

## **Weekly Current Affairs PDF August 20 to August 26, 2023**

### **Current Affairs PDF- August 26, 2023**

#### **NATIONAL**

##### **NCGG completes training of 27th batch of civil servants**

- The 2-week Capacity Building Programme (CBP) for civil servants of Maldives organised by the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) concluded on 25th August, 2023 today at New Delhi. NCGG has signed MoU with the Government of Maldives to enhance the skills and capabilities of 1,000 civil servants in the field of public administration and governance by 2024. As part of the agreement, NCGG has already imparted training to 858 officers from Maldives which includes 29 officers of ACC, Maldives.
- NCGG's efforts are aligned with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's philosophy of "Vasudhaiv Kutumbkam" and "Neighbourhood First" policy and keeping citizens at the forefront while designing developmental strategies and implementing public policies. It is in this context that these programmes reinforce the principles of citizen centric governance and promote the exchange of knowledge, information and innovations and promote the adoption of best practices and digital governance. It is also an effort in the direction of strengthening bilateral ties and fostering regional cooperation with neighbouring countries.

##### **Assam Issues Notification Banning Plastic Water Bottles Below 1000 ml**

- In a decisive move towards environmental conservation, the Assam Environment and Forest Department has taken a significant step by announcing the ban on the use and production of plastic water bottles below 1000 ml capacity within the state. This transformative initiative, set to be enforced from October 2 this year, reflects Assam's commitment to combat plastic pollution and promote sustainable practices.
- Recognizing the environmental hazards posed by such smaller plastic bottles, the Assam government's decision aligns with its commitment to safeguard the state's natural beauty and biodiversity.
- The Assam government made headlines by declaring its intent to prohibit the production and use of drinking water bottles made from Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) with a volume of less than 1 litre. This commendable decision has now materialized into official action, with the Assam Environment and Forest Department issuing a resolute notification on August 23. The notification effectively puts an end to the manufacturing, import, stocking, distribution, and sale of plastic water bottles below the specified capacity.

#### **SPORTS**

##### **World Athletics Championships 2023: Neeraj Chopra Qualifies for Final**

- Neeraj Chopra, the Olympic gold medalist in javelin throw, continues to make waves in the world of athletics. His recent performance at the World Athletics Championships has not only secured his place in the finals but has also guaranteed his participation in the Paris Olympics 2024.
- Neeraj Chopra's remarkable throw of 88.77 meters in the men's javelin throw event during the World Athletics Championships is an evident to his dedication and skill. This throw not only

secured his spot in the finals of the championships but also surpassed the minimum qualification distance of 85.50 meters for Paris Olympics 2024. As the only athlete to achieve this qualification mark in the championship, Neeraj Chopra has showcased his consistence excellence.

#### **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports sanctions 634 athletes to take part in Asian Games**

- Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports sanctioned 634 athletes across 38 sporting disciplines for participation in the upcoming Asian Games. Neeraj Chopra, Praggnanandhaa Ramesh Babu, Lovlina Borgohain, Nikhat Zareen, Lakshay Sen and Mirabai Chanu Saikhom are among the others who met the set selection criteria. The selection was made against the 850 athletes recommended by the Indian Olympic Association.
- A total of 572 athletes participated in the last edition of Asian Games in 2018 where India returned with 70 medals including 16 Golds.

#### **Indian women bag free pistol gold in World Championship**

- The women's free pistol team helped India sign off from the World shooting championship on a golden note in Baku, Azerbaijan, on Friday.
- Even though the running target events would continue for the next few days, the regular shooting was done, as India wound up second on the medals' table with six gold and eight bronze medals.
- China was on top with 15 gold, seven silver and six bronze. USA was third with five gold, two silver and a bronze.
- Tiwana Phogat, Sakshi Suryavanshi and Kirandeep Kaur won the 50-metre free pistol team gold with a total of 1573, six points ahead of China. Tiwana also won the individual bronze with 533 as she missed silver by one point.

#### **APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS**

##### **Infosys onboards tennis player Iga Świątek as global brand ambassador**

- In a groundbreaking move that further bridges the worlds of sports and technology, Infosys, a global leader in consulting and digital services, has announced a multi-year partnership with women's tennis World No. 1, Iga Swiatek. The collaboration establishes Swiatek as the global brand ambassador for Infosys, with a key focus on promoting Digital Innovation and inspiring women worldwide.
- This announcement comes on the heels of Infosys signing tennis legend Rafael Nadal for the same prestigious role, solidifying the company's commitment to both tennis excellence and technological advancement.
- Central to this partnership is the strategic alignment between Infosys and Swiatek's team to create a cutting-edge data analytics and video dashboard powered by artificial intelligence (AI). The ultimate goal is to enhance Swiatek's training regimen by leveraging AI insights, amplifying her strengths, and devising precise match strategies.

##### **Infosys signs tennis legend Rafael Nadal as brand ambassador**

- Infosys announces a three-year partnership with global tennis icon Rafael Nadal, appointing him as the brand ambassador and the face of Infosys' Digital Innovation. This partnership not only

marks a milestone for Nadal but also signifies Infosys' dedication to transforming the tennis landscape through cutting-edge technologies.

- At the heart of this collaboration lies the creation of a match analysis tool infused with the power of artificial intelligence. This personalized tool is set to offer real-time insights to Nadal's coaching team, enabling them to simultaneously track data from his live matches during his return to the tour. The tool will merge this live data with historical match information, facilitating a comprehensive analysis that will undoubtedly enhance Nadal's performance strategy.

### IMPORTANT DAYS

#### International Dog Day 2023: 26th August

- International Dog Day, observed on August 26th every year, is a heartwarming tribute to our furry companions who enrich our lives with their unwavering devotion and boundless affection. This day holds a special place in the hearts of animal lovers worldwide, as it acknowledges the profound impact that dogs have on our lives, from their incredible abilities to their role in rescue operations, and, most importantly, their capacity for unconditional love.
- Dogs, often referred to as "man's best friend," occupy a unique place in our hearts and homes. Their unwavering loyalty and boundless love create an unbreakable bond that transcends words. Beyond companionship, dogs play pivotal roles in various aspects of human life. Some are trained to provide essential support to people with disabilities, enhancing their independence and quality of life. Others showcase their exceptional olfactory senses in search and rescue operations, saving lives with their remarkable ability to locate individuals in dire circumstances.

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

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 26 announced to celebrate August 23, when India's Chandrayaan-3 landed on the Moon, as National Space Day. He also announced that the spot where the lander landed on the Moon will be known as 'Shivashakti' and where Chandrayaan-2 touched down will be called as 'Tiranga Point'.
- The Prime Minister was addressing the scientists at the ISRO Telemetry Tracking and Command Network Mission Control Complex in Bengaluru, Karnataka. PM Modi said that experts suggest that in a few years, India's space industry will become \$16 billion from \$8 billion.
- To congratulate ISRO team for the successful touchdown of Chandrayaan-3 lander on August 23, PM Modi visited to Bengaluru, immediately after returning from his two-nation visit to Greece and South Africa. He was accorded a warm reception as he arrived at the ISRO headquarters in Bengaluru on Saturday morning.

