

Monthly G.K Capsule

August, 2023

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NATIONAL NEWS

1. India's first fisheries Atal incubation centre to come up at Kufos, kerala

- The Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (Kufos) has secured a grant of 10 crore from NITI Aayog to establish India's first Atal Incubation Centre (AIC) in fisheries at the University. The grant will foster a culture of innovation and technological advancement.
- NITI Aayog is government of India's premier policy think tank and the grant given to Kufos is a significant boost to innovation and entrepreneurship, said the university. The AIC initiative is part of the Atal Innovation Mission, which seeks to encourage a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship across various sectors in the country.

2. PM Modi launches Urea Gold for farmers in Rajasthan

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the 14th installment amount under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) through direct benefits transfer and also launched Urea Gold.
- Urea Gold is a new variety of Urea that is coated with sulphur, which is expected to address sulphur deficiencies in the soil. Urea Gold which is considered as "innovative fertilizer" is more economical and efficient than neem-coated urea. Urea Gold will ensure improved nitrogen use efficiency, reduced consumption and enhanced crop quality.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a slew of farmer-centric announcements in Rajasthan's Sikar. PM Modi dedicated 1.25 lakh PM Kisan Samridhi Kendras (PMKSK) — which are one-stop centres for farmers that will provide information on agri-inputs such as fertilisers, seeds, and implements to testing facilities for soil, seeds, and fertilisers, and information regarding various government schemes.

3. ADB, India Sign \$200 million loan to expand urban services in Rajasthan

- The government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have inked a \$200 million loan agreement to bolster the ongoing Rajasthan Secondary Towns Development Sector Project. The project's objective is to expand water supply and sanitation systems, while also enhancing urban resilience and promoting heritage conservation in selected towns.
- The loan agreement was signed by Vumlunmang Vualnam, Additional Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, on behalf of the Government of India, and Takeo Konishi, the country director of ADB's India Resident Mission, representing ADB.

4. 'CM Command Centre' launched in Uttar Pradesh for evaluating governance

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

5. 'Meri Mati Mera Desh' campaign to be launched before Independence Day

- On 30 July, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the launch of the 'Meri Mati Mera Desh' campaign to honour the martyred heroes ahead of Independence Day. Campaign announcement: The campaign aims to honour the martyred men and women of the country.
- Nationwide Programs: During the ongoing Amrit Mahotsav celebrations across the country, several programs will be organised in the memory of the martyrs. Inscriptions in Gram Panchayats: Special inscriptions will be put up in lakhs of Gram Panchayats to pay tribute to the sacrifice of the martyrs.

6. India to host World Coffee Conference for first time: Four-day event in Bengaluru from Sept 25

- India would host the fifth World Coffee Conference (WCC) for the first time in Asia from September 25 to 28 in Bengaluru. WCC also announced tennis player Rohan Bopanna as its brand ambassador.
- **"Sustainability through Circular Economy and Regenerative Agriculture"** is the central theme for the event. The event logo and theme were unveiled at an event. There is tremendous opportunity for investments across the coffee value chain, including equipment, coffee machines, soluble coffee brands as well as cafe chains.

7. G20 Empower Summit begins in Gandhinagar, Gujarat

- On 1 August, the G20 Empower Summit under India's G20 Presidency began in Gandhinagar. Union Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani will inaugurate the summit. The theme of the two-day conference is **"Women-led development: ensuring sustainable, inclusive and equitable global economic growth"**.
- In the inaugural session, Smriti Irani will launch the G20 Empower Digital Inclusion platform, which aims to bridge the gender digital divide by providing digital skills and knowledge to women. Several other key outcomes under the G20 Empower agenda will also be unveiled, including the adoption of the Best Practices Playbook and the G20 Empower

Communicate. The summit will host various sessions, each focusing on different aspects of women empowerment.

8.The Think20 Summit, organized by India as part of its G20 Presidency, is set to take place in the city of Mysuru, Karnataka.

- Observer Research Foundation (ORF), as the Think20 Secretariat under India's G20 Presidency, will host the Think20 Summit in Mysuru till August 2. Think20 is the G20's official engagement group that serves as an 'ideas bank' for the multilateral grouping by bringing together think tanks and high-level experts to discuss policy issues relevant to the G20.
- The three-day conference will be a gathering of distinguished members of the seven Think20 Task Forces and policy experts from around the world. It provides an unparalleled opportunity to collectively showcase ideas and insights on the priorities of India's G20 Presidency, including issues such as lifestyle for sustainable development, macroeconomics and trade, women-led development, digital transformation, green transition, the global financial order, accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and reforming multilateralism.

9.Karnataka leads with most billionaire MLAs, Uttar Pradesh lags behind

- The average assets of an MLA in India are Rs 13.63 crore, according to a report by the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR). The state with the highest average assets per MLA is Karnataka, where 223 MLAs have an average of Rs 64.39 crores.
- Following Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh has 174 MLAs with an average of Rs 28.24 crores, and Maharashtra has 284 MLAs with an average of Rs 23.51 crores. On the other hand, Tripura has the lowest average assets per MLA, with 59 MLAs having an average of Rs 1.54 crores. West Bengal follows with 293 MLAs having an average of Rs 2.80 crores, and Kerala with 135 MLAs having an average of Rs 3.15 crores.

10President lays foundation stone of 'Divine Light House' at Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya in Odisha

- President Draupadi Murmu on 27 July 2023 laid the foundation stone of 'Divine Light House' at Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya at Dasabatia, Tamando near the Odisha capital. The occasion marked the launch of the theme for the year "**Year of Positive Change**", reflecting the emphasis on driving positive change.
- Recognizing the role of technology as a catalyst of change, President Murmu stressed the importance of both material and spiritual development for the betterment of humanity. The Divine Light House project and focus on positive change exemplify the commitment to promote holistic development and well-being within society. Prajapita Brahmakumaris

Ishwariya Vishwavidyalaya stands out not only as an organisation but also as a powerful social and spiritual movement led by women.

11.PM conferred Lokmanya Tilak National Award in Pune, Maharashtra

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi was conferred the Lokmanya Tilak National Award in Pune, Maharashtra. The Award was constituted by Tilak Smarak Mandir Trust in 1983 to honor the legacy of Lokmanya Tilak. The Prime Minister donated the cash prize to the Namami Gange Project.
- The Prime Minister paid floral tributes at the statue of Lokmanya Tilak after arriving at the venue. The Prime Minister paid tribute to the land of Chhatrapati Shivaji, Chapekar Brother, Jyotiba Phule and Savitribai Phule. Earlier the Prime Minister sought blessings at the Dagdusheth Temple.

12.Foxconn Signs 1600 Crore Deal To Set Up Plant In Tamil Nadu

- Foxconn, a big company from Taiwan and an important supplier for Apple has promised to invest 1,600 crore in building a new manufacturing facility in Kancheepuram district, Tamil Nadu. Chief Minister M.K. Stalin and Foxconn Chairman Young Liu were present when they made this commitment during Mr. Liu's first visit to the state. This investment is likely to create many new job opportunities and help the electronics manufacturing industry in Tamil Nadu grow.
- Apart from the investment pledge, Foxconn's Chairman Mr. Young Liu signed a three-party Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Technology Madras and Guidance, an agency that attracts investments to the state. The main goal of this MoU is to boost research and development efforts in collaboration with IIT-M and develop a skilled workforce in Tamil Nadu.

13.Project Tiger merges with Project Elephant

- Project Tiger and Project Elephant have been merged, meaning a common allocation will fund both beginning this year. The merger was announced in April 2023, however, there is still no clarity on how the finances would be split between the conservation projects.
- Sources in the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) confirmed the amalgamation has already been done — a new division, 'Project Tiger and Elephant Division,' has been notified under the ministry. The decision, apparently driven by an effort to squeeze funds, is likely to impact conservation of both signature animals — particularly tigers, according to several wildlife experts across the country.

14.Parliament Passes Bill Allowing Private Sector to Mine Lithium and Other Atomic Minerals

- A bill that seeks to allow the private sector to mine six out of 12 atomic minerals, including lithium, and deep-seated minerals such as gold and silver was passed by Rajya Sabha, amid a walkout by opposition members demanding a discussion over the Manipur violence issue.
- Union Minister for Coal and Mines Pralhad Joshi moved the The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023, when Rajya Sabha reassembled in for the post-lunch period. The bill was passed by the Upper House of Parliament by voice vote.

15.Assam CM launches 'Amrit Brikshya Andolan' app

- The 'Amrit Brikshya Andolan' app and web portal was launched by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma. 'Amrit Brikshya Andolan' app and web portal aims to plant 1 crore saplings in a single day on 17th September 2023, a significant milestone in the state's efforts to boost the green economy and contribute to the fight against global warming.
- The primary objective of the project is to significantly increase the forest cover of Assam and encourage collective action in the face of climate change. On 17th September, around 40 lakh members of women self-help groups will play an important role by planting two commercially viable saplings each, totaling 80 lakh saplings.

16.President Murmu inaugurates 'UNMESHA' & 'UTKARSH' festivals in Bhopal

- The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu visited Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh) to inaugurate 'Unmesha' – International Literature Festival and 'Utkarsh' – Festival of Folk and Tribal Performing Arts, being organised by the Ministry of Culture in association with Sahitya Akademi and Sangeet Natak Akademi respectively.
- The President said that literature gave strength to the ideals of our freedom struggle. In every corner of the country, many writers gave expression to the ideals of freedom and renaissance. Novels, stories, poems and plays written in the period of Indian renaissance and freedom struggle are popular even today, and they have a wide influence on our minds.

17.Madhya Pradesh government and UNFPA launch AI-powered chatbot named 'Just Ask'

- The Madhya Pradesh government in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has introduced an AI-powered chatbot named 'Just Ask'. The primary goal of this initiative is to provide accurate and easily accessible information related to social issues and sexual and reproductive health and rights, targeting adolescents and young adults.
- The interactive nature of a chatbot allows it to engage users in conversation and provide reliable information at no charge. It is designed to showcase

two aspiring role models named Dhruv and Drishti. The launch event saw the participation of MP Health Minister Prabhuram Chowdhary and UNFPA India representative Andrea M Wojnar.

18.The ‘Meri Mati Mera Desh’ campaign will be launched to honour our martyred braveheart men and women

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, in his address to the people of the country during the popular programme ‘Mann ki Baat’ has always accorded prominence to the beautiful cultural fabric of the country and how diversity also acts as a unifying force.
- In his latest address of Mann ki Baat, the Prime Minister said that amid the ongoing reverberations of Amrit Mahotsav and the 15th of August around the corner, another great campaign is on the verge of being launched in the country. The ‘Meri Maati Mera Desh’ campaign will be launched to honour our martyred braveheart men and women.

19.India maintains the top spot as the source market for tourism in Sri Lanka

- India has maintained the top spot as the source market for tourism in Sri Lanka. As per data released by Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, Tourist arrivals from India have crossed 1 lakh 39 thousand.
- This translates to over 18 per cent market share out of 7.67 lakh tourist arrivals into the island nation. India accounted for 23461 tourist arrivals in July which was ahead of other countries. The connectivity between the two countries has improved over the last few months as air travel resumed between Jaffna and Chennai in December last year. The services were made daily last month.

20.Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurates 132nd Durand Cup in Kokrajhar, Assam

- The 132nd edition of Durand Cup kicked off in Kokrajhar, Assam on August 05, 2023. Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh graced the opening ceremony, which marked the grand beginning of the annual football competition for the first time in the Assamese city. The tournament is organised by the Armed Forces and supported by the Government of Assam.
- Addressing the enthusiastic crowd at the Sai Stadium, the Raksha Mantri complimented the efforts of the Armed Forces and Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC) for creating a positive environment in Kokrajhar which resulted in the event being organised in the city for the first time. He commended the people of the Northeast for their excitement and love for football, terming ‘the beautiful game’ as not just a sport, but an emotion. Assam Chief Minister Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma spoke at length about the

rich sports culture of the region and extended his best wishes to all participating teams.

