

Weekly Current Affairs PDF July 09 to July 15, 2023

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INTERNATIONAL

Young Dubai climber, 8, scales Europe's highest peak

- An eight-year-old mountain climber from Dubai is on top of the world after climbing Europe's highest peak. Ayaan Saboor Mendon, who is originally from India, conquered Mount Elbrus alongside his mother, Vani Mendon, and father, Saboor Ahmad.
- Last month, the climber scaled the 5,642-metre-high peak in only five days, after setting a target of eight days.
- It was far from the junior climber's first peak, as he had already reached the top of Tanzania's Mount Kilimanjaro and Australia's Mount Kosciuszko.
- At 5,642 metres, Mount Elbrus is the highest peak in Europe. It is renowned for being uncompromising, with harsh and unpredictable weather, extreme cold and soft snow, which makes handling heavy gear much more difficult. Compared to Mount Kilimanjaro, the expedition is said to be more challenging.

NATIONAL

Minister Vaishnav inaugurates Indian Mobile Congress IMC in Delhi

- The Curtain Raiser of IMC-2023, the seventh edition of India Mobile Congress, was inaugurated by Minister for Communications, Electronics & Information Technology and Railways, Shri Ashwini Vaishnav, in the presence of Minister of State for Communications, Shri Devusinh Chauhan.
- The event was attended by members of Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), representatives from telecom industries, and start-ups. IMC-2023, co-hosted by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and COAI, will take place from October 27th to 29th at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi. With the theme of 'Global Digital Innovation,' the event is expected to attract over 100,000 participants, 5,000 CXO-level delegates, 350 speakers, and 400 exhibitors. The ministers emphasized the importance of IMC in showcasing India's technological advancements and the transformative potential of 5G. The event aims to involve various industries, introduce partner countries, and promote India as a technology developer and exporter.

SPORTS

India finish with 9 medals at World Deaf Youth Badminton Championships in Brazil

- India finished with nine medals (four silver and five bronze) in the third edition of the World Deaf Youth Badminton Championships, which took place from July 10 to 12. The official Twitter handle of the Sports Authority of India (SAI) shared the news on Thursday, July 13.

- The tournament was staged by Para de Minas, a municipality town in Brazil. Aaditya in Girl's Singles, Piyush & Shreya in Mixed Doubles, Soumyadeep & Piyush in Men's Doubles and Jerlin & Aaditya in Women's Doubles won the silver medals.
- Soumyadeep in Men's Singles, Jerlin in Women's Singles, Shreya in Women's Singles, Soumyadeep & Gauranshi in Mixed Doubles and Gauranshi & Shreya in Women's Doubles finished the event with bronze medals.

OBITUARY

Veteran Marathi actor Ravindra Mahajani passes away

- Marathi actor Ravindra Mahajani has passed away at the age of 77, known for his notable contributions to Marathi cinema, had established himself as a respected actor and director. With a career spanning several decades, he had worked in numerous films and theater productions, leaving an indelible mark on the industry. His performances in movies like Mumbaicha Faujdar, Aram Haram Ahe, Zoonj, and Bolo He Chakradhari garnered critical acclaim and earned him a dedicated fan base. His son Gashmeer Mahajani is also an actor and best known for his work in Marathi cinema.
- Ravindra Mahajani (1946 – July 2023) was a Marathi actor and director. From the late seventies to the mid eighties, Mahajani featured in Marathi films. In his early career, Mahajani drove taxis and auditioned for films. He created Marathi films until 1987–1988. He was known as “the Vinod Khanna of the Marathi film industry” due to his personality and looks. Because of his resemblance to Vinod Khanna, director N. Chandra wanted him to star in his 1986 film Ankush.
- Mahajani declined. Mahajani featured in many romantic songs, including “Ha Sagar Kinara”, “Sumbaran Gao Deva”, and “Phite Andharache Jaale”. His film Devta is popular among rural fans. He is known for his roles in Duniya Kari Salam (1979), Mumbai cha Fauzdar (1984), Zoonj (1989), Kalat Nakalat (1990) and Aaram haram Ahe. The latter was a major hit while Laxmi Chi Pavale was a blockbuster. He made a comeback with 2015 film Kay Rao Tumhi.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Youth Skills Day

- World Youth Skills Day is celebrated every year on July 15. Started in 2014, World Youth Skills Day seeks to celebrate the strategic importance of equipping young people with skills for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship.
- The theme for World Youth Skills Day 2023, as per the United Nations website, is skilling teachers, trainers and youth for a transformative future. The World Youth Skills Day 2023 theme highlights the essential role that teachers, trainers and other educators play in providing skills for youth to transition to the labour market and to actively engage in their communities and societies.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

Ministry of Textile and Gujarat Government signed MoU for PM MITRA PARK at Vansi in Navsari district

- Union Textile Minister Piyush Goyal said Focus of PM MITRA PARK is to bring quality, scale and sustainability in textile sector The park is likely to attract the investment of Rs. 10 lakh crore and create employment for 3 lakh people.
- Inspired by the 5F vision of the Hon'ble Prime Minister - Farm to Fibre to Fabric to Fashion to Foreign, Gujarat is setting-up PM MITRA Park in Vansi village, Jalalpore Taluka in Navsari District after receiving formal approval from the Government of India.
- The program for MoU signing between Government of India (Ministry of Textiles) and Government of Gujarat was held in Surat, Gujarat on 13.07.2023. The event was attended by dignitaries namely Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel, Hon'ble Union Minister of Textiles, Commerce & Industry and Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Shri Piyush Goyal, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Textiles and Railways, Smt. Darshana Vikram Jardosh, Hon'ble Minister of Industries, Gujarat, Shri Balvantsinh Rajput, Hon'ble Minister of State, Shri Harshbhai Sanghvi and officials of State Government.

3rd Sherpas G20 meeting began in Hampi, Karnataka

- The third Sherpas meeting under India's G20 Presidency begin in Hampi today in Karnataka. Chaired by India's G20 Sherpa, Amitabh Kant, the three days meeting on the banks of river Tungabhadra near UNESCO World Heritage site Hampi will deliberate and engage in co-authoring the Leaders Declaration to be adopted by the G20 leaders in New Delhi Summit. Issues being considered are Green development, climate finance, lifestyle for environment, accelerated, inclusive and resilient growth, accelerating progress on sustainable development goals, technological transformation and digital public infrastructure, multilateral institutions for the 21st century and women-led development.
- Akashvani's Correspondent report: Over 120 delegates from G20 member countries, invitees and International Organisations led by India's G20 Sherpa will negotiate the text reflecting Presidency priorities. These priorities were arrived at after incorporating the feedback from the voices of Global South Summit. After intense deliberations in the day, the delegates will explore Hampi's enigmatic landscape of monuments and boulders spread over 4000 hectares. They will witness the city plan, waterways, temples and other infrastructure built during the Vijayanagar empire that flourished between 1336 to 1646 AD. They will also experience the local craft and handicrafts and cultural performances from Karnataka. Sudhindra Akashvani news Bengaluru.

BOOKS & AUTHOR

Vinod Mankara's new book released from the rocket launchpad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre

- Vinod Mankara, a national award-winning filmmaker-writer, launched his new book from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) here. The SDSC-SHAR hosted the one-of-a-kind premiere of 'Prism: The Ancestral Abode of Rainbow,' a compilation of

science essays, on Thursday evening, as preparations for the country's much-anticipated Moon mission Chandrayaan-3 were in full swing.

