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## Awards and Honours

<b>Awardee Name</b>	<b>Award Name</b>	<b>Extra Information</b>
Shri Narendra Modi	Lokmanya Tilak National Award	The prestigious award, instituted by the Tilak Smarak Mandir Trust in 1983, aims to honor the lasting legacy of Lokmanya Tilak. Shri Narendra Modi became the 41st distinguished individual to receive this esteemed recognition.
Subhash Runwal	Lifetime Achievement Award RICS	Subhash Runwal, Chairman of Runwal, a leading real estate developer with a legacy of over four decades, has been recognized with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the first-ever RICS South Asia Awards.
Raj Chetty	Top Harvard University prize	Raj Chetty, an Indian-American economist, and Michael Springer, a biologist, have been awarded Harvard University's George Ledlie Prize for their groundbreaking work in their respective fields.
Priyan Sain	Miss Earth India 2023	Meet the new Miss Earth India 2023, Priyan Sain clinched the title of Miss Earth India 2023 during the Miss Divine Beauty 2023 national final held on August 26 in New Delhi.



## Appointments

Name	Designation Name	Extra Information
Puneet Chandok	Microsoft - India operations	Microsoft has appointed Puneet Chandok as the new Corporate Vice President of Microsoft India and South Asia, effective from September 1, 2023.
Shohini Sinha	FBI's Field Office In Salt Lake City	Shohini Sinha, <b>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.</b>
Vaibhav Taneja	Tesla's new CFO	Indian-origin Vaibhav Taneja, who studied B.Com at Delhi University (DU) and later pursued Chartered Accountancy from ICAI, has been named Tesla's new Chief Financial Officer (CFO).
Sanjay Kumar Agarwal	Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC)	Agarwal succeeds Vivek Johri who superannuated as CBIC chief on May 31.
Subhasis Talapatra	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.
Amit Jhingran	MD & CEO – SBI Life	The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) approved the appointment of Amit Jhingran as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer for SBI Life Insurance Company Limited.
R Doraiswamy	LIC Managing Director	Government of India had appointed R. Doraiswamy as the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) managing director. He is currently executive director at the central office in Mumbai.
Adille Sumariwalla	World Athletics Executive Board	The 65-year-old Sumariwalla, who is the president of the Athletics Federation of India



## CURRENT AFFAIRS – AUGUST 2023

		(AFI), received the third-highest number of votes cast during the WA elections held on Thursday in Budapest, Hungary. He will serve a four-year term.
Kamlesh Varshney, Amarjeet Singh	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.
PR Seshadri	MD & CEO of South Indian Bank	<b>PR Seshadri is an accomplished banker with experiences spanning multiple businesses, functional lines, and geographies.</b>
Parminder Chopra	CMD of Power Finance Corporation (PFC)	Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has appointed Parminder Chopra as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD); she becomes the first woman to lead India's largest NBFC. Chopra assumed the top job at the power sector lender with effect from August 14, 2023.
Rahul Dravid	Brand Ambassador	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) <b>has announced cricketer Rahul Dravid as its new brand ambassador. He will endorse BPCL's Pure for Sure initiative and range of MAK lubricants.</b>
Kiran Mani	Viacom18 - CEO of Digital Business	Mani's impressive track record and extensive experience position him well to lead Viacom18's digital endeavors.
Neelkanth Mishra	UIDAI – Chairman	The Centre has announced the appointment of Neelkanth Mishra as the part-time Chairperson of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).
Sachin Tendulkar	Role of Election Commission's National Voter Awareness Ambassador	Indian cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar is set to embark on a new role as the national icon for voter awareness and education under the Election Commission of India (ECI).



## CURRENT AFFAIRS – AUGUST 2023

Srettha Thavisin	Thailand Prime Minister	Thai property tycoon Srettha Thavisin has been elected as the new prime minister of Thailand following a decisive win in a parliamentary vote.
Prakash Shrivastava	Chairperson of National Green Tribunal	Justice Prakash Shrivastava has been appointed as Chairperson of National Green Tribunal (NGT). After the former Chairperson Justice A.K Goel retired.
Hun Manet	Cambodia- Prime Minister	Hun Manet, a member of the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP), has an economics degree from England and graduated from the US Military Academy at West Point. Despite his Western education, expectations are low that he will uphold liberal ideals.
Rafael Nadal, Iga Swiatek	Infosys – Ambassador	Infosys announces a three-year partnership with global tennis icon Rafael Nadal, Iga Swiatek appointing them as the brand ambassador and the face of Infosys' Digital Innovation.
Umesh Revankar	FIDC – Chairman	This decision comes in recognition of Revankar's extensive experience and profound expertise in the financial services sector.
Sanjeev Kapoor	Indian Oil - Brand Ambassador	Sailendra, Executive Director at Indian Oil, revealed that the company has experienced remarkable year-on-year growth in the market volume of Indane XTRATEJ LPG. This growth signifies the positive demand for this product among consumers.



### Banking & Finance

#### SBI Raises ₹10,000 Crore through 15-Year Infrastructure Bonds at 7.54% Coupon Rate

State Bank of India (SBI) successfully raised **Rs 10,000 crore** through its third infrastructure bond issuance.

The bonds have a tenor of 15 years and were auctioned on July 31, attracting an overwhelming response from investors.

#### Coupon Rate and Spread

The coupon rate of the infrastructure bonds is set at 7.54 percent.

This rate represents a spread of 13 basis points over the corresponding **FBIL (Financial Benchmarks India Pvt. Ltd.) G-Sec (Government Securities)** par curve.

#### Lok Sabha Passes Delhi Ordinance Bill Amid Protests

The **Lok Sabha** passed the Government of **National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023**, replacing the ordinance on control of services in Delhi.

The passage of the Bill was met with protests and a walkout by some Opposition parties.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched a scathing attack on the Opposition during the debate on the Bill, accusing them of being more concerned about their alliance than democracy or the welfare of the people.

He expressed confidence that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would secure a complete majority in the 2024 elections despite any Opposition alliance.

#### HDFC Bank Launches India's First Co-Branded Hotel Credit Card With Marriott

In a groundbreaking collaboration, HDFC Bank, India's leading private sector bank, has partnered with Marriott Bonvoy, the acclaimed travel program by Marriott International, to unveil the 'Marriott Bonvoy HDFC Bank Credit Card'.

This pioneering co-branded hotel credit card, the first of its kind in India, operates on the esteemed Diners Club platform, a part of the Discover Global Network, and aspires to set new standards for rewarding travel cards in the country.

#### Airtel Payments Bank Launched India's 1st Eco-Friendly Debit Card

India's first payment bank, Airtel Payment Bank also became the **first Indian Bank to launch an eco-friendly debit card** for its new and existing customers with a savings bank account.

The debit cards will be crafted from recycled- **Poly Vinyl Chloride (r-PVC)** material, a certified eco-friendly material, against normal PVC cards.



The introduction coincides with the Bank's dedication to sustainability and its drive to advocate for environmentally conscious practices within the financial industry.

### **Introducing Canara Jeevan Dhara: Tailored Savings Account for Pensioners**

Canara Bank has unveiled a specialized savings account aimed at pensioners and those nearing retirement, designed to provide an array of benefits catering to their unique financial needs.

