

Weekly Current Affairs PDF August 06 to August 12, 2023

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NATIONAL

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

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

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

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

Strategic Steps to Achieve the 2030 Target

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

6. Promotion of Bio-CNG through SATAT: The Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) initiative takes center stage in promoting Bio-CNG, a sustainable and eco-friendly alternative for transportation fuel.

Govt moves to overhaul British-era criminal laws

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

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Elephant Day 2023: 12th August

- World Elephant Day, observed globally on August 12, is a significant event dedicated to raising awareness about the pressing challenges faced by elephants and advocating for their protection and conservation. This observance serves as a vital platform to highlight issues such as habitat loss, ivory poaching, human-elephant conflicts, and the urgent need for improved conservation efforts.
- This occasion aims to promote the importance of safeguarding these magnificent creatures for future generations and to encourage actions that contribute to their welfare and survival. It's a day to appreciate the vital role elephants play in maintaining ecosystems, as well as to support organizations and initiatives that work towards their preservation. From date to history here is everything you need to know about this day.

International Youth Day 2023: 12th August

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

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

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

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

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

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

Category	Winner
Jury Awards	
Best Documentary	To Kill A Tiger
Best India Film	Agra
Best Performance in Film (MALE)	Mohit Aggarwal for Agra
Best Performance in a film (FEMALE)	Rani Mukerji for Mrs Chatterjee Vs Norway
Best Director	Prithvi Konnur – Hadineentu (Seventeeners)
Best Film	Sita Ramam
Best Performance (MALE) in a Series	Vijay Varma for Dashaad
Best Performance (FEMALE) in a series	Rajshri Deshpande for Trial By Fire
Best Series	Jubilee
Best Short Film – People's Choice	Connection Kya Hai by Nilesh Malik
Best Short Film – Australia	Home by Mark Russel Bernard
Honourary Awards	
Equality in Cinema Award	Darlings
People's Choice Award	Pathaan
Award to Karan Johar	For his 25 years as a filmmaker
Rising Global Superstar of Indian Cinema	Kartik Aaryan
Diversity in Cinema Award	Mrunal Thakur
Disruptor Award	Shumi Pednekar
Rainbow Stories Award	Onir for Pine Cone

BOOKS & AUTHOR

Indian Poet-Diplomat Abhay Kumar Unveils "Monsoon"

- Indian –poet –diplomat Abhay Kumar (Abhay K), Deputy Director General of Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR), launched his new book titled “Monsoon: A Poem of Love and Longing”, a book-length poem running across 150 fourline stanzas, at Kathika Culture Centre in Old Delhi,

Delhi. The book was published by Sahitya Akademi on the occasion of its 68th anniversary (13th March 2022). The book is a poem that follows the monsoon which originates from Madagascar and travels to the Srinagar in the Himalayas and back to Madagascar.

- In the preface to *Monsoon: A Poem of Love and Longing*, the poet traces how he came to write a love poem that connects India and Madagascar. One of Abhay K's books is a translation of Kalidasa's *Meghaduta* into English. So, this preoccupation with topos – topography, so to say – remains firmly in the poet's oeuvre.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

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

- In a recent mid-year macroeconomic review, the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) has forecasted that India's economic growth will likely decelerate to 6% in the financial year 2023-24 (FY24), down from the 7.2% recorded in FY23. This projected slowdown is attributed to prevailing headwinds in the global economy. The NIPFP analysis takes into consideration various economic indicators and trends, offering valuable insights into the potential trajectory of India's economy.
- The review highlights a robust industrial sector performance in the first quarter (Q1), particularly in the construction and consumer non-durables segments.
- However, the agricultural sector's growth remained subdued, and the services sector experienced sluggish growth during the same period.

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

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

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INTERNATIONAL

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

- In a move towards gender inclusivity and leadership diversity, Khoun Sudary is set to assume the esteemed role of President of the National Assembly of Cambodia.
- Currently serving as the second Vice-President of the National Assembly and a prominent member of the Standing Committee of the Cambodian People's Party

(CPP), Khuon Sudary's ascent to the presidency reflects her years of dedication and service to her nation.

- The announcement was made by Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen, emphasizing the commitment to empowering women in pivotal roles within the government.

