

AUGUST 2023

CURRENT AFFAIRS

- TOPIC WISE CURRENT AFFAIRS
- 150 QUESTIONS FOR PRACTICE
- ANALYSIS OF IMPORTANT EVENTS



The **Eklavya IAS Academy**

UPSC / MPSC

Our Branches - Ghatkopar (W), Chembur (E), Nerul (E), New Panvel

 7506701541 / 7506701542

PREFACE

This is our special edition of Current Affairs Magazine for various Central & State level Competitive Examinations, covering content from the month of August 2023.

The Magazine is divided into three sections:

Section 1: Topic Wise Current Affairs in Short

The first section is dedicated to Topic Wise Current Affairs with a short description to provide information about all major happenings this month.

Section 2: Practice Questions with Answers

The Second Section contains 150 Multiple Choice Questions based on daily current affairs.

Section 3: Detailed Analysis of important Event

The Third Section covers some major happenings in this month along with analysis. The content has been covered from various online & offline sources including reputed newspapers like The Hindu, Indian Express etc. All the news topics have been explained keeping in mind their underlying issues. Every issue has been covered comprehensively. Some of the information provided may not be directly relevant for the examination. As the content is very wide, we have only covered a limited set of issues. You can utilize it smartly along with Daily Study of News Papers as well as other sources.



INDEX

1. Important Days	Page 04
2. Agreements	Page 10
3. Appointments	Page 15
4. Awards	Page 18
5. Banking	Page 22
6. Books and Author	Page 26
7. Defence	Page 30
8. Economy	Page 34
9. International	Page 40
10. Miscellaneous	Page 44
11. National	Page 48
12. Obituaries	Page 54
13. Ranks & Reports	Page 57
14. Schemes & Committee	Page 61
15. Science & Technology	Page 64
16. Sports	Page 69
17. State	Page 74
18. Summits & Conferences	Page 80

Section 1

Topic Wise Current Affairs

Section 2

Question with Answers

- **QUESTIONS - Page 85**
- **ANSWERS - Page 98**

Section 3

Detailed Analysis of Events

1. Economics	Page 115
2. Environment & Diversity	Page 119
3. Governance	Page 121
4. History	Page 126
5. International Relations	Page 129
6. Polity	Page 130
7. Science, Tech, Art & Culture	Page 134
8. Security Issues	Page 140
9. Trivia	Page 141

SECTION 1

Topic Wise Current Affairs in Short



1: Important Days



National Mountain Climbing Day : 01 August :-

Every year on August 1st, National Mountain Climbing Day is celebrated. The day was created to recognize Bobby Matthews and his friend Josh Madigan's contributions. They both made history by ascending the Adirondack Mountains' 46 peaks. The two successfully climbed the final summit, Whiteface Mountain, in 2015. The day is important for mountain aficionados since climbing mountains excites them. Every year, thousands of individuals climb mountains, putting their lives in danger in the dangerous scenarios that come with mountain climbing.



World Breastfeeding Week : 01 August :-

World Breastfeeding Week is observed annually from August 1-7 to promote breastfeeding and enhance the health of babies worldwide. The day emphasizes the advantages of nursing for both the health and well-being of babies. It is a tried-and-true technique for safeguarding children from common childhood ailments including diarrhoea and pneumonia. The day also emphasizes maternal health, proper nutrition, poverty

alleviation, and other issues. The inaugural World Breastfeeding Week was held in 1992. It is now observed in over 100 nations. The theme of this year's World Breastfeeding Week is "Enabling Breastfeeding: Making a difference for working parents".



World Wide Web Day : 01 August :-

Every year on August 1, the world celebrates World Wide Web Day. Tim Berners-Lee, an English computer scientist, founded the World Wide Web in 1989 while working for the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Switzerland. While working at the organization, Berners-Lee created the foundations of the web, including HTTP, HTML, the WorldWideWeb browser, a server, and the first website. Many people are unaware that what we call the Internet is a mix of the World Wide Web and the Internet.



Hiroshima Day : 06 August :-

Every year on August 6, the entire world commemorates Hiroshima Day to commemorate the atomic bombing of Japanese cities during globe War II. The United States'

atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are the only documented instances of nuclear weapons usage during an armed conflict in history. On August 6, 1945, the first nuclear bomb was dropped over Hiroshima, killing approximately 40% of the city's inhabitants. The second nuclear bomb was dropped over Nagasaki three days later, on August 9. Today marks the 78th anniversary of one of humanity's most catastrophic disasters.



National Handloom Day : 07 August :-

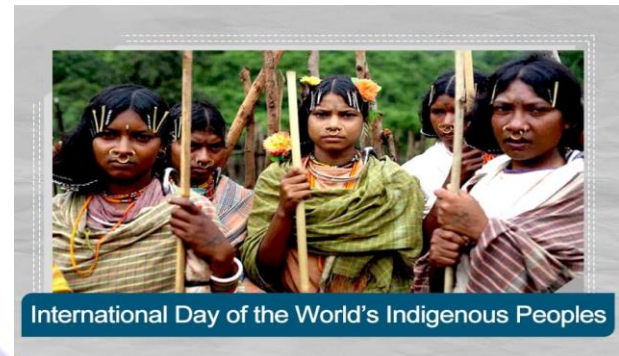
Every year on August 7, National Handloom Day is marked to commemorate the importance of India's handloom weaving community. Prime Minister Narendra Modi established the day in 2015. The Swadeshi movement in India during British control in 1905 inspired National Handloom Day. This was done to promote the concept of self-help and self-reliance on Indian goods in order to boycott foreign items. The significance of this day is to highlight India's rich culture, which provides a living in rural and semi-rural areas of the country.



Quit India Movement Day : 08 August :-

On this day 81 years ago, on August 9, 1942, the people of India began the pivotal final phase of their freedom struggle. It was a massive anti-colonial uprising on a never-before-seen magnitude, and it sent out the unmistakable message that the sun was about to set on

the British Empire in India. The previous day (August 8), Mahatma Gandhi had instructed the Raj to "Quit India," and the whole Congress leadership was already in jail, so when August 9 dawned, the people were on their own — out on the street, inspired by the Mahatma's appeal of "Do or Die."



International day of World's indigenous people : 09 August :-

Every year on August 9, the world's peoples observe International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. The day focuses on promoting awareness of indigenous peoples' roles and the importance of preserving their communities. During a UN summit in Geneva, the United Nations established its first working group on indigenous peoples. The UN council later created the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Finally, on December 23, 1994, the United Nations General Assembly declared August 9 to be International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. The theme of International day of World's indigenous people in 2023 is "Indigenous Youth as Agents of Change for Self-determination."

**WORLD
BIOFUEL
DAY** August 10



World Biofuel Day : 10 August :-

Every year on August 10, World Biofuel Day is observed. The day is commemorated to highlight the relevance of

non-fossil fuels as a substitute for traditional fossil fuels. Mr. Rudolf Diesel, the inventor of the diesel engine, is honored on this day. He was the one who anticipated that vegetable oil will be supplanted by fossil fuels. The alternate fuel variant improves the environment. Biofuels also generate additional revenue for the world's rural economies. World Biofuel Day 2023 with the theme "Biofuels: Fuels for a sustainable future" is being organized by Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas.



World Lion Day : 10 August :-

Every year on August 10, the world celebrates World Lion Day. Big Cat Rescue, the world's largest accredited lion sanctuary, established World Lion Day in 2013. It was co-founded by Dereck and Beverly Joubert, a husband-and-wife team who recognized the need to draw attention to declining lion populations and the threats they faced in the wild. By focusing a spotlight on lions and their conservation needs, World Lion Day plays an important role in gathering support and action to preserve a future for these extraordinary animals in the wild.



International Youth day : 12 August :-

Every year on August 12, the world celebrates International Youth Day. The day recognizes the difficulties they encounter and focuses on attempts to resolve them. The International Youth Day focuses on

the issues that young people around the world face. The inaugural Youth Day was commemorated in 1999, following the adoption of a resolution by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) that accepted the recommendation of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth in Lisbon. The theme of International Youth Day 2023 is "Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World."



World Elephant Day : 12 August :-

Every year on August 12, World Elephant Day is marked to raise awareness about the preservation and protection of the world's elephants. The most serious threat to these 'gentle animals' is poaching. Other challenges affecting them include habitat loss, human-elephant conflict, human maltreatment, and confinement. On August 12, 2012, the first World Elephant Day was observed. The work of Canadian filmmaker Patricia Sims and the Elephant Reintroduction Foundation of Thailand resulted in August 12 being designated as World Elephant Day. The theme for World Elephant Day 2023 is "Ending the Illegal Wildlife Trade".



International Lefthanders Day : 13 August :-

Every year on August 13, International Left-Handers Day is observed to recognize the distinctions and uniqueness of left-handed people in our society. The Club established International Lefthanders Day as an annual

event on August 13, 1992, so that lefthanders everywhere may celebrate their uniqueness while also raising public awareness of the benefits and drawbacks of being left-handed. According to Oxford University research, a left-handed person's brain processes differently from a right-handed person's brain. The theme for International Lefthanders Day 2023 is "Left-Handers in Sports."



World Organ Donation Day : 13 August :-

Every year on August 13, the world observes World Organ Donation Day. The goal of this day is to raise awareness about the necessity of organ donation and to inspire others to do the same. Ronald Lee Herrick donated a kidney to his identical twin brother, Richard Lee Herrick, in 1954, making it the first successful living donor organ transplant. Doctor Joseph Murray was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine in 1990 for Conducting successful kidney transplant. This year, the theme for World Organ Donation Day 2023 is "Step up to volunteer; need more organ donors to fill the lacunae".



Partition Horrors Remembrance Day (India) : 14 August :-

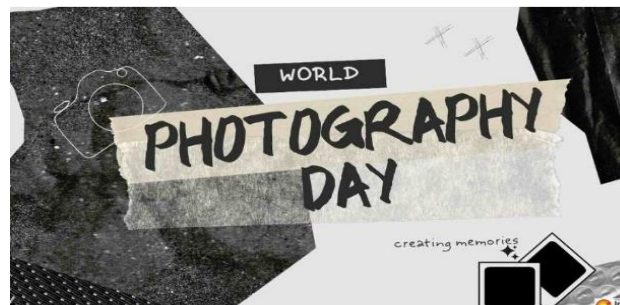
Partition Horrors Remembrance Day is observed in India on August 14. Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared

the remembrance on this day in 2021. Independence from the British was accompanied by India's partition into India and Pakistan. In the weeks and months around August 15, 1947, the partition of India into India and Pakistan resulted in horrific bloodshed and sectarian violence, property loss, and substantial instability. The partition is often recognized as one of history's most violent and quick displacements.



Independence Day of India : 15 August :-

India is preparing to observe an important milestone in its history by celebrating its Independence Day on August 15, 2023. This day serves as a poignant reminder of the country's freedom from British colonial domination nearly two centuries ago. Every year on August 15, India commemorates the country's freedom from British colonial authority by celebrating freedom Day. The country will commemorate its 77th anniversary of independence in 2023 under the theme "Nation First, Always First." Many liberation fighters struggled for our independence, including Mahatma Gandhi, Bhagat Singh, Jawaharlal Nehru, Subhas Chandra Bose, and others. Several valiant heroes gave their life for our country.



World Photography day : 19 August :-

Every year on August 19, World Photography Day is observed. The day commemorates the invention of the

first photographic technique, the 'Daguerreotype,' in 1837 by the Frenchmen Louis Daguerre and Joseph Nicéphore Niépce. The French Academy of Sciences disclosed this procedure on January 9, 1839, and later that year, the French government purchased the patent for the innovation and delivered it as a gift, "free to the world." However, the first long-lasting color photograph was taken in 1861. This year World Photography Day will be celebrated on the theme, 'Landscapes.'



World Humanitarian Day : 19 August :-

Every year on August 19, the world commemorates World Humanitarian Day. The origins of World Humanitarian Day can be traced back to August 19, 2003, after a huge bomb attack on the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq, killed 22 people, including the UN Special Representative for Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello. Five years later, in response to the Baghdad bombing and to honor those who died, the United Nations established August 19 as World Humanitarian Day. The theme for World Humanitarian Day 2023 is 'No matter what'.



Sadbhavana Diwas : 20 August :-

20 August 2023, marks the 79th birth anniversary of India's Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. This day is celebrated as 'Sadbhavana Diwas' or 'Harmony Day,' with the goal of encouraging national integration, peace,

affection, and communal harmony among Indians of all faiths. Following Indira Gandhi's assassination, Rajiv Gandhi became the country's youngest Prime Minister. He served from 1984 to 1989. Sadbhavana Diwas' major topic is to promote national cohesion and communal harmony among people of various religions and languages.



World Mosquito Day : 20 August :-

Every year on August 20, World Mosquito Day is observed. This is done to honor the efforts of British doctor Sir Ronald Ross, who was the first to identify a link between malaria and female anopheline mosquitoes. In 1897, Sir Ronald Ross discovered that mosquitoes are responsible for transmitting malaria. Every year, World Mosquito Day is celebrated to create awareness about the dangers of mosquitoes, the ways by which we can protect ourselves from these diseases.



Akshay Urja Diwas : 20 August :-

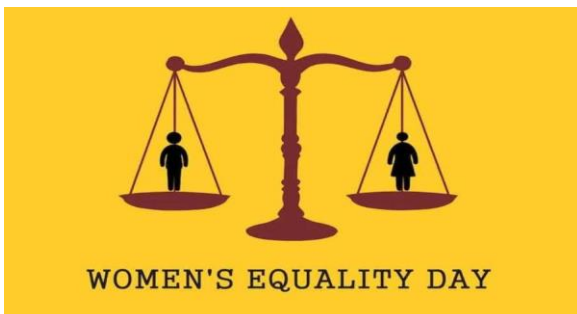
Akshay Urja Diwas is a movement to raise awareness about the importance of renewable energy resources in our life and the health of our blue planet. The earth's resources are decreasing at an alarming rate, and our reliance on these resources has made it difficult for humans to progress. On August 20, 2004, the inaugural Akshay Urja Diwas was observed. Former Prime Minister

Manmohan Singh and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) hosted the event in New Delhi.



International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition : 23 August :-

Every year on August 23, the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is observed. It celebrates the day on August 23, 1791, when a rebellion against the slave trade began in Saint Domingue, now known as Haiti. Haiti was a French town and a center of the European slave trade. The rebellion resulted in a revolution against the country's rulers. In 1998, the anniversary of the revolt was marked for the first time. It was declared by UNESCO and observed in Senegal in 1999.



Women's Equality Day : 26 August :-

Women's Equality Day is observed every year on August 26. It represents a step forward and serves as a reminder of the ongoing struggle for equal rights and opportunities for all women. Women's Equality Day commemorates the universal suffrage movement that resulted in the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution, honors women's accomplishments over time, and renews our commitment to increasing gender parity and safeguarding women's rights. This year's Women's Equality Day theme is "Embrace Equity."



International Dog Day : 26 August :-

International Dog Day is observed on August 26 to commemorate their devotion and importance in our lives. Colleen Paige, a Pet & Family Lifestyle Expert and Animal Rescue Advocate, established the day in 2004. The date August 26 is noteworthy because it was the day Paige's family got her first dog, Sheltie, from a local shelter when she was 10 years old. International Dog Day honors all dogs, pure and mixed breed. The primary goal of the day is to mobilize the public to identify the various canines that require rescue each year.



National Sports Day : 29 August :-

Every August 29, India observes National Sports Day. This unique day is observed because Major Dhyan Chand, a well-known hockey player, was born on this date in 1905. It's a tribute to his incredible athletic achievements. This day has been observed by people since 2012. Major Dhyan Singh was born on August 29, 1905, in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh. He joined the Indian Army in 1922 and remained there till his major retirement in 1956. Dhyan Chand, sometimes known as the "Hockey Wizard," is widely regarded as one of the game's top players. In his international hockey career, he has scored over 400 goals.



Small Industry Day : 30 August :-

Every year on August 30, India celebrates National Small Industry Day. The day honors the contribution of small businesses to the progress of the country. The day also provides an opportunity for the federal and state governments to promote and support small businesses. A vast number of individuals in India are employed by these tiny businesses. The Ministry of Small-Scale Industries announced a comprehensive policy package for small firms on August 30, 2000. A year later, the Centre proclaimed August 30th as National Small Industry Day.



Sanskrit Diwas : 31 August :-

Sanskrit Day is observed every year on Shraavana Poornima, the full moon day in the Hindu month of Shraavana. Sanskrit Day will be observed on August 31, 2023. It was previously celebrated on August 12th, 2022. Sanskrit language is believed to be originated in India around 3,500 years ago. The term Sanskrit is derived from the conjoining of the prefix 'Sam' meaning 'Samyak' which indicates 'entirely' and 'krit' indicates 'done'. In terms of communication, reading and hearing Sanskrit term indicates perfectly or entirely done.

