

Weekly Current Affairs PDF 13 to 19 August 2023

Current Affairs PDF- August 19, 2023

NATIONAL

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

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

Chairman, Central Water Commission Launches Mobile App

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

G20 Film Festival kicks off in Delhi with Pather Panchali screening

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

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

SPORTS

AFI chief Adille Sumariwalla elected to World Athletics Executive Board

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

OBITURY

Academician, rights activist Deven Dutta passes away

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

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Parminder Chopra takes over as CMD of PFC

- Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has appointed Parminder Chopra as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD); she becomes the first woman to lead India's largest NBFC. Chopra assumed the top job at the power sector lender with effect from August 14,

2023. She earlier held additional charge as CMD from June 1, and was Director (Finance) from July 1, 2020. She also played a key role in the successful implementation of a Rs 1.12 lakh crore Liquidity Infusion Scheme (LIS) for the power distribution sector, which was rolled out as part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

- Chopra has over 35 years of experience in the power and financial sector. At PFC, she has headed key finance functions, including resource mobilisation (domestic and international markets), banking, treasury, asset liability management and stressed asset resolution.
- Her prior experience includes stints in power sector majors such as NHPC and Power Grid Corporation of India.
- Under her leadership, PFC has increased funding to clean energy projects, including funding of electric vehicles, bio-fuels, hybrid renewables like Round The Clock, renewable equipment manufacturing, and recently signed MoUs with clean energy developers worth Rs 2.40 lakh crore, to emerge a principal financier of clean energy projects.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Photography Day 2023: 19th August

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

BANKING AND ECONOMY

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

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

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

Axis Bank partners with RBI innovation hub to launch KCCs

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

RBI launched UDAM portal: You can get unclaimed bank deposits with ease now

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

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INTERNATIONAL

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

- India's collaboration with Russia's Arctic region is on the rise, evidenced by its substantial contribution to cargo handled at Murmansk port. This strategic port,

positioned about 2,000 km northwest of Moscow, serves as a key northern gateway for Russia, and in the first seven months of 2023, it handled a total of eight million tonnes of cargo. Notably, India's share accounted for 35% of this cargo, primarily consisting of coal destined for the eastern coast of India.

- India emerges as a significant player in the cargo operations of Murmansk port, responsible for 35% of the handled cargo. This impressive figure underscores India's economic and trade connections with the Arctic region.
- India's engagement extends to the Northern Sea Route (NSR), a crucial shipping pathway connecting the Asia-Pacific region and western Eurasia. The NSR offers a shorter route than traditional alternatives, enhancing the efficiency and safety of maritime transport.

NATIONAL

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

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

SPORTS

Wahab Riaz announces international retirement to focus on franchise cricket

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

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

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

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

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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

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

OBITURY

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

- Michael Parkinson, the seasoned British chat show host renowned for his conversations with notable personalities, has passed away at the age of 88. His

family said that he peacefully departed at his residence after a brief period of illness.

- Hailing from the coalmining village of Cudworth in northern England, Michael Parkinson took his initial steps into the professional world after leaving school at the age of 16.
- He ventured into the realm of journalism, starting his journey at local newspapers and eventually establishing himself at esteemed publications such as the Manchester Guardian and the Daily Express.
- Beginning in June 1971, television presenter Michael Parkinson hosted his talk show named 'Parkinson' captivating viewers with his distinctive interview approach, characterized by his amiable charm. The show enjoyed a prosperous run until 1982, later making a comeback in 1998, further solidifying Parkinson's status as a true chat show maestro.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Government appoints two whole time members to Sebi board

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

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

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

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

senior official shared that the scheme's core objective is to train two crore women, thereby encouraging them to initiate and manage small-scale businesses effectively.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Digital India expansion gets ₹14903 crore outlay

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

10. **Cyber Security Advancements:** The extended project includes initiatives to enhance cyber security, including tool development and integration of over 200 sites with the National Cyber Coordination Centre.
11. **Startup Support in Tier 2 and 3 Cities:** Encouraging entrepreneurship, the project has provisions for funding assistance to 1,200 startups based in tier 2 and 3 cities. This move aims to foster innovation in regions beyond major urban centers.