### SUMMIT'S & MOU's

#### Defence Ministry Inks Rs 19,000 Cr Deal with HSL

- The defence ministry has signed a contract with Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), Visakhapatnam, to acquire five Fleet Support Ships (FSS) for the Indian Navy at a total cost of approximately Rs 19,000 crore. These FSS ships will be designed and constructed indigenously by HSL, Visakhapatnam. The Cabinet Committee on Security approved this acquisition during its meeting on August 16.
- The primary role of the FSS ships will be to replenish other naval vessels at sea with fuel, water, ammunition, and stores, allowing the Indian Naval Fleet to operate for extended periods without

returning to harbour. This acquisition will enhance the strategic reach and mobility of the fleet and significantly boost the Indian Navy's blue-water capability. Additionally, these ships can be deployed for evacuation and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR) operations.

## Current Affairs PDF- August 25, 2023

### NATIONAL

#### FM Nirmala Sitharaman launched HSBC India's Green Hydrogen partnerships

- In a significant step towards fostering innovation in the field of green hydrogen, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has launched strategic partnerships between HSBC India and prominent institutions, namely the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, and the Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation (SSEF).
- The collaboration, which comes with a substantial grant support totaling ₹15 crore (\$2 million), marks a pivotal moment in advancing projects that prioritize green hydrogen as a strategic alternative fuel. These initiatives are poised to play a crucial role in building a resilient green-hydrogen economy.
- The partnerships forged by HSBC India underline the nation's commitment to accelerating innovation in the realm of green hydrogen. As India strives to reduce its carbon footprint and make significant strides in the fight against climate change, green hydrogen has emerged as a game-changing solution that aligns perfectly with these goals. The strategic partnerships aim to channel resources and expertise into projects that will drive the adoption of green hydrogen across various sectors.

#### First ABDM Microsite Under NHA '100 Microsites Project' Launched in Mizoram

- Under the "100 Microsites" initiative, the National Health Authority (NHA) of India has unveiled the first Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) Microsite in the capital city of Mizoram. This achievement is poised to transform the healthcare sector by propelling the advantages of digitalization to the forefront.
- The ABDM Microsite project represents a pivotal shift in healthcare digitization efforts across India. The concept revolves around establishing defined geographical regions where targeted outreach efforts are concentrated to onboard small and medium-scale private healthcare providers into the digital healthcare ecosystem.
- With a robust support framework in place, these providers will play a vital role in offering digital health services to patients. The project's origin can be traced to the vision of providing a significant push to healthcare digitization, reaching even the smallest healthcare facilities across the country.

#### Nagaland shawl to Gond painting: PM Modi's special gifts for BRICS leaders

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was on a three-day visit to South Africa to attend the 15th BRICS summit, presented special gifts to the organization's leaders including South African president Cyril Ramaphosa, First Lady of South Africa Tshepo Motsepe, and Brazilian president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. PM Modi gifts Bidri Surahi, Nagaland Shawl, and Gond Painting to BRICS leaders.



- PM Modi gifted Bidri a pair of 'Surahi' from Telangana to South African President Cyril Ramaphosa. Bidri is a purely Indian innovation of 500-year-old Persian, exclusive to Bidar. Bidri is cast with an alloy of Zinc, Copper, and other non-ferrous metals with pretty patterns engraved on the casting and inlaid with pure Silver wire. The casting is then soaked in a solution mixed with the special soil of Bidar Fort which has special oxidizing properties. This causes the Zinc alloy to turn into a lustrous black leaving the silver inlay intact to contrast stunningly with the black background.
- The Prime Minister also gifted a Nagaland shawl to the First Lady of South Africa Tshepo Motsepe. Naga shawls are an exquisite form of textile art that has been woven for centuries by the tribes in the state of Nagaland. These shawls are known for their vibrant colors, intricate designs, and the use of traditional weaving techniques which have been passed down from generation to generation.

### SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

#### Telangana, Unesco join hands to implement UN recommendation on ethics of AI

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Information Technology, Electronics and Communications (ITE&C) Department of the Government of Telangana have forged a pioneering partnership to infuse the Ethics of AI into the very essence of artificial intelligence systems.
- This partnership is designed to cultivate a profound impact on how AI is developed and utilized, ensuring that the benefits are shared across all segments of society. The collaboration encompasses multiple dimensions.
- Ethical Development and Use of AI: The alliance is focused on advocating for the ethical development and deployment of AI systems. This encompasses establishing guidelines and principles that prioritize the well-being of humanity, privacy, accountability, and fairness in AI technologies.
- Awareness Raising: UNESCO and the Telangana Government recognize the importance of raising awareness about the ethical implications of AI. They aim to educate individuals, organizations, and governments about the ethical challenges and opportunities presented by AI, fostering a deeper understanding of its potential impacts.
- Capacity Building: To ensure that AI ethics are integrated into every level of society, the collaboration will work towards building the necessary capacity among professionals, policymakers, and educators. By providing training and resources, they aspire to empower individuals to make informed decisions regarding AI.

### OBITUARY

#### 'RIP superstar,' tributes pour in after WWE Superstar Bray Wyatt dies of heart attack

- Windham Rotunda, also known as Bray Wyatt, passed away at age 36. Rotunda was an American professional wrestler. He was best known for his tenure in WWE, where he performed under the ring name Bray Wyatt.
- Windham Lawrence Rotunda was born in Brooksville, Florida, on May 23, 1987. He attended Hernando High School, where he won a state wrestling championship at 275 pounds (125 kg) in 2005. He graduated in 2005. He also played football as a

defensive tackle and guard. Rotunda played at the College of the Sequoias for two seasons, earning second-team All-American honors as a sophomore offensive guard. He earned a football scholarship to Troy University, where he played collegiate football for two years. He left Troy 27 credit hours short of earning a bachelor's degree after deciding to become a professional wrestler.

### **RANKING**

#### **MP: Indore secures 1st position, Bhopal 5th in Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan-2023**

- The city of Indore has clinched the top spot in the Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan -2023 conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board, in the category of cities with a population exceeding 10 lakhs. The results of the survey reflect not only the city's dedicated efforts but also highlight the overall progress made by several cities in Madhya Pradesh.
- The Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan -2023 witnessed a remarkable display of dominance by Madhya Pradesh, particularly in the category of cities with a population of more than 10 lakhs. Out of the top five positions, two were secured by cities from the state. While Indore claimed the prestigious first position, Bhopal secured a commendable fifth rank. This achievement reinforces Madhya Pradesh's proactive approach to tackling pollution and promoting cleaner air quality.