- While the countdown for the historic launch was underway at the space centre, ISRO Chairman S Somanath handed over the book to Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) Director S Unnikrishnan Nair. Besides Lipi Publications managing director Lipi Akbar, the book's publisher, SDSC-SHAR Director A Rajarajan, Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) director V Narayanan, former ISRO Director K Radhakrishnan, and many other space experts were present during the function.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

HDFC Bank becomes first bank to offers interoperability of UPI and CBDC QR code payments

- HDFC Bank – the country's largest private sector lender –to implement interoperability between United Payment Interface and Central Bank Digital Currency, The lender has registered over 1 lakh customers and 1.7 lakh merchants under CBDC pilot programme.
- HDFC Bank customers can now transact money available in their CBDC wallet across UPI QR code and there will be no need to scan different QR codes at the same merchant.
- Merchants, on the other hand, only need to display one QR code at the storefront or through the acquiring bank's mobile application. There is no need for merchants to change their existing QR codes
- HDFC Bank will facilitate payments in Digital Rupee across several cities including Mumbai, Delhi, Chandigarh, Bhubaneshwar, Bengaluru, Ahmedabad, Guwahati, Gangtok, among others.

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INTERNATIONAL

IIT Delhi will open its international campus in Abu Dhabi (UAE)

- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan informed that IIT Delhi is going to open its international campus in Abu Dhabi (UAE).
- After IIT Madras, now IIT Delhi is also going to open its international campus outside the country in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates).
- Earlier, IIT Madras had announced to set up its campus in Zanzibar-Tanzania. Whose work is likely to start from October this year. This initiative will further strengthen the relations between the two countries.
- Meanwhile, IIT Delhi has also announced the inclusion of UAE school students in its Summer Boot Camp, in which talented school students from there will be able to work on their research and other innovations in IIT Delhi's lab. Currently, IIT Delhi conducts such summer boot camps only for Indian school students.
- During the event, Pradhan also handed over a set of books (magic box) designed for school children up to class three under the new National Education Policy (NEP) to UAE Minister of Education Sarah Musallam.

World's largest International Temple Convention and Expo to be organized in Varanasi

- The world's largest International Temple Convention and Expo (ITCX) will be organized from 22 to 24 July 2023 at the Rudraksh Convention Center in Varanasi.
- Conceived by Temple Connect (India), it is the world's first event solely dedicated to the management of temples. The conference will focus on nurturing and empowering the governance, management and operations of the world and temple ecosystem.
- More than 450 temple functionaries from 25 countries are expected to participate in the conference. Along with Hindus, office bearers of Math-Temples and Gurudwaras belonging to Sikh, Buddhist and Jainism have also been invited.
- The conference will be inaugurated by RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on July 22. The event will be held at Rudraksh Convention Centre. For the first time, the International Temples Convention & Expo is being organized by Temple Connect.
- The three-day event is being organized as part of the Incredible India campaign in collaboration with the Union Ministry of Tourism. In this, development, empowerment of temple management, operation and administration will be discussed. According to the founder of Temple Connect, best practices will be created for the teams of the leading places of worship in the world.

NATIONAL

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurates 'SAGAR SAMPARK' Differential Global Navigation Satellite System to Strengthen Maritime sector

- The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways is committed towards innovation, building best infrastructure, and strengthening the Indian Maritime sector. Today, to further the digital initiative in maritime sector
- The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the indigenous Differential Global Navigation Satellite System (DGNSS) 'SAGAR SAMPARK' in the presence of Shri Shripad Y. Naik, the Minister of State of Ports, Shipping and Waterways; Shri TK Ramachandran, IAS Secretary, MoPSW and other senior officials from the ministry and Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships. DGNSS is a terrestrial based enhancement system which corrects the errors and inaccuracies in the Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) allowing for more accurate positioning information.
- The DGNSS service will help mariners in safe navigation and will reduce the risk of collisions, groundings, and accidents in the port and harbour areas. This will lead to safe & efficient movement of vessels.

Numaligarh Refinery in Assam upgraded to 'Schedule A' category enterprise

- Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) has established itself as one of the top 20 CPSEs in India in terms of both sales revenue and profitability. It has gained widespread recognition as a high-performing refinery in the country, setting industry benchmarks for distillate production, specific energy usage, and gross refining profit. Furthermore, NRL has embarked on exporting petroleum products to neighboring countries, solidifying its global presence and playing a vital role in advancing the Act East Policy of the Government of India.

- With a refining capacity of 3 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA), NRL holds the distinction of being the largest refinery in Northeast India. Currently, it is undertaking a significant expansion project to triple its refining capacity to 9 MMTPA, alongside the construction of a transnational crude oil pipeline from Paradip in Odisha. NRL is also actively involved in projects valued at Rs. 35,000 crores in the region, representing one of the largest investments in the oil and gas sector.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

China launches world's 1st methane-powered rocket to space

- China successfully launched the world's first methane-powered rocket into space.
- The development marked the first orbital mission fueled by methane, a cutting-edge technology that until now had only been developed by the American companies SpaceX and Blue Origin.
- The rocket, named Zhuque-2 Y2, lifted off from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in China's Gobi desert, said its manufacturer LandSpace, a private Chinese space company.
- LandSpace claimed that the success of the mission verified various schemes of the rocket and laid a solid foundation for the development of reusable rockets in the next stage, according to national broadcaster CGTN.
- The rocket uses liquid methane as fuel and liquid oxygen as an oxidizer – a non-toxic mix of reusable components also known as "methalox."
- The launcher has a two-stage configuration, with a diameter of 3.35 meters, a height of 49.5 meters, a takeoff weight of 219 tons, and a takeoff thrust of 268 tons.
- It is the second test flight of the Zhuque-2 after a failed attempt in December last year.

Chandrayaan-3 successfully launched

- The Chandrayaan-3- India's third mission to the moon took off successfully from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh on July 14. The Vikram lander of the mission is expected to soft land on the surface of the South Pole region of the Moon on around August 23-24. The LVM3 rocket broke free from the second launch pad at the Space Centre at about 2.35 p.m. The Prime Minister Narendra Modi has hailed the relentless dedication of India's scientists on the launch of Chandrayaan-3
- The success of this launch is not just important to India but also the world as crucial information from the mission will help future space missions globally. This mission demonstrates that India is competent enough in scientific advancements. LVM -3 rocket is just ready to undertake the mission.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Bastille Day

- Bastille Day (also known as la Fête nationale) on July 14 commemorates the storming of the Bastille in Paris in 1789. The event sparked already heated times in France, leading to the French Revolution.

