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Table of Contents

NATIONAL AFFAIR	1
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIR	7
AWARD AND HONOUR.....	10
APPOINTMENT	13
OBITUARY.....	17
INITIATIVE/PROGRAMME/SCHEME/POLICY/CAMPAIGN/MISSION/PROJECT.....	18
MEETING/CONCLAVE/SUMMIT/EVENT/CONFERENCE.....	22
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	26
EXERCISE.....	30
ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS.....	32
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS	37
REPORT/RANK/INDEX/LIST	38
IMPORTANT DAY/WEEK/YEAR	39
FESTIVAL.....	42
ARCHEOLOGY	43
SPORTS	44
BOOKS & AUTHORS	49
MISCELLANEOUS	49



NATIONAL AFFAIR

The Clean Ganga Mission has approved seven projects worth a total of Rs. 692 crores

- The 50th meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) was held under the chairmanship of DG, NMCG, and Shri G. Asok Kumar where Seven projects worth around Rs. 692 crore were approved.
- Out of the seven projects, four pertain to sewage management in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.
- NMCG has so far sanctioned a total of 452 projects worth around Rs. 38,126 crore out of which 254 have been completed.



PM lays foundation stone and inaugurates various development projects in Pune, Maharashtra.

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi flagged off metro trains marking the inauguration of completed sections of Pune Metro.
- He also handed over more than 1280 houses constructed under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana by Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC) and more than 2650 PMAY houses constructed by Pune Municipal Corporation to the beneficiaries.
- He laid the foundation stone for around 1190 PMAY houses to be constructed by PCMC and over 6400 houses constructed by Pune Metropolitan Region Development Authority.
- The Prime Minister also inaugurated a Waste to Energy Plant under PCMC developed at a cost of about Rs 300 crores.



About Maharashtra:

- Governor: Ramesh Bai
- Chief Minister: Eknath Shinde
- Capital: Mumbai
- National Park: Tadoba National Park, Navegaon National Park
- Wildlife Sanctuaries: Bhimashankar Wildlife Sanctuary, Karnala Bird Sanctuary, Nagzira Wildlife Sanctuary
- UNESCO Heritage Sites: Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, The Victorian and Art Deco Ensemble of Mumbai, Ajanta Caves, Elephanta Caves, Ellora Caves

The deadline for submitting applications for PLI Scheme 2.0 for IT Hardware has been extended until August 30, 2023.

- Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme 2.0 for IT Hardware was notified vide notification No. CGDL-E-30052023-246165 dated May 29, 2023, with a budgetary outlay of ₹ 17,000 crore.
- The scheme is aimed at broadening and deepening the IT hardware manufacturing ecosystem in the country.
- The Operational Guidelines of Production Linked Incentive Scheme 2.0 for IT Hardware has been notified on 14.07.2023 and are available at the following URL: <https://www.meity.gov.in/esdm/productionlinked-incentive-scheme-20-it-hardware>



India Post sold the National Flag through its 1.6 lakh post offices to celebrate Har Ghar Tiranga.

- Government of India under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) introduced the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign.
- The campaign was an immense success in 2022 when 23 crore households hoisted the Tiranga at their homes physically and six crore people uploaded selfies on HGT Website.
- The Department of Posts (DoP) took this campaign to the last mile and ensured the availability of the national flag in the remotest corner of the country.



Dr Jitendra Singh launches India's first Indigenously developed, Affordable, lightweight, Ultrafast, High Field (1.5 Tesla), Next Generation Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Scanner in New Delhi.

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh launched India's first Indigenously developed, Affordable, lightweight, Ultrafast, High Field (1.5 Tesla), Next Generation Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Scanner in New Delhi.



Hon'ble President Of India Inaugurates 'Unmesha' And 'Utkarsh' Festivals In Bhopal.

- The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu inaugurated 'Unmesha' – International Literature Festival and 'Utkarsh' – Festival of Folk and Tribal Performing Arts at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- President said that literature connects with people and also connects people with each other.

About MP :

- **Governor:** Mangubhai C. Patel
- **Chief Minister:** Shivraj Singh Chouhan
- **Capital:** Bhopal
- **National Park:** Satpura National Park, Kanha National Park, Bandhavgarh National Park
- **Wildlife Sanctuary:** Nauradehi Wildlife Sanctuary, Bori Wildlife Sanctuary



Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and Shri S. Jaishankar jointly launched Study in India (SII) Portal in New Delhi.

- The Union Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and Union External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar jointly launched Study in India Portal in New Delhi.
- Minister of State for Education Dr Subhas Sarkar; Minister of State for Education, Smt Annapurna Devi; Minister of State for Education and External Affairs Shri Rajkumar Singh; Member of Parliament, Dr Mahesh Sharma; senior officials of Ministry of Education and Skill Development and Ambassadors of more than 10 countries attended the event.
- The website portal will present information about the academic facilities, research support, and related information.



NHAI Launches 'Rajmarg Yatra' a Unified Mobile Application for National Highway Users.

- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) takes a significant stride towards improving the highway user experience with the launch of 'Rajmarg Yatra,' a citizen-centric unified mobile application.
- This user-friendly app is now available for download on both Google Play Store and iOS App Store, empowering travelers with comprehensive information on Indian National Highways while also offering an efficient complaint redressal system.
- The app is currently available in Hindi and English.



Centre allocates over Rs 1,39,500 crore to extend Bharat Net in 6,40,000 villages.

- The government has allocated one lakh 39 thousand 579 crore rupees to extend Bharat Net in six lakh 40 thousand villages across the country.
- The Communications Ministry said that the extension project of the Bharat Net will be achieved in nearly two years.
- Built under the Make in India initiative, Bharat Net is one of the world's largest rural broadband connectivity programs, being implemented by Central PSUs including Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited.



NHA extends Digital Health Incentives Scheme till 31 Dec 2023.

- The National Health Authority (NHA) has announced the extension of its Digital Health Incentives Scheme (DHIS) under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission till the 31st of December this year.
- The Union Health Ministry said the scheme offers incentives of up to four crore rupees based on the number of digital health records created and linked to Ayushman Bharat Health Account numbers of the patients.
- Under the scheme, incentives are provided to hospitals and diagnostic labs and the providers of digital health solutions.
- The DHIS was launched in January 2023.



- About NHA: The National Health Authority or the NHA is responsible for implementing India's flagship public health insurance/assurance scheme Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. NHA has been set up to implement the PM-JAY at the national level.; Founded: 2018

Union Government to launch e-CARe portal tomorrow to facilitate the transfer of mortal remains of Indians who die abroad.

- The Union Government will launch the e-CARe (e-Clearance for Afterlife Remains) portal to facilitate the swift transfer of mortal remains of Indians who die abroad.
- Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said, the portal is being introduced to avoid delay during the transportation of the deceased human remains across international borders.
- The designated nodal officer will scrutinise and get approval within 48 hours.



Tamil Nadu's Jaderi "Namakatti", Chedibutta Saree and Kanyakumari Matty Banana get GI tag.

- 3 famous products from Tamil Nadu - Jaderi Namakatti Kanyakumari Matty Banana, Chedibutta Saree - have been given GI tag by the Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai.
- Along with this Tamil Nadu topped the GI chart with 58 tags. While Uttar Pradesh is in second place with more than 50 products and Karnataka is third with 48.
- Apart from this, seven other products from all over India were also given GI tag.
- One of them is leather shoes from Agra, Nathdwara Pichwai painting from Rajasthan, Mushkabudji rice from Kashmir, Rajouri chicory wood craft from Jammu and Kashmir, Agashi weyingim (Agasam brinjal) from Goa and Sat Shiro Bheno (Sat Shirancho Bhendo) also known as Okra. Has, which is a vegetable crop of Goa, has also got GI.
- Jaderi Namkatti: Clay made of high silicate minerals, whose paste is applied to the foreheads of idols, men and temple elephants. Worshipers of Lord Vishnu wear a 'U' shaped tilak (called Namam) Kanyakumari Matty Banana (Musa sapidisiaca).



India's 1st Theatre Command is going to be formed in August 2023.

- Inter-Services Organisation (Command, Control and Discipline) Bill, 2023.
- It seeks to empower 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 organisations.
- The Bill empowers the Central government to constitute an Inter-Services Organisation.
- In this, the Bill acts as a precursor to the reorganisation of the military into integrated theatre commands on which there is consensus now for the creation of two land-based integrated commands and one maritime theatre command.
- Currently, armed forces personnel are governed in accordance with the provisions contained in their respective Service Acts – The Army Act, 1950; The Navy Act, 1957; and The Air Force Act, 1950.

For more synergy and better mobility

At present, the three armed forces function with total of 17 independent commands. Army and Air Force have seven commands each and Navy has three commands. China in 2016 reorganised its seven military regions into five theatre commands

What's Theatre Command

The objective is to increase cooperation among the 3 components of the armed forces. It means a unified command headed by a single commander rather than various commands for Army, Navy and IAF

IS THERE A THEATRE COMMAND ALREADY?

The only fully functional theatre command is the Andaman & Nicobar Command set up in 2001

ADVANTAGES

- Improved troop mobilisation in a given battle zone
- Distribution of military hardware will be theatre-specific, leading to resource optimisation
- Speedy mobilisation and appropriate use during a brief, high-intensity combat

Chikri wood craft and Mushkabudji rice of Jammu and Kashmir got GI tag. [Geographical Indications (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999]

- Chikri wood craft from Rajouri district of Jammu and Kashmir and the prized Mushkabudji rice variety from Anantnag district have been given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.
- Chikri is a yellowish, honey coloured, fine-grained softwood found in the hill ranges of Rajouri district of Jammu province. The chikri wood art of Rajouri is characterized by intricate carvings and details.
- Mushkabudji rice is a premium variety of short, bold, aromatic rice grown in the higher reaches of the Kashmir Valley, especially in the Anantnag district. Cooked Mushkabudji rice is unique and has a harmonious blend of taste, aroma and rich organoleptic properties.

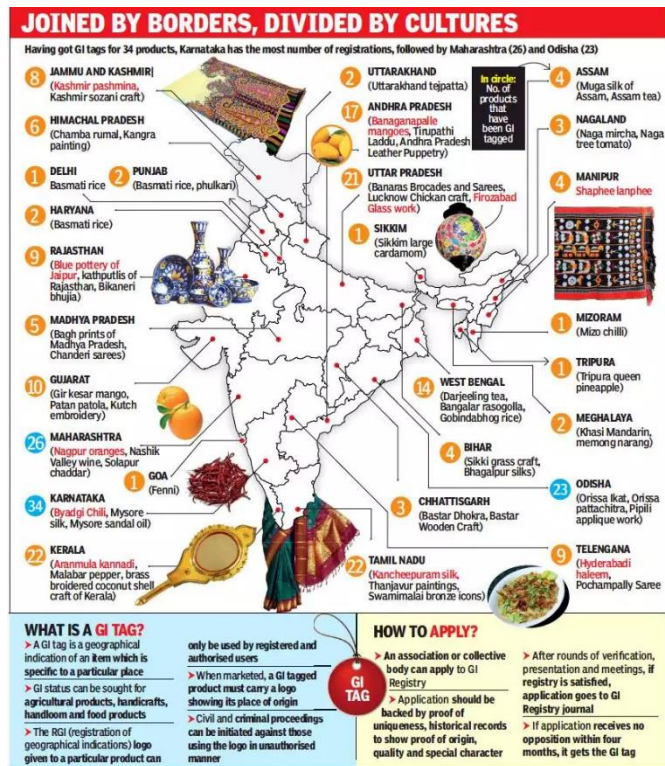


7 products of the country got GI tag

Seven products from across India, including four from Rajasthan, were given the GI tag by the Geographical Indications Registry under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

The GI tags were secured by 'Jalesar Dhatu Shilp' (a metal craft), 'Goa Mankurad Mango', 'Goan Bebinca', 'Udaipur Koftgari Metal Craft', 'Bikaner Kashidakari Craft', 'Jodhpur Bandhej Craft', and 'Bikaner Usta Kala Craft'.

- **Jalesar Dhatu Shilp:** metal craft that originated in the Jalesar town of Etah district in Uttar Pradesh. It is a unique form of brassware that involves intricate engraving and embossing of floral, geometric and animal motifs on brass utensils, lamps, idols, vases, trays and other decorative items.
- **Goa Mankurad Mango:** is a variety of mango that is grown in Goa, especially in the Bardez taluka. It is also known as Goa Mancurad or Goa Alphonso. It is considered to be one of the best varieties of mangoes in India, owing to its sweet taste, juicy pulp, thin skin and pleasant aroma. It is believed that the Portuguese brought the mango saplings from Brazil and planted them in Goa.
- **Goan Bebinca:** Goan Bebinca is a traditional dessert that is made in Goa. It is also known as Bibik or Bebinca. It is a layered cake that consists of thin layers of flour, eggs, coconut milk, sugar and ghee (clarified butter). The cake is baked in an earthen oven after each layer is added, resulting in a rich and moist texture.
- **Udaipur Koftgari Metal Craft:** is a metal craft that originated in Udaipur city of Rajasthan. It is also known as Damascening or Inlaying. It is a technique of decorating metal objects with fine wires or strips of gold or silver.
- **Bikaner Kashidakari Craft:** is an embroidery craft that originated in Bikaner city of Rajasthan. It is a form of embroidery that uses gold or silver threads to create elaborate designs on fabrics such as silk, velvet, satin and brocade.
- **Jodhpur Bandhej Craft:** is a tie-dye craft that originated in Jodhpur city of Rajasthan. It is also known as Bandhani or Bandhani. It is a technique of creating patterns or designs on fabrics by tying them with threads and then dyeing them in different colors. The fabrics can be made of cotton, silk, wool or synthetic materials, and can include sarees, dupattas, skirts, scarves and other garments.
- **Bikaner Usta Kala Craft:** is a painting craft that originated in Bikaner city of Rajasthan. It is also known as Naqqashi or Nakashi. It is a form of painting that uses gold or silver foil to create intricate designs on various surfaces such as wood, metal, marble, ivory and leather. The craft involves applying a layer of lacquer or varnish on the surface and then pasting the gold or silver foil on it. Then, the foil is cut with a fine needle to create the desired patterns or designs.



Government of India imposes Anti-dumping duty on optical fiber imported from China, South Korea and Indonesia.

- Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), the Department of Revenue has imposed an antidumping duty of 5 years on SingleMode Optical Fiber (SMOF) imports from China, South Korea and Indonesia.
- Optical fiber was being exported to India at prices below normal values, causing "material injury" to domestic companies.
- Birla Furukawa Fiber Optics Pvt Ltd, Sterlite India Technologies and Corning India Technologies filed the petition seeking an anti-dumping probe on SMOF imports from China, South Korea and Indonesia.
- Single-mode optical fiber (SMOF) finds substantial use by telecom companies in deployment of 3G/4G/5G networks, connecting village panchayats and strengthening defense infrastructure.
- Optical fibers are thin cylindrical tubes made mainly of silica which work on the principle of total internal reflection of light.



India's 1st underwater landmine detection vehicle "Neerakshi" launched.

- "Neerakshi" is a collaboration of Kolkata-based warship maker Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd and MSME unit AEPL.
- "Neerakshi" which means "eyes in water" is the first of its kind in the country and is expected to undergo user trials by the Indian Navy, Coast Guard and Army before commercial launch.
- Sameer V Kamat, Secretary, DRDO, launched the orange colored prototype of the AUV Neerakshi.
- A 2.1 m long cylindrical unmanned vehicle with a diameter of about one foot and a weight of about 45 kg that can last for about 4 hours and is capable of operating at a depth of 300 m.

**Government of India to provide financial assistance to Tuvalu's "Motufoua Concrete Water Cistern" clean water project.**

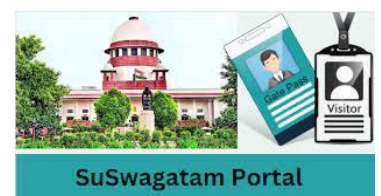
- India will be providing support worth \$700,000 from the India-UN Development Partnership Fund to the project in Tuvalu to store and provide clean water in school, India's Permanent Mission to the UN Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj said.
- The proposed concrete water cistern, with a capacity of 760 metric cubes will store and provide clean water to students, teachers and school staff promoting hygiene and reducing water-borne diseases.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the "Sagar Amrut Scholarship" scheme for the Pacific Island countries, at the Summit of the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation.
- He had also announced a 12-point action plan focusing on health, wellness and community development sectors as per priorities of the Pacific island countries. The water cistern project in Tuvalu is in pursuance of these initiatives focused on the importance of high-impact community development projects in areas of choice by the Pacific countries.

**"Swati Mountain Radar" inducted in the Indian Army for monitoring high altitude areas.**

- To strengthen the country's battlefield surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities, the Indian Army has inducted a lighter and more compact version of the indigenously developed weapon locating radar 'Swati Mountain Radar' (WLR-M), also known as 'Swati Mountain'.
- The radar system was flagged off by Lt Gen JB Choudhary, Deputy Chief of Army Staff (DCOAS) at a function in Agra, Uttar Pradesh.
- Developed by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) in Bengaluru.

**Supreme Court of India to launch "Suswagatam Portal".**

- It will enable advocates, visitors, trainees and others to register themselves online and obtain e-passes for entry into the apex court.
- "Suswagatam" is a mobile-friendly application that allows users to register themselves online and place a request for an e-pass for various purposes such as attending court hearings, meeting advocates, etc.

**India's 1st Agricultural Data Exchange (ADeX) and Agricultural Data Management Framework (ADMF) launched in Hyderabad.**

- Telangana's Information Technology and Industries Minister K Taraka Rama Rao has launched ADeX & ADMF.
- The Agriculture Data Exchange has been developed as a digital public infrastructure for the agriculture sector and is a collaboration between the State government, the World Economic Forum and the Indian Institute of Science.
- ADEX and ADMF provide the right platform to ensure proper and efficient use of agricultural data by industry and startups and promote the data economy, especially in the agriculture sector.



PM Narendra Modi hosted the flag at the Red Fort today on the 77th Independence Day.

- This time on Independence Day, more than 1800 guests from different professions have been invited along with their families from across the country. These guests include sarpanches of more than 660 special gram panchayats and representatives of agricultural product organizations Shram Yogis of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, Central Vista Project and New Parliament House have also been invited to the function. 75 couples from each state and union territory have been invited in their traditional attire.
- This year, the Amrit Mahotsav of Independence, which lasted for two years, also ended on Independence Day. It was started by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 12 March 2021 from the Sabarmati Ashram in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- Earlier, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar launched the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' motorcycle rally at Pragati Maidan in Delhi. As part of the first phase of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (Aakam), the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign is scheduled to be organized across the country from 13 to 15 August 2023.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi celebrated Partition Vibhishika Memorial Day on 14 August 2023 in the memory of those who lost their lives during Partition.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi set a record for hoisting the national flag 10 times continuously from the ramparts of the historic Red Fort on the 77th Independence Day. The PM equaled the record of his predecessor Manmohan Singh.
- India has seen 15 PMs so far. Out of these 15 prime ministers, 13 have hoisted the national flag at the Red Fort. Two Prime Ministers - Gulzarilal Nanda and Chandra Shekhar - did not get a chance to hoist the tricolor on Independence Day.
- The record of hoisting the flag for the maximum number of times 17 consecutive times is in the name of first PM Jawaharlal Nehru. The second record is in the name of PM Indira Gandhi for hoisting the national flag 16 times.



Indian Air Force inducts the latest drone “Heron Mark-II” to keep an eye on borders.

- “Heron Mark-II” has strike capability and can conduct surveillance along the borders with both China and Pakistan in a single flight.
- 4 new Heron Mark-2 drones, which could be equipped with long range missiles and other weapon systems, have been deployed at a forward air base of the Tridents squadron, now known as the 'Guardians of the North'.
- Indian Air Force is also working on Project Cheetah, under which around 70 Heron drones will be upgraded and weaponised with satellite communication links to meet the requirements of the armed forces.
- Heron Mark-2 is an upgraded version of the Heron Mark-1, which has been in service with the Indian Air Force since 2009. It is a medium altitude long-endurance (MALE) drone, featuring an endurance of 36 hours, an altitude of 35,000 feet, and a speed of 150 knots.
- It carries a variety of sensors, including synthetic aperture radar (SAR), electro-optical/infrared (EO/IR) cameras, and laser designators.



Bill introduced in Lok Sabha for radical changes in Indian Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code, and Evidence Act.

- Recently, the Union Home Minister introduced three bills in the Lok Sabha, which aim to repeal and replace the Indian Penal Code (IPC), Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and the Indian Evidence Act implemented in India during the British rule.
- Indian Penal Code (IPC) was prepared in the year 1860 in line with the 1st Law Commission set up in the year 1834 under the Charter Act of 1833.
- The Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) was enacted in the year 1973 for the administration of criminal law and came into force on 1 April 1974.
- The Indian Evidence Act, 1872 introduced a set of rules governing the admissibility of evidence in courts by the Imperial Legislative Council.

Salient features of the Bharatiya Nyay Samhita Bill, 2023:

- The bill defines crimes such as terrorism and separatism, and armed rebellion against the government. It repeals the offense of sedition. It provides for death penalty as the maximum punishment for mob lynching.

- It proposes 10 years of imprisonment for having sex with women on false promises of marriage. The Bill provides for community service as punishment for specific offences, which can help reform criminals and reduce overcrowding in prisons. In the Bill, a maximum limit of 180 days has been fixed for filing the charge sheet.

Salient features of the Bhartiya Nagrik Suraksha Samhita, 2023:

- The Bill mandates video-recording of statements of survivors of sexual violence, informing the police about the status of the complaint within 90 days.
- Section 41A of CrPC will be renumbered as Section 35. Under this, no arrest can be made without the prior approval of an officer of at least the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), especially for offenses punishable with punishment of less than 3 years or persons above 60 years of age.
- The Bill requires the police to consult the victim before withdrawing a case punishable with seven years or more.
- It allows absconding criminals to be tried and sentenced by the court in their absence. It empowers magistrates to take cognizance of offenses on the basis of electronic records like emails, SMS, WhatsApp messages etc.
- In cases of death sentence, mercy petition has to be filed within 30 days to the Governor and within 60 days to the President.

Bhartiya Sakshya Bill, 2023:

- The Bill defines electronic evidence as any information generated or transmitted by any device or system capable of being stored or retrieved by any means.
- It provides for special provisions for admissibility of DNA evidence such as consent, chain of custody (a key aspect of documenting evidence), etc.