### **BOOKS & AUTHOR**

#### **Goa governor Sreedharan Pillai releases three books on trees, nature, geopolitics**

- Goa governor PS Sreedharan Pillai released three books at a function held at the Raj Bhavan. His recently authored three new books namely 'Heritage Trees of Goa', 'When Parallel Lines Meet', and 'Ente Priya Kavithakal' ('My Dear Poems' a collection of poems). Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant inaugurated the event in Panaji, Goa. West Bengal governor CV Ananda Bose unveiled the book 'Heritage Trees of Goa', while Goa chief minister Pramod Sawant inaugurated the event. Goa state minister for tourism Rohan Khaunte and Jnanpith winner Damodar Mauzo released two other books: 'When Parallel Lines Meet' and 'Ente Priya Kavithakal'.

### **BANKING AND ECONOMY**

#### **BHEL manufactures first set of indigenous SCR Catalysts to limit NOx emission**

- In a significant stride towards environmental responsibility, Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL), a prominent state-owned engineering company, has successfully developed the first set of indigenous Selective Catalyst Reactors (SCR) Catalysts. These catalysts play a crucial role in mitigating nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions from thermal power plants. Previously reliant on imports, this achievement underscores the 'Make in India' initiative championed by the government.
- Underlining their commitment to self-reliance and national innovation, BHEL has crafted a monumental milestone by producing homegrown SCR Catalysts. The catalysts are integral to tackling NOx emissions, a prevalent pollutant resulting from coal combustion in thermal power plants. This development aligns perfectly with the 'Make in India' campaign, boosting indigenous manufacturing and self-sufficiency.

### First time in 4 years, MFIs overtake banks in microlending with 40% share

- After a four-year interval, standalone Microfinance Institutions (MFIs) have reclaimed their dominant position in microlending, surpassing banks. This resurgence is attributed to their recovery from pandemic-induced setbacks and strategic efforts, with standalone MFIs now holding a 40% share of microfinance loans in the country.
- The pandemic had severely impacted MFIs, causing a significant drop in collections and disbursements.
- Standalone MFIs have shown remarkable growth, rebounding from a 32% share in FY20 to 40% in FY23.
- Banks, on the other hand, saw a decline in their microlending share from 44% in FY21 to 34% in FY23.
- The microfinance industry witnessed a robust 37% growth in FY23, driven by a favorable macroeconomic climate and renewed demand.
- This growth translated into higher disbursements and expansion of the microfinancing landscape.

## Current Affairs PDF- August 24, 2023

### INTERNATIONAL

#### African swine fever: Highly contagious virus hit 49 countries since 2021

- Since its resurgence in January 2021, the highly contagious African Swine Fever (ASF) virus has rampantly spread across the globe, infiltrating 49 countries by August 2023. The virus, infamous for its nearly 100% fatality rate among domestic and wild pigs, has wrought havoc on pig populations, with over 1.5 million animals lost within this timeframe. The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), a prominent intergovernmental organization dedicated to combatting animal diseases, released a report detailing this alarming spread on August 21, 2023.
- Since January 2021, the highly contagious African Swine Fever (ASF) virus has spread to 49 countries by August 2023.
- This virus affects both domestic and wild pigs, causing nearly 100% mortality.
- Over 1.5 million animals have been lost due to ASF, with devastating consequences for pig populations.

#### Iran, Egypt, Saudi Arabia among 6 countries to join the BRICS alliance

- In a significant geopolitical development, the BRICS alliance, comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, has announced the inclusion of six new member countries. This expansion marks a notable shift in the alliance's composition and has the potential to reshape the dynamics of global cooperation.
- President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa, the host nation of the recent BRICS summit, made a historic announcement on August 24th, revealing the names of the new entrants to the alliance. The expanded BRICS now welcomes Argentina, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, and Egypt into its fold. This move not

only diversifies the alliance but also provides a platform for emerging economies from different regions to align their interests on the global stage.

- This expansion was not a sudden development but rather the result of a well-considered decision. Official sources had previously indicated that BRICS was in the process of extending invitations to potential new members. This strategic move carries the potential to forge connections with nations eager to collaborate within a coalition dedicated to advancing the concerns of the “Global South.”

### **NATIONAL**

#### **Govt To Launch GST Reward Scheme In 6 States, UTs From September 1**

- In a significant move towards enhancing transparency in financial transactions and empowering consumers, the Indian government is set to launch the ‘Mera Bill Mera Adhikar’ invoice incentive scheme. This pioneering scheme, scheduled to commence from September 1, aims to promote the habit of requesting bills during purchases, thereby fostering a culture of fiscal responsibility and accountability.
- The ‘Mera Bill Mera Adhikar’ scheme, conceptualized by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC), is designed to instill a sense of confidence and assurance among consumers while making purchases. The scheme is geared towards creating awareness about the importance of receiving genuine invoices for business-to-consumer transactions, fostering a more transparent economy.
- Under this scheme, consumers are offered a compelling incentive to demand bills for their purchases. The range of cash prizes extends from ₹10,000 to a whopping ₹1 crore. These prizes will be awarded through monthly and quarterly draws, making participation exciting and rewarding. The scheme’s architecture ensures that individuals stand a chance to win substantial cash rewards by simply requesting legitimate invoices during their transactions.

### **SPORTS**

#### **Wrestling Federation of India membership suspended on International stage**

- The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), India’s governing body for wrestling, has faced suspension from the United World Wrestling (UWW) due to ongoing controversies and prolonged delays in conducting essential elections. As a consequence of this suspension, Indian wrestlers will be unable to compete under the Indian flag in the upcoming World Championships. Instead, they will participate as ‘neutral athletes’ in the Olympic-qualifying World Championships.
- The WFI’s scheduled elections, initially set for June 2023, have been repeatedly postponed due to protests by Indian wrestlers and legal challenges from various state units. This delay prompted the UWW, the global authority for wrestling, to suspend the WFI’s membership. The suspension comes as a result of the federation’s failure to meet the required election timeline.
- With the WFI’s membership suspended, Indian wrestlers are compelled to compete as ‘neutral athletes’ in the upcoming Olympic-qualifying World Championships, commencing on September 16. This is a direct outcome of the ad-hoc panel, led by Bhupender Singh Bajwa, failing to organize the elections within the 45-day window. However, Indian athletes will still have the opportunity to compete under the Indian



flag at the upcoming Asian Games, starting on September 23, as the entries were submitted by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) rather than the WFI.

### SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

#### LCA Tejas successfully test-fires ASTRA air-to-air missile: Aeronautical Development Agency

- The Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas achieved a significant milestone as it successfully fired the Astra indigenous Beyond Visual Range (BVR) air-to-air missile off the coast of Goa. This achievement marks a notable advancement in the Indian defense capabilities and showcases the country's progress in developing cutting-edge military technology.
- According to a statement released by the Defence Ministry, the missile release was executed flawlessly from the Tejas aircraft at an altitude of approximately 20,000 feet. The test not only met all its predetermined objectives but also demonstrated a perfect textbook launch, affirming the precision and readiness of the Astra missile system. To ensure a comprehensive monitoring of the event, a Chase Tejas twin-seater aircraft closely observed the entire process, adding an extra layer of validation to the test.
- The successful test launch was carried out under the vigilant supervision of the Test Director and scientists hailing from prominent institutions like the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). The Center for Military Airworthiness and Certification (CEMILAC) and the Directorate General of Aeronautical Quality Assurance (DG-AQA) also played pivotal roles in ensuring the comprehensive assessment of the launch.