2: Agreements



India And ADB Signed \$200 Mn Loan Deal To Enhance Urban Services In Rajasthan :-

According to the ministry of finance, the central government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a \$200 million loan as additional financing for the ongoing Rajasthan Secondary Towns Development Sector Project to expand water supply and sanitation systems, as well as enhance urban resilience and heritage living in selected towns. Vumlung

Vualnam, assistant secretary, department of economic affairs, ministry of finance, representing the Indian government, and Takeo Konishi, country director of ADB's India Resident Mission for ADB, signed the loan agreement.



India, Moldova Agree To Sign MoU For Cooperation In Agriculture :-

Shobha Karandlaje, India's Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, and Vladimir Bolea,

Moldova's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture and Food Industries, met at Krishi Bhawan in New Delhi in a significant gesture aimed at strengthening bilateral ties. Mr. Vladimir Bolea proposed that India and Moldova establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the sector of agriculture. The meeting ended on a pleasant tone, with Minister Shobha Karandlaje accepting Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Bolea's invitation to visit Moldova.



Foxconn Signs Rs 1,600 Crore Deal To Set Up Plant In Tamil Nadu :-

The Tamil Nadu government has agreed to a Rs 1,600 crore investment by Foxconn's subsidiary Hon Hai Technology Group to produce mobile phone components in the state. According to Industries Minister TRB Rajaa, the plant would be established by the subsidiary Hon Hai Technology Group. Tamil Nadu is the leading exporter of electronic goods, with exports exceeding \$5.3 billion in 2022-23. Stalin, the state's chief minister, has set an objective of converting the state into a trillion-dollar economy by 2030.



Indian Railways & IIT-Madras Ink MoU For 5G Testbed :-

The Ministry of Railways and the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) signed an agreement to establish the India 5G testbed at the Indian Railway

Institute of Signal Engineering and Telecommunications (IRISET) in Secunderabad; the facility would be dedicated to testing and developing 5G use cases for Indian Railways. The MoU between IRISET and IIT-Madras intends to accelerate Indian Railways' indigenisation efforts in the field of communications and to establish a testing center for Indian Railways.



NewSpace India Limited Partners With Tata Play To Commission GSAT-24 :-

Isro's commercial branch, NewSpace India Limited, cooperated with Tata Play to assist the direct-to-home (DTH) service provider in beaming television channels from the commercially dedicated Gsat-24 satellite beginning on August 14. The entire satellite capacity on board Gsat-24, which was launched specifically for the leading DTH service provider last year, is leased to its committed customer Tata Play and will help it increase its carrying capacity to 900 channels and cover the length and breadth of the country, including remote locations such as the Andaman and Nicobar islands.



ISB Inks MoU With Goa To Start Knowledge Partnership :-

The Indian School of Business's (ISB) Bharti Institute of Public Policy has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Goa government to begin

a knowledge partnership focused on evidence-based policy formulation and its impact in the state. According to the MoU, as a knowledge partner, Bharti Institute will assist the State government in furthering its objectives to improve social and economic prosperity indicators through evidence-based public policy interventions, capacity-building workshops, and citizen-centric governance-based initiatives.



MakeMyTrip And Ministry Of Tourism To Launch Traveller's Map Of India :-

MakeMyTrip announced a collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism to establish a Travellers' Map of India microsite. According to the company, the Map of India microsite will feature approximately 600 destinations in addition to the country's most popular destinations. According to MakeMyTrip, the built microsite provides a 'interactive' platform for travelers to discover tourism sites within the country's borders based on their preferences. According to the company, the microsite was created in accordance with the Government of India's 'DekhoApnaDesh' program.



Hyundai Motor To Acquire General Motors' Talegaon Plant :-

Automobile giant from South Korea, Hyundai Motor Co's Indian unit is set purchase automaker General Motors' Talegaon, Maharashtra plant, the company declared.

Hyundai, India's second-largest carmaker by sales, did not specify the value of the transaction. Hyundai plans to achieve a total annual manufacturing capacity of one million units through its Sriperumbudur (Chennai) and Talegaon factories. The arrangement comprises the purchase and sale of land and buildings, as well as machinery and production equipment, at General Motors' Talegaon plant.



AICTE And Jio Institute Partnered For A Faculty Development Programme On Artificial Intelligence & Data Science :-

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has announced a collaboration with Jio Institute to create faculty development programme on artificial intelligence (AI) and data science. The collaboration intends to upskill and reskill faculty from AICTE-approved institutions. It will also explore emerging opportunities within the technological landscape. Jio Institute will serve as the host institution for the five-day residential programme which will be inaugurated on August 21, 2023, by TG Sitharam, chairman, AICTE.



Axis Bank Partners With RBI Innovation Hub To Launch Kisan Credit Cards :-

Two loan products driven by the Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit (PTPFC), launched by the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), a fully-owned subsidiary of the

RBI, have been made available by Axis Bank. Utilizing the platform, Axis Bank will provide unsecured MSME loans and the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) to small business clients. Both products will be offered in a completely digital manner and require no submission of documents by customers. As a pilot, Kisan Credit Cards will be offered in Madhya Pradesh and available to customers for up to Rs 1.6 lakh to start with.



Trinidad And Tobago Inks Pact For Sharing Indian Technology Stack :-

Trinidad and Tobago has agreed to share the India Stack, which is a collection of open application programming interfaces and digital public goods for identification, data, and payment services, with the Indian government. According to an official announcement, the agreement was signed in the presence of officials from the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY), the National E-Governance Division, and the Ministry of External Affairs. India has also agreed to share India Stack with Armenia, Sierra Leone, Suriname, and Antigua & Barbuda.



ICC Ties Up With Mastercard For Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 :-

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has established a brand partnership with Mastercard for the next Men's Cricket World Cup 2023, which will take place in India from October 5 to November 19, 2023. Mastercard will

be a global partner for the World Cup as part of this agreement. Mastercard's partnership with the ICC demonstrates the brand's dedication to cricket and expands the global technology company's famous international sports sponsorship portfolio, which includes partnerships with the UEFA Champions League and the PGA Tour.



Telangana Partners With UNESCO To Implement Recommendation On Ethics Of AI :-

Following the signing of a Letter of Intent, the Telangana government and UNESCO will work together to implement the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (AI). According to a press release, the collaboration will focus on supporting the ethical development and use of AI through awareness raising, capacity building, and contributions to UNESCO's Global Observatory on AI Ethics. According to the press release, the collaboration represents a shared commitment to an AI-powered future that prioritizes societal benefit and equitable growth.



Finance Minister Launches HSBC India's Green Hydrogen Partnerships:-

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has unveiled HSBC India's partnerships targeted at green hydrogen innovation. Partnerships with IIT Bombay and the Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation are being formed to seek

technology improvements that will make green hydrogen more efficient, cost-effective, and scalable. "These two partnerships, with total grant support of Rs 15 crore (USD 2 mn), will focus on innovation projects that will help prioritize green hydrogen as a strategic alternate fuel," the bank said in a statement.

acquire five fleet support ships (FSS) for the Indian Navy at a cost of around Rs. 19,000 crore. The 44,000-tonne ships will be the first of their type to be built in India by an Indian shipyard. The fleet support ships would be used to replace ships at sea with fuel, water, ammunition, and supplies, allowing the Indian navy fleet to operate for extended periods of time without returning to port.



Naval Chiefs Of India And Philippines Sign SOP For White Shipping Information Exchange :-

Airtel Payments Bank Partners With Frontier Markets, Mastercard To Support 1 Lakh Women-Owned Businesses:-

Admiral R Hari Kumar, Chief of the Naval Staff, and Commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard, CG Admiral Artemio M Abu, signed the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to improve maritime security in New Delhi. Admiral R Hari Kumar and CG Admiral Artemio M Abu signed the SOP for the exchange of White Shipping Information on August 23, 2023, according to a release from the Ministry of Defence. Furthermore, the signing of the SOP between the Philippine Coast Guard and the Indian Navy will ease the operationalization of information exchange on merchant marine traffic, which will contribute to improved regional maritime safety and security.

Airtel Payments Bank, Frontier Markets, and the Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth have announced the launch of 'She Leads Bharat: Udyam,' a project to provide resources, tools, and chances to 1,00,000 women-owned small businesses in India. She Leads Bharat: Udyam is a first-of-its-kind initiative that brings together the private sector, social enterprise, and philanthropy in the banking, financial services, and insurance sectors to demonstrate a digital-first model designed to open up opportunities for women-owned small businesses to increase their incomes.



Hindustan Shipyard Signs ₹19,000 Cr Contract With Defence Ministry :-

Maharashtra Govt Signs MoU With Germany's Professional Association Football League :-

The Defence Ministry has inked a contract with Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. (HSL), Visakhapatnam, to

The Maharashtra government has reached an agreement with Germany's premier association football league,

'Bundesliga,' to form a football squad for players under the age of 14. On behalf of the Maharashtra government, the agreement was signed by Ranjit Singh Deol, Principal Secretary, Department of School Education and Sports,

and Mrs Julia Farr, representative of the Bundesliga. It will assist young footballers in developing their skills and possibly competing at a high level.

3: Appointments



Justice Subhasis Talapatra Sworn In As New Chief Justice Of Orissa High Court :-

Justice Subhasis Talapatra was sworn in as Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court in Cuttack. At a ceremony on the grounds of the Orissa High Court, Odisha Governor Professor Ganeshi Lal administered the oath of office to the new chief justice. As the 33rd Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court, Justice Talapatra succeeded Justice S Muralidhar. On August 7, Justice S Muralidhar resigned from his position. Justice Talapatra will serve for less than two months before retiring on October 3. Justice Talapatra graduated in arts and law from the University of Calcutta after being born on October 4, 1961 in Udaipur, Tripura.



Sanjay Kumar Agarwal Takes Charge As CBIC Chairman :-

Sanjay Kumar Agarwal, an IRS officer, has been appointed Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC). Agarwal takes over for Vivek

Johri, who retired as CBIC chairman on May 31. 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.



SBI Life's Appointment Of Amit Jhingran As MD & CEO Receives IRDAI Approval :-

The appointment of Amit Jhingran as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of SBI Life Insurance Company Limited has been approved by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI). Amit Jhingran is the Assistant General Manager of the Hyderabad Circle and has working experience in the insurance industry for over three decades. He started with SBI Life in 1991 as a probationary officer and has been with the company ever since. Amit Jhingran was also the CEO of SBI in Chicago.



Anwarul Haq Kakar Sworn In As Pakistan's Caretaker Prime Minister:-

Anwarul Haq Kakar has been sworn in as Pakistan's caretaker prime minister, with the task of running the cash-strapped country and holding the next general elections. Mr Kakar, a 52-year-old first-term Senator from Balochistan, is an ethnic Pushtun and a member of the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP), a party regarded linked to the country's powerful establishment. President Arif Alvi administered the oath of office to him in the Aiwan-i-Sadr (the President House) in Islamabad. He was appointed as Pakistan's eighth interim prime minister.



Centre Appoints R Doraiswamy As LIC Managing Director :-

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has announced that the government has selected R. Doraiswamy as managing director. Mr. Doraiswamy is currently the executive director of the central office in Mumbai. He has been appointed as LIC's managing director in place of Mini Ipe, with effect from the date of his assumption of office on or after September 1, 2023, and continuing until his superannuation on August 31, 2026, or until further orders, whichever is earlier, the national insurer said in a regulatory filing.



AFI Chief Adille Sumariwalla Elected To World Athletics Executive Board :-

Adille Sumariwalla was recently elected to the World Athletics Executive Board as one of four vice presidents, the highest position held by an Indian in the world track and field governing organization. Since 2012, Sumariwalla, 65, has served as president of the Athletics Federation of India (AFI). During the WA elections, which were held two days before the World Championships, he received the third most votes. The President, four Vice Presidents, three appointed members, and a non-voting Chief Executive Officer comprise the Executive Board.



Kamlesh Varshney, Amarjeet Singh Appointed SEBI Whole-Time Members :-

The government has appointed Kamlesh Chandra Varshney and Amarjeet Singh to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) board as full-time members. Varshney, a 1990-batch Indian Revenue Service officer, is a joint secretary at the department of revenue, while Singh is an executive director at the capital markets regulator. The finance ministry's department of economic affairs stated in two separate notices that both positions are for three years from the date of assumption of duty or until further orders, whichever is earlier.



Parminder Chopra Appointed As CMD Of Power Finance Corporation (PFC) :-

Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC) appointed Parminder Chopra as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) with effect from August 14, 2023, making her the first woman to oversee the organization, the NBFC announced. She formerly served as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) since June 1, 2023, and as Director (Finance), PFC since July 1, 2020. Chopra, who has over 35 years of experience in power and finance, led India's largest NBFC to the greatest net profit, net worth, and NPA levels during her tenure as Director.

**PR Seshadri Appointed New MD & CEO Of South Indian Bank :-**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted the appointment of P R Seshadri as managing director and chief executive officer of South Indian Bank for a three-year term beginning October 1, 2023. Seshadri is a seasoned banker with experience in a variety of industries, functional lines, and regions. He has extensive experience in enterprise-level management and the management of all important commercial banking business lines, as well as managing investors, boards, and regulatory interactions across numerous countries.

**BPCL Announces Rahul Dravid As Brand Ambassador :-**

Cricketer Rahul Dravid has been named as the new brand ambassador for Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL). Mr. Dravid will support BPCL's Pure for Sure project and the MAK lubricant line. G. Krishnakumar, C&MD, BPCL said at an event, "As one of the greatest cricketers of our time, Rahul Dravid stood out not only for his exemplary batting skills but also his strong integrity and dependability. An icon who took Indian cricket to new heights, Rahul truly epitomizes our values of trust, integrity, ethics, service and consistency."

**Neelkanth Mishra Appointed Part-Time Chairman Of UIDAI :-**

Axis Bank's top economist, Neelkanth Mishra, has been nominated as a part-time head of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). Mishra's appointment as the UIDAI's part-time chairperson means that he is now a part of some of the most high-profile government offices; he is also a part-time member of the Economic Advisory Committee to the Prime Minister (PM-EAC); and a member of the advisory committee of the India Semiconductor Mission, which vets chip applications in India.

**Vicom18 Appoints Google's Kiran Mani As CEO Of Digital Business :-**

Viacom18 has appointed Kiran Mani, a seasoned executive from Google, as its new CEO in a deliberate move to strengthen its digital business operations. Mani's remarkable track record and broad experience place him in an excellent position to head Viacom18's digital initiatives. His work as the Asia Pacific region's head of Android and Google Play has provided him with unique insights into user habits, content consumption patterns, and market trends. This knowledge will surely be useful in his new capacity as CEO of Viacom18's digital unit.

Justice Prakash Shrivastava Appointed As NGT Chairperson :-

Former Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court, Justice Prakash Shrivastava, took over as the new Chairperson of the National Green Tribunal (NGT). On March 31, 1961, Justice Prakash Shrivastava was born. On February 2,

1987, he was admitted as an advocate and focused his practice in the Supreme Court of India on Taxation Law, Civil Law, and Constitutional Law. On January 18, 2008, Justice Prakash Shrivastava was appointed as a Judge of the Madhya Pradesh High Court, and on January 15, 2010, he was appointed as a Permanent Judge.



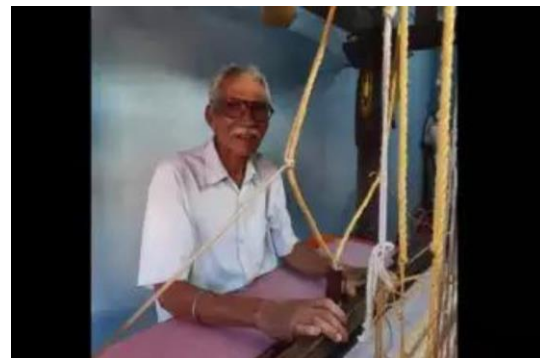
4: Awards



Indian-Origin Author Chetna Maroo's Debut Novel On Booker Prize Longlist :-

Chetna Maroo's Western Lane, a story about a young girl's harsh squash court training regimen, has made the Booker Prize 2023 longlist. She is one of four debut novelists on the longlist for the Booker Prize 2023. The longlist contains seven countries (Malaysia, Nigeria, Jamaica, the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, and Ireland) from four continents. The shortlist will be revealed on September 21, and those that make it will

get £2,500. The winner, who will be revealed on November 26, will receive £50,000 in prize money.



74-year-old Karnataka weaver honored with award on Handloom Day :-

Sanjeeva Shettigar, 74, of Talipady Weavers Society, has received a state-level award from the department of handlooms and textiles for his expertise in cotton sari weaving. He received the prize during the Handloom Day celebrations in Bengaluru. He came in second place in the cotton category. Shettigar is a skillful weaver who hand weaves delicate and elegant buttas in 80-count

Udupi saris. He is credited with being the first weaver to produce naturally dyed 80-count Udupi saris.