OpenAI acquires design company Global Illumination

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

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INTERNATIONAL

China's Inner Mongolia reports two cases of bubonic plague

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

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

- Typhoon Lan made landfall in Japan, August 15, bringing heavy rain and strong winds. The typhoon has caused flooding and power outages in several areas, and authorities have issued evacuation warnings for some residents. The typhoon made landfall near Shionomisaki in Wakayama prefecture, about 400 kilometers southwest

of Tokyo. It had maximum sustained winds of 160 kilometers per hour (100 miles per hour), equivalent to a Category 2 hurricane.

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

NATIONAL

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

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent announcement of the Vishwakarma Yojana in his Independence Day address has paved the way for a new scheme aimed at bolstering the livelihood prospects of traditional artisans and craftspeople. Following this announcement, the Union Cabinet swiftly approved the scheme, demonstrating its commitment to promoting and preserving traditional skills and crafts.
- The Vishwakarma Yojana is a visionary initiative by the Indian government designed to extend financial assistance to individuals engaged in traditional crafts and skills. This scheme seeks to provide a strong support system to artisans, enabling them to flourish in their crafts while also contributing to the preservation of India's rich cultural heritage.
- Under the umbrella of the Vishwakarma Yojana, a dedicated allocation of Rs 13,000 crore has been earmarked to empower artisans across the country. The scheme offers subsidized loans of up to Rs 2 lakh to craftsmen, aiming to alleviate financial constraints that might impede their artistic pursuits.

SPORTS

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

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has revealed the latest set of international stars to be named ICC Players of the Month for July 2023. Australia's spin bowling all-rounder Ashleigh Gardner and England's seamer Chris Woakes have been honored as the International Cricket Council (ICC) Players of the Month for July 2023.
- Australia's prolific all-rounder Ashleigh Gardner becomes the first player to win back-to-back awards, claiming her fourth ICC Women's Player of the Month prize following another scintillating set of performances against England and Ireland in July.
- Gardner scored 232 runs and took 15 wickets in eight ODI and T20I matches during the month, including a Player of the Match performance in the second ODI against

England, where she scored 65 runs and took three wickets. She was also named Player of the Series in the ODI series against Ireland.

- England seamer Chris Woakes wins the ICC Men's Player of the Month award for his fruitful contributions with the ball, helping his side claw back a two-nil deficit to close out their Ashes series on level terms.
- Woakes took 19 wickets in three Tests against Australia, including a Player of the Match performance in the final Test at The Oval, where he took seven wickets and scored a vital 36 runs in the first innings. He was also named Player of the Series.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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

- In a significant development aimed at enhancing the operational capabilities of the Indian Navy, the Central Government has granted its final approval for a pivotal project to construct five fleet support ships. These vessels, designed to serve as vital logistical lifelines, will play a crucial role in replenishing warships with essential supplies including fuel, food, and ammunition during missions.
- The responsibility for constructing these crucial fleet support ships has been entrusted to the Visakhapatnam-based Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), a flagship enterprise under the defense ministry.
- By opting for indigenous construction, the Indian Navy is not only reinforcing its operational capabilities but also contributing significantly to the government's vision of self-reliance. This decision aligns with the broader goal of reducing dependence on foreign imports and bolstering domestic industries.
- Beyond its military significance, the project is set to deliver substantial economic benefits. The creation of thousands of new jobs over an extended period will inject fresh energy into the workforce, fostering growth and prosperity. The ripple effect of this venture will extend to industries aligned with the project, further solidifying India's position as a strategic maritime player.

OBITURY

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

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

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

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

- Raj Chetty, an Indian-American economist, and Michael Springer, a biologist, have been awarded Harvard University's George Ledlie Prize for their groundbreaking work in their respective fields.
- Chetty, a professor of economics at Harvard University, is known for his work on economic mobility. He has used big data to study the factors that influence a

person's ability to move up the economic ladder. His research has shown that the American Dream is not as attainable as many people believe, and that there are significant obstacles that prevent people from achieving upward mobility.

- Springer, a professor of systems biology at Harvard Medical School, is known for his work on developing new diagnostic tests. He was instrumental in developing a faster and more accurate COVID-19 test, which has helped to improve the fight against the pandemic. He also helped to design and operate the new Harvard University Clinical Laboratory (HUCL), which has managed testing and samples for the university community.