- All across the country, the French tricolor flag waves during parades, festivals, fireworks, and other celebrations. The Eiffel Tower lights up in the blue, white and red of the country's flag. The French proudly display motto Liberté, Egalité Fraternité (liberty, equality, and fraternity).
- PM Modi in France - Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be given one of France's most spectacular recognitions on July 14 as guest of honour at the Bastille Day military parade, a part of a visit that has sealed high-profile defence deals.
- PM Modi and President Emmanuel Macron will watch French and Indian soldiers march down the tree-lined Champs-Élysée avenue in Paris, while French-made Rafale fighter jets India bought in 2015 will take part in the fly-past over the Arc de Triomphe, Reuters reported.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

Defence Ministry and FSSAI sign MOU to promote use of millet and healthy eating practices among armed forces

- The Defence Ministry and Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to promote the use of millets and healthy eating practices among the armed forces and ensure availability of safe and nutritious food. The MoU was signed in the presence of Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh and Health Minister Dr Mansukh Mandaviya in New Delhi today.
- The Union Health Ministry said, this collaboration will ensure training of food handlers and chefs of mess, canteens of the Armed Forces and other food outlets on food safety and hygiene. It signifies a shared commitment to the health and well-being of the Armed Forces to enable them to remain strong and resilient in their service to the nation. The MoU will also encourage the families of the Armed Forces and the community at large to adopt nutritious diets, make healthy food choices, and maintain food safety.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

PM Modi conferred with Grand Cross of Legion of Honour- France's highest award

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, France's highest award by H.E. Emmanuel Macron, President of the Republic of France. PM Modi thanked President Macron for this singular honour on behalf of the people of India. The award ceremony took place at the Elysee Palace in Paris.
- Earlier, PM Modi addressed the Indian community at La Seine Musicale in Paris. During his address, he highlighted the multi-faceted India-France Strategic Partnership, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary. Prime Minister also announced about opening of new consulate in Marseille, France.
- Before that, PM Modi met H.E. Elisabeth Borne, Prime Minister of France on 13 July 2023. Both the leaders discussed furthering cooperation in various areas such as economic and trade, energy, environment, education, mobility, railways, digital public infrastructure, museology and people to people ties.

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NATIONAL

ONGC Becomes India's First PSU to Achieve Anti-Bribery Management System Certification

- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has recently made history by becoming the first Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) in India to receive certification for its Anti-Bribery Management System (ABMS). The certification was awarded by the internationally accredited certification body InterCert USA. ONGC's commitment to combat bribery was previously demonstrated in 2005 when it became the first organization in India to adopt the Integrity Pact (IP) initiated by Transparency International.
- A Landmark Achievement: ONGC's pursuit of an ABMS certification marks a significant milestone in its journey as an Energy Maharatna, further solidifying its position as a trusted business partner. The certification was achieved by successfully implementing the ISO 37001:2016 International Standard, following a thorough assessment and validation process conducted by InterCert USA

Rajnath Singh inaugurates HAL's regional office in Kuala Lumpur

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)'s Regional Office in Kuala Lumpur to facilitate close defence industrial collaboration between India and Malaysia, the Ministry of Defence said in a press release.
- He also interacted with the Indian diaspora and urged them to work incessantly for shared prosperity between India and Malaysia.
- Recognising defence exports as a key pillar of sustainable growth of the Indian defence industry, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Regional Office of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- This Regional Office will facilitate close defence industrial collaboration between India and Malaysia. It will also serve as a hub for the HAL's engagement with the wider South-East Asian region and act as a window for other Indian Defense PSUs, the press release.
- Malaysia is home to the second largest members of the Persons of Indian Origin and has a significant presence of the NRI community. The Defence Minister interacted with the Indian diaspora on two different occasions.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Elon Musk launches his new artificial intelligence company, xAI

- Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla and SpaceX, and owner of Twitter, on Wednesday announced the debut of a new artificial intelligence company, xAI, with the goal to "understand the true nature of the universe." According to the company's website, Musk and his team will share more information in a live Twitter Spaces chat on Friday.
- Team members behind xAI are alumni of DeepMind, OpenAI, Google Research, Microsoft Research, Twitter and Tesla, and have worked on projects including DeepMind's AlphaCode and OpenAI's GPT-3.5 and GPT-4 chatbots. Musk seems to be

positioning xAI to compete with companies like OpenAI, Google and Anthropic, which are behind leading chatbots like ChatGPT, Bard and Claude.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

President appoints two new judges in Supreme Court

- Telangana Chief Justice Ujjal Bhuyan and Kerala Chief Justice S. Venkatanarayana Bhatti have been appointed as judges of the Supreme Court by the President. These appointments were made shortly after the Supreme Court Collegium, headed by Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud, recommended their names to the government.
- Experience of Justice Mishra - Justice Bhatti was appointed as a judge of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh on April 12, 2013 and is the senior-most in his parent High Court.
- He was transferred to the Kerala High Court in March 2019 and is presently serving as Chief Justice there since June 1, 2023.
- Experience of Justice Viswanathan - Justice Bhuyan is currently serving as the Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court while Justice Bhatti is the Chief Justice of Kerala High Court.
- Justice Bhuyan's parent High Court is the Gauhati High Court.
- He was appointed as a judge of the Gauhati High Court on October 17, 2011.
- He is the senior-most judge of his parent High Court and has been serving as Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court since June 28, 2022.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

Maharashtra government and Gogoro made an MoU to setup smart battery ecosystem

- Maharashtra and Gogoro have announced that the Maharashtra government has presented Gogoro with an offer letter to enter into an 'Ultra Mega Project' agreement to manufacture vehicles, smart battery packs and battery swap stations, and deploy an open and accessible battery swapping infrastructure in the State beginning in late 2023.
- The proposed Ultra Mega Project deal would exceed \$1.5 billion (Rs 12,300 crore) and include financial incentives and support from Maharashtra. The offer letter follows an MOU between Maharashtra and Gogoro that was previously announced at Davos in January 2023.
- The Maharashtra government categorizes Ultra Mega Projects as significant strategic investments exceeding \$500 million that usually result in government incentives to ensure successful project execution. Gogoro's request for financial incentives was approved and endorsed by the Maharashtra state cabinet and the two parties expect to complete the agreement soon.

L&T signs Master Ship Repair Agreement with US Navy

- Larsen & Toubro said it has signed the Master Shipyard Repair Agreement with the US Navy to further strengthen the partnership between the two countries in the defence sector.

- L&T's Kattupalli Shipyard, near Chennai, a major node in the Southern Defence Corridor, has been undertaking voyage repairs of the Military Sealift Command vessels, the firm said in a statement.
- After an elaborate assessment by the US Navy and the Military Sealift Command, the shipyard qualified for the Master Shipyard Repair Agreement (MSRA). This is equivalent to undertaking warship refits, for which the shipyard has already been qualified by the Indian Navy and the Coast Guard,
- The agreement marks yet another step in the growing relationship between the biggest and the oldest democracies of the world, further strengthening the partnership between them in the defence sector,
- This agreement marks a global recognition of our unmatched capabilities and facilities to undertake quality ship repairs and refits...L&T will dedicate all its dynamism, innovation, and Shipbuilding 4.0 techniques to meet the quality and delivery requirements of the US side,

Sixth India-Arab Partnership Conference 2023 was organized in New Delhi

- Sixth India-Arab Partnership Conference 2023 was organized in New Delhi on 11 -12 July 2023, External Affairs Secretary (CPV & OIA) Dr Ausaf Sayeed said, India has strong relations with the West Asian countries and the region is the largest trade partner of India. He said UAE was the third-largest trading partner while Saudi Arabia, was the fourth-largest partner during the last financial year.
- Talking about the Sixth India-Arab Partnership Conference, Dr Sayeed said, the Conference has provided a useful platform to the business community on both sides to explore new prospects for trade and investment. He highlighted the importance of cooperation in the field of the renewable energy sector, especially green hydrogen.

11th meeting of the Executive Board of Association of World Election Bodies

- The Chief Election Commissioner of India, Shri Rajiv Kumar, along with a delegation from the Election Commission of India (ECI), recently attended the 11th meeting of the Executive Board of the Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB) in Cartagena, Colombia. The meeting provided an opportunity for Electoral management bodies (EMBs) from around the world to collaborate and address challenges affecting election integrity.
- Association of World Election Bodies A-WEB plays a crucial role in promoting cooperation among (Electoral management body) EMB and facilitating the exchange of experiences and best practices. The association, which comprises 119 EMBs as members and 20 regional associations/organizations as associate members, provides a platform for EMBs to learn from one another and enhance their electoral management processes. By sharing expertise and strategies, EMBs can effectively address common challenges and improve election integrity globally.