NATIONAL

Government forms new panel to review all NSO data

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

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

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

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

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

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

- To celebrate World Lion Day, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel of Gujarat introduced a new mobile application called 'Sinh Suchna'.
- The launch event, held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, signifies a significant step towards modern wildlife conservation, enabling both the state's forest department and the general public to effectively monitor lion movements.
- The 'Sinh Suchna' app empowers individuals to directly report lion sightings to the forest department. This innovative approach facilitates real-time tracking and swift conflict resolution.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Pluckk signs on Kareena Kapoor Khan as investor, brand ambassador

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

BANKING AND ECONOMY

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

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

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

- AU Small Finance Bank, the largest small finance bank in India, has taken a remarkable step forward in customer service with the launch of their innovative 24x7 video banking platform.
- This pioneering service enables customers to engage in face-to-face video interactions with expert bankers, akin to video calls. This move redefines convenience, as it provides round-the-clock support, even during weekends and holidays.

- AU's 24x7 Video Banking transcends the limitations of physical infrastructure, bridging gaps in service provision. The platform is particularly beneficial to regions with limited resources, extending vital banking services to previously underserved areas.

RBI imposes monetary penalty on 4 co-operative banks

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

RBI proposes AI-powered 'Conversational Payments' via UPI

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently unveiled a trio of groundbreaking initiatives poised to revolutionize the digital payments landscape in India through the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and UPI Lite.
- This innovative feature empowers users to engage in transactions by conversing with an AI-powered system, ensuring safety and security throughout the process.
- Acknowledging the evolving needs of users, the RBI has raised the transaction limit for UPI Lite from Rs 200 to Rs 500, aiming to facilitate more substantial and convenient transactions. In a move to bolster the adoption of UPI Lite, the RBI is introducing offline payments using Near Field Communication (NFC) technology.

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INTERNATIONAL

Pakistan parliament dissolved to set stage for national election

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

NATIONAL

Number of elephants in Karnataka has gone up by 346

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

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

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

ISB inks MoU with Goa government for knowledge partnership

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

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

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

- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) approved the appointment of Amit Jhingran as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer for SBI Life Insurance Company Limited.
- Amit Jhingran has over three decades of experience in the insurance sector and serves as the Assistant General Manager of the Hyderabad Circle.
- He joined the company in 1991 as a probationary officer and has been with SBI Life since then. Amit Jhingran had also held the post of CEO of SBI, Chicago.

RANKING

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

- The Srinagar district has become the highest-performing district under the Jal Jeevan Survekshan (JJS-2023), outshining 114 Har Ghar Jal certified villages across India.

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

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

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

State	Beneficiary Rank	Beneficiary Count	Fiscal year	Scheme Impact
Bihar	1 st	84, 89,231 individuals	2022-23	Exemplary success underscores scheme triumph, inclusive growth
Uttar Pradesh	2 nd	68, 08,721 individuals	2022-23	Penetration in populous regions, financial stability, self-sufficiency
Tamil nadu	3 rd	64,06,513 individuals	2022-23	Impact in developed economic landscape widespread scheme reach

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

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

Rank	Country	Internet Resilience Index (IRI) Ranking
1	Bhutan	58 percent
2	Bangladesh	51 percent

3	Maldives	50 percent
4	Sri Lanka	47 percent
5	Nepal	43 percent

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Airtel Payments Bank Launches Eco-Friendly Debit Card

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

Pentagon considers Australia as testing ground for advanced weapons

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

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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

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

OBITUARY

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

- Renowned American filmmaker William Friedkin, known for directing iconic movies like "The Exorcist" and "The French Connection," has passed away at the age of 87.
- Friedkin had been residing in Los Angeles and had been facing various undisclosed health challenges in the past few years, according to Stephen Galloway, a former executive editor at the Hollywood Reporter.
- AFP reported that director Guillermo del Toro took the forefront in honouring William Friedkin, by hailing him as "one of the Gods of Cinema."

Renowned Malayalam director, screenwriter Siddique Ismail passes away

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

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Nagasaki Day

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

International Day Of The World's Indigenous Peoples

- Annually, on August 9th, the world observes World Tribal Day, dedicated to advocating for and safeguarding the rights of indigenous populations.
- It's a day to recognize their valuable contributions and accomplishments that have enhanced global living conditions.