Three bills introduced in Lok Sabha

Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860
TO BE REPLACED BY
Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill, 2023

- It will have 356 sections (instead of 511 sections in IPC)
- 175 sections have been amended
- 8 sections have been added, and 22 sections have been repealed

Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973
TO BE REPLACED BY
Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023

- It will have 533 sections (instead of 478 sections in CrPC)
- 160 sections have been changed
- 9 sections have been added, and 9 sections have been repealed

"From 1860 to 2023, the country's criminal justice system functioned as per the laws made by the British. I can assure the House that these bills will transform our criminal justice system. The aim will not be to punish, it will be to provide justice."
— AMIT SHAH

Indian Evidence Act, 1872
TO BE REPLACED BY
Bhartiya Sakshya Bill, 2023

- It will have 170 sections (instead of 167 sections in IEA)
- 23 sections have been changed
- 1 section has been added, and 5 sections have been repealed

WHAT NEXT
The three bills will be studied by the standing committee on home affairs, which is chaired by BJP MP Brijlal (who is a retired IPS officer).

The government has approved the import of 470 aircraft for Air India Limited and 500 for Indigo:

- The union government has granted in-principle approval to import 470 aircraft to Air India Limited and 500 aircraft to Interglobe Aviation Limited (Indigo).
- This information was given by the Minister of State for Civil Aviation General (Dr.) V. K. Singh.
- He said the aircraft is proposed to be imported by 2035.
- On the question of parking space, the minister said the airline operators have been advised by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation to share their induction plan with airport operators for ensuring the availability of parking slots.



About IndiGo:

- Founders: Rahul Bhatia, Rakesh Gangwal
- CEO: Pieter Elbers
- Headquarters: Gurugram
- Founded: August 2006

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIR

India inks agreement with Papua New Guinea to share India Stack.

- The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Papua New Guinea's Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) have signed an MoU to share 'India Stack'.
- Earlier in June 2023, India had signed a MoU to share India Stack with four countries: Armenia, Sierra Leone, Suriname and Antigua and Barbuda.
- India Stack is a set of APIs (Application Programming Interface) that allows governments, businesses, startups and developers to access a unique digital infrastructure towards presence-less, paperless and cashless service delivery.



- Key components of India Stack include Aadhaar (unique biometric based identification system), Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for instant digital payments and Digital Locker for secure storage of personal documents.

Open AI CEO Sam Altman launched the “Worldcoin crypto project”.

- WorldCoin is a crypto-currency project launched by the CEO of OpenAI along with Alex Blania and Max Novendstern (two co-founders).
- The project aims to create a universal and decentralized digital identity that can protect people's privacy and enable them to access various services and benefits online.
- The project also has the vision of using WorldCoin as a means to distribute Universal Basic Income (UBI) to everyone in the world, regardless of their location, income or status.



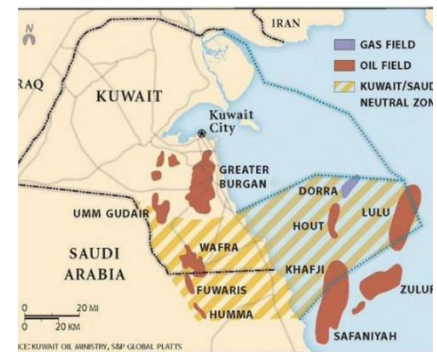
Foxconn to set up a mobile component manufacturing plant in Tamil Nadu with the total investment of Rs. 1600 crores.

- The new manufacturing facility would be set up in Kancheepuram district of Tamil Nadu. This would create 6,000 jobs.
- The facility would be set up by the subsidiary Hon Hai Technology Group.
- Foxconn already has an Apple iPhone manufacturing facility in Tamil Nadu at Sriperumbudur outside Chennai employing 40,000 people.
- Tamil Nadu ranks No.1 in export of electronic goods with exports in 2022-23 crossing \$5.3 billion. Chief Minister Stalin has set a target of turning the state into a trillion-dollar economy by 2030.
- Called the 'Detroit of India' with a concentration of automobile companies, Tamil Nadu has also emerged to be the EV capital of India as many electric vehicle manufacturers, including Ola Electric and other battery manufacturers, setting shop in the state.



Dispute over “Arash-Dorra Gas Field” in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Iran.

- Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have recently claimed sole ownership of the disputed Arash-Dorra gas field, a resource-rich offshore field that Iran also claims.
- The 3 countries have long been embroiled in a dispute over the area and the situation has worsened after Iran threatened to continue exploration despite objections from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.
- The Arash-Dorra gas field, known as Arash in Iran and Dorra in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, has been a focal point of dispute between the three countries. The region contains significant natural gas reserves, making it a highly valuable resource for all parties involved.
- 'Arash-Dorra Gas Field': Disputes over the area began in the 1960s, when Iran and Kuwait allowed offshore gas exploitation to an Anglo-Iranian oil company, a BP and a Royal Dutch Shell. The two concessions overlap in the northern part of the field, whose recoverable reserves are estimated to be around 220 billion cubic meters (about eight trillion cubic feet).
- Iran moved drilling equipment to the area in 2001, forcing Kuwait to lodge a complaint with international organizations. Last year, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia signed a deal to jointly develop the area, despite objections from Iran which termed the deal as "illegal".



WHO declares Iraq as a trachoma free Country.

- Additionally, the WHO has recognized Iraq as the 50th country to have eliminated at least one neglected tropical disease (NTD) globally.
- In 2012, Iraq launched its National Trachoma Program to eliminate the disease. They developed a surveillance system to detect and manage cases in collaboration with eye care facilities, schools, and the Ministry of Education.
- Trachoma is a neglected tropical disease. It is caused by infection with the bacterium Chlamydia trachomatis, which is spread from person to person through contaminated fingers, fomites, and flies that come in contact with secretions from the eyes or nose of an infected person. Over time, this causes the eyelids to be pushed inward into the eye. If it is not treated, trichiasis can lead to blindness.



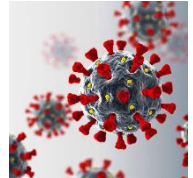
The United States gave a nod to the World 1st Postpartum Depression Prevention Pill “Zurzuve”.

- The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the first drug Oral To treat postpartum depression. The drug is zuranolone, and it will be marketed under the brand name Zurzuve, developed by Sage Therapeutics.
- So far, the treatment of postpartum depression is available only in the form of intravenous injection Administered at some medical centers. Women who suffered from it only had the option of attending psychological therapy or taking conventional antidepressants. The latter usually takes some time to take effect. However, with this new pill, women will be able to observe results after 3 days to start treatment.
- Postpartum depression is a serious and life-threatening condition in which women experience thoughts of sadness, guilt, worthlessness, and even in severe cases harm to themselves or their children.



“EG.5.1, Eris Variant of Covid 19” is spreading in the United Kingdom rapidly.

- Identified as a variant on July 31, Eris has now become the second-most prevalent strain, leading to around 1 in 7 Covid-19 cases in the European country, according to the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA).
- The spread of Eris is not limited only to the UK but also across Europe, Asia and North America, marking its impact globally.



CBI Academy attached to INTERPOL Global Academy Network.

- CBI Academy has joined the Interpol Global Academy Network, becoming its 10th member, which will pave the way for the development and delivery of joint training programs and research projects.
- The CBI Academy, Ghaziabad is a premier training institute in the field of crime investigation, prosecution and vigilance methodology.
- The 3-year-old Interpol Global Academy Network aims to support INTERPOL in leading the global approach to law enforcement training.
- CBI was established in 1963 and is governed by the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act. It was established on the recommendations of the Santhanam Committee (1962–1964) on Prevention of Corruption.
- INTERPOL is the International Criminal Police Organization. Its headquarter is located in the city of Lyon, France. It was established in 1923.



Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina launched the 'Universal Pension Scheme'.

- aims to bring citizens above the age of 18 years under pension coverage.
- Out of the total 6 planned packages, 4 different packages – Pragati, Surokkha, Samta and Prabashi – were initially introduced under Universal Pension Scheme to ensure lifelong pension facility to the participating citizens.
- The Pragati package will cover private job holders, while the Surokkha is designed for self employed individuals, the Samata for low-income earners and the Prabashi package for migrant Bangladeshis. The remaining two packages will be launched later.



6 new members join the BRICS organization.

- South African President Cyril Ramaphosa announced the outcomes of the **15th BRICS Summit on 24 August 2023**. He said that in the summit it has been agreed to make **Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates** as full members of BRICS. Their membership will be effective from **January 2024**.
- These members have jointly pledged to champion the "Global South". The three-day 15th BRICS summit took place at the **Sandton Convention Center in Johannesburg**.
- The initial meeting of the leaders of BRIC countries including Brazil, Russia, India and China took place in Saint Petersburg, Russia in July 2006 on the sidelines of the G8 Outreach Summit. Subsequently, in September 2006, the group was formally established. Following a series of high-level gatherings, the first BRIC summit was held on 16 June 2009 in Yekaterinburg, Russia.



AWARD AND HONOUR

Veteran Industrialist Ratan Tata will receive Maharashtra's govt 1st "Udyog Ratna Award".

- The honour comprised a shawl, a citation and a memento from the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC).
- Established in 1868, the Tata Group is the largest Indian multinational conglomerate with products and services spanning across six continents and over 150 countries. The Tata Group consists of 29 publicly listed companies with a combined market capitalisation of ₹23.6 lakh crore (\$311 billion) as of March 2022.



Myra Grover was honored with "Strong Women Icon Award" by the UK Parliament.

- Author and New Delhi Social Workers Association (NDSWA) secretary Myra Grover has been honored with the prestigious Women's Icon Award by the UK Parliament's House of Lords for her contribution as a writer on mental well-being.
- The award ceremony took place in the prestigious House of Lords of the UK Parliament, a symbol of its international importance. This program got the support of Meenakshi Lekhi, Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, Government of India as the chief guest.



Subhash Runwal, Chairman – Runwal Company, a leading real estate developer, was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 1st RICS South Asia Awards.

- Established in 1978, Runwal is one of the leading real estate developers in Mumbai, operating across residential, commercial and organized retail verticals for over 4 decades



Indian-American economist Raj Chetty receives Harvard University's "George Ledley".

- Raj Chetty, an Indian-American economist, and Michael Springer, a biologist, have been awarded Harvard University's 'George Ledley Prize' for their unique work in each of their fields.
- Chetty, professor of economics at Harvard University, is known for his study of inequality and his work on economic mobility. He is also a former advisor to US President Joe Biden on economic issues.
- Springer, Professor of Systems Biology at Harvard Medical School, is renowned for his work in developing new diagnostic tests. He had developed a rapid and accurate COVID-19 test, which has improved the fight against the pandemic.



5 young Indians got the 'International Young Eco-Hero Awards' for the year 2023.

- 5 youths from India have been named among 17 teenage environmental activists from around the world to receive the 2023 International Young Eco-Hero Award for taking initiatives to tackle the world's most pressing environmental challenges.
- The young eco-warriors who were recognized for their efforts by US-based non-profit organization Action for Nature are Iha Dixit from Meerut, Manya Harsha from Bengaluru, Nirvana Somani, Mannat Kaur and Karnav Rastogi from New Delhi.
- Every year since 2003, the US-based non-profit Action for Nature (AFN) is proud to honor the work of young people between the ages of 8 and 16 around the world who have completed creative environmental projects with cash prizes, certificates of achievement and with public recognition.



Allu Arjun Nominated For Best Actor Award At 69th National Film Awards.

The National Film Awards were first given in 1954 and were known as 'State Awards'. At that time, only the best films in various regional languages were recognized and awarded.

- The **1st Best Feature Film winner was the Marathi film Shyamchi**. Awards for actors and technicians were first given in 1967. **Nargis was the first actress to win the Best Actress award** for her performance in **Raat Aur Din**. **Uttam Kumar** won the **Best Actor award for Antony Phiringi and Chidiyakhana** in the same year.

- Best Actor - Allu Arjun Jr. - 'Pushpa: The Rise'
- Best Actress - Alia Bhatt for 'Gangubai Kathiawadi' & Kriti Sanon for 'Mimi'
- Best Director - Nikhil Mahajan for the Marathi film "Godavari"
- Best Feature Film - 'Rocketry: The Nambi Effect'
- Nargis Dutt Award for Best Film - The Kashmir Files
- Indira Gandhi Award for Best Debut Film Direction – Meppadi Yan (Malayalam)
- Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment - RRR (Telugu)
- Best Supporting Actress - Pallavi Joshi - 'The Kashmir Files'
- Best Supporting Actor - Pankaj Tripathi - 'Mimi'
- Best Choreography - Prem Rakshit - "RRR"
- Best Female Playback Singer - Shreya Ghoshal for the song 'Mayawa Chayawa' from the film 'Iravin Nijal'.
- Best Male Playback Singer - Kala Bhairav for the song 'Komuram Bheemudo' from the film RRR.
- Best Screenplay - Nayattu (The Hunt) (Malayalam); Gangubai Kathiawadi (Hindi)
- Special Jury Award - Shershaah, Vishnuvardhan
- Best Film on Social Issues - Anunaad The Resonance (Assamese)
- Best Film on Environment Conservation/Preservation - Aavasavyuham (Malayalam)
- Best Non-Feature Film: Ek Tha Gaon
- Best Children's Film - Gandhi and Company (Gujarati)
- Best Child Artist: Bhavin Rabari (Gujarati) for Last Film Show (Chello Show)
- Best Biographical Film: 1. Rukhu Matir Dukhu Majhi, 2. Beyond Blast



Every language specified in Schedule VIII of the Constitution:

- Best Assamese Film: Anur (Eyes on the Sunshine)
- Best Bengali Film: Kalikho - House of Time
- Best Hindi Film: Sardar Udham
- Best Gujarati Film: Last Film Show (Chello Show)
- Best Kannada Film: 777 Charlie Best Maithili Film: Samanantar (The Parallel)
- Best Marathi Film: Ekda Ke Jaala
- Best Malayalam Film: Home Best Meiteilon Film: Ikhoigi Yama (Our Home)
- Best Odia Film: Pratiksha (The Wait)
- Best Tamil Film: Kadasai Vivasayi (The Last Farmer)
- Best Telugu Film: Uppena (Wave) Best Mishing Film: Boomba Ride

The President of Greece Katerina N. Sakellaropoulou honored PM Narendra Modi with 'The Grand Cross of the Order of Honour'.

- The Order of Honor was established in 1975.
- The Grand Cross is awarded by the President of Greece to prime ministers and dignitaries who, by reason of their distinguished position, have contributed to raising the stature of Greece.
- PM Modi has become the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Greece in 40 years. The last time Prime Minister Indira Gandhi visited Greece was in September 1983.



Winners of India Smart Cities Awards Competition 2022 announced.

- India Smart Cities Award Competition (ISAC) is organized under the Smart Cities Mission of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India.
- ISAC recognizes and rewards cities, projects and innovative ideas that are driving sustainable development among the 100 Smart Cities, as well as encouraging inclusive, equitable, safe, healthy and supportive cities.
- ISAC has seen three editions in 2018, 2019 and 2020. The fourth edition of ISAC was launched in Surat in April 2022 during the 'Smart Cities-Smart Urbanisation' programme.

- Hon'ble President of India will facilitate the winners of ISAC 2022 Awards on 27 September 2023 at Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

Major award:

- National Smart City Award – Indore, Surat, Agra
- Smart UT Awards - Chandigarh
- State Awards - Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh
- Innovative Idea Award - Hubli Dharwad, Surat, Raipur
- Covid Innovation Award – Surat, Indore, Agra
- Zonal Smart City Award (East Zone) – Ranchi, Bhubaneswar
- Zonal Smart City Award (North East Zone) – Kohima, Namchi
- Zonal Smart City Award (North Zone) – Varanasi, Udaipur
- Zonal Smart City Award (South Zone) – Coimbatore, Belagavi
- Zonal Smart City Award (West Zone) – Ahmedabad, Solapur



Various Categories and Awards:

- Built Environment – Coimbatore, Indore, New Town Kolkata, Kanpur
- Culture - Ahmedabad, Bhopal, Thanjavur
- Economy – Jabalpur, Indore, Lucknow
- Administration – Chandigarh, Pimpri Chinchwad, Jabalpur, Udaipur
- ICCC Business Model – Ahmedabad, Surat, Agra, Gwalior
- Mobility – Chandigarh, New Town Kolkata, Sagar
- Sanitation – Indore, Kakinada, Ahmedabad, Chandigarh
- Social Aspects – Vadodara, Agra, Raipur, Thoothukudi
- Urban Environment- Indore, Shivamogga, Jammu
- Water – Indore, Agra, Rajkot

National e-Governance Gold Award for 'SVAMITVA Scheme' of Ministry of Panchayati Raj under e-Governance 2023 Awards.

- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj's SVAMITVA (Village Population Survey and Mapping with Advanced Technology in Rural Areas) scheme awarded the prestigious National e-Governance Gold Award for e-Governance 2023 for application of emerging technologies to provide citizen centric services.
- The two-day 26th National Conference on e-Governance (NCEG) was held on August 24 and 25, 2023 at the Brilliant Convention Centre, Indore, Madhya Pradesh on the theme "Developing India - Empowering Citizens".
- The National e-Governance Awards were presented under 5 categories. Government process reengineering for digital transformation, application of emerging technology to provide citizen-centric services, district-level initiatives for e-governance, research on citizen centric services by academic and research institutions and emerging technologies in e-governance Application of Hui technology.



SVAMITVA Scheme:

- On April 24, 2020, on the occasion of Panchayati Raj Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the 'Swamitva Scheme'. The objective of this scheme is to distribute property cards to give a 'record of rights' to people in rural areas.
- This scheme is being run in collaboration with the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Panchayati Raj Department of the States, State Revenue Department and Survey of India.
- The help of drones will be taken for land measurement in villages. The objective of this scheme is to create a record of the property and decide its ownership. Mapping of every property will be done with the help of drones in all the villages of the country.

The Assam government will start the “MODI” Award to reward the cleanest district.

- Assam launched a clean district ranking campaign called **MODI (Most Outstanding District Initiative)** to promote solid waste management and sanitation with a budget of Rs 100 crore to reward the cleanest district in the state.
- As per the policy, districts have to meet **108 parameters** (including sanitation, old waste disposal, maximum coverage of clean drinking water) to qualify for the cleanest tag.
- In addition, the Assam cabinet in its 100th meeting in Guwahati has decided to create 4 new districts. The new districts include **Hojai, Biswanath, Tamulpur and Bajali**.
- 24 sub-divisions would be abolished and 81 sub districts would be created.
- The cabinet also approved the installation of 2,000 CCTV cameras in Guwahati to implement a citizen friendly, holistic, integrated and responsive Intelligent City Surveillance System.
- Approved Assam Electronics (Semiconductor, etc.) Policy, 2023 with an aim to establish Assam as a hub for semiconductor manufacturing and electronics production. The Assam cabinet has met 100 times since 2021.



Rajasthan's Priyan Sen and Praveena Anjana won the title of Divine Miss Earth India and Divine Miss International India 2023 respectively.

- The grand finale of the prestigious Miss Divine beauty pageant took place at the iconic Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi.
- Sikar resident Priyan Sen and Praveena Anjana of Pratapgarh, the first runner-up of Miss Rajasthan 2022 beauty pageant, emerged victorious in Divine Miss Earth India 2023 and Divine Miss International India 2023 respectively.
- Priyan Sen and Praveena Anjana will represent India at Miss Earth, Vietnam and Miss International, Japan respectively. While Tejaswini Srivastava and Pema Bhutia were the runners up of Divine Miss Earth India and Divine Miss International India 2023 respectively in the prestigious Miss Divine beauty pageant.



APPOINTMENT

India's permanent representative to the UN Ruchira Kamboj became the chairperson of 62nd session of the UN Social Development Commission/Commission for Social Development (CSocD).

- Carla Maria Carlson of the Dominican Republic has been elected as the vice chairperson.
- The central theme of the 62nd session is "Promoting social development and social justice through social policies to accelerate progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieve the overarching goal of poverty alleviation".



G. Kannabiran takes over as new director of NAAC.

- The National Assessment and Authority (NAAC) appointed Professor Ganesan Kannabiran as the new director on 28 July 2023.
- The National Assessment and Authorization Authority (NAAC) is an autonomous organization set up by the University Grants Commission (UGC) of India. It was established in 1994 with the objective of assessment and accreditation of institutions of higher education in the country.
- NAAC assessment results in a grade being assigned to the institute, which ranges from 'A++' (highest) to 'C' (lowest). The institutes which do not meet the minimum criteria get the status of 'unrecognized'.



Cambodian King Appointed “Hun Manet” as the Prime Minister of the country.

- Cambodia's king has approved the government's nomination of Hun Manet, the eldest son of long-serving Prime Minister Hun Sen, to become the next Premier.
- The appointment requires the approval of the newly elected National Assembly,, following the huge win by the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) in last month's election, where it won 120 of 125 parliamentary seats in a contest in which all viable opposition was sidelined.



- Cambodia Capital: Phnom Penh;
- Cambodia Currency: Cambodian riel;
- Cambodia Official language: Khmer.

Asian elephant expert Raman Sukumar appointed as Vice President of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) during the recent elections held at the United Nations Environment Program Headquarters in Nairobi

- Sukumar was elected as a member of the Working Group II of the Vice Presidents. He is now part of the new IPCC Bureau which has 34 members including the new IPCC President and three Vice Presidents.
- Pakistan's Mazhar Hayat was elected co-chair of Working Group 3 on National Greenhouse Gas Inventory (TFI).
- Maheshwar Rupakheti of Nepal was elected as one of the Vice-Chairs of Working Group I.
- Earlier the IPCC had elected James Ferguson "Jim Skye" of the United Kingdom as its chairman.
- The IPCC was established in 1988 by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) to assess human induced climate change, its potential impacts, adaptation and mitigation options. The IPCC is an intergovernmental and scientific body with 195 member states.



Vaibhav Taneja of Indian origin becomes Chief Financial Officer of Tesla Motors.

- Mr. Taneja will also assume the role of CFO in addition to his current position of Chief Accounting Officer. He will replace Zachary Kirkhorn.
- Recently, Tesla has discussed with the government officials here to bring its parts and electronic plants to India. During his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the US in June, Elon Musk had said that he would visit India next year.



Vijay Kumar Saraswat - President of QETCI

- Quantum Ecosystem Technology Council of India (QETCI) has announced the appointment of Dr. Vijay Kumar Saraswat as the Chairman of the Governing Board.
- Dr. Saraswat headed an empowered Technical Advisory Committee for the development of the National Supercomputing System.
- He was instrumental in setting up Photonics Valley Corporation in Telangana. He is a member of NITI Aayog and co-chairman of PMSTIAC. Dr. Saraswat retired as Secretary, Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and Chief Scientific Adviser to the Indian Defense Minister.
- He has been honored with several prestigious awards including the highest civilian awards like Padma Shri (1998) and Padma Bhushan (2013).