This new offering, known as **Canara Jeevan Dhara**, extends its advantages to retirees who've opted for voluntary or regular retirement.

Through this account, Canara Bank seeks to provide financial security and flexibility to individuals in their post-employment phase.

### **Airtel Payments Bank partners with Frontier Markets, and Mastercard to support 1 lakh women-owned businesses**

Airtel Payments Bank, in collaboration with Mastercard Center and Frontier Markets, has introduced a transformative initiative named She Leads Bharat: Udyam.

This initiative is designed to uplift 100,000 women-owned small businesses by providing them with opportunities to learn and earn.

Among the 100,000 women small business owners, 10,000 will be provided the chance to expand their enterprises by becoming Business Correspondents (BCs) for Airtel Payments Bank.

This strategic step is aligned with Airtel Payments Bank's commitment to empower rural women to embark on entrepreneurial journeys.

### **Canara Bank Pioneers UPI-Interoperable Digital Rupee Mobile App for CBDC Transactions**

Canara Bank, a leading player in the Indian banking sector, has taken a monumental step by introducing the UPI interoperable digital rupee mobile application.

This move places Canara Bank at the forefront of innovation, becoming the first bank across both the public and commercial sectors to offer this pioneering feature.

The app, named the Canara Digital Rupee app, marks a significant milestone as a part of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) **Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) pilot project**.

### **RBI Approves Amalgamation of Twin Cities Co-operative Urban Bank and Kranti Co-operative Urban Bank**

In a recent development, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted its approval for the voluntary amalgamation of Twin Cities Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd with Kranti Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd.



The amalgamation scheme is set to take effect from August 23, 2023. This decision, as outlined in an official release from the central bank, marks a significant step in the consolidation of cooperative urban banks.

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

On 25th 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.

### **Yes Bank Launches All-In-One 'IRIS' Mobile App**

In a significant leap forward for India's digital banking landscape, YES BANK has introduced its groundbreaking mobile banking app, IRIS by YES BANK.

This innovative app is poised to redefine the way customers engage with their financial institutions, offering an unparalleled combination of convenience, efficiency, and personalization.

With over 100 features and services available at the touch of a button, iris by YES BANK represents a quantum leap in digital banking.

### **AU Bank Becomes India's First Bank To Provide 24x7 Video Banking Service**

AU Small Finance Bank, the **largest small finance bank in India**, has taken a remarkable step forward in customer service with the launch of its innovative 24x7 video banking platform.

This pioneering service enables customers to engage in face-to-face video interactions with expert bankers, akin to video calls. This move redefines convenience, providing round-the-clock support, even during weekends and holidays.

### **RBI Levies Monetary Penalties on 4 Co-operative Banks for Regulatory Violations**

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has taken stringent action by imposing monetary penalties totaling **Rs 4.20 lakh** on four cooperative banks.

These banks – Vita Urban Cooperative Bank Ltd, Shri Vinayak Sahakari Bank Ltd, Shreeji Bhatia Cooperative Bank Ltd, and Mizoram Urban Cooperative Development Bank Ltd – have been found to be in breach of various regulations set forth by the central banking authority.





### Axis Bank Partners with Kiwi to Bolster ‘Credit on UPI’ on RuPay Credit Cards

Kiwi, a fintech company specializing in enabling credit on **UPI**, has partnered with Axis Bank to introduce a lifetime free Axis Bank KWIK credit card through its app.

#### Objective

This unique partnership of Kiwi and Axis Bank aims to offer customers the convenience of **UPI’s fast and secure payments** while enjoying the benefits of credit and card rewards.

With a focus on simplicity and innovation, Kiwi aims to provide seamless onboarding and instant virtual credit cards to one million users within the next 18 months.

### What is Delhi Services Bill? How this Bill will Impact the Governance of Capital?

The Delhi Services Bill, officially known as the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023 has been passed with a total of 131 votes in favor and 102 against in Rajya Sabha.

It aims to replace an existing ordinance that has caused conflicts between the **Aam Aadmi Party, led by the Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal**, and the Central Government.

The bill was introduced by the Union Home Minister, Amit Shah, in the Lok Sabha on August 3, 2023. It was passed by the Lok Sabha on August 6, 2023, and by the Rajya Sabha on August 7, 2023.

The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023, also known as the Delhi Services Bill, was passed by the Indian Parliament on August 7, 2023.

The bill gives the central government control over the appointment, transfer, and posting of all bureaucrats in the Delhi government.

### SEBI’s New Online Dispute Resolution (ODR) System

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi)** has been making remarkable strides in safeguarding the interests of investors.

To enhance the grievance redressal process, Sebi has announced the launch of an **Online Dispute Resolution (ODR)** mechanism, which aims to empower aggrieved investors to seek mediation and arbitration against various intermediaries.

This revolutionary initiative is set to revolutionize the way disputes are handled in the financial market, providing a cost-effective and time-efficient alternative for resolution.



### Indian Affairs

#### Guidelines on Basic Facilities and Amenities for a Safe Environment for Women and Women Cell

In an effort to foster a safe and secure environment for **women in Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs)**, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has developed the “Guidelines on basic facilities and Amenities for a safe environment for Women and Women Cell.”

These guidelines serve as a significant step towards ensuring a secure and respectful space for women in HEIs. Recognizing the need for comprehensive action, the UGC is striving to make a positive impact on students’ and employees’ lives.

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

NHPC Limited and **Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO)** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, under which NHPC will provide CSR support for the distribution of aids and assistive devices to around **1,000 Divyangjans (Persons with Disabilities)** in the vicinity of NHPC Projects located in North and North Eastern states.

The MoU was signed at NHPC Corporate Office, Faridabad, today, **August 1st, 2023, under the CSR initiative of NHPC.**

#### 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’s Journey to Maharatna Status

Oil India, previously classified as a Navratna company, has now been granted the esteemed Maharatna status, making it the 13th Maharatna CPSE (Central Public Sector Enterprises) in the country.

#### India Smart Cities Awards Contest (ISAC) 2022- Winners Announced

Smart Cities Mission launched on 25 June 2015, is aimed at providing core infrastructure, clean and sustainable environment and a decent quality of life to their citizens through the application of ‘smart solutions’.

It is a transformational mission aimed to bring about a paradigm shift in the practice of urban development in the country. Of the total proposed projects under SCM, 6,041(76%) projects worth ₹1,10,635 crore have been completed and the remaining 1,894 projects worth ₹60,095 crore will be completed by 30 June 2024.

#### Top 3 cities of winning Smart Cities under ISAC 2022



1. Coimbatore
2. Indore
3. New Town Kolkata

### **FIDE Chess World Cup: Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa enters semifinals; beats compatriot Arjun Erigaisi**

Indian Grandmaster **R Praggnanandhaa** becomes **1st Indian after Viswanathan Anand** to reach **Chess World Cup semis since 2002**.

The Grandmaster defeated compatriot Arjun Erigaisi 5-4 to enter the semifinals of the **FIDE World Cup Chess tournament at Baku in Azerbaijan**. He will now face American Grandmaster Fabiano Caruana in the semi-final.

No Indian had reached the last four stages of the FIDE World Cup since Viswanathan Anand won the first two editions of the tournament in 2000 and 2002.

India will be rooting for Praggnanandhaa to win as this brings him closer to becoming the World Chess Champion.

He is also one of the youngest chess wizards in the country who has brought glory to the country on several occasions.

