per Capita Income To Rise 7.5 Times To Nearly Rs 15 Lakh Per Annum By FY47: SBI Research**

- India's journey towards becoming a developed economy by 2047 has gained momentum, with a recent study conducted by SBI Research economists projecting a remarkable increase in per capita income. The study suggests that India's per capita income is poised to surge by 7.5 times, from Rs 2 lakh (\$2,500) in FY23 to Rs 14.9 lakh (\$12,400) per annum by FY47. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emphasized this objective, aiming to turn the vision of a developed India into a reality by 2047.
- The study by SBI Research underscores the immense growth potential in India's economy in the coming decades. This growth is attributed to several factors, including the country's transition from a lower-income group to an upper-income group economy and the positive impact of tax buoyancy. Notably, the formalization of the economy through initiatives like the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and the UDYAM portal for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) has played a pivotal role in enhancing income tax returns.

#### **Govt hikes windfall tax on crude petroleum to Rs 7100 per tonne**

- In a recent development, the Indian government has decided to enhance the windfall profit tax on domestically produced crude oil and exported diesel. This decision is accompanied by the reintroduction of the tax on aviation turbine fuel (ATF) shipments abroad. These changes are being implemented through a special additional excise duty (SAED) mechanism, aimed at regulating profits derived from these energy sources.

#### **Crude Oil Windfall Tax Raised-**

1. Tax Hike Details: The government has made the decision to increase the special additional excise duty (SAED) on domestically produced crude oil. This tax, formerly set at ₹4,250 per tonne, has been raised to ₹7,100 per tonne, as per an official notification.
2. Implementation Date: The new tax rates have taken effect from August 15, as indicated by the official order dated August 14.

#### **Export of Diesel and ATF Subject to Higher Tax Rates-**



1. **Diesel Export Tax Increase:** The SAED on exported diesel has seen a significant surge. It has risen from ₹1 per litre to ₹5.50 per litre, marking a notable change in taxation policy for this energy product.
2. **Introduction of ATF Levy:** A new development in the taxation framework involves the imposition of a ₹2 per litre duty on the export of aviation turbine fuel (ATF), also known as jet fuel. This marks a departure from the absence of such a levy in the past.
3. **Tax Trigger Points:** These enhanced taxes on diesel and ATF exports are activated when the product cracks (or margins) exceed \$20 per barrel.

### **India's July wholesale price index falls less than expected on food prices**

- In July, the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) continued to exhibit deflationary trends for the fourth consecutive month, although the decline was notably mitigated by a substantial increase in food and primary article prices. While the overall WPI deflation shrank from June's 92-month low of -4.1% to -1.36%, a surge of over 7.5% in food and primary article prices played a pivotal role in this shift.
- Primary food article inflation reached an impressive 14.3% in July, marking its highest level in nearly a decade. The surge in vegetable prices was particularly striking, with an 81.1% spike compared to June and a 62.1% increase from the previous year. Other staples like milk, wheat, cereals, pulses, and paddy saw year-on-year price hikes of over 8% to 9%.
- While several food items experienced substantial price escalations, potatoes and fruits saw declines of 24.4% and 8.9%, respectively, in comparison to last July. However, the price of potatoes did increase by 8% from June. Onions, too, witnessed a notable price increase of nearly 28% since June 2023 and 7.13% from July 2022.

### **RBI Partners With McKinsey and Accenture On Using AI/ML**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is taking a significant step towards bolstering its regulatory supervision over banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) through the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) technologies. To achieve this, the RBI has partnered with two prominent global consultancy firms, McKinsey and Company India LLP, and Accenture Solutions Pvt Ltd India. This move aligns with the RBI's aim to harness the potential of advanced analytics to strengthen its supervisory functions.
- In a strategic move, the RBI initiated a process to identify consultants proficient in advanced analytics, AI, and ML. The central bank, following a meticulous evaluation, chose McKinsey and Company India LLP and Accenture Solutions Private Limited India for the pivotal task. These firms will be instrumental in designing and developing systems that leverage AI and ML capabilities for regulatory supervision.
- While the RBI is already employing AI and ML in its supervisory processes, the institution is now poised to take this implementation to a higher level. By

embracing advanced analytics, the RBI intends to unlock the full spectrum of benefits these technologies offer.