### OBITURY

#### Legendary statistical scientist CR Rao die at the age of 103

- C Radhakrishna Rao, one of India's greatest mathematicians and statisticians of India, passes away at the age of 103. He had recently received the prestigious "International Prize in Statistics-2023", often referred to as the "statistics' equivalent of the Nobel Prize".
- C R Rao was born into a Telugu family in Ballari, which was part of the Madras Presidency and is now in Karnataka. In 1941, he completed his MSc in Mathematics from Andhra University and joined Indian Statistical Institute in Calcutta in 1943 as research scholar.
- In 1945, when Rao was just 25, his paper titled 'Information and accuracy attainable in the estimation of statistical parameters' was published in the Bulletin of the Calcutta Mathematical Society, a lesser-known journal in the statistics community.
- His influential work has stretched beyond statistics, impacting diverse fields such as economics, genetics, anthropology, geology, national planning, demography, biometry, and medicine. Rao's active contributions persist even today, leading him to be celebrated as a "living legend" whose influence extends, as recognised by the American Statistical Association.

### Professional wrestling legend Terry Funk dies at 79

- Terry Funk, the pioneer of the World Wrestling Entertainment and the WWE Hall of Famer, has passed away at the age of 79. Funk had an intriguing and remarkable career over five decades (1965 to 2017). He was known for his hardcore style, his charisma, and his passion for the business. The late 79-year-old was inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame in 2009 by his longtime friend and rival, Dusty Rhodes. In 2021, he also received recognition from the International Professional Wrestling Hall of Fame.
- The iconic WWE figure has secured multiple championship victories, encompassing the NWA World Heavyweight Championship, the ECW World Heavyweight Championship, and the WWF Tag Team Championship. He was also a part of several memorable feuds and matches with icons such as Ric Flair, Dusty Rhodes, Mick Foley, and Bret Hart. Funk was not only a wrestler, but also an actor, and performer. He appeared in several Hollywood films, such as Roadhouse with Patrick Swayze, Paradise Alley, and Over the Top with Sylvester Stallone. He also had roles in television shows like Quantum Leap and Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction.

### BOOKS & AUTHOR

#### The Life, Vision and Songs of Kabir' by Vipul Rikhi

- The book, "Drunk on Love: The Life, Vision and Songs of Kabir", published by HarperCollins India and written by writer-singer Vipul Rikhi, presents the 15th-century poet, as he is described, quoted, and loved in popular imagination. A new book aims to capture the life of mystic poet Kabir through popular legends, his vision and his poetry that has been quoted and translated extensively.
- The book brings into one place stories from Kabir's life, his most famous songs, "as well as his fiercely iconoclastic and inspiring vision". The essence of Kabir to a contemporary readership. Through his lived, practical understanding of the centuries-old verses, he reacquaints us with their core wisdom, which we can apply to our own lives. This is Kabir for the modern mind to engage with and learn from," Swati Chopra, associate publisher, HarperCollins.

### BANKING AND ECONOMY

#### RBI approves voluntary amalgamation of Twin Cities Co-operative Urban Bank with Kranti Co-operative Urban Bank

- In a recent development, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted its approval for the voluntary amalgamation of Twin Cities Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd with Kranti Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd. The amalgamation scheme is set to take effect from August 23, 2023. This decision, as outlined in an official release from the central bank, marks a significant step in the consolidation of cooperative urban banks.
- The RBI's decision further entails that the branch of Twin Cities Co-operative Urban Bank will seamlessly operate as a branch of Kranti Co-operative Urban Bank starting from August 23, 2023. This move ensures a smooth transition of operations and services, providing customers with continued access to banking facilities without interruption.

- The RBI had previously established a comprehensive framework for the amalgamation of Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs). This framework, introduced on March 23, 2021, serves as a guideline for facilitating amalgamation processes in the UCB sector.

## Current Affairs PDF- August 23, 2023

### INTERNATIONAL

#### Srettha Thavisin elected Thailand PM as Thaksin returns from exile

- Thai property tycoon Srettha Thavisin has been elected as the new prime minister of Thailand following a decisive win in a parliamentary vote. The 60-year-old Thavisin's victory in the parliamentary vote, with the support of two-thirds of the assembly, ends weeks of political uncertainty that followed an election held 100 days ago.
- Srettha Thavisin after completing his studies in 1986, embarked on his professional path, assuming the role of an assistant product manager at Procter & Gamble. This initial chapter of his career spanned a duration of four years, during which he gained valuable insights and experience. However, it was in the year 1988 that he embarked on a transformative journey, co-founding Sansiri. This enterprise would go on to establish itself as one of Thailand's foremost real estate development companies, leaving an indelible mark on the industry.
- Srettha Thavisin's election as prime minister ushers in a new era of coalition politics. He faces the challenging task of holding together a potentially fragile coalition government, which includes parties affiliated with the royalist military. The military, notorious for orchestrating coups in 2006 and 2014 that toppled Pheu Thai (a major Thai political party) governments, holds a significant stake in this coalition. Thavisin's ability to navigate the intricacies of this coalition will play a pivotal role in determining the stability and direction of Thailand's government.

### NATIONAL

#### Bharat NCAP: New vehicle safety norms set for launch

- The Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP) was launched by Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari on August 22, 2023, in New Delhi. The program aims to enhance road safety by elevating vehicle safety standards for up to 3.5-tonne vehicles in India. Bharat NCAP will also greatly push the safety and quality of the vehicles in India, while simultaneously promoting a healthy competition among OEMs to manufacture safer vehicles.

#### New Car Assessment Programme Details-

- The program is applicable to type approved motor vehicles of M1 category less than 3.5T GVW.
- This is a voluntary program in which the base variants of a given model shall be tested.
- The program will commence from October 1, 2023, and will be based on Automotive Industry Standard (AIS) 197.

- The program aims to create an ecosystem of competitive safety enhancements leading to increased awareness among consumers.
- Consumers can take an informed decision by making a comparative assessment on vehicle performance under crash test conditions.