BANKING AND ECONOMY

Travel credit card launched by IDFC FIRST Bank, Club Vistara, & Mastercard

- IDFC FIRST Bank, Club Vistara, and Mastercard together have introduced a travel credit card that aims to enhance travel experiences for cardholders. The aim of the

partnership and travel card is to provide solutions tailored specifically for frequent flyers and travel enthusiasts, while also ensuring security.

- The card combines banking services with various travel perks including access to airport lounges, complimentary flight tickets, accelerated reward points, and cover for cancelled flight & hotel bookings among other features.
- This card will redefine the way people travel, offering a range of exclusive benefits and rewards that cater to the diverse needs of modern travellers. We are confident in this partnership's
- ability to deliver unmatched value and elevate the travel experience for our esteemed customers.
- As consumers take advantage of a more traditional travel ecosystem in 2023, prioritising leisure travel and pioneering new corridors around the world, Mastercard is thrilled to introduce a specially designed credit card for travel enthusiasts in collaboration with IDFC FIRST Bank and Club Vistara,

Max Life partners with DCB Bank to offer comprehensive range of life insurance solutions

- Max Life Insurance Company announced its partnership with DCB Bank. Through this collaboration, Max Life and DCB Bank will provide life insurance products to the bank's customers, including term, savings, and retirement plans, allowing them to protect their financial future and expand their investment portfolio. The partnership aims to leverage DCB Bank's extensive reach and customer-centric approach, along with Max Life's expertise in protection and long-term savings solutions. By combining their strengths, the two organizations aim to deliver superior customer experience, digital servicing, and an omni-channel approach.
- About Max Life Insurance - Max Life Insurance Company Limited is a joint venture between Max Financial Services Limited and Axis Bank Limited. It offers comprehensive protection and long-term savings life insurance solutions. Max Life operates through multiple distribution channels, including agency and third-party partners. The company has achieved a gross written premium of INR 25,342 Cr for FY2022-23. It is a prominent player in the insurance sector, known for its expertise and customer-centric approach.
- About DCB Bank - DCB Bank is a new-generation private sector bank with 427 branches across India. It is regulated by the Reserve Bank of India and is professionally managed. The bank provides contemporary technology infrastructure, including internet and mobile banking services.

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INTERNATIONAL

Four Indian-origin biz leaders in 2023 Forbes' 100 richest self-made women list

- Four Indian-origin women have made it to the Forbes list of America's 100 richest self-made women, with a combined net worth of a \$4.06 billion. Jayshree Ullal, president and CEO of Arista Networks, a computer networking firm; Neerja Sethi, co-founder of IT consulting and outsourcing firm Synte; Neha Narkhede, co-founder and

former chief technology officer (CTO) of cloud company Confluent; and Indra Nooyi, PepsiCo's former chair and CEO, are the four Indian-origin women who have been named by Forbes.

- **Jayshree Ullal** - Ranked 15th on the list, Ullal has a net worth of \$2.4 billion. She has been president and CEO of the publicly-traded Arista Networks since 2008 and owns about 2.4 per cent of its stock. Arista recorded revenue of nearly \$4.4 billion in 2022.
- **Neerja Sethi** - Ranked 25th on the list, Sethi, 68, has a net worth of \$990 million. Neerja Sethi co-founded IT consulting and outsourcing firm Syntel with her husband Bharat Desai in 1980 in their apartment in Troy, Michigan. In October 2018, French IT firm Atos SE bought Syntel for \$3.4 billion and Sethi got an estimated \$510 million for her stake.
- **Neha Narkhede** - Narkhede, 38, is ranked 50th on the list with a net worth of \$520 million. As a LinkedIn software engineer, she helped develop the open-source messaging system Apache Kafka to handle the networking site's massive influx of data. In 2014, she and two LinkedIn colleagues left to found Confluent, which helps organisations process large amounts of data on Apache Kafka.
- **Indra Nooyi** - Nooyi, the former chair and CEO of PepsiCo, retired in 2019 after 24 years with the company, half of which she spent in the top job. The 67-year-old has a net worth of \$350 million and is ranked 77th on the list. As CEO, she thwarted a bid to break up PepsiCo, nearly doubled sales and introduced healthier products and environmentally friendly practices. Her fortune stems from stock she was granted while working at PepsiCo.

India secured four gold medals at the 34th International Biology Olympiad

- India topped the medals tally at the 34th International Biology Olympiad (IBO) 2023, held in Al Ain, UAE, from July 3 to 11, by securing four gold medals. For the first time, India has turned in an all-gold performance and topped the medals tally in IBO.
- The student's team this year was Dhruv Advani (Gold) from Bengaluru, Karnataka, Ishan Pednekar (Gold) from Ratnagiri, Maharashtra, Megh Chhabda (Gold) from Jalna, Maharashtra, Rohit Panda (Gold) from Risali, Chhattisgarh.
- The team was accompanied by two leaders, Professor Madan M. Chaturvedi (Former Senior Professor, Delhi University) and Dr Anupama Ronad (Homi Bhabha Center for Science Education, TIFR), and two Scientific Observers, Dr V. V. Binoy (National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru) and Dr Rambhadur Subedi (NIRRH, Mumbai).
- As per the note shared by HBCSE, "There were 293 students from 76 countries in this year's IBO. After India, Singapore was the only other country to secure four gold medals. In all 29 gold medals were awarded. Earlier, India topped the medals tally in Astronomy and Astrophysics (in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2015, and 2021), Physics (in 2018), and Junior Science (in 2014, 2019, 2021, and 2022)."

SPORTS

Wanindu Hasaranga and Ashley Gardner awarded ICC 'Player of the Month' for June

- The ICC (International Cricket Council) honoured Sri Lankan spinner Wanindu Hasaranga and Australian women's team all-rounder Ashley Gardner with the 'Player of the Month' awards in June for their exceptional performances.
- Wanindu Hasaranga received the prestigious accolade for his remarkable achievements during the World Cup qualifier matches held in Zimbabwe.
- Ashley Gardner became the first player to win the Player of the Month award three times. She was recognized for her outstanding contribution during the Women's Ashes series.
- The ICC honoured both the players during the month of June for their remarkable skill, performance and impact on their respective teams.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

SBI Card appoints Abhijit Chakravorty as MD & CEO

- SBI Cards & Payment Services (SBI Card), the country's largest pure-play credit card issuer, has appointed Abhijit Chakravorty as MD & CEO.
- Chakravorty, who is presently a Deputy Managing Director at SBI, will assume charge of his new role on August 12, SBI Card said in a filing with stock exchanges.
- He has been appointed as SBI Card's MD&CEO for two years.
- Incumbent MD & CEO Rama Mohan Rao Amara has tendered his resignation owing to his transfer to SBI. Amara will demit office on August 11.
- Chakravorty will assume his new role at a time when the Indian credit card industry is showing robust growth both in terms of volumes and card spends.
- Chakravorty, who started his banking career as a Probationary Officer with SBI in 1988, has gained over 34 years of rich experience in Retail and Corporate Banking, Overseas Operations and IT verticals of the bank.
- He also served at the Hongkong branch of the Bank. He had a long tenure in Commercial Credit Group and was involved in high value Corporate Lending.
- Chakravorty managed the Bangladesh Operations of SBI as CEO and Country Head.