Mrunal Thakur to receive Diversity in Cinema award at Indian Film Festival of Melbourne :-

The organisers of the upcoming Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) have announced that actor Mrunal Thakur will receive the Diversity in Cinema Award. According to a press release, the award will be given to the "Sita Ramam" actor in celebration of "her outstanding performances across diverse roles and languages in the world of Indian cinema." The actor, who began her career with "Love Sonia" and has since appeared in films such as "Super 30", "Toofan", and "Jersey", will win the prize during the annual gala night on August 11 in the Australian city.



Subhash Runwal Receives The Lifetime Achievement Award RICS :-

Subhash Runwal, Chairman - Runwal, a major real estate developer with a four-decade record, received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the inaugural RICS South Asia Awards. The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) is a global industry group that represents professionals from all over the world. It hosted its first-ever awards to honour global and Indian

industry-leading achievements and to demonstrate individuals and teams across built and natural settings sustaining the highest standards of professionalism and ethics.



President Droupadi Murmu Approves 76 Gallantry Awards:-

On the eve of Independence Day, President Droupadi Murmu approved 76 gallantry medals to Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces members. These include four posthumous Kirti Chakras, 11 posthumous Shaurya Chakras, two Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry), 52 Sena Medals (Gallantry), three Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry), and four Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry). The President has also granted 30 Mention-in-Despatches for the Army, including one for Army dog Madhu (Posthumous), and one for Air Force personnel for outstanding services in various military operations.



Ashleigh Gardner And Chris Woakes Named ICC Players Of The Month For July 2023 :-

England all-rounder Chris Woakes has been selected the ICC Men's Player of the Month for July 2023 in recognition of his performances during the men's Ashes series against Australia. In addition, Chris Woakes was named player of the series in Ashes 2023 for his important contribution to England's comeback from a 2-

0 deficit to tie the series 2-2. Meanwhile, Ashleigh Gardner became the first-ever player – male or female – to win the ICC Player of the Month Award in successive months. Gardner earned the prized monthly award for the fourth time, defeating fellow all-rounders Ellyse Perry and Nat Sciver-Brunt.



Indian-American Economist Raj Chetty Awarded Top Harvard University Prize :-

Raj Chetty, an Indian-American economist, has received Harvard University's prestigious George Ledlie Prize for using big data to dispel misunderstandings about who achieves the American Dream and the challenges that others encounter. Chetty, a Harvard University professor of economics, is also the director of Opportunity Insights, a group of Harvard economists that examine inequality. He also counseled US Vice President Joe Biden on economic matters. Every two years, the prize is given to a member of the Harvard community who has made the most significant contribution to science.



Five Indian youths named among International Young Eco-Hero award 2023 :-

Five Indian youths have been named among 17 teen environmental activists from around the world to win the 2023 International Young Eco-Hero Award for their efforts to address the world's most critical

environmental concerns. The young eco-warriors who were recognised for their efforts by the US-based non-profit organisation, "Action For Nature", are Eiha Dixit from Meerut, Manya Harsha from Bengaluru, Nirvaan Somany and Mannat Kaur from New Delhi and Karnav Rastogi from Mumbai.



Zerodha's Nithin Kamath awarded inaugural CK Prahalad Next Practice Award :-

Nithin Kamath was named the 2023 CK Prahalad Next Practice Entrepreneur by the CK Prahalad Foundation, the CSR arm of TVS Capital Funds, in recognition of his achievements in building Zerodha as an exemplary organisation. The Foundation's mission is to promote and encourage Prof. CK Prahalad's visionary concept of "next practices." In addition to the memorial oration, the Foundation also recognises successful next generation entrepreneurs who exemplify practising the thoughts and teachings of Prof CK Prahalad.



Ratan Tata Conferred With Maharashtra Govt.'S 'Udyog Ratna' Award :-

The Maharashtra government bestowed the first-ever 'Udyog Ratna' honor to legendary industrialist Ratan Tata. Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Ministers Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar gave the

award to the 85-year-old chairman emeritus of Tata Sons at the industrialist's home in Colaba, south Mumbai. The shawl, citation, and memento were presented by the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC). Mr Shinde told reporters afterwards that honoring Mr Tata as a 'Udyog Ratna' has increased the stature of the award.



Raja Anirudh Sriram From Tirupati Bags Silver At Singapore Math Olympiad :-

Raja Anirudh Sriram, a fourth-grade kid from Tirupati, has won a silver medal in the Singapore International Math Olympiad Challenge (SIMOC). Among the 23 Indians who attended the event, the eight-year-old was the only one from Andhra Pradesh. Over 2000 students from 32 countries competed in the prestigious tournament, which Raja Anirudh won with flying colors. He made the India Book of Records at the age of four for recognising 100 autos in 160 seconds. He was the youngest Indian to receive the 'Microsoft Office Specialist Certificate' at the age of six.



PM Modi Honoured With Greece's Grand Cross Of The Order Of Honour :-

Greek President Katerina N. Sakellaropoulou awarded Prime Minister Narendra Modi the Grand Cross of the Order of Honour in Athens. Following the award, PM Modi praised the president and people of Greece, adding

that it demonstrated the Greek people's regard for India. The Grand Cross of the Order of Honour is awarded by the President of Greece to prime ministers and renowned people who have contributed to elevating Greece's prestige via their prestigious positions.



69th National Film Awards 2023 Winners List Announced :-

The 69th National Film Awards winners were announced at the National Media Center in New Delhi. The ceremony will take place at a later date, when the President will honor the best Indian films made across languages in the calendar year 2021. The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) certified feature and non-feature films between January 1, 2021, and December 31, 2021, were eligible for competition. The Best Feature Film award was won by Rocketry and Best Director award was won by Nikhil Mahajan for the film Godavari. Allu Arjun won the Best Actor award for the film Pushpa, while the Best Actress award was jointly won by Alia Bhatt and Kriti Sanon.



SVAMITVA Scheme Of Ministry Of Panchayati Raj Won National Award For E-Governance 2023 :-

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj's SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas) Scheme was awarded the prestigious

National Award for e-Governance 2023 (Gold) for Application of Emerging Technologies for Providing Citizen Centric Services at the 26th National Conference on e-Governance (NCEG). SVAMITVA Scheme has been

successful in offering an integrated property validation solution for rural India, enhancing the financial stability of people living in rural areas, and transforming lives in rural India through effective implementation.

5: Banking



Banknotes With A Star (*) Symbol Identical To Any Other Legal Banknotes: RBI:-

On July 27, 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) confirmed that a banknote with a star (*) symbol is similar to any other legal banknote, except that a star symbol is put between the prefix and the serial number in the number panel. According to the RBI, the Star (*) mark is an identification for a replaced/reprinted banknote. According to the central bank, the star (*) sign is inserted in the number panel of a banknote that is used as a replacement for defectively printed banknotes in a packet of 100 pieces of serially numbered banknotes.



Public Sector Banks And Major Private Banks Collected Over Rs 35,000 Cr In Charges:-

Since 2018, public sector banks and five major private sector banks have collected over Rs 35,000 crore in charges for non-maintenance of minimum balance, additional ATM transactions, and SMS services, according to the Finance Ministry's report to the Rajya Sabha. Data submitted as part of a written response by Dr Bhagwat Karad, Minister of State in the Finance Ministry, revealed that public sector banks and five major private sector banks (Axis Bank, HDFC Bank, IndusInd Bank, ICICI Bank, and IDBI Bank) collected over Rs 21,000 crore for non-maintenance of minimum balance, while ATM transactions beyond free numbers brought in over Rs 8,000 crore and SMS charges brought in over Rs 6,000 crore.



Axis Bank Partners With Kiwi To Bolster 'Credit On UPI' On RuPay Credit Cards :-

Kiwi, a credit on UPI platform, has partnered with Axis Bank to increase the availability of 'Credit on UPI' on RuPay credit cards. The collaboration allows Kiwi customers to utilize the app to access the RuPay lifetime

cing the

Introducing the
green way to pay

With Airtel Payments Bank
Debit Card

99% Recycled Plastic

Low Carbon Footprint

Know more



Airtel Payments Bank Launched India’s 1st Eco-Friendly Debit Card :-

Airtel Payments Bank has become the first Indian bank to issue an eco-friendly debit card to its new and current savings bank account customers. The debit cards will be made of r-PVC, a certified eco-friendly material. Every batch of 50,000 cards produced will result in a 350 kg decrease in carbon emissions when compared to standard PVC cards currently utilized in the market. Airtel Payments Bank is introducing two new Classic cards: the Personalised Classic Card and the Insta Classic Card.



AU Bank Becomes India’s First Bank To Provide 24x7 Video Banking Service:-

The country's largest small finance bank, AU Small Finance Bank Limited (AU Bank), has become the first financial services provider in India to establish a 24x7 live video banking service. Customers can have live video chats with bankers at any time and on any day using the video banking service. Like video calls, AU Small Finance Bank's 24x7 video banking provides face-to-face contact with video bankers. AU Bank previously had a video banking platform, however the service has now been expanded to provide 24-hour coverage.



RBI Levies Monetary Penalties On 4 Co-Operative Banks For Regulatory Violations :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed monetary fines on four cooperative banks for regulatory compliance problems. Shri Vinayak Sahakari Bank, Shreeji Bhatia Cooperative Bank, Mizoram Urban Cooperative Development Bank, and Vita Urban Cooperative Bank are among them. The Reserve Bank's actions were based on regulatory compliance problems and were not meant to pronounce on the legitimacy of any transaction or agreement entered into by the banks with their customers.



RBI’s Strategic Announcements Set To Transform UPI And UPI Lite Landscape :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recommended putting Artificial Intelligence-powered conversational features on UPI to enable digital payments through voice commands in order to make it more user-friendly and popular. The RBI has also announced plans to enhance the transaction limit for small-value digital payments in offline mode from Rs 200 to Rs 500 with the overall limit being retained at Rs 2,000 per payment instrument to contain the risks associated with relaxation of two-factor authentication.



Reserve Bank Of India (RBI) Introduces Reforms For Transparent Home Loan EMIs:-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has advised banks to be transparent in resetting interest rates and EMIs on floating-rate house loans under the external benchmark-based lending rate (EBLR) system. Furthermore, the RBI has requested that banks use a more transparent structure when pricing their floating rate interest rates. The central bank has also instructed the lender to give EBLR borrowers the option of switching to a fixed-rate home loan whenever they wish, at a time when borrowers with floating-rate home loans are seeing their EMIs rise.



Canara Jeevan Dhara Savings Bank Account For Pensioners Launched :-

Canara Bank has launched Canara Jeevan Dhara, a special savings bank account for pensioners and those considering retirement. Employees who retired voluntarily or on a regular basis are also eligible. Depending on the pension credit, the bank gives two options. Diamond accounts are for amounts up to Rs 50,000, whereas Platinum accounts are for amounts greater than Rs 50,000. According to the Canara Bank website, the interest rate on Jeevan Dhara savings account would be the same as the ordinary savings

account, which ranges from 2.90% to 4% depending on the account balance.



RBI Introduces UDGAM Portal To Reclaiming Unclaimed Deposits:-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched a Centralised Web Portal UDGAM (Unclaimed Deposits - Gateway to Access inforMation) for members of the public to utilize in order to facilitate and make it easier for them to search their unclaimed deposits across different banks in one place. Reserve Bank Information Technology Pvt. Ltd. (ReBIT), Indian Financial Technology & Allied Services (IFTAS), and participating banks have collaborated on developing the portal. The search facility for remaining banks on the portal would be made available in a phased manner by October 15, 2023, the RBI said.



Zerodha gets final nod from Sebi to launch mutual fund business :-

According to its founder and CEO Nithin Kamath, brokerage firm Zerodha has acquired final approval from capital markets regulator Sebi to establish an asset management company. Zerodha requested for a license to commence mutual fund operations in February 2020. Explaining the reason for starting a mutual fund, Kamath said the first was the biggest challenge and opportunity for Indian markets is the shallow participation. In April, both Zerodha and Smallcase announced that they would set up a joint venture to launch the Zerodha AMC business.



RBI's Revised Guidelines For IDF-NBFCs To Boost Infrastructure Financing :-

According to the Reserve Bank's new requirements for such companies, Infrastructure Debt Fund-NBFCs (IDF-NBFCs) will henceforth be required to have a net owned fund (NOF) of at least Rs 300 crore. Furthermore, they must have a capital-to-risk-weighted-assets ratio (CRAR) of at least 15% (with a minimum Tier 1 capital of 10%). According to the RBI, a review of the guidelines applicable to IDF-NBFCs has been conducted in order to allow them to play a larger role in infrastructure finance and to consolidate the regulations regulating infrastructure financing by NBFCs.



Canara Bank Pioneers UPI-Interoperable Digital Rupee Mobile App For CBDC Transactions :-

Canara Bank has launched the UPI Interoperable Digital Rupee mobile app, which allows customers to pay using digital money by scanning any merchant's UPI QR code. This move is part of the Reserve Bank of India's Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) pilot experiment. All Digital Rupee pilot participating banks have taken steps to facilitate interoperability between the CBDC and the Unified Payments Interface (UPI). Customers can use this to make a payment using the UPI or CBDC wallet by scanning a single QR code.



Yes Bank Launches All-In-One 'IRIS' Mobile App:-

Yes Bank has introduced a mobile banking software called "iris," which not only offers clients with an interface for all services but also makes it easier to open new bank accounts. Customers of the bank can access over 100 features and services with a few clicks, all on a single platform. The app includes security features like biometric authentication, SIM binding, and two-factor authentication. The app's goal is to appeal to users of all ages by providing a full banking suite that meets their different financial needs.



HDFC Bank Launches India's First Co-Branded Hotel Credit Card With Marriott:-

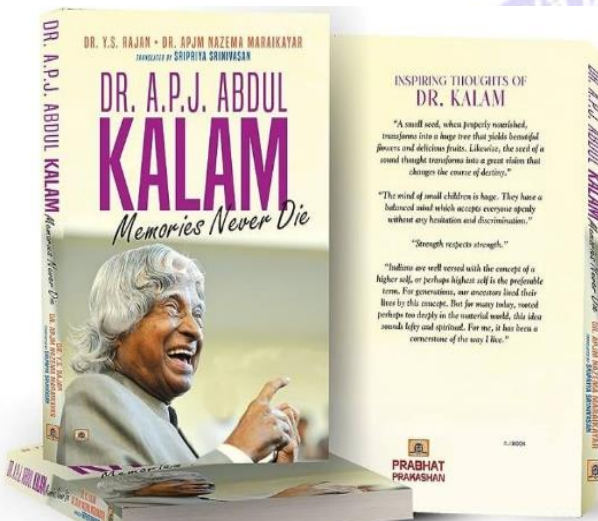
To create the 'Marriott Bonvoy HDFC Bank Credit Card,' HDFC Bank has teamed with Marriott Bonvoy, the recognized travel program from Marriott. This groundbreaking co-branded card will function on the Diners Club network, which is part of the internationally recognized Discover Global Network. Cardholders are eligible for Silver Elite Status with Marriott Bonvoy, which entitles them to a variety of benefits such as preferential late checkouts, unique member discounts, and bonus points, among others, according to a press release from the lender.



SBI Launches Aadhaar-Based Enrolment For Social Security Schemes :-

State Bank of India, the country's largest lender, has created a service that allows consumers to enroll in social security systems simply by providing an Aadhaar card. SBI Chairman Dinesh Khara announced the new function, which will be available at the bank's Customer Service Points (CSPs) and intends to make enrollment in various social security systems easier. Customers visiting CSPs will just require their Aadhaar cards to enroll in schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, and the Atal Pension Yojana, according to a statement from the bank.

6: Books and Author



Amit Shah released the 'Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam: Memories Never Die' book in Rameshwaram:-

Shri Amit Shah, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, launched the book 'Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam: Memories Never Die' in Rameshwaram. Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam House, Mission of Life Gallery Museum, and Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam National Memorial were all visited by the Union Home Minister. This is an English translation of the Tamil novel 'Ninaivugalukku Maranamillai'. This book, written by two people close to A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, his niece Dr. Nazema Maraikayar and the eminent ISRO scientist Dr. Y.S. Rajan, who was a close friend of Kalam, provides a comprehensive and honest account of Dr. Kalam's life from his early infancy till his death.



Book "Kargil: Ek Yatri Ki Jubani" Released, a True Tribute to Martyrs of Kargil War :-

Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt recently released books and graphics on the supreme sacrifice of the brave-hearts at the Constitution Club in Delhi, honoring the indomitable courage of warriors who scripted historic triumph in the Kargil War. The book and illustrations - "Kargil: Ek Yatri Ki Jubani" - authored by renowned writer Shri Rishi Raj and published by Prabhat Prakashan, impeccably portray the lives of the heroes of the Kargil War on the canvas of patriotism, so that they can be a fountainhead of inspiration for children who can learn the values of the supreme sacrifice made by the Indian Army for the nation.