### **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 to 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 toward integrating hydrogen-powered buses into Ladakh's transport ecosystem.

### **India, ASEAN agree to review FTA by 2025**

In a significant move, India and the **ASEAN countries** have come to an agreement to reevaluate their existing free trade pact for goods. The aim of this review is to address the existing trade imbalances and disparities between the two parties.

The announcement was made by the Commerce Ministry, indicating the commitment to enhance bilateral trade relations.



### 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.

It is a significant move for the progress of the National Green Hydrogen Mission.

The guidelines established by the **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE)**, Government of India, delineate the emission benchmarks that must be fulfilled for hydrogen production to qualify as 'Green', signifying its origin from renewable sources.

The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy has characterized Green Hydrogen as having a well-to-gate emission (encompassing processes like water treatment, electrolysis, gas purification, hydrogen drying, and compression) that does not exceed 2 kg CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per kg H<sub>2</sub>.

### India Overhauls Criminal Laws

India is poised for a substantial legal transformation as key legislations are set to be replaced to align its criminal justice system with evolving societal values.

The proposed reforms include the replacement of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) 1860 with the **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)**, prioritizing offenses against the state, crimes against women and children, and murder.

Another significant change is the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Bill, which aims to streamline criminal proceedings for enhanced citizen safety. The Bharatiya Sakshya Bill focuses on evidence rules to bolster the reliability of evidence in court.

These reforms introduce community service as a punishment and underline the commitment to citizens' rights and justice. The meticulous planning involving legal experts, parliamentarians, and law enforcement agencies emphasizes a balanced approach to reform.

### Top States on Drug Seizure Chart

In the past three years, the **Border Security Force (BSF)** has confiscated significant amounts of narcotics from various Indian states.

Data revealed by the Ministry of Home Affairs indicates that Punjab and Rajasthan, situated along the **India-Pakistan border**, have seen the highest seizures of heroin, while Tripura and West Bengal, near the India-Bangladesh border, top the charts for 'ganja' confiscations.

Union Minister of State for Home, Nityanand Rai, presented these findings in the **Rajya Sabha**, detailing the quantities seized and the trends observed.

The report also highlights the handover of seized substances to law enforcement agencies for further investigation.



Strengthened surveillance measures, including advanced equipment deployment, have been adopted to curb drug trafficking across vulnerable border patches.

### **India will host 1st edition of ‘Global IndiaAI 2023 ’ in October**

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology will be organizing the Global IndiaAI 2023, scheduled for October this year. There will be participation from leading AI players, researchers, startups, and investors in India and worldwide.

The conference is poised to cover a wide spectrum of topics, including Next Generation Learning and Foundational AI models, AI’s applications in healthcare, governance, and next-gen electric vehicles, future AI research trends, AI computing systems, investment opportunities, and nurturing AI talent.

Union Minister of State for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Electronics & IT, Shri Rajeesh Chandrasekhar chairs the conference’s steering committee which is entrusted with the task of shaping the contours of the Global IndiaAI 2023.

It draws members from MeitY’s Digital Economy Advisory group and other prominent leaders in the field of AI.

### **India Becomes 4th Country landed Successfully on Moon**

India successfully landed its Chandrayaan-3 mission on the lunar surface on August 23, 2023, making it the fourth country to do so after the United States, Russia, and China.

The lander Vikram touched down on the south pole of the moon, a region that has never been explored before. The rover Pragyan is expected to roll out of the lander and begin its exploration of the lunar surface in the coming days.

The successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 is a major achievement for India’s space program and a testament to the hard work and dedication of the scientists and engineers who made it possible.

It also puts India in a select group of spacefaring nations and furthers its ambition to become a leading player in the global space race.

### **69th National Film Awards 2023**

The winners of the 69th National Film Awards were announced at the National Media Center in New Delhi on Thursday.

The ceremony, which will be held at a future date, will award the best Indian films produced across languages in the calendar year 2021.

Feature and non-feature films certified by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) between January 1, 2021, and December 31, 2021, were eligible for contention.

- Best Feature Film: Rocketry



- Best Director: Nikhil Mahajan, Godavari
- Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment: RRR
- Best Actor: Allu Arjun, Pushpa
- Best Actress: Alia Bhatt, Gangubai Kathiawadi and Kriti Sanon, Mimi
- Best Supporting Actor: Pankaj Tripathi, Mimi
- Best Supporting Actress: Pallavi Joshi, The Kashmir Files
- Best Hindi Film: Sardar Udham
- Best Kannada Film: 777 Charlie
- Best Malayalam Film: Home
- Best Gujarati Film: Chhello Show
- Best Tamil Film: Kadaisi Vivasayi
- Best Telugu Film: Uppena
- Best Maithili Film: Samanantar
- Best Mishing Film: Boomba Ride
- Best Marathi Film: Ekda Kaay Zala
- Best Bengali Film: Kalkokkho
- Best Assamese Film: Anur
- Best Meiteilon Film: Eikhoigi Yum
- Best Odiya Film: Pratikshya

### President Droupadi Murmu to Launch Project 17A Frigate “Vindhyagiri”

President Droupadi Murmu is set to launch the Vindhyagiri, a **Project 17A frigate**, on August 17 at the **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE) in Kolkata**, as announced by the Indian Navy.

This frigate is named after a mountain range in Karnataka and is the sixth ship under the Project 17A frigate program. The initiative involves the construction of four ships by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) and three by GRSE.

These technologically advanced warships, inspired by the Project 17 Class Frigates, are equipped with enhanced stealth features, advanced weaponry, sensors, and platform management systems.

The launch symbolizes India’s commitment to both its naval legacy and the development of indigenous defense capabilities, with significant contributions from domestic firms.

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

In a groundbreaking move towards a more sustainable automotive industry, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari introduced the world to a remarkable innovation: a 100% ethanol-fueled variant of Toyota’s Innova HyCross 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.



### India observed the 77th Independence Day 2023 on August 15

Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked **India's 77th Independence Day** by unfurling the national flag at the **historic Red Fort in Delhi**.

His 90-minute speech marked his 10th consecutive Independence Day address. PM Modi's Independence Day speeches have consistently been longer than those of any previous Prime Minister.

Around 1,800 special guests from diverse sectors of society were invited to witness the Independence Day ceremony at the Red Fort.

### Traditional Medicine Global Summit To Be Held In Gandhinagar On Aug 17, 18

The first WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit is set to unfold on August 17 and 18, 2023, in the city of **Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India**.

This event will intertwine with the G20 health ministerial meeting, creating a dynamic platform aimed at galvanizing both political commitment and evidence-based actions in the realm of traditional medicine.

This age-old practice serves as the initial recourse for millions across the globe, catering to their diverse health and well-being requisites.

### NHAI launches mobile app 'Rajmargyatra' for national highway users

To improve the highway user experience and offer seamless travel on Indian National Highways, the **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** has taken a significant step by introducing the 'Rajmargyatra' mobile application.

This unified app aims to provide comprehensive information and efficient complaint redressal for national highway users, making travel safer and more convenient.

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

Based on the recommendations of the **Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR)**, the revenue department has imposed an anti-dumping duty on Dispersion Unshifted Single-Mode Optical Fiber (SMOF) imports from China, South Korea, and Indonesia.