ITC board reappoints Sanjiv Puri as chairman & managing director

- In a significant development, the board of ITC Ltd has re-appointed Sanjiv Puri as the company's Chairman and Managing Director for a period of five years. The decision, made on the recommendation of the committee, is set to take effect from July 22, 2024. ITC Limited is an eminent Indian conglomerate, which holds a prominent position among the largest companies in the country. Its operations encompass a diverse range of business sectors, such as tobacco manufacturing, food processing, retailing, and financial services.
- Sanjiv Puri, 60, joined ITC in January 1986 and has since demonstrated exceptional leadership across various roles within the organization. He was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer in February 2017 and later re-designated as the Managing Director in May 2018. Puri took on the role of Chairman of the tobacco-to-hotels conglomerate on May 13, 2019.

- During his tenure at ITC, Puri has held several key positions, displaying a remarkable understanding of diverse business verticals. He has overseen critical areas such as manufacturing, operations, and information & digital technology. Puri's expertise and strategic vision have played a pivotal role in shaping ITC's growth trajectory.

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Malala Day

- International Malala Day is observed every year on July 12 to celebrate the life and legacy of Pakistani education activist and Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai. A symbol of the fight for girls' education, Malala was first recognized globally on October 9, 2012, when she was shot in the head and neck by a Taliban gunman.
- History - The United Nations first celebrated International Malala Day on July 12, 2013 - a year after she was shot by a Taliban gunman in Pakistan for opposing their restrictions on female education in the country. The meeting of the UN was addressed by former British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, who was then serving as UN Special Envoy for Global Education. The day also coincides with Malala's birthday.
- According to the UN, the day calls for several world leaders to ensure free and mandatory education for girl children. It emphasizes that education is not a privilege but a fundamental right for everyone.
- Malala Day holds a great significance that highlights the importance of education and women's rights. The day serves as a reminder that individual determination and standing up for one's beliefs can have a profound impact on the world. On this day, people bring attention to the plight of millions of children who are still denied access to quality education.

World Paper Bag Day

- On July 12, World Paper Bag Day is celebrated annually to promote the significance of utilizing paper bags instead of plastic. This observance serves as a reminder to prioritize environmentally conscious choices in our everyday lives and encourages individuals and businesses to adopt more sustainable alternatives.
- World Paper Bag Day holds great importance in advocating for a greener and cleaner world. Plastic bags, being non-biodegradable, pose a significant threat to our planet. They often end up in landfills or find their way into the oceans, endangering marine life. By choosing paper bags instead, we can reduce plastic waste and contribute to the preservation of our planet for future generations.
- Paper bags are made from renewable resources and are biodegradable, meaning they can be recycled and easily decomposed without causing harm to the environment. This is one of the primary benefits of using paper bags.
- The objective of this day is to raise public awareness about the detrimental impact of plastic bags on the environment and to encourage the adoption of paper bags and other eco-friendly alternatives.

NABARD Foundation Day

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) celebrated its 42nd Foundation Day on July 12, 2023. The day was marked by a series of events across the country, including a webinar on the theme of “NABARD: 42 Years of Rural Transformation.”
- The webinar was addressed by the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, who highlighted the important role that NABARD has played in the development of rural India. He said that NABARD has helped to increase agricultural production, improve rural infrastructure, and promote financial inclusion in rural areas.
- The webinar also featured presentations by senior officials from NABARD, who discussed the bank’s various initiatives in the areas of agriculture, rural development, and financial inclusion.
- NABARD is a national bank that provides financial and developmental support to the agricultural and rural sectors in India. It was established in 1982 by the Indian government to coordinate the activities of all rural credit institutions and to serve as the apex institution for the entire rural credit system.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and Climate Policy Initiative sign MoU to cooperate on Sustainable Finance

- The International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) and Climate Policy Initiative – India (CPI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for mutual assistance and cooperation to increase mobilisation of global sustainable capital flows into India.
- The commencement of India’s G20 Presidency begins with the theme “One Earth, One Family, One Future”. Sustainable development is a key priority that runs across the priorities of G20 working groups. Mobilisation of sustainable finance is critical to achieve transition to green and resilient economies. IFSCA has taken significant steps in accelerating global sustainable capital flows by creating a conducive regulatory environment, based on international best practices, focused especially on the needs of India and developing countries. With deep expertise in finance and policy, CPI is an analysis and advisory organization that works to improve the most important energy and land use practices around the world.

Current Affairs PDF- July 11, 2023

NATIONAL

Dell joins Intel to launch AI skills lab in India

- Dell Technologies and Intel have joined forces to establish an artificial intelligence (AI) lab in Telangana institute. The partnership aims to bridge the digital skills gap and empower students at Lords Institute of Engineering & Technology in Telangana by integrating Intel’s ‘AI for Youth’ program into their curriculum. This initiative

seeks to prepare students for the industry with the necessary expertise for the future job market and foster an AI-ready ecosystem on campus.

- Dell and Intel's collaboration focuses on demystifying AI for the next generation by incorporating Intel's 'AI for Youth' program into the existing curriculum. The initiative aims to equip students with the necessary digital skills, reducing the gap between industry demands and the skills possessed by graduates.
- The partnership includes training provided by Intel to selected teachers, enabling them to effectively educate students on AI concepts. Students will benefit from over 170 hours of AI curriculum, which includes bootcamps, AI-Thons, virtual showcases, and other activities designed to enhance their AI skills.
- A key aspect of the collaboration is the establishment of an AI Skills lab on the campus, where students can gain hands-on experience and develop AI-driven solutions. The lab will foster innovation in emerging AI technologies, including natural language processing (NLP), computer vision, and statistical data analytics.

India's first Vedic-themed park opened in Noida

- India's first Vedic-themed park is inaugurated in Noida's Sector 78. The park, named Ved Van Park, is a unique blend of spirituality, culture, and nature, that offers an immersive experience into the world of the four Vedas: Rig Veda, Yajur Veda, Sama Veda, and Atharva Veda.
- The theme park was constructed with a budget of Rs 27 crore, not Rs 28 crore as previously mentioned.
- The park is divided into seven zones, each named after revered sages of the Vedic age such as Vishvamitra, Vasishtha, and Agastya, among others. Each zone offers a unique exploration of the themes and teachings of the Vedas.
- There are over 50,000 plants, all meticulously chosen from Vedic literature, creating a lush and vibrant environment for visitors. These include kalpa vriksha, neem, and banyan, among others, all of which have been mentioned in Vedic literature. For those seeking physical activity, an open gym has also been set up. Additionally, a solar-lit amphitheatre provides a space for cultural performances and gatherings.
- In the evenings, visitors can enjoy a captivating Vedic-themed laser show that narrates stories from the Vedas. Other attractions also include a Rishi zone and a water laser zone for people to soak into the Vedic culture.

SPORTS

India bags maximum 11 medals in World Archery Youth Championships, 2023

- In the 'World Archery Youth Championship', 2023 held in Ireland, India has secured the second position in the championship by winning the maximum number of 11 medals.
- The 'World Archery Youth Championships', 2023 is scheduled to be held from 3 to 9 July 2023. India finished second in the championship:
- India finished with its highest ever medal tally of 11 medals in this championship. Despite this, India finished second behind Korea in this championship.

- Korea finished first with a total of 10 medals including six gold and four silver while India finished second with a total of 11 medals including six gold, one silver and four bronze.