Government of India appoints R. Duraiswamy as Managing Director of LIC.

- Duraiswami will replace Ipe Mini, who is currently the MD of LIC and is due to retire at the end of this month, Duraiswami will hold the post from September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2026.
- Presently, LIC has 4 Managing Directors - Mini Ipe, M Jagannath, Tablesh Pandey and Sat Pal Bhanu.
- The Center had last month appointed Bhanu as the MD of LIC.
- The Chairman of LIC is Siddhartha Mohanty.



BPCL announces Rahul Dravid as its brand ambassador.

- He will endorse BPCL's 'Pure for Sure initiative' and 'MAK Snehak' series.
- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) is an Indian Public Sector Undertaking owned by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India. It operates three refineries at Bina, Kochi and Mumbai. BPCL is India's second largest state-owned downstream oil producer.



Shretha Thavisin becomes the new Prime Minister of Thailand.

- Thai property tycoon Shrestha Thavisin was elected as the 30th Prime Minister of Thailand following an outright victory in parliamentary voting.
- He received 482 votes out of a possible 747 in Thailand's bicameral parliament.
- Thawsin will lead a coalition of 11 parties, including two pro-military parties affiliated with outgoing Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha.

**The Election Commission of India made Sachin Tendulkar a "National Icon".**

- National Icon of the Election Commission to create awareness among voters and encourage them to participate in the electoral process.
- MoU was signed with Sachin Tendulkar for 3 years in the presence of Chief Election Commissioner Rajeev Kumar.
- Last year, the commission had recognized famous actor Pankaj Tripathi as a national icon. Earlier, during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, cricketer MS Dhoni, actor Aamir Khan and boxing champion Mary Kom were the national icons of the Election Commission.

**Former Justice Prakash Srivastava becomes the new chairman of NGT.**

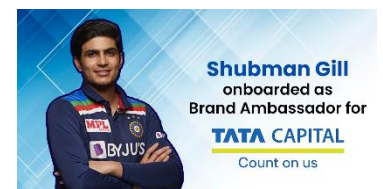
- Former Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court Prakash Srivastava has been appointed as the new chairperson of the National Green Tribunal (NGT). Earlier, Justice Shiv Kumar Singh was appointed acting chairman after the retirement of the then NGT chairman Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel in July.
- Justice Srivastava enrolled as an advocate on February 2, 1987. He practiced on the tax, civil and constitutional sides of the Supreme Court of India in New Delhi. He was later appointed as a judge of the Madhya Pradesh High Court on January 18, 2008 and became a permanent judge on January 15, 2010.
- National Green Tribunal is a specialized body set up by the Government of India on October 18, 2010 under the Act, 2010 to provide speedy and effective justice in matters relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources.
- Headquarter of the NGT is at New Delhi and its 5 regional benches are located at Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata, Chennai and Guwahati. The chairman of the tribunal is a retired judge of the Supreme Court or a High Court.
- NGT is not bound by the procedure laid down under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, but is guided by the principles of natural justice. Became the third (and first developing) country in the world to set up a Special Environment Tribunal. Prior to this only Australia and New Zealand had established such a body.

**Infosys appoints tennis legend Rafael Nadal as brand ambassador.**

- Bengaluru-based tech giant Infosys has appointed Spanish tennis legend Rafael Nadal as its brand ambassador for a period of 3 years, effective 24 August 2023.
- Infosys and Nadal's coaching team are developing an AI-powered match analysis tool. This personalized tool will be available in real time to Nadal's coaching team to track his live match information as well as historical data from his first matches when he returns to tour.
- Infosys has launched over 30 innovations for the tennis ecosystem, integrating the power of AI, cloud, metaverse, mixed reality and other new age technologies.
- Recently, Infosys launched Carbon Tracker, allowing ATP players to track and offset emissions during their travel on tour. It is the first sustainable technology in any sport.

**Shubman Gill Brand Ambassador of Tata Capital.**

- Tata Capital, the financial services arm of the Tata group, has announced the appointment of Shubman Gill as its brand ambassador.
- As a self-made youth icon with fans across the country, Gill embodies the aspirations and dreams of India's young dynamic and diverse population, the company said in a press release.



Infosys appoints women's tennis champion 'Iga Swiatek' as brand ambassador.

- Infosys has appointed Tennis World No. 1 Iga Swiatek as its global brand ambassador to promote digital innovation and inspire women across the globe. The announcement comes after Infosys signed tennis legend Rafael Nadal.
- The 22-year-old is already a four time Grand Slam champion and one of the most dominant forces in the women's game, holding the world No. 1 spot.
- Infosys will now work closely with Swiatek's team to build an advanced data analytics and video dashboard leveraging AI to enhance its training and help it rapidly develop its strengths and match strategy through continuous learning.

**Emmerson Mnangagwa becomes President of Zimbabwe for the 2nd time.**

- Emmerson Mnangagwa has defeated Nelson Chamisa of the opposition Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) in the presidential election.
- Mr. Mnangagwa is only the third President of Zimbabwe. A 2017 coup against veteran and autocratic ruler Robert Mugabe put him in charge.
- There are many challenges before Mnangagwa after being re-elected as President. Zimbabwe has been facing disastrous economic policies for the past two decades, which have led to high inflation and unemployment in the country. There is also a shortage of medicines and equipment in the country.

**IFS Sonali Ghosh became the first woman director of 118 year old Kaziranga National Park.**

- The Assam government appointed Indian Forest Service officer Sonali Ghosh as the next field director of Kaziranga National Park. Presently working on the post of Chief Conservator of Forests, Sonali will take over from the outgoing Jatindra Sarma on September 1.
- Regarded as one of the world's conservation success stories, the 1,355 sq km tiger reserve is estimated to have 2,613 greater one-horned rhinoceroses (March 2022 census). It also boasts of high tiger density.
- Kaziranga National Park is spread over an area of 42,996 hectares in the state of Assam. It is the single largest undivided and representative area in the Brahmaputra valley floodplain. This park was declared a national park in 1974. It was declared a Tiger Reserve in the year 2007. It was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1985.

**IDFC First Bank bags title sponsorship rights for all BCCI domestic and international matches.**

- The BCCI has signed a deal with a new title sponsor for domestic international matches. IDFC First Bank will pay Rs 4.2 crore for each match.
- IDFC FIRST will be the title sponsor for all international matches (both women and men), domestic cricket matches such as Irani Trophy, Duleep Trophy and Ranji Trophy as well as all junior cricket (Under 19 and Under 23) organized by the BCCI in India.
- The contract between BCCI and IDFC First Bank will be for three years from 1st September.
- PayTM had signed BCCI's title sponsor deal in 2015 and paid Rs 2.4 crore per match. The deal was resigned in the year 2019 for Rs 3.8 crore per match. But in September, PayTM terminated the deal with the board with one year remaining. After which the BCCI tied up with Mastercard for one year.
- IDFC First Bank was formed on December 18, 2018 by the merger of erstwhile IDFC Bank and erstwhile Capital First. IDFC Limited was established in 1997 for infrastructure financing.

**Indian Oil appoints Sanjeev Kapoor as its brand ambassador.**

- Indian Oil has announced its association with Chef Sanjeev Kapoor as the brand ambassador of its **Indane XTRATEJ LPG brand**.
- The announcement was made at the prestigious Indane Extratage Hotelier Harmony Meet in Bengaluru, a confluence of culinary excellence and industry insight.

- Kapoor appreciated the company's dedication to creating costefficient solutions that conserve LPG while enhancing business operations, thereby meeting the growing expectations of customers.
- Executive Director (LPG) K Shailendra in his address informed about XTRATEJ, an innovative product for LPG. The initial trial of the product took place in Belgaum, Karnataka and since then, IndianOil has seen significant year on-year growth in market volume.
- Indian Oil Company Limited was established on 30 June 1959. The company was renamed as Indian Oil Corporation on 1 September 1964.



OBITUARY

Oscar-winning American director William Friedkin passes away

- William Friedkin, director of films such as “The Exorcist” and “The French Connection”, has died at the age of 87 in Los Angeles, California.
- Friedkin was born on August 29, 1935, in Chicago, Illinois, USA.
- debuted as a feature director in 1967 with the film “Good Times”.
- His 1971 film “The French Connection”, a crime thriller, won 5 Oscars at the 44th Oscars (1972), including Best Picture, and Best Director for Friedkin.



Renowned nuclear physicist Bikash Sinha passed away.

- A recipient of the Padma Shri in 2001 and the Padma Bhushan in 2010, he was the former director of the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics and the 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 experiments at the European Organization for Nuclear Research in Geneva.
- Sinha lived in England for about 12 years and after coming back to India he joined the Bhabha Atomic Research Center in 1976. In 1987, he was appointed director of the Variable Energy Cyclotron Center. He held the charge as the Director of the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics till 2009.
- He was born on 16 June 1945 in Kandi, Murshidabad, West Bengal. In 1994, he was honored with the S.N. Bose Birth Centenary Award. He was a Fellow of the prestigious Indian National Science Academy in recognition of his outstanding research in Physics (1989).



Founder of Sulabh International and social worker Bindeshwar Pathak passed away.

- Credited with bringing the revolutionary Sulabh Complex Public Toilet System to India.
- Born and educated in Bihar, Mr. Pathak founded the Sulabh International Social Service Organization in 1970 to introduce public toilet systems in India.
- Awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1991 for social work and later became the ambassador of the government's Swachh Bharat Mission.
- The organization was awarded the Gandhi Peace Prize for 2016 jointly with Akshaya Patra Foundation. In 2009, he received the Stockholm Water Prize. A Sociology graduate from Banaras Hindu University in 1964, Pathak received his PhD from Patna University in 1985.



Dr. VS Arunachalam, former chairman of DRDO passed away.

- He was also the Scientific Adviser to the Defense Minister from 1982-92. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1986 and the Padma Vibhushan in 1990.
- VS Arunachalam played a key role in India's nuclear program and defense capabilities. He held leadership positions in several prestigious institutions including Bhabha Atomic Research Center (BARC), National Aeronautical Laboratory and Defense Metallurgical Research Laboratory.
- Arunachalam was also honored as the first Indian member of the UK's Royal Academy of Engineering. In 2015, was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award of DRDO.



Legendary footballer Mohammad Habib passed away.

- Former India captain and great footballer Mohammad Habib passed away in Hyderabad. He was 74 years old. He was suffering from dementia (forgetfulness) and Parkinson's syndrome.
- Born in Hyderabad in undivided Andhra Pradesh on July 17, 1949, Habib represented India for a decade from 1965-75.
- Known as Bade Miyan in Kolkata, the diminutive Hyderabadi forward was fondly referred to as the Indian Pele by many and was honored with the Arjuna Award in 1980, the East Bengal Bharat Gaurav Award in 2016 and the West Bengal government's Banga Vibhushan Award in 2018. was also honored. Habib is considered to be the country's first professional football player.



Father of Statistics CR Rao passed away at the age of 102.

- Noted Indian-American mathematician and statistician Calyampudi Radhakrishna Rao (102), popularly known as CR Rao, passed away on 22 August 2023. He was **recently awarded the 2023 International Prize in Statistics**, which is considered equivalent to the Nobel Prize in this field.
- He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1968 and the Padma Vibhushan in 2001. He was awarded the National Medal of Science in 2002 by the then US President George Bush.
- He achieved worldwide fame with his Cramer–Rao inequality and the Rao Blackwell theorem, both related to the quality of estimators. He wrote several books in diverse fields such as approximation theory, multivariate analysis, matrix algebra, etc.



Poet Jayant Mohapatra, who received the 1st Sahitya Akademi Award in English language, passed away at the Government SCB Medical College Hospital in Cuttack.

- He was awarded the **Sahitya Akademi Award in 1981 for his poem 'Relationship'**, a first for an Indian English writer. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2015.
- Mr Mohapatra, a physics teacher, fell in love with English poetry in his late 30s. After publishing his first collection 'Swayamvar and other poems' in 1971, he never looked back. His poems 'Close the sky ten by ten' brought him to the top category of writers.



INITIATIVE/PROGRAMME/SCHEME/POLICY/CAMPAIGN/MISSION/PROJECT

The UP Cabinet approved the “Water Tourism and Adventure Sports Policy”.

- policy will be valid for 10 years from 1 August 2023.
- Under the policy, U.P. A nodal agency of adventure sports units will be formed at the divisional level. With its rich cultural heritage, diverse landscape and beautiful rivers and lakes, Uttar Pradesh has immense potential to become a major hub for water based tourism and adventure sports.
- will be applicable to all inland land-based, air-based and water ways, dams, reservoirs, lakes, rivers and ponds and all adventure activities carried out on various water bodies and land parcels.



“UN WOMEN” and state govt of Kerala tie up for “Women friendly Tourism Initiative.”

- UN Women, a United Nations organization promoting gender equality, has partnered with Kerala Tourism to support the Women-Friendly Tourism initiative introduced by the State government.
- Aims to involve women as entrepreneurs and professionals in the tourism and hospitality sectors. An orientation program called the ‘Trainer of Trainers’ was held at Kumarakom Cultural Centre, organized by the Responsible Tourism Mission (RT Mission) of the State.



Rajasthan government launched “Indira Gandhi Free Smartphone Scheme 2023”

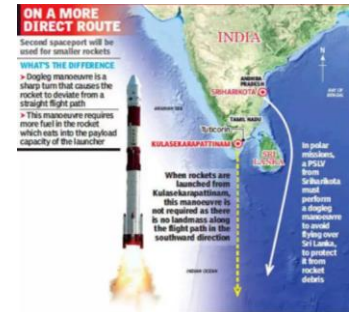
- 13.5 million women will get smartphones with free data for internet and voice calls.
- The 1st phase of distribution of the smartphone took place from August 10 to August 30, 2023.
- This scheme was started in Mangarh Dham of Banswara district of Rajasthan. Along with this, more than 400 mobile distribution facilities were inaugurated in the state.
- Applicants must be a resident of Rajasthan, applicants must belong to Chiranjeevi family, annual family income must not be more than 2.5 lakh and applicant's family members must not be in government jobs.

**NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission in collaboration with the Indian Space Research Organization-ISRO and Navers Edutech has launched the “National Space Innovation Challenge 2023” for the school students of the country.**

- Students from classes 5 to 12 can participate till 20 September 2023 and present innovations to solve modern space technology problems.
- aim of preparing students for the challenges associated with the Indian space economy. Students can make their entry on navarsedutech.com platform.
- NSIC 2023 is a national level campaign designed to inspire the next generation of space enthusiasts to understand and contribute to the growing Indian space economy and future space workforce.

**ISRO to build a new spaceport at Kulasekarapattinam in Tamil Nadu for launch of Small Satellite Launch Vehicles (SSLVs).**

- Indian Space Policy 2023 provides for the use of a spaceport to carry out launch activities by non-governmental entities (NGEs), subject to technical feasibility and border security constraints.
- The government has also set up the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (INSPACE) as a single-window agency to facilitate and authorize space activities of NGEs.

**President Draupadi Murmu launched the 6th ship “Vindhyagiri” under Project 17A in Kolkata.**

- Vindhyagiri, a Project 17A frigate, launched by the Honorable President of India Smt. Draupadi Murmu on 17 August 2023 at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited, Kolkata.
- Vindhyagiri, a technologically advanced frigate, pays a fitting tribute to the distinguished service of its predecessor INS Vindhyagiri, the Leander Class ASW frigate. It was decommissioned in 2011 after being damaged in an accident with a merchant vessel.
- Vindhyagiri, named after the mountain range in Karnataka, is the sixth ship of the Project 17A frigates. These warships are a follow-on to the Project 17 class frigates (Shivalik class) with improved stealth features, advanced weapons and sensors and platform management systems.
- Under the Project 17A programme, four ships are under construction by Mumbai-based Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) and three by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE).

**PM announces “Vishwakarma Yojana” to promote traditional craftsmanship.**

- The scheme is designed to benefit persons skilled in traditional craftsmanship. The scheme, which primarily benefits people belonging to the Other Backward Classes (OBC) category, will be launched on Vishwakarma Jayanti, which falls on September 17.
- The scheme will empower persons skilled in traditional craftsmanship, weavers, goldsmiths, blacksmiths, laundry workers, barbers and such families through 'Vishwakarma Yojana' which will start with an allocation of around Rs 13-15 thousand crores.

**The Central Government approves “PM-eBus service” for city bus operations.**

- “PM-eBus Sewa” to augment city bus operations by 10,000 e-buses on PPP model.
- The estimated cost of the scheme will be Rs 57,613 crore, out of which Rs 20,000 crore support will be provided by the central government. The scheme will support bus operations for 10 years.
- The scheme will cover cities with a population of 3 lakh and above as per 2011 census, including all capital cities of Union Territories, North Eastern region and hill states.



Union Minister for Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Mr. Parshottam Rupala started the “A-Help” (Accredited Agent for Health and Extension of Livestock Production) program in Gujarat.

- Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying of Gujarat State, Government of India is leading these initiatives as part of Pashudhan Jagruti Abhiyaan under Inclusive Growth.
- 'A-HELP' program aims to empower women by engaging them as trained agents who contribute significantly in disease control, artificial insemination, animal tagging and livestock insurance under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM).
- The essence of this campaign is to equip farmers with knowledge and resources that address critical areas of livestock health, disease management and animal infertility concerns.



Central government launched the 'Lakhpati Didi' scheme for skill training of 2 crore women.

- aims to promote women-led development and promote their active participation in economic development. To enable them to earn at least Rs 1 lakh annually.
- Drawing attention to the important roles played by women like 'BankWali Didi' (Banking Sisters), 'Anganwadi Didi' (Child Care Sisters), and 'Dawai-Wali Didi' (Medical Sisters).
- The main objective of the scheme is to train 2 crore women, thereby encouraging them to start and manage small scale businesses effectively.



Uttarakhand Governor inaugurates 'Project Clap'

- Uttarakhand Governor Lt. Gen. Gurmeet Singh (Saini) launched the School Education Department's Continuous Learning Access Project (CLAP) at Raj Bhavan, Dehradun, under which children will be able to access the latest knowledge.
- The clap has been prepared by the education department under the guidance of NCERT and in collaboration with computer manufacturer HP.
- The mobile e-learning vehicle has 120 internet enabled laptops with secure learning material. The vehicle will provide 'digital content' in online and offline mode to students from primary to class12 in government schools in remote rural areas.



The Ministry of Electronics and IT launches 'Graphene-Aurora Program' in Kerala.

- Shri Alkesh Kumar Sharma, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) launched the 'GrapheneAurora Program' at a function at Maker Village Kochi, Kerala.
- The program will be implemented by Digital University Kerala with a total budget outlay of Rs 94.85 crore with joint funding from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology and the Government of Kerala. Carborundum Pvt Ltd joined as one of the main industry partners.
- It will nurture the deep/emerging graphene technology and innovation ecosystem that will guide, develop, implement and support SMEs and startups for commercialization of the developed graphene technologies for mass adoption.



- Graphene is a material that is derived from graphite and is composed of pure carbon. It is the thinnest, strongest and best conductor of both electricity and heat in the world. It conducts electricity better than copper. It is 200 times stronger than steel but six times lighter. It is almost completely transparent as it absorbs only 2% of the light. It is impermeable to gases, even light gases like hydrogen and helium.

The Rajasthan government launched “Chief Minister Free Annapurna Food Packet Scheme” on Independence Day.

- This will benefit around 1.10 crore people. Under this initiative, families covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) will get monthly Annapurna food packets containing essential items from Fair Price Shops (FPS) free of cost.
- Apart from NFSA families, free food packets will be given to poor families who received assistance of ₹5,500 each during the pandemic.
- Each packet will contain one kg of gram dal, sugar and iodized salt, one liter of soybean refined edible oil, 100 grams each of chili powder and coriander powder and 50 grams of turmeric powder.
- The scheme is part of the ₹19,000 crore 'inflation relief package' announced by the chief minister in February to provide relief during the state budget for 2023-24.
- This scheme will cost the exchequer about Rs 4,500 crore annually.



The Karnataka government launched “Kusina Mane Creche Yojana” to take care of children of women enrolled under MNREGA.

- In its 2023-24 budget, the Karnataka government announced plans to set up "Kusina Mane" in 4,000 gram panchayats for children of working mothers.
- "Kusina Mane" means children's home or crèche and aims to provide health care, nutrition and protection for children whose mothers are employed under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), as well as others living in the vicinity. It is also for mothers.



The Uttarakhand government started 'Mukhya Mantri Sashakt Behen Utsav Yojana'.

- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami approved the launch of 'Mukhya Mantri Sashakt Behen Utsav Yojana'. This scheme will be run by the Women Empowerment and Child Development Department.
- The objective of 'Mukhya Mantri Sashakt Behen Utsav Yojana' is to provide a wide market to the products made by women's groups. For this, an effort will be made to provide proper marketing opportunities to women groups by organizing an exhibition of local products made by women groups in every development block at a public place.
- At present, there are more than 37,000 (almost double the seating capacity of Madison Square Garden) women's groups working in the state, through which various products are manufactured.



The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship launches Project “AMBER” to provide cloud skill training.

- The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), in partnership with Generation India Foundation (GIF) and Amazon Web Services India Pvt Ltd (AWS India), has launched 'Project Amber' (AMBER-Better Employment and Accelerated Mission for Retention).
- The project is a joint initiative of National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under the aegis of Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) and GIF.
- The project is co-funded by MSDE (under the SANKALP program) and private philanthropy and aims to train 30,000 youth, of whom 50% will be female trainees.
- The training will be over a period of two years. Generation's holistic 7- step skilling methodology will be used to achieve higher quality skills, improved employability and retention outcomes.



Tamil Nadu becomes 1st state to provide Free Breakfast in government schools.

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin inaugurated the extension of the state government's breakfast scheme to all primary school children across the state. According to the government, this is the first of its kind in the country where free breakfast is provided in all primary schools of a state.
- Tamil Nadu, which has been at the forefront of the mid-day meal scheme, has now become the first state in the country to provide free breakfast to students in all government schools.
- This expansion will benefit about 17 lakh students of classes 1 to 5 in all 31,008 government primary schools in the state at a cost of Rs 404.41 crore. Chief Minister MK Stalin having lunch with students during the launch of the expansion of the state government's breakfast scheme for school children, at **Thirukkuvalai in Nagapattinam district on August 25, 2023.**
- Chief Minister Breakfast Scheme was first inaugurated on **September 15, 2022** in Madurai on the occasion of the birth anniversary of former Tamil Nadu Chief Minister CN Annadurai. The scheme was initially launched to provide breakfast to over 1 lakh students of classes 1 to 5 in 1,545 government schools.