### India announces definition of Green Hydrogen

- India has announced the definition of Green Hydrogen. The Green Hydrogen Standard for India sets a criterion of 2 kg CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per kg H<sub>2</sub> as a 12-month average emission threshold. It is a significant move for the progress of the National Green Hydrogen Mission. The guidelines established by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Government of India, delineate the emission benchmarks that must be fulfilled for hydrogen production to qualify as 'Green', signifying its origin from renewable sources.
- The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy has characterized Green Hydrogen as having a well-to-gate emission (encompassing processes like water treatment, electrolysis, gas purification, hydrogen drying, and compression) that does not exceed 2 kg CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent per kg H<sub>2</sub>.
- The scope of the definition encompasses both electrolysis-based and biomass-based hydrogen production methods. The notification explicitly states that the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy will define a comprehensive methodology for measuring, reporting, monitoring, on-site verification, and certifying green hydrogen and its derivatives. Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), Ministry of Power shall be the Nodal Authority for accreditation of agencies for the monitoring, verification and certification for Green Hydrogen production projects.

### SPORTS

#### Khelo India Women's League to be renamed as Asmita Women's League

- Anurag Singh Thakur, the Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, has unveiled that the esteemed Khelo India Women's League will be recognized as the "Asmita Women's League" from now on. This purposeful transformation underscores the government's commitment to advancing gender equality and nurturing the vibrant engagement of women in the realm of sports.
- The new name, "Asmita Women's League," carries a profound meaning. ASMITA stands for "Achieving Sports Milestone by Inspiring Women Through Action", encapsulating the spirit of resilience, determination, and achievement that defines women athletes across the nation. This change not only offers a new identity but also embodies the aspirations of countless women who strive to make their mark in the sporting arena.
- Thakur took to social media to commend the entire Khelo India team for their visionary concept of the Asmita Women's League. He also expressed his appreciation for the development of the Asmita Portal and its new logo, recognizing these advancements as significant steps towards the digital transformation of Indian sports. This demonstrates the government's commitment to leveraging technology to enhance the overall sports experience and engagement.



### SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

#### India becomes 4th country to successfully land spacecraft on moon

- India successfully landed its Chandrayaan-3 mission on the lunar surface on August 23, 2023, making it the fourth country to do so after the United States, Russia, and China. The lander Vikram touched down on the south pole of the moon, a region that has never been explored before. The rover Pragyan is expected to roll out of the lander and begin its exploration of the lunar surface in the coming days.
- The successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 is a major achievement for India's space program and a testament to the hard work and dedication of the scientists and engineers who made it possible. It also puts India in a select group of spacefaring nations and furthers its ambition to become a leading player in the global space race.
- The Chandrayaan-3 mission is expected to collect valuable data about the lunar south pole, which is thought to be rich in water ice. This information could be used to support future human exploration of the moon. The mission is also expected to help scientists to better understand the formation and evolution of the moon.

### APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

#### Former CJ Of Calcutta High Court Justice Prakash Shrivastava Appointed As Chairperson of National Green Tribunal

- Justice Prakash Shrivastava has been appointed as Chairperson of National Green Tribunal (NGT). After the former Chairperson Justice A.K Goel retired. After the former Chairperson Justice A.K Goel retired in July, Justice Sheo Kumar Singh was appointed as the Acting Chairperson. Justice Srivastav Enrolled as Advocate on February 2, 1987. He Practised on Tax, Civil and Constitutional sides in the Supreme Court of India at New Delhi. He was later appointed as a Judge of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh on January 18, 2008 and became a permanent Judge on January 15, 2010.
- Justice Shrivastava was born on March 31, 1961. In the year 1987, he was enrolled as an advocate and practiced in tax, civil, and constitutional law, at the Supreme Court. Later, he was appointed as an additional judge at the Madhya Pradesh High Court on January 18, 2008 before being made permanent on January 15, 2010. Subsequently, Justice Shrivastava served as the Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court from October 11, 2021 till his retirement on March 30, 2023.

#### Sachin Tendulkar recognised as 'national icon' of Election Commission of India

- Former Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar will become a "national icon" of the Election Commission (EC) and spread awareness regarding the need for greater voter participation in the electoral process. The poll body will sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Mr. Tendulkar in the national capital on Wednesday. It will be a three-year agreement as part of which the cricketing legend will spread voter awareness.
- The EC's decision to appoint Tendulkar as its national icon is a significant step towards encouraging greater voter participation in India. Tendulkar's popularity and

influence among the youth make him a powerful force for good, and he is sure to make a positive impact on the electoral process.

- This collaboration will mark a significant step towards leveraging Mr. Tendulkar's unparalleled impact with the youth for increasing voters' participation in the forthcoming elections, especially in General Elections 2024, the EC said in a statement. Through this partnership, the EC aims to bridge the gap between citizens, especially youth and urban populations, and the electoral process thereby, trying to address the challenges of urban and youth apathy, it said.

### IMPORTANT DAYS

#### International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition 23rd August 2023

- International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is observed on August 23. It commemorates the day when an uprising began in Saint Domingue, now called Haiti, on August 23, 1791, against the slave trade. Haiti was a French settlement and a centre of the slave trade across Europe. The uprising led to a revolution against the rulers of the country.
- 2023 Theme: "Fighting slavery's legacy of racism through transformative education"
- The International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is an important day to remember the victims of the slave trade and to reaffirm our commitment to fighting racism and discrimination. It is also a day to celebrate the progress that has been made and to recommit ourselves to building a more just and equitable world.

### BANKING AND ECONOMY

#### LIC gets 6.66% stake in Jio Financial Services through demerger process

- Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has announced its acquisition of a 6.7% stake in Jio Financial Services (JFSL), a non-banking financial services unit that emerged from the conglomerate helmed by Mukesh Ambani – Reliance Industries. The acquisition, carried out through a demerger action by Reliance Industries, is poised to have a notable impact on both entities and the broader financial markets.
- Jio Financial Services made its debut on the stock exchanges on August 21, entering the financial markets with a promising trajectory. The company, post-listing, boasted a market capitalization of approximately Rs 1.60 lakh crore, indicative of the investor interest and confidence in its potential. Despite its strong market capitalization, the stock faced challenges in its initial trading sessions.
- The stock experienced a downward trajectory for the second consecutive session, hitting the lower circuit limit – a threshold set by the stock exchanges to curb excessive volatility – for both BSE and NSE. The stock's price declined by 4.99% to Rs 239.20 on BSE and by 5% to Rs 236.45 on NSE. This phenomenon has led to discussions regarding the market's reaction to the demerger and the implications of this volatility on the company's valuation.

## Current Affairs PDF- August 22, 2023

### NATIONAL

#### TN CM Stalin Lays Foundation Stone For South-East Asia's Largest Desalination Plant

- In a significant stride towards resolving the water crisis gripping Chennai city, Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister, M K Stalin, has laid the foundation stone for what is set to become South East Asia's largest water desalination project.
- Spearheaded by VA Tech Wabag, a renowned pure-play water technology Indian Multinational Group based in Chennai, this project is poised to revolutionize the region's water supply. With an ambitious investment of Rs 4,400 crore, this initiative holds the potential to alleviate Chennai's water scarcity concerns and elevate the city's status as a water-sustainable urban center.
- The goal of the project is to establish a Seawater reverse osmosis (SWRO) desalination facility with the capacity to generate an impressive 400 million liters per day (MLD) of clean, drinkable water. The financial backing for this project is being extended by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), exemplifying a collaborative endeavor aimed at tackling a critical regional concern.