Max Verstappen Wins For First Time At Silverstone Circuit: British Grand Prix 2023

- Max Verstappen of Red Bull survived an early push from McLaren opponent Lando Norris to win the 2023 British Grand Prix at Silverstone, marking his maiden victory at this event and extending his current winning streak to six races. This also marked Red Bull's 10th consecutive win this season and their 11th consecutive F1 win.
- Norris took the lead from Verstappen soon after the start lights went green, with McLaren teammate Oscar Piastri almost matching Verstappen, leading to a McLaren sandwich with Red Bull as the filling during the opening four laps, but the reigning double world champion quickly fought back for the lost position. Verstappen, with a little help from the DRS of his RB18, reclaimed P1 and cruised to victory with the fastest lap of the race.

Parth Salunkhe becomes first Indian to win Youth World Championship in recurve category

- Top-ranked Parth Salunkhe warded off a strong challenge from Korean Song In Jun 7-3 in the final to become the recurve under-21 men's individual champion in the World youth archery championships in Limerick, Ireland, on Sunday. He was the first Indian male archer to achieve the feat.
- Fighting back twice, Salunkhe hit the bull's eye twice to beat the Korean for the world title. Earlier, he received two byes and got the better of Czech Republic's Richard Krejci 7-1, Turkey's Mustafa Ozdemir 6-5 (9*-9, shot closer to the centre), Chinese Taipei's Yang Kai-Han 6-4 and Germany's Mathias Kramer 6-4.
- Bhajan Kaur defeated Chinese Taipei's Su Hsin-yu 7-1 to take the women's under-21 individual bronze.
- Indian archers gathered the most number of medals, a total of 11 including six golds, one silver and four bronzes. It finished second behind Korea, which collected six golds and four silvers.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

K. Rajaraman appointed as new chairperson of IFSCA

- The government has announced the appointment of senior bureaucrat and telecom secretary K Rajaraman as the next Chairperson of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), showed an official order.
- Rajaraman is an Indian Administrative Service officer of 1989 batch. His appointment is for a period of three years. He succeeds the first IFSCA Chairperson Injeti Srinivas who led the authority since 2020.
- Rajaraman's term will be for three years from the date of his assumption of charge of the post, or till attaining the age of 65 years, or until further orders, whichever is the earliest, the order issued by the finance ministry said.
- About: IFSCA - IFSCA was set up in April 2020 under the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019, at GIFT City, Gandhinagar in Gujarat. IFSCA is a

unified authority for the development and regulation of financial products, financial services and financial institutions in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC). At present, the GIFT IFSC is the maiden international financial services centre in India. Prior to the establishment of IFSCA, RBI, SEBI, PFRDA and IRDAI regulated the business in IFSC.

IMPORTANT DAYS

World Population Day

- World Population Day is observed on July 11 each year. The global population is increasing rapidly, bringing forth a range of challenges and issues. Poverty, economic concerns, and maternal health are just a few of the areas affected by the growing population. World Population Day serves as a reminder to work towards addressing these issues and striving for a better future for everyone on the planet. The annual observance aims to raise awareness and educate people about the global population and its associated challenges.
- **History** - The United Nations established World Population Day in 1989. The initiative was proposed by Dr. KC Zachariah to mark the day when the global population reached five billion on July 11, 1987.
- World Population Day was first celebrated on 11 July 1990 in more than 90 countries. From then onwards, in partnership with governments and civil societies, a number of UNFPA country offices and other organizations and institutions commemorate this Day.
- **Theme** - The United Nations has designated the theme for this year's event as "Unleashing the power of gender Equality: Uplifting the voices of women and girls to unlock our world's infinite possibilities."

BANKING AND ECONOMY

PNB Launches UPI Payments With IVR-Based UPI 123PAY

- State-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB) has announced the launch of UPI 123PAY, an IVR-based UPI solution. This offering is in line with the Digital Payment Vision 2025, aiming to propel India towards a cashless and cardless society.
- The Unified Payments Interface (UPI) has revolutionized the way transactions are conducted in India, offering customers a seamless, secure, and real-time payment experience. However, until now, UPI services were primarily accessible through smartphones or USSD, relying on robust internet connectivity.
- PNB recognized that this limitation prevented users without smartphones or residing in low internet connectivity zones from accessing UPI services.

Current Affairs PDF- July 10, 2023

INTERNATIONAL

Latvia swears in Edgars Rinkevics as EU's first openly gay president

- Edgar Rinkevics, 49, has been sworn in as Latvia's first openly gay head of state, and the first openly gay president of an EU member state, reported Deutsche Welle

(DW). Rinkevics vowed to uphold Latvia's support for Ukraine in its war against Russia, as he was sworn in as president.

- "Russia's war and genocide in Ukraine have created a new, harsh reality," the German news agency DPA quoted Rinkevics as saying. He warned of the threats of "imperial Russia and the [Belarus leader Alexander] Lukashenko regime" against the region, Europe and the whole world, as per DW.
- Deutsche Welle is Germany's international broadcaster and media outlet. The speech of the former foreign minister came days before the NATO summit in Vilnius.
- Latvia will stand for a strong and effective NATO, the European Union, a law-based international order and close cooperation with our friends and allies.
- The 49-year-old has held the highest diplomatic position for Latvia since 2011 and has long backed Ukraine against Russian aggression, as per DW.
- After his predecessor, Egils Levits, opted not to seek re-election, the parliament elected Rinkevics to the mostly ceremonial position of president in May. He is now the first openly gay president of an EU member state and the first head of state of Latvia. After being sworn in, Rinkevics gave a speech in which he vowed to work for inclusiveness and equality in Latvia.
- Every person in Latvia, its citizens, must feel that they belong, legally protected and safe," the new president said, DW reported. (ANI) This report is auto-generated from ANI news service. ThePrint holds no responsibility for its content.

India-US conduct 'Operation Broader Sword' to prevent illegal drugs shipment

- In a joint multi-agency operation carried out by the law enforcement agencies of the US and India, more than 500 shipments of "illicit and unapproved prescription" drugs were stopped from reaching US consumers.
- Operation "Broader Sword", which was carried out in June 2023, targeted shipments of illicit, potentially dangerous, unapproved prescription drugs, combination medical devices, and synthetic drug precursors shipped through International Mail Facilities (IMF), the US Embassy said on Friday.

NATIONAL

3rd Trade and Investment Working Group Meeting begins in Kevadia, Gujarat

- As part of India's G20 presidency, the third Trade and Investment Working Group Meeting began in Kevadia today. More than 75 international delegates from various G20 countries are taking part in the three-day meeting at Kevadiya. The delegates are participating in a seminar on 'Trade Infrastructure'. Later in the day, the international representatives will visit the famous Statue of Unity.
- The focus of the meeting is to build consensus among G 20 countries on adopting proposals put forward by the Indian Presidency on global trade and investment-related issues.
- The meet will formally be inaugurated tomorrow. There will be a series of technical sessions tomorrow and day after tomorrow during which G 20 members will give their comments on Indian presidency proposal.

These tools of IIT-Kharagpur can check loco pilot's alertness before and during duty

- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur, has come up with a tool that will check the alertness of locomotive pilots, both before and while they are at the wheel.
- The tool is a tamper-proof device that will measure the drowsiness of the loco pilot in real-time and create alertness based on the analysis of normal and near-infrared facial images.
- The device will use the camera to capture images of the loco pilot's face to compute a metric of drowsiness by observing the dynamics of eyelid motion.
- "In the event of loss of attention, it will sound an alarm and can also send an alert to the control room. The algorithm residing on the processor computes the percentage of eye closure over time, and based on a predetermined threshold, the driver is declared as drowsy," said IIT-Kharagpur electrical engineering professor Aurobinda Routray.