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

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

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

- On 7 August 2023, a special art exhibition dedicated to the G-20 member countries in Bihar titled "Together We Art" will open at the Bihar Museum in Patna. The exhibition will run for two months starting on 07th August, 2023 and will end on 7th October 2023.
- Chief Minister Nitish Kumar will inaugurate the exhibition. The event is organised by the Union Ministry of Art and Culture as part of India's chairmanship of G-20 countries. A total of 29 countries including India are participating in the exhibition. To mark the foundation day, the Bihar Museum Biennial 2023 will also begin, which will run for five months.

23.President of India inaugurates 'Festival of Libraries'

- The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the 'Festival of Libraries' in New Delhi. This Festival is being organized by the Ministry of Culture to promote the development and digitization of Libraries and cultivate the culture of reading.
- It is also a measure of the progress of civilizations. She stated that history is full of such references in which the invaders considered it necessary to destroy the libraries. This shows that libraries have been considered a symbol of the collective consciousness and intellect of a country or society. She pointed out that such incidents do not happen in the modern era but there are incidents of disappearance of rare manuscripts and books.

24.Gujarat Government implement the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme with a grant of 58 crores rupees

- Government of Gujarat has implemented the One District One Product (ODOP) scheme with a grant of 58 crores rupees to promote its indigenous products at the international level. The Gujarat State Handicrafts and Handicrafts Development Corporation (GSHHDC) has started the implementation of this scheme.
- Under this scheme, more than 25 handicraft products and those from the handicrafts sector have been selected from 21 districts of the state, including traditional handicrafts like Gamthi Block Print and Mata-ni-Pachhedi. The ODOP initiative is aimed at fostering balanced regional development across all districts of the country, enabling holistic socio-economic growth across all regions. The objective is to focus on the district of the country as a unit for converting into a manufacturing and export hub by identifying products with export potential in the district.

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25. Over 5.25 crore subscribers enrolled in Atal Pension Yojana

- Over 5.25 crore subscribers have enrolled in Atal Pension Yojana (APY), the government's flagship social security programme launched eight years ago. The scheme was launched on May 9, 2015, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the objective of delivering old-age income security to all citizens of India, particularly to the workers in the unorganised sector.
- As of date, the total assets under management (AUM) in APY is more than Rs 28,434 crore and the scheme has generated an investment return of 8.92 per cent since inception of the scheme.

26. 5th India-Vietnam Joint Trade Sub-Commission meeting in New Delhi

- The 5th meeting of the India-Vietnam Joint Trade Sub-Commission (JTSC) was held in New Delhi. The meeting was co-chaired by the Additional Secretary, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Shri Rajesh Agrawal from the Indian side and Deputy Minister, Ministry of Industry and Trade, Ms Phan Thi Thang from the Vietnam side.
- This meeting was held after a gap of more than four years since the 4th JTSC meeting held in January 2019, on account of the COVID-19 pandemic and other factors. Vietnam is the 23rd largest global trade partner of India and the 5th largest among ASEAN countries with bilateral trade of USD 14.70 Bn during 2022-23.

27. India ranks 6th in South Asia region for Internet Resilience

- India achieved an overall score of 43 percent in the Internet Resilience Index (IRI), ranking sixth in the South Asian region. According to the global non-profit organisation Internet Society, India's security is ranked above average, attributed to having the highest IPv6 (the newest Internet Protocol to accommodate growing networks) adoption globally.
- Countries like Bhutan (58 percent), Bangladesh (51 percent), Maldives (50 percent), Sri Lanka (47 percent), and Nepal (43 percent) are ahead of India in the IRI ranking. In terms of market readiness -- the ability of India's Internet market to self-regulate and provide affordability is ranked comparatively poorly. According to the four pillars that make up the IRI, India scores 31 per cent in infrastructure, 40 per cent in performance, 66 per cent in security, and 35 per cent in market readiness.

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

- Srinagar District has been ranked as the top performing District under Jal Jeevan Survekshan (JJS-2023) among 114 Har Ghar Jal Certified Villages across the Country in the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) during October, 01, 2022 to June 30, 2023.
- The Srinagar District has attained the top rank in implementation of JJM by obtaining the highest score of 83.0 under set parameters and indicators of JJS-2023. The activities during this period for achieving the top rank were conducted under the overall supervision of the Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz Asad (Chairman JJM Board Srinagar) include completing water Quality testing of all the sources of different villages of Srinagar for Physical, Bacteriological and Chemical Parameters which plays a crucial role in ensuring the provision of clean and safe drinking water to rural households.

29. New Amravati Becomes Central Railway's 3rd Station To Be Managed By Women-Only Staff

- Central Railway's New Amravati station becomes the first station in Bhusaval Division and third station of Central Railway CR to be a Pink Station – wholly managed by women staff. According to a senior official, Central Railway moves one more step ahead in women empowerment with New Amravati station being set up as an all women-only managed station in Bhusaval Division.
- New Amravati station which is the first "Pink Station" on Bhusaval division and the 3rd on Central Railway to be entirely managed by Women staff, has a staff strength of 12 women employees including 4 Deputy Station Superintendents, 4 Pointswomen, 3 Railway Protection Personnel and 1 Station Ticket Booking Agent.

30.3rd G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group Meeting and G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting will be held in Kolkata

- The third and final meeting of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) under India's Presidency will be held from 9 to 11 August 2023 in Kolkata. Over 154 delegates from G20 Members, 10 invitee countries, and various international organizations will be attending the meeting.
- It will be followed by the G20 Anti-Corruption Ministerial Meeting on 12th August 2023, which will be chaired by Dr Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for the Ministry of Science and Technology, Minister of State for the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, the Department of Atomic Energy and the Department of Space of Government of India.

31.Russia Set To Make Historic Return To Moon With Luna-25

- As the Chandrayaan-3 mission tightens its orbit around the Moon, Russia is set to launch its first moon-landing spacecraft in 47 years on August 11, 2023. The Luna-25 mission is scheduled to land on the Moon on August 23, the same day as Chandrayaan-3's planned landing.
- Luna-25 will launch from the Vostochny cosmodrome in the Russian Far East less than a month after Chandrayaan-3 launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota, reports Reuters. The Russian mission will try to land on the lunar south pole just like the Indian mission, aiming for a prized destination that may hold significant quantities of ice that could be used to extract oxygen and fuel in the future. If either of the mission succeeds before the other, it will be the first one to land on the lunar south pole in human history.

32.Gujarat launches 'Sinh Suchna' app for tracking lions

- On the occasion of World Lion Day, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel launched a mobile application that will help the state forest department track the movement of lions through the information shared common people using the app.
- The 'Sinh Suchna' app empowers individuals to directly report lion sightings to the forest department. This innovative approach facilitates real-time tracking and swift conflict resolution. During the launch, CM Patel highlighted the app's importance in bolstering public involvement in wildlife conservation.

33.Kerala Assembly passes resolution to rename state as Keralam

- The Kerala Assembly passed a resolution urging the Centre to rename the state as "Keralam" in the Constitution and all office records. The resolution,

moved by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, was passed unanimously, with the Congress-led Opposition not suggesting any changes.

- In Malayalam, the state was denoted as 'Keralam', but in alternative languages, it is called as 'Kerala'. The necessity to unite the Malayalam-speaking communities into a harmonious Kerala gained significant prominence during the period of India's fight for freedom.

34.Lt Governor inaugurates 9th India International MSME Expo & Summit 2023 in New Delhi

- Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated the 9th India International MSME Expo and Summit 2023 in New Delhi. This prestigious gathering, organized by the MSME Development Forum, served as a platform to foster collaboration between policymakers and entrepreneurs in the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector, driving forward the nation's economic growth.
- Initiatives such as MSME Expo, trade fairs provide an important platform to spread awareness about government schemes, policies and to explore new business opportunities in the sector.

35.President Droupadi Murmu presents Bhoomi Samman to 9 State Secretaries AND 68 District Collectors

- President Droupadi Murmu presented the Bhoomi Samman awards to nine state secretaries and 68 district collectors for their achievements in the implementation of the Digital India Land Records Modernization Programme. Digitisation increases transparency. This mission of digitising land records will have a positive impact on rural development.
- Acceleration of rural development is essential for the overall development of the country. For the development of rural areas, modernisation of land records is a basic requirement as the livelihood of most of the rural population is dependent on land resources.

36.Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar flags off 'Har Ghar Tiranga' bike rally

- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankar flagged off the Tiranga Bike rally from Pragati Maidan in the national capital. Culture and Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy, Information, Broadcasting and Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur, Minister of State for Agriculture Shobha Karandlaje, Minister of State for Power and Heavy Industries, and many Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha MPs participated in the Tiranga yatra ahead of the Independence Day celebrations. The rally culminated at Major Dhyan Chand Stadium.

37.Kerala Assembly passes resolution urging Centre to change State name to Keralam

- The Kerala assembly unanimously adopted a resolution urging the Centre to officially change the state's name to 'Keralam' in all languages mentioned in Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.
- The resolution was moved by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan who urged the central government to change the state's name to 'Keralam' in all languages included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution of India. The resolution was accepted by the Congress-led opposition.

38.QR Code-based ePass Launched by CJI Chandrachud for Entry at Supreme Court

- The Chief Justice of India, Justice N.V. Ramana, along with Justice D.Y. Chandrachud, has introduced a groundbreaking initiative at the Supreme Court by launching a QR code-based ePass system for entry into the court premises. This move comes as a significant step towards embracing digital solutions for better administration and accessibility. The new system aims to streamline the entry process, enhance security measures, and promote a contactless experience for all stakeholders.

39.Apple supplier Foxconn ups its investment proposal in Telangana to \$550 million

- The Board of Directors of FIT Hon Teng Ltd (Foxconn) has given its approval for a USD 400 million investment in the Indian state of Telangana. Foxconn, a Taiwan-based contract manufacturer, is renowned as Apple's largest supplier.
- FIT Hon Teng's disclosure to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange on August 11 outlined the plan to invest \$400 million in Chang Yi Interconnect Technology (India) Private Limited, held by FIT Singapore.

40.IEPFA launches Investor Awareness Vans titled Niveshak Sarathi

- In a step towards financial literacy, Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) CEO Ms. Anita Shah Akella launched two Investor Awareness Vans titled "Niveshak Sarathi", from IEPFA's headquarters as part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, aligning with the theme "From Unawareness to Financial Independence"

41.Traditional Medicine Global Summit to be held in Gandhinagar on Aug 17, 18

- Traditional Medicine Global Summit on August 17 and 18 in Gujarat's Gandhinagar to explore the role of traditional, complementary and integrative medicine in addressing pressing health challenges, the summit will also explore ways to realise the potential of evidence-based knowledge

in the use of traditional medicine for people's health and well-being around the world, the statement issued by the WHO.

- WHO director-general and regional directors, G20 health ministers and high-level invitees from countries across the WHO's six regions will participate in the summit. Scientists, practitioners of traditional medicine, health workers and members of civil society organisations will also take part in it.

42.NCERT Constitutes 19-Member Panel for Textbook Revision in India

- The National Council for Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has formed a 19-member panel to finalise textbooks and learning materials for schools under the National Education Policy. The high-powered National Syllabus and Teaching Learning Material Committee (NSTC) will develop school syllabus for Classes 3 to 12, and revise the existing textbooks of Classes 1 to 2 .
- According to a notification dated 21st July issued by NCERT, the committee will be headed by Mahesh Chandra Pant, the chancellor of the National Institute of Education and Planning in Administration. Professor Manjul Bhargava from Princeton University will be the co-chairperson.

43.WHO and the Ministry of Ayush to host the first-ever Global Summit on Traditional Medicine

- A first of its kind global summit on Traditional Medicine, organised by the World Health Organization (WHO) and co-hosted by the Ministry of Ayush, is set to take place on August 17-18, 2023, at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- The summit will take into account the vast experience and expertise of the country and this highly anticipated event will serve as a platform for experts and practitioners to delve into the latest scientific advancements and evidence-based knowledge in the sector, with the ultimate goal of ensuring health and well-being for all.