**MEETING/CONCLAVE/SUMMIT/EVENT/CONFERENCE****The Think20 Summit, organized by India as part of its G20 Presidency, is set to take place in the city of Mysuru, Karnataka.**

- Observer Research Foundation (ORF), as the Think20 Secretariat under India's G20 Presidency, will host the Think20 Summit in Mysuru till August 2.
- Think20 is the G20's official engagement group that serves as an 'ideas bank' for the multilateral grouping by bringing together think tanks and high-level experts to discuss policy issues relevant to the G20.
- The three-day conference will be a gathering of distinguished members of the seven Think20 Task Forces and policy experts from around the world.

**India will host the "World Coffee Conference" for the first time.**

- India is all set to host the prestigious World Coffee Conference (WCC) for the first time at Bengaluru from September 25th to 28th, the event is expected to set the stage for comprehensive discussions around coffee and its global industry.
- Tennis player Rohan Bopanna has been chosen as the brand ambassador for this year's conference.
- Theme: "Sustainability through Circular Economy and Regenerative Agriculture"
- The International Coffee Organization (ICO) and the Indian Ministry of Commerce and Industry are the driving forces behind the conference. The ICO, established under the United Nations in 1963, holds the accolade of being the only inter-governmental organization for coffee. It represents an impressive 93% of world coffee production and 63% of world consumption.
- Mascot for the 5th World Coffee Conference is Coffee "Swami", an embodiment of Indian tradition in a modern avatar.

**["G-20 Women Empowerment Ministerial"] The G20 Ministerial Conference on Women Empowerment was held on August 1-2, 2023 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.**

- UN Women Executive Director Sima Bahaus and World Bank Vice President Lakshmi Shyam Sundar participated in the summit.
- The event is based on the themes "**Women-led development: ensuring a sustainable, inclusive and equitable global economic growth**" and "**Women-led inclusive growth as the pinnacle of intergenerational change**".
- The conference was presided over by the Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smt. Smriti Irani.



WHO and Ministry of AYUSH organised a Global Summit on Traditional Medicine for the 1st time in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

- first of its kind Global Summit on Traditional Medicine co-hosted by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Ministry of AYUSH.
- theme “Ayush for Planetary Health & Wellbeing”
- Director General of WHO, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus inaugurated the event in the presence of Health Minister Shri Mansukh Mandaviya and AYUSH Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal.
- An exhibition of traditional systems of medicine from around the world and the Ministry of AYUSH. It will showcase the interrelationship of traditional medicine with the natural environment in the form of 'Kalpavriksha' along with scientific and technological advancements by various regional centres.



G-20 Digital Economy Working Group and Digital Economy Ministerial Meeting begins in Bengaluru.

- 4th G-20 Economic Working Group meeting held in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- 1st G-20 Digital Economy Working Group (DEWG) meeting was held in Lucknow in February 2023.
- Various issues related to digital information, service delivery to citizens and growth in the digital economy will be discussed during the deliberations under the G-20 chairmanship of India.
- Along with these meetings, the Digital Innovation Alliance meeting was held on 17th and 18th August. It was an effort to acknowledge and support the innovations of G-20 member countries and invited countries.
- The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports organized the Youth-20 Summit 2023 on 17- 20 August 2023 in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. More than one hundred representatives of G-20 countries, invited countries and international organizations will deliberate on five identified themes of the Youth-20.



Meeting of 'Health Ministers of G-20 countries' held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

- G20 Health Ministers meeting under the G20 India Presidency was organized in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. India assumed the presidency of the G20 on December 1, 2022 and is currently part of the G20 troika comprising Indonesia, India and Brazil.
- Representatives of 19 G20 member states, 10 invited states and 22 international organizations have participated in the 4th HWG meeting in Gandhinagar. The focus of the G20 Health Ministers meeting was on three key priorities of the G20 Health Track.
- Strengthening cooperation in the pharmaceutical sector with a focus on antimicrobial resistance and One Health Framework, prevention of health emergencies, and access and availability of affordable medical interventions (vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics).
- Apart from the G20 Health Ministers meeting, there will be four additional events including One Earth One Health Advantage Health Care - India 2023; WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit; India MedTech Expo 2023; and 'Sustain, Accelerate and Innovate to End TB in the SouthEast Asia Region' conference.



Om Birla inaugurated the 9th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference in Udaipur.

- Theme: “Strengthening Democracy and Good Governance in the Digital Age”.
- India region of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) comprises 31 legislatures from across the country and has the largest number of member branches after the African region.
- During the conference, the Presiding Officers of State Legislatures will brainstorm on how to make public representatives more effective/efficient in promoting good governance through digital empowerment and the role of public representatives in strengthening the nation through democratic institutions.



- '8th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association of India Region Conference' was held on 11 and 12 April 2022 in the Assam Legislative Assembly.
- It is one of the oldest established organizations in the Commonwealth. It was established in 1911. The mission of this association is to promote knowledge of the constitutional, legislative, economic, social and cultural aspects of parliamentary democracy, with particular reference to the Commonwealth of Nations. Its headquarter is located in London.

G-20 Trade and Investment Working Group meeting begins in Jaipur.

- The 4th and final meeting of the G20 Trade and Investment Working Group (TIWG) began on 21 August 2023 in Jaipur, Rajasthan. The first three meetings of TIWG were held in Mumbai, Bangalore and Kevadia respectively.
- Discussed five priority issues - trade for growth and prosperity, dynamic trade and global value chains - GVCs, integration of micro, small and medium enterprises - MSMEs in world trade, logistics for trade and World trade organization-WTO reforms. Is going.
- Immediately after the two-day meeting, the Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting (TIMM) will be held on August 24 and 25 in Jaipur under the G-20 chairmanship of India. During TIMM, an experience area will be set up for delegates to showcase a wide variety of Indian teas, coffees, spices and millets, and an exhibition on the Jaipur Experience to showcase the rich cultural heritage of the Pink City.



Business-20 Summit starts in New Delhi.

- Business 20 Summit India 2023 is held from 25 to 27 August in New Delhi, India. The discussions and deliberations at the summit will be around the overarching theme of B20 India - "RAISE: Responsible, Accelerated, Innovative, Sustainable, Equitable Business".
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the chief guest at the special session on 27 August.
- On the 1st day of the summit, 7 sessions were held. These include Business-20 India's Priorities and India's Suggestions for the World, Global Priorities, Artificial Intelligence for Business and Society, Opportunities and Regulations, Inclusive Global Value Chains for Adaptive Global Trade and Trade Ministers' Sessions.
- The Business-20 summit is based on the theme of Responsive, Fast, Innovative, Sustainable and Equitable Business.



3rd International Conference 'ICONS 2023' inaugurated in Tamil Nadu.

- 3rd ICONS 2023 International Conference on Structural Integrity was organized during August 23-25, 2023 at Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu. It was inaugurated by Dr. N. Kalaiselvi, Director General, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.
- ICONS 2023 organized by Indira Gandhi Center for Atomic Research.
- The conference will deliberate on a variety of topics related to recent developments and future directions in assessing and ensuring the structural integrity of structures and operating equipment in the nuclear, defense, aerospace, chemical and oil industries.
- Two-day pre-conference workshops have been organized during ICONS 2023, covering topics such as (i) fatigue life and fracture evaluation of steel and concrete structural components, (ii) design, manufacturing and quality assurance of large-sized components.



26th National Conference on E-Governance.

- 26th National Conference on e-Governance began on 24 August 2023 in Indore, Madhya Pradesh to deliberate on providing better facilities to the citizens. The two day conference is being organized by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances and the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in collaboration with the Government of Madhya Pradesh.
- The conference brainstormed on the topic 'Developing India: Empowering Citizens'. Representatives from 28 states and 9 union territories as well as industry participated in the conference.



G-20 Technical Workshop on 'Health - Opportunities and Challenges' to begin in Bengaluru.

- It will be hosted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- Around 100 delegates will participate in the three-day workshop and deliberate on various issues of agricultural research and thematic areas such as human-animal ecosystem interface, emerging and reemerging diseases, transboundary diseases, food security and antimicrobial resistance, apart from new creations.
- **Group of Twenty (G-20)** was established in 1999 after the Asian financial crisis as a forum for finance ministers and central bank governors.
- In the wake of the 2007 global economic and financial crisis, the G-20 was upgraded to state/government level, and in 2009 it was designated the “Principal Forum for International Economic Cooperation.”
- The G-20 consists of 19 countries (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States) and the European Union.

**The second round table meeting of G-20 Chief Scientific Advisors started in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.**

- The 2nd G-20 Chief Scientific Advisors (G20-CSAR) roundtable under India's G20 presidency began on 28 August 2023 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The 1st G20-CSAR was held from 28-30 March 2023 in Ramnagar, Uttarakhand.
- It has been inaugurated by Ajay K Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India.
- It aims to promote the progress of inclusive global science advice. Running from August 28-29, 2023, the two-day event brings together science advisors, scientists and researchers from G20 countries as well as invited countries.
- Major agenda of G20-CSAR:
 - Opportunities at One Health for better disease prevention, control and pandemic preparedness.
 - To coordinate global efforts to expand access to scholarly scientific knowledge.
 - Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access (DEI&A) in the science and technology ecosystem. To create an inclusive, continuous and action oriented global science advice mechanism.

**The 26th meeting of the Western Regional Council was chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.**

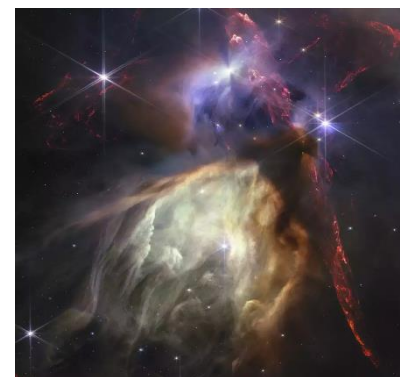
- The meeting has been organized by the Inter-State Council Secretariat under the Ministry of Home Affairs in collaboration with the Government of Gujarat.
- Amit Shah inaugurated <https://iscresource.gov.in>, an e-resource web portal of the Inter State Council Secretariat, Ministry of Home Affairs. This portal will facilitate the functioning of Regional Councils.
- Union Home Minister asks Zonal Council member states to work sensitively on three issues of national importance – POSHAN Abhiyaan, reducing drop out rate of school children and taking benefits of Ayushman Bharat – Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana to every poor.
- Shri Amit Shah said that during the meetings of Regional Councils held between 2014 and 2023, 1143 issues were resolved, which is more than 90% of the total issues, which shows the importance of Regional Councils.
- Regional councils are statutory (not constitutional) bodies. These have been established by an Act of Parliament, i.e. the States Reorganization Act 1956. This Act divided the country into 5 regions – Northern, Central, Eastern, Western and Southern and provided for a Regional Council for each region.
- In addition to the above Regional Councils, a North-Eastern Council was created by a separate Act of Parliament, the North-Eastern Council Act of 1971. Its members include Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Tripura and Sikkim.



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Raman Research Institute developed the 'STARFIRE algorithm'.

- Raman Research Institute (RRI), developed an algorithm named **STARFIRE** to tackle unwanted Radio Frequency Interference (RFI) in space, enriching data obtained from space-based astronomy missions.
- **Simulation of Terrestrial Radio Frequency Interference in orbits around Earth (STARFIRE)** is an advanced algorithm developed to estimate and map unwanted RFI signals in space.
- To develop this algorithm, scientists utilized data on FM transmitter stations from six countries, including Canada, the USA, Japan, Australia, Germany, and South Africa.
- It enables the tuning of radio antennas within the 40 to 200 MegaHertz (MHz) range to detect the 21-cm hydrogen line, revealing secrets about the cosmos.
- STARFIRE is utilized in missions like Probing Reionization of the Universe using Signal from Hydrogen (PRATUSH), aimed at studying the birth of stars and galaxies in the Universe using the 21-cm hydrogen line from the far side of the moon.



IIT Dhanbad's electric racing car gets third place in Formula Student Electric Vehicle Concept Challenge.

- An electric racing car designed by Team Machismo from IIT-ISM, Dhanbad has won the third position in the overall category at the international level 7th Annual Formula Student Electric Vehicle Concept Challenge held in Bengaluru.
- The car has also won the award for Best Report in the category of Failure Mode and Effects Analysis. Additionally, the team has also won third place in the Marketing and Engineering Design category.
- A team from Institute of Technology Sepuluh, Indonesia secured the first position in the competition and the team from RajaramBapu Institute of Technology, Islampur (Maharashtra) secured the second position.
- It is worth mentioning that Team Machismo from IIT Dhanbad has achieved this success in its second attempt; earlier the team had participated in the Electric Vehicle category for the first time in 2022.



Bharat Dynamics Limited built the country's 1st "Radio Frequency Seeker of Akash".

- Bharat Dynamics Limited-BDL has handed over the next generation weapon system – 'First Radio Frequency Seeker of Akash' to the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), built at its newly commissioned world class seeker facility.
- BDL Chairman and Managing Director Commodore A. Madhavrao.
- The seeker is a critical and technology intensive subsystem used in surface-to-air missiles and air-to-air missiles for target tracking in the terminal stage.
- Seeker is a critical and technology dependent subsystem used in air-to-air and surface-to-air missiles to engage the target in the terminal stage.
- Outline of Radio Frequency Seeker DRDO Developed by Imarat's Research Center. It is manufactured by BDL at its world class Sikar facility at its Kanchanbagh unit in Hyderabad.
- Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) was established in 1970. It manufactures guided missiles and related defense equipment.



CSIR-NAL launches "JALDOST airboat" in Bengaluru to remove weeds from lakes.

- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR-NAL), Bengaluru on 2 August 2023 unveiled JALDOST, an airboat that extracts aquatic weeds from lakes and rivers. This airboat is powered by an aircraft engine.
- NAL has developed two versions of the airboat – Zaldost Mark-1 and an improved version Zaldost Mark-2. The second technology is the QPlane, a lightweight all-electric UAV with vertical-take-off-and-landing capability. The UAV designed for autonomous flight has a range of 30 kilometers and an endurance of up to 70 minutes.



- There are 190 lakes in Bengaluru. Jaldost will cater to civic body Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palika (BBMP) requirements to remove weeds from water bodies.

World's largest capacity 16 MW giant wind turbine installed in China.

- Chinese wind turbine manufacturer Mingyang Smart Energy announced that it has commissioned the world's largest offshore wind turbine 'MySE 16-260'.
- The 16 MW offshore wind turbine, which is at the Mingyang Qingzhou 4 offshore wind farm in the South China Sea, has a rotor diameter of 260 meters (853 ft) and a swept area of 53,902 square meters (580,196 sq ft).
- 'MySE 16-260' can produce 67 million kWh of electricity annually, enough to power an astonishing 80,000 homes, reducing CO₂ by 56,000 tonnes.



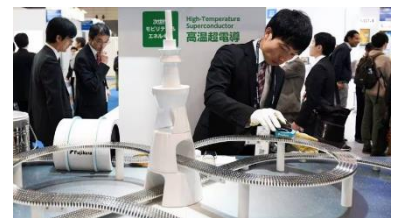
Spanish scientists discover “TC1”, a bacterium that stops the transmission of malaria.

- Scientists have discovered a naturally occurring bacterium “TC1” that would be able to stop the transmission of malaria from mosquitoes to humans. The bacteria was discovered by chance after a colony of mosquitoes failed to grow malarial parasites in an experiment.
- The discovery was made by scientists at a research facility in Spain, which is operated by the GSK pharmaceutical company, after they observed that a colony of mosquitoes that was being used for drug development stopped the transmission of malaria.



South Korean scientists discover room temperature superconductor “LK-99”.

- LK-99 is a superconductor operating at room temperature and pressure.
- In its development, the scientists started with lead apatite and replaced some of the lead atoms with copper, resulting in a copper replaced lead apatite, which they named LK-99. This invention could potentially revolutionize the world of electrical conductivity and technology. can bring revolution.
- Apatite is a phosphate scaffolding mineral in a tetrahedral or pyramidal motif (one phosphorus atom surrounded by four oxygen atoms). The group reported that at 10% copper replacement, LK-99 exhibited the characteristics of a superconductor.
- The name is given by a group of South Korean scientists named Sukbae Lee, Ji-hoon Kim and Young-wan Kwon.
- **Superconductors** are materials that exhibit zero electrical resistance when cooled to extremely low temperatures. This property allows them to conduct electricity without energy loss. Example: LanthanumBarium-Copper Oxide, YttriumBarium-Copper Oxide, Niobium-Tin etc.
- In 1911, Kamerling Onnes discovered that at temperatures a few degrees above absolute zero, the electrical resistance of mercury completely disappears. This phenomenon came to be known as **superconductivity**.



Meghalaya government launches “Chief Minister's Solar Mission”.

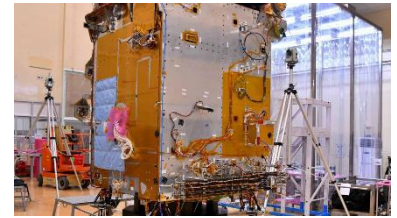
- Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma launched the **Chief Minister's Solar Mission. Rays Power Infra, Serantika Renewables** to set up a **283 MW solar** project.
- Rs 500 crore from the government over the next 5 years, is set to transform the state's energy landscape and contribute to its sustainable development. The state government has allocated an annual investment of Rs 100 crore to start the solar mission.
- The government subsidy will range from 70% for individual households to 50% for schools, hospitals, hotels and other commercial entities.
- With an installed capacity of 378.38 MW, Meghalaya is dependent on hydro-based power projects and the current peak demand for electricity is more than 500 MW and is increasing by more than 50 MW every year.
- Apart from the Solar Mission, Chief Minister Sangma unveiled plans to set up LED assembling units across the state, provide employment opportunities for youth and push for self-reliance.



India's 1st mission to study the Sun “Aditya L1” is ready for launch.

- According to ISRO, Aditya-L1 is the 1st space-based Indian observatory to study the Sun. The Aditya L1 mission launched by the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV). The launch is likely to happen in late August or September.

- The spacecraft is placed in a halo orbit around the Lagrange point 1 (L1) of the Sun-Earth system, which is approximately 1.5 million km from Earth. A satellite placed in coronal orbit around the L1 point has the major advantage of having a continuous view of the Sun without any eclipse/eclipse.
- Rao Satellite Center (URSC) in Bengaluru and reportedly delivered to the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota on August 14, 2023. According to Space ISRO, the spacecraft has been assembled and integrated at UR.
- The spacecraft is carrying 7 payloads to observe the photosphere, chromosphere and the Sun's outermost layers (the corona) using electromagnetic, particle and magnetic field detectors.



A Korean institute develops the world's 1st humanoid pilot “Pibot”.

- Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) has currently developed a humanoid robot named 'Pibot' that can fly aircraft without modifying the cockpit.
- It can fly an airplane like a human pilot by manipulating all the single controls in the cockpit, which are designed for humans.
- With a height of 160 cm and a weight of 65 kg, Pibot's humanoid design has been developed to allow it to drive an automobile, drive a tank or even command ships at sea.



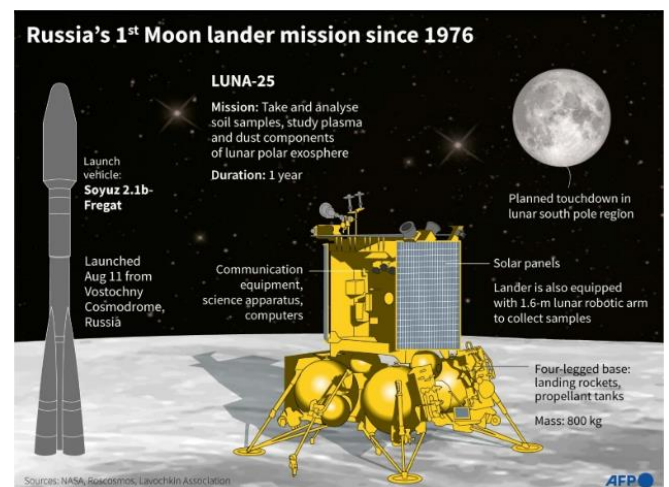
Russia successfully launched its lunar mission ‘Luna-25’

- Russia has sent its first lunar mission 'Luna-25' into space on 11 August 2023 in 47 years. Luna-25 lifted off on a Soyuz 2.1B rocket from the Vostochny Cosmodrome launch station in the Amur Oblast in Russia's Far East.
- This mission is Russia's first mission since 1976.
- Designed, built and tested by Russian aerospace company **NPO Lavochkin**, Luna-25 consists of **two main parts**. One is a landing platform equipped with a propulsion system and landing gear, including Doppler velocity and range meters.
- The other is a depressurized instrument container filled with scientific equipment, radiators, electronics, solar panels, a radioisotope heat and power source, antennas and television cameras.
- The objective is to explore the icy south pole region of the Moon, collect samples of lunar rock and dust.



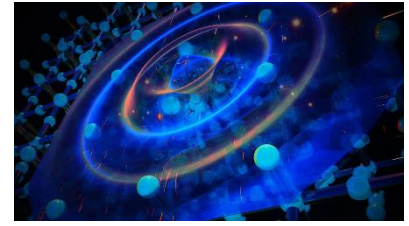
According to Russian space agency Roscosmos, the lunar mission 'Luna-25' crashed on the moon.

- Russia's first Moon mission in nearly 50 years, has crashed on the Moon following an incident during pre-landing maneuvers.
- As per the preliminary findings, the lander is lost after hitting the lunar surface.
- An “abnormal situation” occurred on 20 August when it was preparing to be transferred to its pre-landing orbit. The Zeeman Crater on the far side of the Moon is shown in this picture taken by the camera of the Luna-25 spacecraft that landed on the Moon.
- A Soyuz 2.1 rocket carrying the Luna-25 spacecraft was launched on 11 August 2023 from the Vostochny Cosmodrome, 3,450 miles (5,550 km) east of Moscow.
- A little over an hour later, the lander was lifted out of Earth's orbit towards the Moon. It entered lunar orbit on 16 August and was to attempt a soft landing on 21 August 2023.
- Moscow was the first to launch a satellite into Earth orbit – Sputnik 1, in 1957 – and Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first person to travel into space in 1961.
- Earlier the 2011 Phobos-Grunt mission to one of the moons of Mars failed. Russia had not attempted a Moon mission since Luna-24 in 1976.



American physicists confirm the existence of the "Demon" particle.