- Also referred to as World Indigenous Day or International Day of World's Indigenous People, this occasion offers a prime opportunity to actively work towards safeguarding the fundamental rights of tribal communities worldwide.
- History - In December 1994, the United Nations General Assembly decided that the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples should be observed on August 9th each year. The date was chosen in recognition of the first meeting of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights held in Geneva in 1982.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

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

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

India, Vietnam holds 5th Joint Trade Sub-Commission meeting in New Delhi

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

BANKING AND ECONOMY

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

- Bajaj Finance has partnered with ICICI Lombard General Insurance (<https://www.bajajfinserv.in/insurance/icicilombard>) along with other partners to provide car and two-wheeler insurance plans (/topic/two-wheeler-insurance-plans) on the platform Bajaj Finance Insurance Mall. These policies can be bought instantly on the platform through an all-digital and seamless customer experience journey.

- The ICICI Lombard Car and Two-wheeler Insurance policies offer comprehensive damage coverage, including third-party cover and various add-on benefits to vehicle owners. These policies provide extensive coverage against various risks and damages to vehicles.

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INTERNATIONAL

New Covid variant Eris spreading rapidly in UK

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

Cambodian king appoints Hun Manet as new PM

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

NATIONAL

GOI approved Rs 1.39 lakh cr for connecting 6.4 lakh villages with broadband

- The Union Cabinet has approved the final phase of the last-mile optical fiber-based broadband connectivity plan, covering 6.4 lakh villages across India under the BharatNet project. This initiative is supported by a budget of Rs 1.39 lakh crore.
- Through this enhancement, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) seeks to accelerate the endeavor of linking all 6.4 lakh villages within the upcoming two and a half years. The ongoing progress has seen nearly 1.94 lakh villages already integrated into the BharatNet project.
- BBNL (Bharat Broadband Network Limited) will provide customer premise equipment and additional fibre required for connecting homes while local entrepreneurs have been tasked with maintaining the network.

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

- As part of the flagship Godhan Nyay Yojna (GNY) initiated by the Chhattisgarh government, Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel conducted online transfers exceeding Rs

15 crore to support cattle rearers, women's self-help groups (SHGs), and 'gauthan' committees.

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

SPORTS

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

- India ended their 2023 World Cadet Wrestling Championships, meant for under-17 grapplers, with a total of 11 medals, including a gold, at Istanbul, Turkey.
- Savita, who entered the event as the defending champion, won the only gold medal for India at Istanbul in the women's 61kg weight division.
- India finished sixth in the men's freestyle and fourth in men's Greco-Roman team rankings as well. However, it was the women's freestyle where India shone best by finishing third, only behind Japan and USA, with 118 points in the team rankings.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

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

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

IMPORTANT DAYS

Quit India Movement Day: 8th August

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

BANKING AND ECONOMY

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

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

Current Affairs PDF- August 07, 2023

INTERNATIONAL

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

- Based on the recommendations of the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), the revenue department has imposed an anti-dumping duty on Dispersion Unshifted Single-Mode Optical Fiber (SMOF) imports from China, South Korea and Indonesia.
- As reported by the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), the domestic optical fiber industry has experienced detrimental consequences due to the surge of inexpensive and substandard imports from these nations. In response to these challenges, the Finance Ministry has introduced anti-dumping duties on specific optical fiber imports originating from these countries, aiming to address the adverse impacts on the domestic industry resulting from the influx of such dumped imports.

NATIONAL

Prime Minister launches Amrit Bharat Station Scheme in 13 railway stations

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

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

- On 7 August 2023, a special art exhibition dedicated to the G-20 member countries in Bihar titled "Together We Art" will open at the Bihar Museum in Patna.

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

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

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

SPORTS

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

- Prarthana Thombare has clinched the doubles title at the women's tennis hardcourt event in Barcelona, Spain. The Asian Games bronze medallist, combined with Russian Anastasia Tikhonova, edged out France's Estelle Cascino and Latvia's Diana Marcinkevica 3-6, 6-1, 10-7 in the final. It is the second title of the year and 26th overall for Prarthana, who bagged bronze with Sania Mirza in 2014 at Incheon.
- Siddhant Banthia and Sai Karteek Reddy won their second title this season in ITF men's event in Astana, Kazakhstan. They defeated Estonia's Daniil Glinka and Karl Kiur Saar 7-5, 6-7, 10-4 to lift the trophy in the hard-court event. It is the first crown for both the players who had triumphed in their first appearance as a team in an event in Jakarta in June.