44.The meeting of the General Council of the National Institute of Social Defence (NISD) was held in Delhi

- Shri Saurabh Garg, Secretary, D/o SJ&E, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India and the President of GC, NISD chaired the meeting of the General Council of National Institute of Social Defence (NISD) in the presence of other senior officials. The main purpose of the meeting was to review the structure, functions and status of programs of NISD. The meeting also covered the agenda items of Annual Report-2020-2021, 2021-2022, Balance Sheet 2022-23, Status of Training Programs during the Financial Year 2022-23 .
- After the detailed discussion, NISD has been advised to strengthen the staff positions which would support increasing the Research and Training

activities, and more collaboration with State and Central Institutions to broad base the activities across the country.

45.Arunachal government allots 12 ‘stalled’ hydropower projects to three Central PSUs

- Arunachal Pradesh Government has allotted the 12 ‘stalled’ hydropower projects to three Central Public Sector Undertakings by signing a Memorandum of Agreements (MoA) with them. The total operational capacity of these 12 projects, withdrawn from the private players, will be to the tune of 11,523 MW. The three CPSUs are National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited, Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd (SJVN) and North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited (NEEPCO).

46.All India Wholesale Price Index for July 2023 stands at (-) 1.36% over July 2022

- The annual rate of inflation based on all India Wholesale Price Index (WPI) numbers is (-) 1.36% (Provisional) for the month of July 2023 (over July 2022) against (-) 4.12% recorded in June 2023. The decline in the rate of inflation in July 2023 is primarily contributed by a fall in prices of mineral oils, basic metals, chemical & chemical products, textiles and food products WPI Food Index (Weight 24.38%): The Food Index consisting of ‘Food Articles’ from the Primary Articles group and ‘Food Product’ from the Manufactured Products group have increased from 175.2 in June 2023 to 187.7 in July 2023. The annual rate of inflation based on the WPI Food Index increased from (-)1.24% in June 2023 to 7.75% in July 2023.

47.'A-HELP' Programme and Infertility Camp for Livestock under Inclusive Development at Narmada, Gujarat launched by Shri Parshottam Rupala

- Union Minister for Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Shri Parshottam Rupala has unveiled the ‘A-HELP’ (Accredited Agent for Health and Extension of Livestock Production) programme along with an Infertility Camp, in the State of Gujarat.
- The ‘A-HELP’ programme aims to empower women by engaging them as trained agents who contribute significantly to disease control, artificial insemination under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM), animal tagging, and livestock insurance.

48.India’s first common testing centre for drones to be set up in Tamil Nadu

- The country’s first common testing centre for unmanned aerial systems (drones) will be established in Tamil Nadu at an outlay of Rs 45 crore.
- Under the Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS), the facility will come up over 2.3 acres at the SIPCOT industrial park in Vallam Vadagal

near Sriperumbudur. As per a statement, the test centre would enable Tamil Nadu to be a significant contributor to the country's self-reliance in the aerospace and defence sector.

49.India gets first-ever night street racing circuit in Chennai

- A new street circuit, which will also hold night races, was launched by the Tamil Nadu government and RRPL. The state government has partnered with Racing Promotions Private Limited (RRPL) for the project. RRPL is also the promoter of the Indian Racing League and F4 Indian Championship.
- Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development of Tamil Nadu, Udhayanidhi Stalin, launched the circuit. As for the track, it is a 3.5km layout, located around the Island Grounds that resides in the heart of the city. Also, it would become the first-ever street circuit in India and South Asia that will be hosting a night race.

50.Maharashtra CM Eknath Shinde launches a mobile app & WhatsApp helpline for Chief Minister's Medical Assistance Fund

- Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde launched a mobile app and WhatsApp helpline for the Chief Minister's Medical Assistance Fund. A programme also was organized at the Sahyadri Guest House in Mumbai for patients who have successfully overcome chronic and serious diseases.
- A helpline number 8650567567 has been started for patients and their relatives. Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said that more than 12 thousand 500 patients have benefited from the Chief Minister's Aid Fund in the last year. On this occasion, the fifth edition of the medical aid manual and the book 'Rokhthok' based on the ideology of Balasaheb Thackeray was launched. Deputy Chairman of Legislative Council Dr Neelam Gorhe, Skill Development Minister Mangal Prabhat Lodha and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

51.India's first biodiversity village 'Atlas' launched in Goa

- Chief Minister Pramod Sawant released Biodiversity Atlas of Mayem in North Goa, which is India's First Village Atlas. The function was jointly organised by Mayem Vaiguinim Grampanchayat, Biodiversity Management Committee, Mayem Vaiguinim and Mayem Panlot Sangh. Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said that the government will come up with a biodiversity atlas of all 191 panchayats in the state.
- He assured to provide required help to preserve and maintain biodiversity. "It is our duty to preserve our biodiversity and maintain it for future generations. Using biodiversity in a sustainable manner means to use natural resources at a rate that the earth can renew them. Due to change in climatic conditions the public should not suffer.

52.India Signs MoU with Trinidad and Tobago on sharing INDIA STACK

- India and Trinidad and Tobago have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on sharing INDIA STACK — a collection of open APIs and digital public goods that aim to facilitate identity, data, and payment services on a large scale. Both sides agreed to cooperate in the areas of digital transformation using capacity building, training programmes, exchange of best practices, exchange of public officials and experts, development of pilot or demo solutions, etc.
- This collaboration comes after Union Minister of State for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Electronics & IT, Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar met with Trinidad and Tobago's Minister of Digital Transformation, Senator Mr Hassel Bacchus.

53.President Murmu to launch frigate 'Vindhyagiri' in Kolkata on August 17

- The Indian Navy will launch Vindhyagiri, named after a mountain range in Karnataka, on August 17, 2023 at the hands of President Droupadi Murmu, at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE), Kolkata, West Bengal (WB).
- These warships are follow-ons of the Project 17 Class Frigates (Shivalik Class), with improved stealth features, advanced weapons and sensors and platform management systems.
- It is a technologically advanced Frigate and pays a fitting tribute to the distinguished service of its predecessor, the erstwhile INS Vindhyagiri, the Leander Class ASW Frigate.
- Under the Project 17A programme, 4 ships by Mumbai-based Mazagaon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) and three by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE) are under construction.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

1.Russia's largest lender Sberbank to establish IT centre in Bengaluru

- Russia's largest lender Sberbank's branch in India has received permission from the Reserve Bank of India to establish an information technology unit in Bengaluru, where it plans to employ up to 200 IT specialists.
- While Sberbank's India branch has been active in New Delhi since 2010 and offers a wide range of financial services, the Bengaluru office will be fully focused on developing information technologies.

2.India to participate in Ukraine peace talks hosted by Saudi Arabi

- India has been invited to participate in Ukraine peace talks hosted by Saudi Arabia, scheduled for August 5 and 6, 2023. The invitation comes as Saudi Arabia reaches out to Western nations, Ukraine, and some major developing

countries to discuss the peace plan put forward by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy earlier in the year.

- Arindam Bagchi, spokesperson for the Ministry of External Affairs confirmed India's attendance at the meeting to be held in Jeddah. By engaging in peace talks, India aims to support efforts towards finding a peaceful resolution to the ongoing crisis in Ukraine. However, Russia is excluded from the meeting at Jeddah.



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

- The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), an arm of the Commerce Ministry of India, has imposed an anti-dumping duty on optical fibers from China, Korea and Indonesia in a move to secure the domestic industry from artificially cheap rates that are capturing the market. The anti-dumping duty imposed under this notification shall be effective for a period of five years.
- Based on the recommendations of the Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), the revenue department has imposed an anti-dumping duty on dispersion unshifted Single-Mode Optical Fiber (SMOF) imports from China, South Korea and Indonesia. The anti-dumping duty ranges from \$122 per kfkms to \$857.23 per kfkms, with the commodity being traded in fkm (fibre kilometres).

4. Iraq becomes 18th country recognised by WHO for eliminating Trachoma

- Iraq has been officially recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) as the 18th country to successfully eliminate trachoma as a public health concern. This achievement also marks Iraq as the fifth nation within the WHO's Eastern Mediterranean Region to accomplish this milestone.
- Additionally, the WHO has acknowledged Iraq as the 50th country to eliminate at least one Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD) on a global scale. This accomplishment signifies a significant step towards the goal of having 100 countries achieve similar milestones by 2030, as outlined in the 2021-2030 NTD roadmap. This roadmap aims to address and combat 20 different diseases and disease groups through prevention, control, elimination, and eradication efforts.

5.Japan's PM Fumio Kishida observes a moment of silence in a ceremony to mark the 78th anniversary of the atomic bombing

- Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, observed a moment of silence during a ceremony marking the 78th anniversary of the world's first atomic bombing at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima. Japan, as the only nation to have suffered atomic bombings in war, will continue efforts towards a nuclear-free world.
- On August 6, 1945, during World War II, a U.S. B-29 Superfortress Enola Gay dropped an atomic bomb code-named "Little Boy" on Hiroshima, Japan, resulting in an estimated 1,40,000 deaths. Every year on the 6th of August, people around the world reflect on the impact of nuclear warfare and the call for global unity towards peace and disarmament.

6.Iraq bans media from using term 'homosexuality'

- Iraq's official media regulator on Tuesday (08 August,2023) ordered all media and social media companies operating in the Arab state not to use the term "homosexuality" and instead to say "sexual deviance," a government spokesperson said and a document from the regulator shows.
- The Iraqi Communications and Media Commission (CMC) document said the use of the term "gender" was also banned. It prohibited all phone and internet companies licensed by it from using the terms in any of their mobile applications.

7.Construction work of the Indian Buddhist Culture and Heritage Centre begins in Lumbini, Nepal

- In Nepal, the construction work of the Indian Buddhist Culture and Heritage Centre has begun in Lumbini after the Bhumi Pujan ceremony with special recitation by Buddhist monks. The 1.60 billion rupee heritage Centre is expected to be lotus shaped which will be built in zero-net technology and may be completed in one and a half years.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the then Prime Minister of Nepal, Sher Bahadur Deuba, had jointly laid the foundation stone during Mr Modi's Lumbini visit in 2022. Our Kathmandu correspondent reports, India and Nepal share cultural heritage, and constructing a monastery at international standards in Lumbini will promote spiritual and religious tourism.

8.US To Announce \$200 Million Of New Weapons Aid For Ukraine

- President Joe Biden's administration will announce \$200 million of new weapons aid for Ukraine as soon as, U.S. officials told Reuters, as it begins to dole out \$6.2 billion of funds discovered after a Pentagon accounting error over-valued billions of Ukraine aid, two U.S.

- In May, the Pentagon announced it had mistakenly assigned a higher-than-warranted value to the U.S. weaponry shipped to Kyiv when staff used "replacement value" instead of "depreciated value" to tabulate the billions worth ammunition, missiles and other equipment sent to Ukraine.

9.Dubai Launches Indian Independence Day Celebrations With Vibrant Kickoff

- The spirit of India's independence has ignited in Dubai as the city embarks on a series of vibrant events to celebrate the nation's freedom. This year, Dubai has taken the lead in kick-starting the Indian Independence Day festivities, uniting its diverse population and the thriving Indian expatriate community in a grand celebration.
- The Consulate General of India has partnered with the iconic Burjuman Mall to spearhead these festivities. The mall's central location and significance in the city's cultural landscape make it a fitting venue to host a series of engaging events that showcase India's rich heritage.

10.UAE Leads in employing Indians abroad reveals MOS V Muraleedharan

- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has secured the top spot as the leading employer of Indian expatriates, with an impressive figure of 3.554 million Indians currently working within its borders, V Muraleedharan, the Minister of State for External Affairs, disclosed this in the Lok Sabha. These centres aim to offer comprehensive guidance and counselling to Indian workers on various matters, ensuring that they seamlessly integrate into their host countries.