#### **RBI to bring framework to make reset of floating rate loan EMIs transparent**

- In a significant move aimed at enhancing transparency and consumer protection in the home loan sector, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced a comprehensive set of reforms pertaining to floating rate home loans. These reforms are designed to bring more clarity to the process of 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.
- The RBI's reforms emphasize the need for banks to establish a transparent framework for resetting interest rates on floating rate home loans. Regulated Entities, including banks, are now required-
  1. Clearly communicate with borrowers about potential changes in tenor and Equated Monthly Installments (EMIs).
  2. Provide borrowers the flexibility to switch from floating to fixed interest rate loans or foreclose their loans.
  3. Disclose all charges associated with exercising these options.
  4. Ensure effective communication of essential information to borrowers.

#### **NPCI Launches UPI Chalega 3.0 Campaign to Drive UPI Adoption and Safety Awareness**

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has introduced the third edition of its UPI Safety Awareness Campaign named "UPI Chalega." Collaborating with key stakeholders in the payments ecosystem, the campaign aims to emphasize the ease, safety, and swiftness of using the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for transactions.
- With the launch of UPI Chalega 3.0, the campaign continues its mission to encourage the adoption of UPI while prioritizing user safety. Through captivating initiatives, the campaign aims to achieve its objectives.
- The overarching objective of the campaign is to enhance overall brand awareness of UPI, enhance understanding of its distinctive features, and drive increased adoption among new users. By using relatable and heartwarming scenarios, the campaign provides an engaging platform to enlighten the audience about the innovative aspects of UPI and its role in transforming digital transactions.

#### **Indian economy to grow at 6% in FY24 : NIPFP researchers**

- In a recent mid-year macroeconomic review, the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) has forecasted that India's economic growth will likely decelerate to 6% in the financial year 2023-24 (FY24), down from the 7.2% recorded in FY23. This projected slowdown is attributed to prevailing headwinds in the global economy. The NIPFP analysis takes into consideration various economic indicators and trends, offering valuable insights into the potential trajectory of India's economy.

- The review highlights a robust industrial sector performance in the first quarter (Q1), particularly in the construction and consumer non-durables segments.
- However, the agricultural sector's growth remained subdued, and the services sector experienced sluggish growth during the same period.

#### **NCLT clears Zee-Sony deal, paves way for creation of \$10-billion entertainment giant**

- The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has given the green light to the merger between India's prominent entertainment company, Zee Entertainment Enterprises, and Culver Max Entertainment (formerly known as Sony Pictures Networks India or SPNI).
- The favorable verdict paves the way for an exciting phase of integration and transformation in the Indian entertainment industry. (Securities and Exchange Board of India) SEBI is expected to deliver its final decision on the matter on 14th of August.
- The decision was handed down by the panel led by Justice HV Subba Rao alongside member Madhu Sinha. With this approval in hand, Zee Entertainment Enterprises and Culver Max Entertainment are ready to kickstart the integration process in the upcoming week.
- A crucial step in this journey involves ZEE filing with the registrar of companies within a 30-day window. While an official timeline for completion has yet to be announced, seasoned mergers and acquisitions experts anticipate a potential conclusion around mid-November.

#### **Sebi changes IPO rules, listing timeline reduced to T+3 days**

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has taken a significant step to enhance the efficiency of Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) by halving the timeline for listing shares on stock exchanges after the IPO closure.
- This move aims to provide substantial benefits to both investors and issuers in the capital markets. SEBI's new directive entails a reduced listing timeline for shares.
- This adjustment, designed to expedite the listing process, will initially be introduced as a voluntary option for public issues commencing on or after September 1. However, it will become a mandatory requirement for all issues starting from December 1, 2023, onwards, as per the circular issued by the capital markets regulator.

#### **India's first bank to provide 24x7 video banking service**

- AU Small Finance Bank, the largest small finance bank in India, has taken a remarkable step forward in customer service with the launch of their innovative 24x7 video banking platform.
- This pioneering service enables customers to engage in face-to-face video interactions with expert bankers, akin to video calls. This move redefines convenience, as it provides round-the-clock support, even during weekends and holidays.
- AU's 24x7 Video Banking transcends the limitations of physical infrastructure, bridging gaps in service provision. The platform is particularly beneficial to regions with limited resources, extending vital banking services to previously underserved areas.