SPORTS

Lakshya Sen staves off Li Shi Feng challenge to win Canada Open title

- Star Indian shuttler Lakshya Sen dished out a badminton masterpiece to notch up his second BWF Super 500 title with a straight-game win over Li Shi Feng of China in the final of the Canada Open.
- The 21-year-old from Almora, who had claimed his maiden Super 500 title at the 2022 India Open, mixed incredible speed and power to outshine reigning All England champion Feng 21-18, 22-20 in a thrilling summit clash.
- "Coming into the Olympic qualification year, it was tough as things didn't go my way. So this win will be a big boost to my confidence," Sen told PTI after the win.
- "I had to dig deep in some matches, the conditions were different and getting used to it was important," the ace shuttler said.
- This was Sen's first title since claiming his maiden gold medal at the Commonwealth Games in August last year. He is also the second singles player from the country to win a title this year, following HS Prannoy's victory at Malaysia Masters in May.

Parth Salunkhe became the first male archer to win a gold medal in the recurve event

- Parth Salunkhe has become the first male archer to win a gold medal in the recurve event at the World Youth Archery Championships to be held in Ireland from 3 to 9 July 2023. India finished with its highest ever medal tally of 11 medals in this championship.
- The 19-year-old from Satara in Maharashtra won the gold medal on July 9 after defeating a Korean in the Under-21 men's recurve individual final. Salunkhe, who topped the ranking round, defeated seventh seed Song Injun 7-3 in a hard-fought five-set match. India also won a bronze medal in the Under-21 women's recurve individual event when Bhaja Kaur defeated Su Hsien-yu of Chinese Taipei 7-1.
- India finished with six gold, one silver and four bronze medals, the highest in terms of total medal tally. In terms of rankings, they were second only to Korea, which took the pole position with six gold and four silver medals.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNATIONS

Telecom Secretary K Rajaraman to take charge as IFSCA chairman

- The government has appointed Telecom Secretary K Rajaraman as the new chairperson of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA). Injeti Srinivas, the first chairperson of the regulatory authority appointed in 2020, will be succeeded by Rajaraman.
- According to a gazette notification, Rajaraman's appointment will be effective for a period of three years from the date he assumes charge, or until he reaches the age of 65, or until further orders, whichever occurs earliest. The IFSCA was established in April 2020 under the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019. It is headquartered at GIFT City, Gandhinagar.
- The IFSCA serves as a unified authority for developing and regulating financial products, financial services, and financial institutions within the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in India. Currently, GIFT IFSC is India's first international financial services cent.

C-DOT CEO Rajkumar Upadhyay Receives 2-Year Extension

- Rajkumar Upadhyay, the CEO of C-DOT (Centre for Development of Telematics), has been granted a two-year extension to his tenure. This decision aims to provide continuity and stability to C-DOT, an organization dedicated to driving innovation and research in the field of telecommunications. Under Upadhyay's leadership, C-DOT has made significant contributions to the development of telecom infrastructure and solutions in India.
- In October 2020, Upadhyay joined India's telecom technology research organisation C-DoT as the executive director. Last December, he was promoted to the newly-created rank of the CEO, and had become C-DoT's board chairman

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

India, Panama signs MoU on electoral cooperation

- The Election Commission of India and Electoral Tribunal (ET) of Panama on Friday signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Panama City to establish the institutional framework for their ongoing cooperation in the field of election management and administration, the government said in a press release.
- A three member ECI delegation led by Chief Election Commissioner of India Rajiv Kumar held interactions with Presiding Magistrate, Electoral Tribunal of Panama Alfredo Juncá Wendehake on strengthening collaboration and knowledge exchange between the two Election Management Bodies (EMBs). Eduardo Valdes Escoffery, first vice presidential magistrate and Luis A. Guerra Morales, second vice presidential magistrate, ET of Panama were also present.
- ECI has been expanding its links and cooperation with foreign Election Management Bodies (EMBs) through its 'International Cooperation Programme'. Having signed MoUs with Mexico, Brazil and Chile in the past years, this is the fourth MoU signed by ECI with an EMB in the Latin Americas region, with an overall 31 MoUs with EMBs and international organisations across the world.

National Water Mission Inks Pact with Indian Plumbing Association To Improve Water Use Efficiency

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed today between Bureau of Water Use Efficiency (BWUE), National Water Mission (NWM), Ministry of Jal Shakti and Indian Plumbing Association (IPA) for a Water Positive India by awareness creation & promotion of rain water harvesting structures, low flow fixtures & sanitary ware, treatment of grey & black water, water audit of built environment. The MoU was signed by Ms. Archana Varma, Additional Secretary & Mission Director, on behalf of National Water Mission, Ministry of Jal Shakti and Shri Gurmit Singh Arora, National President, Indian Plumbing Association based in Okhla, New Delhi.
- Shri Gurmeet Arora, National President, Indian Plumbing Association added that his organization would give full cooperation for increasing water use efficiency in domestic sector by 50-60% (reducing water use from 135 lpcd to 60 lpcd). He further stressed water audit for built environments (residential buildings, hotels etc.) to achieve the target of Net Zero Water Buildings.

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INTERNATIONAL

U.N. Security Council to hold first-ever meeting on threats of AI

- The U.N. Security Council will hold a first-ever meeting on the threats of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on July 18th. The meeting organized by the United Kingdom, will see global leaders discussing the potential threats of artificial intelligence (AI) to international peace and security. It has been presented as a centrepiece of the UK's presidency of the council.
- This was announced by the UK's ambassador to the UN, Dame Barbara Woodward. She said that since becoming Prime Minister, Rishi Sunak has been pushing for a leadership position in the global effort to regulate AI tools. Mr. Sunak had earlier claimed that the UK was the natural place to lead the conversation on AI. He had also announced that Britain will host the first major global summit on AI safety later this year.

- The meeting will include briefings by international AI experts and Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. Guterres has been known for speaking up against the risks of new technologies such as AI. The UN chief has revealed plans to appoint a scientific advisory board with expertise in this area. He also said he would react favourably to the creation of a new UN agency on AI with some regulatory powers, similar to the International Atomic Energy Agency.

India joins the Champions Group of the Global Crisis Response Group

- The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India informed on 7 July 2023 that India has been included in the "Champions Group" of the Global Crisis Resolution Group (GCRG).
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been invited by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. UN Secretary-General Guterres established the Global Crisis Response Group (GCRG) in March 2022 to address urgent and critical global issues such as food and energy security challenges.
- About: Champions Group - Champions Group maintains GCRG. It includes the Heads of State and Government of Bangladesh, Barbados, Denmark, Germany, Indonesia and Senegal. According to the Ministry of External Affairs, the decision to join the grouping reflects India's growing global leadership and commitment to address current global challenges. India's participation will further strengthen the efforts of the United Nations in finding result-oriented solutions to development issues affecting the world, especially developing countries
- Sanjay Verma, who was Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, has been designated as the "Sherpa" for the GCRG process. According to the Ministry of External Affairs, these Sherpas will have an online meeting on July 14 and the Champions Group meeting will be held on July 21.