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

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

views. The series is expected to rake in huge popularity as it focusses on the successful journey of athletes.

OBITUARY

Telangana folk singer Gaddar passes away at 77,

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

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Handloom Day: India

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

National Javelin Day: India

- August 7 is celebrated as National Javelin Day in India. The Athletics Federation of India, the apex body for the athletics in India, took the decision to celebrate August 7 as the National Javelin Day to commemorate Neeraj Chopra's historic gold medal during the Tokyo Olympics.
- It was on August 7 2021, that Chopra hurled javelin at a distance of 87.58m during the men's Javelin Throw final of the Tokyo Games to win the gold medal. Chopra scripted history as it was India's first-ever gold medal in Track and Field events in Olympics. With the gold medal at Tokyo, Chopra also became the second individual gold medalist from India after Abhinav Bindra's gold-medal winning performance at the 2008 Beijing Games.

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

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the 9th National Handloom Day celebration today Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, Delhi. During the programme,

Mr Modi also launch the e-portal of 'Bhartiya Vastra evam Shilp Kosh' - a Repository of Textiles and Crafts that has been developed by the National Institute of Fashion Technology NIFT.

- In a tweet, Mr Modi underlined the significance of the occasion in reinforcing the nation's dedication to promote indigenous textiles and handlooms in line with the 'Vocal For Local' initiative
- The program was attended by over 3000 handloom and khadi weavers, artisans and stakeholders from the textile and MSME sectors. It brought together handloom clusters across India, NIFT campuses.

Current Affairs PDF- August 06, 2023

INTERNATIONAL

India receives Spike NLOS missiles from Israel, firing trials shortly

- In a boost to its capabilities to destroy enemy targets hidden behind mountains, the Indian Air Force (IAF) has received the Israeli Spike Non Line of Sight (NLOS) antitank guided missiles which can hit targets from distances up to 30 km.
- The Israeli Spike NLOS anti-tank guided missiles have been delivered and its trials are going to be held soon,
- The NLOS missiles are now going to be integrated with the Russian-origin fleet of Mi-17V5 helicopters which would be able to take out targets from long ranges and can prove to be very effective against enemy targets and assets hidden behind mountains or hills, the sources added.

NATIONAL

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

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

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

- Union Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah today said that the cooperative movement cannot progress without transparency and the digital portal will serve that purpose. He asserted that the digital portal would be useful in promoting cooperative-based

economic progress, as well as strengthening the cooperative movement in the country. Mr. Shah was speaking in Pune after launching the digital portal of the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies today.

- Praising Maharashtra's contribution in the cooperative sector Mr. Shah further said that Maharashtra is capital of the cooperative sector. He urged every cooperative sugar industry in the state to emphasize on production of ethanol.

SPORTS

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

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

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

- England batter Alex Hales has announced his retirement from international cricket with immediate effect.
- Hales' three-year England exile for failing a recreational drugs test came to an end in late 2022 when he was added to his country's T20 World Cup squad as a replacement for the injured Jonny Bairstow.
- The 34-year-old scored 212 runs in the tournament, with a best of 86 not out against India in the semi-finals, as England won the trophy but has now decided to focus on domestic white-ball cricket with Nottinghamshire and in franchise leagues across the world.
- Alex Hales played 156 times for England across the formats, featuring in 70 one-day internationals, 75 T20 internationals and 11 Tests; batter returned from three-year international exile last year to help England win the T20 World Cup in Australia, scoring 212 runs with a best of 86.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Hiroshima Day

- On 6th August 1945, the world witnessed the most devastating events in human history when the United States dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. This act resulted in the loss of thousands of innocent lives and forever altered the course of humanity. Since, then August 6th has been observed as Hiroshima Day, a solemn occasion to commemorate the victims and reflect on the

horrors of nuclear warfare. 6th August 2023, 78th Hiroshima Day, holds a significant position in the history.

- Hiroshima, a city of cultural significance, was instantly transformed into a haunting landscape of death and destruction in the blink of an eye. The atomic bomb, named 'Little Boy', killed an estimated 140,000 people by the end of 1945, either directly or through the subsequent effects of radiation. Most of the people suffered severe injuries and the survivors endured lifelong health issues.
- The tragedy of Hiroshima serves as a stark reminder of the consequences of unchecked aggression and the devastating potential of nuclear weapons.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

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

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

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

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