As the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR) reported, the domestic optical fiber industry has experienced detrimental consequences due to the surge of inexpensive and substandard imports from these nations.

In response to these challenges, the Finance Ministry has introduced anti-dumping duties on specific optical fiber imports originating from these countries, aiming to address the adverse impacts on the domestic industry resulting from the influx of such dumped imports.

### Cabinet approves Rs 1.39 lakh cr for connecting 6.4 lakh villages with broadband



The Union Cabinet has approved the final phase of the last-mile optical fiber-based broadband connectivity plan, **covering 6.4 lakh villages across India** under the BharatNet project.

This initiative is supported by a budget of Rs 1.39 lakh crore.

Through this enhancement, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) seeks to accelerate the endeavor of linking all 6.4 lakh villages within the upcoming two and a half years.

The ongoing progress has seen nearly 1.94 lakh villages already integrated into the **BharatNet project**.

### **Rajouri Chikri Woodcraft and Mushqbudji Rice Receive GI Tags**

In a celebratory move, Jammu and Kashmir's distinct regional contributions, the **Rajouri Chikri woodcraft** and the **Mushqbudji rice**, have recently been honored with the Geographical Indication (GI) tags.

This prestigious distinction draws attention to the exquisite nature and significance of these regional treasures.

These esteemed creations find their roots in the districts of Rajouri and Anantnag. While the Rajouri district is renowned for its meticulous Chikri woodcraft, Anantnag stands out for its aromatic Mushqbudji rice, characterized by its short, bold grains.

### **'Digital India RISC-V' Symposium**

The Digital India RISC-V Symposium, a one-day event held on August 6, 2023, at the prestigious **IIT Madras Research Park**, was a momentous occasion for the Indian electronics industry.

Organized by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India, in collaboration with IIT Madras and IITM Pravartak Technologies Foundation, the Symposium aimed to showcase the future of Electronics in India through the RISC-V pathway.

The primary goal of the Digital India RISC-V Symposium was to create a platform to demonstrate India's potential in the electronics sector.

The Symposium brought together esteemed academics, industry experts, researchers, professors, and students to discuss the advancements and innovations in the field of electronics, particularly with a focus on the RISC-V pathway.

### **Rajya Sabha passes Inter-Services Organisation (Command, Control & Discipline) Bill – 2023**

The Rajya Sabha, on August 08, 2023, passed the **Inter-Services Organisation (Command, Control & Discipline) Bill – 2023**. It was passed by the Lok Sabha on August 04, 2023.





The bill seeks to empower the **Commander-in-Chief and Officer-in-Command of Inter-Services Organisations (ISOs)** with all disciplinary and administrative powers in respect of the personnel serving in or attached to such organizations.

Initiating the bill in the Upper House, Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh described the bill as necessary to strengthen the Armed Forces in view of the global security scenario, emphasizing that only through better jointness and integration can the military move forward towards securing national interests.

The bill will ensure better coordination among the three services and bolster the integrated structure, he said, assuring the House that it will prove to be a milestone in the path to India's military reforms.

### **‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ Bike Rally Flagged-off On Independence Day 2023**

Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar has flagged off the ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ motorcycle rally at Pragati Maidan in Delhi.

As part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) initiative, the ‘**Har Ghar Tiranga**’ campaign is scheduled to take place nationwide from August 13 to 15. The campaign aims to inspire individuals to display the national flag at their residences proudly.

After the flag-off, the bike rally will reach the India Gate circle. The rally will then move around the India Gate complex, crossing the Kartavya Path and culminating at Major Dhyan Chand Stadium.

AKAM is an ongoing celebration to commemorate **75 glorious years** of a progressive independent India. This initiative by the Government of India aims to bring in focus on the freedom struggle, and the milestones this nation has achieved.

### **Government of India Forms New Standing Committee on Statistics to Enhance Oversight of NSO Data**

In a recent development, the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** of the Government of India has taken a significant step by replacing the existing **Standing Committee on Economic Statistics (SCES)** with a more comprehensive entity called the Standing Committee on Statistics (SCoS).

This new committee has been entrusted with a broader mandate, involving the review of both the framework and outcomes of all surveys conducted under the **National Statistical Office (NSO)**.

### **CBI Academy Joins Interpol Global Academy Network**

In recent developments, the **Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)** Academy has been officially inducted into the prestigious Interpol Global Academy Network.

Stepping onto the global stage, the CBI Academy now holds the esteemed title of being the 10th member of the Interpol Global Academy Network.



This induction is not just a testament to the academy's capabilities but also to its dedication to maintaining global standards of law enforcement training and methodologies.

### **India Startup Festival 2023 begins in Bengaluru, hosting over 10,000 global startups**

The theme of ISF 2023 is '**Innovation at the Bottom of the Pyramid**', which will feature discussions on vital areas such as Rural Healthcare Education, Fintech, Rural Innovation, Agritech, and food tech.

The event will host more than 10,000 startups from **India, the UK, and Japan**, and about 500 investors are also expected to be present. Policymakers from across the country and around the world will address grassroots level issues and provide effective solutions.

It will present a chance for startup founders to establish connections with other entrepreneurs and investors.

### **Govt of India launched the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh Campaign**

To commemorate 75 years of Independence, various Air Force Stations in and around Delhi celebrated the **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM)** from 09 to 15 August 2023.

The events were organized under the aegis of the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh Campaign, launched by the Government of India as a continuation of the celebration of AKAM.

One of the key activities of the campaign was the development of an Amrit Vatika (Amrit Garden) in each station by planting 75 saplings of indigenous species.

This was done to replenish mother earth as '**Vasudha Vandhan**' (reforestation). The saplings were planted by the personnel of the stations, school children, residents of the localities, and panchayat members.

### **'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's ability to manipulate flight instruments, understand complex manuals, and react quickly to emergency situations showcases its potential to transform aviation and other industries.



### State-related Affairs

#### Manipur to have first National Sports University at Rs. 643.34 crore

Union Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports **Anurag Singh Thakur** informed parliament that a total sanctioned cost of **Rs. 643.34 crores** have been allocated to India's first-ever national-level sports university that will be set up in Manipur.

In an oral response to a Parliament question on sports infrastructure facilities in North East Region, Anurag Singh Thakur highlighted the sports projects for the North East region.

He further said that sports infrastructure in the North-eastern region has witnessed a remarkable transformation in the last nine years under the leadership of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi.

Our govt has shifted from a 'Look East Policy' to an 'Act East Policy,'. The central govt has emphasized sports infrastructure in the North-east region.

#### Maharashtra Government Launches Bhagwan Birsa Munda Jodaraste Scheme to Connect Tribal Villages with Main Roads

The Maharashtra government has taken a significant step towards enhancing connectivity and improving the lives of tribal communities in the state.

The Bhagwan Birsa Munda Jodaraste Scheme aims to link all tribal villages in **17 districts of Maharashtra with main roads, effectively addressing the challenges faced by these communities in accessing essential services.**

The project, estimated at a cost of Rs 5,000 crore, will involve the construction of approximately 6,838 kilometers of roads.

#### UP Government's Tree Plantation Campaign-2023

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath initiated a grand endeavor to **plant 5 crore saplings under the Tree Plantation Campaign-2023.**

Speaking at the inauguration near Gomti bank, he emphasized that safeguarding nature is the key to securing humanity from calamities.