Book on Birds titled 'Birds and Beliefs' launched:-

According to Dr. Asad Rahmani, a noted ornithologist and conservationist, 192 of India's 1,370 bird species are in danger or on the verge of extinction. He was delivering the inaugural talk, 'An Amazing World of Birds,' as part of the World Wide Fund-India's 'Earth Series: Conservation Matters.' G.V. Prasad, co-chairman and managing director of Dr Reddy's Laboratories, published a book titled 'Birds and Beliefs' as part of the occasion. It has around 200 different species of birds from throughout the world.



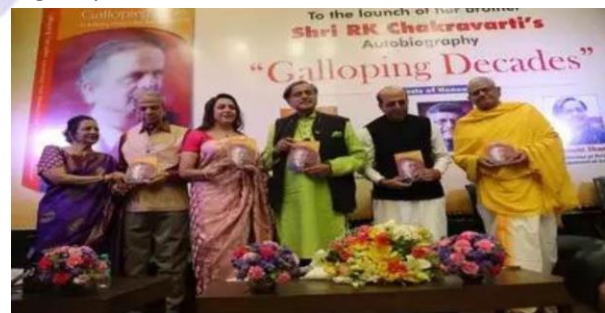
Chandigarh: Book celebrating women power launched :-

The British Deputy High Commission in Chandigarh has released a book named "75 Years, 75 Women, 75 Words" to honor India's 75th year of independence. The book emphasizes women's extraordinary efforts to strengthening the "living bridge" between India and the United Kingdom. The inaugural ceremony, held at the residence of Caroline Rowett, the British deputy high commissioner in Chandigarh, brought together many of the book's extraordinary women, both in person and digitally.



Chandigarh professor's book among those released by PM Modi in Delhi :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently launched 100 books in 12 different languages at the Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam 2023, which was hosted in Pragati Maidan's Bharat Mandapam. One of the 100 books released by the Prime Minister was written by Manju Dewan, an associate professor at DAV College in Chandigarh. The book — called 'Bachiyan Vich Diabetes ate Motapa : Kaaran ate Chinta (Diabetes and Obesity Among Children: Causes and Concern) — is in Punjabi language.



Actress Hema Malini Launches Brother RK Chakravarti's Autobiography 'Galloping Decades' :-

Hema Malini, the legendary actress and Lok Sabha Member, was recently in Delhi to promote her brother RK Chakravarti's autobiography. 'Galloping Decades' highlights the author's personal and professional life as he traveled the length and breadth of the country and partnered with his famed sister on multiple times for various events. The book launch, held at the Constitution Club of India, was attended by notable political and entertainment figures such as Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Dinesh Trivedi, and Ravi Kishen, among others.



Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launches books on science and technology written by IIT Madras faculty :-

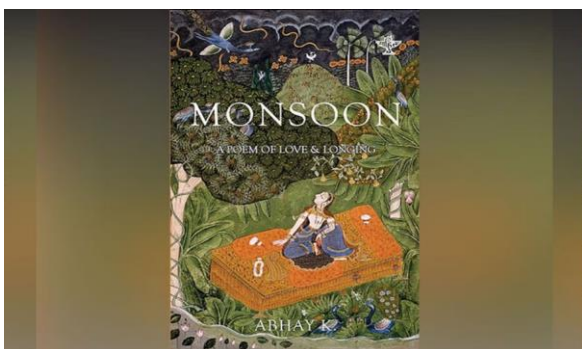
Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan recently inaugurated two books published by eminent IIT Madras faculty members and alumnus. The books were released at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi by the Indian Academy of Sciences as part of the IIT Madras Alumni Association's (IITMAA) thought leadership initiatives. Titled 'Empowering India - Ideas for Action by Scientists and Engineers,' one of the books has been written by Prof. T. Pradeep, a Padma Shri Awardee and Institute Professor, Department of Chemistry, IIT Madras, and Mr. Krishnan Narayanan, President, IITMAA and itihaasa Research and Digital.

publish his translation of Jayanath Pati's first Magahi novel 'Phool Bahadur' in January 2024.



Book on 'Monoliths of Madurai Pudumandapam' released :-

In Madurai, renowned Tamil scholar Solomon Pappaiah published a book named 'Monoliths of Madurai Pudumandapam' by designer M. Rathina Basker. The book includes extensive notes and drawings. Mr. Pappaiah published the book in Tamil, and the first copy was received by trader T.P. Rajendran. The English translation of the book was issued by Thiagarajar Mills Executive Director K. Thiagarajan, and the first copy was received by Mr. Basker's mother, Ms. Jeeva Murugesan. He claimed that the illustrator had worked hard to show each photograph of the monoliths from numerous viewpoints.



Poet-Diplomat Abhay K Launches His New Book 'Monsoon' :-

Abhay K, a poet-diplomat, recently launched his latest book 'Monsoon' at the Kathika Cultural Centre in Old Delhi. The award-winning poet and writer Abhay K's new book-length poem named 'Monsoon' transports the artist's sincere message from Madagascar to his beloved in Srinagar, Himalayas. The book is a literary symphony that spans cultures and portrays the exquisite feelings created by monsoons. Penguin Random House will



Goa governor Sreedharan Pillai releases three books on nature, geopolitics :-

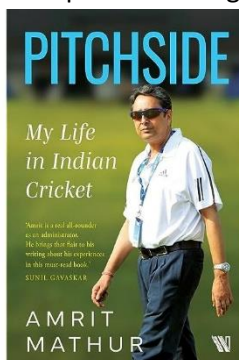
Goa governor PS Sreedharan Pillai released his three books at a function held at the Raj Bhavan. The English books released include 'Heritage Trees of Goa', 'When Parallel Lines Meet' and a collection of poems titled 'My Dear Poems'. West Bengal governor CV Ananda Bose unveiled the book 'Heritage Trees of Goa', while Goa

chief minister Pramod Sawant inaugurated the event. 'Heritage Trees of Goa' is a book that explores centuries-old heritage trees found in Goan villages and various places of worship, adding to the experience of 'Goa Sampurna Yatra'.



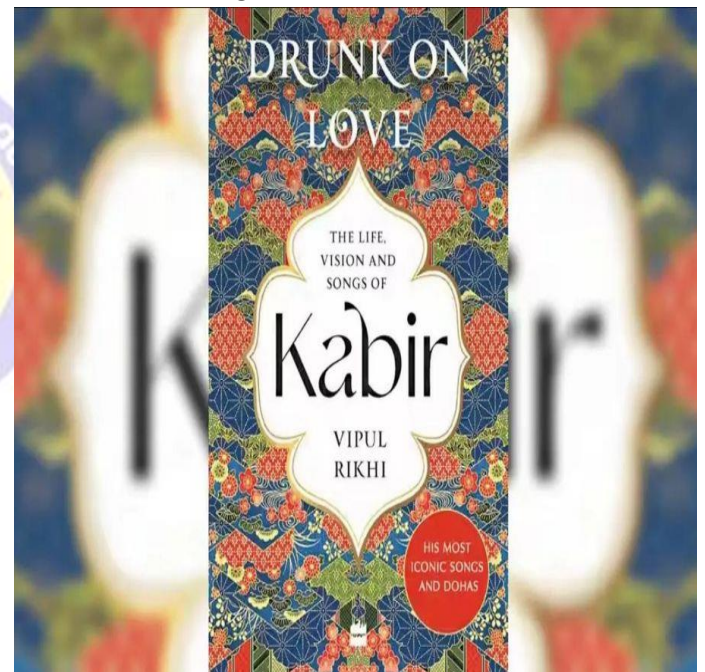
CIMAP book on 20 tribal areas released :-

Jitendra Singh, minister of state (independent charge), ministry of science and technology, released a coffee table book by CSIR-CIMAP in New Delhi describing various success tales of tribals in 20 distinct such places in India.. As many as 20 such clusters have been developed by the institute across 20 tribal areas in India with improved medicinal and aromatic plant (MAPs) varieties and technologies by CSIR-CIMAP. N Kalaisalvi, secretary, DSIR and director-general, CSIR, and Prabodh Kumar Trivedi, director, CSIR-CIMAP and scientists from CIMAP were also present during the release of the book.



Amrit Mathur's Autobiography 'Pitchside: My Life In Indian Cricket' :-

A book titled 'Pitchside: My Life in Indian Cricket' by long-term cricket administrator Amrit Mathur was released recently. Mr. Mathur's book vividly depicts first-person experiences of some of Indian cricket's most memorable occurrences. Mr. Mathur, a seasoned cricket administrator, was the manager of India's historic tour of South Africa in 1992. Later, he was a member of PILCOM, the 1996 Cricket World Cup organizing committee, as well as Chief Operating Officer of the Delhi Daredevils and General Manager of the BCCI.



A book titled "The Life, Vision and Songs of Kabir" by Vipul Rikhi :-

"Drunk on Love: The Life, Vision, and Songs of Kabir," written by writer-singer Vipul Rikhi and published by HarperCollins India, depicts the 15th-century poet as he is presented, quoted, and loved in popular imagination. A new book seeks to depict the life of the mystic poet Kabir through popular traditions, his vision, and his poetry, which has been widely quoted and translated. Drunk on Love is an essential introduction to the 'Kabir' phenomenon, presenting the poet as he is depicted, cited, and loved in popular imagination.

7: Defence



Indian Army to now have common uniform for Brigadier and above ranks :-

According to Army sources, the Indian Army has established a new universal uniform guideline for senior officers with Brigadier and higher ranks, regardless of parent cadre or original appointment. The decision was made following extensive talks with all stakeholders and lengthy deliberations at the recently ended Army Commanders Conference. According to officials, the measure was done to develop and enhance common identity and attitude in military matters among senior leadership across the bounds of regiments.



Bharat Dynamics Limited hands over first Radio Frequency Seeker of Akash to DRDO :-

Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) has handed over to the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) the first Radio Frequency (RF) Seeker of Akash - the Next Generation Weapon System built at its newly commissioned state-of-the-art Seeker Facility Centre (SFC). Seeker is a key and technologically advanced subsystem utilized in the terminal phase of Surface-to-Air Missiles and Air-to-Air Missiles for target tracking. The RF Seeker was conceived by DRDO's Research Centre

Imarat and manufactured by BDL at its state-of-the-art Seeker Facility Centre in Hyderabad.



Indian Air Force Gets Israeli Spike Missiles :-

The Indian Air Force (IAF) has received Israeli Spike Non-Line of Sight (NLOS) anti-tank guided missiles, which can reach targets from distances of up to 30 kilometers, to improve its ability to destroy enemy targets hidden behind mountains. When the Chinese Army positioned a considerable number of tanks and infantry combat vehicles close to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) opposite the Eastern Ladakh region over two years ago, the IAF became interested in these missiles. According to defense officials, the Israeli Spike NLOS anti-tank guided missiles have been delivered and will be tested soon.



Navy to help with surveillance at Vasco's Saptah fair :-

During the Saptah fair in Vasco, which opens on August 22, the Indian Navy will aid Goa police in maintaining surveillance. The fair attracts a large number of Lord Damodar followers. Mormugao Municipal Council (MMC) chairperson Girish Borkar organized a meeting of all stakeholders to discuss measures to ensure the fair

runs well. Aside from the Navy-police monitoring, security measures will include the erection of ten CCTV-equipped watchtowers. Dilip Bicholkar, a Vasco fire officer, proposed that the passage to Damodar shrine be cleared for emergency vehicles.



India's Anti-Tank Guided Missiles HELINA and Dhruvastra complete trials: Induction soon :-

After passing all trials, India's indigenous NAG Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) and the variant of HELINA (Helicopter-launched NAG) Weapon System known as 'Dhruvastra' are poised to be incorporated into the Indian army and Indian Air Force (IAF). Both the Nag ATGM and Helina (Dhruvastra) missiles are developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL). Nag is the surface-to-air missile and Dhruvastra is the air-to-surface missile.



India Defence Ministry to replace Microsoft OS with Maya :-

In response to increasing cyber and malware attacks on the country's defense and critical infrastructure, the Defense Ministry has decided to replace the Microsoft Operating System (OS) in all computers connected to the Internet with a new OS, Maya, based on open-source

Ubuntu developed locally. Maya is currently only deployed on Defence Ministry systems, not on PCs connected to the networks of the three Services. According to the official, the three Services had also evaluated it and will shortly implement it on service networks.



Quad Navies Set To Commence Malabar Joint Drills With A Focus On Anti-Submarine Warfare:-

The Quad countries — India, Japan, the United States, and Australia – are collaborating in the Malabar joint drills to display their capabilities in diverse naval operations. The Australian Navy will host these drills from August 11 to August 21. The event will begin with a harbor phase in Sydney, followed by tough sea drills aimed at developing interoperability and cooperation among the naval units participating. Unlike past exercises, the upcoming Malabar drills would not include any participant country's submarines or aircraft carriers.



Swathi Mountains: A Compact Weapon Locating Radar :-

The Indian Army introduced the "Swathi Mountains" variant of the indigenously produced Weapon Locating Radar (WLR-M) to strengthen the nation's battlefield surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities. Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) in Bengaluru created the Swathi Mountains WLR, an innovative electronically scanned

phased array radar specifically built for operations in hilly and high-altitude environments. By supplying essential information on enemy weapon systems, the WLR also operates as a powerful friendly force multiplier.



Army bought weapons worth Rs 7,300 cr from domestic firms to counter China :-

According to a source, the Indian Army used emergency power to order weapons worth Rs 7,300 crore from domestic producers in response to the Chinese threat. Another Rs 7,000 crore in orders is in the last stages of procurement and is expected to be fulfilled in the next weeks, according to the company. "We have contracted 49 schemes worth Rs 7,600 crore and 34 more schemes worth Rs 7,000 crore are in final stages of procurement," an official was quoted in the report as saying. The current emergency powers are reserved only for orders placed to Indian companies.



In 19th round of talks with China, India pushes for disengagement, patrolling rights in Depsang Plains :-

During the 19th round of military discussions with China, India has made a strong case for disengagement in the strategically crucial Depsang Plains of eastern Ladakh, as well as the right to patrol customary patrolling points (PPs) in the area. The talks took place less than three weeks before Chinese President Xi Jinping's G-20 Summit

visit to India. "Till a decision on providing complete access to old patrolling points along the LAC is arrived at, the sanctity of buffer zones would be maintained and the finer details on limit of patrolling in these areas would be worked out," a defence source said.



India Inducts New Heron Mark-2 Drones:-

The Indian Air Force has added new Heron Mark 2 drones to its defense capabilities. This drone can conduct surveillance along China's and Pakistan's borders in a single sortie and will operate from a forward air base in the northern region. These high-endurance drones also possess an additional feature which is the capability to remotely illuminate enemy targets using lasers from considerable distances. This functionality greatly assists fighter aircraft in effectively eliminating these designated targets.



India's First Long-Range Revolver 'Prabal' To Be Launched On August 18 :-

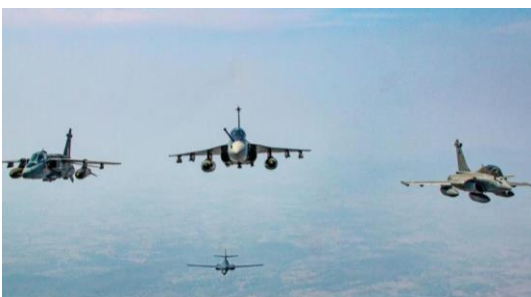
The "Prabal," India's first long-range revolver, is set to be released on August 18. The revolver is made in Kanpur by the state-owned firm Advanced Weapons and Equipment India (AWEIL). The Prabal revolver, distinguished by its 32 bore, has an amazing firing range of up to 50 meters, which is more than twice the range of other revolvers in India. AWEIL Director AK Maurya

emphasized its key attributes, stating, "The Prabal revolver is light in weight and equipped with a side swing cylinder."



Government Clears Rs 2000 Cr Deal To Build Five Warships :-

The Centre has given final approval to a programme to build five fleet support ships for the Indian Navy, which will assist it replenish its warships with fuel, food, and ammunition. Defence ministry's Hindustan Shipyard Limited, based near Visakhapatnam, would construct the five warships. "Around Rs 20,000 crore project was given final clearance by the Central government in a high-level meeting. The five Fleet Support Ships will be built by the HSL with the support of multiple Indian private sector small and medium enterprises," government sources informed.



IAF To Hold Multi-National Exercise 'Tarang Shakti' Next Year :-

The Indian Air Force is planning to host a multi-national exercise called Tarang Shakti, which would bring together air forces from several countries. The exercise, which was originally slated for the latter half of this year, has been rescheduled for next year to better coincide with the schedules of the friendly foreign countries participating and to assure maximum participation. This would also allow certain Air Forces to participate in the exercise, according to defense officials. India has taken

part in a number of such exercises, including the French Orion exercise, which was staged at the Mon De Marsan air station in France.