## **RBI imposes monetary penalty on 4 co-operative banks**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken stringent action by imposing monetary penalties totaling Rs4.20 lakh on four co-operative banks.
- These banks – Vita Urban Cooperative Bank Ltd, Shri Vinayak Sahakari Bank Ltd, Shreeji Bhatia Cooperative Bank Ltd, and Mizoram Urban Cooperative Development Bank Ltd – have been found to be in breach of various regulations set forth by the central banking authority.
- The RBI, after carefully considering the responses and oral arguments presented by the banks during personal hearings, concluded that the charges of non-compliance with its directives were substantiated. Consequently, the monetary penalties were imposed as a consequence of these regulatory violations.

## **RBI proposes AI-powered 'Conversational Payments' via UPI**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently unveiled a trio of groundbreaking initiatives poised to revolutionize the digital payments landscape in India through the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and UPI Lite.
- This innovative feature empowers users to engage in transactions by conversing with an AI-powered system, ensuring safety and security throughout the process.
- Acknowledging the evolving needs 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. In a move to bolster the adoption of UPI Lite, the RBI is introducing offline payments using Near Field Communication (NFC) technology.

## **Airtel Payments Bank Launches Eco-Friendly Debit Card**

- India's first payment bank, Airtel Payment Bank also became the first Indian Bank to launch an eco-friendly debit card for its new and existing customers with a savings bank account.
- The debit cards will be crafted from recycle- Poly Vinyl Chloride (r-PVC) material, a certified eco-friendly material, against normal PVC cards.
- The introduction coincides with the Bank's dedication to sustainability and its drive to advocate for environmentally conscious practices within the financial industry.

## **Pentagon considers Australia as testing ground for advanced weapons**

- Australia's involvement in the AUKUS (Australia, United Kingdom, United States) pact has gained attention due to its potential role as a testing ground for advanced hypersonic and long-range precision weapons.
- The agreement, initially focused on supplying Australia with nuclear-powered submarines, has evolved to address the growing influence of China in the Asia-Pacific region. U.S. Secretary of the Army Christine Wormuth highlighted Australia's unique contributions and the collaborative nature of the pact.

**Bajaj Finance partners with new partner ICICI Lombard General Insurance to offer motor insurance policies**

- Bajaj Finance has partnered with ICICI Lombard General Insurance (<https://www.bajajfinserv.in/insurance/icicilombard>) along with other partners to provide car and two-wheeler insurance plans (/topic/two-wheeler-insurance-plans) on the platform Bajaj Finance Insurance Mall. These policies can be bought instantly on the platform through an all -digital and seamless customer experience journey.
- The ICICI Lombard Car and Two-wheeler Insurance policies offer comprehensive damage coverage, including third-party cover and various add-on benefits to vehicle owners. These policies provide extensive coverage against various risks and damages to vehicles.

**IndiaFirst Life Insurance launched new (Guarantee of Life Dreams) plan**

- In a move to provide enhanced financial security and stable income to its policyholders, IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company has recently launched a groundbreaking insurance product – the Guarantee of Life Dreams (G.O.L.D.) Plan.
- This non-linked and non-participating insurance plan is designed to offer regular, long-term income to policyholders to ensure a prosperous and worry-free future.
- Policyholders can choose from premium payment terms of 6, 8, or 10 years, depending on their financial preferences and goals. IndiaFirst Life Insurance offers policy terms of 30 years and 40 years for the G.O.L.D. Plan.

**IndusInd Bank partners with Tiger Fintech to launch co-branded credit card**

- IndusInd Bank and Tiger Fintech a Bajaj Capital Group company, announced the launch of the IndusInd Bank Tiger Credit Card, a co-branded credit card powered by Visa. With this launch, customers will get access to best-in-class credit card to meet their lifestyle needs, IndusInd Bank said in a statement.
- The credit card comes with benefits including ‘Magnificent Rewards Program’ where customers earn up-to 6X accelerated rewards. Cardholders will also be able to convert their rewards points to air miles and enjoy discounted foreign currency mark-up of 1.5 percent on international spends.
- This co-branded credit card offers access to complimentary benefits like 24x7 concierge facility, domestic and international lounge access at the airports, games/lessons of golf, assured movie tickets and many other entertainment benefits

**Axis Bank partners with Kiwi to bolster ‘Credit on UPI’ accessibility on RuPay credit cards**

- Axis Bank, one of the largest private sector banks in India partners with Kiwi, the revolutionary credit on UPI platform to bolster ‘Credit on UPI’ accessibility on RuPay credit cards.