CM Yogi articulated that these trees would serve as bridges connecting people to both nature and spirituality.

The significance of the sacred trees—Peepal, Pakad, and Banyan—was highlighted, termed as Harishankari by Indian saints.

#### Granting of Geographical Indication (GI) Tag to Matti Banana Variety of Kanniyakumari District



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

Matti bananas are slightly larger-than-human finger-sized fruits with a sweet fragrance and honey-like taste that remains unmatched outside their native region.

There are six distinct types of Matti bananas, each boasting unique qualities in terms of color, aroma, and flavor.

### **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 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.

### **ADB Approves USD 40.5 Million Loan to Enhance Childhood Development and Maternal Mental Health in Meghalaya**

In a significant move towards improving early childhood development and maternal mental health, the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** has sanctioned a USD 40.5 million loan for the northeastern Indian state of Meghalaya.

This strategic initiative, supported by the Meghalaya government's contribution of **USD 15.27 million**, aims to fortify both home-based and center-based childcare services through the establishment and enhancement of daycare centers known as Anganwadi centers.

### **Goa Offers India's First Free IVF Treatment Service**

Goa has set a groundbreaking precedent by becoming the first Indian state to offer free in vitro fertilization (IVF) treatment, alongside assisted reproductive technology (ART) and intrauterine insemination (IUI). Chief Minister Pramod Sawant inaugurated the service at **Goa Medical College (GMC)**.

With IVF costs ranging from **Rs 70,000 to Rs 3 lakh per cycle in India**, this initiative is a significant relief for individuals struggling with fertility issues.

Over 100 parents have registered with GMC for the free IVF facility, supported through corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds.



The move addresses the growing infertility challenge in India, where 15% of couples are affected, yet limited access and affordability persist.

### India's First 3D-Printed Post Office Inaugurated In Bengaluru

Bengaluru, often hailed as the nation's tech capital, has welcomed **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.

### Union Minister Unveils Bengaluru's Remarkable 3D-Printed Post Office

Inaugurating the post office, Ashwini Vaishnaw, the Union Minister for Railways, Communications, Electronics & Information Technology, commended Bengaluru's innovative spirit.

The post office, encompassing an area of 1,021 square feet, was swiftly completed in just **43 days** – a remarkable departure from the conventional construction period of around 10 months.

### Mysuru Palace to Become Plastic Free

The iconic Mysuru Palace, a must-visit landmark for tourists, is set to achieve a significant milestone by becoming 'plastic-free.' This collaborative effort involves the Mysuru District Administration, Mysuru City Corporation (MCC), and Mysuru Palace Board.

Following the successful model at the **Mysuru zoo**, where plastic was phased out, the palace aims to implement a deposit-refund system for water bottles.

Visitors can deposit a nominal fee to carry a water bottle inside and receive a refund upon its return. The initiative aims to instill a sense of responsibility and consciousness among visitors to prevent littering and reduce plastic waste. Additionally, the MCC emphasizes waste segregation during events and gatherings to promote responsible disposal practices.

### Uttarakhand Government's Comprehensive Survey of Disaster-Prone Areas

The **Uttarakhand government** has taken steps to conduct a thorough survey of cities and towns prone to disasters, with tenders having been invited for the project.

The Director of Uttarakhand Landslide Mitigation and Management Centre, Shantanu Sarkar, noted that the survey process has commenced and will include geophysical and geo-mapping investigations of the areas. The initiative was prompted by the land subsidence crisis in Joshimath earlier this year.

The state government enlisted national-level technical institutes to assess various aspects of the subsidence, but their findings are pending. In light of Uttarakhand's vulnerability to disasters, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami expressed the need for evaluating load-bearing capacities in hill towns.



Monsoon-related incidents, including landslides and cloudbursts, have further highlighted the importance of such assessments.

### Chokuwa Rice: The Enchanting “Magic Rice” of Assam Gets GI Tag

Chokuwa rice, fondly known as “Magic rice,” has recently been bestowed with the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag, a recognition of its exceptional attributes and heritage.

This remarkable rice variety is deeply intertwined with the culinary legacy of Assam and has a rich historical connection with the powerful Ahom dynasty.

The cultivation of Chokuwa rice is unique to the Brahmaputra River region, encompassing areas like Tinsukia, Dhemaji, and Dibrugarh in Assam.

## International Affairs

### OpenAI CEO Sam Altman launches Worldcoin crypto project

Open AI CEO Sam Altman along with two co-founders launched the **Worldcoin crypto project** to grant users a verified digital identity and access to a financial project.

What is Worldcoin?

Worldcoin is a crypto-currency project that is **launched by the Open AI CEO Sam Altman along with Alex Blania and Max Novendstern** with the main aim to provide its users with a private digital identity—“a World’s Identity”—after they register in person, where an “Orb” imaging device scans their eye’s unique iris pattern to verify they are “a real and unique person.”

### Iraq becomes the 18th country recognized by WHO for eliminating Trachoma

The **World Health Organization (WHO)** officially recognized Iraq as the 18th country to successfully eliminate trachoma as a public health concern.

This achievement also marks Iraq as the fifth nation within the WHO’s Eastern Mediterranean Region to accomplish this milestone.

Additionally, the WHO has acknowledged Iraq as the 50th country to eliminate at least one **Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD)** on a global scale.

This accomplishment signifies a significant step towards the goal of having 100 countries achieve similar milestones by 2030, as outlined in the 2021-2030 NTD roadmap.

This roadmap aims to address and combat 20 different diseases and disease groups through prevention, control, elimination, and eradication efforts.

### BRICS’s New University Ranking System



Education ministers from the BRICS countries—Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa—have collectively decided to launch an independent university ranking system.

The move comes as a response to criticisms regarding existing rankings and their lack of comprehensive data. During a meeting held in **South Africa's Mpumalanga province**, the ministers acknowledged the necessity for a reliable and relevant education framework in today's global context.

The initiative stems from an agreement among departmental leaders, recognizing the limitations of current rating methods.

Russia's Deputy Minister of Science and Higher Education, **Konstantin Mogilevsky**, highlighted the need for a fresh evaluation framework based on objective, universally accepted data.

Representatives from all five countries' Ministries of Education endorsed this idea, emphasizing qualitative benchmarks for the forthcoming rating system.

### **BRICS Welcomes New Members: Inclusion of Argentina, Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, and Egypt**

In a significant geopolitical development, the BRICS alliance, comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, has announced the inclusion of six new member countries.

This expansion marks a notable shift in the alliance's composition and has the potential to reshape the dynamics of global cooperation.

President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa, the host nation of the recent BRICS summit, made a historic announcement on August 24th, revealing the names of the new entrants to the alliance.

The expanded BRICS now welcomes Argentina, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, and Egypt into its fold. This move not only diversifies the alliance but also provides a platform for emerging economies from different regions to align their interests on the global stage.

### **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.



### Water Crisis in Afghanistan

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has reported that a staggering **79% of Afghans lack sufficient access to clean water** for essential needs, exacerbated by the worst drought in 30 years, economic instability, and decades of conflict.

The dire situation has led to half of the population facing acute hunger, with six million people on the brink of famine.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has requested \$33 million in funding to offer water, sanitation, and hygiene support to 2.3 million Afghan citizens throughout the year 2023.