### SPORTS

#### TN CM lays foundation stone for Rs 4,276 cr 400 MLD desalination plant

- In a remarkable feat of intellectual prowess, Raja Anirudh Sriram, a fourth-standard student hailing from Tirupati, has clinched a silver medal at the prestigious Singapore International Math Olympiad Challenge (SIMOC). This prodigious achievement has not only brought honor to his family and school but has also brought pride to the entire state of Andhra Pradesh.
- Among the 23 Indians representing the nation at the SIMOC, Raja Anirudh stood out as the sole participant from Andhra Pradesh. The event, which saw the participation of over 2000 students from 32 different countries, was a platform for young mathematical minds to showcase their skills and knowledge.
- Raja Anirudh's affinity for mathematics has been evident since an early age. His journey of success has been marked by numerous national and international awards that highlight his extraordinary capabilities.

### APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

#### Google's Kiran Mani joins Viacom18 as CEO of Digital Business

- In a strategic move to bolster its digital business operations, Viacom18 has welcomed Kiran Mani, a seasoned executive from Google, as the new CEO. Mani's impressive track record and extensive experience position him well to lead Viacom18's digital endeavors. Currently serving as the General Manager and MD for Android and Google Play in the Asia Pacific region, Mani's 13-year tenure at Google underscores his deep understanding of digital markets.
- Kiran Mani's longstanding association with Google speaks volumes about his ability to navigate the dynamic landscape of digital platforms. His role as the head of Android and Google Play in the Asia Pacific region has equipped him with valuable

insights into user behaviors, content consumption patterns, and market trends. This expertise will undoubtedly play a pivotal role in his new role as CEO of Viacom18's digital business.

- One of the significant responsibilities that Mani will shoulder is spearheading the expansion of JioCinema. This task aligns with Viacom18's strategic vision to enhance its digital offerings and tap into the burgeoning digital content market. JioCinema, under Mani's guidance, is poised to reach new heights, benefiting from his strategic acumen and digital industry insights.

#### **Axis Bank's Neelkanth Mishra appointed part-time chairperson of UIDAI**

- The Centre has announced the appointment of Neelkanth Mishra as the part-time Chairperson of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). Mr. Mishra, known for his expertise in economics and research, currently serves as the Chief Economist of Axis Bank and also holds the position of Head of Global Research at Axis Capital.
- Neelkanth Mishra boasts an impressive professional journey that spans several decades, during which he has made significant contributions to the world of finance and research. Prior to his association with Axis Bank, he spent twenty years at Credit Suisse, a prominent financial institution based in Zurich.
- Throughout his tenure, Mishra held various crucial roles, such as co-head of APAC Strategy, India Equity Strategy Head, and Head of Research in India. This diverse range of responsibilities allowed him to gain an in-depth understanding of the intricacies of financial markets, strategic planning, and economic analysis.

#### **IMPORTANT DAYS**

##### **World Water Week 2023: 20 to 24 August**

- World Water Week is a global event which is organised by the Stockholm International Water Institute every year since 1991. The programme will be held from August 20 to 24 at the Waterfront Congress Center. It is a non-profit event which aims to develop solutions for the international water crisis (alongside several other problems). Water is one of the most essential gifts of nature that we require in our daily lives. From drinking to cleaning, water serves multiple purposes in our lives. Hence, it becomes equally important for us to conserve it.
- The theme, Seeds of Change: Innovative Solutions for a Water-Wise World, invites a rethink of how water is managed, and urges consideration of the ideas, innovations, and governance systems that are needed in an increasingly unstable and water scarce world.

#### **SUMMIT'S & MOU's**

##### **BRICS summit: China's Xi visits South Africa in second trip**

- Leaders from the BRICS economic alliance, consisting of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, are converging in the bustling financial district of Sandton, Johannesburg, for a highly anticipated three-day summit. This gathering marks a pivotal moment in international diplomacy as discussions unfold regarding the consolidation of political and economic influence within the developing world.



- The summit is set to witness extensive deliberations on strategies aimed at bolstering the collective political and economic clout of the BRICS alliance. Notably, China's President Xi Jinping's active participation reaffirms China's deep-rooted commitment to the BRICS alliance as a crucial instrument for advancing its strategic ambitions on the global stage.

#### **India to get \$25 million grant for strengthening animal health system**

- The G20 Pandemic Fund has recently granted a significant sum of \$25 million to India's Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying. This funding is aimed at bolstering the country's animal health system, which is a crucial component of the comprehensive One Health strategy for preventing and responding to pandemics. The ongoing global pandemic has emphasized the necessity of integrated One Health frameworks in tackling emerging infectious diseases, often originating from animals.
- Notably, a substantial majority of the World Health Organization's (WHO) declared international health emergencies in recent times have been of animal origin. This reinforces the significance of addressing animal health as a pivotal facet of pandemic readiness and reaction.
- Under the guidance of Indonesia's G20 Presidency, the Pandemic Fund has greenlit a proposal submitted by India's Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying (DAHD). This proposal, titled "Animal Health Security Strengthening in India for Pandemic Preparedness and Response," has been allocated the \$25 million grant.

#### **Om Birla inaugurates 9th C'wealth Parliamentary Conference in Udaipur**

- The eagerly awaited Ninth India Region Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) took place in the historic city of Udaipur, located in the state of Rajasthan. Stretched across a duration of two days, the event received its inauguration from the distinguished Lok Sabha Speaker, Om Birla. With the core objective of exploring the theme "Enhancing Democracy and Effective Governance in the Digital Era," the conference aimed to facilitate insightful discussions and exchange of ideas among its participants.
- The event witnessed the presence of esteemed personalities from the political and parliamentary spectrum. Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh, Rajasthan Assembly Speaker CP Joshi, and CPA Chairperson Ian Liddell-Grainger, among others, graced the occasion with their presence.

### **BANKING AND ECONOMY**

#### **Canara Bank introduces UPI interoperable digital rupee mobile app**

- Canara Bank, a leading player in the Indian banking sector, has taken a monumental step by introducing the UPI interoperable digital rupee mobile application. This move places Canara Bank at the forefront of innovation, becoming the first bank across both the public and commercial sectors to offer this pioneering feature. The app, named the Canara Digital Rupee app, marks a significant milestone as a part of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) pilot project.

- This forward-thinking initiative empowers customers to seamlessly complete transactions through their smartphones. With the Canara Digital Rupee app, customers can effortlessly scan merchant UPI QR codes, facilitating payments using the digital currency. This streamlined process brings a new level of convenience to digital payments, enhancing the overall transaction experience for users.