- "Monster" particle that has been puzzling physicists for nearly 70 years has been discovered in an experiment by US researchers at the University of Illinois. It is not a particle in the traditional sense like a proton or an electron. It is a "compound" particle made of combining electrons in a solid.
- In 1956, theoretical physicist David Pines predicted that electrons in a solid might do something strange. Electrons have both mass and charge.
- But Pines claimed that the combination of electrons in a solid can form a composite particle that is massless, has no charge and does not behave with light.
- A team of researchers led by Peter Abbamonte, professor of physics at the University of Illinois, UrbanaChampaign, has finally found the Monster of the Pines, 67 years after it was predicted. This research has been published in Nature.
- Demon in the metal strontium ruthenate (Sr_2RuO_4).

**ISRO's 'Chandrayaan-3' becomes the 1st mission to successfully land on the South Pole of the Moon.**

- ISRO successfully landed the historic mission 'Chandrayaan-3' on the lunar surface on August 23, 2023 with the "Automatic Landing Sequence (ALS)".
- Chandrayaan 3 Project Director P Veeramuthu Vel.
- India has become the 4th country after the former USSR, the United States and China to perform a soft landing on the lunar surface.
- The spacecraft equipped with Vikram lander and Pragyan rover will conduct experiments on the Moon to find evidence of frozen water and develop a better understanding of the Moon's unknown polar region.
- India's previous attempt to land on the Moon's South Pole with Chandrayaan-2 in 2019 failed.
- Chandrayaan-3's horizontal speed was decelerated by about 1.68 km/s (6,048 km/h), the vehicle was brought to a vertical position and its speed was reduced to zero to perform a soft landing.
- The South Pole is of particular interest to scientists as Chandrayaan-1 has found evidence of frozen water on the far side of the Moon that cannot be seen from Earth due to a phenomenon called "tidal locking".
- Chandrayaan-3 cost: Indian Rs 615 crore or \$75 million.
- The mission was launched by the launch vehicle LVM3- M4 (Fatman) from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota.
- The mission consists of three major modules – the propulsion module, the lander module and the rover.
- Located at about 70 degrees near the Moon's South Pole, it will detect deposits of water, ice and precious minerals. *The current mission does not have an orbiter* - it will use data from the Chandrayaan-2 orbiter.
- Russia's Luna-25 in 2023, Israel's 'Beresheet' in 2019, Japan's HAKUTO-R Moon Mission and UAE's 'Rasheed' rover in 2022 have failed.
- Chang'e-4, launched by China on December 8, 2018, made its first ever soft landing on January 3, 2019 at the Von Karman Crater in the Moon's far south pole-Aitken Basin.

**ISRO and JAXA to collaborate for 'LUPEX', the next mission to the Moon.**

- This mission named 'LUPEX' or Lunar Polar Exploration is scheduled for 2024- 25.
- LUPEX explores the polar regions of the Moon, this time visiting permanently shadowed regions as well.
- The other half of the Moon never faces the Sun, and is therefore permanently dark. To land in these areas, the spacecraft and onboard equipment must have the option of an alternate power supply via onboard batteries.
- LUPEX also plans to investigate the abundance of water in the Polar Regions and explore the possibility of establishing long-term stations in these regions.
- For the LUPEX mission, the launch vehicle and rover are to be contributed by the Japanese agency, while the lander will come from ISRO.



India's 1st AI school started in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

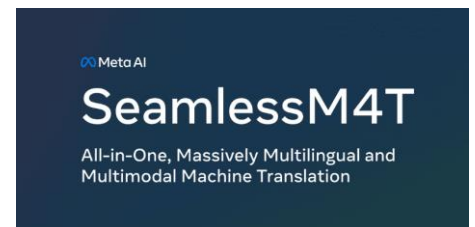
- India's 1st AI school started in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, is located at Santhigiri Vidyabhavan, Thiruvananthapuram. It was inaugurated by the former President of India, Ram Nath Kovind.
- It does not replace human teachers with ChatGPT. While the school leverages AI for innovative learning experiences, the importance of traditional teaching roles and human interaction remains critical.
- The initiative is a collaboration between leading education platform iLearning Engines (ILE) America and Vedhik e School, which is steered by a committee consisting of former Chief Secretaries, DGPS and Vice Chancellors, a group of eminent professionals.
- Initially designed for students from classes 8th to 12th. They will get many helpful things like support from multiple teachers, different levels of tests, aptitude test, counseling, planning for career and tricks to remember things better. From multi-teacher revision support to psychometric counselling, the curriculum is thoughtfully designed to foster academic excellence and personal growth.

**Iran launches a “Mohajer-10 drone” that can hit Israel.**

- The Iranian Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics unveiled the Mohajer-10 as part of an exhibition and ceremony on the occasion of Defense Industry Day.
- The event was attended by President Ibrahim Raisi and senior commanders of the army and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC).
- This drone in Iran is like the MQ-9 drone of America. This drone is capable of flying at an altitude of 7000 meters. The Mohajer-10 drone can fly with a variety of bombs and anti-radar systems. It specializes in espionage as well as attacking.
- Iran's Mohajer-10 drone is capable of hitting Israel. This drone is capable of flying continuously for 24 hours. The range of this drone is 2 thousand km and it can fly at a speed of 210 km/h. It can carry a 300 kg (660 lb) warhead. It can fill 450 liters of fuel at a time.
- Apart from this, two long-range ballistic missiles have also been displayed - one 'Haj Qasim', named after General Qasim Suleimani, who was assassinated by the US in Iraq in January 2020, and the other 'Khorramshahr'.

**META Launches New Multilingual AI Multimodal 'SeamlessM4T' Capable of Translating and Transcribing 100 Languages.**

- Meta has developed an AI model known as SeamlessM4T, which is capable of translating and transcribing both text and speech in over 100 languages. SeamlessM4T is the first all-in-one multilingual multimodal AI translation and transcription model.
- Meta aims to take interconnection to another level, giving users access to more multilingual content.
- It is capable of speech-to-speech translation in about 100 input languages including English and about 35 output languages. This integrated approach of SeamlessM4T minimizes errors and delays, increasing the efficiency and quality of translation processes.
- In 2022, the company released its text-to-text machine translation model, No Language Left Behind (NLLB), which supports nearly 200 languages. NLLB has since been integrated into Wikipedia as one of its translation providers.

**EXERCISE****31st edition of the Malabar multilateral exercise comprising India, Australia, Japan and the U.S. will be held off Sydney from August 11-21, as Australia hosts the war games for the first time this year.**

- Australia has also invited India for the Sea Power conference that it is hosting from November 7-9.
- Exercise Malabar will be followed by AUSINDEX, the India-Australia bilateral naval exercise.



- Australia has also just hosted multilateral Exercise Talisman Sabre, which involved more than 33,000 troops from 13 countries, for which India had sent four observers.
- The Australian Navy is deploying two ships, destroyer HMAS Brisbane and landing ship HMAS Choules while Indian Navy has deployed destroyer **INS Kolkata** and frigate **INS Sahyadri** for the exercise.
- The U.S. will be represented by a destroyer and the Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) by a surface vessel. **In addition, P-8 maritime patrol aircraft of India, Australia and the U.S. will take part in the exercise with focus on anti-submarine warfare (ASW).**
- Japan hosted the last edition of Malabar which was held in November 2022. It also marked 30 years of the exercise that began as a bilateral exercise between India and the U.S. in 1992.

Bilateral Exercise “Zayed Talwar” Held Between India And UAE Navy.

- The “Zayed Talwar” bilateral naval exercise between India and UAE Navy was held in **Dubai** from 8 to 11 August 2023. Two Indian Navy ships **INS Visakhapatnam** and **INS Trikanth** participated in the exercise under the command of Captains Ashok Rao and Pramod G Thomas.
- The inaugural edition of the Indian Navy-UAE Navy bilateral exercise, Zayed Talwar was held in March 2018.
- Earlier Indian Naval Ship Sumedha participated in NAVDEX 23 (Naval Defense Exhibition) and IDEX 23 (International Defense Exhibition) held at Abu Dhabi, UAE from 20 to 24 February 2023.



The Indian Navy participated for the 1st time in the multinational “SEACAT2023” exercise held in Singapore.

- The US Navy and Marine forces from 20 Indo-Pacific partner nations commenced the 22nd Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training (SEACAT) in the Republic of Singapore. This year marks the first time India has been included in the series since its inception two decades ago.
- SEACAT is a multilateral, multiplatform exercise involving training development ashore and at sea with an emphasis on real world participation to enhance cooperation and maritime security capabilities in the Indo-Pacific. It aims to enhance interoperability and cooperation on maritime security challenges with the participating countries.
- Corvette INS Kulish of the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) is visiting Singapore from August 14-25 for the harbor phase and sea phase of the multinational exercise 'SEACAT 2023' at Port Blair. Indian Navy Ship Kulish, is a Guided Missile Corvette.



Indian Navy's participation in the 5th 'AUSINDEX-23' held in Australia.

- 5th edition of the biennial 'AUSINDEX-23' maritime exercise between the Indian Navy and the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) was conducted from 22-25 August 2023 at Sydney, Australia.
- INS Sahyadri and INS Kolkata participated in the exercise along with HMAS Chawls and HMAS Brisbane from RAN. Apart from this, for the first time Indian submarine INS Vagir has also participated in it.
- It is a major biennial maritime exercise, which has been conducted since 2015.
- The last edition took place in 2021 in Australia itself. The third edition took place in the Bay of Bengal in 2019 which also included antisubmarine exercises for the first time.
- Earlier, for the first time, the 27th edition of the Malabar exercise, hosted by Australia, took place on the east coast near Sydney. The Malabar 23 exercise was conducted in two phases, comprising the harbor phase from 11-15 August 2023 and the sea phase from 16-21 August 2023.



Other exercises conducted between Australia and India:

- Ex Austria Hind (bilateral exercise with army)
- Ex Pitch Black (Australia's multilateral air combat training exercise)
- Malabar Naval Exercise Quad (Multilateral Naval Exercise)

Indian Air Force participated in exercise 'Bright Star-2023' organized in Egypt for the 1st time.

- A contingent of the Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating in Exercise 'Bright Star-23', a biennial multilateral tri-services exercise, to be held at Kahira (West) Air Base, Egypt from 27 August to 16 September 2023.
- This is the first time that the Indian Air Force is participating in Ex Bright Star-23 which will also see the participation of contingents from the United States, Saudi Arabia, Greece and Qatar.
- The Indian Air Force contingent will comprise five MiG-29, two IL-78, two C-130 and two C-17 aircraft.
- Personnel from the No. 28, 77, 78 and 81 Squadrons of the Indian Air Force along with the Garuda Special Forces personnel will participate in the exercise.



ENVIRONMENT AFFAIRS

Country's 1st hydrogen fuel industry to be set up in Jamshedpur, Jharkhand.

- Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren approved the setting up of the country's 1st hydrogen fuel industry in the state's Jamshedpur with an investment of over Rs 350 crore.
- In this regard, the CM inaugurated the hydrogen internal combustion engine, fuel-agnostic engine, advanced chemistry battery, at 'Jamshedpur, East Singhbhum' under the joint aegis of TCPL Green Energy Solutions Private Limited, a joint venture of Tata Motors and Cummins Inc. (USA).
- Agreement has been signed for the development of H2 fuel cell and H2 fuel cell.
- The unit has a proposed capacity of 4000+ Hydrogen IC Engines/Fuel Agnostic Engines and 10,000+ Battery Systems with a proposed investment of Rs.354.28 Crores.



The Haryana government started the "Pran Vayu Devta Pension" scheme for trees above 75 years of age on 29 July 2023

- Under this scheme, the state government will give pensions to those who care and nurture trees above 75 years of age.
- Trees who have completed 75 years of age will be given an annual pension of Rs 2500 and like old age respect pension, this pension amount will be increased proportionately every year.
- Haryana is the first state in the country to implement this type of scheme.



Massachusetts University developed "Hygroelectricity".

- The team at the University of Massachusetts Amherst published a paper announcing that they had successfully generated a small but continuous electric current from moisture in the air, known as Hygroelectricity.
- Under this, atmospheric moisture was converted into renewable energy.
- Hygroelectricity has the potential to be a renewable and sustainable energy source because it depends on the continuous availability of atmospheric moisture. This concept, discovered by Nikola Tesla, has been the subject of scientific investigation for decades and is now closer to becoming a reality.



After a significant increase in the number of tigers, Bihar government announced the formation of "Rhino Task Force" for the protection of rhinos.

- At present there is only one rhino in Valmiki Tiger Reserve of West Champaran district and 14 rhinos in Patna Zoo.
- The Valmiki Tiger Reserve has been selected as one of the possible sites under the National Rhino Conservation Strategy, where rhinos from other sanctuaries in the country can be kept.



- The plan aims to increase the rhinoceros-bearing areas in VTR to 5% over the next two years. This would involve relocating rhinos from congested habitats to identified areas in the reserve such as Ganauli and Madanpur to provide more space for breeding and reproduction.
- The Bihar government has also started the process of developing “Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary” (KWLS) into another tiger reserve or 'tiger-bearing landscape'.

Severe storm “Khanun” wreaked havoc in Japan and South Korea.

- Airlines canceled several flights and authorities issued warnings through August 9, 2023, as a tropical storm 'Khanun' in the East China Sea moved from Japan's southern coast toward South Korea.
- The name Khanun, meaning jackfruit, was given by Thailand to the Typhoon Committee.
- The US military's Joint Typhoon Warning Center designated it a tropical storm with winds of 130 kilometers per hour (81 mph).



Airtel Payments Bank launches country's first eco-friendly debit card “r-PVC”

- Debit card is made from **recycled-poly vinyl chloride (r-PVC)** material, a certified eco-friendly material compared to ordinary PVC cards.
- Each production batch of 50,000 cards will result in a reduction of 350 kg of carbon emissions compared to conventional PVC cards commonly used in the market.
- Airtel Payments Bank is coming up with two cards under the Classic variant - Personalized Classic Card and Insta Classic Card. These cards come with ecommerce benefits of up to Rs 10,000 and “One Dines Free ” program across major cities in India,” the company said.



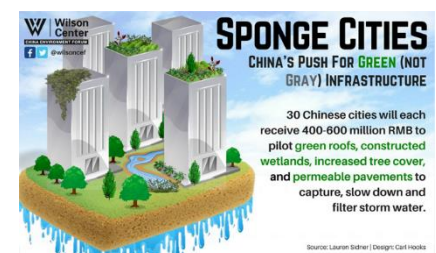
Forest fire on island Hawaii, Maui, in the western United States caused severe devastation.

- The fast-moving fire that started on 8 August 2023 spread to the outskirts of the city. Dry conditions, fuel accumulation and 60 mph (100 kph) wind gusts resulted in flares.
- At least 53 people have died in wildfires on the island of Maui.
- The disaster's scope would exceed that of 1960, the year after Hawaii became a US state, when a tsunami killed 61 people on the Big Island of Hawaii.



China's “sponge city” plan for flood-control cities fails.

- China has been hit by devastating floods in recent weeks, submerging cities and causing deaths and infrastructural damage, as well as questions are also being raised on the effectiveness of a 2015 "sponge city" initiative aimed at reducing urban flood risks.
- The “Sponge City” initiative was designed to better distribute water and make greater use of low impact "nature-based solutions" to improve drainage and storage.



- Those solutions also included the use of permeable asphalt, the construction of new canals and ponds, and the restoration of wetlands, which would not only reduce waterlogging, but also improve the urban environment.

Gujarat and Rajasthan are the states with the highest wind power potential in the country.

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy shared information about wind energy potential of India.
- With an installed *wind power* capacity of 42.8 GW (onshore wind) by April 2023, India ranks 4th globally after China, the United States and Germany.
- Wind resource assessment carried out by the National Institute of Wind Energy reveals an estimated wind power potential of about 695.5 GW and 1,164 GW, respectively, at 120 m and 150 m above sea level across the country.
- Wind power potential (in GW) at **120 meters** above ground level – Gujarat (142.56), Rajasthan (127.75), Karnataka (124.15), Maharashtra (98.21) and Andhra Pradesh (74.90).
- Wind power potential (in GW) at **150 meters** above ground level – Rajasthan (284.25), Gujarat (180.79), Maharashtra (173.86), Karnataka (169.25) and Andhra Pradesh (123.33)

	States	Potential (MW)
1.	Gujarat	35071
2.	Andhra Pradesh	14497
3.	Tamil Nadu	14152
4.	Karnataka	13593
5.	Maharashtra	5961
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	5685
7.	Rajasthan	5050
8.	Madhya Pradesh	2931
9.	Orissa	1384
10.	Uttar Pradesh	1260
11.	Kerala	837
12.	Uttarakhand	534
13.	Others	1833
14.	Total	102,788

According to the latest census, Karnataka has the largest elephant population.

- Karnataka has recorded 6,399 elephants in its forests and is set to be home to the country's largest population of wild elephants.
- Karnataka released detailed data of the synchronized elephant census conducted in South India and said that the elephant population has increased by 350 since the last census in 2017.
- As per 2017 data, Karnataka had the highest number of elephants (6,049), followed by Assam (5,719) and Kerala (3,054). India is home to approximately 29,964 elephants as of 2017.
- Every year on August 12, World Elephant Day is dedicated to raising public awareness of elephant conservation globally. On 12 August 2012, Thailand's Elephant Reintroduction Foundation, created by Canadian conservationist Patricia Sims and HM Queen Sirikit, co-founded World Elephant Day.
- The Bababudangiri-Mysore-Nilgiri Bannerghatta landscape, spread over 20,000 sq km, has the largest population of elephants in India as well as in Asia. Also in Karnataka, Bandipur Tiger Reserve has the highest population of elephants at 1,116, followed by Nagarhole at 831.

JUMBO DATA

Elephant population estimates, 2017

Northeast region	10,139
East-Central region	3,128
Northwest region	2,085
Southern region	11,960
Total	27,312



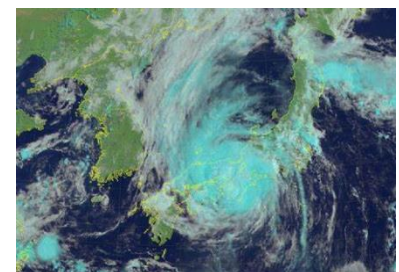
Delhi Metro Rail Corporation becomes first metro to launch 'Carbonlight Metro Travel' initiative.

- The primary objective of Carbonlite Metro Travel is to make passengers aware of the reduction in CO2 emissions. DMRC is probably the first metro service in the world to introduce such a facility in its tickets.
- By choosing the metro over other modes of transport, passengers contribute to the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions.
- The initiative is in line with the Mission Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) of the Government of India. This initiative aligns perfectly with India's ambitious target of reaching net-zero emissions by 2070.
- The mobile application-based QR code ticketing option launched by DMRC in June, 2023 has already garnered around 4.7 lakh downloads. In addition, DMRC has made significant strides in harnessing solar energy, with an impressive total solar power generation capacity of about 50 MW.



Typhoon Lan caused havoc in Japan.

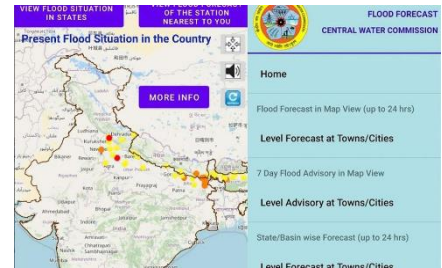
- The typhoon caused flooding and power outages in many areas, and authorities issued an evacuation warning for some residents.
- The storm, which followed Typhoon Khanun during Japan's Obon holiday season, is the seventh of the typhoon season. Typhoon Lan is forecast to move northwest, then northeast toward the Russian island of Sakhalin.
- A typhoon made landfall near Shionomisaki in Wakayama Prefecture, about 400 km southwest of Tokyo.



- It had maximum sustained winds of 160 kilometers per hour (100 mph), equivalent to a Category 2 typhoon.
 - Typhoons: In the China Sea and the Pacific Ocean.
 - Hurricane: In the Caribbean Sea and the West Indian Islands in the Atlantic Ocean.
 - Tornadoes: In the Guinea Lands of West Africa and the Southern United States.
 - Willy-Willys: In northwestern Australia.

Central Water Commission launches 'Floodwatch Mobile App' for real-time forecasting of floods.

- A flood monitoring mobile app 'Floodwatch Mobile App' has been launched by Central Water Commission Chairman Kushwinder Vohra in New Delhi to forecast floods across the country. Through this app, information related to the actual flood situation and forecast for up to seven days will be available.
- It will use advanced techniques like satellite data analysis and real time monitoring.
- The app uses real-time river flow data from various sources, and provides flood forecasts at the nearest location.
- Users can directly check CWC flood forecast (up to 24 hours) or flood advisory (up to 7 days) by selecting a station from a map or can also search by username.



The Government of Canada declares an emergency in 'British Columbia region due to severe forest fires.

- The announcement comes after more homes are expected to be destroyed as the McDougall Creek wildfire continues to spread in West Kelowna, British Columbia.
- The McDougall Creek Wildfire has grown from 64 hectares to 6,800 hectares in 24 hours. More than 35,000 people have been ordered to be evacuated from these areas. In addition, 30,000 people have also been placed under evacuation alert.
- About 140,000 square km (54,054 sq mi) of land, roughly the size of New York State, has been scorched across the country, and a haze of smoke has spread as far as the US east coast.
- Scientists and experts have pointed out that climate change, drought and lightning, as well as human activities that harm nature, are the cause of the fierce forest fires across the region.
- In some cities in British Columbia, the air quality index (AQI), which measures major pollutants including particulate matter from fires, was above 350, a "hazardous" level.



USA Category-4 'Hurricane Hillary' badly affected the Eastern Pacific Ocean.

- Hurricane Hillary was a major Category 4 hurricane that was observed in the eastern Pacific Ocean off the west coast of the continent of North America. According to the US National Hurricane Center, heavy rainfall over the southwestern United States is expected to peak on August 20–21, 2023.
- In Baja California, Southern California and Nevada, up to 15 cm (six in) of rain is expected from Hurricane Hilary, with some areas receiving 25 cm (10 in) of rain.
- It is the first tropical storm to hit Southern California since 1939.
- Hurricanes are classified on the Saffir–Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale and are ranked on a scale of 1 to 5 based on wind speed. Hurricanes that reach category three or above are classified as major hurricanes.
- Hillary's formation is partly due to a natural climate pattern called El Niño, which is characterized by warmer-than-usual waters in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean.



Dholpur-Karauli became the 5th tiger reserve of Rajasthan and 54th of India.

- The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) approved Dholpur-Karauli in Rajasthan as a new tiger reserve.
- Dholpur-Karauli is the 5th tiger reserve of Rajasthan. Meanwhile, the state government has also given in-principle approval to declare Kumbhalgarh as a tiger reserve.
- The Karauli-Sarmathura-Dholpur sanctuary in Rajasthan is officially named as the Dholpur-Karauli Tiger Reserve (DTR).