With 25 of 34 provinces experiencing severe or catastrophic drought conditions, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) emphasizes the need for urgent international attention to address the crisis.

Despite the extensive challenges, only 23% of the required **\$3.23 billion in funding for humanitarian assistance** has been received, further endangering vulnerable Afghans.

### Saudi Arabia launches AI-Powered program to combat desertification

The **Saudi Environment Ministry** has launched a program to combat desertification using **artificial intelligence (AI)**.

The program, which is a collaboration between the ministry, the National Center for Vegetation Development and Combating Desertification, and the **King Abdullah University of Science and Technology**, aims to study the status of vegetative cover in the Kingdom and contribute to the goals of afforestation projects and the “Green Saudi” initiative.

### Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization

After a hiatus of 14 years, South American nation leaders convened to prioritize the Amazon rainforest’s protection during the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization summit.

This pivotal gathering is taking place in Belem, a Brazilian city that stands as a testament to the urgency of the situation.

Founded 45 years ago, the **Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization (ACTO)** plays a vital role in fostering collaborations among nations.

It serves as a global entity dedicated to fostering sustainable growth within the Amazon Basin. The nations involved in this organization are Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela.

The foundation for this collaboration was laid with the signing of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT) on July 3, 1978, which saw revisions in 1998. To bolster the treaty’s execution, ACTO was inaugurated in 1995. Further solidifying its presence, its Permanent Secretariat was set up in Brasilia in 2002.





### Iraq bans media from using the 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 directive encompasses all media and social media establishments functioning within the country, as specified by the Iraqi Communications and Media Commission (CMC).

The use of these terms in any of their applications is now prohibited for all licensed CMC phone and internet companies. As a result, these companies are constrained from including “homosexuality” or “gender” in any of their mobile apps.

### Pakistani Senator Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar Named Caretaker Premier

**Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s** surprise decision to dissolve the country’s Parliament, with just three days remaining before the completion of its five-year term, has led to the appointment of Senator Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar as the caretaker premier.

Kakar, a relatively unknown figure in political circles, hails from **Balochistan**, a province marked by internal turmoil.

His appointment has sparked questions about his role, especially as he is set to oversee national elections mandated within 90 days of Parliament dissolution.

### AI Robot Guides Rituals in Mecca’s Grand Mosque

The General Presidency of the Grand Mosque and the Prophet’s Mosque has unveiled an innovative “**guidance robot**” powered by **artificial intelligence (AI)** to assist pilgrims and Umrah performers at the Grand Mosque.

This advanced robot serves a dual purpose, aiding in religious rituals and offering guidance while facilitating fatwa operations. Its capabilities include simultaneous translations, remote expert communication, and services in 11 languages.

Designed for mobility, the robot boasts innovative features such as a **21-inch touch screen**, four wheels for easy movement, and high-resolution cameras. Enhanced audio and connectivity ensure effective communication, all driven by AI’s transformative power, merging tradition and technology.

### United States Introduces Preventive Pill for STIs

The United States is set to deploy an existing antibiotic, **DoxyPEP (doxycycline)**, repurposed as a preventive pill to combat sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

Recent reports state that DoxyPEP can substantially reduce the risk of chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis after unprotected sexual activity.



The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)** will assess the potential benefits of curbing rising STI rates against the risk of promoting antibiotic-resistant strains.

The new approach targets high-risk groups like gay men and transgender women with prior infection histories.

Clinics are already beginning to prescribe the pill, offering a **“morning-after pill”** option for risky encounters.

Efficacy trials conducted in San Francisco and Seattle showcased promising results, with a two-thirds reduction in STIs every three months, particularly for chlamydia and syphilis.

The introduction of this preventive pill aims to provide a much-needed tool to address the escalating public health issue of STIs.

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

World governing body FIFA has lifted the ban on the Sri Lanka Football Federation (FFSL). The ban was imposed in January 2023 due to government interference in the federation’s affairs.

In a letter dated August 28 by Fatma Samoura, the FIFA secretary General, it said that the FIFA bureau had decided on 27 August “to lift the suspension of the FFSL with immediate effect”. The FFSL has also agreed to hold fresh elections for its executive committee.

The lifting of the ban is a major boost for Sri Lankan football. It means that the country’s national team will be able to resume international competition and that the FFSL will be able to resume its development programs.

The FIFA Bureau’s decision to lift the ban was welcomed by the Sri Lankan government and by the football community in the country. The government said that it was committed to supporting the development of football in Sri Lanka.

### **UAE’s Ministry of Health Launches Back-to-School Health Awareness Campaign**

The UAE’s Ministry of Health and Prevention (MoHAP) has initiated a back-to-school health awareness campaign spanning from August 17 to 31.

The campaign aims to educate parents and students about the significance of adopting healthy lifestyles as they return to school.

It emphasizes the benefits of physical activity, balanced diets, regulated sleep patterns, and controlled screen time.

Community events were organized in collaboration with the Ministry’s representative offices across the UAE, featuring healthy cooking workshops, expert chef-guided sessions, nutritionist tips, and discussions on health-conscious practices.



The campaign aligns with MoHAP's strategy to manage community health, uplift quality of life, and promote public health. It also focuses on raising awareness about seasonal influenza and respiratory diseases through preventive measures and vaccination drives.

## Foreign Relations

### LCS System for Settlement of Crude Oil Transactions Between India and UAE

**India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)** have initiated a groundbreaking move by settling their crude oil transactions using their respective national currencies. The landmark transaction will involve the utilization of the Indian rupee and the UAE dirham, representing a notable transformation in the dynamics of international trade.

This transformative change is facilitated by the **Local Currency Settlement (LCS) System**, which was introduced via an MoU signed during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the UAE.

The LCS System effectively removes the necessity for intermediary currencies, leading to a reduction in both transaction time and associated costs. This pioneering step is expected to enhance economic cooperation, bolster economic resilience, and strengthen bilateral relations.

The system's success has already been demonstrated with transactions involving the gold trade. As India seeks to promote its national currency in international transactions, this move sets a precedent for innovative trade practices.

### India and New Zealand sign MoU to boost cooperation in Civil Aviation

The Government of India and the Government of New Zealand have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to boost cooperation in civil aviation. This will cover the scheduling of new routes, code share services, traffic rights and capacity entitlement.

The MoU was signed by Shri Rajiv Bansal, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation and HE Mr David Pine, the New Zealand High Commissioner in the presence of Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Minister for Civil Aviation of India and Mr Damien O' Connor, Minister for Trade and Export Growth, Minister of Agriculture, Minister for Biosecurity, Minister for Land Information, and Minister for Rural Communities of New Zealand.

### GSL and Kenya Shipyard Ltd Sign MoU For Collaboration In Shipbuilding

With its efforts to enhance security of the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), especially on the eastern coast of Africa, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) and Kenya Shipyards Limited (KSL) to strengthen maritime security cooperation between the two nations.

### Army 2023: 9th International Military-Technical Forum



India, China, and Iran have established pavilions at the ongoing Army 2023, the 9th International Military-Technical Forum hosted by Russia.

The Indian pavilion features stalls from the Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and three Defense Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs).

This pavilion was inaugurated by India's Ambassador to Russia, Pavan Kapoor, and garnered attention from Russian government officials, including Defense Minister General Sergei Shoigu.