## Current Affairs PDF- August 21, 2023

### NATIONAL

#### **President Droupadi Murmu gives assent to Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill and Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill**

- President Droupadi Murmu has officially granted her assent to two crucial pieces of legislation, namely the Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023, and the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023. Both of these bills, which had recently received approval from the Parliament, have now become law with the President's endorsement.
- The Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023, is designed to introduce amendments to the existing Central Goods and Services Tax Act of 2017. This bill encompasses adjustments to key definitions and provisions to better align with evolving technological and economic landscapes.
- Defining Online Gaming and Virtual Digital Assets: The bill adds definitions for crucial terms such as "online gaming," "online money gaming," and "virtual digital assets." It clarifies that online gaming refers to the offering of games over the internet or electronic networks, encompassing money gaming as well.

#### **President launched 'My Bengal, Addiction Free Bengal'**

- At an occasion held at the Raj Bhavan, President Droupadi Murmu launched the 'My Bengal, Addiction-Free Bengal' campaign, a vital undertaking organised by the Brahma Kumaris, aimed at tackling the prevalent issue of drug usage among the youth.
- Acknowledging the joint endeavors of both the central and state governments in confronting this concern, the president underscored the pressing need to urgently discover viable solutions to eradicate this threat from society.
- President Droupadi Murmu outlined a multi-faceted approach to tackling the issue of drug abuse, advocating for solutions that involve spiritual awakening, medical intervention, social unity, and determined political will. She emphasized that addiction often stems from mental stress and peer pressure, resulting in harmful consequences for both the individuals involved and their families. She also applauded organizations such as the Brahma Kumaris for engaging in discussions around these critical matters and actively working to find resolutions.

**The Matti banana variety native to Kanniyakumari district has been granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag.**

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

**Distinctive Attributes:**

1. Size and Taste: Matti bananas are slightly larger-than-human finger-sized fruits with a sweet fragrance and honey-like taste that remains unmatched outside their native region.
2. Variety Diversity: There are six distinct types of Matti bananas, each boasting unique qualities in terms of color, aroma, and flav

**SPORTS**

**U-20 Wrestling World Championships 2023: Priya Malik wins gold, only second Indian to become junior world champion**

- Indian wrestler Priya Malik has achieved a remarkable feat by securing the gold medal at the U20 World Wrestling Championships held in Jordan. This victory marks a significant milestone in her career.
- Competing in the 76 kg category, Priya Malik showcased her prowess on the mat. In the gold medal match, she triumphed over Germany's Laura Kuehn with a resounding score of 5-0.
- Priya Malik's victory makes her only the second Indian woman to attain a gold medal in the prestigious U20 World Wrestling Championships. She joins the ranks of Antim Panghal, another Indian wrestler who had previously secured a gold medal in the same competition.
- Priya's success is not only a personal triumph but also a contribution to India's outstanding performance at the U20 World Wrestling Championships, supported by the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS).

**India's Anahat Singh clinches gold in Asian Junior Squash**

- Anahat Singh secured the gold medal in the U-17 category of the prestigious Asian Junior Squash Individual Championships, a remarkable achievement that adds another jewel to her growing crown of accomplishments. The championship, held from August 16 to 20, showcased Anahat's exceptional talent and determination as she emerged victorious on the court.
- The 15-year-old prodigy from India exhibited her prowess by defeating Hong Kong's Ena Kwong with a resounding 3-1 victory in the finals. In the quarterfinals and semifinals, she showcased her skill and determination by overcoming Malaysian players Doyce Lee and Whitney Isabelle Wilson, respectively.
- Last year, Anahat made her mark in the Asian Junior Squash Individual Championships held in Thailand, where she secured her first gold medal in this prestigious event.

### OBITUARY

#### Dr John Warnock, Adobe Co-Founder, dies At 82

- Adobe co-founder Dr. John Warnock passed away at the age of 82, Adobe announces. He founded the revolutionary software company Adobe with his partner, the now-late Dr. Charles Geschke, in 1982. Marva Warnock designed the company's original logo, and Adobe released its first program, the desktop publishing software Adobe PostScript, two years later. Warnock served mostly as the company's CEO until 2000 and was co-chairman of the board along with Geschke until 2017. Warnock remained on the company board of directors afterward.
- Adobe is widely-associated with Adobe Acrobat and Adobe Photoshop, but the company has maintained an impressively broad portfolio of well-regarded staple applications in multiple industries. During Warnock's tenure as its CEO, Adobe created industry-standard software for business, graphic design, photography, video editing, audio recording, and more. Warnock co-founded Adobe in 1982. He retired as CEO in 2000 and was chairman of the board, a position he shared with Geschke, until 2017.

### APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

#### Rahul Dravid becomes new Bharat Petroleum brand ambassador

- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) has announced cricketer Rahul Dravid as its new brand ambassador. He will endorse BPCL's Pure for Sure initiative and range of MAK lubricants. This exciting partnership highlights Bharat Petroleum's strong dedication to quality, authenticity, and excellence. Rahul Dravid embodies exceptional sportsmanship, serves as a role model, and possesses qualities such as integrity, dependability, and trustworthiness that align perfectly with our values at BPCL. Rahul Dravid will endorse BPCL's well-known Pure for Sure initiative and their range of MAK lubricants.
- As an icon who elevated Indian cricket to new heights, Rahul truly represents our values of trust, ethics, service, and consistency. His association with BPCL will further emphasize our commitment to delivering quality products consumers can rely on throughout the country.

### IMPORTANT DAYS

#### International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism 2023:21st August

- The International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism is observed annually on August 21. This is the sixth commemoration of the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, on 21 August 2023.
- The International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism was established by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution 72/165 of 20 December 2017. The resolution was adopted by consensus, reflecting the strong international commitment to combating terrorism and supporting its victims.



- The day was chosen to commemorate the bombing of the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq, on August 21, 2003, which killed 22 people, including Sergio Vieira de Mello, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- The International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism is a day to remember and honor the victims and survivors of terrorism. It is also a day to reaffirm the international community's commitment to combating terrorism and to promoting and protecting the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all people.

### AWARDS & RECOGNITION

#### Ratan Tata conferred Maharashtra's first Udyog Ratna award

- Eminent industrialist Ratan Tata was conferred with the first ever 'Udyog Ratna' award instituted by the Maharashtra government. The award was presented to the 85-year-old chairman emeritus of Tata Sons by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Ministers Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar at the industrialist's home in Colaba in south Mumbai.
- The contribution of the Tata group in all sectors is immense. The steel-to-salt group operates in more than 100 countries across six continents. In 2021-22, the collective revenue of Tata companies stood at \$128 billion. The honour comprised a shawl, a citation and a memento from the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC). The award comprises a shawl, a citation, and a memento. It is presented by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra.

### BANKING AND ECONOMY

#### RBI allows IDF-NBFCs to raise money via external commercial borrowings

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently introduced updated guidelines for Infrastructure Debt Fund-Non-Banking Financial Companies (IDF-NBFCs). These revisions aim to enhance the role of IDF-NBFCs in financing the infrastructure sector and to align the regulations governing infrastructure sector financing by Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs).