RANKING

Maharashtra tops fiscal health report

- In a recent development, Maharashtra has emerged as the front-runner in the Fiscal Health Report, showcasing commendable financial stability. Surprisingly, Chhattisgarh, a state often associated with economic challenges, secured an unexpected second position in the rankings.

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

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

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Wipro Launched Center Of Excellence On Generative AI at IIT Delhi

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

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INTERNATIONAL

Pakistan: Anwarul Haq Kakar Sworn In As Caretaker Prime Minister

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

NATIONAL

CSIR-NBRI launches improved lotus variety 'Namoh 108'

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

Goa becomes first state to provide IVF free at govt hospital

- In a significant stride towards accessible and affordable healthcare, Goa has emerged as the trailblazer among Indian states by introducing free In vitro fertilization (IVF) treatment.

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

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

ISRO plans to launch Aditya L1 satellite in August

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

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

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

- This initiative aims to bolster interoperability and collective action on various maritime security challenges. The exercise, which commenced on August 14 and is scheduled until August 17, will transition to the sea phase, continuing until August 25.
- SEACAT, an acronym for Southeast Asia Cooperation and Training, aims to amplify Maritime Domain Awareness. This comprehensive exercise delves into a wide array of geopolitical concerns, illicit activities, and potential contingencies.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Parsi New Year 2023: 16th August

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

BANKING AND ECONOMY

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

- Viacom18, a prominent player in the Indian media and entertainment industry, has made significant strides in merging its two Over-The-Top (OTT) platforms, JioCinema and Voot. The integration process has reached an advanced stage, with technology backends fully aligned and a majority of Voot Select subscribers smoothly transitioning to JioCinema.
- The merger has led to the dissolution of Voot as a standalone platform, both in terms of functionality and visibility.
- A simple Google search for Voot redirects users to the JioCinema website, consolidating Viacom18's OTT presence under a single brand.
- The transition is also evident on app platforms, where only the JioCinema app is now available, marking a cohesive and streamlined user experience.
- The merger process gained significant momentum in April 2023, when Viacom18 completed a complex merger scheme involving Reliance Industries, Bodhi Tree Systems, and Paramount Global.
- This strategic move facilitated the integration of JioCinema into Viacom18, making it the primary platform for marquee content.

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

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

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

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

Crude Oil Windfall Tax Raised-

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

Export of Diesel and ATF Subject to Higher Tax Rates-

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

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

- In July, the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) continued to exhibit deflationary trends for the fourth consecutive month, although the decline was notably mitigated by a

substantial increase in food and primary article prices. While the overall WPI deflation shrank from June's 92-month low of -4.1% to -1.36%, a surge of over 7.5% in food and primary article prices played a pivotal role in this shift.

- Primary food article inflation reached an impressive 14.3% in July, marking its highest level in nearly a decade. The surge in vegetable prices was particularly striking, with an 81.1% spike compared to June and a 62.1% increase from the previous year. Other staples like milk, wheat, cereals, pulses, and paddy saw year-on-year price hikes of over 8% to 9%.
- While several food items experienced substantial price escalations, potatoes and fruits saw declines of 24.4% and 8.9%, respectively, in comparison to last July. However, the price of potatoes did increase by 8% from June. Onions, too, witnessed a notable price increase of nearly 28% since June 2023 and 7.13% from July 2022.

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INTERNATIONAL

Bahrain: INS Visakhapatnam and Deepak reach Port Mina Salman

- Indian Navy ships INS Visakhapatnam and Deepak are visiting Port Mina Salman, Bahrain from August 14 to 17.
- The visit is aimed at strengthening ties between the Indian and Bahraini navies.
- The visit includes sharing best practices to enhance cooperation between the two navies.
- INS Visakhapatnam and INS Trikand recently conducted a bilateral exercise 'Zayed Talwar' with the UAE Navy.