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

- Indian Naval Ship Kulish, a guided missile Corvette which is on a four-day visit to Singapore to take part in a multilateral exercise joined the celebration of the 77th Independence Day . The officers and crew of the ship participated in the 77th Independence Day celebrations at the High Commission of India in Singapore, the Commanding Officer Ashish Delsaria presented a memento to the Acting High Commissioner Pooja Madan Tulli, to commemorate the ship's visit to the Lion City.
- One of the key highlights of the event was also the Naval Jazz band, which enthralled more than 1,000 Indian community members in attendance with patriotic numbers.

12.Scotland becomes first country to make period products free for all

- Scotland has become the first country in the world to make period products free for all. There is now a legal duty on local authorities to provide free items such as tampons and sanitary pads to "anyone who needs them".
- Products will be distributed through councils and education providers as the Period Products Act comes into force. MSPs unanimously approved the Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Bill in November 2020.

NEW APPOINTMENTS AND PERSON IN NEWS

1. Ganesan Kannabiran takes over as new NAAC Director

- The National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) has appointed educationist Prof Ganesan Kannabiran as its new director. Prof Kannabiran is a senior professor of Information Systems at the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Tiruchirappalli, and has served in the education sector for over 30 years.
- He was also the Dean of Research and Consultancy, and Director-in-Charge of NIT Trichy and NIT Puducherry. He was also the founding director of the Indian Institute of Information Technology, Andhra Pradesh, from 2018 to 2023. During this time, he made significant contributions towards the implementation of the National Education Policy at the institute, and promoted the adoption of neighbouring villages.

2. Microsoft appoints Puneet Chandok to lead India operations

- Microsoft Corp has appointed Puneet Chandok as corporate vice president of Microsoft India. Supported by a strong leadership team, Puneet will oversee the integration of Microsoft's businesses across South Asia, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, further boosting the company's presence in the region, while deepening its focus on key industries through a customer-centric approach with generative AI at its core.
- Chandok has joined Microsoft from Amazon Web Services (AWS), where he led the company's India and South Asia business. Prior to this, Chandok was a Partner at McKinsey in India and Asia, and also held senior regional and global roles in IBM.

3. Shivendra Nath Appointed as Chairman & Managing Director of Engineering Projects India Ltd

- Shivendra Nath, a distinguished 1994-batch IAS officer, has been chosen by the esteemed Public Enterprises Selection Board (PSEB) panel to assume the pivotal role of Chairman & Managing Director at Engineering Projects India Ltd (EPIL), a significant Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises.

- In his new role, Nath will be the Chief Executive of the company working under the board and directors. He will be responsible for the smooth functioning of the company in order to achieve the organisational objectives. Currently, he holds the position of Senior General Manager at Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), which is also a PSU under the Department of Telecommunications.

4. Anant Maheshwari named Honeywell High Growth Region President and CEO

- Honeywell has appointed Anant Maheshwari as president and CEO of its high growth region portfolio, effective September 4. He will succeed Ben Driggs, who will be taking another leadership role in the company. Maheshwari will be a corporate officer of the company, reporting to Honeywell CEO Vimal Kapur. He will be based in Dubai.
- Maheshwari joins Honeywell from Microsoft, where he served as president of Microsoft India. "Honeywell has a long-term track record of growth in this portfolio. Anant will help build on our demonstrated success, accelerating our ability to drive profitable development for the company."

5. Keki Mistry appointed as strategic advisor for Cyrus Poonawalla Group's financial services arm

- Cyrus Poonawalla Group has appointed Keki Mistry as an advisor for its financial services ventures spearheaded by Adar Poonawalla. Mistry was the vice chairman and CEO of HDFC since 2010.
- Post the merger of HDFC with HDFC Bank, Mistry joined as an additional & non-executive director at HDFC Bank apart from being the non-executive vice chairman of group company HDFC Ergo General Insurance Company. Cyrus Poonawalla Group is a diversified group of businesses across Pharmaceuticals & Biotechnology, Finance, Clean Energy, Hospitality, Realty and Aviation.

6. Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla gets a one-year extension till Aug 22, 2024

- Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla has been given a one-year extension till 22nd August 2024. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved his extension. His term was scheduled to end on the 22nd of August.
- Bhalla, a 1984-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre, was appointed home secretary in August 2019. He was to retire in November 2020 after attaining 60 years of age. His tenure was first extended on October 17, 2020, till August 22, 2021.

7. Tesla appoints India-origin Vaibhav Taneja as its CFO

- Elon Musk-run Tesla has appointed Indian-origin Vaibhav Taneja as its Chief Financial Officer (CFO), as the company targets India as its next major supply ecosystem creator. Taneja is currently serving as the Chief Accounting Officer, and will take the CFO post as an additional responsibility. He will replace Zachary Kirkhorn who completes his 13-year stint with Tesla, according to reports.
- Mr Kirkhorn's 13-year tenure with the Elon Musk-led American EV giant was described as one of "tremendous expansion and growth" in the company filing.

8.Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni appoints Hun Manet- as the new Prime Minister of Cambodia

- Cambodia's King Norodom Sihamoni has appointed former Prime Minister Hun Sen's son – Hun Manet– as the new prime minister of the country. A royal decree was issued by the King stating that he appoints Dr Hun Manet as the prime minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia for the 7th mandate of the parliament.
- While the King has appointed Hun Manet as the PM, the leader and his cabinet must win the confidence vote on August 22 to assume office. During the Cambodian Elections 2023, Hun Sen's party – the Cambodian People's Party – won with a landslide victory. Days after their victory, former PM Hun Sen announced that he will be stepping down as the Prime Minister, after assuming office in 1998.

9.Justice Subhasis Talapatra sworn in as new Chief Justice of Orissa High Court

- Justice Subhasis Talapatra took oath as the 33rd Chief Justice of Orissa High Court. Odisha Governor Professor Ganeshi Lal administered the oath of office to the new chief justice in a ceremony on the Orissa High Court premises. Justice Talapatra succeeded Justice Muralidhar as the new chief justice of the Orissa High Court.
- Born on October 4, 1961 at Udaipur, Tripura, Justice Talapatra did his graduations in Arts and Law from University of Calcutta. He was enrolled with the Bar Council of Assam, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh on September 12, 1990. He practiced mainly at Agartala Bench of Gauhati High Court and appeared in catena of constitutional, civil and criminal matters. He was designated as Senior Advocate on December 21, 2004.

10.Kareena Kapoor Khan partners with Pluckk as Investor & Brand Ambassador

- Pluckk has announced partnership with Bollywood actress Kareena Kapoor Khan. The partnership also sees Kareena Kapoor Khan taking a stake in the

company, cementing her position as an Investor and brand ambassador in the F&V industry.

- Nestled in the heart of Mumbai, Pluckk offers a product range comprising 400 items across 15+ categories including essentials, exotics, hydroponics, and cuts & mixes. The diverse catalogue also includes do-it-yourself (DIY) meal kits prepared at in-house certified food-tech facilities. By offering consumers ozone - washed & traceability, Pluckk has been a pioneer in innovation in the Fresh Fruits & Vegetables space.

11.LIC appoints R Doraiswamy as managing director

- Government of India had appointed R. Doraiswamy as the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) managing director. He is currently executive director at the central office in Mumbai.
- Earlier LIC appointed Sat Pal Bhanoo as the managing director of the company. The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB), the headhunter for directors of state-owned banks and financial institutions, had recommended the name of Sat Pal Bhanoo for the post of managing director of LIC.

12.Anwarul Haq Kakar sworn in as Pakistan's caretaker Prime Minister

- Anwarul Haq Kakar, an ethnic Pushtun leader who is considered close to the powerful military, was sworn in as Pakistan's caretaker prime minister to head a neutral political set-up to run the cash-strapped country and conduct the next general elections.
- President Arif Alvi administered the oath to 52-year-old Kakar at a simple ceremony held at the President House, attended by outgoing prime minister. Shehbaz Sharif and several top leaders. He became the 8th interim prime minister of Pakistan.

BANKING

1.Banknotes with a Star (*) symbol identical to any other legal banknotes

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has clarified that a banknote with a Star (*) symbol is identical to any other legal banknote, except that in the number panel a Star (*) symbol is added between the prefix and the serial number.
- The central bank said the Star (*) symbol present on the number panel of a banknote is an identifier that it is a replaced / reprinted banknote. This clarification comes in the wake of the validity of banknotes with a Star (*) symbol present on the number panel recently becoming the subject of discussions on some social media platforms.

2.UCO Bank has opened four special rupee vostro accounts, received RBI

approval for opening 8 more

- UCO Bank has opened four special rupee vostro accounts with Russian banks so far and has received permission from Reserve Bank of India for opening eight more accounts. Of these eight, six are with Russian banks and two are with banks in Belarus. The bank reported net profit of Rs 223.48 crore in Q1FY24, up 80.80 per cent year-on-year.
- Union Bank of India becomes the first bank in the country to open a Special Rupee Vostro Account through its corresponding bank in Malaysia i.e. India International Bank of Malaysia. A vostro account is a bank account held by a domestic bank for a foreign bank, denominated in the domestic currency of the former. The Rupee Vostro Account specifically holds the foreign entity's deposits in Indian rupees at the Indian bank.

3.LIC introduces new term assurance plan named “Jeevan Kiran”

- The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has introduced Jeevan Kiran, a new plan that offers life cover with the return of premium. The plan is a non-linked and non-participating, individual, savings, life insurance plan. The plan is for customers desiring high life cover at a reasonable cost. The plan is available for young people starting at age 18 and till age 65. The plan has a minimum Sum Assured of Rs 15 lakh for moderate life cover. The policy term varies from 10 years to 40 years. The premium rates are different for non-smokers and smokers. Premium payment can be made through a single or regular premium payable for the policy term. Rebates are available for Sum Assured more than Rs 50 lakh.

4.ICICI Prudential Life Insurance launches ‘ICICI Pru Protect N Gain’

- ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has launched ICICI Pru Protect N Gain, a unique product which offers a comprehensive life insurance cover, protection against accidental death and permanent disability due to an accident and market-linked returns to build long-term wealth and achieve financial goals.
- The product provides life insurance cover up to 100 times the annual premium and enables customers to maximise returns by offering 18 funds options to choose from across equity and debt. It also provides cover against accidental death and permanent disability due to an accident.

5.SEBI Introduces Framework for Corporate Debt Market Development Fund (CDMDF)

- Union Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the Corporate Debt Market Development Fund (CDMDF) and initiated the muhurat trading on Limited Purpose Clearing Corporation mechanism called AMC Repo Clearing Limited (ARCL).

- The Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) Shri Ajay Seth; Chairperson, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Smt. Madhabi Puri Buch; and many leading market participants were present on the occasion. Both the initiatives intend to deepen the functioning of the corporate debt markets.

6.SBI Q1 net profit zooms 178% to ₹16,884 crore

- State Bank of India (SBI), one of India's largest public sector banks, reported its financial results for the April-June quarter of 2023-24. The bank achieved its highest-ever quarterly profit at ₹ 16,884 crore, representing a significant jump from ₹ 6,068 crore in the same period the previous year.
- This remarkable performance was attributed to a decline in bad loans and increased interest income. On a consolidated basis, SBI's net income also saw substantial growth, rising more than two-fold to ₹ 18,537 crore compared to ₹ 7,325 crore a year ago. However, despite the outstanding results, the bank's shares declined by nearly 3 per cent due to some sequential indicators showing marginal deterioration.

7.HDFC Bank's Jagdishan Highest Paid Bank CEO In FY23 With Rs 10.55 Cr Pay

- HDFC Bank's Sashidhar Jagdishan has emerged as the highest-paid bank chief executive in FY23, grossing over Rs 10.55 crore in overall pay. Jagdishan's colleague Kaizad Bharucha, the deputy managing director of the largest private sector lender, drew Rs 10 crore for the fiscal year and may be the second-highest grossing banker in the country, according to disclosures made in annual reports.
- Among the bank CEOs, Axis Bank's Amitabh Chaudhry's Rs 9.75 crore payout was the second biggest and he was closely followed by Sandeep Bakhshi of bigger rival ICICI Bank, who drew Rs 9.60 crore for the fiscal year. Uday Kotak, who holds over 26 per cent of Kotak Mahindra Bank, continued with his decision to take a token Re 1 as remuneration started in the pandemic, even in FY23.