- The new tiger reserve will be spread over 1,058 sq km, which includes 368 sq km core area and 690 sq km buffer area. There are currently nine tigers in the forest areas designated to be declared tiger reserves.
- Till now Rajasthan had 4 tiger reserves: Ranthambore Tiger Reserve, Sariska Tiger Reserve, Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve and Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve.



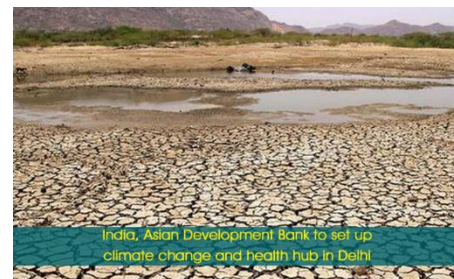
The Assam government bans drinking water bottles made of PET of less than 1 liter capacity.

- Assam has banned drinking water bottles made of polyethylene terephthalate (PET) with a volume of less than 1 liter from 2 October 2023. The ban has been imposed on making, buying, selling, and stocking plastic.
- Items made of Single Use Plastic (SUP), which have a high potential for spreading waste, are not biodegradable, but cause damage to the environment in the long run and are a threat to environmental health. Proves to be dangerous.
- Polyethylene terephthalate or PET is a type of polyester widely used in the production of plastic bottles, films, and other products. It is known for its strength, ductility and chemical resistance.



India and Asian Development Bank to set up a Climate Change and Health Center in Delhi.

- India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) will set up a **Center for Climate Change and Health** in the national capital Delhi.
- Earlier, India established the 1st WHO Center for **Global Traditional Medicine**. The WHO Center for Global Traditional Medicine was **established in Jamnagar, Gujarat**.
- The new Center for Climate Change and Health will facilitate knowledge sharing, foster partnerships and innovations, and also help countries beyond the G20, especially developing countries.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a regional development bank. It was established on December 19, 1966. India is a founding member of ADB. ADB is headquartered in Manila, Philippines.



7th GEF Assembly held in Vancouver, Canada.

- Environmental leaders from 185 countries gathered in Vancouver, Canada for the 7th Assembly of the Global Environment Facility from 22-26 August 2023. It launched the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF), a new source of funding to protect species and ecosystems globally.
- At the 64th Global Environment Facility (GEF) Council meeting to be held in Brazil in July 2023, the governing body has approved the disbursement of US\$1.4 billion to accelerate efforts to address climate, biodiversity and pollution.
- In Brazil itself, the establishment of a new fund, the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF), was approved to finance the implementation of the KunmingMontreal Global Biodiversity Framework.
- 20% of the GBFF will be allocated to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLC), 25% to GEF agencies, 36% to SIDS (Small Island Developing States) and 3% to LDCs (Least Developed Countries).
- Global Environment Facility (GEF):
- The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was established a day before the 1992 Rio Earth Summit. The 6th Assembly of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and related meetings took place in Da Nang, Vietnam from June 23-29, 2018.



Union Minister Nitin Gadkari unveils the world's 1st 100% ethanol powered car developed by Toyota.

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has launched a 100% ethanol-fuelled version of Toyota's Innova car. The car is the world's 1st BS-VI (Stage-II), electrified flex-fuel vehicle.
- Earlier, the Union Minister had launched a hydrogen-powered car, the Toyota Mirai EV, last year.
- Flexible fuel vehicles (FFVs) have an internal combustion engine and are capable of running on any blend of gasoline and ethanol up to 83%. E85 is the official name for flex-fuel.



- It contains 85% ethanol fuel and 15% gasoline or other hydrocarbons by volume.
- Bio-ethanol has less energy per liter than petrol but with the use of advanced technology, the calorific value (energy contained in the fuel) of bio-ethanol will be equal to that of petrol.
- By mixing ethanol in petrol, India's agricultural development will increase from 12% to 20%, due to which India will save 35 thousand crore rupees spent on imports every year.
- **India has set a new target of 20% ethanol blending by 2026**, which was earlier to be achieved by 2030. Farmers have so far earned an income of Rs 82,000 crore from the process of ethanol blending.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

SEBI will set up a “Corporate Debt Market Development Fund”.

- Capital markets regulator Sebi came out with an exhaustive framework for Corporate Debt Market Development Fund (CDMDF) and also put in place investment guidelines for mutual funds in the units of such funds.
- The statement came after a section of media reported that Sebi is seeking curbing retail participation in derivative markets.
- Union Finance & Corporate Affairs Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Friday said that Indian companies can now list their shares on foreign exchanges operating at GIFT City-based International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in Gujarat.



According to the RBI index, digital payments registered a growth of 13.24% in FY 2022-23.

- **RBI's Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI)** stood at 395.57 at the end of March 2023, compared to 377.46 in September 2022 and 349.30 in March 2022. Which shows a fourfold jump from 2018.
- Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has played an important role in promoting the growth of digital payments in India. According to a recent report by PwC India, UPI transactions are estimated to reach 1 billion transactions per day by 2026-27.
- From January 1, 2021, RBI is publishing composite RBI-DPI data with March 2018 as the base year. The index is published on a half-yearly basis from March 2021 with a lag of four months. The index comprises 5 broad parameters. The parameters are payment enabler, payment infrastructure – demand-side factor, payment infrastructure – supply-side factor, payment execution and consumer centricity.



MPC keeps the repo rate unchanged at 6.5% for the third time.

- The MPC last increased this rate from 6.25 per cent to 6.50 per cent in its meeting in February 2023. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said that India's GDP is likely to grow by 6.5% in FY2024. The reverse repo rate is unchanged at 3.35%.
- RBI pegs **inflation at 5.4%** for FY24. The **Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate** remains unchanged at **6.25%** and the **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate** and the **Bank Rate at 6.75%**.
- The cash reserve ratio (CRR) will remain unchanged at 4.5%.
- Near Field Communication (NFC) technology will be deployed in offline payments through UPI-Lite. RBI has proposed to increase the transaction limit for small value digital payments in UPI Lite from ₹200 to ₹500.



Maharashtra tops in terms of fiscal health across the country.

- A report on the financial health of major 17 states has been released by Kaushik Das, Chief Economist, Deutsche Bank India. Based on the first budget estimates for FY24, the top three states are Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Telangana, and the bottom three are Bengal, Punjab and Kerala.
- The report on the fiscal health of the top 17 states is based on 4 key fiscal parameters - fiscal deficit; own tax revenue, state debt levels, all as a percentage of their individual gross state domestic product; and finally interest payments on revenue receipts.



'UDGAM Portal'

- RBI has launched a centralized web portal which aims to simplify the search for **unclaimed deposits in banks**. SBI, Punjab National Bank, Central Bank, DBS Bank, South Indian Bank and Dhanlaxmi Bank have provided their data to the portal.
- Customers can register on the 'Udgam' (unclaimed deposit - gateway to access information) platform using their mobile number. They can search for unclaimed deposits under their name and provide additional inputs like PAN, Voter ID, Driving License and Passport number.



REPORT/RANK/INDEX/LIST

Karnataka Tops the list of states with maximum number of billionaire MLAs as per Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) Report.

- 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.
- According to the ADR report, the average assets of an MLA in India stand at Rs 13.63 crore.
- Karnataka tops the list with 223 MLAs having an average wealth of Rs 64.39 crores.
- Tripura and West Bengal have the lowest average assets per MLA. Tripura's 59 MLAs possess an average wealth of Rs 1.54 crores, while West Bengal's 293 MLAs have an average of Rs 2.80 crores.
- Following Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh has 174 MLAs with an average of Rs 28.24 crores, and Maharashtra has 284 MLAs with an average of Rs 23.51 crores.

STATE HAS 32 BILLIONAIRE-NETAS	
TOP 3 RICHEST MLAS IN INDIA	OTHER STATE MLAS IN TOP 21
DK Shivakumar Congress ₹1,413 crore	BS Suresha (Cong) – ₹648cr
KH Puttaswamy Gowda IND ₹1,267 crore	NA Haris (Cong) – ₹439cr
Priyakrishna Congress ₹1,156 crore	HK Suresh (BJP) – ₹435cr
	RV Deshpande (Cong) – ₹363cr
	MR Manjunath (JDS) – ₹316cr
	SN Subba Reddy (Cong) – ₹313cr
	Shamanur Shivashankarappa (Congress) – ₹312cr
	M Krishnappa (Cong) – ₹296cr
	Munirathna (BJP) – ₹293cr

Walmart is number 1 on the Fortune Global 500 list for 10 consecutive years.

- Fortune Global 500 list ranks companies based on total revenue for their respective fiscal years ending on or before March 31, 2023. Corporations featured in the annual list of the world's biggest companies showed their might by delivering a record-high total revenue of \$41 trillion in 2022.
- The list is released on the basis of – global economy, trade policies, mergers and acquisitions, and corporate turmoil among them etc.
 - Walmart remains No. 1 for the 10th year in a row
 - Saudi Aramco at 2nd place, which grew its revenue by 51% (No. 6 last year).
 - state grid 3rd and
 - Amazon 4th place.
- In another change from last year, the total revenue (\$13 trillion) of Global 500 companies in the US exceeded that of Greater China.
- Reliance Industries has now moved up to 88th position with a jump of 16 places. In the year 2022, RIL was at number 104.



Major Indian companies-

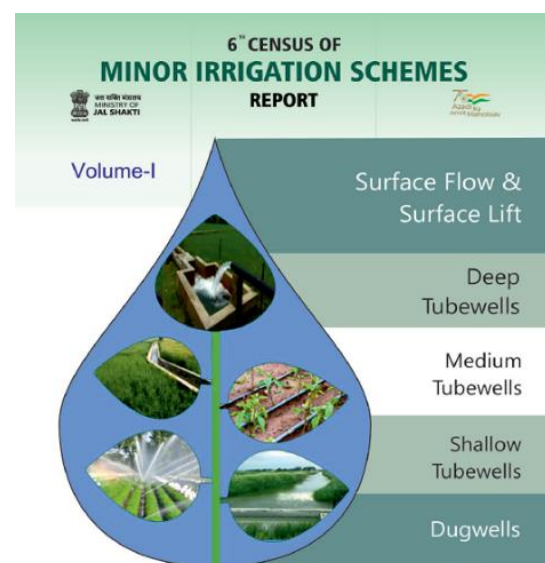
- Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) - 94th
- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) - 107th (down 9 places)
- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) - 158th
- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) - 233rd
- State Bank of India (SBI) - 235th
- Tata Motors - 337th (up 33 places)
- Rajesh Exports - 353rd (up 83 places)

Justice Rohini Panel submits report on OBC sub-categorization after 14 extensions.

- The panel, headed by retired Chief Justice of Delhi High Court Gorla Rohini, was initially supposed to submit its report in 12 weeks, but has since been given 14 extensions. The government had constituted the commission in 2017 under the chairmanship of Justice G Rohini, former chief justice of the Delhi High Court.
- The commission was asked to examine the extent to which reservation and other benefits for OBCs are concentrated among a few dominant caste groups. Based on this, the commission was tasked with suggesting bifurcation of over 2,633 caste groups in the central OBC list so that these benefits can be redistributed equitably.
- According to sources, the commission has suggested dividing caste groups into broad categories, with dominant castes (with the most access to benefits) getting the smallest share of the 27% reservation, and historically crowded castes Groups will get the biggest share.
- There are 2,633 Other Backward Castes in the Central List. The commission has proposed to divide them into four subcategories numbered 1, 2, 3 and 4 and to divide the 27% into 2, 6, 9 and 10 per cent respectively.

**Jal Shakti Ministry releases 6th census report on 'Minor Irrigation Schemes'.**

- Under the enumeration of Government of India Minor Irrigation Schemes, five censuses have been conducted so far with the reference years being 1986-87, 1993-94, 2000-01, 2006-07 and 2013-14 respectively.
- The 6th Minor Irrigation Census with **reference year 2017-18** has been completed in 32 States/UTs. 6th MI Census work delayed due to COVID19 pandemic.
- HIGHLIGHTS/KEY FACTS:**
- As per the report, 23.14 million minor irrigation (MI) schemes are reported in the country. Out of which 21.93 million (94.8%) are Ground Water (GW) and 1.21 million (5.2%) are Surface Water (SW) schemes.
- Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of MI schemes in the country, followed by Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. GW schemes include dugwell, shallow tubewell, medium tube well and deep tube well.
- Maharashtra, Karnataka, Telangana, Odisha and Jharkhand have the highest share in SW schemes. SW schemes include surface flow and surface lift schemes.
- There is an increase of about 1.42 million in MI plans during 6th MI Census as compared to 5th Census. At the national level, both the GW and SW schemes have increased by 6.9% and 1.2%, respectively.
- Drilled wells have the highest share in MI schemes, followed by shallow tube-wells, medium tube-wells and deep tube-wells. Maharashtra is the leading state in well drilling, surface flow and surface lift schemes.
- Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Punjab are the leading states in shallow tube wells, medium tube wells and deep tube wells respectively. Most MI plans (96.6%) are privately owned.

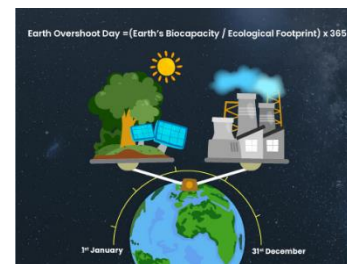
**IMPORTANT DAY/WEEK/YEAR****World Wide Web Day was observed on 1st August.**

- The day is celebrated to celebrate the World Wide Web (WWW) and its impact on the world. On August 1, 1991, Tim Berners-Lee posted a proposal for the World Wide Web on the alt.hypertext newsgroup.
- World Wide Web, created by Sir Tim Berners-Lee in 1989 while he was working at CERN (European Organization for Nuclear Research). In March 1989, Berners Lee proposed a "distributed information system" to share and update information among scientists at CERN.
- Berners-Lee and his colleague Robert Calio developed the first web browser, WorldWideWeb (later renamed Nexus), and the first web server, "httpd," in 1990.



Earth Overshoot Day observed on 2nd August.

- Earth Overshoot Day marks the date when humanity's demand for ecological resources and services in a given year exceeds the capacity that can be regenerated by the Earth in that year.
- hosted and calculated by the Global Footprint Network.
- To determine the date of Earth Overshoot Day for each year, the Global Footprint Network calculates the number of days in the year that Earth's biocapacity is sufficient for humanity's ecological footprint. The remainder of the year coincided with global hyperinflation. Calculating Earth Overshoot Day - Earth's Biocapacity / Humanity's Ecological Footprint x 365.
- July 28, 2023 - First Plastic Overshoot Day

**“World Breastfeeding Week2023” is celebrated from 1-7 August.**

- The World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) is a global network of individuals and organizations dedicated to the protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding around the world.
- Theme: "Let's make breastfeeding and work, work".
- Since 2016, the WBW campaign has been aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Hence it is called the WBW-SDGs campaign.
- In 1991, the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) was formed as a global network, after which Breastfeeding Week has been celebrated annually around the world since 1992.
 1. Mothers Absolute Affection- MAA - This is a scheme run by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to promote breastfeeding in the country.
 2. Vatsalya - Matri Amrit Kosh - Under this, National Human Milk Bank and Breastfeeding Counseling Center have been established with the help of the Government of Norway.

**3rd “Javelin Throw Day” celebrated on 07 August.**

- The Athletics Federation of India had decided to celebrate 7th August as National Javelin Day to celebrate Neeraj Chopra's astonishing achievement.
- National Javelin Day originated after Neeraj Chopra won India a gold medal in athletics in the 2021 Tokyo Olympics with a throw of 87.58 metres.

**9th National Handloom Day 2023 celebrated on 7th August.**

- main objective of promoting the handloom industry.
- The day was celebrated for the first time on August 7, 2015 in Chennai by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to popularize local textiles and handlooms in the spirit of 'Vocal for Local'.
- National Handloom Day on 7th August, 1905 is a poignant reminder of the historic call to encourage indigenous products during the Swadeshi Movement that began on this day in 1905 in Calcutta under the leadership of Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Bipin Chandra Pal and Lala Lajpat Rai.

**World Lion Day 2023 celebrated on 10th August.**

- Lion Day aims to create awareness about the majestic predator, the ultimate cat, often referred to as the king of the jungle. Lion, scientifically known as Panthera leo, ranks as the second largest cat species globally.
- World Lion Day was first established in 2013 by Big Cat Rescue, the world's largest recognized sanctuary dedicated to lions and was co-founded by Derek and Beverley Joubert.



10 August - World Biofuel Day 2023

- Observed to raise awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels.
- The day also honors the research experiments conducted by Sir Rudolph Diesel, who powered an engine with peanut oil in 1893. World Biofuel Day has been celebrated by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas since 2015.

**August 9 - World Tribal Day 2023**

- The theme for this year's World Indigenous Day is “Indigenous Youth as Agents of Change for Self-determination”.
- The resolution to celebrate World Tribal Day was first passed in December 1994 by the United Nations General Assembly. The date of August 9 was chosen in 1982 to commemorate the protection and promotion of human rights.
- 2011 Census: The total population of Scheduled Tribes is 104.2 million, which is 8.6% of India's population. The Draft National Tribal Policy, 2006 lists 698 Scheduled Tribes in India.
- Madhya Pradesh with 14.7% highest ST population, followed by Maharashtra (10.1%), Odisha (9.2%), Rajasthan (8.9%).

**International Youth Day-2023: 12Aug**

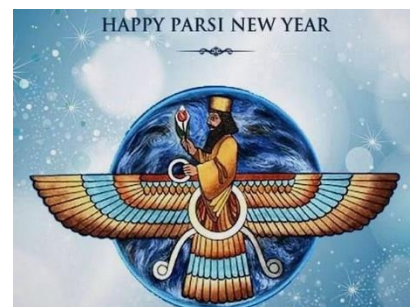
- This annual occasion is recognized by the United Nations (UN), established as a special day to address important issues affecting the world's youth population.
- Theme: “Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World”
- On 17 December 1999, the United Nations General Assembly officially established International Youth Day. First observed on 12 August 2000, the day has since been used as a tool for education, youth engagement in politics, and effective resource management to address global challenges.
- National Youth Day** is celebrated every year on **January 12** as a tribute to Swami Vivekananda on his birth anniversary. In 1985, it was declared as “National Youth Day”.

**World Organ Donation Day 2023 observed on 13 August.**

- Theme: “Step up to volunteer; need more organ donors to fill the lacunae.”
- The aim of this theme is to make a global appeal to the people for organ donation, so that someone in need of an organ can be met.
- Organs that can be donated include liver, kidney, pancreas, lungs, heart, intestine, cornea, bone, tissue and many other organs. Organ donation can be done by people of all age groups.

**Parsi New Year “Navroz” celebrated on 16 August.**

- Parsi New Year, or Navroz, also known as Nowroz. Celebrated mainly by the Parsi community in Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- Following the imperial calendar, the festival originated from Zoroastrianism, established by the prophet Zarathustra in ancient Persia.
- The festival of Navroz or Jamshid-eNavroz/Jamshid-e-Nauroz is celebrated twice a year in India, first according to the Iranian calendar and second according to the Shahanshahi calendar, named after the Persian king, Jamshed, who is known in the Persian or Shahanshahi calendar and according to legend, Jamshed saved the world from apocalypse.
- 'Nav' in Farsi means 'new', while 'roz' means 'day', which literally means 'new day'. The roots of the Zoroastrian New Year can be traced back some 3,500 years to Zoroastrianism, a faith founded by the prophet Zarathustra in ancient Persia, which is modern-day Iran.
- The date of the festival coincides with the 'Fasli' or 'Bastani' calendar, which marks the beginning of the annual spring equinox. This philosophy is not only observed in Iran, but also replicated by Zoroastrians in other Middle Eastern countries.



World Humanitarian Day 2023 celebrated all over the world: 19 August

- celebrated all over the world to honor humanitarians who work in revolutionary ways with immense efforts to improve the lives of distressed tribes.
- The United Nations General Assembly leads this global initiative, which unites partners around the world to support survival, well-being and dignity in the face of adversity.
- #NoMatterWhat campaign is being run under World Humanitarian Day 2023. Embraces the steadfast dedication of humanitarians around the world.
- World Humanitarian Day has its roots in August 19, 2003, when a devastating bomb attack on the Canal Hotel in Baghdad, Iraq, killed 22 humanitarian aid workers, including Sergio Vieira de Mello, the United Nations Special Representative for Iraq.



Women's Equality Day 2023: 26 August

- The theme for Women's Equality Day 2023 is "Embrace Equity". The theme underlines the importance of achieving gender equality, not only for economic development, but also as a fundamental human right.
- Women's Equality Day commemorates the historic moment in the United States when the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution was officially ratified in 1920, giving women the right to vote and marking a turning point in the struggle for women's rights and gender equality proved to be an important milestone.
- On the 50th anniversary of the passing of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, the National Organization for Women (NOW) organized a nationwide 'Strike for Equality'. Congresswoman Bela Abzug, also known as Battling Bella, designated 26 August as Women's Equality Day after this strike. The day was first observed in 1973, when Congress approved HJ Res 52.



Prime Minister Modi declared 23 August as 'National Space Day'

- August 23, the day the Chandrayaan-3 lander module successfully landed on the lunar surface, From now onwards it will be celebrated as National Space Day.
- The PM also announced renaming the Chandrayaan-3 landing site as 'Shiv Shakti' point and the crash site of the failed Chandrayaan-2 mission in 2019 as 'Tiranga' point.



FESTIVAL

Cultural festival "Aadi Perukku" is celebrated in Tamil Nadu.

- Aadi Perukku, also known as Pathinettam Perukku, is an auspicious festival celebrated by the Tamil community to honor the monsoon season and the life sustaining properties of water. This year Aadi Perukku is celebrated on 3rd August 2023.
- It falls on the 18th day of the Tamil calendar, marking the beginning of the monsoon season in Tamil Nadu. Celebrating the festival, people express their gratitude to the god of monsoon, Mother Nature and the river Kaveri.
- An interesting aspect of the celebration of Aadi Perukku is the grand worship of the Goddess Goddess Parvati, with women offering prayers to her and the Mother Goddess.



President Draupadi Murmu inaugurated "Utkarsh" and "Unmesh" festivals in Bhopal.

- national festival of India's folk and tribal expressions "Utkarsh" and the international literature festival "Unmesh"
- The program is being organized from August 3 to 5 by the Culture Department of Madhya Pradesh along with Sangeet Natak Akademi and Sahitya Akademi of the Ministry of Culture.