DRDO UAV crashes in village in Karnataka :-

According to sources, on August 20, an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) built by the Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) crashed in the agriculture fields of a village in the district. The UAV-TAPAS- was shot down near Vaddikere hamlet in Hiriyur Taluk. Following the accident, the TAPAS experimental UAV broke apart, and the equipment contained within was spread around the ground, according to videos and pictures. A significant number of residents arrived at the crash site shortly after the UAV made a loud noise, alerting the local authorities.



LCA Tejas Successfully Test-Fires Astra Beyond Visual Range Air-To-Air Missile:-

The Astra indigenous Beyond Visual Range (BVR) air-to-air missile was successfully fired by the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas off the coast of Goa. Earlier, in Air Headquarters, Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal (ACM) V.R. Chaudhari examined the condition of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) program. Astra is a BVR air-to-air missile designed and developed by the Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), Research Centre

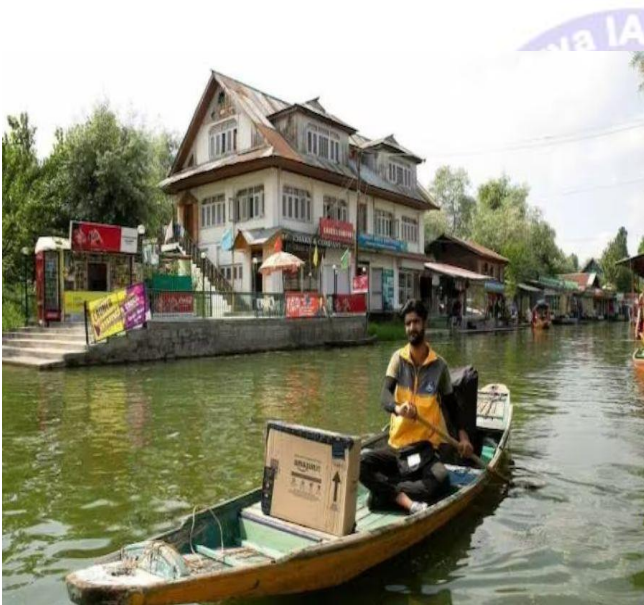
Imarat (RCI), and other DRDO laboratories to engage and kill highly maneuverable supersonic aircraft targets.



Indian Air Force Makes Its Debut In Exercise BRIGHT STAR-23 In Egypt :-

An Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent is participating in Exercise BRIGHT STAR-23, a biannual multilateral tri-service exercise set to take place at Cairo (West) Air Base, Egypt, from August 27 to September 16, 2023. The IAF's participation showcases India's commitment to strengthening strategic partnerships and enhancing joint operational capabilities. Ex BRIGHT STAR-23 will also witness the participation of contingents from the United States of America, Saudi Arabia, Greece, and Qatar.

8: Economy



Amazon India To Open First-Ever Floating Store In Dal Lake :-

Amazon India has announced the opening of its first-ever floating store on Dal Lake in Srinagar, Kashmir, as part of its "I Have Space" last-mile delivery program. As part of the onboarding process, Murtaza Khan Kashi, owner of houseboat Selec Town, would deliver packages to customers at the doorstep of their houseboats every day. Amazon Logistics, India Director Karuna Shankar Pande stated that initiative will provide customers in Srinagar with faster and more dependable deliveries, possibilities for small businesses, and expand Amazon's delivery network.



India's Core Sector Records 8.2% Growth In June, Highest In Five Months:-

Growth in eight important infrastructure sectors decreased to 8.2 percent in June 2023 compared to the previous year due to a drop in crude oil, natural gas, and power output, compared to 5% in May, according to a government press release. The core sector growth was 13.1 per cent in June 2022, the Commerce Ministry data showed. Steel, coal, cement, refinery products, natural gas, fertilisers and electricity witnessed a growth of in June 2023 over corresponding month of last year, data showed.



New Record Of Over 6.77 Crore Income Tax Returns (ITRs) Filed Till 31st July, 2023 :-

According to the Central Board of Direct Taxes, a record 6.77 crore income-tax returns were filed through July 31 for the assessment year 2023-24, which is 16.1% more than the returns made for the assessment year 2022-23. "The department also received 53.67 lakh ITRs till July 31, 2023 from first time filers, a fair indication of widening of tax base," the apex direct taxes body said in a statement. Total 5.83 crore income-tax returns were filed till July 31, 2022. Over 64.33 lakh ITRs were filed on a single day on July 31, 2023.



Record-Breaking GST Collection In July 2023: Stands At Over Rs 1.65 Lakh Crore :-

The GST revenue for the month of July was Rs 1,65,105 crore, according to the Ministry of Finance. GST revenue has surpassed the Rs 1.6 lakh crore barrier for the seventh time since the tax's establishment. The revenue for July is 11% greater than the revenue for the same month last year. Of the gross GST of Rs 1.65 lakh crore collected in July, Rs 29,773 crore is CGST and Rs 37,623 crore is SGST. Rs 85,930 crore is IGST, including Rs 41,239 crore that was collected on import of goods, and cess is Rs 11,779 crore, including Rs 840 crore collected on import of goods.



Govt Debt Stands At Rs 155.6 Lakh Crore In March 2023:-

"The Central government's debt was Rs 155.6 lakh crore as on March 31, 2023. It has reduced from 61.5 per cent of GDP in FY21 to 57.1 per cent of GDP in FY23," said Pankaj Chaudhary, Minister of State for Finance, in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha. State government debt is anticipated to reach around 28% of GDP by the end of FY23. In response to another query, Chaudhary stated that the Indian economy's Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) has climbed from Rs 45.41 lakh crore (constant FY12 prices) in FY19 to Rs 54.35 lakh crore in FY23 (Provisional Estimates).



UPI Transactions Grow 44% To Rs 15-Lakh Crore In July :-

After a modest decrease in June, transactions using the UPI (Unified Payments Interface) network reached a new peak in terms of volume and value in July 2023. The overall amount of UPI transactions reached Rs 15.34 lakh crore, up 4% month on month and 44% year on year. According to figures released by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), the number of transactions

reached a high of 996 crore during the month, up 6.6% from the previous month and 58% from July 2022.



Oil India Upgraded To Maharatna, ONGC Videsh To Navratna By Finance Ministry:-

Oil India and ONGC Videsh have been elevated by the Finance Ministry to Maharatna and Navratna categories of central public sector enterprises (CPSEs), respectively. The new status will enable corporations to make big investments on their own, both in India and internationally. Previously, Oil India was a Navratna firm, whereas ONGC Videsh was a Miniratna CPSE. OIL is a fully integrated upstream exploration and production corporation that dates back to 1889, the year oil was discovered in India.



SBI Posts Highest-Ever Quarterly Profit Of Rs 16,884 Crore :-

The State Bank of India (SBI) has announced its highest-ever quarterly profit of Rs 16,884 crore in the April-June quarter of 2023-24, a nearly three-fold increase over the previous year's figure of Rs 6,068 crore, boosted by a sharp decline in bad loans and greater interest revenue. On a consolidated basis, the bank's net income more than doubled to Rs 18,537 crore in the quarter, up from Rs 7,325 crore the previous year. In the time, total income was Rs 1,32,333 crore, compared to Rs 94,524 crore in the April-June quarter of 2022-23.



Bihar, UP, TN Top 3 States With Maximum Jan Dhan Beneficiaries:-

Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu are the top three states having the most Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMMY) beneficiaries in 2022-23. In the fiscal year 2022-23, a total of 6.23 crore Jan Dhan accounts were opened. According to Finance Ministry data, Bihar tops the list of states with maximum beneficiaries of the scheme, which stood at 84,89,231 in 2022-23. Uttar Pradesh held the second position with 68,08,721 beneficiaries, while Tamil Nadu stood third with a total of 64,06,513 PMMY beneficiaries.



1.5 Billion Dollar Earned By BCCI FROM 2017-2021 :-

The Indian cricket board earned a \$1.5 billion surplus in the five years to 2021-22, the country's parliament heard during a rare look at the sporting body's finances. The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) rarely releases specific financial information. A government minister recently reported recent BCCI revenues before parliament, disclosing \$919 million in income and \$370 million in expenditure for the fiscal year ending March 2022, leaving a \$549 million surplus. It was the board's highest surplus in five years, with \$3.3 billion in profits and \$1.8 billion in spending over the same period.



SEBI Shortens IPO Listing Timeline To 3 Days Post Closure For Investor And Issuer Benefit :-

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has decreased the time it takes for shares to be listed on stock exchanges following the close of Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) to three days from six days. The new listing timeline will be voluntary for all public issues that begin on or after September 1 and mandatory for all issues that begin after December 1, 2023, according to a circular issued by the capital markets regulator. Issuers will have faster access to funds raised, improving the convenience of doing business, and investors will have the possibility for early credit and liquidity of their investments.



Tata Group Launched New Logo And Design For Air India:-

Air India has introduced its new logo and livery as part of Tata Group's rebranding initiative. The airline's new appearance will have a gold window frame rather of the classic Indian window form. The new logo will be dubbed 'The Vista,' according to the carrier's announcement. The airline stated that the new alterations will be visible to passengers beginning in December 2023, when new planes are added to the fleet. The rebranding was carried out in partnership with the London-based FutureBrand.



NCLT Approves \$10 Billion Mega-Merger Between Zee And Sony:-

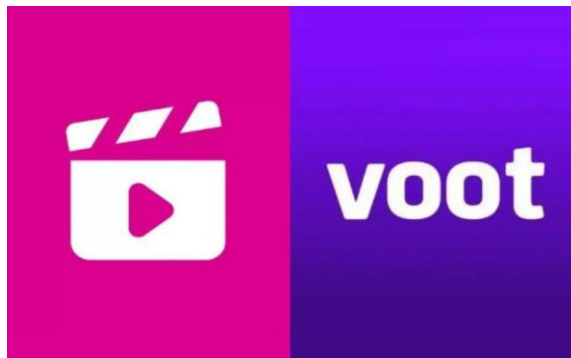
The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has authorized Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd's proposed merger with Sony India. On July 10, the NCLT reserved its decision on the merger of Zee Entertainment Enterprises with Culver Max Entertainment (formerly known as Sony Pictures Networks India). This is a critical regulatory approval for the mega merger, which was announced in 2021 but has been delayed due to a variety of factors. Zee Entertainment and Sony Pictures agreed to merge their companies in December 2021.



Retail Inflation Surges To 15-Month High Of 7.44% In July:-

Retail inflation rose to 7.44% in July, up from 4.87% in June, with consumers suffering a high 11.5% increase in food prices. This is the fastest rate of retail inflation since April 2022, and the first time prices have risen by more than 7% since September 2022. Vegetable prices increased by 37.3%, while cereals and pulses increased by more than 13%, raising the food expenditure by more than 12.3% for urban consumers and 11% for rural customers. According to the National Statistical Office,

rural residents suffered a higher overall inflation rate of 7.63% in July.



Viacom18 Completes Merger Of JioCinema And Voot OTT Platforms :-

The merger of OTT services Voot and JioCinema is now complete, and customers can transition from Voot to the Viacom18-owned platform. The merger of JioCinema and Viacom18 was granted approval by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) in September of last year. Later, the business paid a hefty Rs 23,757 crore for the internet rights to the Indian Premier League (IPL). To keep fans after the IPL, Reliance-owned Jio Studios is expected to invest Rs 2,200 crore in creating a library of 100 movies and web series.



India Accounts For 35% Of Cargo Handled By Murmansk Port This Year :-

India's interaction with Russia's Arctic area has grown, with India-bound commodities accounting for the majority of freight handled this year by Murmansk, located around 2,000 kilometers northwest of Moscow. Murmansk port, Russia's principal northern gateway and a transshipment hub, handled eight million tonnes of cargo in the first seven months of 2023. India contributed for 35% of the cargo. Turkey and China were among

other countries served by the Murmansk port with the former's share being 34% and the latter's, 13%.



LIC Acquires 6.7% Stake In Jio Financial Services Via RIL De-Merger Action :-

Due to Reliance Industries' de-merger move, the Life Insurance Corporation of India has acquired a 6.660 percent share in Jio Financial Services, the insurer informed the markets. Jio Financial de-merged from Reliance Industries on July 13, as a part of which shareholders of RIL were allotted one share of Jio Financial for every share held. LIC said the cost of acquisition is equivalent to 4.68 per cent of the pre de-merged cost of Reliance Industries. The country's largest insurer held 6.49 per cent stake in RIL at the end of June 2023.



RBI approves voluntary amalgamation of Akola Merchant Co-operative Bank with The Jalgaon Peoples Co-operative Bank :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the amalgamation of Akola Merchant Co-operative Bank with The Jalgaon Peoples Co-operative Bank on August 25. The policy will go into effect on August 28, according to a statement from the central bank. The Akola Merchant Co-operative Bank branches will become branches of The Jalgaon Peoples Co-operative Bank on

August 28, according to the release. The central bank issued a master directive for the merging of urban cooperative banks on March 23, 2021.



CCI Imposes Penalty On Bharti Airtel:-

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has fined Bharti Airtel Rs 1 crore for failing to comply with Section 6(2) of the Competition Act, 2002. The penalty relates to the company's acquisition of a stake in Bharti Telemedia from Warbug Pincus subsidiary firm Lion Meadow Investment Limited. The corporation stated that it is examining the order and determining the next actions in this case. Bharti Airtel bought back a 20% share in its DTH unit, Bharti Telemedia, from Lion Meadow Investment Ltd in March 2021 for a total price of Rs 3,126 crore.



Reliance Retail Launches 'Yousta' Fashion Stores; First Outlet In Hyderabad :-

Reliance Industries Ltd's (RIL) retail arm has announced the debut of the youth-focused fashion store format 'Yousta,' with its first outlet opening in Hyderabad. Yousta's items are all priced under Rs 999, with the majority of them priced around Rs 499. "Yousta is a young and dynamic brand that underlines a way of life, which will grow and evolve with the youth of this country. The team will continuously work with India's

younger generation to understand their evolving fashion needs," Akhilesh Prasad, President and CEO – Fashion and Lifestyle, Reliance Retail, said.



Zepto Is First Indian Unicorn Of 2023, Raises \$200 Million At \$1.4 Billion Valuation :-

Zepto, a quick-commerce business, raised \$200 million at a \$1.4 billion valuation, bringing an end to India's 11-month unicorn drought. The StepStone Group, a US asset management firm, led the Series E financing, which also included Goodwater Capital and other current investors. Zepto's valuation has increased from \$900 million in May 2022 to \$1 billion now. The money is especially significant because Zepto is the first unicorn, or firm worth more than \$1 billion, to be created in India this year. In September 2022, Molbio Diagnostics became the last unicorn.



FDI Equity Inflows Decline 34% To \$10.94 Billion In April-June 2023 :-

According to government data, foreign direct investment (FDI) into India fell 34% to \$10.94 billion for April-June 2023-24, led down by reduced inflows in computer hardware and software, telecom, auto, and pharma. FDI inflows totaled \$16.58 billion from April to June 2022-23. Inflows fell 40.55 percent to \$9.28 billion between

January and March 2023. Overseas investment declined to \$5.1 billion, \$2.67 billion, and \$3.16 billion in April, May, and June of this fiscal year, compared to \$6.46 billion, \$6.15 billion, and \$3.98 billion in the same months last year.



IDFC First Bank Grabs 3-Year Title Sponsorship For BCCI Matches At Rs 4.2 Crore Per Match:-

The competition for the title rights of the Board of Control for Cricket is finished, as IDFC First Bank has bought it for the home international series. The BCCI declared that IDFC First Bank Limited was the successful bidder in the ITT process (subject to the completion of conclusive documents and other formalities). The deal will begin with a three-match One-Day International series against Australia prior to the ODI World Cup. The IDFC First Bank and BCCI agreement is valid until August 2026 and covers a total of 56 international games.

9: International



Akshata Murty Tops List Of Britain's Best-Dressed Personalities For 2023:-

Akshata Murty, the wife of British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, has surpassed other important persons to take the top rank as one of Britain's best-dressed people in 2023. The 43-year-old businesswoman and fashion designer was included on Tatler magazine's list, which also includes Love Actually star Bill Nighy, the Marchioness of Cholmondeley, and Princess Beatrice's husband, Edoardo Mapelli Mozzi. Canadians Yana Peel, Dominic Sebag-Montefiore, and opera soprano Danielle de Niese are also on the 122-year-old Tatler Magazine's list.



Scotsman James Skea Elected New IPCC Chair In Nairobi :-

A Scottish scientist has been appointed to run one of the world's most powerful climate change organizations. Dundee professor Jim Skea has been chosen chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The scientist, a former University of Edinburgh physics student, is a professor of sustainable energy at Imperial College in London and a co-founder of the UK Committee on Climate Change. He was chosen by a run-off vote of 90 to 69 and will lead the IPCC through its seventh assessment cycle.