The DPSUs present are **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**, Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML), and Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL). BrahMos Corporation, a joint venture between India and Russia, is also part of the expo.

China and Iran have set up substantial pavilions displaying their locally developed military equipment. The forum offers a platform for showcasing advanced military technologies, fostering international partnerships, and discussing global security concerns.

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

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

The ORON aircraft is based on the Gulfstream G550 Aerospace platform.

It boasts state-of-the-art sensors, cameras, and artificial intelligence.

Advanced Command, Control, Communications, Computers, and Intelligence (C4I) systems are integrated into the aircraft's design.

### **5th India-Vietnam Joint Trade Sub-Commission meeting in New Delhi**

The 5th meeting of the India-Vietnam **Joint Trade Sub-Commission (JTSC)** was held in New Delhi today.

The meeting was co-chaired by the Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Shri Rajesh Agrawal from the Indian side, and Deputy Minister, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ms. Phan Thi Thang from the Vietnam side.

This meeting was held after a gap of more than four years since the 4th JTSC meeting held in January 2019, on account of the COVID-19 pandemic and other factors.

### **Indian & UAE Navies begin bilateral maritime partnership exercise**

This joint endeavor aims to enhance interoperability and synergy between the **Indian and UAE navies**, fostering cross-training on tactics, techniques, and procedures while cultivating stronger professional bonds.



In a significant step towards strengthening maritime cooperation, India and the UAE have initiated a **bilateral Naval Maritime Partnership** Exercise off the coast of the UAE.

The exercise, being held on August 11th, involves the participation of two Indian Naval Ships- **INS Visakhapatnam and INS Trikand**.

### Business News

#### 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 integration process has reached an advanced stage, with technology backends fully aligned and a majority of Voot Select subscribers smoothly transitioning to JioCinema.

#### Reliance Retail Launches 'Yousta' Fashion Stores; First Outlet In Hyderabad

Reliance Retail, the retail arm of billionaire Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries Ltd, has taken a significant step in the fashion retail sector with the introduction of its new brand, Yousta.

The brand's debut was marked by the opening of its flagship store in Hyderabad's Sarath City Mall. This move is set to revolutionize the retail market by catering to the fashion needs of the youth segment while offering contemporary, technology-enabled shopping experiences.

#### Zepto is the first Indian unicorn of 2023, raises \$200 million at \$1.4 billion valuation

Online grocery delivery startup Zepto has successfully raised \$200 million in a Series-E funding round, achieving a valuation of \$1.4 billion. This achievement marks Zepto as the first unicorn of 2023.

The funding was led by StepStone Group, a US-based private markets investment firm, and is StepStone Group's inaugural direct investment in an Indian company.



### Ranks

#### **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.

#### **Morgan Stanley ranks India highest on Emerging Markets List**

According to analysts, an overweight stock is expected to perform well in the future, making it a wise investment choice.

Such stocks have the potential to outdo both the overall market and their sector peers. **Morgan Stanley's** overweight rating for India signifies its confidence in the nation's economic growth.

This suggests that foreign investment will likely to continue pouring into the Indian market. Morgan Stanley's analysts also stated that **'India is arguably at the start of a long wave boom'**.

#### **India fast emerging as the world's favorite cost-effective healthcare destination**

Dr Jitendra Singh asserted that **Ayushman Bharat** is so far the world's best health insurance scheme and credit go to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for having conceptualized it.

This is possibly the only health insurance scheme in the world that offers the option of seeking insurance coverage even for a pre-existing disease.

Like for example, if today a person is detected as having cancer, he can thereafter go and get himself insured to receive financial support for treatment which is not seen anywhere even among the developed nations, Dr. Jitendra Singh added.

#### **Kolkata Becomes 3rd Indian City To Get Air Quality Early Warning System**

The Indian city of Kolkata has taken a significant step forward by adopting an Air Quality Early Warning System (AQEWS), developed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) based in Pune.

This system offers both real-time air pollution data and forecasts, with the objective of enhancing readiness and facilitating measures to tackle the escalating air pollution levels within the city.



### Defence News

#### Quad countries to conduct first Malabar naval exercise off Australia

India, Japan, the US, and Australia prepare to begin the **first Malabar naval exercise off Australia**.

The exercise will take place between August 11 and 22 and will witness the participation of the **Quad navies (India, Australia, Japan, USA)** in the mega-international event.

The 10-day exercise aims to deepen coordination between the countries amid China's continuing aggressive moves in the **Indo-Pacific**.

During the press conference, Vice Admiral Karl Thomas, Commander of the U.S. Navy's Seventh Fleet, said the deterrence that our four nations provide as we operate together as a Quad is a foundation for all the other nations operating in this region.

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

In a notable display of maritime cooperation, the guided missile corvette **INS Kulish** made its presence felt during Singapore's 77th Independence Day festivities.

As part of its ongoing engagement in the multinational SEACAT 2023 exercise, the crew and officers of INS Kulish celebrated the occasion at the High Commission of India in Singapore.

#### INS Kulish's Mission and Participation in SEACAT 2023

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.

#### Exercise Tarang Shakti

The Indian Air Force's multi-national exercise, **Tarang Shakti**, originally scheduled for later this year, has been postponed to the following year.

Defense officials announced that the decision was made to better align with the schedules of participating friendly foreign nations and to ensure maximum participation.

Although the final date remains pending, this rescheduling also accommodates the interest of certain Air Forces aiming to join the exercise.

Tarang Shakti promises to offer Indian pilots a distinctive learning experience. This move follows India's active participation in various international exercises, including the French Orion exercise and the Bastille Day flypast in Paris, where Indian Rafale fighter jets showcased their prowess.



### Operation Jericho

The **Mizo Rebellion of 1966**, also known as **Operation Jericho**, witnessed the Indian Air Force's strategic involvement in aiding the Army's efforts to quell the separatist movement led by the Mizo National Front.

As the rebels sought to gain control over Mizoram, the IAF played a crucial role in regaining control.

Two IAF Squadrons, 29 Squadron, and 14 Squadron were instrumental in the air operations, utilizing aircraft like Toofani and Hunters.

The air attacks, utilizing cannons and rockets, helped the Army regain strategic areas that had declared "independence." The IAF's partnership with the Army in this conflict showcases its versatility and vital role in complex military operations.

### 27th Edition of Exercise MALABAR

The 27th edition of Exercise MALABAR concluded off the East Coast of Australia on August 21, 2023. The exercise involved naval forces from the Indian Navy, Royal Australian Navy, Japan Maritime Self Defence Force, and the US Navy.

Conducted in two phases, the exercise included complex air, surface, and undersea exercises, weapon firings, and cross deck helicopter operations.

The participating navies showcased their interoperability and war-fighting skills, enhancing their ability to undertake advanced maritime operations.

The exercise reaffirmed the commitment of the four nations to maritime security and regional stability in the Indo-Pacific region, promoting peace and security through collaborative training.

### 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 participation of the IAF in this exercise underscores a new chapter of cooperation and collaboration among nations.





### Science related Affairs

#### Chandrayaan-3 enters Moon's orbit

The **Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft** has been successfully inserted into the lunar orbit, ISRO said.

In the third phase of the mission, Chandrayaan-3 will orbit the Moon several times before reaching an altitude of 100 km above the lunar surface.