"India Startup Festival 2023" held in Bengaluru.

- 2nd edition of India Startup Festival (ISF) 2023 to be held in Bengaluru It started on a high note with 30 investors pledging a total of 125 term sheets. The first edition was held in the year 2022.
- The ISF exhibition was inaugurated by the Honorable Chief Guest, Sadhguru Sri Madhusudan, Founder of Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence in Karnataka.



- More than 10,000 startups from India, United Kingdom, Japan and various other countries have participated in the event. The most promising startups selected from the Investor Connect Workshops held in Bengaluru, Hyderabad, USA and UK were awarded cash prizes at ISF 2023.
- The festival is in line with the flagship initiatives of the Government of India (GoI) such as Start-up India, Digital India and Make-in-India.

“Bharat Utsav”, a 3-day event celebrating Indian art and heritage, begins in Dubai

- “Bharat Utsav”, to mark India's Independence Day, began on 15 August 2023 in Dubai, UAE. The objective of this festival is to showcase the diverse cultural richness of the country.
- The festival also featured classical Indian music performances, cultural exhibitions, and instrumental music and dance from across India. The main goal of the festival is to highlight Indian culture and provide a platform for various artistic expressions.



Butter Festival 'Anduri' organized in Uttarakhand.

- 'Anduri Utsav', popularly known as the Butter Festival, celebrated at Dayara Bugyal in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand, concluded recently. Dayara Bugyal, situated at an altitude of 11,000 feet above sea level, is one of the ancient grasslands of the state.
- It is also known as Butter Holi, as people playfully apply butter, milk and buttermilk to each other. The festival is a way of expressing gratitude to Lord Krishna, who is believed to have saved the cattle from evil forces while grazing in the Bugyal.
- The villagers of Raithal, who take their cattle to the grasslands of Dayara Bugyal for grazing, believe that Lord Krishna and Bugyal Mata keep a watchful eye on their cattle. Therefore, Andhuri Holi is an act of thanksgiving to the deities who protect their livelihood.



Sri Lanka hosts 'Karnataka Cultural Festival' for the first time.

- Sri Lanka hosted the first Karnataka Cultural Festival on 25 August 2023. It was organized by the International Cultural Council of India in association with Swami Vivekananda Cultural Center and ME Global Peace Foundation.
- More than 30 artistes from Karnataka put up a scintillating performance during the festival. These include dance, folk songs, poems in different languages, ballet and puppet shows.
- The program showcased the heritage of Karnataka and showcased the talents of Madhuri Bondre and her colleagues. The event symbolized the cultural diversity and shared cultural ties between India and Sri Lanka.
- Swami Vivekananda Cultural Center was established in the year 1998 in Colombo. It was earlier known as the Indian Cultural Center. It aims to build a bridge of cultural exchange and connectivity between India and Sri Lanka.



ARCHEOLOGY

Evidence of Mahabharata period pottery found from the historic Karna Kot mound of Bhattu village of Bhuna, Fatehabad district of Haryana.

- In those days pottery and cups were made from this material.
- The remains that have been found are a circle of materials used to make pottery from the Mahabharata period, which is called a cemetery.
- It is a porcelain-like material with excellent luster and strength. In the Mahabharata period, molds for utensils and cups were prepared from this cemetery.
- It is known that objects of historical importance are being obtained from the Karnakot mound of Mahabharata period in Haryana due to the flow of soil during the rainy season. Cemetery objects have been recovered from this mound during the recent rains.
- A terracotta bangle of the Harappan civilization as well as the remains of ivory bangles have also been found from this mound. Chess dice from the Harappan period have also been found here. Significantly, Bhattu village located in Tohana assembly constituency has preserved history in itself. Evidence from the Mahabharata period to the Anglo-Sikh war has been found here.



SPORTS

England's fast bowler Stuart Broad announced his retirement.

- Broad made his debut for the England Test side in December 2007 and has won 167 caps.
- He also recently passed the 600-wickets milestone for his country during the Ashes. He sits at fifth on the all-time list of wicket-takers, and is one of only two fast bowlers to take over 600 wickets, alongside longtime bowling partner Jimmy Anderson.

**Indian women's hockey team won the Spanish hockey title “Torneo del Centenario 2023”**

- Indian women's hockey team led by goalkeeper Savita Punia won the 'Torneo del Centenario 2023' title by defeating hosts Spain 3-0 at Terrassa, Barcelona on 30 July 2023.
- India, ranked eighth in the FIH women's hockey rankings.
- 'Torneo del Centenario 2023': The Indian men's and women's hockey teams participated in the 100th Anniversary Spanish Hockey Federation International Tournament 2023 in Terrassa, Spain.
- The men's section was organized between four countries, India, England, Netherlands, Spain while the women's section was organized between three countries India, Spain, England.
- Indian men's hockey team, captained by Harmanpreet Singh.

**MI New York won the first edition of “US T20 League”.**

- In the US T20 League, MI New York (MINY) defeated Seattle Orcas (SO) by 7 wickets in the final at the Grand Prairie Stadium, Dallas (Texas) to lift the first title of the tournament.
- MINY chased down the target of 184 runs set by SO in 16 overs. MI New York is owned by Reliance's Indiawin Sports.
- MI New York captain Nicholas Pooran was successful in winning the 'Major League Cricket' title for the first time with a brilliant century. Nicholas Pooran scored 137 * runs (55 balls) with the help of 10 fours and 13 sixes.
- Major League Cricket (MLC) first edition of which was held from 13-30 July 2023. Six teams representing major US cities participated. Los Angeles Knight Riders, MI New York, San Francisco Unicorns, Seattle Orcas, Texas Super Kings and Washington Freedom.
- The first match took place between Texas Super Kings vs Los Angeles Knight Riders.

**Tournament prize:**

- Sling TV Tournament's Most Valuable Player: Nicholas Pooran
- Royal Rice Leading Run Scorer: Nicholas Pooran
- NTT Leading wicket taker: Trent Boult
- Bart King Domestic Player of the Tournament: Cameron Gannon

India won a total 26 medals including 11 gold in 31st World University games (WUG).

- India finished at 7th spot with 11 gold, 5 silver and 10 bronze, the best ever standing in the medal tally.
- This edition's haul is even more than the combined total of all the past WUG medals won by the country. India had won just 21 medals (6 gold, 6 silver and 9 bronze) before the 2023 WUG.
- Host China topped the standings with a whopping 178 medals (103 gold, 40 silver, 35 bronze), followed by Japan (21 gold, 29 silver, 43 bronze) and Republic of Korea (17 gold, 18 silver, 23 bronze).
- The 31st edition of the World University Games was held in Chengdu, the People's Republic of China, from July 28 to August 8.
- India has been part of the World University Games since the inaugural edition at Turin in 1959.
- The next edition of the World University Games is slated to take place in 2025 in Germany.



Tilak Verma becomes the 2nd youngest Indian player to score 50 in men's T20I Cricket.

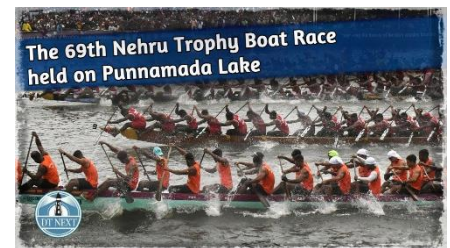
- Youngster Tilak Varma turned out to be India's top-scorer in the 2nd T20I against West Indies at the Providence Stadium, Guyana.
- At 20 years and 271 days, Tilak has become the second-youngest Indian to score a T20I half-century.
- He is only behind India's ODI and Test skipper, Rohit Sharma, who achieved this feat in his maiden T20I innings (50* vs SA, T20 World Cup 2007).
- Overall (India Men or Women), Shafali Verma, Jemimah Rodrigues, and Punam Raut are ahead of Tilak.

**The Indian hockey team won the Asian Hockey Championship for the 4th time.**

- The Indian men's hockey team beat Malaysia 4-3 after trailing by two goals in the final of the Asian Champions Trophy 2023 at the **Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium in Chennai**.
- With this win, India became the only country to win the Asian Champions Trophy four times. At the same time, Pakistan is at number two with three wins.
- World No. 9 Malaysia, playing in their maiden Asian Champions Trophy final.
- 7th edition of the Asian Champions Trophy Hockey was held at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium in Chennai.
- 1st edition of the Asian Champions Trophy, held biennially, was held in China in 2011 and was won by India, and the Indian team shared the trophy with Pakistan in 2016 and 2018 after rain played spoilsport in Muscat, Oman.

**69th Nehru Trophy Boat Race held in Kerala.**

- The 69th edition of the Nehru Trophy Boat Race (NTBR) was held on the Punnamada Lake in Alappuzha. It was inaugurated by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.
- 72 boats including 19 Chandan Vallams (Snake Boats) participated in this year's race under 9 categories.
- Pallathuruthy Boat Club won its fourth consecutive title in the Nehru Trophy Boat Race with a timing of 4:21:22. Champakulam Chundan by Kumarakom Town Boat Club finished second in 4:21:28.
- The 1st race was organized in 1952 in honor of Panditji, who had visited Alappuzha.

**Indian hockey team ranked third in the latest FIH rankings.**

- Indian hockey ranked 3rd spot in the latest FIH rankings with 2771.35 points after the title win in the Asian Champions Trophy. India has overtaken England (2763.50 points) to secure the third position.
- Netherlands is at the first position (3095.90 points) and Belgium (2917.87 points) is at the second place in the ranking.
- The Indian team achieved this ranking after securing a bronze medal in the 2021 Tokyo Olympics. Which was his first medal at the Games in 41 years.
- Fédération Internationale de Hockey sur Gazon (FIH) was founded by Paul Leuty. Its headquarter is in Lausanne, Switzerland.
- In 1927, the International Women's Hockey Association (IFWHA) was formed. A crude form of the game was played in Egypt by 4,000 years ago and in Ethiopia by 1,000 BC.
- The 1st Hockey Association was formed in 1876 in the UK. The 1st Olympic hockey competition for men was held in London in 1908. Hockey was dropped from the 1912 Stockholm Games. It was reincorporated in Antwerp in 1920 after pressure from Belgian hockey supporters, before being dropped again in Paris in 1924.

RANK	TEAM	CF	LMP	POINTS
1	NED	EHF	JUL 30, 2023	3095.90
2	BEL	EHF	JUL 04, 2023	2917.87
3	IND	AHF	AUG 12, 2023	2771.35
4	ENG	EHF	JUL 30, 2023	2763.50
5	GER	EHF	JUL 05, 2023	2680.04

The 3rd edition of Khelo India Junior Women's Hockey League begins in New Delhi.

- Khelo India Women's League, the third edition of the tournament began on 13 August 2023 at the Major Dhyan Chand Stadium in New Delhi. Ashok Dhyanchand, Arjuna awardee and bronze medalist of 1972 Olympics, was the chief guest.
- 13 teams will compete in the 3rd Khelo India Junior Women's Hockey League 2023.

- The first Khelo India Women's Hockey League Under-16 was held at Major Dhyan Chand Stadium in New Delhi from 16th to 23rd August, 2022.
- It was preceded by another mega event for women athletes called 'Khelo India Dus Ka Dum' from 10th to 31st March 2023, with a massive participation of over 80,000 girls across age groups from across the country in over 1500 sporting events.
- The Dus Ka Dum program was organized from Srinagar in Jammu to Thrissur in Kerala and Kokrajhar in Assam to Amravati in Maharashtra and Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh.
- The sports disciplines that were contested included Kho-Kho, Swimming, Athletics, Wushu, Archery, Fencing, Judo, Weightlifting, Hockey and Yoga.



Ashley Gardner and Chris Woakes got the title of ICC Player of the Month for July 2023.

- Last month, Sri Lankan spinner Wanindu Hasaranga and Australian women's team all-rounder Ashley Gardner were given the 'player of the month' award. The headquarters of ICC is in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
- Australia's Ashley Gardner has won her **2nd consecutive Women's Player of the Month award, becoming the first player ever to do so.** It is the 4th time that Gardner has won the prestigious monthly award beating fellow all rounders Ellyse Perry and Nat Sciver-Brunt.



Spain won its 1st FIFA Women's Football World Cup 2023 title by defeating England 1-0 in the final at Sydney Olympic Stadium, Australia.

- England have now lost two consecutive World Cup finals, with the winning team receiving prize money of \$4.29 million. The runner up will be paid \$3.015m.
- Major award:
- Golden Glove Award - Mary Earps of England
- Golden Ball Award - Spain midfielder Aitana Bonmati
- Golden Boot Award – Hinata Miyazawa of Japan
- 9th FIFA Women's World Cup has been organized from 20 July – 20 August 2023, hosted by New Zealand and Australia. The first match of the tournament was played between New Zealand and Norway at Eden Park, Auckland.
- 32 countries have participated in the competition, including defending champions the United States. They have been placed in eight groups. Apart from Ireland, Vietnam, Zambia, Haiti, Morocco, Panama, Philippines and Portugal are participating in the Women's World Cup for the first time.
- The previous edition was held in France. A total of 10 stadiums – six in Australia and four in New Zealand – hosted 64 matches of the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup.
- The 1st FIFA Women's World Cup took place from 16 to 30 November 1991 in Guangdong, China. The inaugural tournament, in 1991, was won by the United States.



ICC launches 'Crictoverse' mascot for Cricket World Cup 2023.

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has unveiled the male and female mascots 'Crictoverse' for the Cricket World Cup 2023. The unveiling was done at an event in Gurugram, India in the presence of U19 World Cup Champions captain Yash Dhull and Shafali Verma.
- Originating from the 'Crictoverse' a distant cricket utopia, the male and female mascots represent distinct traits that stand as symbols of both gender equality and diversity. The ICC has also launched a naming competition for the mascots till 27 August 2023.
- The male lead presents a delectable mix of icy coolness and explosive batting skills. Every shot he takes, whether it is a clever trick or a powerful six, has an electrifying power that leaves the audience mesmerized. This tournament is going to be held in India from 5 October to 19 November.



In the 'Under-20 World Wrestling Championship', Antim Panghal became the first Indian woman player to win the title twice.

- Under-20 World Wrestling Championships held in Amman, Jordan.
- India's Under-20 wrestlers won medals in seven out of 10 weight categories, including three gold, one silver and three bronze, and Indian women's wrestling The team finished ahead of Japan and the United States.

Medal winners:

- Priya Malik Women's 76kg Gold
- Savita Women's 62kg Gold
- Antim Pangal Women's 65kg Silver
- Arju Women's 68 kg Bronze
- Reena Women's 57kg Bronze
- Harshita Mor Women's 72kg Bronze
- Men's medalist:
 - Mohit Kumar Men's Freestyle 61kg Gold
 - Sagar Jaglan Men's Freestyle 79kg Silver



Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa was the runner-up in Azerbaijan Chess World Cup-2023.

- India's Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa was the runner up after losing to World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen of Norway in a final at the Chess World Cup in Baku, Azerbaijan. World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen has won his maiden World Cup title.
- Carlsen defeated Praggnanandhaa 1.5-0.5 in the tie-break.
- With the silver medal at the Chess World Cup, Praggnanandhaa sealed his place in the Candidates Tournament to be held in Canada in 2024, becoming only the 2nd Indian to do so. Praggnanandhaa has an Elo rating of 2723 in Rapid Fast.
- For finishing second in the World Cup 2023, Praggnanandhaa has got USD 80,000 (approx Rs 66,13,444) and Carlsen of Norway has got USD 110K (approx Rs 90,93,551).



USA's Sha'Carrie Richardson wins gold in 100m at World Championships.

- American athlete Sha'Carrie Richardson clocked 10.65 seconds in the final of the 2023 World Athletics Championships in Track and Field in Budapest, Hungary on 21 August 2023 to earn the gold medal at the World Championships.
- Jamaican Sherika Jackson (10.72) and five-time world champion Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce (10.77). 10.65 was a world-championships record – Florence Griffith-Joyner's 35-year-old world record of 10.49 still stands – and equaled Jackson for the best time in the world that year.

Indian women's blind cricket team won the gold medal by defeating Australia in 'IBSA World Games-23.

- Indian women's blind cricket team won the gold medal by defeating Australia by nine wickets at the IBSA World Games 2023 in Birmingham, UK.
- Cricket for the visually impaired made its debut this year at the International Blind Sports Federation World Games.
- The IBSA World Games held every 4 years, are held internationally in addition to the Paralympic Games. With the 2023 Games hosting 3 Paralympic and 7 non Paralympic sports; Archery, Chess, Cricket, Men's Blind Football, Partially Blind Football, Women's Blind Football, Goalball (Men/Women), Judo, Powerlifting, Showdown, Ten Pin, Bowling and Tennis.
- International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA):
 - Established in 1981, the first Congress of IBSA was held at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France. It is headquartered in Bonn, Germany. It began in Great Britain in 1948 with the Stoke Mandeville Games for wounded soldiers and disabled women during World War II, famously founded by Sir Ludwig Gutmann, the father of the Paralympic movement.



Neeraj Chopra became the 1st Indian to win gold in the World Athletics Championships.

- World Athletics Championships-23 in Budapest, Hungary on 27 August 2023. In the men's javelin throw final, Neeraj Chopra won the gold medal with a throw of 88.17m.
- Neeraj not only secured his first World Championship gold medal, but also became the first Indian to achieve the feat in such a prestigious event. Along with this, the 2024 Paris Olympics berth was also secured. The qualification mark for the Olympics is 85.50m.
- Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem won the silver medal with a throw of 87.82m. Jakub Vadlejchgot of the Czech Republic won the bronze medal. In javelin throw, Kishor Jena finished fifth and DP Manu finished sixth.
- Chopra is now the 2nd Indian after shooting great Abhinav Bindra to win the Olympic and World Championship titles at the same time.
- Neeraj has gold medals at the Asian Games (2018) and the Commonwealth Games (2018), along with four individual Diamond League meeting titles (two each in 2022 and 2023) and the Diamond League champion's trophy. He also won the Junior World Championships in 2016 and the Asian Championships in 2017.
- In the women's 3000m steeplechase event, India's Parul Chowdhary finished 11th with a timing of 9:15:31. With this, he confirmed his place in Paris Olympics 2024. With this, Parul created a new national record in the women's steeplechase event.
- For the first time in history, the Indian men's team qualified for the World Athletics Championships 4x400 relay final. The Indian team consisting of Mohammad Anas Yahiya, Amoj Jacob, Mohammad Ajmal Wariyathodi and Rajesh Ramesh finished fifth in 2:59.92. While the United States won the gold, France the silver and Great Britain the bronze.



HS Prannoy won the bronze medal in BWF World Badminton Championships 2023.

- Indian badminton player HS Prannoy won the bronze medal in men's singles at the BWF World Badminton Championships 2023 after losing his semi-final match in Copenhagen, Denmark.
- He became only the 5th Indian men's singles player to win a medal at the BWF World Badminton Championships. *Kidambi Srikanth remains the only Indian to reach the men's singles final (2021) of a global event.*
- World No. 7 HS Prannoy lost to 3rd-ranked Kunlavut Witidsarn of Thailand in one hour and 16 minutes at the Royal Arena.
- PV Sindhu, who is the most successful Indian badminton player with 5 medals at the BWF World Championships, crashed out in the second round of women's singles.
- Prakash Padukone is the first Indian to win an individual medal at the World Championships. He won a bronze medal in men's singles in 1983. India's two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu is the first Indian player to win a women's singles medal at the World Championships.



National Sports Day was celebrated on August 29 to mark the birth anniversary of hockey player Major Dhyan Chand.

- National Sports Day 2023 theme is "Sports enable an inclusive and fit society".
- The first National Sports Day was celebrated on 29 August 2012 and hence this year marks the 12th anniversary of National Sports Day.
- One of India's most iconic sporting legends Major Dhyan Chand Singh who ruled the hockey world with his brilliant stick work and understanding of the game, earning him the nicknames 'Hockey Wizard' and 'The Magician'. He died on December 3, 1979.

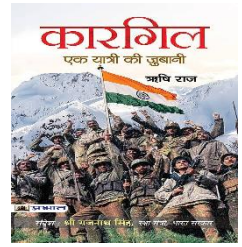


National Sports Day

BOOKS & AUTHORS

Rishi Raj's new book "Kargil: Ek Yatri ki Zubaani" released.

- Ajay Bhatt, Minister of State (MoS), Ministry of Defense (MoD) released the book and illustrations titled "Kargil: Ek Yatri Ki Zubani" (Hindi Edition) written by Rishi Raj at the Constitution Club of India, New Delhi.
- A tribute to the martyrs of the Kargil War, was published by Prabhat Prakashan. This book portrays the lives of all 527 soldiers who laid down their lives for our country in the Kargil war.
- The Kargil War, also known as "Operation Vijay", was fought between India and Pakistan from May to July 1999 in the Kargil district of Jammu and Kashmir (Jammu and Kashmir). July 26 is celebrated as 'Kargil Vijay Diwas' to remember the sacrifices made by the soldiers in this war every year.



Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan and Nirmala Sitharaman released the book Kuvi and Desiya to promote education in mother tongue in Bhubaneswar

- For the first time the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) in association with the Central University of Odisha has prepared two invaluable books Kuvi Primer and Desiya Primer for those children.



MISCELLANEOUS

UP govt launched 'CM Command Centre' in Lucknow.

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Sunday inaugurated the 'Chief Minister's Command Centre', and also the 'CM Dashboard', describing them as effective steps taken to provide timely solutions for the problems of the common people, and ensuring better implementation of government schemes.
- With the help of the Command Centre and Dashboard, the performance of officials working in the police service, municipal corporations, and development authorities, and the implementation of various government schemes, will be evaluated through monthly rankings and grades.



President Draupadi Murmu laid the foundation of 'Divine Light House' in Odisha.

- President laid the foundation stone for 'Divine Light House' of Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya at Dasabatia, Tamando near the Odisha capital and launched its theme of the year 'The Year of Positive Change' for conducting seminars and conferences.

Odisha:

- o Formation - 1 April 1936
- o Capital- Bhubaneswar
- o Governor - Ganeshi Lal
- o Chief Minister - Naveen Patnai
- o Rajya Sabha - 10 seats
- o Lok Sabha - 21 seats



Amazon India to open country's first floating store in Jammu & Kashmir's Dal Lake.

- "I Have Space", Amazon India has announced the opening of its first ever floating store in Dal Lake in Srinagar. The store should be open in a house boat and will provide deliveries to its customers every day in Srinagar.
- The 'I Have Space' programme has 28,000 neighbourhood and kirana partners in about 420 towns and cities in India. It partners with local stores and small businesses for delivering products within a 2-4 kilometres radius.



The Union govt launched "ULLAS" mobile application to promote basic literacy.