8.Profit of PSU banks more than doubles to Rs 34,774 crore in Q1

- The public sector banks (PSBs) have registered an impressive profit of over Rs 34,774 crore in the first quarter of June 2023 showcasing a substantial increase that more than doubles their previous earnings.
- As per the quarterly data published by public sector banks, the collective profit reported by the 12 state-owned banks amounted to Rs 15,306 crore, during the corresponding April-June period in the prior fiscal year. The uptick in interest rates played to the banks' advantage, resulting in a favorable net interest margin (NIM) for the quarter. The majority of banks achieved NIMs surpassing 3 percent.

- Notably, Bank of Maharashtra, situated in Pune, secured the highest NIM at 3.86 percent, closely trailed by Central Bank at 3.62 percent and Indian Bank at 3.61 percent for the quarter. In the initial quarter, four lenders achieved a profit growth exceeding 100 percent.

9.IndiaFirst Life Insurance launches new G.O.L.D. plan

- Life Dreams (G.O.L.D.) Plan, that offers policyholders regular long-term income. The premium paying terms range between 6, 8, and 10 years for policy terms of 30 years and 40 years.
- The starting premium is as low as ₹4,176 per month and offers the choice to pay annually or in instalments. The plan offers three income options: immediate, intermediate and deferred

10.Sanjay Kumar Agarwal takes charge as CBIC chairman, succeeds Vivek Johri

- IRS officer Sanjay Kumar Agarwal has taken charge as the Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC). In an order issued on August 5, the finance ministry had appointed Agarwal, who was holding charge of CBIC member compliance management, looking into investigations.
- The CBIC, which deals with policy making in indirect taxes — GST, customs, excise — is headed by a chairman and has six members in the board. The board is assisted by principal chief commissioners/chief commissioners and principal director generals/ director generals.

11.Axis Bank to acquire balance 7% stake in Max Life for Rs 1,612 crore

- Axis Bank has received approval to infuse Rs 1,612 crore in Max Life Insurance by subscribing to shares on a preferential basis. This will result in Axis Bank's direct stake increasing to 16.22% in the life insurer.
- The collective stake of Axis Entities will increase to 19.02% in Max Life Insurance, the lender said in a release. In 2021, Axis Bank announced the deal for the acquisition of a stake in Max Life Insurance Co, a subsidiary of Max Financial Services.

12.Airtel Payments Bank Becomes First Indian Bank to Launch Eco-Friendly Debit Card

- Airtel Payments Bank (APB) has announced the launch of an eco-friendly debit card for its new and existing customers with a savings bank account, becoming the first Indian Bank to launch such a card. Airtel Payments Bank is India's only profitable multi-segment fintech operating at scale with a banking license.

- Airtel Payments Bank has announced that their debit cards will be made from certified eco-friendly r-PVC material, which will positively impact the environment. This move aligns with the Bank's commitment to sustainability and promoting eco-friendly practices in the financial sector.

13.RBI MPC increases FY24 inflation forecast to 5.4% from 5.1%

- The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has increased its CPI inflation forecast for FY24 to 5.4 percent from 5.1 percent.
- For the second quarter of this fiscal year, the RBI has projected the consumer price index (CPI) inflation to be 6.2 percent from the previous 5.2 percent estimate. For the third quarter, it is projected at 5.7 percent from the previous estimate of 5.4 percent and for the fourth quarter as well as the first quarter of FY25, the CPI inflation is expected to be 5.2 percent.

14.AU Bank Becomes India's First Bank To Provide 24×7 Video Banking Service

- Transforming the landscape of banking services, AU Small Finance Bank (AU SFB), India's largest SFB, has achieved an unprecedented feat with the launch of its groundbreaking customer service 24×7 via Video Banking. This service provides a virtual platform where customers can communicate with a video banker in real-time via video calls, like video conferencing.
- Every transaction and confidential piece of information is meticulously safeguarded, ensuring customers can engage with the platform with the utmost confidence. Now, AU SFB's customers could revel in the convenience of services such as real-time account support, demographic updates, hassle-free financial transactions, effortless loans and Credit Card inquiries, efficient issue resolution related to all banking relationships, and beyond.

15.Bank of Maharashtra slashes home, car loan rate by up to 20 bps

- State-owned Bank of Maharashtra has cut the interest rate on home and car loans by up to 20 basis points and also waived off the processing fee. With this, home loans would now be available at 8.50% from existing 8.60%. Car loans have been made cheaper by 20 basis points to 8.70%. The new rates are effective from 14 August.
- This dual benefit of reduced interest rates and waiver of processing fees will help alleviate financial burden for its customers and support their financial journey. Earlier, the bank waived processing fees for its other retail schemes such as education and gold loans under its UDAAN Campaign.

16.Gross Direct tax collections rise 16 % to Rs 6.53 lakh crore this fiscal so far

- The gross direct tax collection has registered growth of around 16 per cent to 6 lakh 53 thousand crore rupees compared to corresponding period last year. The Central Board of Direct Taxes, CBDT said, the provisional figures of Direct Tax collections continue to register a steady growth. Net direct tax collection, after adjusting refunds, stands at 5 lakh 84 thousand crore rupees, which is over 17 per cent higher than the net collections for the corresponding period last year. This collection is over 32 per cent of the total Budget estimates of Direct Taxes for 2023-24.



17.RBI boosts transparency in EMI reset, loan borrowers can switch to fixed-rate regime

- This would bring in greater transparency in resetting of the interest rate on equated monthly instalments (EMI) for floating interest loans. A floating interest rate is the rate that varies or changes along with the changing market conditions as opposed to a fixed interest rate which remains the same for the entire tenure of the loan.
- The RBI said the new framework will allow borrowers to switch to fixed interest rate from floating interest rates. This would provide relief to borrowers of home, auto and other loans reeling under the impact of high interest rate.

18.Airtel Payments Bank Launched India's 1st Eco-Friendly Debit Cardz

- India's only profitable multi-segment fintech operating at scale with a banking license, Airtel Payments Bank, becomes the 1st Indian Bank to launch eco-friendly debit cards for its new and existing customers with a savings bank account.
- The launch comes in alignment with the Bank's commitment to sustainability and promoting eco-friendly practices within the financial sector. The debit cards will come in recycle-Poly Vinyl Chloride (r-PVC) material, a certified eco-friendly material. Airtel Payments Bank is coming up with 2 cards under Classic variant – Personalised Classic Card and Insta Classic Card.

19.RBI Monetary Policy Highlights: Keeps Repo rate unchanged at 6.5%; Retail inflation for FY24 pegged at 5.4%

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das announced that the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) unanimously decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at 6.5% for the 3rd time in a row. Real GDP growth for 2023-24 is projected at 6.5% with Q1:2023-24 at 8.0%; Q2 at 6.5%; Q3 at 6.0%; and Q4 at 5.7% & Q1FY25 at 6.6%.
- The government has mandated the RBI to ensure CPI inflation at 4% with a margin of 2% on either side. To absorb surplus liquidity generated by various factors, including return of ₹2000 notes to the banking system, RBI has asked banks to maintain an incremental Cash Reserve Ratio (ICRR) of 10% on the increase in their deposits between May 19 and July 28, 2023.

20. Bank of Maharashtra tops list of public sector lenders in loan and deposit growth of 25% in Q1 2023

- Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has emerged as the top performer among public sector lenders in loan and deposit growth of 25% in percentage terms during the first quarter of the current financial year. The deposit and advances of the Pune-based lender are the highest by any public sector bank (PSB) during the April-June quarter.
- With a growth rate of 24.98%, the gross domestic advances of the bank rose to Rs 1,75,676 crore at the end of June 2023. It was followed by UCO Bank with 20.70% growth, while Bank of Baroda (BoB) with 16.80% and Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) with 16.21% growth were at 3rd and 4th spot respectively. State Bank of India (SBI) stood at the 5th spot with 15.08% rise in domestic advances growth.

21. RBI Partners With McKinsey and Company & Accenture Solutions to Use Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning to enhance Regulatory Supervision

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has chosen global consultancy firms McKinsey and Company India LLP and Accenture Solutions Pvt Ltd India to develop systems utilizing artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) for enhancing its supervisory capabilities. The RBI aims to harness advanced analytics, AI, and ML to analyze its extensive database and bolster regulatory oversight over banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs). The central bank has opted to engage external experts for this purpose.
- McKinsey and Company India LLP and Accenture Solutions Private Limited India have won the contract. An RBI document confirms this. The contract's value is about Rs 91 crore.

22. ADB approves USD 40.5 million loan for childhood development, maternal mental health in Meghalaya

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a USD 40.5 million loan for integrated early childhood development and maternal mental health in the northeastern state of Meghalaya, the multilateral bank said in a release. The Meghalaya government is contributing USD 15.27 million to the project.
- The project is expected to strengthen home-based childcare (children 0-1.5 years) and center-based childcare (1.5-6 years) through daycare (Anganwadi) centers in Meghalaya.

SCIENCE TECH & DEFENCE

1.UNESCO urges global ban on smartphones in schools to promote human-centred education approach

- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) published its 2023 Global Education Monitoring Report titled "Technology in Education: A Tool on Whose Terms", which supports a worldwide ban on smartphones in schools where technology integration Does not improve learning outcomes.
- UNESCO advocates a more "human-centred approach" to education and highlights the need to reduce reliance on digital technology. Excessive use of smartphones has negative effects on children's academic performance and emotional competence. UNESCO's Manos Antoninis raised concerns about data leaks in educational technology, revealing that only 16 percent of countries have laws guaranteeing data privacy in the classroom.

2.ISRO rocket carrying seven Singaporean satellites lifts off from Sriharikota

- ISRO launched its proven PSLV rocket carrying seven Singaporean satellites from Satish Dhawan Space Centre. This ISRO mission, which comes after the much-awaited Chandrayaan-3 launch earlier this month, is being undertaken by its commercial arm NewSpace India Limited. In this commercial mission, the primary payload being carried by ISRO's trusted workhorse Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle is the DS-SAR Radar Imaging Earth Observation satellite, which has been developed under a partnership between DSTA (representing the Government of Singapore) and ST Engineering, Singapore.

3.Amazon India to open first-ever floating store in Dal Lake

- Amazon India on July 27 announced its first-ever floating store on Dal Lake in Srinagar, Kashmir, as part of its last-mile delivery programme "I Have Space".
- As part of the onboarding process, Murtaza Khan Kashi, the owner of the houseboat Selec Town, would deliver packages to customers each day at the entrance of their houseboats. Residents and businesses on Dal Lake and

Nigeen Lake will be served by this new store. Previously, people had to take shikaras to the shore or rely on local businesses to pick up their Amazon deliveries.

4.Ministry of Education launches mobile app ULLAS

- The Ministry of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship signed 106 Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with various organizations and institutions on July 30, on the occasion of the Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam 2023 and the 3rd anniversary of the National Education Policy.
- The MoUs encompass partnerships with both public and private entities to foster innovation, research, and knowledge exchange in multiple domains, ushering in a new era of collaboration in education and industry-academia linkages.

5.India core sector industries record 8.2% growth in June, highest in five months

- India's 'core sector' represented by eight industries recorded a growth of 8.2 percent in June this year compared to the corresponding month of the previous year, according to data released by the ministry of commerce and industry August 1.
- The growth rate in June was the highest in five months. These core sectors include coal, crude oil, steel, cement, electricity, fertilizers, refinery products, and natural gas. For the April-June period of the fiscal year 2023-24, core sector growth was 5.8 percent, down from 13.9 percent in the first three months of 2022-23.