OpenAI CEO Sam Altman Launches Worldcoin Crypto Project:-

Worldcoin, co-founded by OpenAI CEO Sam Altman, has debuted its revolutionary platform in order to create a massive "identity and financial network," requiring users to undergo iris scans in exchange for a digital ID and, in some locations, free bitcoin. Despite privacy advocates' fears, the firm estimates that 2.2 million customers have already signed up, primarily during a two-year trial period. Worldcoin intends to expand its services globally, with the goal of allowing other organizations to use its cutting-edge iris-scanning and identity-verification technology.



Beijing Faces Historic Flooding As China Witnesses Highest Rainfall In 140 Years :-

Nature's wrath has struck China's capital city in the form of record-breaking rains in recent days. Beijing experienced its greatest downpour in at least 140 years. Between the 29th of July and the 2nd of August, the city received 744.8 millimeters (29.3 inches) of rain. Because of the record rains, Beijing and the neighbouring province of Hebei have experienced serious floods. Water levels have also risen to unsafe levels as a result of the torrential rain. Heavy rains caused road damage,

power outages, and water supply disruptions in many locations around the country.



Iraq Becomes 18th Country Recognised By WHO For Eliminating Trachoma:-

The World Health Organization (WHO) officially recognized Iraq as the 18th country to have successfully eliminated trachoma as a public health hazard. Iraq initiated its nationwide trachoma eradication campaign in 2012. This accomplishment also places Iraq as the fifth country in the WHO's Eastern Mediterranean Region to reach this milestone. Furthermore, the WHO has designated Iraq as the 50th country to have eradicated at least one Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD) on a global scale.



Australia To Be Testing Ground For US Missiles :-

United States defence chiefs are eyeing Australia as a testing ground for weapons under the AUKUS pact. The prospective role of Australia in the AUKUS (Australia, United Kingdom, United States) accord as a testing location for sophisticated hypersonic and long-range precision weapons has sparked interest. The pact, which was originally intended to supply Australia with nuclear-powered submarines, has evolved to meet China's growing dominance in the Asia-Pacific area. Christine Wormuth, Secretary of the Army of the United States,

emphasized Australia's distinctive contributions and the collaborative aspect of the partnership.



Typhoon Lan Hits Japan, Causing Flooding And Power Outages :-

A slow-moving storm that passed close to the historic capital of Kyoto on Japan's main island of Honshu caused the power to go knocked out in tens of thousands of households, forcing the cancellation of nearly 900 flights and the evacuation of 240,000 people. Typhoon Lan, which was moving toward Japan from the Pacific Ocean, made landfall early on August 15 in the southern edge of the Wakayama prefecture, some 400 kilometers (250 miles) southwest of Tokyo. As it traveled north, it drenched a large area of central and western Japan with heavy rain and strong winds.



ADB Approves USD 40.5 Million Loan To Enhance Childhood Development And Maternal Mental Health In Meghalaya:-

According to a press statement, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has authorized a USD 40.5 million loan for integrated early childhood development and maternal mental health in the northeastern state of Meghalaya. The state government of Meghalaya is providing USD 15.27 million to the project. Through daycare (Anganwadi) facilities in Meghalaya, the initiative is

expected to strengthen home-based childcare (children 0-1.5 years) and center-based childcare (1.5-6 years). The ADB's help will also promote dietary adequacy by include eggs in the diets of pregnant and breastfeeding women, as well as children aged 0.5 to 6 years.



Dutch Economy Enters Recession :-

According to a preliminary assessment issued by Statistics Netherlands, the Dutch economy entered a recession in the second quarter, shrinking 0.3% on a quarterly basis. The eurozone's fifth largest economy contracted for the second quarter in a row, following a 0.4% decline in the first three months of the year. Economic growth in the Netherlands was nearly 5% per year in 2021 and 2022, indicating a rapid comeback from the COVID-19 collapse. The first recession since the epidemic was caused by a reduction in consumer expenditure and exports, as rising inflation increased food and energy prices in the Netherlands and its trade partners.



Russia's Ambitious Luna-25 Mission Ends In Failure :-

The Luna-25, Russia's ambitious lunar mission, has failed after the spacecraft spun out of control and crashed into the Moon's surface. As the country's national space

corporation, Roskosmos, revealed the terrible tragedy, it marked a disappointing end to Russia's first moon trip in nearly half a century. The Luna-25 spacecraft suffered a catastrophic breakdown shortly after completing a vital maneuver in preparation for landing. The agency revealed that contact with the spacecraft was lost due to an unanticipated problem during this vital phase of the mission.



G20 Pandemic Fund Allocates \$25 Million To Enhance Animal Health System In India :-

The G20 Pandemic Fund would provide India with \$25 million to bolster the country's animal health system. The fund, formed during Indonesia's G20 presidency, is aimed at low-to-middle-income nations, and will fund initiatives such as monitoring, research, and enhanced vaccination access, among other things. Sources disclosed that India had requested approximately \$55 million from the Pandemic Fund, of which \$25 million was allocated for animal health, and the remaining sum was for human health.



India, ASEAN Agree To Review FTA By 2025:-

According to the Commerce Ministry, India and the ASEAN countries agreed to review their free trade agreement for goods and set a 2025 deadline for

completion of the study aimed at eliminating "asymmetry" in bilateral trade. Before an ASEAN-India Economic Ministers' meeting in Indonesia, a Joint Committee of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA), signed in 2009, discussed on the roadmap for the pact's revision and finalized the terms of reference for the new negotiations.



Srettha Thavisin Elected As Thailand Prime Minister :-

Srettha Thavisin of the populist Pheu Thai party was elected as Thailand's 30th Prime Minister just hours after former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra returned from self-imposed exile and began an eight-year prison sentence. Mr. Srettha had enough votes to win even the poll was not completed. After someone collapsed on the floor of parliament, voting was suspended with roughly 20 votes remaining. Mr. Srettha will lead an 11-party alliance that includes two pro-military parties linked to outgoing Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha.



Wrestling Federation Of India Membership Suspended On World Stage:-

The United World Wrestling (UWW), the world regulatory organization for wrestling, has suspended the Wrestling Federation of India's (WFI) membership

indefinitely due to the federation's failure to hold elections on time. As a result of this development, Indian grapplers will be unable to compete under the Indian flag at the upcoming World Championships. The WFI was suspended in January and again in May when India's top wrestlers challenged its operation and claimed its then-president Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh sexually assaulted female wrestlers. The WFI's day-to-day operations are currently overseen by an ad hoc committee formed by the Indian Olympic Association and directed by Bhupender Singh Bajwa.



Emmerson Mnangagwa Wins Second Term As President Of Zimbabwe:-

Member of (Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front) ZANU–PF, Emmerson Mnangagwa has been declared the winner of Zimbabwe’s presidential election, securing a second term as the nation’s leader. Mnangagwa was declared the winner by the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) with 52.6% of the vote, while

his closest competitor, Nelson Chamisa of the Citizens' Coalition for Change (CCC), received 44%. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, born on September 15, 1942, is a notable Zimbabwean politician who was elected President of Zimbabwe on November 24, 2017.



India Officially Hands Over B20 Presidency To Brazil To Host G20 Summit In 2024 :-

On August 27, India officially turned over the presidency of the Business 20 (B20) to Brazil, stating that "exciting times ahead as we continue shaping global business priorities together." The B20 summit is the G20's official platform for communication with the global business community. From the 25th to the 27th of August, India sponsored a three-day summit with the subject R.A.I.S.E. - Responsible, Accelerated, Innovative, Sustainable, and Equitable Businesses. Over 1500 delegates from approximately 55 countries attended. On the final day of the summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi delivered a keynote address.

10: Miscellaneous



Alex Hales From England Announces Retirement From International Cricket :-

Alex Hales, 34, has declared his retirement from international cricket with immediate effect. He ends his England career as a T20 World Cup winner, having played his final game in November last year in a five-wicket win against Pakistan at the MCG. Hales played 11 Tests, 70 ODIs, and 75 T20Is after making his international debut in an August 2011 T20 match against India in Manchester. After news of a failed recreational drugs test surfaced a month before the event, he was withdrawn from England's 2019 ODI World Cup squad and banned from international cricket for three years.



PNGRB And World Bank To Draft A Roadmap For Hydrogen Blending In Natural Gas :-

The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) is partnering with the World Bank to develop a roadmap for hydrogen blending in natural gas and transmission across gas pipelines in the country, according to a statement from the regulator. According to the statement, regulatory frameworks will be adjusted to help meet the national target of 5 million metric tonnes of hydrogen use per year by 2030. PNGRB has also granted three city gas distributors permission to blend hydrogen into natural gas in their respective licensed zones.



HDFC Bank's Jagdishan Highest Paid Bank CEO In FY23 With Rs 10.55cr Pay :-

Sashidhar Jagdishan of HDFC Bank was the highest-paid bank CEO in FY23, earning more than Rs 10.55 crore in total salary. According to yearly records, Jagdishan's colleague Kaizad Bharucha, the deputy managing director of the largest private sector banking, earned Rs 10 crore for the fiscal year and may be the country's second-highest earning banker. Among bank CEOs, Axis Bank's Amitabh Chaudhry received the second-highest payment of Rs 9.75 crore, closely followed by Sandeep

Bakhshi of larger rival ICICI Bank, who received Rs 9.60 crore for the fiscal year.



Construction Work Of Indian Buddhist Culture And Heritage Centre Begins :-

After a Bhumi Pujan ceremony with special recitation by Buddhist monks, construction work on the Indian Buddhist Culture and Heritage Centre in Lumbini, Nepal, has commenced. The 1.60 billion rupee heritage Centre is scheduled to be lotus-shaped, created with zero-net technology, may be completed in one and a half years. During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Lumbini visit in 2022, he and Nepal's then-Prime Minister, Sher Bahadur Deuba, placed the foundation stone together.



Number Of Elephants Goes Up By 346 From Last Count, Touches 6,395 In Karnataka :-

The Forest Department has stated that Karnataka has 6,395 elephants, an increase of 323 from the last figure of 6072 in 2012, with Bandipur-Nagarahole zones housing 1947, or roughly one-third of them. The intermediate report on elephant census titled 'Asian Elephant Population Size and Structure Estimates for Karnataka' was released by Forest, Ecology, and Environment Minister Eshwar B Khandre. The agency performed the population estimate exercise throughout

32 forest divisions in Karnataka, covering an area of 6104 square kilometers.



New Amravati Station Becomes Central Railway's Third 'Pink Station':-

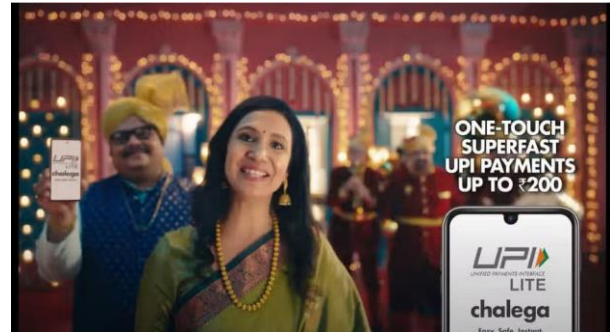
In a first, Central Railway's New Amravati station becomes the first station in Bhusaval Division and Central Railway CR's third Pink Station to be totally handled by women employees. Central Railway has opened the New Amravati station, which is managed by an all-female crew. This extraordinary achievement of constructing an all-women managed station in New Amravati follows in the footsteps of Matunga station in the Mumbai division and Ajni station in the Nagpur division.



Pluckk Partners With Kareena Kapoor Khan As Investor, Brand Ambassador:-

Pluckk, a fresh food label, has announced a collaboration with Bollywood actress Kareena Kapoor Khan. Pluckk, based in Mumbai, has a product line that includes 400 goods in 15+ categories. Seed Pluckk, which is funded by Exponentia Ventures, has a presence in Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, and Pune, with plans to expand in the next quarters. Pluckk's items are sold on Amazon, Swiggy, Dunzo, Zepto, and Reliance Signature Stores, as well as on its own Android and iOS app. Pluckk has also made a

step toward its environmentally aware goal of decreasing plastic waste.



NPCI Launches UPI Chalega 3.0 Campaign To Drive UPI Adoption And Safety Awareness:-

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched the third installment of its UPI Safety Awareness Campaign, dubbed "UPI Chalega." The campaign intends to emphasize the ease, safety, and speed of using the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) for transactions, in collaboration with key stakeholders in the payments ecosystem. This effort aims to educate consumers on a variety of important UPI features that improve convenience and security. The UPI Chalega campaign has not been launched for the first time. It was launched in 2020 under the direction of the Financial Literacy Advisory Committee (FLAC).



Wipro Launches Center Of Excellence On Generative AI At IIT Delhi:-

On August 16, Information Technology services major Wipro announced the establishment of a Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) center of excellence at IIT Delhi's Yardi School of Artificial Intelligence (ScAI). Wipro stated that as part of its collaboration with the university, it will "support foundational and applied research, nurture talent, and expand the state of the art

in this critical field.” Wipro announced in July that it will invest \$1 billion in AI over the next three years, with the goal of training its 2.5 lakh employees.



India Gets First-Ever Night Street Racing Circuit In Chennai:-

The Tamil Nadu government and RRPL launched a new street track in Chennai, which would also host night races. For the project, the state government has teamed with Racing Promotions Private Limited (RRPL). RRPL also organizes the Indian Racing League and the F4 Indian Championship. Udhayanidhi Stalin, Tamil Nadu's Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development, inaugurated the circuit. The track is 3.5 kilometers long and is positioned around the Island Grounds in the city's centre.



Khelo India Women's League To Be Known As Asmita Women's League :-

Anurag Singh Thakur, Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, has declared that the Khelo India Women's League will now be called as the Asmita Women's League. ASMITA refers to Achieving Sports Milestone by Inspiring Women Through Action. Mr Thakur thanked the entire Khelo India team for conceptualizing the idea

and building the Asmita Portal and new logo in a social media post, calling it an important step toward the digitalization of Indian sports. The Asmita Portal is a comprehensive resource that, among other things, provides useful information into upcoming leagues.



Infosys Signs Tennis Legend Rafael Nadal As Ambassador For 3 Years:-

Rafael Nadal, a tennis star from Spain, and Infosys have agreed to a three-year cooperation as well as a joint project to create an artificial intelligence (AI) tool. An AI-powered match analysis tool is being created by the second-largest IT company in India and Rafael Nadal's coaching staff. This personalized tool will be available in real time to Nadal's coaching team to simultaneously track insights from his live matches, when he is back on tour, along with historical data from his earlier matches, according to a press release. Nadal has won 22 Grand Slams, including a record 14 French Open titles.



Infosys Signs Women's Tennis Champ Iga Swiatek As Brand Ambassador :-

Infosys has launched a multi-year relationship with women's tennis World No. 1 Iga Swiatek, naming her its global brand ambassador to promote Digital Innovation and inspire women globally. This news comes just a day after the IT giant hired Rafael Nadal for the same

position. The collaboration with Swiatek will involve Infosys working closely with her team to build an advanced data analytics and video dashboard. By

leveraging artificial intelligence (AI), the partnership aims to amplify Swiatek's training.

11: National



PM Modi Launches Urea Gold For Farmers:-

In Rajasthan's Sikar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi made a series of announcements aimed at farmers. He also launched Urea Gold and released the 14th installment amount under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) through direct benefits transfer. Urea Gold is a new sulphur-coated kind of urea fertilizer. Urea Gold is a more cost-effective and efficient fertilizer than neem-coated urea. During the event, the prime minister also signed up 1,500 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) for the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla Inaugurates New Building Of Assam Legislative Assembly:-

In the presence of Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla unveiled the new Assam Legislative Assembly building. "The new building has new features. We are planning for e-Vidhan which will be shortly in the new building. It will be a very modern assembly in Assam for the first time. The next assembly

session will be held in the new building," Assam Legislative Assembly Deputy Speaker Numal Momin stated. It has offices for the Speaker, Deputy Speaker, Chief Minister and other ministers, MLAs, a conference hall, meeting rooms, and so on.



Opposition Urges President To Ask PM Modi To Speak About Manipur In Parliament :-

Leaders of the opposition bloc INDIA met with President Droupadi Murmu and delivered a memorandum demanding Prime Minister Narendra Modi make a statement in Parliament about Manipur, as well as a list of steps needed to restore peace in the violence-torn state. They also asked that the Prime Minister visit the strife-torn state and appeal to the warring communities to put an end to the carnage and promote fraternity. Members of the delegation, which included MPs who had recently visited Manipur, also informed the President on the state's situation and shared their observations in the afflicted districts.



Noted Marathi Poet Namdeo Dhondo Mahanor Passes Away :-

Namdeo Dhondo Mahanor, a Marathi poet recognized for the essence of nature in his poetry, died at the age of 81 in Pune owing to old age-related diseases. He was a Padma Shri awardee who wrote songs for legendary Marathi films. Born in the Aurangabad district village of Palaskheda in 1942, Mahanor rose to prominence in the area of poetry with his nature-inspired poetry. He was also known as Na Dho Mahanor and wrote songs for great Marathi films like as Jait Re Jait, Ek Hota Vidushak, and Sarja. Padm Shri, the country's fourth highest civilian award, was bestowed upon him for his contributions to literature.



