



## Current Affairs Supplement

August 2023

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**CONTENT**

<b>National.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>International.....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Defence.....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Appointments or Resign/Retired.....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Honours/ Awards.....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Sports.....</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>Obituaries.....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Important Days with theme.....</b>	<b>48</b>

# National

## Project Tiger merges with Project Elephant

- Project Tiger and Project Elephant, two significant conservation initiatives in India, have been merged under a new division called **‘Project Tiger and Elephant Division’** by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
- While the merger aims to rationalize funding and **improve conservation** by reducing overlap in areas with both programs, the lack of funds and the confusion regarding fund division have raised concerns among experts.
- Recently, the Prime Minister also commended the success of Project Tiger on its **50th** anniversary.



## Karnataka Leads with Most Billionaire MLAs, Uttar Pradesh Lags Behind: ADR Analysis

- The **Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)** recently conducted a comprehensive analysis of the assets of MLAs from various political parties in India.
- The report sheds light on the average wealth of MLAs, the percentage of **billionaire MLAs**, and the representation of women in state assemblies.
- **Karnataka** emerges as the state with the highest average assets per MLA and the highest number of billionaire MLAs, while Uttar Pradesh lags behind in both categories.

## Fiscal Deficit in India Touches 25.3% of Full-Year Target at the End of June 2023: CGA Data

- The **fiscal deficit** of the Indian government has reached 25.3% of the full-year target at the end of June 2023, as per data released by the **Controller General of Accounts (CGA)**.
- In the previous financial year 2022-23, the fiscal deficit was recorded at 6.4% of the GDP, which was lower than the earlier estimate of 6.71%. For the current financial year 2023-24, the government aimed to further reduce the fiscal deficit to 5.9% of the GDP.



## India to host World Coffee Conference in Bengaluru from Sept 25

- India is set to host the **5th World Coffee Conference (WCC)** in **Bengaluru** from September 25 to 28.
- **The International Coffee Organisation (ICO)** and the **Coffee Board of India** will co-organize the event. The central theme of the event will be **“Sustainability through Circular Economy and Regenerative Agriculture”**.
- The event will feature tennis player **RohanBopanna**, who has been appointed as its brand ambassador.



**New record of over 6.77 crore Income Tax Returns (ITRs) filed till 31st July, 2023**

- The Income-tax Department has witnessed a remarkable surge in the filing of **Income Tax Returns (ITRs)** for Assessment Year (AY) 2023-24.
- The **e-filing portal** witnessed a record number of logins during the peak filing period, with over 32 crore successful logins from 1st July 2023 to 31st July 2023. On 31st July 2023 alone, there were 2.74 crore successful logins.
- The department appreciates taxpayers and tax professionals for their timely compliance, leading to a new record of over 6.77 crore ITRs filed till 31st July 2023, representing a significant growth of 16.1% Year-on-Year.

**Record-breaking GST Collection in July 2023: Stands at over Rs 1.65 lakh crore**

- The Ministry of Finance has released data showing that the gross **goods and services tax (GST)** collection for July 2023 has surpassed the **Rs 1.65 lakh crore** mark.
- This marks the fifth instance of GST revenue crossing this threshold since its inception. The revenue for July 2023 is 11 percent higher than the same month last year, reflecting a positive trend in the country's economic growth.
- The total gross GST revenue collected in July 2023 is Rs 1,65,105 crore **in which CGST** (Central Goods and Services Tax) amounts to Rs 29,773 crore **and SGST** (State Goods and Services Tax) stands at Rs 37,623 crore.

**Indian-origin author ChetnaMaroo's debut novel on Booker Prize longlist**

- London-based Indian-origin author **ChetnaMaroo's** debut novel '**Western Lane**' is among 13 books to make the cut for the 2023 Booker Prize longlist revealed.
- Kenya-born Maroo's novel, set within the context of the British Gujarati milieu, has been praised by the Booker judges for its use of the sport of squash as a metaphor for complex human emotions. It revolves around the story of an 11-year-old girl named Gopi and her bonds with her family.

**ISRO injects Chandrayaan-3 into translunar orbit**

- The **Chandrayaan-3** spacecraft, which marks India's **third** lunar exploration mission, has accomplished a noteworthy achievement by entering the moon's sphere of influence.
- This successful entry was made possible through a TransLunar Injection (TLI) executed by the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**.
- ISRO's **Telemetry, Tracking, and Command Network (ISTRAC)** in **Bengaluru** has executed the TransLunar Injection (TLI), enabling Chandrayaan-3 to successfully complete its orbits around Earth and begin its journey towards the Moon.

**Patna High Court ordered to resume Caste Based Survey in Bihar**

- The **Patna High Court** ordered to resume the **caste based survey** in Bihar, which was first started by **Patna DM Chandrashekhar** himself in **Ward 10, Phulwarisharif, Patna**.

- The Caste based survey has resumed in entire Bihar, following the order of the Patna High Court. This survey was first started by Patna District Magistrate Chandrashekhar in Ward 10, Phulwarisharif, Patna. There are **13 lakh 69 thousand families in Patna** in which **9 lakh 35 thousand people have been surveyed** and the survey of the remaining families will be done within a week.

#### UPI transactions grow 44% to ₹15-lakh crore in July

- The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) network witnessed remarkable growth in July 2023, setting new records in both transaction volume and value.
- After a minor dip in June, **UPI transactions surged by 44%** year-on-year (YoY) and reached a staggering ₹15.34 lakh crore.
- The number of transactions also hit a new high of **996 crore**, a significant increase of 58% compared to July 2022. Market participants predict that UPI transactions will continue to grow, possibly crossing the 1,000-crore mark in the current quarter.

#### GST Council sticks to its plan to collect 28% tax on online gaming

- The **51st** meeting of the **Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council** has decided to impose a **28% tax** on the full face value of bets placed on **online gaming**, which will be implemented from **1st October**.
- The decision aims to provide clarity on the taxation of supplies in **casinos, horse racing, and online gaming**.
- The GST Council recommended that the valuation of supply for online gaming and actionable claims in casinos should be based on the amount paid or **payable to the supplier** by the player, excluding the amount entered into games/bets from previous winnings.



#### 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”.
- This 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.

#### One more Cheetah dies at Kuno National Park, taking toll to nine

- A female cheetah named **Dhatri** (Tbilisi) has recently passed away at Kuno National Park in **Madhya Pradesh**. This brings the total number of deaths to **nine**, including **six adult** cheetahs relocated from Namibia and South Africa, along with **three cubs** born in India, all since March this year.
- Under the ambitious **Project Cheetah**, Kuno National Park is dedicated to reintroducing the cheetah species to the region. To achieve this goal, a total of **20 cheetahs** were brought in from Namibia and South Africa in two distinct batches.
- Currently, there are 14 cheetahs residing in Kuno National Park, consisting of **seven males**, six females, and a female cub.



#### Why is PM YASASVI Scheme in news?



- The **NTA has started the registration** procedure of the applicants for the scholarship programme on the **NTA's website by 10<sup>th</sup> August 2023 under the YASASVI Scheme**. The National Testing Agency (NTA) has started the application procedure **for the scholarship entrance examination 2023** launched under the scheme of PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India (YASASVI).
- The NTA invited applications through its official website, **yet.nta.an.in from July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 to August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023**. The government has planned to offer **15,000 scholarships** ranging from **Rs.75,000 to Rs.1,25,000 per year to class 9-12 meritorious students** through the PM YASASVI Scholarship test.

### **GoI introduces Ayush visa category for foreign nationals seeking medical treatment in India**

- **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)** introduced a new **Ayush (AY) visa for foreign nationals for treatment under Ayush systems/Indian systems of medicine like therapeutic care, wellness and Yoga**.
- With this, a new chapter i.e. chapter 11A – Ayush Visa has been incorporated after Chapter 11 – Medical visa of the Visa Manual, which deals with treatment under the Indian systems of medicine and accordingly necessary amendments has been made in various chapters of the Visa Manual, 2019.
- AYUSH is an acronym for Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy.



### **Oil India Upgraded to Maharatna, ONGC Videsh to Navratna by Finance Ministry**

- The Finance Ministry of India elevated two major oil sector companies, **Oil India** and **ONGC Videsh**, to the esteemed **Maharatna** and **Navratna** categories, respectively, granting them increased autonomy for investment, joint venture establishment, and other financial decisions.
- Oil India, previously classified as a Navratna company, has now been granted the esteemed Maharatna status, making it the **13<sup>th</sup> Maharatna CPSE** (Central Public Sector Enterprises) in the country.
- Having obtained a status upgrade to a Navratna CPSE, the company becomes the **14<sup>th</sup> Navratna CPSE** in the country.



### **PM Modi to attend BRICS Summit in S. Africa this month**

- Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has confirmed his attendance at the **BRICS Summit** in Johannesburg, **South Africa**, from August 22 to 24, 2023.
- The summit gains significance due to the ongoing crisis in Ukraine and discussions on expanding the membership of BRICS, a topic of interest to both Russia and China.
- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be attending the BRICS Summit in Johannesburg from August 22 to 24, 2023.

### Government launches Vivad se Vishwas 2.0 scheme for dispute settlement

- The **Department of Expenditure** under the Ministry of Finance has launched **Vivad se Vishwas 2.0** also known as **Contractual Disputes scheme** to settle long-standing contractual disputes involving the government and government undertakings.
- This initiative was announced during the Union Budget 2023-24 by the Union Finance Minister, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman.
- The scheme aims to provide an effective and standardized mechanism for **resolving** contractual disputes, thereby reducing the burden on the legal system and fostering a more **business-friendly environment**.