NATIONAL

President to launch advanced frigate Vindhyagiri in Kolkata on 17 Aug

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

SPORTS

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

- Brazil forward Neymar Jr has signed for Saudi Arabia's Al-Hilal from Paris Saint-Germain (PSG), the clubs announced, joining Cristiano Ronaldo and Karim Benzema. Neymar, 31, scored 118 goals in 173 matches for PSG in six injury-plagued seasons. He won five Ligue 1 titles and three French Cups, but was on the losing side as PSG were beaten by Bayern Munich in the 2020 Champions League final.
- Neymar joined PSG from Barcelona in 2017 for a world record fee of 222 million euros (\$242 million), a few weeks before they recruited Kylian Mbappe. The Brazilian scored 118 goals in 173 matches for PSG, winning five Ligue 1 titles and three French

Cups, but his time at PSG was blighted by a catalogue of injuries. Although he helped the club to the 2020 Champions League final, which they lost 1-0 to Bayern Munich, he was sidelined for key games. Last month Al-Hilal made a 300-million-euro bid for Mbappe, though the striker reportedly refused to meet with officials from the team.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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

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

OBITUARY

Centre clears appointment of R. Doraiswamy as LIC MD

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

management worth ₹45.7 trillion (US\$570 billion) as of March 2023. It is under the ownership of Government of India and administrative control of the Ministry of Finance.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Death Anniversary: 16th August

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

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

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

- President Smt Droupadi Murmu has given her approval for 76 Gallantry awards to members of the Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces on the occasion of Independence Day 2023. Among these honors are four Kirti Chakra awards (awarded posthumously), 11 Shaurya Chakra awards (including five posthumous), two Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry), 52 Sena Medals (Gallantry), three Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry), and four Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry).
- Additionally, the President has sanctioned 30 Mention-in-Despatches awards to Army personnel, including a posthumous award for Army dog Madhu, and one for an Air Force member. These recognitions acknowledge their significant contributions in various military operations, such as Operation Rakshak, Operation Snow Leopard, Operation Casualty Evacuation, Operation Mount Chomo, Operation Pangsau Pass, Operation Meghdoot, Operation Orchid, Operation Kalisham Valley, Rescue Operation, and Operation Evacuation.

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

KIRTI CHAKRA

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

SHAURYA CHAKRA

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

S No	Name and Rank	Service	Award
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Constable (Now Posthumous)

11	Shri Gamit Mukesh Kumar, Constable 61 CRPF	—	MHA
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BAR TO SENA MEDAL (GALLANTRY)

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

S No	Name and Rank	Service	Award
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1	IC-64244P Lieutenant Colonel Yogesh Kumar Sati	523 Intelligence and Field Security Unit	Army
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2	IC-71048X Lieutenant Colonel Dhruv Rajan	The Grenadiers, 29th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
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3	IC-74633H Major Abhimanyu Repswal	The Armoured Corps, 22nd Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
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4	IC-75393H Major Neikhotso Secu Angami	3rd Battalion, The 8th Gorkha Rifles	Army
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5	IC-76219H Major Vikas Giri	The Parachute Regiment, 50th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
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6	IC-77779F Major Abhishek Tyagi	The Grenadiers, 55th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
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7	IC-78013K Major Borawake Apoorv Suhas	The Corps of Engineers, 3rd Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
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8	IC-78151L Major Aashish	The Sikh Light Infantry, 19th	Army
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S No	Name and Rank	Service	Award
	Dhonchak	Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	
9	IC-78779N Major Navdeep Goswami	6th Battalion, The Jat Regiment	Army
10	IC-79029F Major Rishabh Negi	The Corps of Engineers, 3rd Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
11	IC-80202M Major Sanjay Singh Jamwal	4th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces)	Army
12	IC-80568K Major Abhishek Katoch	5th Battalion, The Rajput Regiment	Army
13	IC-81592M Major Saurabh Kumar	15th Battalion, The Kumaon Regiment	Army
14	IC-81775H Major Ranjit Kumar	The Brigade of the Guards, 50th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
15	IC-83008H Major Santosh Kumar	11 Gorkha Rifles, 1 Sikkim Scouts Battalion	Army
16	IC-83108N Major Rishabh Kumar Nashine	9th Battalion, The Dogra Regiment	Army
17	IC-85077X Major Ronish Kumar	19th Battalion, The Punjab Regiment	Army
18	SC-00943Y Major Dhumal Rohan Shahaji	The Rajput Regiment, 44th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
19	SS-46282H Major Maanas Narla	The Corps of Engineers, 30 (Independent) Reconnaissance and Observation Flight	Army
20	SS-46286Y Major Jaiveer Yadav	2nd Battalion, The Bihar Regiment	Army
21	SS-48532X Major Thakre Akash Ashok	61 Engineer Regiment	Army
22	SS-48926W Major Vikas Lamba	12th Battalion, The Mahar Regiment	Army
23	IC-82947Y Captain Aayush	The Rajputana Rifles, 9th	Army