Ozone UV Bulletin' released by WMO

- The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) issues Ozone and UV bulletins at an interval of seven years. According to which the ozone layer is continuously improving
- To monitor and understand changes in the ozone layer, WMO has released its first Ozone and UV Bulletin. According to the information given by WMO, with the help of Montreal Protocol and amendments made from time to time, the use of substances that damage the ozone layer has been limited by 99 percent.
- The Montreal Protocol is an international treaty on the prevention of substances that deplete the ozone layer. It is designed to protect the ozone layer by phasing out emissions of substances known to be responsible for depleting the ozone layer.
- International Initiative for the Protection of the Ozone Layer: The 1985 Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer provided a framework for international cooperation on ozone protection.
- The Montreal Protocol which was adopted in the year 1987 is a worldwide agreement to stop the production of ozone-depleting substances. The Montreal Protocol has been signed by 197 parties of the world.

NATIONAL

Ministry of Education releases report on Performance Grading Index 2.0 for States/UTs for the year 2021-22.

- The Indian Education System is one of the largest in the world with about 14.9 lakh schools, 95 lakh teachers, and nearly 26.5 crore students from varied socio-economic backgrounds. Department of School Education & Literacy, Ministry of Education, devised Performance Grading Index (PGI) for States and UTs which assesses the performance of school education system at the State/UT level by creating an index for comprehensive analysis. The PGI - States/UTs was first released for the year 2017-18 and so far, has been released up to the year 2020-21.
- Over the period, many of the indicators in PGI – States/UTs have been outlived and become redundant. Also, the structure of PGI – States/UTs has been heavily tilted towards the indicators related to Governance Processes rather than the quality indicators. Therefore, to have more updated base with quality indicators, to align with new initiatives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, to monitor indicators relating to Goal 4 of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and to replace existing indicators which have achieved optimal target, the PGI – State structure for 2021-22 has been revised and renamed as PGI 2.0. In PGI 2.0, the data source for many of the indicators has been the data from UDISE+ and the grades have been aligned with the PGI - District to have uniformity and better comparability,
- The new PGI structure covers 73 indicators, focused more on qualitative assessment besides including digital initiatives and teacher education. The grades/level obtained by States/UTs in previous edition of the PGIs are thus not comparable as with the grades/levels obtained by States/UTs in this new edition.
- The PGI 2.0 structure comprises of 1000 points across 73 indicators grouped into 2 categories viz., Outcomes, Governance Management (GM). These categories are further divided into 6 domains, viz., Learning Outcomes (LO), Access (A), Infrastructure & Facilities (IF), Equity (E), Governance Process (GP) & Teachers Education and Training (TE&T).

IAU Names Minor Planet After India's First Professional Meteor Scientist Aswin Sekhar

- The International Astronomical Union (IAU) honoured Indian astrophysicist Aswin Sekhar by naming a minor planet after him. The honour was conferred on him at the 2023 edition of the Asteroids Comets Meteors Conference, which took place in Arizona on June 21, 2023.
- It is worth noting that only five Indians -- Nobel laureates CV Raman and Subramanya Chandrasekhar; mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan; prominent physicist and astronomer Vikram Sarabhai; astronomer and former president of IAU Manali Kallat Vainu Bappu, who was also the co-discoverer of the Wilson-Bappu Effect, were conferred this honour before him.
- Sekhar works as an astrophysicist at the Institute of Celestial Mechanics, Paris Observatory in France. He is the first professional meteor scientist from India. While speaking to the media, Sekhar said that he was deeply humbled and honoured by

this recognition. "This was announced at this Asteroids, comets-meteors conference in Arizona in America, and it was surprising. It was a pleasant surprise,

Odisha CM Launches 'Ama Pokhari' Scheme To Revive Ponds In Cities

- Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik today launched the 'Aam Pokhari' scheme to revive ponds lying unused in the urban areas of the state.
- Under the Ama Pokhari scheme, 2,000 large water bodies in 115 urban areas will be rejuvenated and its periphery will be renovated for healthy space for the public. This will be done in partnership with Mission Shakti WSHG and educated young men & women who have passed out of college. A better environment will be created at a lower cost in natural ways.
- he Chief Minister said that ponds play an important role in our social and cultural life. It is also related to health and the economy. He expressed the hope that the revived ponds will become an integral part of urban life.

SPORTS

Gukesh defeats Viswanathan Anand in the eighth round of Rapid event of the 2023 SuperUnited Rapid and Blitz tournament

- Young Indian Grandmaster D Gukesh scored a memorable win over illustrious compatriot and idol Viswanathan Anand in the eighth round of the Rapid event of the 2023 SuperUnited Rapid and Blitz tournament, part of the Grand Chess Tour.
- The 40-move win for the 17-year-old Gukesh late on Friday was his first ever over Anand and came in his maiden tournament match against the five-time world champion. The two Indians have 10 points each and are tied for fourth place.
- Fabiano Caruana and Ian Nepomniachtchi remained co-leaders after the final day of the Rapid event, each with 12 points.
- While the day 1 leader Anand stumbled and fell two points behind the leaders, world No. 1 Magnus Carlsen bounced back into form to take the clear third position going into two full days of blitz next.
- Apart from the loss to Gukesh, Anand could only draw his games against Jan-Krzysztof Duda (Poland) and Nepomniachtchi in rounds seven and nine respectively.
- Gukesh started the final day of the Rapid section with a loss to Caruana before stunning Anand and holding Duda to a draw.
- A 18-round blitz segment follows the rapid event in the tournament which features top players including Carlsen, Anand and Nepomniachtchi among others.

SUMMIT'S & MOU's

Voyager Space signs Memorandum of Understanding with New-Space India Limited to explore Collaborative Opportunities in Space Technology

- BENGALURU, India, July 7, 2023 /PRNewswire/ -- Voyager Space, a global leader in space exploration, is pleased to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), to foster collaboration in spacecraft launch and deployment opportunities on-board NSIL's Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) and Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).

- Under this MOU, Voyager Space and NSIL will explore launch and deployment opportunities for small satellites orbited by SSLV and PSLV. The two organizations will also study the use of space qualified components from NSIL in support of spacecraft manufacturing, deployment, operations, and other areas of interest.

Gujarat: Govt inks six MoUs with private industries for mangrove plantation under MISHTI scheme

- In Gujarat, the mangroves will be planted over 3000 hectares area of land to conserve coastal ecosystems. Gujarat government inked six MoUs with private industries for the mangrove plantation under the MISHTI scheme at Dwarka in the presence of Union Minister for Environment, Forest & Climate Change Bhupender Yadav.
- Addressing the Hariyali Mahotsav at Dwaraka in Gujarat, Mr. Yadav said India has devised a unique biodiversity conservation model through a holistic approach. He also underlined the critical role of mangroves in preventing coastal erosion. Yadav also participated in the mangrove plantation drive in Dwarka and congratulated the Gujarat government for joining hands with private players for the plantation of mangroves in the State.
- He said the initiative will aid restoration and conservation of mangroves and achieve India's carbon sink targets. Gujarat State Environment Minister Mulu Bera was also present on the occasion.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Belgian tennis great Justine Henin receives the Philippe Chatrier Award

- The International Tennis Federation has awarded Justine Henin its highest honour, the Philippe Chatrier Award.
- Henin won seven Grand Slam singles titles, an Olympic gold medal, and was part of Belgium's team that won the Fed Cup — now called the Billie Jean King Cup — in 2001.
- The award, named after the former ITF president, was introduced in 1996 and recognizes people who have made significant contributions to the sport on and off the court.
- About: Justine Henin - Justine Henin CMW is a Belgian former world No. 1 tennis player. She spent a total of 117 weeks as the world No. 1 and was the year-end No. 1 in 2003, 2006 and 2007.