### Govt defers implementation of restrictions on imports of laptops, PCs and tablets to Nov 1

- In a significant late-night decision, the **Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT)** announced the postponement of the licensing mandate for the import of laptops, tablets, and personal computers in India.
- The government had earlier imposed import restrictions on these products due to security concerns and to boost domestic manufacturing.
- However, in light of recent developments, the implementation of the restrictions has been deferred until November 1, 2023.



### SBI Posts Highest-Ever Quarterly Profit Of ₹ 16,884 Crore

- **State Bank of India (SBI)**, one of India's largest public sector banks, reported its financial results for the April-June quarter of 2023-24. The bank achieved its **highest-ever quarterly profit** at ₹ 16,884 crore, representing a significant jump from ₹ 6,068 crore in the same period the previous year.
- This remarkable performance was attributed to a **decline in bad loans** and **increased interest income**.
- On a consolidated basis, **SBI's net income** also saw substantial growth, rising more than two-fold to ₹ 18,537 crore compared to ₹ 7,325 crore a year ago.

### PM Modi to Launch ₹24,470 Crore Revamp of 508 Railway Stations under Amrit Bharat Scheme

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** is set to virtually lay the foundation stone for the redevelopment of 508 railway stations across **India** on August 6. The ambitious project, executed under the **Amrit Bharat Scheme**, aims to enhance passenger amenities and improve **railway infrastructure**.
- With an estimated cost of ₹24,470 crore, the redevelopment work is a significant step towards modernizing the railway system.
- Out of a total of 1,309 stations, 508 have been chosen for the initial phase of redevelopment under the Amrit Bharat Scheme. The ongoing construction work at 24 stations in these states carries a budget of ₹11,136 crore.



**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.

**Bihar to Constitute 'Rhino Task Force' for Reintroduction of Rhino Conservation Scheme**

- The **Bihar government** to constitute '**Rhino Task Force**' for suggesting measures for the reintroduction of rhino conservation scheme in '**Valmiki Tiger Reserve**' in **West Champaran district**.
- The state's wildlife authorities have observed a substantial increase in the tiger population in VTR, prompting them to focus on reviving the rhino population in the region.
- Currently, there is **only one rhino in VTR and 14 in Patna Zoo**, but with the establishment of the 'Rhino Task Force', the authorities aim to bring back more rhino to the reserve.

**HDFC Bank's Jagdishan Highest Paid Bank CEO in FY23 with Rs 10.55cr Pay**

- In the **fiscal year 2023**, **Sashidhar Jagdishan**, the **CEO of HDFC Bank** has taken the top spot as the **highest paid bank CEO**.
- **Sashidhar Jagdishan** took over as **CEO of the HDFC Bank in late 2020** and has shown exceptional leadership during his tenure. His contribution to the bank's growth and profitability has been rewarded with a total remuneration of over **Rs.10.55 crore** in the FY23 which positions him as the highest-earning bank CEO in the country.
- Among other prominent bank CEOs, **Amitabh Chaudhary of Axis Bank** ranks high in terms of remuneration. With a **payout of Rs.9.75 crore in FY23**, he is among the highest-paid bank CEO in the country. Following closely is **Sandeep Bakshi of ICICI Bank** with the total **earning of Rs.9.60 crore for FY23**.

**World rice price index jumps to near 12-year high in July: FAO report**

- As reported by the **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**, the **FAO All Rice Price Index** witnessed a **2.8 percent** escalation in July compared to the preceding month, with an average value of 129.7 points. This reflects an approximate 20 percent surge from the same period in the previous year and marks the most elevated level observed since September 2011.
- In the fiscal year 2022-23, India's exports of non-basmati white rice amounted to USD 4.2 million, a notable increase from the





previous year's USD 2.62 million. Noteworthy destinations for India's non-basmati white rice exports encompass the US, Thailand, Italy, Spain, and Sri Lanka.

- The Food and Agriculture Organization serves as a specialized **United Nations agency** dedicated to spearheading global initiatives aimed at eradicating hunger and enhancing both nutrition and food security.

### SC to Appoint All-Woman Panel to Oversee Relief in Manipur

- **Chief Justice of India, D.Y. Chandrachud** has announced the formation of an **all-women panel** to help bring healing and relief to the violence-stricken region in **Manipur**.
- The panel will consist of **three former High Court judges**, with **Justice Gita Mittal as its head**. The panel aims to provide healing touch to the situation in Manipur.
- The committee's main task is to **oversee relief and rehabilitation efforts**, restore homes and places of worship and improve the overall relief work in the violent-affected areas.



### Number Of Elephants Goes Up By 346 From Last Count, Touches 6,395 In Karnataka

- 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.

Year	Elephant Population
2010	5,740
2012	6,072
2017	6,049
2023	6,395 (+346)
Cumulative Rise since 2010	+655

### Srinagar Tops JJM Implementation Among HarGharJal Certified Districts

- The **Srinagar** district has become the highest-performing district under the JalJeevanSurvekshan (JJS-2023), outshining **114 HarGharJal certified villages** across India.
- The district's achievements include HarGharJal 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 JalJeevan 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, UP, TN top 3 states with maximum Jan Dhan beneficiaries**

- 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 PradhanMantri Jan DhanYojana
- PradhanMantri Jan DhanYojana Beneficiaries: Leading States**

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 Pradesh	2 <sup>nd</sup>	68,08,721 individuals	2022-23	Penetration in populous 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

- The aim of the “PradhanMantri Jan-DhanYojana (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**.

### **Kerala Assembly Approves Resolution to Rename State as ‘Keralam’**

- 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. This alteration would encompass the adoption of ‘Keralam’ as the state’s **official name** across all languages listed in the **Eighth Schedule** of the Constitution.



### **CJI Chandrachud Launches QR Code-Based E-Pass 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.

### New Amravati Station Becomes Central Railway's Third 'Pink Station'

- Central Railway's **New Amravati station** has engraved its place in history as the **first** station in **Bhusaval Division** and the **third** station within the **Central Railway** to be designated a "**Pink Station**" – a station that is wholly managed by women staff.
- The New Amravati station boasts a team of **12 proficient women employees**, each playing a crucial role in ensuring the seamless operation of the station. Among these accomplished individuals are **4 Deputy Station Superintendents, 4 Pointswomen, 3 Railway Protection Personnel, and 1 Station Ticket Booking Agent**.
- Amidst a daily influx of around 380 passengers and the **constant movement** of 10 trains, the New Amravati station emerges as a **vibrant center of bustling activity**. Handling the intricacies associated with overseeing a station of such scale, the all-women team at New Amravati showcases **unwavering commitment** and a commendable display of professionalism.



### New Bill Proposes Changes in Appointment Process for Election Commissioners in India

- The central government of India has recently introduced a bill in the **Rajya Sabha** that aims to modify the process of appointing the **Chief Election Commissioner** and other **Election Commissioners** of the country. The proposed bill includes significant changes to the composition of the selection committee responsible for these appointments.
- One of the notable changes proposed by the bill is the removal of the **Chief Justice of India** from the selection committee that determines the appointments of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners.
- The bill's introduction follows a significant ruling by the Supreme Court in March, aimed at ensuring the impartiality and autonomy of the Election Commission. Prior to this ruling, appointments to the Election Commission were made based on the government's recommendations and were ultimately approved by the President.



### The Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, 2023: Revamping India's Criminal Justice System

- 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**.
- 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.

### NCLT Approves \$10 Billion Mega-Merger Between Zee and Sony

- 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 decision was handed down by the panel led by Justice **HV SubbaRao** alongside member **MadhuSinha**. **SEBI** (Securities and Exchange Board of India) is expected to deliver its **final decision** on the matter on 14th of August.
- The merged entity is poised to reshape the landscape of the **entertainment industry**. The collaborative strength of these two industry titans holds the potential to inaugurate a fresh era of **exceptional entertainment**, captivating audiences and molding the trajectory of India's prominent entertainment realm.



### Poet Diplomat Abhay K Launches his New Book '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 SahityaAkademi 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.



### 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.



### One District One Product 'ODOP Wall' Launched

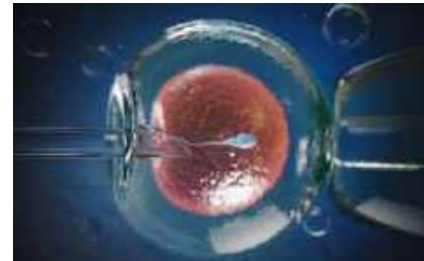


- In a significant stride towards showcasing the **rich heritage of Indian craftsmanship** and fostering self-reliance, the **One District One Product (ODOP)** program has joined hands with the DeendayalAntyodayaYojana – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) to launch the captivating and innovative ‘**ODOP Wall**’.
- 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.
- With a focus on fostering self-reliance, the ODOP program identifies, brands, and **promotes one distinct product from each district**. This initiative encompasses a **wide array of sectors**, including handlooms and handicrafts, reflecting the diverse and vibrant culture of India.



### In a First In India, Goa To Give Free IVF Treatment In Govt Hospital

- 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.
- The initiative comes at a time when the **demand for fertility treatments** is on a rapid rise in India. **Ernst & Young's Call to Action report** highlights a remarkable **15-20%** annual growth in the fertility business over the past five years.
- 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**.