S No	Name and Rank	Service	Award
	Chauhan	Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	
24	IC-85483X Captain Saurabh Gupta	12th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces)	Army
25	SS-50195M Captain Chetan Singh	The Corps of Signals, 34th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
26	JC-247925L Risaldar Sanjay Kumar	55 Armoured Regiment	Army
27	JC-551984N Naib Subedar Dipti Kumar Hazwari	5th Battalion, The Assam Regiment	Army
28	3202898H Havildar Manoj Kumar	The Jat Regiment, 34th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
29	4008286N Havildar Arun Kumar	The Dogra Regiment, 62nd Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
30	4193965P Havildar Ranveer Singh	The Kumaon Regiment, 50th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
31	4199936W Havildar Pradeep Kumar Singh	15th Battalion, The Kumaon Regiment	Army
32	13630562K Naik Sovindra Kumar	12th Battalion, The Parachute Regiment (Special Forces)	Army
33	18005135A Naik Dharmvir	The Corps of Engineers, 3rd Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
34	19002538L Naik Hardeep Singh	24th Battalion, The Sikh Regiment	Army
35	2706631X Naik Munish Kumar	The Grenadiers, 55th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
36	3012008F Naik Satyendra Singh	The Rajput Regiment, 44th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army
37	3012377Y Naik Khemchand	5th Battalion, The Rajput Regiment	Army
38	4486359P Naik Harjinder Singh	The Sikh Light Infantry, 19th Battalion, The Rashtriya Rifles	Army

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

NAO SENA MEDAL (GALLANTRY)

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

VAYU SENA MEDAL (GALLANTRY)

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

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NATIONAL

Skill ministry launches DBT in NAPS to strengthen apprenticeship ecosystem

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

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

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

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

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

NCERT Constitutes 19-Member Panel for Textbook Revision in India

- The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has formed a 19-member committee responsible for aligning school syllabi, textbooks, teaching materials, and learning resources with the National Curriculum Framework (NCF).
- The committee's mandate covers Classes 3 to 12, and it also aims to ensure a seamless transition from Classes 1 and 2 to subsequent grades.
- With a diverse range of expertise spanning mathematics, arts, economics, sports, policy, and administration, this committee aims to create an educational framework

that aligns with contemporary needs while embracing cultural and regional diversity. Each member contributes their valuable insights, driving the transformation of India's school education system.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

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

- The Indian Air Force has inducted its latest Heron Mark 2 drones, which have strike capability and can carry out surveillance along the borders with both China and Pakistan in a single sortie itself. The four new Heron Mark-2 drones, which can be equipped with long-range missiles and other weapons systems, have been deployed at a forward air base in the northern sector.
- The induction of the Heron Mark-2 is a major boost for the IAF's surveillance capabilities. The drone will be used for a variety of missions, including intelligence gathering, border patrol, and counter-insurgency operations. It will also be used to support the IAF's combat aircraft, providing them with real-time imagery and targeting data.
- The Heron Mark-2 is an upgraded version of the Heron Mark-1, which has been in service with the IAF since 2009. The new drone has a longer range and endurance, and is equipped with more advanced sensors.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

The First WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit

- The first WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit is set to unfold on August 17 and 18, 2023, in the city of Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India.
- This event will intertwine with the G20 health ministerial meeting, creating a dynamic platform aimed at galvanizing both political commitment and evidence-based actions in the realm of traditional medicine. This age-old practice serves as the initial recourse for millions across the globe, catering to their diverse health and well-being requisites.
- The Global Summit will be jointly orchestrated by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Government of India, which presently holds the esteemed presidency of the G20 for the year 2023.
- As an inclusive stage, the Summit will convene an array of stakeholders encompassing traditional medicine practitioners, users, communities, national policymakers, international organizations, academia, private sector representatives, and civil society entities.
- Together, they will share pearls of wisdom, groundbreaking evidence, transformative data, and pioneering innovations that underscore the indispensable role of traditional medicine in both health and sustainable development.