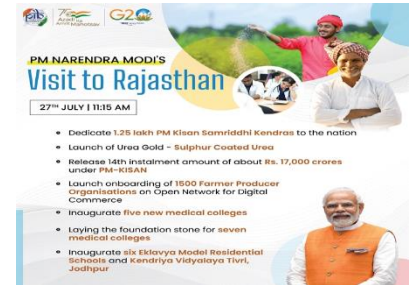
- The Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam 2023 witnessed its inauguration at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan.
- Introducing the logo, slogan – "Jan Jan Sakshar", and mobile application of the ULLAS: Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram.

- The ULLAS initiative aims to revolutionize education and literacy across the nation by fostering a comprehensive learning ecosystem that caters to every individual, bridging gaps in basic literacy and critical life skills. Its focus extends to promoting functional literacy, vocational skills and essential life skills such as financial literacy, legal literacy, digital literacy and empowerment of citizens to participate in nation-building.



PM Modi launched 'Sulfur coated' Urea for farmers.

- PM Modi dedicated 1.25 lakh PM Kisan Samriddhi Kendras (PMKSK), which are one-stop centers for farmers that will provide information on agri-inputs such as fertilisers, seeds, and implements to testing facilities for soil, seeds, and fertilisers, and information regarding various government schemes.
- PM released the 14th installment amount under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) through direct benefits transfer and **also launched Urea Gold**.
- Urea Gold is a new variety of Urea fertiliser that is coated with sulphur.
 - The use of urea gold instead of conventional urea fertiliser will address sulphur deficiencies in the soil.
 - Urea Gold fertiliser is more economical and efficient than neem-coated urea.
 - It improves efficiency of nitrogen use in plants.
 - Urea gold reduces the consumption of fertiliser, and enhances crop quality.



The Asian Development Bank will provide financial assistance of \$295 million for the "Bihar Roads Project".

- The Government of India, in partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), has launched a transformational project, the 'Bihar Roads Project' in Bihar.
- The Bihar Roads Project aims to upgrade about 265 km of state highways with climate and disaster resistant design and road safety elements.
- The Government of India and ADB have signed an agreement for a \$295 million loan to finance this infrastructure transformation.
- Since 2008, ADB has provided five loans totaling US\$1.63 billion to Bihar to upgrade approximately 1,696 km of state highways and build a new bridge over the Ganges.



Union Minister Bhupendra Yadav launched "RECEIC" in Chennai.

- In conjunction with India's G20 Presidency, Union Minister Bhupendra Yadav launched the "Resource Efficiency Circular Economy Industry Coalition (RECEIC)" at the 4th Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group and Environment and Climate Ministers' Meeting in Chennai.
- A coalition that aims to promote the practice of resource efficiency and circular economy around the world, RECEIC consists of 39 companies headquartered in 11 different countries, representing a wide variety of businesses.



Asia's highest altitude land art exhibition "SA" organized in Leh, Ladakh.

- Organized at an astonishing altitude of 3600 meters in Leh, Ladakh, focuses on the interconnection of climates.
- The initiative was initiated by Michael Paul, director of the Austrian Cultural Forum, and founded by Ladakhi mountaineer Tenzing 'Jamie' Jamyang, Austrian Sri Lankan artist Rakee Nikhetia and Indian designer Sagardeep Singh.
- SA Ladakh honors India's G20 Presidency with "One Earth, One Family, One Future". The exhibition is supported by partners including LAMO, Royal Enfield, Snapchat, Pluc.tv, Let Me Breathe, Australian Cultural Forum, Embassies of Germany and Switzerland in India, Local Futures and Crashpad, among others.



“Art Exhibition of G-20 Countries” inaugurated in Bihar Museum.

- The 2-month-long “Art Exhibition of G-20 Countries” with the theme “Together We Art” in Bihar was inaugurated on 7 August 2023 at Bihar Museum, Patna.
- Apart from India, artists from 28 member countries are participating in it.
- Together We art is based on the theme of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', a concept from the Maha Upanishad.



Indian Govt gave financial assistance of Rs. 45 Crore to Sri Lanka’s “Digital Identity Project.”

- Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe
- The unique digital identity project holds immense promise for Sri Lanka, as it aims to revolutionize the country's administrative infrastructure and pave the way for more streamlined and efficient service delivery to its citizens. The generous financial aid from India underscores the unwavering commitment of the neighboring nation to support Sri Lanka's journey toward a digitally empowered future.



Country's 1st Unity Mall to be built in Ujjain.

- 1st Unity Mall will be built in Ujjain in the state of Madhya Pradesh. 284 crore has been sanctioned by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India for its construction.
- This approval has been given under the Government of India's “Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment Scheme 2023-24”.
- Unity Mall will act as a one stop market place for promotion and sale of One District One Product, GI Products, Handicraft Products and other local products.
- There will be shops to display products from all the districts of the state. Major products from other states will also be available in Unity Mall. There will also be an auditorium, food stall and garden. It is noteworthy that one Unity Mall is to be constructed in each state. Madhya Pradesh has got the first approval from the Government of India.
- In 2018, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the One District, One Product scheme. Impressed by this scheme of the state, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced plans to expand one district and one product scheme across the country.



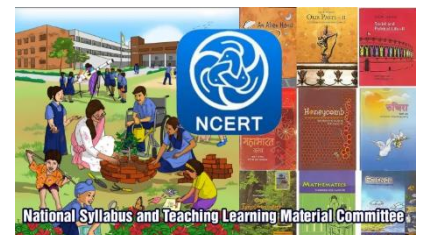
The post office of Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir got the title of India’s 1st post office.

- The post office of Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir pin code 193224 is located on the banks of the Kishanganga River, the Line of Actual Control (LoC) in the Kupwara district of Jammu and Kashmir, across which lies the Pakistan-occupied territory.
- Earlier, the **village Mana** on the India-China border in Chamoli, Uttarakhand, which was earlier known as the last Indian village, is now being addressed as the '**1st Indian village**'.
- National flag on world's highest railway bridge: In connection with the "Mari Mati Mera Desh" campaign in Jammu and Kashmir, the Reasi district administration **hoisted the national flag on the world's highest railway bridge in the district**. Reasi's District Development Commissioner Babila Rakwal hoisted the tricolor on the Chenab bridge at a height of 415 meters from the Chenab river bed.



NCERT constitutes a 19 member panel for textbook revision in India.

- The central government has formed a committee to initiate the final phase of the process of revising school syllabus and developing new NCERT textbooks. Many educationists, economists and experts are involved in this National Curriculum and Teaching Material Committee.
- Mahesh Chandra Pant has been made the chairman of this 19- member committee. He is the Chancellor of the National Institute of Education and Planning in Administration. Co-chairmanship has been assigned to Professor Manjul Bhargava of Princeton University.



- The committee includes author and philanthropist Sudha Murthy, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) chairman Bibek Debroy, EAC-PM member Sanjeev Sanyal, RSS ideologue Chamu Krishna Shastri and singer Shankar Mahadevan.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi mentioned Kachchatheevu island in his speech in Parliament during the discussion on the no-confidence motion.

- Hitting out at Rahul Gandhi for his Bharat Mata remark, Modi said it was the Indira Gandhi government which had given Kachchatheevu to Sri Lanka in 1974.
- More recently, ahead of Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe's visit to New Delhi, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin wrote to PM Modi requesting him to reclaim the island.
- Kachchatheevu is an uninhabited offshore island in the Pak Strait. The island is situated between Neduntheevu, Sri Lanka and Rameshwaram, India. It was formed due to a volcanic eruption in the 14th century.
- The 285 acres of land was jointly administered by India and Sri Lanka during British rule. The Raja of Ramnad (present-day Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu) owned the island of Kachchatheevu and later became part of the Madras Presidency.
- "Indo-Sri Lankan Maritime Agreement":
- In 1921, both Sri Lanka and India claimed this piece of land for fishing and the dispute remained unresolved. After Indian independence, the country began to resolve pre-independence territorial disputes between Ceylon and the British.
- The issue emerged when the two countries signed four maritime boundary agreements between 1974–76. In 1974, Indira Gandhi **surrendered** Kachchatheevu to Sri Lanka under the 'Indo-Sri Lankan Maritime Agreement'.



CSIR-NBRI launches unique Lotus variety 'Namoh 108'

- CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute (CSIR-NBRI) launched an extraordinary variety of the national flower Lotus, named "Namoh 108". This unique flower has 108 petals and was dedicated to the nation on the eve of Independence Day.
- The unveiling took place during NBRI's week-long festival 'One Week One Lab Programme' in Lucknow, with CSIR Director General N Kalaiselvi leading the event.
- The 'Namoh 108' lotus variety has been developed from a plant from Manipur. It is the 1st Lotus variety to have its genome completely sequenced. This plant will never become extinct or endangered. It is the longest flowering variety as compared to other varieties.
- Also, unveiled 'NBRI-NIHAR' variant of Aloe vera. This exceptional variety shows an astonishing 2.5 times increase in gel yield compared to conventional Aloe vera plants. Notably, it also exhibits remarkable resistance to bacterial and fungal diseases.



AWEIL Kanpur to launch India's first long range revolver "Prabal"

- State-owned company **Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited** (AWEIL), headquartered in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, launched '**PRABAL**', India's 1st long-range Revolver.
- Designed and manufactured by AWEIL, this lightweight 32 bore revolver boasts of an exceptional range, capable of accurately hitting targets up to 50 meters away.
- Weighing only 700 grams (excluding cartridges), with a barrel length of 76 mm and an overall length of 177.6 mm, it is expertly designed to facilitate rough use.



Threat of Black Death looms after two more cases of bubonic plague in China.

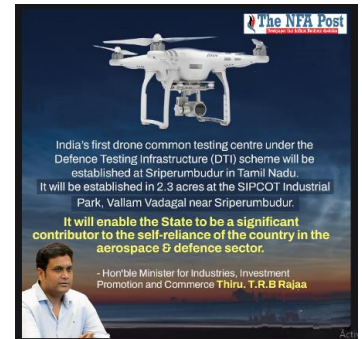
- There is a stir after two more cases of bubonic plague were found in Inner Mongolia, the northern region of China. According to the Chinese government, both these new cases have been found in the same family where the first case was found on August 7, 2023.
- This plague infection is spread by rats. Here, according to WHO, bubonic plague is caused by the bite of an infected flea.
- According to WHO, 'Bubonic plague is the most common form of plague, but it can turn into a very dangerous epidemic.

- In the 14th century, it was called the 'Great Pestilence' or 'Great Death' because of the demographic devastation caused by the epidemic. The term Black Death refers to the bubonic plague that spread through Western Asia, North Africa, the Middle East and Europe in 1346–53.
- disease that is caused by bacterial infection. In the Middle Ages it was known as the Black Death. The main reason for this is the bacteria called plague. It is caused by infection with a specific type of bacteria, *Yersinia pestis*.



India's 1st drone test center to be set up at Sriperumbudur in Tamil Nadu.

- The country's first common test center for unmanned aerial systems (drones) will be set up in Tamil Nadu at a cost of Rs 45 crore. The facility will be set up over 2.3 acres at the Tamil Nadu State Industries Promotion Corporation (SIPCOT) Industrial Park at Vallam Vadagal near Sriperumbudur. Such an integrated facility is available only with DRDO at Chitradurga, Karnataka for its own use.
- Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) is the nodal agency for implementing the Tamil Nadu Defense Industrial Corridor (TNDIC).
- A consortium of companies such as Keltron, Sense Image Technologies, Standards Testing & Compliance and Avishka Retailers were selected based on their response to a transparent bidding process to partner with TIDCO to set up the facility.



Country's 1st 'Night Street Racing Circuit' established in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

- The Government of Tamil Nadu and Racing Promotion Pvt Ltd (RRPL) have launched a new street circuit in Chennai with an investment of Rs 42 crore. The 3.5 km track will be located around the Island Ground and will be the **first street circuit in India and South Asia to host a night race**.
- The Tamil Nadu government launched Chennai this Formula racing circuit which will host India's first night street circuit race - Formula 4 Indian Championship and Indian Racing League on 9-10 December later this year.



IT major Wipro has launched a Center of Excellence on Generative Artificial Intelligence in partnership with the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT Delhi).

- The center has been set up on the campus of Yardi School of Artificial Intelligence at IIT Delhi, and this Center of Excellence (CoE) will support applied research in Generative AI.
- Wipro AI360 is part of the company's \$1 billion commitment to accelerate AI-led innovation as part of the ecosystem.
- Wipro's AI 360 initiative is set to harness the expertise of nearly 30,000 Wipro professionals specializing in data analytics and AI, spread across four global business segments, along with Wipro's technical and advisory ecosystem.



India's 1st 3D printed post office building inaugurated in Bengaluru.

- Union Minister of Railways, Communications and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnav inaugurated India's first 3D printed post office building in Bengaluru. A 3D printed post office, the first of its kind in India, is located at Cambridge Layout in East Bengaluru. Originally targeted to be ready in 45 days, the work was completed in 43 days.
- This Dak Bhawan in Bengaluru has used 3D printing technology with technical knowhow from IIT Madras and Larsen & Toubro. It is the first commercial building to use 3D printing technology. It has a built up area of 1,000 sq.ft. 3D printing technology enables cost savings of 30-40% compared to traditional manufacturing methods.



ADB approves \$40.5 million loan for early childhood development and maternal mental health in Meghalaya.

- The state government is contributing \$15.27 million to the project.
- The project will strengthen home based child care (0-1.5 years old children) and centre-based child care (1.5-6 years old) through daycare (Anganwadi) centers in Meghalaya.
- The project aims to improve access to foster care, including a component of maternal mental health care and group-based parenting programs to include fathers in care.
- ADB's assistance will also improve nutrient adequacy by including eggs in the diet of pregnant and lactating women and children aged 0.5-6 years. The project will also help in setting up nutrition gardens in Anganwadi Centers (AWCs) for better dietary diversity and nutritional security.
- The ADB-backed project will upgrade 1,800 anganwadi centers and build nearly 600 new anganwadi centers in hard-to-reach areas with climate-resilient designs.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a regional development bank. It was established on December 19, 1966. ADB is headquartered in Manila, Philippines.



MP government to revive 100 years old musical heritage “Maihar Band”.

- Madhya Pradesh's Culture, Tourism and Religious Trust and Religious Affairs Minister Sushri Usha Thakur said that the 100-year-old musical heritage Maihar Band will be revived in the state.
- Maihar Band will be operated in the name of 'Maihar Band Gurukul' on the basis of Guru-disciple tradition. Gurukul will give training to 150 prisoners of Baba Ustad Alauddin Khan. In the Gurukul operated in Maihar Sangeet Mahavidyalaya Bhavan, Maihar, trainees will be able to get training in all the instruments used in Maihar Orchestra.
- Maihar Band, a unique instrument in the field of musical art, is a unique example of musical tradition, which is the first state in the country to revive and preserve the ancient tradition of music.
- The training session in Gurukul will be of maximum 2 years. A stipend of Rs 10,000 per month will be given to the trainees during the training period. Five retired musicians of Maihar Band will be given an honorarium of Rs 37,500 for training. In the initial session, 20 trainees will be selected and trained.



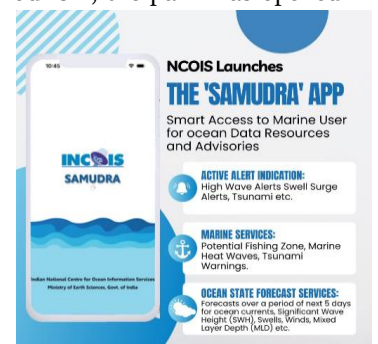
Srinagar's Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden enters the “World Book of Records” as Asia's largest garden with 1.5 million flowers.

- Nestled amidst the picturesque foothills of the Zabarwan Range, the Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden has entered the World Book of Records (London) as the largest and most spectacular park of its kind in Asia.
- The garden, adorned with a mesmerizing variety of 1.5 million blooming flowers of 68 distinct tulip varieties, stands as a living testimony to the beauty and diversity of nature.
- The conception of this park is associated with the visionary aspirations of Ghulam Nabi Azad, former Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir in 2006. According to Srinagar Tourism, the park was opened in 2007 with the aim of promoting floriculture and tourism in the Kashmir Valley.
- The Tulip Garden is located in Srinagar between Dal Lake and Zabarwan hills and is spread over 30 hectares. Apart from the beautiful display of tulips, the garden, formerly known as Siraj Bagh, has other spring flowers such as hyacinths, daffodils, muscari and cyclamen.



INCOIS launches 'Samudra' mobile app for seafarers and fishermen.

- The Indian National Center for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), has come up with a new mobile application 'Samudra' - smart access for marine users to ocean data resources and advisories.



- The mobile app empowers users with real-time updates and critical alerts on marine disasters such as tsunamis, storm surges, high waves and surge waves, helping individuals and communities to stay informed and take necessary precautions.
- This will be particularly beneficial to the fishing community as it disseminates Potential Fishing Zone (PFZ) advisories that will guide them to potential fish aggregation locations.
- INCOIS is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Earth Sciences. It is located in Hyderabad which was established in the year 1999.

Indian Scorpene Submarine 'INS Vagir' sets record for longest deployment by any Scorpene class submarine.

- Indian Navy submarine, INS Vagir has created history by achieving an impressive milestone – it now holds the record for the longest deployment by any Scorpene class submarine. Its deployment took place in June 2023.
- The submarine covered a distance of a little over 7,000 kilometers or 4,000 nautical miles in its journey to Australia to participate in joint military exercises. Vagir has been underway since its stop in Sri Lanka on the International Day of Yoga, surfacing every three-four days again to recharge the batteries.
- For the first time, an Indian Scorpene-class submarine has entered Australian waters, reflecting the growing cooperation between the Indian Navy and the Royal Australian Navy in enhancing maritime security and defense strategies. INS Vagir is participating in Exercise Malabar (11-21 August) and Exercise Ausindex (22-24 August) in Australia.
- Belonging to the initial group of six Kalvari-class submarines built for the Indian Navy, INS Vagir (S25) is the fifth in the line. This diesel electric attack submarine comes from the renowned Scorpene class, a creation of French naval defense and energy leader, Naval Group, and developed by Mazagon Dock Limited, a prestigious Indian shipyard based in Mumbai, Maharashtra.



US FDA approves “Abrisvo”, the 1st vaccine to protect against respiratory syncytial virus in infants.

- It protects newborns from respiratory syncytial virus called RSV.
- The vaccine, made by Pfizer, is given to mothers at the end of pregnancy and provides protection for babies during the first 6 months of life.
- It is given between 32 to 36 weeks of pregnancy. The company is also studying the vaccine in high-risk children aged 2 to 18 and adults aged 18 to 60.
- Infants face a constant threat from RSV, which often results in lower respiratory tract diseases (LRTDs) such as bronchiolitis and pneumonia.
- The most critical period for RSV related health problems usually occurs within the first three months of life.



Dr Jitendra Singh launched the 1st indigenous e-tractor “CSIR PRIMA ET11” developed by CMERI, Durgapur.

- ‘CSIR PRIMA ET11’ developed by Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI), Durgapur, West Bengal.
- CSIR-CMERI will celebrate a theme based campaign “One Week One Lab” from 11-15 September 2023, showcasing the laboratory's cutting-edge research, products and technologies, expertise and facilities to various stakeholders.



“Temple Museum” to be established in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh.

- Temple museum in Ayodhya, to showcase the architectural heritage and scientific elements of Indian temples. The aim of this museum will be to tell the glorious history of Hindu temples and make people aware about them.
- It has been envisaged with an aim to educate the younger generation about the logic behind the construction of temples at specific sites as well as the underlying philosophy that guided their construction.



- It includes an insight into the technological progress of ancient India, the role of temples in worship, educational institutions like 'Maths' and 'Peethams' and the exploration of the architectural brilliance displayed by many temples.

BHEL manufactures India's first catalyst set to limit NOx emissions from power plants.

- Public sector engineering company Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has successfully completed the manufacturing of the first set of indigenous '**Selective Catalyst Reactor**' (SCR). This will help the company limit NOx emissions from thermal power plants. This system helps in emission control.
- BHEL's Director (Industrial Systems & Products) Renuka Gera flagged off the first set of indigenous SCR catalysts from the company's solar business division in Bengaluru for the five x 800 MW Yadadri thermal power station in Telangana.
- Coal combustion converts nitrogen into products such as nitric oxide (NO), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and nitrous oxide (N₂O). These products are collectively called nitrogen oxides (NO_x). They spread pollution.



First 'ABDM microsite' launched by National Health Authority in Mizoram.

- National Health Authority (NHA) had announced 100 microsites projects for rapid adoption of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) across the country.
- On 23 August 2023, Mizoram became the 1st state in India to operate an ABDM microsite in its capital Aizawl.
- Under this, all health facilities including private clinics, small hospitals and laboratories in the region will be made ABDM-enabled and digital health services will be provided to patients.
- The concept of microsites was envisaged to provide a strong impetus to the healthcare digitization efforts across the country. Digitization of health services can help us achieve our goal of universal health coverage.
- Patients will be able to link the health records generated at these facilities with their Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts (ABHA) and view and share these records using any ABDM-enabled Personal Health Record (PHR) application on their phones.



Russian Minin University to set up its study center at CCSU, Meerut.

- Minin Pedagogical University of Russia will set up its study center in Chaudhary Charan Singh University (CCSU) in September 2023. The study center will teach Russian language and culture to 250 students free of cost over a period of six months.
- Minin University is a state university in Russia. It is a nonprofit public higher education institution located in the urban setting of the Nizhny Novgorod metropolis and was established in 1911.
- Minin University has taken responsibility for setting up the study center's infrastructure and faculty from Russia will teach Russian language, literature and culture to the students. Some value added courses will also be designed.
- Chaudhary Charan Singh University (Meerut University) was established in 1965 to meet the needs of higher education in western Uttar Pradesh.



Online grocery delivery startup Zepto becomes the first Indian unicorn of 2023.

- Online grocery delivery startup Zepto has successfully raised \$200 million in Series-E funding round, achieving a valuation of \$1.4 billion.
- The funding was led by Stepstone Group, a US-based private market investment firm, and is Stepstone Group's first direct investment in an Indian company. This included California-based VC firm, Goodwater Capital, and existing investors Nexus Venture Partners Glade Brook Capital, Lachey Groom and others.
- Zepto operates in the instant commerce sector, delivering a range of over 6,000 grocery products within just 10 minutes through its network of delivery centers across the country.
- Currently, the company operates over 200 dark stores across major cities including Bengaluru, Mumbai, Delhi, Gurugram, Noida, Ghaziabad, Hyderabad, Chennai, Pune and Kolkata.



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