### Retail Inflation Surges to 15-Month High of 7.44% in July

- In July, **retail inflation** in India experienced a significant upswing, reaching 7.44%, marking the highest rate since April 2022. This surge contrasts with the preceding four-month period of inflation below the central bank's 6% tolerance threshold.
- Vegetable prices surged by a staggering 37.3%, while cereals and pulses became over 13% more expensive. Consequently, urban consumers saw their food bills rise by over 12.3%, while rural consumers experienced an 11% increase in food inflation.
- The **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** rose by 2.9% from the previous month, reflecting the swift inflationary pressures. The month-on-month increase in food prices was notable as well, with a 6.7% upsurge.



### Viacom18 Completes Merger Of JioCinema and Voot OTT Platforms

- **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 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 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.



### Hyundai Motor To Acquire General Motors' Talegaon Plant

- Hyundai Motor** Co's Indian subsidiary has announced its intention to acquire **General Motors' Talegaon plant** located in **Maharashtra**.
- Hyundai envisions an extensive upgrade of the Talegaon plant's existing infrastructure as part of its strategic investment. The company plans to **commence manufacturing activities** at the upgraded facility by **2025**.
- The acquisition of the Talegaon plant by Hyundai marks an important milestone in General Motors' **exit** from the Indian market. Following a period of declining sales, General Motors **ceased selling cars** in India back in **2017**.



### PM Vishwakarma Scheme: Benefits and Eligibility

- 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.
- Artisans will receive a stipend of Rs 500, enabling them to pursue skill enhancement without financial worries. Additionally, a sum of Rs 1500 will be provided to facilitate the purchase of modern tools, empowering artisans to work with greater efficiency and precision.



### India gets first-ever night street racing circuit in Chennai

- The **Tamil Nadu government** and **Racing Promotions Private Limited (RRPL)** have launched a new street circuit in **Chennai**. The 3.5km track will be located around the Island Grounds and will be the first-ever street circuit in India and South Asia to host a night race.
- The track will have elevation changes and 19 corners, including multiple chicanes. It will also offer stunning views of the Marina Beach Road and the Bay of Bengal.
- The event is scheduled to be held on December 9-10 and will feature the F4 Indian Championship and the Indian Racing League. The SDAT will be investing Rs 42 crore to host the event.



- The launch of the new street circuit is a major boost for motorsport in India. It will help to raise the profile of the sport and attract more fans and sponsors. It is also expected to boost tourism in Chennai.

### 10-day Long Budha Amarnath Yatra Begins In Jammu

- The Jammu and Kashmir administration inaugurated the yearly **Budha Amarnath Yatra** across the rolling terrains of **Poonch district**. The pilgrimage, spanning over a period of 10 days, is a journey of profound significance for devotees seeking blessings from **Lord Shiva**.
- The BudhaAmarnathYatra acts as a **gathering point for devotees** originating from various corners of India, serving as a representation of the **country's diverse and harmoniously intertwined spiritual tapestry**. The program extends a warm reception to pilgrims from diverse walks of life, fostering a collective sense of purpose and unity.
- The centerpiece of the BudhaAmarnathYatra is the revered **BudhaAmarnath Temple**, nestled in the **Rajpura village** of Mandi tehsil in Poonch. This ancient temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, holds deep historical and spiritual significance. It is among the oldest shrines in the Jammu region, drawing throngs of devotees each year during the yatra.



### 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.
- 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.
- This architectural marvel was brought to life through a collaboration between **Larsen and Toubro**, a prominent construction company, and technical guidance from the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras**. The project, originally slated for completion in September of the previous year, saw its culmination in May 2023 at a cost of **Rs 23 lakh**.



### The G20 Film Festival kicked off with the screening of "PatherPanchali"

- 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 **"PatherPanchali"** 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 **G20 film festival** 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.





### President Droupadi Murmu Grants Assent to Central and Integrated GST Amendment Bills, 2023

- **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**.
- 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.
- The Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023, is centered around refining the provisions of the Integrated Goods and Services Tax Act of 2017. This amendment focuses on a specific aspect related to online activities.



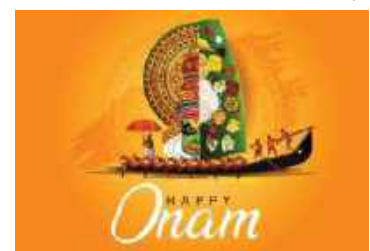
### India announces 'Green' Hydrogen standard

- **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**.
- 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.
- Green hydrogen is a colourless, odourless, tasteless, non-toxic and highly combustible gaseous substance. This form of hydrogen plays a key factor in transitioning towards a carbon-neutral economy while aiding in climate change mitigation.



### Onam 2023: History, Significance and Celebrations of Kerala's Harvesting Festival

- The enchanting festivities of **Onam**, a significant cultural celebration in the state of **Kerala**, have graced the calendar from **August 20 to August 31** this year. Stretching over a span of ten days, the Thiru-Onam or **Thiruvonam** celebrations carry an air of excitement and exuberance as they commemorate the return of the revered **King Mahabali**, also known as Maveli. This vibrant festival is an emblem of Kerala's rich heritage and cultural splendor.
- Each day of Onam is imbued with its own unique significance, contributing to the grand tapestry of this festive period. The sequence of days – **Atham, Chithira, Chodi, Vishakam, Anizham, Thriketta, Moolam, Pooradam, Uthradom**, and finally, **Thiruvonam** – is carefully woven into the cultural fabric of the event. These days hold rituals, traditions, and festivities that resonate with the hearts of the people.
- Occurring between the months of **August and September** according to the Malayali calendar, Onam heralds the commencement of the Malayalam year, known as **KollaVarsham**.



### 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 core theme of the conference reflected the urgent requirement to **adjust democratic institutions** in response to the challenges and possibilities presented by the digital revolution, while concurrently upholding the tenets of democratic values and sound governance.



### Chandrayaan-3 Soft Landing on the Moon

- **Chandrayaan-3**, India's lunar exploration mission, is set to achieve a critical milestone – a soft landing on the moon's surface. This achievement would make **India the only country** to successfully accomplish this feat.
- Chandrayaan-3 aims to demonstrate safe and gentle landing, rover mobility, and scientific experiments. A soft landing involves **controlled descent** at a gentle speed to prevent spacecraft damage upon landing.

### Chandrayaan-3 vs Lunar-25

- Two remarkable missions – **Lunar 25** and **Chandrayaan-3** undertaken by **Russia** and **India** respectively, epitomize the relentless pursuit of knowledge beyond Earth's boundaries.
- Lunar-25 boasts a liftoff weight of approximately **3,860 lbs** (1,750 kg), a considerable portion of which is propellant, essential for its landing and maneuvering on the lunar surface. In comparison, the **Chandrayaan-3 Vikram lander**, weighing **3,862 lbs** (1,752 kg), includes the 57 lbs (26 kg) Pragyan rover as part of its ensemble.
- Lunar-25's scientific prowess lies in its array of **eight science instruments**, among them the Lunar Manipulator Complex (LMK), designed for excavating lunar regolith. Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander, on the other hand, is geared to **maximize its operational window** on the Moon's surface. Equipped with **four science payloads**, one of its key objectives involves **inserting a thermal probe** into the lunar soil to a depth of around four inches (10 centimeters).



### India's First Hydrogen Bus Hits the Public Roads in Leh, Ladakh

- **NTPC Limited**, a prominent Maharatna Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) operating under the Ministry of Power (MoP), has embarked on a groundbreaking venture by launching the trial of **India's inaugural hydrogen bus** in the picturesque region of **Leh**, situated in the Union Territory (UT) of **Ladakh**.
- This remarkable endeavor not only marks the country's first utilization of hydrogen buses on public roads but also reflects NTPC's commitment towards fostering sustainability and reducing carbon emissions.



- The maiden hydrogen bus has arrived in Leh, symbolizing the commencement of a significant three-month-long process. This process encompasses rigorous field trials, comprehensive roadworthiness assessments, and essential regulatory clearances, all of which are vital steps towards integrating hydrogen-powered buses into Ladakh's transport ecosystem.

### Chandrayaan-3 becomes world's most viewed live-stream on YouTube

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has achieved an impressive feat on YouTube's live streaming platform. The Chandrayaan-3 Mission Soft-landing LIVE Telecast, broadcasted on August 23, 2023, captured the attention of over **80 lakh peak** concurrent viewers (PCVs), making it the most-watched live stream globally.
- The Chandrayaan-3 Mission took the top spot in terms of peak concurrent viewers, beating the **Brazil vs Croatia football match** from the FIFA World Cup 2022 that had **61 lakh PCVs** and the Brazil vs South Korea football match from the same tournament with 52 lakh PCVs. ISRO also beat Cariocão 2023 Serie A semi-final between Vasco da Gama and Flamengo with 47 lakh PCVs. The top names in the list include Crew Demo-2 by SpaceX (40 lakh), the K-pop sensation BTS's 'Butter' Official MV (37 lakh) and Johnny Depp v Amber Heard Defamation Trial (35 lakh).



### B20 Summit India 2023

- The **B20 (Business 20) Summit India 2023** is currently taking place in Delhi with the theme **Responsible, Accelerated, Innovative, Sustainable, Equitable (R.A.I.S.E) Businesses**.
- It emphasized on responsible AI development and deployment, drawing parallels with past social media pitfalls and encouraged excitement about AI opportunities while acknowledging and addressing associated risks.
- It proposed the realignment of the global financial structure to support growth in the global South and identified priorities like Climate change, energy, biodiversity, and ocean pollution.