6.Reliance signs MoU with Brookfield to manufacture renewable energy equipment

- Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) announced that it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Brookfield Asset Management to manufacture renewable energy and decarbonization equipment in Australia.
- Under the terms of the MoU, Brookfield will work with Reliance to explore avenues of direct capital investment and development of skills, knowledge and expertise in the renewable energy sector of Australia to facilitate the nation's transition to a net zero future. The two companies will evaluate the establishment of advanced operations in Australia to make/or assemble equipment used in the construction of renewable energy projects supplying equipment to all players in the market including Origin Energy Markets.

7.Reliance jumps 16 places, now at number 88 on Fortune Global 500 list

- Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries has maintained its highest ranking among Indian corporates in the latest Fortune Global 500 list, jumping 16 places to rank at number 88. Reliance was ranked at number 104 in the 2022 ranking and in the 2023 ranking it is placed at number 88, according to the publication.
- The company has gained a whopping 67 places in the last two years from number 155 in 2021. As many as eight Indian companies feature in this year's Fortune Global 500 ranking. State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) jumped 48 places to rank at number 94.

8.OpenAI CEO Sam Altman Launches 'WorldCoin Crypto Project'

- Sam Altman, CEO of OpenAI, along with co-founders Alex Blania and Max Novendstern, launched the 'WorldCoin Crypto Project'. The primary objective of the WorldCoin crypto project is to establish a universal and decentralised digital identity that prioritises privacy and gives people access to various online services and benefits.
- A notable aspect of the project is the vision of implementing WorldCoin as a means of distributing Universal Basic Income (UBI) to individuals around the world regardless of their location, income or social status. The Tools for Humans organisation, headquartered in San Francisco and Berlin, provides support and assistance to the WorldCoin initiative.

9.Tata Power Arm Inks Pacts With MSEDCL To Supply 350MW Electricity From Its Solar Projects

- Tata Power Renewable Energy Ltd. has inked two separate pacts to supply a total of 350 MW electricity from its solar projects to Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Co. Located in Maharashtra, these projects of 200 MW and 150 MW will play a crucial role in fulfilling the state's renewable energy targets.
- TPREL, a leading player in the renewable energy sector and a subsidiary of Tata Power, signed two significant Power Purchase Agreements with the MSEDCL for commissioning two solar power projects, 200 MW and 150 MW, respectively.

10.Fintech company CRED launched RuPay credit card-based UPI payments

- Fintech firm CRED in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), introduced RuPay credit card-based Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments for its members.
- CRED supports RuPay credit cards issued by banks including HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, Yes Bank, Axis Bank, BOB Financial Solutions, Canara Bank, Indian Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Punjab National Bank, and Union

Bank. The launch of credit-on-UPI will empower CRED's members to utilise their RuPay credit cards for making payments via UPI.

11.BHEL signs MoU with Greenstat Hydrogen India Pvt Ltd

- Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. (BHEL) and GREENSTAT Hydrogen India Pvt. Ltd. have signed an MoU for "Potential Collaboration Opportunities in Green Hydrogen and Derivatives in the Hydrogen Value Chain". This MoU will pave the way for collaboration in Hydrogen Value Chain, contributing towards 'National Hydrogen Mission' of the Government of India, making India 'Atmanirbhar'.
- Sh. S Prabhakar, GM & Head (Coal to Chemicals) and Mr. Sturle Harald Pedersen, Chairman, GREENSTAT Hydrogen India Pvt. Ltd., signed the MOU in the presence of Sh. Upinder Singh Matharu, Director (Power) – BHEL, Sh. Jai Prakash Srivastava, Director (ER&D) & Director (Finance) – Additional Charge – BHEL, Sh. Jeewan Prakash Gupta, MD, GREENSTAT Hydrogen India Pvt. Ltd. and other senior officials of BHEL.

12.Chandrayaan-3 Successfully inserted into Lunar Orbit

- Chandrayaan-3, the country's lunar mission, has successfully entered the lunar orbit after a journey of twenty-three days. This milestone marks a significant step in India's endeavor to become the first nation to achieve a soft landing on the moon.
- As the spacecraft started circling the moon, it began transmitting signals to the Mission Operators Complex (MOX) at the ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC). The successful entry of spacecraft shows its readiness for further maneuvers and operations in the lunar orbit.

13.India launches 'Neerakshi' – Autonomous Underwater Vehicle for mine detection

- The AUV named 'Neerakshi' is a collaboration of Kolkata-based warshipmaker Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd and MSME entity AEPL.
- The commercial launch of the AUV is likely to be within six months to a year after completion of user trials by the Indian Navy, Coast Guard and possibly the Army too, he said GRSE chairman and managing director Commodore (Retd) P R Hari said at the launch of the AUV. The initial response has been overwhelming and expressed confidence that this venture will result in multiple projects which will augur well not only for the shipbuilder but also for the country.

14.Ministry of Tourism identifies 'Prayagraj' and 'Naimisharanya' in UP as destinations for development under 'Swadesh Darshan 2.0'

- The Ministry of Tourism has identified ‘Prayagraj’ and ‘Naimisharanya’ in Uttar Pradesh as destinations for development under ‘Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (0) to develop sustainable and responsible tourism destinations. Minister of Tourism G. Kishan Reddy said that the State Perspective Plan (SPP) prepared by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh did not include Hastinapur Wildlife Sanctuary for development.
- He further added that the government launched the ‘Swadesh Darshan Scheme’ (SDS) in the year 2014-15 for the integrated development of Theme-Based Tourist Circuits in the country and there are 08 projects of identified thematic circuits in Uttar Pradesh.

15.Indian GPS NavIC to link to Aadhaar enrolment devices

- The Navigation with Indian Constellation or (NavIC), which consists of seven satellites and India’s version of the American GPS (global positioning system), will soon be integrated into Aadhaar enrolment devices, the Department of Space (DoS) told the Parliamentary Committee of Science and Technology.
- The department has facilitated successful conduction of field trials, and is providing technical expertise in finalisation of procurement specification of the devices.

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

- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has introduced the third edition of its UPI Safety Awareness Campaign named “UPI Chalega.” Collaborating with key stakeholders in the payments ecosystem, the campaign aims to emphasize the ease, safety, and swiftness of using the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for transactions.
- The “UPI Chalega” campaign is geared towards promoting UPI as a trustworthy, efficient, and real-time payment method for a diverse range of transactions. It also sheds light on innovative features like UPI LITE, designed for swift low-value transactions, UPI AUTOPAY, facilitating secure recurring payments across UPI applications, and UPI Interoperability, which ensures seamless money transfers between all UPI-enabled apps.

17.DPIIT, Ministry of Rural Development jointly launch ‘One District One Product’ Wall at SARAS Ajeevika

- A remarkable stride towards bolstering the indigenous crafts and artisans of India has been achieved through the One District One Product (ODOP) program, an initiative steered by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

- In a strategic alliance, ODOP has joined hands with the Ministry of Rural Development, a union that was inaugurated with the unveiling of the ODOP Wall at SARAS Aajeevika Store. This collaboration signifies a momentous step in nurturing the nation's creative talent and boosting rural empowerment.

18. Bilateral trade between India and Angola grows from 2.14 billion dollars in 2020-21 to 4.22 billion dollars during 2022-23

- The bilateral trade between India and Angola has grown from 2.14 billion dollars in 2020-21 to 4.22 billion dollars during 2022-23. India is also the third largest trading partner of Angola sharing about 10 percent of Angola's external trade.
- During the first India-Angola Inaugural Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) in Luanda, two sides carried out a comprehensive review of the existing bilateral relations. They also exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest.

19. The first space-based Indian observatory to study the Sun – Aditya-L1, is ready for launch In September 2023

- The first space-based Indian observatory to study the Sun – Aditya-L1, is getting ready for its launch next month. ISRO said that the satellite, developed at U R Rao Satellite Centre Bengaluru, has arrived at its spaceport in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh. The spacecraft is expected to be placed in a halo orbit around the Lagrange point – L1 of the Sun-Earth system, which is about 1.5 million kilometres from the Earth. A satellite placed in the halo orbit around the L1 point has the major advantage of continuously viewing the Sun without any eclipses.

20. India & China agree to resolve remaining issues along LAC in eastern Ladakh

- India and China agreed to resolve the remaining issues along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh in an expeditious manner. The statement was issued a day after the two sides held 19th round of Corps Commander-level meeting at the Chushul-Moldo border on the Indian side on August 13-14 2023.
- India and China also "agreed to maintain the peace and tranquility on the ground in the border areas. It described the India-China military talks as "positive, constructive and in-depth" but it did not indicate any immediate breakthrough in the disengagement of troops in the remaining friction points.

21. Wipro launches centre of excellence on generative AI in partnership with IIT Delhi

- Wipro has launched a centre of excellence (COE) on generative artificial intelligence (AI) in partnership with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi. It will serve as a research and development hub and drive collaboration between the company's researchers and graduates of the institute. It will support foundational and applied research, and nurture talent.
- Generative AI systems fall under the broad category of machine learning. It can be used to create new content, including audio, code, images, text, simulations, and videos.

22.IAF's First Multilateral Air Exercise 'Tarang Shakti' Gets Delayed, To Be Held Next Year

- The Indian Air Force (IAF)'s first-ever and largest multilateral air exercise 'Tarang Skakti' has been delayed by a year, reported Economic Times.
- Originally scheduled for October or November this year, the exercise is now projected to occur in the middle of 2024 due to several participating air forces indicating their inability to participate in the war-game this year.
- 'Tarang Shakti' is set to draw the involvement of some prominent air forces, including those of France, the United Kingdom, Australia, the United States, and Japan. These nations will contribute their aerial assets such as fighter jets, military transport aircraft, and mid-air refuelers to the exercise.

23.President Murmu Launches The Sixth Ship Of Project 17A Of Indian Navy

- President Droupadi Murmu launched Vindhyagiri – the sixth ship of project 17A of the Indian Navy at Garden Reach Shipbuilders Engineers Limited. She also launched 'My Bengal, Addiction Free Bengal' Campaign under the 'Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan', organized by Brahma Kumaris at Raj Bhavan, Kolkata.
- Vindhyagiri, named after the mountain range in Karnataka. Vindhyagiri is a technologically advanced Frigate and it pays a befitting tribute to the distinguished service of its predecessor, the erstwhile INS Vindhyagiri, the Leander Class ASW Frigate.

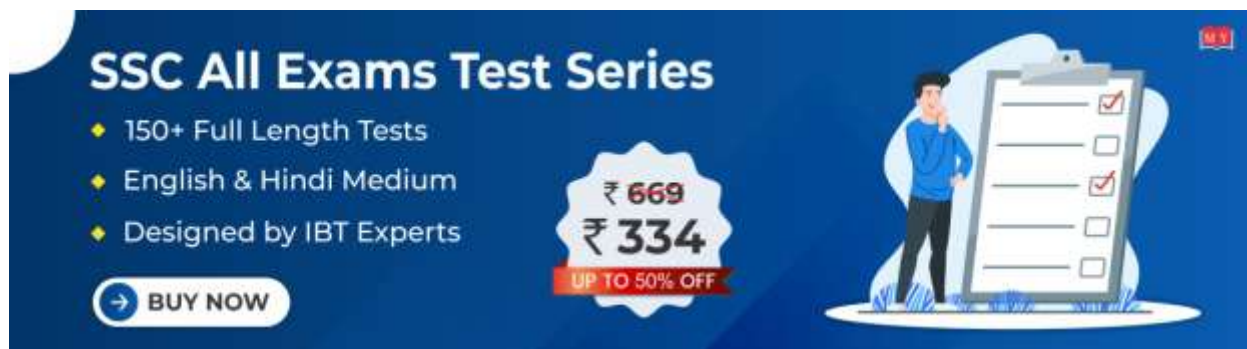
24.DMRC unveils CarbonLite Metro Travel initiative to make passengers aware of CO2 emissions reduction

- The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) unveiled a pioneering initiative called CarbonLite Metro Travel to educate passengers about their significant contribution towards reducing carbon emissions by choosing metro trains.
- It is a new initiative of the DMRC to help people understand their contribution to reducing CO2 emissions by opting for metro rail services. With this initiative, daily commuters will now be able to

understand and learn about the average amount of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) emissions they are decreasing with their simple step of selecting the metro as their means of transportation. The amount of CO₂ will be calculated based on a comparison to road-based motor vehicles.

25. Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology to launch long-range wireless tech-based solution for better rural reach

- A new technology developed by the Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT), an arm of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), is now all set to be deployed to increase last-mile connectivity of banking services in remote areas.
- The financial network technology, based on LoRa (Long Range) wireless protocol, has been successfully tested at the field level and is now being looked into by the RBI and other stakeholders.



26. India, Malaysia conclude four-day bilateral air exercise 'Udarashakti'

- The air exercise culminated with a traditional closing ceremony hosted by the Royal Malaysian Air Force. The ceremony was marked with a seven-aircraft formation flypast by both air forces and exchange of mementoes between the contingent leaders, the IAF said. The four-day air exercise 'Udarashakti' between the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) concluded in Malaysia. A contingent of IAF left for Malaysia on August 12 to participate in the first bilateral air exercise.
- The air exercise culminated with a traditional closing ceremony hosted by the Royal Malaysian Air Force. The ceremony was marked with a seven-aircraft formation flypast by both air forces and exchange of mementoes between the contingent leaders.

BOOKS & AWARDS

1. Ratan Tata to get Maharashtra govt's first 'Udyog Ratna' award

- The Maharashtra government has decided to confer the first 'Udyog Ratna' award on veteran industrialist and chairman emeritus of Tata Sons, Ratan Tata. Awards for young entrepreneur, woman entrepreneur and Marathi

entrepreneur will also be given, Samant announced in the state legislative council.

- Just like the Maharashtra Bhushan award, which is presented to distinguished persons, the state government has decided to confer the Udyog Ratna award to Ratan Tata. He said a meeting was held regarding this by a committee comprising Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Deputy Chief Ministers Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar and him as the industries minister.

2.Byculla railway station gets UNESCO's Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage award

- The historic Byculla Railway Station in Mumbai has been awarded the prestigious UNESCO Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage award in recognition of its extensive restoration efforts. The award, declared in November of the previous year, celebrates the station's significant contribution to cultural heritage conservation.
- Byculla Railway Station, standing for 169 years, holds the distinction of being one of India's oldest operational railway stations, reflecting the country's rich railway heritage. Byculla Railway Station is designated as a Grade-I heritage structure, underscoring its architectural and historical significance, emphasizing the need for preservation.

3.Union Home Minister released the book 'Dr APJ Abdul Kalam: Memories Never Die' in Rameshwaram

- Union Home Minister and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah unveiled a book titled 'Dr APJ Abdul Kalam: Memories Never Die' in Rameshwaram. During his visit to Rameshwaram, the Union Home Minister paid his respects at important places including Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam House, Mission of Life Gallery Museum and Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam National Memorial.
- The book, 'Dr APJ Abdul Kalam: Memories Never Die,' is an English translation of the Tamil book 'Ninaivirukkum Maranamillai', written by Dr. Nazeema Marakaiyar, niece of APJ Abdul Kalam, and Dr. YS Rajan, a distinguished ISRO scientist and a close confidant of Kalam. This book provides an in-depth and truthful account of Dr. Kalam's life from childhood to his last days, presenting a holistic view.

4.Book “Kargil: Ek Yatri Ki Jubani” Released, a True Tribute to Martyrs of Kargil War

- Honouring the indomitable courage of heroes who scripted historic victory in the Kargil War, Minister of State for Defence Shri Ajay Bhatt released books and illustrations on the supreme sacrifice of the brave-hearts at the Constitution Club, Delhi, on July 23, 2023.

- The book and illustrations – “Kargil: Ek Yatri Ki Jubani” – authored by renowned writer Shri Rishi Raj, and published by Prabhat Prakashan, impeccably portrays the lives of the heroes of the Kargil War on the canvas of patriotism so that they could be a fountainhead of inspiration for children who could learn the values of the paramount sacrifice made by the Indian Army for the nation.

5.Neerja Chowdhary released a new book titled "How Prime Ministers Decide"

- Veteran journalist Neerja Chowdhary recently released a new book titled "How Prime Ministers Decide". The book "How Prime Ministers Decide" highlights the dramatic events that led to Sonia's announcement, which was prompted by Rahul's concern for his mother's safety.
- According to the book, former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi maintained positive relations with many RSS leaders but was careful to maintain a certain distance between herself and the organisation. The book throws light on the working style of the Prime Ministers of India and examines six landmark judgements. These decisions include Indira Gandhi's strategy to regain power after her defeat in 1977, the errors of Rajiv Gandhi's judgement in the Shah Bano case, and V.P. Singh's implementation of the Mandal Commission report that changed contemporary politics.

6.SAI launched short movie series ‘Halla Bol’ Under ‘Cheer4India’ Campaign

- Sports Authority of India (SAI) under the Umbrella Campaign ‘Cheer4India’ has launched a short movie series ‘Halla Bol’ on the journey of Asian Games bound athletes to motivate them for Hangzhou Asian Games and spread awareness about the upcoming Asian Games.
- This initiative aims to not only motivate athletes participating in the Asian Games 2023 but also to encourage the youth of the nation to embrace sports and pursue a career in the field. The first episode in the series was also unveiled which gave a glimpse onto the life of star Indian athlete Neeraj Chopra. The first video featuring Neeraj Chopra instantly became a hit on social media and has amassed massive views. The series is expected to rake in huge popularity as it focusses on the successful journey of athletes.

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

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah hailed the team of National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS) of for winning the Gold Award under the Excellence in Government Process Reengineering for Digital Transformation Category-1 of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).

- National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS) makes its mark as the shining example of efficient governance as it wins DAPRG's gold award in Category-1. The award for its excellence in delivering e-governance is a recognition of the dedication the entire NAFIS team has put into creating a fool-proof fingerprint identification system.

SPORTS

1. Indian women's hockey team won the Torneo del Centenario 2023 title

- The Indian women's hockey team emerged victorious by defeating hosts Spain 3-0 in the Torneo del Centenario 2023 tournament at Terrassa, Barcelona on 30 July. Vandana Katariya (22'), Monika (48'), and Uditia (58') were the scorers as India remained unbeaten in the 100th Anniversary Spanish Hockey Federation International Tournament 2023.
- The tournament started with a 1–1 draw against England followed by a 2–2 stalemate against Spain.
- A hat-trick from A Lalremchiam saw India top the standings with a 3-0 win over England. India secured the top spot with eight points from four matches, while both Spain and England finished with four points each. The Indian women's hockey team will compete in the Asian Games 2023 to be held in Hangzhou, People's Republic of China from 23 September to 8 October.

2. Iga Swiatek wins home WTA title in Warsaw

- Iga Swiatek achieved a significant achievement by securing her fourth WTA title of the year and her very first on home soil. The Polish tennis player showcased her dominance in the final, defeating Germany's Laura Siegemund with an incredible 6-0, 6-1 scoreline in just 68 minutes, denying her opponent any break points throughout the match.
- Before reaching the final, she triumphed in a challenging semi-final match against Belgium's Yanina Wickmayer, clinching a well-deserved 6-1, 7-6 (8-6) victory.

3. F1 defending champion Max Verstappen wins Belgian Grand Prix

- Formula One championship leader Max Verstappen roared to a crushing eighth win in a row, one short of the all-time record, in a Red Bull one-two with Sergio Perez at the Belgian Grand Prix.
- Red Bull's 13th consecutive victory made the team the first in the sport's 73-year history to win the opening 12 races of a season, one more than McLaren managed in 1988 with Ayrton Senna and Alain Prost. Verstappen, who started sixth after a five-place grid penalty, extended his championship lead over Perez to 125 points -- effectively five races -- after taking the chequered flag 22.3 seconds ahead of the Mexican.

4.Moeen Ali announces Test retirement after Ashes 2023

- England all-rounder Moeen Ali confirms his test cricket retirement after the end of the Ashes series and he will play in other formats of cricket. On the request of England Test captain Ben Stokes, he played the Ashes series. But he retired from test cricket in September 2021.
- He played for England in 68 test matches taking 204 wickets and scored 3094 runs. He was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in June 2023 for his services to cricket.

5.Diego Godin Announces his Retirement From Professional Football

- Former Uruguay defender Diego Godin retired from professional soccer on Monday, ending a 20-year career at age 37. Godin played in four World Cups and spent much of his club career in Spain, notably at Atletico Madrid from 2010 to 2019. This season, he played in Argentina for Velez Sarsfield.
- Godin announced his retirement a day after his final appearance for Velez in a 1-0 loss to Huracan. The Uruguayan also had spells at Villarreal, Inter Milan and Cagliari. He arrived at Velez in the second half of 2022 after a disappointing stint at Brazil's Atletico Mineiro.

6.7th Men's Asian Champions Trophy to begin in Chennai

- In hockey, the 7th Men's Asian Champions Trophy will begin in Chennai. Six teams – India, Pakistan, South Korea, Japan, China, and Malaysia will vie for glory in the prestigious 10-day tournament. Three matches will be played. While India will take China, Pakistan will clash with Malaysia. South Korea is scheduled to play against Japan.
- Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports and Minister of Information & Broadcasting, Shri Anurag Thakur unveiled the coveted trophy for Hero Asian Champions Trophy, Chennai 2023 at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium in New Delhi. The Odisha government decided to further extend its sponsorship for both the Men and Women's Indian Hockey Teams (senior and junior) for another ten years from 2023 to 2033. At the 13th Hockey India Sub Junior Women National Championship 2023, the Hockey Haryana team was declared the winner.

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

- Prarthana Thombare has clinched the doubles title at the women's tennis hardcourt event in Barcelona, Spain. The Asian Games bronze medallist, combined with Russian Anastasia Tikhonova, edged out France's Estelle Cascino and Latvia's Diana Marcinkevica 3-6, 6-1, 10-7 in the final.
- It is the second title of the year and 26th overall for Prarthana, who bagged bronze with Sania Mirza in 2014 at Incheon. Siddhant Bantia and Sai Kartteek Reddy won their second title this season in the ITF men's event in

Astana, Kazakhstan. They defeated Estonia's Daniil Glinka and Karl Kiur Saar 7-5, 6-7, 10-4 to lift the trophy in the hard-court event.

8. Indian wrestlers win 11 medals at World u17 championships

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

9. World No. 1 men's doubles pair Pramod Bhagat and Sukant Kadam won a gold medal in the SL3-SL4 category

- World No. 1 men's doubles pair of Pramod Bhagat and Sukant Kadam won a gold medal in the SL3-SL4 category in the Four Nations Para-Badminton International- 2023 in Sheffield, England, defeating compatriots Deep Ranjan Bisoyee and Manoj Sarkar 21-17 21-17.
- Bhagat also secured silver in the singles SL3 category, as also as silver in the mixed doubles SL3- SU5 category with Manisha Ramdass. Kadam won a bronze in the singles SL4 category.

10. India beat Pakistan 4-0 in the final group stage match to enter the semi-finals of the Asian Champions Trophy in Chennai

- In Hockey, India defeated Pakistan 4-0 in the final game of the group stage to enter the semi-finals of the Asian Champions Trophy in Chennai. Indian Skipper Harmanpreet Singh struck twice, while Jugraj Singha and Mandeep Singh scored one each as India finished the group stage as the only unbeaten team in the tournament.
- India now leads the standings with 13 points after four wins and one draw while Pakistan are eliminated from the tournament. Earlier, Malaysia beat Korea 1-0 and secured their semifinal berth. India will face Japan in the semifinals, while Malaysia will face Korea.