Following this, the lander will separate from the propulsion module and land on the south pole region of the **lunar surface**.

#### NITIE to Become IIM Mumbai

The well-regarded **National Institute of Industrial Engineering (NITIE)** is set to rebrand and expand its horizons as it prepares to become the **Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Mumbai**.

This monumental change isn't just in name alone but carries with it a transformation in its academic approach and offerings.

Historically, NITIE has catered exclusively to engineering graduates. This niche approach has garnered the institution significant prestige in its specialized domain.

However, with the upcoming academic year of 2024-'25, NITIE will usher in a new era as it begins admitting students from diverse educational backgrounds.

#### India's first Solar Mission Aditya L1 to be launched soon

The **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** is launching its first solar mission, **Aditya-L1**, to study the Sun. The mission will be placed in a halo orbit around the Lagrange point 1 (L1), which is about 1.5 million kilometers from Earth.

From this vantage point, Aditya-L1 will be able to study the **Sun's atmosphere, magnetic fields, and space weather impacts**.

Halo Orbit Placement: Aditya-L1 is designed to be positioned in a halo orbit around the L1 Lagrange point, ensuring a stable vantage point for continuous solar observations.

#### AICTE and Jio Institute FDP on Artificial Intelligence & Data Science

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has taken a significant step toward advancing the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Science (DS) within the realm of education.

Partnering with the renowned Jio Institute, AICTE has unveiled a comprehensive faculty development program aimed at equipping academic leaders and senior faculty members with an in-depth understanding of AI and DS.



With the program set to commence on **August 21, 2023**, this collaboration holds the potential to reshape the educational landscape in India and beyond.

### **Chandrayaan-3's Pragyan Rover Confirms Sulphur Presence On The Surface Of Moon**

In a groundbreaking announcement, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) revealed that Chandrayaan-3's Pragyan rover module has successfully confirmed the presence of sulphur (S) on the surface of the Moon.

This significant revelation comes as a result of the first-ever in-situ recordings conducted near the lunar south pole. The confirmation of sulphur's presence holds paramount importance in unraveling the Moon's elemental composition and furthering our understanding of its geological history.

## **Book News**

### **Narendra Modi's Biography, Age, Full Name, Education Qualification, Family, Net Worth**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi: The full name of PM Modi is **Narendra Damodardas Modi (Narendra Modi)**.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is an impactful Political figure and Current Prime minister of India has been India's 14th and current prime minister since 2014.

From 2001 to 2014, Modi served as Gujarat's chief minister. He is a Varanasi-born member of parliament. Let us know about the Date of Birth, Age, Salary, Address, Wife, Twitter, and other details of the current Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi.

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

A book titled 'Pitchside: My Life in Indian Cricket' by long-term cricket administrator Amrit Mathur. In the book, Mr. Mathur brings alive insightful first-person accounts of some of Indian Cricket's most memorable moments.

Anecdotes, events, and matches are described from the perspective of an insider who has seen the game and the players up close for over three decades. An experienced cricket administrator, Mr. Mathur was the manager of the India team on the historic tour of South Africa in 1992.

Later, he was part of PILCOM, the organizing committee for the 1996 Cricket World Cup, also Chief Operating Officer of the Delhi Daredevils and General Manager of BCCI.

### **PS Sreedharan Pillai Released Three New Books on Nature, Trees, and Geopolitics**



Goa governor PS Sreedharan Pillai released three books at a function held at the Raj Bhavan. His recently authored three new books namely ‘Heritage Trees of Goa’, ‘When Parallel Lines Meet’, and ‘Ente Priya Kavithakal’ (‘My Dear Poems’ a collection of poems).

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant inaugurated the event in Panaji, Goa. West Bengal governor CV Ananda Bose unveiled the book ‘Heritage Trees of Goa’, while Goa chief minister Pramod Sawant inaugurated the event.

Goa state minister for tourism Rohan Khaunte and Jnanpith winner Damodar Mauzo released two other books: ‘When Parallel Lines Meet’ and ‘Ente Priya Kavithakal’.

### Sports News

Name	Tournament & Title name	Extra Information
Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar	Gold medal at FISU Games	Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, along with compound archers Avneet Kaur, 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.
Max Verstappen	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.
Aditi Gopichand Swami	India’s 1st ever individual gold in World Archery C’ships	India’s 17-year-old archer Aditi Gopichand Swami has created history by winning India’s first-ever individual gold medal in the history of World Archery Championships.
Indian wrestlers	11 medals at the World u17 championships	India ended their 2023 World Cadet Wrestling Championships, meant for under-17 grapplers, with a total of 11 medals, including a gold, at Istanbul, Turkey.



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Indian Women Wrestlers	Title 2023 At U20 Wrestling World Championship	India's female junior wrestlers created history in Amman, Jordan by clinching the gold medal at the U-20 World Championships. It is the first time an Indian female team has topped the standings at a world championship – across age categories.
Priya Malik	Gold at U20 World Wrestling Championships	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.
Anahat Singh	Gold In Asian Junior Squash Championships	Anahat Singh <b>secured the gold medal in the</b> U-17 category of the prestigious Asian Junior Squash Individual Championships, <b>a remarkable achievement that adds another jewel to her growing crown of accomplishments.</b>
Magnus Carlsen	Chess World Cup 2023	Magnus Carlsen finally managed to win the FIDE World Cup for the first time in his career on Thursday. He defeated India's Praggnanandhaa in the final, but not before the 18-year-old teenage prodigy had dragged him through the tie-breaker.
Neeraj Chopra	Gold - 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.
HS Prannoy	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.
Max Verstappen	Dutch Grand Prix 2023	Max Verstappen has won the Dutch Grand Prix for the



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		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.
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### Obituary News

Name	Associated Field
Mohammed Habib	Former India football captain
VS Arunachalam	Former defense research body chief
Deven Dutta	Eminent educationist & social activist
Dr. John Warnock	Adobe Co-Founder
CR Rao	Legendary statistical scientist
Terry Funk	Wrestling icon and WWE Hall of Famer
Seema Deo	Veteran Marathi actress

### Important Days

Days	Date	Themes
World Lung Cancer Day	August 01	
Muslim Women's Rights Day	August 01	
World Breastfeeding Week	August 01 – August 07	Let's make breastfeeding and work, work!
World Wide Web Day	August 01	
Friendship Day	August 06	
Hiroshima Day	August 06	
National Handloom Day	August 07	
<b>National Javelin Throw Day</b>	August 07	
World Tribal Day	August 09	Indigenous Youth as Agents of Change for Self-determination
World Nagasaki Day	August 09	
World Lion Day	August 10	
World Biofuel Day	August 10	
World Steelpan Day	August 11	
World Elephant Day	August 12	
International Youth Day	August 12	
World Organ Donation Day	August 13	Step up to volunteer; need more organ donors to fill the lacunae
International Left-Handers Day	August 13	Left-Handers in Sports
World Photography Day	August 19	
World Mosquito Day	August 20	
World Water Week	August 20 to 24	Innovative Solutions for a Water-Wise World



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International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief	August 22	
International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition	August 23	Fighting slavery's legacy of racism through transformative education
Women's Equality Day	August 26	Embrace Equity
National Sports Day	August 29	Sports are an enabler to an inclusive and fit society
World Sanskrit Day	August 31	