### SwachhVayu Sarvekshan-2023: Madhya Pradesh's IT Hub Indore Secures First Rank

- The city of **Indore** has clinched the **top spot** in the **SwachhVayuSarvekshan -2023** conducted by the **Central Pollution Control Board**, in the category of cities with a population **exceeding 10 lakhs**.
- Indore's remarkable performance was underpinned by its impressive score of **187** out of 200, a testament to its robust and comprehensive measures for environmental preservation. Bhopal secured a respectable fifth position with a score of **181**, while **Jabalpur** and **Gwalior** secured the **13th** and **41st** positions with scores of **172** and **114**, respectively.
- Below are the top five positions among cities with a population exceeding 10 lakhs:**



Rank	Population Category	City
1st	> 10 lakhs	Indore

Rank	Population Category	City
2nd	> 10 lakhs	Agra
3rd	> 10 lakhs	Thane
4th	> 10 lakhs	Srinagar
5th	> 10 lakhs	Bhopal

### Indore Named Best City and Madhya Pradesh Best State in India Smart Cities Awards 2022

- The **India Smart Cities Awards 2022**, organized by the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry, have recognized **Indore** as the best city and **Madhya Pradesh** as the best state in the Smart Cities Mission.
- Surat** secured the second position among the smart cities for its notable efforts in urban development and **Agra** claimed the third spot for its initiatives contributing to the Smart Cities Mission.
- The awards celebrate the progress and achievements of cities and states in promoting sustainable development and enhancing the quality of urban life across India.



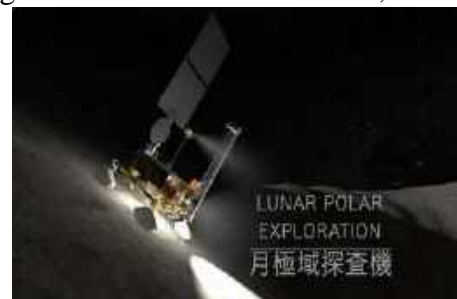
### Chandrayaan-3: India to celebrate August 23 as 'National Space Day'

- 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 while addressing the scientists at the **ISRO Telemetry Tracking and Command Network Mission Control Complex** in Bengaluru said that experts suggest that in a few years, India's space industry will become \$16 billion from \$8 billion.



### ISRO's next mission to Moon is with Japanese, named LUPE

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** is preparing for one more lunar mission, this one in collaboration with Japanese space agency, **The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)**.
- This mission, called **LUPEX, or Lunar Polar Exploration**, is slated for 2024-25. As its name suggests, LUPEX will explore the polar regions of the Moon, this time venturing into the permanently shaded regions.
- LUPEX is also planned to investigate the abundance of water in the polar regions, and explore the possibilities of locating a long-term station in these areas.



### Anand Marriage (Sikh Marriage) Act in India

- In India, the **Anand Marriage (Sikh Marriage) Act** holds significant importance for the Sikh community. It is a legislation that specifically governs the marriage ceremonies and legal aspects related to **Sikh marriages**.
- The Act was established to provide legal recognition and protection to Sikh marriages, allowing Sikh couples to solemnize their unions according to their religious customs and traditions while ensuring the marriages are legally valid.
- The Act holds cultural and religious significance for the Sikh community as it upholds their distinct marriage traditions and practices. It reflects the efforts to preserve Sikh identity and values within the legal framework of the country.

#### Update on ISRO's Gaganyaan mission and 'Vyommitra' robot

- Union Minister **Jitendra Singh** provided a significant update on the progress of the **Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) Gaganyaan mission**, stating that trials for the mission will commence in **October**.
- The second phase of the **Gaganyaan mission** will witness the launch of '**Vyommitra**,' a humanoid robot resembling a space-faring entity in female attire. This **humanoid robot** is designed to simulate various tasks that humans would perform in a space environment.
- **Vyommitra** is crafted to execute specific functions that allow researchers to assess human behavior in space conditions. Advanced planning is crucial for ensuring the safety of astronauts during such missions. Vyommitra's activities will mimic those anticipated from astronauts during space missions.



#### India Officially Hands Over B20 Presidency to Brazil to Host G20 Summit in 2024

- In a significant development for global business and economic collaboration, India has gracefully handed over the **B20 presidency to Brazil**, making the transition towards the **G20 summit in 2024**.
- The **three day B20 summit**, hosted by India from **25<sup>th</sup> August to 27<sup>th</sup> August**, was characterized by the theme **"R.A.I.S.E."- Responsible, Accelerated, Innovative, Sustainable and Equitable Business**. The summit brought together over **1,500 delegates representing approximately 55 countries**, creating an atmosphere conducive to insightful discussions and multifaceted deliberations.
- Established in **2010**, **B20** is among the most **prominent Engagement groups in G20**. Comprising representatives from diverse companies and business organizations, the B20's primary objective is to form actionable policy recommendations that stimulate economic growth and development.



#### Nitin Gadkari Launches World's First Ethanol-Run Toyota Innova car



- Union Road Transport and Highways Minister **NitinGadkari** introduced the world to a remarkable innovation: a **100% ethanol-fueled variant of Toyota's InnovaHyCross car**.
- The newly unveiled car stands as the world's premier **BS-VI (Stage-II) electrified flex-fuel vehicle**, demonstrating the union of **cutting-edge technology** and a commitment to **reducing carbon emissions**.
- In the past, FFVs have predominantly operated using a blend of gasoline and ethanol, with the highest proportion of ethanol usually capping at around **83%**. Nevertheless, this fresh iteration of the **InnovaHyCross** challenges the norm by wholeheartedly adopting **ethanol** as its **singular energy source**.



### **Aditya-L1: Why is ISRO sending spacecraft to study Sun?**

- After the remarkable success of the **Chandrayaan-3** lunar mission, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is embarking on a new venture named the **Aditya L1 mission**. This spacecraft is all set to journey towards the Sun in early September, with a launch date scheduled for **September 2**.
- The majestic event will take place at the **Sriharikota launch site** in Andhra Pradesh, India. This strategic location has witnessed numerous historic launches and is now primed to witness another significant milestone in space exploration—the launch of Aditya-L1.
- Aditya-L1 is designed to delve into the enigmatic layers surrounding the Sun, specifically the photosphere and chromosphere. To achieve this, the spacecraft is equipped with seven advanced payloads, each serving a unique purpose in the mission's quest to unravel the Sun's mysteries.

# International

## Russia-Africa Economic and Humanitarian Summits

- On July 27–28, 2023, St. Petersburg, Russia, hosted the **Second Summit of Russia–Africa Economic and Humanitarian Forum**, a momentous occasion that showcased the growing relations between Russia and the countries of the African continent.
- This summit marked the second time such events of this magnitude were held, indicating the significance and commitment of both parties towards fostering stronger ties and cooperation.
- The discussions during the summit were centered around the vision of jointly building a new, fairer multipolar **architecture for the world order**. Participants stressed the importance of a world order that upholds sovereign equality among states and promotes mutually beneficial cooperation.



## Beijing Faces Historic Flooding as China Witnesses Highest Rainfall in 140 Years

- China's capital, **Beijing**, experienced a historic deluge, recording a staggering 744.8 millimeters of rainfall over the course of five days. This torrential downpour, the **highest in 140 years**, was triggered by the remnants of **Typhoon Doksuri**, leaving streets submerged and residents stranded.
- The disaster has resulted in tragic fatalities, with at least 21 people losing their lives and 26 others still reported missing. Beijing and the surrounding **province of Hebei** faced severe flooding, causing extensive damage to infrastructure and posing a significant challenge to rescue operations.



## Pakistan Approves New Security Pact with the US, Signaling a Fresh Start in Defense Cooperation

- In a significant development, the federal cabinet of **Pakistan** has quietly approved the signing of a new security pact with the **United States**.
- The Communication Interoperability and Security Memorandum of Agreement (CIS-MOA) will pave the way for enhanced defense ties between the two nations and may allow Pakistan to procure **military hardware** from Washington DC.
- This move comes after the previous agreement, signed in 2005, expired in 2020.

## Cambodian King appoints Hun Sen's son as new Prime Minister

- 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.
- Mr. 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.

### Iraq bans media from using term 'homosexuality'

- The media regulatory body of Iraq has issued a prohibition on the usage of the term 'homosexuality' instructing both media and social media entities to employ the term 'sexual deviance' in its place.
- This move comes after significant Iraqi factions have intensified their **opposition** to LGBT rights, frequently exemplified by the **burning of rainbow flags** in protests.
- This directive encompasses **all media and social media** establishments functioning within the country, as specified by the **Iraqi Communications and Media Commission (CMC)**.



### Pakistan's Parliament Dissolved: Setting the Stage for National Election Amidst Crisis

- 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.



### Cambodia: A Woman Parliament President For 1st Time In History

- In a move towards gender inclusivity and leadership diversity, **KhuonSudary** 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)**, KhuonSudary's ascent to the presidency reflects her years of dedication and service to her nation.
- The announcement was made by Prime Minister **SamdechTecho Hun Sen**, emphasizing the commitment to empowering women in pivotal roles within the government.



### Dutch Economy Enters Recession

- **The Dutch economy** has entered a recession, shrinking **0.3%** on a quarterly basis in the second quarter. This is the first recession since the pandemic, and follows a 0.4% contraction in the first three months of the year.