11. PM Modi & Anurag Singh Thakur congratulate Indian Men's Hockey Team for clinching Asian hockey Championship trophy

- In the Hero Asian Hockey Men's Championship, the Final between India and Malaysia is underway at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium in Chennai. In the semifinal, India beat Japan 5-0 at the same venue. Indian players brilliantly scored and defended goalpost, making it difficult for Japan to

score even a single goal. Earlier Japan clinched Bronze Medal, defeating South Korea.

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

- The Indian hockey team on 12 August defeated Malaysia 4-3 to win for the fourth time at the Asian Champions Trophy 2023 final, at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium in Chennai. With four Asian Champions Trophy titles, India is the most successful team in the history of the tournament. Japan clinched Bronze Medal, defeating South Korea by 5 goals to 3.

13.Shakib Al Hasan replaces Tamim Iqbal as ODI Captain of Bangladesh Cricket team

- After much anticipation, Shakib Al Hasan has been appointed as the captain of the Bangladesh One-Day International cricket team, replacing Tamim Iqbal. Bangladesh Cricket Board President Nazmul Hassan Papon announced the board's decision to reporters in Dhaka.
- Shakib is currently the team's Test and T20I captain and has the experience of leading Bangladesh in the 50-over format too.

14.Pallathuruthy Boat Club lifts the 69th edition of the Nehru Trophy Boat Race

- Veeyapuram Chundan (Snake Boat), rowed by the Pallathuruthy Boat Club lifted the 69th edition of the Nehru Trophy Boat Race held on Punnamada Lake in Kerala's Alappuzha district. This is the fourth straight win for the Club, which lifted the trophy in 2018, 2019 and 2022.

15.Indian men's hockey team jumps to third spot in FIH Men's Hockey World Rankings

- India (2771.35 points) jumped one place to third and went past England (2763.50 points) behind top-ranked Netherlands (3095.90 points) and Belgium (2917.87 points). This was the second time India rose to No 3 in the FIH rankings. India had achieved a similar ranking in 2021 after securing a bronze in the Tokyo Olympics, which was their first medal at the Games in 41 year.

16.India's Mohit Kumar becomes Under 20 World Champion in Men's 61 kg Freestyle category

- Indian wrestler Mohit Kumar has become the Under 20 World Championship in men's 61 Kg Freestyle category at Amman City in Jordan. Mohit defeated Russia's Eldar Akhmadudinov by 9-8 in the final to

become the fourth Indian Freestyle Wrestler to win a Junior World Championship.

- Mohit is the fourth male wrestler from India to earn a gold medal in the U20 World Championships, following Palwinder Cheema in 2001, Ramesh Kumar in 2001, and Deepak Punia in 2019.

OBITUARIES

1.Sulabh International's founder and social activist Bindeshwar Pathak passes away

- Founder of 'Sulabh International' Bindeshwar Pathak passed away at AIIMS, Delhi due to cardiac arrest. He was 80. He established the Sulabh International Social Service in 1970 and campaigned extensively against manual scavenging. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1991.

2.Folk singer and activist Gaddar passed away at the age of 74

- Noted folk singer and activist Gaddar passed away at the age of 74 after battling a serious heart ailment. He was undergoing treatment at Apollo Hospital in Hyderabad for the last 10 days after cardiac arrest.
- Gaddar, also known as Gummadi Vitthal Rao, gained popularity by his stage name. His songs highlighting various issues faced by the common people earned him the sobriquet "The People's Singer". He also showcased his acting skills in films like "Maa Bhoomi" and "Rangula Kala". Gaddar was born in 1949 in a Dalit family in Medak district of Telangana. His life experiences influenced his commitment to address social issues through his art.

3.Director William Friedkin of 'The Exorcist' & 'The French Connection' fame passes away

- Renowned American film-maker William Friedkin, who is known for his iconic works like 'The Exorcist' and 'The French Connection', passed away at the age of 87. Friedkin's family friend and former executive editor of Hollywood Reporter, Stephen Galloway, confirmed the news to news agency AFP.
- Friedkin breathed his last in Los Angeles from unspecified health issues he was struggling with in recent years. "He died this morning," Galloway confirmed, following a conversation with Friedkin's wife.

4.Filmmaker Siddique passed away in Kochi

- Prominent filmmaker Siddique passed away at a private hospital in Kochi. He was 63.

- Siddique's journey in the world of Malayalam cinema began with his directorial debut, "Ramji Rao Speaking" along with his friend Lal. The duo created some of the Malayalam film industry's biggest comedy blockbusters, including "In Harihar Nagar," "Godfather," "Vietnam Colony," "Ramji Rao Speaking," and "Friends," among others. He also directed films in Tamil, Telugu, and Hindi.
- Siddique carved a niche for himself in the hearts of film lovers with his innovative storytelling and versatile filmmaking style. He wove intricate narratives around relatable characters, skillfully blending humour and emotions.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1. World Day Against Trafficking in Persons is observed every year on 30th July

- World Day Against Trafficking in Persons is an annual event observed on 30 July every year. The World Day Against Trafficking in Persons aims to raise awareness and prevent the widespread issue of people trafficking and modern slavery, which affects many countries around the world.
- The focus of the 2023 campaign, based on the latest UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, is to highlight developments and trends related to trafficking. It aims to urge governments, law enforcement, public services and civil society to evaluate and strengthen their efforts in prevention, victim assistance and ending impunity. The theme for the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons 2023 is "**Reach every victim of trafficking, leave no one behind.**"

2. Muslim Women's Rights Day is observed every year on 1st August

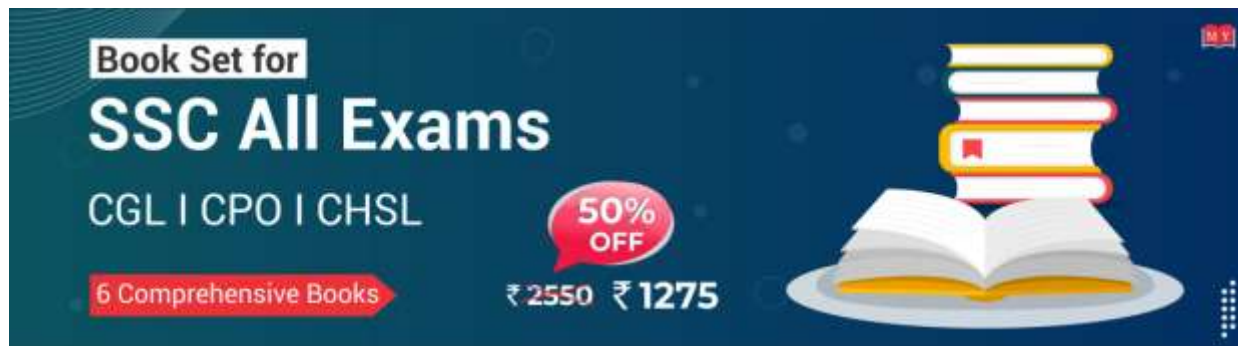
- Muslim Women's Rights Day is observed annually on 1 August to mark the second anniversary of the enactment of the law against triple talaq. A law against triple talaq was introduced by the central government of India on August 1, 2019, making the practice a criminal offence.
- The legislation is a part of the Protection of Rights on Marriage Act 2019, which outlaws instant triple talaq and protects the marriage rights of Muslim women. By celebrating Muslim Women's Rights Day, the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs highlights the importance of protecting the rights of Muslim women and promotes awareness about the impact of the law.

3. World Breastfeeding Week 2023 observed every year on August 1 to August 7

- World Breastfeeding Week is held in the first week of August every year. According to World Health Organization, breastfeeding is one of the most

effective ways to ensure child health and survival and yet currently, fewer than half of infants under 6 months old are exclusively breastfed.

- World Breastfeeding Week 2023 Theme: **Let's make breastfeeding and work, work!**
- World Breastfeeding Week (WBW) campaign is supported by WHO, UNICEF and many Ministries of Health and civil society partners. In 2018, a World Health Assembly resolution endorsed World Breastfeeding Week as an important health promotion strategy, according to the information on the WHO website.



4.Chetna Maroo's debut novel 'Western Lane' long-listed for 2023 Booker Prize

- British-Indian author Chetna Maroo's debut novel 'Western Lane' has been long-listed for the 2023 Booker Prize. The selection was made from a total of 163 books, published between October 2022 and September 2023. It features books from four continents, four Irish writers, four debut novelists, as well as 10 authors who are recognised by the Booker Prize for the first time.
- The long-list will be further trimmed to a shortlist of six books, to be announced on September 21. And finally, the 2023 Booker Prize winner will be announced on November 26 at an award ceremony in London. Set within the British-Gujarati community, Kenya-born Maroo's debut novel has been praised by the Booker judges for its use of the sport of squash as a metaphor for complex human emotions.

5.Quit India Movement is observed every year on 8th of August

- Quit India Movement is observed annually on August 8. This day is also known as August Kranti Din. This day is observed as an important movement in the freedom struggle and many freedom fighters took charge themselves. Quit India Movement was launched in the year 1942.
- In April 1942, when the Cripps's mission failed, a great mass struggle was launched and this struggle was known as Quit India Movement. This resolution approved the starting of a mass struggle of non-violence for the independence of the country. After the resolution passed, Mahatma Gandhi in his speech said, "Do or Die. We shall either be free or die in the

attempt". In 1942, most of the leaders were arrested and lodged in prisons. People attacked Government property, Government organizations, railway lines and telephones. There is a conflict between people and the police and the Government imposed restrictions on the publication of the Quit India Movement.

6. International Day of World's Indigenous People is observed every year 9th August

- International Day of World's Indigenous people is observed annually on August 9. This year's theme is Indigenous Youth as Agents of Change for Self-determination. This day is observed to raise awareness about life and to protect the indigenous people.
- This day was first observed by United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in December 1994. This day is observed annually to recognize the first UN working group on indigenous people meeting in Geneva in 1982. On December 23, 1994, the UN General Assembly observed August 9 as the International Day of the world's indigenous people day. The second International decade of World's indigenous people was observed by the assembly in 2004 and it was continued annually as International Day of world's indigenous people day.

7. World Organ Donation Day is observed every year on 13 August

- World Organ Donation Day is observed on August 13 every year globally to raise awareness about the importance of organ donation and to make people aware of the misconceptions of organ donation. The sole aim of the organizations involved in these noble event is mainly to encourage and educate people on the importance of donating organs after death to save more lives. Organ donations such as kidneys, heart, pancreas, eyes and lungs can save the lives of people suffering from chronic diseases.
- Donating an organ is the process of allowing one person, with their consent, to have their organs legally removed and transplanted to another person, where the donor can be living or dead and a close relative.

8. Indian High Commission celebrates 77th Independence Day

- The High Commission of India observed the 77th Independence Day of India in Dhaka. The celebrations were held with great fervor as part of the "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav,"
- Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Pranay Verma unfurled the national flag at the chancery and read out President Droupadi Murmu's address to over 1,000 Indian citizens studying and working in Bangladesh. This year marks the culmination of the "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" - a government initiative to mark 75 years of Independence

which started in 2021. In 1947, India gained independence from the United Kingdom on August 15.



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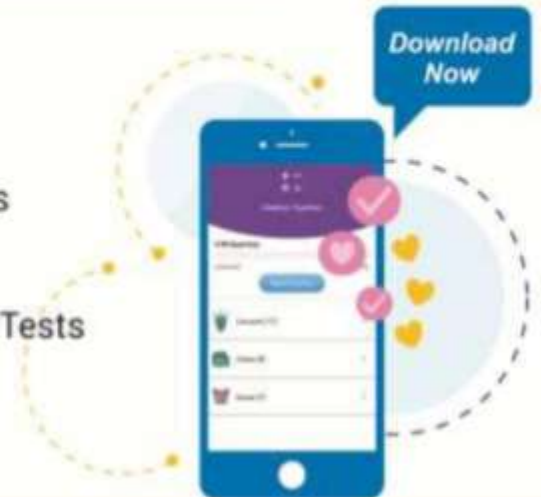
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