Lok Sabha Passes Delhi Ordinance Bill Amid Protests:-

The Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023, also known as the Delhi Services Bill, was passed by the Lok Sabha over opposition from the Opposition. Union Minister Amit Shah tabled the bill to replace the Delhi services ordinance in the lower house. The bill gives the federal government precedence over the Delhi government in the recruitment of officers from the all-India services and the Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Island, Lakshadweep, Daman Diu, and Dadra Nagar Haveli Civil Service (DANICS).



SC stays sentence of two years awarded to Rahul Gandhi in defamation case:-

The Supreme Court has postponed Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's two-year sentence in a defamation case involving a statement about the 'Modi surname' in 2019. While granting Gandhi relief, the court stated that the trial court's order has far-reaching implications. The court stated that Gandhi's right to continue in public life was jeopardized, as was the right of the electorate who elected him. The Supreme Court has stated that it wishes to know why the maximum punishment was imposed. "Had the judge given a sentence of 1 year and 11 months, then Gandhi would not have been disqualified", observed the Court.



GoI Introduces Ayush Visa Category For Foreign Nationals Seeking Medical Treatment In India:-

The Government of India's Ministry of Home Affairs has announced the development of a new category of Ayush (AY) visa for foreign citizens seeking treatment under Ayush systems/Indian medical systems. The creation of the Ayush Visa meets the idea to create a special visa program for foreigners visiting India for treatment under Ayush systems/Indian medical systems such as therapeutic care, wellness, and Yoga. The introduction of the Ayush Visa category is part of India's roadmap for the government's Heal in India campaign, which aims to promote India as a medical value travel destination.



SAI Launched Short Movie Series 'Halla Bol' Under 'Cheer4India' Campaign :-

Under the umbrella campaign 'Cheer4India,' the Sports Authority of India (SAI) has produced a short film series 'Halla Bol' on the journey of Asian Games bound athletes to motivate them for the Hangzhou Asian Games and raise awareness about the upcoming Asian Games. According to SAI, a total of 12 short films will be shown in the next weeks. SAI emphasized that the effort will encourage not just athletes competing in the Asian Games, but also young people in the country to participate in sports.

**GOI Says Crop Insurance Claims Of Worth Rs. 2,761.10 Crore Pending :-**

Crop insurance claims totaling Rs 2,761.10 crore were waiting under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) till 2021-22, with the highest number of claims pending in Rajasthan, Maharashtra, and Gujarat, Parliament was informed. The admissible claims under the PMFBY are generally paid by the concerned insurance companies within two months of completion of harvesting period and one month of notification for invoking the risks of prevented sowing, mid-season adversity and post harvest losses.

**Congress' Adhir Chowdhury Suspended From Lok Sabha Over 'Misconduct' :-**

Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, the Congress' Lok Sabha leader, was suspended from the House on August 10 for reportedly attacking Prime Minister Narendra Modi and disturbing ministers. This was the first time the Congress leader in Lok Sabha had been suspended. According to insiders, the subject will be submitted to the Privileges Committee. During his speech, Mr. Chowdhury while referring to the Mahabharata had said that the king should not be blind to what is happening against women whether it is in Hastinapur or Manipur.

**CJI Chandrachud Launches QR Code-Based E-Pass For Entry At SC :-**

D.Y. Chandrachud, Chief Justice of India (CJI), in another e-governance initiative, has unveiled 'SuSwagatam,' a portal that allows attorneys, litigants, and people to obtain QR code-based ePasses to enter the Supreme Court. The web-based portal and mobile-friendly application will allow litigants and others to skip long lines by providing a paperless entrance permit to the Supreme Court. Users can scan the QR code on their ePasses at the top court's entry and exit gates. Since July 25, the SuSwagatam portal has been evaluated as a pilot project.

**Government Employee Unions Rally For Pension Rights In Delhi :-**

Employees from both the national and state governments gathered in Delhi's Ramlila Maidan to demand the revival of the Old Pension Scheme. The "Pension Rights Maharally" was organized by the Joint Forum for the Restoration of Old Pension Schemes (JFROPS) and the National Joint Council of Action (NJCA). The event, which was announced by union leaders during a news conference, was conducted in the nation's capital. The event was attended by central, state, railway, and PSU employees, as well as teachers, defense personnel, and ex-paramilitary personnel from across the country.



India Aims To Triple Natural Gas Share To 15% By 2030: Minister :-

As the government moves forward with a slew of comprehensive initiatives, India has set an ambitious goal of increasing its current 6% share of natural gas in the energy mix to a formidable 15% by 2030, according to Rameswar Teli, minister of state in the ministry of petroleum and natural gas. In a written reply in the Lok Sabha, the minister said, "various steps have been taken by the government to raise the share of natural gas in energy mix to 15% in 2030 from about 6% currently."



Cabinet Approves Seven Rail Projects Worth Rs 32,500 Crore To Boost Connectivity :-

The Union Cabinet authorized seven projects for the Ministry of Railways totaling approximately Rs 32,500 crore. The projects will add 2,339 kilometers to the existing network in nine states: Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Odisha, Jharkhand, and West Bengal. According to Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister for Railways, the proposed doubling of the 96-kilometer-long Gorakhpur Cantonment-Valmiki Nagar (Bihar) single-line section at a cost of Rs 1,269.8 crore will save two to three hours in running time for trains to Assam, Tripura, north Bihar, and eastern Uttar Pradesh, as well as passengers to and from Nepal.



Union Cabinet Approves PM-eBus Sewa Scheme :-

The Union Cabinet has authorized the 'PM-eBus Sewa' to supplement city bus operations, which will see 10,000 e-buses deployed around the country. "PM e-Bus Seva has been given approval. A total of Rs 57,613 crores will be spent on the scheme and around 10,000 new electric buses will be provided across the country," Union minister Anurag Thakur said. The initiative will include cities with populations of 3 lakh or more, with emphasis given to cities lacking organized bus services. The policy will apply to all capital cities in the UTs, the northeast area, and the Hill states. According to the government, the initiative will create 45,000-55,000 direct jobs.



INCOIS launches 'SAMUDRA' mobile app for seafarers :-

Under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) has released a new mobile application called 'SAMUDRA' (Smart Access to Marine Users for Ocean Data Resources and Advisories), which provides comprehensive information on all ocean-related services to both seafarers and the fishing community. It will be especially useful to the fishing community because it will disseminate Potential Fishing Zone (PFZ) alerts that will direct them to likely fish aggregation places.



BRO Initiates Construction Of World’s Highest Motorable Road In Eastern Ladakh :-

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has recently begun building of the world's highest motorable road in Ladakh's Demchok area. The strategic road, dubbed 'Likaru-Mig La-Fukche,' will be built over the next two working seasons and will travel through an altitude of approximately 19,400 feet, the highest in the world. The 64-kilometer-long route will connect the military's most remote outposts in the sensitive zone Fukche. This is significant for security reasons because Fukche is three kilometers from the contentious Line of Actual Control (LAC).



President Droupadi Murmu Grants Assent To Central And Integrated GST Amendment Bills, 2023 :-

The Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023, and the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023, have been signed by President Droupadi Murmu. Parliament recently passed the two Bills. The Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023 is intended to alter the Central Goods and Services Tax Act of 2017, whilst the Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023 is intended to change the Integrated Goods and Services Tax Act of 2017. The terms "online gaming," "online money gaming," and "virtual digital assets" are defined in the Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023.



India’s First Hydrogen Bus Hits The Public Roads In Leh, Ladakh :-

The first commercial trial of India's futuristic hydrogen fuel cell bus service on public roads in the high-altitude freezing desert of the union region of Ladakh begins in Leh. The initiative is being carried out by NTPC, India's largest power generator, which is supplying the Leh government with five hydrogen fuel cell buses for intra-city transportation. The state-owned corporation has also constructed a refueling station and a 1.7 megawatt captive solar facility to produce green hydrogen to fuel the buses.



India Announces ‘Green’ Hydrogen Standard :-

The definition of Green Hydrogen has been announced by India. The Green Hydrogen Standard for India

establishes a 12-month average emission limitation of 2 kg CO2 equivalent per kilogram H2. It is a significant move for the progress of the National Green Hydrogen Mission. It is a huge step forward for the National Green Hydrogen Mission. The standards set by the Government of India's Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) outline the emission thresholds that must be met for hydrogen production to qualify as 'Green,' indicating its origin from renewable sources.



Sachin Tendulkar Named National Icon Of The Election Commission:-

Former Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar has been designated as a "national icon" by the Election Commission (EC) in order to raise awareness about the importance of increased voter engagement in the political process. In the national capital, the poll body signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Mr. Tendulkar. It will be a three-year deal in which the cricketing legend will raise voter awareness. Previously, during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni, actor Aamir Khan and boxer Mary Kom had been the poll body's national icons.



Chandrayaan-3: India To Celebrate August 23 As 'National Space Day' :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has declared August 23 as National Space Day to commemorate the success of the Chandrayaan 3 Moon landing. Modi made the announcement while speaking to scientists from the Indian Space Research Organization at the ISRO command center in Bengaluru. During his visit, the PM also announced that the touchdown point of Chandrayaan 3 on the Moon's surface will be known as 'Shiv Shakti', adding that the point where Chandrayaan 2 crash-landed on the Moon in 2019 will be called 'Tiranga'.



President Murmu Releases Commemorative Coin On Former Andhra Pradesh CM N T Rama Rao :-

On the occasion of the centenary year of famed actor and former chief minister of combined Andhra Pradesh late N T Rama Rao, President Droupadi Murmu issued a commemorative coin at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre. According to a Rashtrapati Bhavan statement, the president noted on the occasion that NTR boosted Indian cinema and culture through Telugu films. Through his acting, he brought to life the major characters of the Ramayana and Mahabharata. He spread the message of social justice and equality through one of his films 'Manushulanta Okkate' — all human beings are equal, Murmu said.

12: Obituaries



Senior Congress leader Vakkom Purushothaman passes away :-

Former Kerala Assembly Speaker Vakkom Purushothaman, 96, died at his home in Thiruvananthapuram. Doctors placed the death on respiratory disease and elderly age. Mr. Purushothaman's death was mourned by leaders from all political parties. They remembered his commendable public service record as Minister, Speaker, and later as Governor of Mizoram, Meghalaya, and Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan recalled Mr. Purushothaman's "efficiency and vision" in public service.



Art historian Kavita Singh passes away:-

Kavita Singh, a renowned art historian and former professor and dean of Jawaharlal Nehru University's (JNU) School of Arts and Aesthetics, died of cancer. She was known for her work on Mughal, Rajput, and Deccan art, as well as the function of museums. She was 59 years old. Singh was one of six distinguished

researchers to receive the Infosys Prize in the humanities from the Infosys Science Foundation in 2018. Singh had written several writings on secularism and religiosity, "fraught national identities", and the memorialisation of "difficult histories".



One More Cheetah Dies At Kuno National Park, Taking Toll To Nine :-

On August 2, another cheetah died at Kuno National Park, bringing the total to nine. The female cheetah 'Dhatri' was discovered dead in the morning at Kuno National Park. A post-mortem is currently being performed to determine the cause of death. The deaths of nine cheetahs, including three cubs, are a major setback for the Central government, with Opposition questioning the reintroduction programme, which had been flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The national park welcomed back 20 adult cheetahs from Namibia and South Africa in September of last year.



Former BCCI vice-president and DDCA sports secretary Sunil Dev passes away:-

Sunil Dev, who died on the night of August 2 at the age of 75, was a cricket administrator who rose from being a

young cricketer representing Young Friends Club in the Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) league to becoming the DDCA sports secretary for nearly three decades to becoming the vice-president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). He was also the cricket manager of the Indian squad that visited South Africa and Zimbabwe in 1996-97, led by Sachin Tendulkar, and won the inaugural T20 World Cup in 2007, led by M S Dhoni.



Padma Bhushan Awardee And IAS Officer N Vittal Passes Away :-

N Vittal, a Padma Bhushan awardee and IAS officer of the Gujarat cadre, 1960 batch, died in Chennai. With the death of N Vittal, 85, former Telecom Secretary and Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC), the country has lost the person who sowed the seeds of the information technology sector's rise four decades ago. As Secretary of Electronics (1990-1996), he implemented measures to boost software, such as the establishment of software technology parks and strategic alliances with industry.



Telangana Folk Singer Gaddar Passes Away :-

Gaddar, a well-known Telangana folk singer and balladeer noted for his revolutionary songs throughout the 1980s and later during the Telangana statehood agitation, died on August 6 in Hyderabad due to illness. He was 77. He wrote music for movies, and they became

hits. His song 'Bandenaka bandi katti' from the 1979 film 'Maa Bhoomi' was one such smash. Before the Telangana agitation's triumph in 2014, the poet-singer played a critical role. His song 'Podustunna Poddu Meeda Nadustunna Kaalama Poru Telanganama' was a major success, galvanizing people to support the statehood movement.



The Exorcist director William Friedkin passes away at 87 :-

William Friedkin, the Oscar-winning director of 'The Exorcist,' has died at the age of 87. In 1972, William Friedkin received an Oscar for best director for his work on "The French Connection." In 1974, his performance in 'The Exorcist' earned him an Oscar nomination. Friedkin is well recognized for his work on 'The Exorcist,' which is often regarded as the scariest film ever made. The film 'The Exorcist' was based on William Peter Blatty's horror novel of the same name. It was the first horror film to receive an Oscar nomination.



Pepperfry cofounder Ambareesh Murty dies after cardiac arrest :-

Ambareesh Murty, co-founder and CEO of Pepperfry, died of a heart attack in Leh recently. Ashish Shah, the firm's other co-founder, verified the news in a post on X (formerly Twitter). Murty, 51, had recently posted a video of Leh on Instagram. Murty and Shah co-founded

Pepperfry in 2011. The company, based in Mumbai, operates an online marketplace for furniture and home décor. In a LinkedIn post, he just revealed that he had completed 12 years at Pepperfry. Murty graduated from IIM Calcutta in 1996 and earned his Bachelor of Engineering from the Delhi College of Engineering in 1994.



Renowned Malayalam Director, Screenwriter Siddique Ismail Passes Away :-

Siddique Ismail, a well-known Malayalam director and screenwriter, died lately after a heart attack. 'Ramji Rao Speaking,' his directorial debut, was released in 1989. In 1986, he made his screenwriting debut with the film Pappan Priyappetta Pappan. Friends (2001), Engal Anna (2004), Sadhu Miranda (2008), Kaalavan (2011), and Bhaskar Oru Rascal (2018) were among his films. Big Brother, a 2020 action thriller starring Mohanlal, Arbaaz Khan, Anoop Menon, and Honey Rose, was his final directorial effort.



Renowned Nuclear Physicist Bikash Sinha Passes Away :-

Bikash Sinha, a well-known nuclear physicist, died lately in Kolkata. Sinha, 78, was afflicted with old age-related diseases. He was the previous director of the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics and Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre and was awarded the Padma Shri in

2001 and the Padma Bhusan in 2010. Sinha specialized on nuclear physics, high energy physics, Quark Gluon Plasma, and early universe cosmology. For the first time, he led an Indian team to engage in tests at the European Organization for Nuclear Research in Geneva.



Former India Football Captain Mohammed Habib Passes Away :-

Mohammed Habib, the greatest playmaker in Indian football history, has died. He was 74. From 1965 through 1976, Habib represented India in a number of international events. A lot of analysts regarded him as one of the best players the country has ever produced. He also won a bronze medal at the 1970 Asian Games in Bangkok, which were led by fellow Hyderabadite Syed Nayeemuddin and supervised by the legendary P.K. Banerjee. In 1977, one of the highlights of Habib's career was when he played for Mohun Bagan against the visiting Cosmos Club, which also included the renowned Pele, in a 'friendly' match.



Adobe Co-Founder Dr. John Warnock Passes Away At 82 :-

Adobe co-founder John Warnock died at the age of 82, according to the software giant. Warnock co-founded the innovative firm with the late Charles Geschke in 1982, and oversaw its transformation into a software powerhouse that became the internet's backbone.

Warnock and Geschke are credited with creating PostScript, a programming language that aided in the advent of the desktop publishing revolution. Warnock served as CEO of Adobe until 2000 and as chairman of the board until 2017. He was also a member of its board of directors until his death.



Veteran Marathi Actress Seema Deo Passes Away At 81 :-

Seema R. Deo, a veteran Bollywood and Marathi cinema actress who played a crucial role in the superhit 1971 film 'Anand,' died after a long illness, according to family sources. She was 81 years old. Seema Deo appeared in approximately 90 Hindi and Marathi films during her six-decade career in the Indian cinema business, from the black-and-white to the color era. She is most known for her performance in the musical movie 'Anand,' in which

she co-starred alongside her husband Ramesh and Amitabh Bachchan, among others.