- The eurozone's fifth largest economy was driven by a drop in consumer spending and exports. Consumer spending fell 1.6%, while exports were 0.7% lower than in the first three months of the year.
- Inflation in the Netherlands has dropped since hitting a peak of 14.5% in September 2022, but was still relatively high at about 6% in the second quarter of 2023. The recession is expected to have a negative impact on employment, with the unemployment rate rising from 3.5% to 4% in the coming months.

### **Typhoon Lan Hits Japan, Causing Flooding and Power Outages**

- **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.
- 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.



### **'Pibot,' the humanoid robot that can safely pilot an airplane**

- The **Korea Advanced Institute of Science & Technology (KAIST)** is making groundbreaking advancements in aviation with the development of "**Pibot**," a humanoid robot designed to fly aircraft using its own dexterity and advanced AI capabilities.
- Pibot harnesses the power of artificial intelligence to comprehend and retain intricate flight manuals presented in everyday language. It surpasses human pilots by effortlessly memorizing extensive sets of Jeppesen aeronautical navigation charts, an accomplishment beyond human capabilities.
- Pibot's remarkable memory and adaptability empower it to navigate diverse aircraft models without the need for emulating human pilot behaviors. Its impressive flexibility allows it to seamlessly transition between various aircraft configurations.
- Pibot's ability to manipulate flight instruments, understand complex manuals, and react quickly to emergency situations showcases its potential to transform aviation and other industries.



### **Russian e-visa facility for Indians**

- **Russia** has launched an **e-visa facility for Indians** from August 1, allowing travellers to the country to surpass the hassles of obtaining a regular visa. The e-visa facility, also available for travellers from 54 other countries, does not require a visit to consulates or embassies.
- One can apply for an e-visa online through the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia. The application must be submitted at least 40 days and no later than 4 days before the planned trip.





- You will need to provide a digital photo and a scan of the information page of your passport. The e-visa is valid for 60 days from the date of issue and allows you to stay in Russia for up to 16 days. The cost of the e-visa is 35 USD.

### Russia's Ambitions Luna-25 Mission 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.

### SretthaThavisin Elected As Thailand Prime Minister

- Thai property tycoon **SretthaThavisin** 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.
- SretthaThavisin** 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.
- He is the co-founder of **Sansiri, one of Thailand's foremost real estate development companies**, leaving an indelible mark on the industry.



### BRICS Summit 2023 Highlights: Strengthening Global South Cooperation and Expansion Ambitions

- The **15th BRICS Summit** took place in Johannesburg, bringing together leaders from **Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa**. The summit aimed to enhance cooperation among these emerging economies, discuss global concerns, and potentially expand the group's membership.
- The summit marked the first in-person meeting of BRICS leaders since 2019, reflecting the significance of discussing shared issues.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** emphasized the importance of the summit for addressing issues concerning the Global South and developmental matters. He highlighted India's rapid economic growth and projected it to become a \$5 trillion economy in the near future.



### PM Modi first Indian prime minister to visit Greece in 40 years

- Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** embarked on a landmark visit to **Greece**, marking a significant diplomatic milestone as he became the first Indian Prime Minister to set foot in the country in 40 years.
- As Prime Minister Modi arrived in the **Greek capital of Athens**, he was warmly greeted by the Indian community residing in Greece. A symbolic gesture of cultural exchange was presented as they gifted him with a traditional Greek beaddress, symbolizing the bridging of cultures and the strong ties that the two nations share.



- During his visit, **Prime Minister Modi** is set to engage in crucial talks with his Greek counterpart, Prime Minister **Kyriakos Mitsotakis**. The primary objective of these discussions is to further solidify the existing relationship between the two countries

### What is Kampala Ministerial Declaration?

- The **Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment, and Climate Change (KDMECC)** is a significant agreement adopted by **48 African countries** to address the complex relationship between human mobility and climate change.
- This declaration, initially signed by 15 African states in 2022, provides an action-oriented framework for member states to manage climate-induced migration effectively.
- The KDMECC holds significance as the first comprehensive, action-oriented framework driven by African member states to address climate-induced migration practically. By tackling this issue, the KDMECC aims to mitigate the adverse effects of climate-induced mobility.



## Defence

### India inducts new Heron Mark-2 drones

- 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 Heron Mark-2 is a medium-altitude long-endurance (MALE) drone, with a maximum range of 3,000 kilometers and an endurance of 24 hours. It is equipped with a variety of sensors, including a synthetic aperture radar (SAR), an electro-optical/infrared (EO/IR) camera, and a laser designator.
- 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.



### Defence Ministry to switch to locally built OS in computers amid threats

- India's Ministry of Defence has taken a decisive step by opting to replace the Microsoft operating system with a **domestically developed** alternative named the '**Maya**' operating system.
- Devised and formed by a government organization, the Maya Operating System stands as a testament to **local innovation** and dedication. It was created within a brief timeframe of just **six months**.
- This strategic move aims to **elevate** the nation's cybersecurity measures in the face of escalating cyber threats.



### INS Kulish Participates In Celebration Of 77th Independence Day in Singapore

- **INS Kulish** participates in the celebration of **Singapore's 77th Independence Day**. 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.
- In its efforts to further enhance diplomatic ties, INS Kulish is set to **host a reception** for distinguished officials from Singapore's Defence and Foreign Affairs Ministries. The event will also include prominent members of the **Indian diaspora**, serving as a platform for constructive dialogues and mutual cooperation.



### Quad Navies Set to Commence Malabar Joint Drills with a Focus on Anti-Submarine Warfare

- The eagerly anticipated **Malabar series of naval exercises**, involving the maritime forces of India, Japan, the United States, and Australia, is about to kick off along the eastern coast of Australia.
- This iteration of the exercises will be centered on enhancing anti-submarine warfare capabilities, signaling the participants' shared commitment to maritime security and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region.
- The exercises will encompass a diverse range of operations, spanning sea, undersea, and air domains. Coordinated maneuvers, air defense strategies, and sea operations will be practiced extensively. An emphasis on inter-operability among the platforms is at the core of these exercises, aimed at honing the ability of the Quad navies to work seamlessly together.



Australia to conduct Malabar Naval Exercise for first time

### Indian Army to now have common uniform for Brigadier and above ranks

- The **Indian Army** has recently implemented a significant **change** in its **uniform** regulations for **senior officers** with the rank of Brigadier and above.
- Army officials have announced that the **headgear**, shoulder **rank badges**, gorget patches, belt, and shoes of senior officers with flag ranks (Brigadier and above) will now be standardized and common across all units and services.
- The decision aims to foster a **common identity** and uphold the Indian Army's character as a fair and equitable organization.



### Indian Air Force Gets Israeli Spike Missiles

- **Indian Air Force (IAF)** received air-launched Israeli **Spike Non Line of Sight (NLOS)** Anti-Tank Guided Missiles(ATGM) from Israel which can hit targets upto 50 km from a helicopter and 32 km from the ground.
- The NLOS missiles will be integrated with the fleet of Russian-origin Mi-17V5 helicopters, manufactured by Kazan Helicopters.
- It was designed by the Israeli company Rafael Advanced Defense Systems.
- It is available in various configurations, including man-portable, vehicle-launched, and helicopter-launched variants.
- Utilizes a fire-and-forget system with lock-on before launch and automatic self-guidance features.



### India successfully concludes trials of anti-tank guided missiles

- India's indigenous **Nag Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM)** and the variant of **HELINA (Helicopter-launched NAG) Weapon System** called 'Dhruvastra' are set to be inducted into the Indian army and Indian Air Force (IAF) after clearing all the trials.
- Both the Nag ATGM and Helina (Dhruvastra) missiles are developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation(DRDO) and manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Limited(BDL). Nag is the surface-to-air missile and Dhruvastra is the air-to-surface missile





**IAF To Hold Multi-National Exercise 'Tarang Shakti' Next Year**

- The **Indian Air Force (IAF)** is gearing up to host a colossal multilateral military exercise, '**Tarang Shakti**', which was originally slated for October but has been rescheduled to the **middle of 2024**.
- '**Tarang Shakti**' is set to draw the involvement of **some prominent air forces**, including those of France, the United Kingdom, Australia, the United States, and Japan. Additionally, **six** other countries have been invited to participate as observers, further emphasizing the exercise's significance on the global stage.
- The main goal of '**Tarang Shakti**' is to **reinforce military coordination** and amplify the seamless interaction between the participating countries. Remarkably, this exercise is on track to become **India's most extensive aerial drill** to date, highlighting the nation's escalating role in the sphere of global military collaboration.

**Govt of India launched 'MeriMaatiMeraDeshCampaign'**

- To commemorate 75 years of Independence, various **Air Force Stations in and around Delhi** celebrated the AzadiKaAmritMahotsav (AKAM) from 09 to 15 August 2023. The events were organized under the aegis of the '**MeriMaatiMeraDeshCampaign**', launched by the Government of India.
- One of the key activities of the campaign was the development of an AmritVatika (Amrit Garden) in each station by planting 75 saplings of indigenous species. This was done to replenish mother earth as '**VasudhaVandhan**' (reforestation). The saplings were planted by the personnel of the stations, school children, residents of the localities, and panchayat members.
- The AzadiKaAmritMahotsav is a fitting tribute to the sacrifices made by our freedom fighters. It is also a reminder of the responsibility that we all have to build a strong and prosperous India.