- The partnership enables Kiwi users to seamlessly access the RuPay lifetime free virtual Axis Bank KWIK credit card through the app. With its innovative features, users can make merchant payments within the Kiwi app using their credit cards via UPI, offering a virtual payment experience eliminating the need for physical cards.
- The end-to-end digital payment solution aims at enhancing the payment experience for customers. With this partnership, customers can enjoy the benefits of credit card rewards, while experiencing the convenience of UPI's fast and secure payment.

**SIDBI as part of its initiative of "India of Tomorrow", has been collaborating with CIIE at IIM, Ahmedabad**

- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), as part of its initiative of "India of Tomorrow", has been collaborating with various leading Incubation Centres in the country to promote Deep Tech and science led Innovation by facilitating access to seed capital. In this regard, a formal contribution/ collaboration agreement for setting up of "SIDBI Accelerator Fund at IIMA's CIIE.CO" with an initial corpus of `20 cr. was signed between SIDBI and CIIE.Co, IIM, Ahmedabad in the august presence of Shri S. Ramann, CMD, SIDBI on July 27, 2023. The collaboration agreement was signed by Prof Chitra Singla, IIM (Ahmedabad)-Faculty Chairperson, CIIE.Co and Sh. S. P. Singh, CGM, SIDBI. The arrangement would facilitate institutional seed investment in early stage viable and scalable ventures in future.
- The agreement is an outcome of SIDBI's new initiative to support the India of Tomorrow by augmenting the developmental and funding ecosystem for ideation/ early-stage startups and offering equity/ equity like capital to such startups through partnership with leasing incubators. Focus shall be on supporting startups having new and meritorious ideas, innovations, and technologies important for India's goals for 2047/ which shall help India become self-reliant as well as a dominant player in high quality/ high entry barrier products/ services. Sectors aimed to be supported include deep tech, hardware/ product startups, energy, clean tech,

**NABARD sanctions Rs 1974 crore to Rajasthan government**

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned a total amount of Rs 1,974.07 crore to the Rajasthan government under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for the financial year 2023-24.
- This substantial funding aims to uplift the living conditions of rural communities and drive economic growth in the region, This includes -
  - 1 Rural Drinking Water Supply Projects
  - 2 Improvement of Rural Roads
  - 3 Expansion of Veterinary Healthcare Facilities
  - 4 Micro-Irrigation Support

#### 5. Infrastructure Development Assistance for Canals

- About: NABARD - The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) serves as the apex regulatory authority responsible for overseeing the functioning of regional rural banks and apex cooperative banks across India. It operates under the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. NABARD's core responsibilities encompass policy formulation, planning, and implementation of credit facilities for agriculture and various economic endeavors in rural regions of India.

#### **CRED launches RuPay credit card-based UPI payments**

- Fintech firm CRED introduced RuPay credit card-based Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments for its members, in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- The company now supports RuPay credit cards issued by banks including HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Yes Bank, Axis Bank, BOB Financial Solutions, Canara Bank, Indian Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Punjab National Bank, and Union Bank.
- The launch of credit-on-UPI will empower CRED's members to utilise their RuPay credit cards for making payments via UPI.

#### **Record number of over six crore 77 lakh Income Tax Returns filed for financial year 2023-24**

- A record over six crore 77 lakh Income Tax Returns, ITRs have been filed for 2023-24. The Central Board of Direct Taxes, CBDT said, the total number of ITRs filed till yesterday is 16 per cent more in comparison to the previous financial year of five crore 83 lakh. On the last day, that is 31st July, over 64 lakh ITRs were filed on a single day. It said, the department also received over 53 lakh ITRs from first time filers. The CBDT said, over 46 per cent of these ITRs have been filed using the online ITR utility available on the e-filing portal.

#### **India and ADB sign \$200 mn loan agreement for expanding urban services in Rajasthan**

- The central government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a \$200 million loan as additional financing for the ongoing Rajasthan Secondary Towns Development Sector Project to expand water supply and sanitation systems and enhance urban resilience and heritage living in selected towns,
- The signatories to the loan agreement were Vumlunmang Vualnam, additional secretary, department of economic affairs, ministry of finance, for the Indian government, and Takeo Konishi, country director of ADB's India Resident Mission for ADB. The project will incorporate various innovative and climate-resilient solutions for expanding basic urban services and incorporate nature-based solutions to rehabilitate heritage structures besides piloting public-private partnerships in the state's water and sanitation sector to deepen private sector engagement.