#### Enhanced Capital Requirements

1. Net Owned Fund (NOF) Requirement: Under the new guidelines, IDF-NBFCs are mandated to maintain a minimum Net Owned Fund (NOF) of Rs 300 crore. This measure ensures that these entities possess adequate financial strength to engage significantly in infrastructure financing.
2. Capital Adequacy (CRAR): The revised norms stipulate a Capital-to-Risk Weighted Assets Ratio (CRAR) of at least 15%, with a minimum Tier 1 capital of 10%.

## Current Affairs PDF- August 20, 2023

### INTERNATIONAL

#### Russia's first robotic moon mission in nearly 50 years ends in failure

- Russia's eagerly anticipated lunar mission, the Luna-25, has suffered a significant setback as the spacecraft veered out of control and crashed onto the Moon surface.

The failure is a poignant reminder of the unpredictable challenges inherent in space exploration, emphasizing that even the most advanced technology is susceptible to failure. This article delves into the details of the mission, the implications of its failure, and Russia's unwavering commitment to lunar exploration.

- The Luna-25 mission was an ambitious undertaking by Russia, aimed at landing a spacecraft on the Moon's South Pole. This region garnered intense scientific interest due to its potential to contain water ice, a precious resource for future lunar endeavors. Beyond its scientific objectives, the Luna-25 also served as a preliminary step towards more advanced lunar missions, setting the stage for future missions that would gather and return lunar soil samples to Earth.

### NATIONAL

#### **Tulip Garden of Srinagar Entered Record Books With 1.5mn Flowers**

- Nestled amidst the picturesque foothills of the Zabarwan range, the Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden has etched its name in the annals of the World Book of Records as Asia's largest and most spectacular park of its kind. The garden, adorned with a enchanting variety of 1.5 million blooming flowers, stands as a living testament to the beauty and diversity of nature.
- The World Book President and CEO, Santosh Shukla, bestowed the esteemed certification upon Fayaz Sheikh, the Secretary of Floriculture, Gardens, and Parks.
- With an enchanting collection of 68 distinctive tulip varieties, the Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden is a captivating tapestry of colors and shapes. Each tulip variety presents a unique personality, painting the landscape with hues that range from the most delicate pastels to the most vibrant and striking shades. The garden's meticulously curated collection showcases the tireless efforts of horticulturists and botanists in cultivating a breathtaking array of nature's wonders.

#### **Bhagwan Birsa Munda Jodaraste Scheme: Maharashtra govt to link all tribal villages in state with main roads**

- The Maharashtra government has taken a significant step towards enhancing connectivity and improving the lives of tribal communities in the state. The Bhagwan Birsa Munda Jodaraste Scheme aims to link all tribal villages in 17 districts of Maharashtra with main roads, effectively addressing the challenges faced by these communities in accessing essential services. The project, estimated at a cost of Rs 5,000 crore, will involve the construction of approximately 6,838 kilometers of roads.

### SPORTS

#### **Women's World Cup final: England lose to Spain in Sydney**

- Spain secured their first ever Women's World Cup title with a 1-0 win over England at the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup final in Sydney. The win marks a historic FIFA Women's World Cup campaign for Spain who previously failed to make it past the Round of 16. Making it to the final after knockout wins over Switzerland, the Netherlands and Sweden, was already a first for Spain with the victory in the final

cause for an even bigger celebration. Captain Olga Carmona smashed the decisive goal as Spain defeated England 1-0 to lift the FIFA Women's World Cup title.

- Spain's first major international trophy made it the first European team to win the Women's World Cup since Germany in 2007. In addition, Spain's victory makes them only the second nation to have won both the men's and the women's World Cups. The other nation is Germany, who won the men's World Cup in 1974 and 1990, and the women's World Cup in 2003 and 2007. Spain's victory is a historic moment for the team, for the country, and for the women's game. It is a moment that will be remembered for many years to come.

### ICC unveils two mascots for ODI World Cup 2023

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has enthusiastically introduced a captivating pair of brand mascots for the upcoming World Cups. These mascots, unveiled at an event in Gurugram, India, in the presence of U19 World Cup Champions' captains Yash Dhull and Shafali Verma, embody the unity and spirit that cricket promotes worldwide. Representing gender equality and diversity, the mascots, a male and a female, originate from a distant cricket paradise called the Crictoverse.
- The male and female mascots from the Crictoverse symbolize unique traits that stand for gender equality and diversity. The ICC has also launched a naming competition for the mascots, allowing fans to leave their mark on the World Cup until August 27.

### APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

#### RBI appoints P R Seshadri as South Indian Bank MD & CEO; stock zooms 11%

- The Reserve Bank of India has approved the appointment of PR Seshadri as Managing Director & CEO of the South Indian Bank for a period of three years with effect from October 1, 2023
- PR Seshadri is an accomplished banker with experiences spanning multiple businesses, functional lines and geographies. He has significant experiences in enterprise level management and in the management of all key commercial banking business lines and he has substantial experience in successfully managing investors, boards and regulatory relationships in multiple geographies.
- PR Seshadri is a respected business leader with a proven track record of building and leading large teams to execute and deliver complex business objectives. He demonstrated his ability in creating new businesses as well as in problem solving. He is successful in scaling businesses – both existing and new – taking advantage of new technologies and new market opportunities.

### IMPORTANT DAYS

#### Sadbhavana Diwas 2023: 20th August

- Sadbhavana Diwas, also known as Harmony Day, is an annual celebration observed on 20th August in India. 20th August 2023 marks the 79th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. This day commemorates the birthday of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, a visionary leader who championed the cause of

national integration, peace and public harmony among the diverse population of India.

- The term “Sadbhavana” in English refers to “goodwill and bonafide”. Being the youngest Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi’s thought process was modern and different from others. He had the vision of a developed nation via many national as well as international projects that he pioneered. The main theme of Sadbhavana Diwas is to promote national integration and communal harmony among people of all religions and languages.
- Rajiv Gandhi, born on 20th August 1944, is the former Prime Minister of India. He held office from 1984-1989 and made significant contributions to the development of the country. He introduced several progressive policies aimed at modernizing India’s education system and economy. Some of his notable achievements include:

#### **World Mosquito Day 2023: 20th August**

- Every year, World Mosquito Day is celebrated on August 20. This is done to commemorate the contributions of British doctor Sir Ronald Ross who was the first person to discover the connection between malaria and female anopheline mosquitoes. Every year, World Mosquito Day is celebrated to create awareness about the dangers of mosquitoes, the ways by which we can protect ourselves from these diseases, and to rise together to combat these insects. As we gear up to celebrate this day, here are a few facts to keep in mind.
- This day is also observed by raising awareness about the dangers of these diseases. Fundraising is done to explore the cure for malaria. The works of scientists such as Ronald Ross and others are also applauded on this day.