**President Murmu launches INS Vindhyagiri**

- 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.
- **INS Vindhyagiri** was developed under **Project 17A** which serves as a demonstration of India's impressive technological achievements and unwavering commitment to enhancing its maritime capabilities.

**INSVagir Sets New Record For Longest Scorpene Submarine Deployment**

- The Indian Navy's submarine, **INS Vagir**, has made history by achieving an impressive milestone – it now holds the record for the **longest-ever deployment** of any scorpene-class submarine.
- The submarine covered an astonishing distance of **7,000 kilometers** on its journey to **Australia** to participate in joint military exercises, marking a significant moment for both naval prowess and international cooperation.
- INS Vagir's expedition to Australia marks the **first time** an Indian scorpene-class submarine has ventured to Australian waters, signifying the growing **collaboration between the Indian Navy and the Royal Australian Navy** in enhancing maritime security and defense strategies.



### LCA Tejas Successfully Test-Fires Astra Beyond Visual Range Air-To-Air Missile

- 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**.
- 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.
- The Astra missile system, a product of collaborative efforts involving the **Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL)**, Research Centre Imarat (RCI), and other DRDO laboratories, is a **Beyond Visual Range (BVR) air-to-air missile** designed to engage and destroy **high-speed aerial targets** with exceptional maneuverability.



### Indian Air Force Makes Its Debut In Exercise BRIGHT STAR-23 In Egypt

- An **Indian Air Force (IAF)** contingent has embarked on a significant journey, marking the **first-ever participation** in Exercise **BRIGHT STAR-23**. This biennial multilateral tri-service exercise is taking place at **Cairo (West) Air Base in Egypt**, spanning from **August 27 to September 16, 2023**.
- The Indian Air Force contingent for this exercise is an impressive assembly, comprising **five MiG-29 aircraft, two IL-78 aircraft, two C-130 aircraft, and two C-17 aircraft**. In addition to these aircraft, personnel from the IAF's distinguished **Garud Special Forces** and members of the Numbers 28, 77, 78, and 81 Squadrons will be actively participating.
- Exercise BRIGHT STAR-23 gathers not only the IAF but also contingents from esteemed nations such as the **United States of America, Saudi Arabia, Greece, and Qatar**. The convergence of these military forces in a common endeavor highlights the commitment to strengthening international partnerships, fostering **interoperability**, and promoting a shared understanding of joint operations.



### Mahendragiri, India's New Warship, to be launched in Mumbai on September 1

- India's defence sector is poised to achieve a significant milestone as the country's latest warship, **Mahendragiri**, is set to be launched on **September 1 at the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders in Mumbai**.
- The launch of Mahendragiri, the **seventh and final stealth frigate of Project 17A**, symbolizes the remarkable progress India has made in constructing a self-sufficient naval force.
- The launch of **Mahendragiri** is particularly significant as it coincides with India's unwavering focus on achieving self-reliance in defence. Amid evolving power dynamics in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**, this launch gains added strategic importance.



## Appointments or Resign/Retired

### Microsoft appoints Puneet Chandok to lead India operations

- Microsoft has appointed **Puneet Chandok** as the new Corporate Vice President of **Microsoft India and South Asia**, effective from September 1, 2023. He will take over operational responsibilities from Anant Maheshwari and will lead the integration of Microsoft's businesses across South Asia, including countries like Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.
- Puneet aims to strengthen Microsoft's presence in the region and focus on key industries through a customer-centric approach, with generative AI as a core technology.



### Shohini Sinha To Head FBI's Field Office In Salt Lake City

- **Shohini Sinha**, an Indian-American, has been selected by FBI Director Christopher Wray as the new special agent in charge of the Salt Lake City Field Office. She previously held the position of executive special assistant to the Director at FBI Headquarters in Washington, DC.
- Sinha started her career with the FBI in 2001 as a special agent and was initially assigned to the Milwaukee Field Office, where she focused on counterterrorism investigations. She also served in temporary assignments at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, the FBI Legal Attaché Office in London, and the Baghdad Operations Center.



### Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba gets one-year extension

- Cabinet Secretary **Rajiv Gauba** has been officially granted a one-year extension by the Central government, making him the **longest-serving** cabinet secretary in India's history.
- The decision was made by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). This extension comes as a result of the **relaxation** of important rules, allowing him to continue in his position beyond August 30, 2023.
- With this extension, his tenure will surpass that of BD Pande, who held the position from November 2, 1972, to March 31, 1977, making Rajiv Gauba the longest-serving cabinet secretary in India's bureaucratic history.



### Tesla appoints India-origin Vaibhav Taneja as its 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.



### Justice Subhasis Talapatra sworn in as new Chief Justice of Orissa High Court

- Justice **Subhasis Talapatra** was officially appointed as the **33rd Chief Justice** of the **Orissa High Court**. The oath of office was administered by Governor Ganeshi Lal, marking his succession of **Justice S Muralidhar**.
- He is set to hold the position of Chief Justice for a relatively short period of under two months, concluding with his retirement on October 3, 2023.
- Born on October 4, 1961, in Udaipur, **Tripura**, Justice Talapatra began his judicial journey. He assumed the role of a **judge in the Tripura High Court** on September 13, 2013. He was transferred to the **Orissa High Court** as a judge on June 1, 2022, where he officially took the oath of office on **June 10, 2022**.



### Sanjay Kumar Agarwal takes charge as CBIC Chairman

- IRS officer **Sanjay Kumar Agarwal** has taken charge as the Chairman of the **Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)**. Agarwal succeeds Vivek Johri who superannuated as CBIC chief on May 31.
- In an order issued on August 5, the finance ministry had appointed Agarwal, who was holding charge of CBIC member compliance management, looking into investigations.
- The CBIC, which deals with policy making in indirect taxes — GST, customs, excise — is headed by a chairman and has six members in the board. The board is assisted by principal chief commissioners/chief commissioners and principal director generals/ director generals.



### Pluckk partners with 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.



### Anwarul Haq Kakar Sworn In As Pakistan's Caretaker Prime Minister

- **Anwarul Haq Kakar**, a prominent ethnic **Pushtun leader** with close ties to the influential military, has taken the oath as the Pakistan's 8th and the youngest **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.
- Anwar ul Haq Kakar served as the **spokesperson** for the Balochistan provincial administration in 2013 and undertook the position of a **Senator** in the Pakistani Senate in March 2018. He secured his Senate seat as an **independent candidate** through general seat representation from Balochistan during the 2018 Pakistani Senate elections.



### Kamlesh Varshney, Amarjeet Singh appointed SEBI whole-time members

- 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.



### BPCL announces Rahul Dravid as 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.
- **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)** is an Indian public sector undertaking under the ownership of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India. It operates three refineries in Bina, Kochi and Mumbai.



- BPCL is India's second-largest government-owned downstream oil producer, whose operations are overseen by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. It was ranked 309th on the 2020 Fortune list of the world's biggest Public sector undertakings in India, and 792nd on Forbes's 2021 "Global 2000" list.

### Viacom18 Appoints Google's Kiran Mani 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.
- 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.



### Neelkanth Mishra appointed part-time chairman 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.
- In addition to appointing Neelkanth Mishra as the part-time Chairperson, the government has also announced the appointment of two distinguished individuals-**Mausam**, an Associate Professor & **Nilesh Shah**, the Managing Director of **Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company Limited** as **part-time Members of the UIDAI**.



### Sachin Tendulkar to be EC's national icon

- 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.

### Justice Prakash Shrivastava appointed as NGT chairperson

- 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.

### Infosys Signs Tennis Legend Rafael Nadal As Ambassador For 3 Years

- **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.
- Rafael Nadal, hailing from **Spain**, is one of the most prominent figures in the world of tennis. His remarkable achievements encompass an astounding **14 victories at the revered French Open** and an unmatched tally of **22 Grand Slam titles** in the men's singles category.



### Nita Ambani Steps Down, Isha, Akash & Anant To Join Reliance Board

- Reliance Industries announced that **Isha Ambani**, **Akash Ambani**, and **Anant Ambani** have been formally appointed as **non-executive directors** on the company's board.
- In conjunction with the leadership transition, **Nita Ambani**, Mukesh Ambani's spouse, has decided to step down from the Reliance Industries Board. However, she will continue to serve as the **Chairperson of Reliance Foundation**, the company's philanthropic arm.
- The chairman and managing director of Reliance Industries **Mukesh Ambani's** vision entails not only guiding his children – Akash, Isha, and Anant, towards a unified direction but also collectively **mapping Reliance's trajectory** towards heightened expansion and increased value in the years to come.



### Geetika Srivastava becomes India's First Woman Charge d'Affaires 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.

#### **Former CJI NV Ramana appointed as member of International Mediation 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.



## Honours/ Awards

### PM conferred LokmanyaTilak National Award in Pune

- The LokmanyaTilak National Award was granted to the Prime Minister of India, ShriNarendraModi, in Pune, **Maharashtra**, during a ceremony that commemorated the **103rd** death anniversary of LokmanyaTilak.
- The prestigious award, instituted by the **TilakSmarakMandir Trust** in 1983, aims to honor the lasting legacy of LokmanyaTilak. ShriNarendraModi became the **41st** distinguished individual to receive this esteemed recognition.
- The previous year saw the presentation of the LokmanyaTilak National Award to **Tessy Thomas**, a renowned senior scientist often referred to as India's "missile woman."