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

- The 5th meeting of India-Vietnam Joint Trade Sub-Commission JTSC was held in New Delhi today. The meeting was co-chaired by the Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce Rajesh Agrawal from the Indian side, and Deputy Minister, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ms. Phan Thi Thang from the Vietnam side. This meeting was

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

- Vietnam is the 23rd largest global trade partner of India and the 5th largest among ASEAN countries with bilateral trade of 14.70 Billion dollars during 2022-23. Vietnam accounts for 11.2 percent of India's total trade with ASEAN. Vietnam is an important destination for India's iron and steel and agricultural and animal products mainly meat products, animal fodder, cereals, and marine products.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

RBI Partners With McKinsey and Accenture On Using AI/ML

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

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

- In a significant move aimed at enhancing transparency and consumer protection in the home loan sector, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced a comprehensive set of reforms pertaining to floating rate home loans. These reforms are designed to bring more clarity to the process of resetting interest rates, offer borrowers the option to switch to fixed interest rates, and prevent banks from unilaterally changing the loan tenure without proper consent.
 - The RBI's reforms emphasize the need for banks to establish a transparent framework for resetting interest rates on floating rate home loans. Regulated Entities, including banks, are now required-
1. Clearly communicate with borrowers about potential changes in tenor and Equated Monthly Installments (EMIs).
 2. Provide borrowers the flexibility to switch from floating to fixed interest rate loans or foreclose their loans.
 3. Disclose all charges associated with exercising these options.
 4. Ensure effective communication of essential information to borrowers.

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

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

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INTERNATIONAL

Canada to Starts Accepting PTE Scores For Student Direct Stream Applications

- In a significant development for international students aspiring to study in Canada, the country’s Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has officially sanctioned the use of Pearson’s PTE Academic test as an English language proficiency assessment.
- Earlier this year, the IRCC made a momentous decision by endorsing Pearson’s PTE Academic test as a valid measure of English language proficiency. This move acknowledges the rigorous standards and accuracy of the PTE Academic assessment, further enhancing the credibility and global recognition of this language proficiency test.
- Students who have taken the PTE Academic test before August 10 are eligible to benefit from this new directive. As long as these scores are submitted within the stipulated expiry period set by the IRCC, they can be used for Student Direct Stream (SDS) applications.

Chinese economy slips into deflation as recovery falters and demand slows

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

2. **Producer Price Index (PPI) Decline:** The PPI experienced its tenth consecutive monthly decline, falling by 4.4 percent, surpassing the predicted 4.1 percent decrease.

SPORTS

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

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

IMPORTANT DAYS

Partition Horrors Remembrance Day 2023

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

Pakistan Independence Day 2023:14th August

- Pakistan's Independence Day, observed annually on August 14th, marks a significant milestone in history. On this day in 1947, the British Indian Empire underwent a division, leading to the emergence of two independent states, India and Pakistan. Pakistan's journey to sovereignty, under the astute leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, culminated after seven years of determined struggle. As the 14th of August aligns with a Monday this year, the celebrations take on added

significance, offering an extended weekend for enthusiastic participation in various festive events and activities.

- The Indian subcontinent, once a single vast region encompassing present-day Pakistan, India, and Bangladesh, witnessed conflicts and Hindu-Muslim tensions following the introduction of Islam. The aftermath of the War of Independence in 1857 gave rise to ideologies aimed at safeguarding the rights of the Muslim minority.
- In 1906, the All-India Muslim League was established, advocating for a separate state for Muslims. Notably, on October 1 of the same year, a committee of 36 Muslim leaders presented this demand to the viceroy of India in Simla. Muhammad Ali Jinnah, a prominent lawyer and politician, later emerged as the driving force behind Pakistan's creation. He led the All-India Muslim League from 1913 until Pakistan's eventual independence.

International Left-Handers Day 2023: 13th August

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

World Organ Donation Day 2023: 13th August

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

- By becoming an organ donor, you can save the lives of others. Please consider becoming an organ donor today.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

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

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