### Ratan Tata conferred with Maharashtra govt.'s 'UdyogRatna' award

- Eminent industrialist **Ratan Tata** was conferred with the first ever '**UdyogRatna**' award instituted by the Maharashtra government. The award was presented to the 85-year-old chairman emeritus of Tata Sons by **Chief Minister EknathShinde** and **Deputy Chief Ministers DevendraFadnavis and AjitPawar** at the industrialist's home in Colaba in south Mumbai.
- The Tata 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 UdyogRatna award is a prestigious award that recognizes the achievements of outstanding industrialists in Maharashtra. It is a testament to the contribution of these individuals to the economic development of the state.



### PM Modi honoured with Greece's Grand Cross of the Order of Honour

- Prime Minister **NarendraModi** was conferred with the **Grand Cross of the Order of Honour** by Greek President **Katerina N. Sakellaropoulou** in Athens. The award is the highest civilian honour that can be bestowed by Greece to a foreign head of government.
- The citation for the award said that it was being given to PM Modi "in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the promotion of bilateral relations between Greece and India".
- PM Modi is the first Indian prime minister to be conferred with the Grand Cross of the Order of Honour. He is also the first foreign head of government to be awarded the honour since 2017.



**Kashmir to Host Miss World 2023 in December**

- 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 **71<sup>st</sup> 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 PriyanSain Crowned Miss Earth India 2023**

- **PriyanSain** 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 VanshikaParmar, 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.



## Sports

### F1 defending champion Max Verstappen wins Belgian Grand Prix

Defending Formula One champion **Max Verstappen** emphatically won the **Belgian Grand Prix** for an eighth straight win and 10th overall of a crushingly dominant season. He finished 22.3 seconds ahead of teammate **Sergio Perez** to give Red Bull and easy 1-2. It moved Verstappen ominously closer to a third straight world title and his own F1 record of 15 wins from last year.



#### Previous race's winners list:

Race	Winner
Hungarian Grand Prix 2023	Max Verstappen
British Grand Prix 2023	Max Verstappen
Canadian Grand Prix	Max Verstappen
Spanish Grand Prix 2023	Max Verstappen
Monaco Grand Prix 2023	Max Verstappen
Bahrain Grand Prix 2023	Max Verstappen
Saudi Arabia Grand Prix 2023	Sergio Pérez
Azerbaijan Grand Prix 2023	Sergio Pérez

### AishwaryPratap Singh Tomar clinches Gold medal at FISU Games

- **AishwaryPratap Singh Tomar**, along with compound archers AvneetKaur, Sangampreet Singh Bisla, and the men's 10m air rifle team, achieved remarkable victories by securing gold medals at the **FISU World University Games 2023** in Chengdu, the People's Republic of China.
- With these achievements, India's medal tally at the FISU World University Games 2023 reached an impressive total of **17** medals – nine gold, three silver, and five bronze.
- India currently holds the **fourth position** on the medals table, trailing behind China, Japan, and the Republic of Korea.



### Moeen Ali confirms his Retirement from Test Cricket after Ashes 2023



- 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.



### GM Gukesh overtakes Viswanathan Anand to become highest Indian in FIDE rankings

- The 17-year-old chess prodigy, **D. Gukesh**, has dethroned Grandmaster **Viswanathan Anand** as India's top-ranked chess player in the live world rankings.
- Gukesh achieved this feat by defeating Mistradin Iskandarov in the second round of the FIDE World Cup, reaching a live rating of **2755.9** and climbing to the 9th position in the classic open category. In contrast, Anand's rating of 2754.0 caused him to drop to the 10th spot. This is only the second time since 1986 that Anand has been displaced from the top position.



### World Archery Championships 2023: India wins historic gold medal

- The Indian women's compound archery team etched their names in history by clinching a gold medal at the **World Archery Championships held in Berlin, Germany**. This victory marked India's first-ever gold at the archery world championships in any category.
- 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.



### FISU World University Games 2023, Complete Medal Tally

- The **31st installment** of the **World University Games**, previously known as the Universiade, is currently taking place in Chengdu, People's Republic of China, from **July 28th to August 8th, 2023**.
- This prestigious event brings together over 9,500 talented student-athletes from universities around the world, competing in 18 different sports, and vying for a total of 269 medals.
- Originally slated for 2021, the World University Games had to be rescheduled twice due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The previous edition, held in Naples in 2019, saw Japan emerge as the dominant nation, securing the highest position on the medal table. Japan clinched an impressive total of 82 medals, which included 33 gold, 21 silver, and 28 bronze.



**NeymarJr Quits PSG To Sign For Saudi Arabia's Al-Hilal**

- Brazil forward **NeymarJr** has signed for Saudi Arabia's **Al-Hilal** from **Paris Saint-Germain (PSG)**, the clubs announced, joining Cristiano Ronaldo and KarimBenzema. 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.

**Dutee Chand gets four-year ban for failing dope 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 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.

**FIFA Women's World Cup 2023: Spain wins the title with 1-0 victory over England**

- **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.

**ICC Ties Up With Mastercard For Men's Cricket World Cup 2023**

- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has made a significant announcement, revealing a thrilling collaboration with **Mastercard**, which is set to become a Global Partner for the upcoming **ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023**.
- Scheduled to take place in India from **October 5 to November 19, 2023**, the partnership between Mastercard and ICC is poised to enhance the cricketing experience for fans worldwide. With exclusive privileges and unparalleled access, this collaboration is set to make the tournament an unforgettable event for cricket enthusiasts and Mastercard cardholders alike.
- Mastercard, a **leading global technology company** in the payments industry, is dedicated to establishing an inclusive, digital economy that benefits people worldwide. Through **secure data, networks**, and partnerships, Mastercard's innovative solutions **facilitate secure and**



**accessible transactions**, ultimately empowering individuals, financial institutions, governments, and businesses to realize their full potential.

### Priya Malik Wins Gold at U20 World Wrestling Championships In Jordan

- 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.



### Wrestling Federation of India membership suspended on world 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.
- 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.
- 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.



### Chess World Cup 2023 Final: India's Praggnanandhaa finishes 2nd

- Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa** finished **second in FIDE World Cup**. After three days and four games of intensely nervy chess across two formats, **Magnus Carlsen** finally managed to win the **FIDE World Cup** for the first time in his career.
- Carlsen defeated Praggnanandhaa in the final, but not before the 18-year-old teenage had dragged him through the tie-breaker. Carlsen's win was confirmed after the second game of the tiebreaker. The two players had played out one draw each.
- Praggnanandhaa, who turned 18 during the World Cup, was the youngest World Cup finalist ever, and is the youngest World Cup winner. Seeded 31, Pragg is also the lowest seed to make the final of the World Cup.



### Max Verstappen wins Dutch Grand Prix 2023



- **Max Verstappen** has won the **Dutch Grand Prix** for the third consecutive year, once again prevailing at his home race. With the dominant win, Verstappen has now matched Sebastian Vettel's all-time record of nine F1 victories in a row.
- Verstappen's victory was his 11th of the season, and it extended his lead in the Drivers' Championship to 138 points. He is now on course to win his second consecutive World Championship.
- Presented below are the leading five contenders for the Dutch Grand Prix 2023:



Pos.	Driver	Team	Time
1	Max VERSTAPPEN	Red Bull	LAP 72
2	Fernando ALONSO	Aston Martin	+3.744
3	Pierre GASLY	Alpine	+7.058
4	Sergio PÉREZ	Red Bull	+10.068
5	Carlos SAINZ	Ferrari	+12.541

### Neeraj Chopra Makes History as First Indian to Secure Gold at World Athletics Championships

- **Neeraj Chopra** made history by winning the gold medal in the men's javelin throw event at the **World Athletics Championships** held in **Budapest, Hungary**. He became the first-ever Indian athlete to achieve this feat, marking a significant milestone for Indian athletics.
- Neeraj's exceptional performance was highlighted by a remarkable throw of **88.17 meters** during his second attempt. This outstanding achievement showcased his skill and dominance in the event, solidifying his position as a global contender.
- Pakistan's **Arshad Nadeem**, the reigning Commonwealth Games champion, took the silver with a season's best of 87.82m while the Czech Republic's **Jakub Vadlejch** won bronze with 86.67m. The other two Indian athletes in the 12-man javelin throw finals at Budapest also logged impressive results. **Kishore Jena** finished fifth with a personal best haul of 84.77m while **DP Manu** was sixth with 84.14m.



### HS Prannoy Clinches Bronze At BWF World Badminton Championships 2023

- Indian badminton player **HS Prannoy** secured the **bronze medal** in the men's singles category at the prestigious **BWF World Badminton Championships 2023**. Prannoy faced elimination during the semi-finals against Thailand's **Kunlavut Vitidsarn** in a match held in Copenhagen, Denmark.
- The 31-year-old HS Prannoy etched his name in Indian badminton history by becoming only the **fifth Indian men's singles player** to clinch a medal at the BWF World Badminton Championships. Among his compatriots, **Kidambi Srikanth** remains the sole player to reach the men's singles final, achieving this feat in **2021**.





- Below is the list of five Indian male singles players who have secured a medal at the World Championships.

Sno	Player	Medal
1	KidambiSrikanth	Silver
2	LakshyaSen	Bronze
3	B SaiPraneeth	Bronze
4	PrakashPadukone	Bronze
5	HS Prannoy	Bronze

### IDFC First Bank Grabs 3-Year Title Sponsorship for BCCI Matches at Rs 4.2 Crore Per Match

- On 25<sup>th</sup> August, the Indian Cricket Board announced that the IDFC First Bank has grabbed the title rights for home international series of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) for three years. The IDFC First Bank will provide a sum of Rs.4.2 crore per international match.
- The agreement between IDFC First Bank and BCCI covers a total of 56 matches, spanning across the next three years. This exciting lineup includes 15 One Day Internationals (ODIs), 15 test matches and 26 T20 matches.
- The BCCI stated that the contract will commence for a three-year long period starting from the three-match ODI series that India will host against Australia. The tournament will mark the beginning of an era where IDFC First Bank and BCCI came together to create unparalleled experiences for cricket enthusiasts.



## Obituaries

### Telangana folk singer Gaddar passes away

- Renowned **folk singer** and activist **Gaddar**, who had been battling severe heart disease, passed away at the age of 74.
- Gaddar, also known as **GummadiVittalRao**, 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.

### Renowned nuclear physicist BikashSinha passes away

- Renowned nuclear physicist **BikashSinha** has passed away at the age of 78, was suffering from old age-related ailments. A recipient of **Padma Shri in 2001 and Padma Bhusan in 2010**, he was the former director of the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics and Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre.
- Sinha specialized in nuclear physics, high energy physics, Quark Gluon Plasma and early universe cosmology. He led the Indian team for the first time to participate in the experiments at the European Organization for Nuclear Research in Geneva.



### Former India football captain Mohammed Habib passes away

- Former India captain and legendary footballer **Mohammed Habib** passed away. He represented India in many international tournaments from 1965-76. He was considered by many experts as one of the best players the country has ever produced.
- Born in Hyderabad in undivided Andhra Pradesh on July 17, 1949, Habib represented India for a decade from 1965-75 and was part of the golden generation that won a bronze medal in the 1970 Asian Games in Bangkok.
- For 17 long seasons starting from 1966-77, Habib, despite his diminutive nature, was a stalwart walking on the football grounds in Kolkata, according to former India captain and Hyderabad Victor Amalraj.



### British 'chat show king' Michael Parkinson passes away 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 hosted his talk show named '**Parkinson**' in June 1971, 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.
- Parkinson's contributions to the world of media and entertainment were duly recognized when he was **knighted** by **Queen Elizabeth II** at Buckingham Palace in **2008**. The honor bestowed



upon him was a testament to his enduring influence on British culture. In **2005**, he assumed the role of **president** for the **Sports Journalists' Association** of Great Britain.

#### **Adobe Co-Founder Dr. John Warnock Passes Away at 82**

- Adobe co-founder **Dr. John Warnock** passed away at the age of 82.
- 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. During Warnock's tenure as its CEO, Adobe created industry-standard software for business, graphic design, photography, video editing, audio recording, and more.



#### **Legendary statistical scientist CR Rao passes away 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 2020, the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)** of the Indian government conferred a felicitation to **C R Rao**, when he turned 100 in an online symposium for his "path-breaking contributions in the field of statistics, for recognising and facilitating the critical role of data and computing. Recognising his contributions, he was honoured with the Padma Bhushan award in 1968 and the Padma Vibhushan award in 2001. In 2023 he was awarded with International Prize in Statistics.



#### **'RIP superstar,' tributes pour in for WWE Superstar Bray Wyatt**

- **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.
- Wyatt had started his career way back in 2010 under the ring name Husky Harris. However, he would quickly undergo a gimmick change and become the leader of the Wyatt Family, which received a lot of fame and praise from the fans. Wyatt would undergo multiple character changes during his time in WWE with his character as The Fiend, once again capturing the imagination of the fans. After being released from the company in 2021, Wyatt came back to WWE in 2022 and his final match took place at Royal Rumble 2023 against LA Knight.



## Important Days with theme

### World Breastfeeding Week 2023: Date, Theme, Significance and History

- **World Breastfeeding Week** is observed every year to emphasize regular breastfeeding for babies. This year breastfeeding week commences on **August 1** while it concludes on **August 7**.
- Breastfeeding is extremely crucial for the healthy growth and development of an infant. Breastmilk is the best food for newborn babies. It contains antibodies that aid in preventing several prevalent paediatric ailments.
- This year's theme "**Let's make breastfeeding and work, work!**" will focus on breastfeeding and work, providing a strategic opportunity to advocate for essential maternity rights that support breastfeeding – maternity leave for a minimum of 18 weeks, ideally more than 6 months, and workplace accommodations after this point.



### India observes 3rd 'Javelin Throw Day' on August 07, 2023

- On **August 7th**, a remarkable chapter in Indian athletics history was etched into the annals of time. The Athletics Federation of India, the apex governing body for athletics in the nation, made a resounding decision to mark this day as **National Javelin Day**.
- This auspicious occasion is dedicated to celebrating the awe-inspiring achievement of **Neeraj Chopra**, a true champion who made an indelible mark on the global stage. This year nations observed 3rd Javelin Throw Day.

### National Handloom Day 2023: Date, Significance and History

- The Indian government has chosen **August 7** as the annual **National Handloom Day**, with the key objective of fostering the handloom industry and acknowledging the dedication and expertise of the weaving community.
- This sector's artisans, weavers, and producers have been instrumental in safeguarding the rich cultural and traditional legacy of the nation. Additionally, the occasion aims to enhance the visibility and economic well-being of craftsmen and weavers by encouraging their active participation and support.
- This year nation celebrates **9th National Handloom Day**.



### Rabindranath Tagore death anniversary

- **August 7** marks the death anniversary of Nobel laureate **Rabindranath Tagore**. He was a **Bengali** poet, novelist, musician, painter, and playwright who significantly transformed Bengali literature and music. Suffering from acute uraemia and a blockage in his urinary bladder, he passed away at the age of 80 on **August 7, 1941**.





- Tagore composed over **2,000 songs** which created a separate genre, known as “Tagore songs”. His collection of poems, Gitanjali, created a paradigm shift in Bengali literature, while his songs did the same to Bengali music.
- He also wrote eight novels, 84 short stories and numerous poems in his prolific literary career spanned over almost seven decades. His compositions were chosen by two nations as national anthems: Bangladesh’s “**Amar Shonar Bangla**” and India’s “**Jana Gana Mana**”.

### World Nagasaki Day 2023: Date, Significance and History

- **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.
- 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.



### Quit India Movement: Date, History And Significance

- The Quit India Movement was a historic event in India’s struggle for Independence from British colonial rule.
- The year **2023** marks the **81<sup>st</sup> 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 **8<sup>th</sup> August, 1942**, led by Mahatma Gandhi, who called for “**Do or Die**” in the struggle for India’s independence.



### World Lion Day Observed Globally On 10th August

- Every year on **August 10th**, people worldwide commemorate **World Lion Day**. This global observance aims to increase understanding about the conservation and safeguarding of lions. It provides an opportunity to inform individuals about the difficulties these magnificent animals encounter across the globe and to endorse initiatives for their preservation.
- World Lion Day was first established in **2013** by Big Cat Rescue, the world’s largest accredited sanctuary dedicated to lions and it was co-founded by Dereck and Beverly Joubert, a husband-and-wife team who recognised the need to draw attention to the declining lion populations and the threats they were facing in the wild.



**World Biofuel Day 2023 Observed Globally On 10 August**

- **World Biofuel Day** is observed every year on **10th August** to create awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels and to highlight the various efforts made by the Government in the biofuel sector.
- This day also honors the research experiments by Sir Rudolf Diesel who ran an engine with peanut oil in the year 1893. His research experiment had predicted that vegetable oil is going to replace fossil fuels in the next century to fuel different mechanical engines. The World Biofuel Day is being observed by the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas since 2015.

**World Elephant Day 2023: Date, Significance and History**

- **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: Date, Significance, and History**

- 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 Photography Day 2023: Date, Celebration, Significance and History**

- **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 commemorates the announcement of the daguerreotype process to the public on **August 19, 1839**, by the French Academy of Sciences. The daguerreotype process was one of the earliest methods of capturing permanent images on a light-sensitive surface.

### SadbhavanaDiwas 2023: Date, History and Significance

- **SadbhavanaDiwas**, also known as **Harmony Day**, is an annual celebration observed on **20<sup>th</sup> August** in India. **20<sup>th</sup> August 2023** marks the **79<sup>th</sup> 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 SadbhavanaDiwas is to **promote national integration and communal harmony** among people of all religions and languages.



### National Sports Day 2023: Date, Theme, Significance and History

- The **National Sports Day** in India is celebrated on **29 August 2023**. This annual observance, held on **August 29** in India, is a tribute to the enduring legacy of **Major Dhyan Chand**.
- 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 roots of National Sports Day in India can be traced back to the birth of one of its most revered sporting legends, **Major Dhyan Chand**, who went on to become one of the most popular names in the game of hockey.



### World Sanskrit Day 2023: Date, Celebration, Significance and History

- **World Sanskrit Day**, also referred to as **International Sanskrit Day**, **Sanskrit Diwas** and **VishwaSamskritaDinam** is observed on the day of **ShravanaPoornima** in the Hindu calendar, which is also marked as **RakshaBandhan**, which coincides with the moon.
- This year we will be celebrating Sanskrit Diwas on **Thursday, 31st August**. The purpose of this day is to raise awareness and promote Sanskrit, one of India's oldest languages. Sanskrit holds importance as it serves as the foundation, for classical texts in disciplines such, as Literature, Philosophy, Mathematics and Science.