Indian English Poet Jayanta Mahapatra Passes Away :-

Jayanta Mahapatra, one of India's best-known English poets, died on August 27 at the state-run SCB Medical College Hospital in Cuttack. He was 85. With his compositions spanning over 50 years, the great poet has made an influence on Indian English poetry. Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik conveyed his condolences on the death of the great poet. Mr. Patnaik described the poet as a genius writer in both English and Odia. In 1981, he received the Sahitya Akademi Award for his poem Relationship, a rare honor for an Indian English writer. In 2015, he was awarded the Padma Shri.

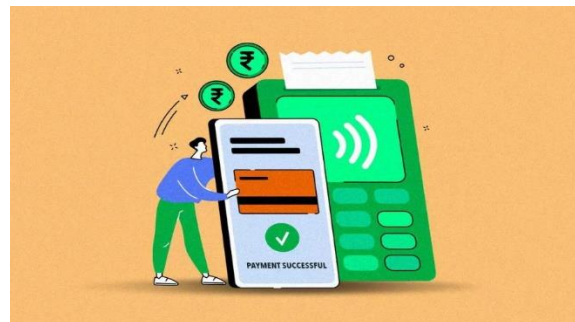
13: Ranks & Reports



375,058 women, 90,113 girls went missing in India in 2021, MP & Maharashtra top the list: NCRB :-

According to National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) data, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra have the largest number of missing women and girls in India. According to NCRB, the two states had the highest number of missing girls and women cases among all other states in

2019, 2020, and 2021. In 2021 alone, a staggering 375,058 women above the age of 18 were reported missing across the country, along with at least 90,113 girls below the age of 18. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said in a statement.



Digital Payments Grew Significantly At 13.24% In FY23, Shows RBI Index:-

According to data from a Reserve Bank of India (RBI) index for payment digitisation, digital payments increased significantly in FY23. The Reserve Bank of India - Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) for March 2023 was 395.58, up from 377.46 in September 2022, as released on January 31 — a 13.24 percent increase. The base index for March 2018 was 100, which continued to continuously increase from thereon. The RBI-DPI for March 2022 was 349.30. It was 270.59 in March 2021, and 304.06 for September 2021.



Fiscal Deficit In India Touches 25.3% Of Full-Year Target At The End Of June 2023: CGA Data:-

According to government figures, the Centre's fiscal deficit reached 25.3% of the full-year target at the conclusion of the first quarter. According to figures issued by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), the fiscal deficit--the difference between expenditure and revenue--was Rs 4,51,370 crore as of end-June. In the Union Budget, the government estimated that the fiscal deficit would be 5.9% of GDP in the current fiscal year 2023-24. The deficit was 6.4% of the GDP in 2022-23 against the earlier estimate of 6.71%.



Reliance Jumps 16 Places, Now At Number 88 On Fortune Global 500 List :-

The Fortune Global 500 list has been published, and eight Indian companies are included. Notably, billionaire

Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries has maintained its top ranking, climbing further sixteen positions. Reliance Industries is now ranked at number 88. Reliance Industries had been 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, according to a report by PTI.



India To Grow At Average 6.7% Per Year From FY24 To FY31: S&P Global :-

S&P Global optimistic about the economy's potential, predicts that India will grow at a 6.7% annual rate from fiscal year 2023-24 (FY24) to fiscal year 2031, with capital expansion being the primary engine of growth. This will increase GDP to \$6.7 trillion from \$3.4 trillion in fiscal 2023, according to a report, with per capita GDP rising to almost \$4,500. The agency anticipates the Indian economy to grow by 6% in the current fiscal year, owing to a global slowdown and the lag effect of the Reserve Bank of India's policy rate hikes.



World Rice Price Index Jumps To Near 12-Year High In July: FAO Report :-

Rice prices have risen dramatically in recent months, reaching their highest level in nearly 12 years. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) announced that the FAO All Rice Price Index increased

2.8 percent from the previous month to an average of 129.7 points in July. This is about 20% higher than at this time last year, and the highest level since September 2011. The recent action by India to restrict exports, which has cut global rice production, has tightened supply.



Record-Breaking July 2023: Hottest Month On Earth :-

The European Union's climate observatory confirmed that July was the warmest month ever recorded on Earth, with exceptionally high temperatures reported on both land and sea, warning of severe consequences for the world. The preceding month, which was marked by heatwaves and fires all across the world, was 0.33 degrees Celsius (0.59 degrees Fahrenheit) higher than the record established in July 2019 when the average temperature was 16.63C (32F), according to the report. July was 0.72C (1.3F) warmer than the 1991-2020 average for the month.



India Ranks 6th In South Asia Region For Internet Resilience :-

According to a worldwide non-profit assessment, India lags below neighbors such as Bhutan, Bangladesh, and even Nepal in terms of internet resilience. According to the Internet Society, a resilient internet connection is one that maintains an acceptable level of service in the

face of faults and impediments to normal operation, and connectivity is critical for a country's economy. India achieved an overall score of 43 per cent and is ranked sixth in South Asia behind Bhutan (58 per cent), Bangladesh (51 per cent), Maldives (50 per cent), Sri Lanka (47 per cent) and Nepal (43 per cent), the report said.



Srinagar Tops JJM Implementation Among Har Ghar Jal Certified Districts :-

In another significant achievement, the Srinagar District was named the best performing district under Jal Jeevan Survekshan (JJS-2023) out of 114 Har Ghar Jal Certified Villages across the country in the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) from October 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. It is worth noting that Jal Jeevan Survekshan is an evaluation methodology introduced by the MoJS, Government of India, on October 2, 2022, to analyze Districts/States on the basis of performance in JJM implementation and rank them accordingly at the national level on a monthly basis.



Uttar Pradesh Records Maximum Cases Of Cancer :-

The steady growth in the number of cancer cases across India continued in 2022, with Uttar Pradesh topping the

list with 2.10 lakh new cases, up from 2.01 lakh in 2020. The increase in cancer mortality corresponds with the cases, according to data from the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. In 2022, 8,08,558 people died, representing a mortality rate of more than 55% of all cases reported in India. UP again topped the list with 1,16,818 deaths. The death rate in UP was the same as the national average, with Maharashtra coming in second.



Maharashtra Leads Fiscal Health Report, Chhattisgarh At Second Place :-

According to a survey undertaken by a foreign brokerage business, Maharashtra is the the best state in terms of overall fiscal health. The survey was undertaken by Kaushik Das, chief economist at Deutsche Bank India, to assess the fiscal health of 17 key states. According to reports, Chhattisgarh came in second place in the report. Reportedly, it is one of the poorest states in the country. Following it, Telangana was third, with Bengal, Punjab, and Kerala taking the final three spots. The study is based on the preliminary fiscal year 2023-24 (FY24) budget estimates.



Ahmedabad, Kolkata rank top among Indias 8 most affordable housing markets :-

According to Knight Frank India's property Affordability Index 2023, Ahmedabad, Kolkata, and Pune have the most inexpensive housing markets among major cities in the country. Despite rising interest rates, these three

cities' housing markets remain cheap, with the average EMI accounting for 23-26 percent of a household's monthly income. Mumbai remains the country's most costly housing market, with an EMI to income ratio of a whopping 55%, however this is a major improvement from the 93.3% ratio recorded in 2010.



Srinagar's Tulip Garden Enters Record Books With 1.5mn Flowers :-

The Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden in Srinagar is listed in the World Book of Records (UK) as Asia's largest such park, adorned with 1.5 million flowers. In the garden, nestled in the picturesque foothills of the Zabarwan range, the collections comprise a stunning ensemble of 68 various tulip varieties. The garden was conceived by former J&K chief minister Ghulam Nabi Azad in 2006 and was laid out with hundreds of labourers and gardeners, who toiled and completed the park in less than two years.



ICRA Forecasts India's GDP Growth Of 8.5% In Q1, 2023 :-

According to IcrA Ratings, India's economic growth would increase to 8.5 percent in the April-June period of the current fiscal year, up from 6.1 percent in the preceding January-March quarter. The quicker rise was ascribed by the rating agency to a favorable base as well as a resurgence in the services sector. Though its estimate is better than the RBI's forecast of 8.1%, IcrA's chief

economist Aditi Nayar believes the second half of the fiscal year will be hampered by headwinds. Unseasonal heavy rains, the delayed effect of monetary tightening, and poor external demand all weighed on GDP growth in the first quarter, she said.



Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan-2023: Madhya Pradesh's IT Hub Indore Secures First Rank :-

Indore, Madhya Pradesh's information technology (IT) centre, has won first place in the Central Pollution Control Board's Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan-2023 competition. According to a release, in the category of cities with a population of over 10 lakhs in the Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan-2023, Indore has secured the first position, Bhopal ranked fifth, Jabalpur 13th and Gwalior 41st. Environment Minister Hardeep Singh Dang has congratulated the departmental officers and employees for the success in the efforts being made towards environmental conservation.

14: Schemes & Committees



Government Extends Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana For Two Years :-

The government has extended the Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana under the Employees' State Insurance Corporation for another two years, till June 30, 2024. "It has been decided to extend the Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana for the period 01.07.2022 to 30.06.2024 with the relaxed eligibility conditions and enhanced rate of relief," said the ministry of labor and employment in a gazette announcement. This is the third extension to the scheme, with two more granted in 2020 and 2021 to financially assist ESIC beneficiaries who lost their jobs due to the epidemic.



Over 6.23 Crore Loans Sanctioned Under Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana In FY 2022-23 :-

In the fiscal year 2022-23, over 6 core 23 lakh loans have been sanctioned under the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY). Union Minister for State for Finance Dr Bhagwat Kisanrao Karad stated in a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha that the goal of PMMY is to give access to institutional finance to new or existing micro units or companies up to 10 lakh rupees. He further stated that issues about the execution of PMMY are addressed in consultation with the relevant banks.



Centre Forms Expert Panel To Revise Anti-Discrimination Guidelines On Campuses :-

The government told Parliament, the Union Education Ministry has now formed an expert committee to review its anti-discrimination regulations and guidelines for the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Other Backward

Classes, Persons with Disabilities, and other minorities in higher educational institutions. Responding to a question in the Rajya Sabha, Minister of State for Education Subhas Sarkar stated that the University Grants Commission (UGC) took this step in response to a Supreme Court directive issued on July 6, in which the top court asked the government to clarify the affirmative steps it had taken to ensure that campuses were free of caste discrimination.



Odisha Widens Ambit Of Social Security Scheme :-

Odisha's state government has placed unorganized workers in 50 different categories under the jurisdiction of the Odisha Unorganized Workers' Social Security Board (OUWSSB). OUWSSB now covers only ten categories of workers. In the initial phase, the board will register street vendors, small traders, domestic employees, rickshaw pullers, auto drivers, cobblers, agricultural workers, forest workers, newspaper hawkers, and sanitation workers. Currently, the OUWSSB covers 3.65 lakh registered workers in ten different categories.



Prime Minister Launches Amrit Bharat Station Scheme In 13 Railway Stations :-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated work on the redevelopment of 13 railway stations in the state through video link as part of the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS). This was part of an all-India initiative to set the groundwork for 508 stations in various states. The Prime Minister stated that with an investment of Rs 25,000 crore, the 508 stations will become world-class. As many as 13 railway stations in the State will become modern with an investment of Rs 303 crore. The 13 railway stations include Ballari, Ghatprabha, Gokak Road, Alnavar, Gadag, Koppal, Harihar, Arsikere, Mangaluru Jn., Wadi, Kalaburagi Jn. (Gulbarga) and Shahabad.



SC To Appoint All-Woman Panel To Oversee Relief In Manipur:-

According to India Today, the Supreme Court (SC) has constituted an all-women judicial team to deal with the fallout from the Manipur violence. The committee is led by former Jammu and Kashmir High Court Chief Justice Gita Mittal and includes Justices (retired) Shalini P Joshi and Asha Menon. This initiative intends to oversee issues other than the investigation, such as relief, rehabilitation, and recompense for victims of the assault. The bench's chief justice, DY Chandrachud, emphasized that the committee's mandate goes beyond research and includes critical components of recovery and reconstruction.



NCERT Constitutes 19-Member Panel For Textbook Revision In India :-

Sudha Murthy, noted children's author and Infosys Foundation Chairperson, celebrated singer Shankar Mahadevan, and Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (EAC-PM) Chairman Bibek Debroy are among the newly formed 19-member committee of the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) that will develop new textbooks for Grades 3 to 12. According to an internal Ministry of Education memo, the high-powered committee is known as the National Syllabus and Teaching Learning Material Committee (NSTC).



INDIAN RAILWAYS भारतीय रेल

Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras To Be Established Across The Country :-

In order to improve the wellbeing and welfare of passengers visiting railway stations, the Railways Ministry will set up Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras at railway stations across the country. It strives to make quality medicines affordable to all. The Ministry has picked a list of fifty stations for the pilot initiative. According to the Ministry, this will allow travelers and visitors at railway stations to conveniently access Janaushadhi items. It will also offer job possibilities and

open doors for entrepreneurs to build Janaushadhi Kendras.



Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)

DGCA Forms Panel To Suggest Ways To Ensure Gender Equality :-

The DGCA, India's civil aviation regulator, has formed a four-member committee to make recommendations for achieving gender equality in the aviation sector. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) issued an order stating that the purpose of this committee is to make recommendations to the DGCA on how to achieve gender equality in the aviation industry. The four senior officers appointed as members of the committee are Survita Saxena, Director (Operations); R P Kashyap, Director (Training); Pavan Malviya, Deputy Director (Administration); and Kavita Singh, Deputy Director (Aircraft Engineering Directorate).



Nitin Gadkari Launches Bharat NCAP(New Car Assessment Programme) :-

Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, launched the Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP) on August 22. The major purpose of the Bharat NCAP, which is set to take into effect on October 1, 2023, is to improve road safety by granting star ratings to automobiles based on their performance in rigorous safety testing. These tests assess both adult occupant (AOP) and child occupant

(COP) safety, allowing consumers to easily compare the safety ratings of various car models before purchasing.



Maharashtra Government Launches Bhagwan Birsa Munda Jodaraste Scheme to Connect Tribal Villages with Main Roads :-

The Maharashtra state cabinet agreed to implement the Bhagwan Birsa Munda Jodaraste Scheme, which will connect all tribal villages in the state's 17 districts to main roadways. The project is expected to cost Rs 5,000 crore, and about 6,838 kilometers of road will be built as part of the initiative. Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Devendra Fadnavis announced the implementation of the program to connect all tribal padas by perennial roads during the Budget Session. The Tribal Development Department will form a separate

committee to oversee the construction of these roads, which will be built by the Public Works Department.



Union Cabinet approves new Central Sector Scheme 'PM Vishwakarma' to support traditional artisans and craftsmen of rural and urban India :-

The government has approved the PM Vishwakarma scheme, with a budget of 13 thousand crore rupees, to encourage traditional craftsmen and craftspeople in rural and urban India. The new Central Sector Scheme intends to enhance and nurture artisans' and craftspeople's family-based practice of traditional skills using their hands and tools. The Scheme was authorized for a five-year period by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, which is chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In the beginning, the system will cover eighteen conventional trades.

15: Science & Technology



Education Ministry Selects Oracle Cloud Infrastructure To Modernise Edtech Platform DIKSHA :-

According to the firm, the ministry of education has chosen Oracle Cloud Infrastructure to modernize the national education technology platform Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA). The migration will make DIKSHA more accessible while also lowering its IT costs. The portal, which is available in 36 Indian languages, serves 1.48 million schools in 35 states and union territories. Under the seven-year collaboration agreement, OCI will assist the ministry in using DIKSHA to reach millions of new students, teachers, and collaborators around the country.



ISRO's PSLV-C56 puts 7 satellites in orbit :-

Isro's workhorse PSLV-C56 successfully launched seven Singapore satellites into orbit, marking its sixth successful launch this year and adding to the afterglow of a trouble-free start to the Chandrayaan-3 mission just over two weeks ago. So date, Isro has launched 431 satellites from 34 different countries. The seven payloads, including the radar imaging earth observation satellite DS-SAR, were launched into a 535km circular orbit before the rocket's upper stage was lowered to a lower orbit to limit orbital life and reduce space debris.



University Of Hyderabad, DRDO To Work On Research In High Energy Materials:-

The University of Hyderabad (UoH) and the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to conduct multidisciplinary fundamental and applied research in the research disciplines of high energy materials design and development. The agreement, signed by DRDO Director Kailash Kumar Pathak and UoH Registrar Devesh Nigam, will be in effect for 25 years. The Memorandum of Understanding will promote and carry out multidisciplinary directed fundamental and applied research design and development of high energy materials.



India Launches 'Neerakshi' – Autonomous Underwater Vehicle For Mine Detection :-

An autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) designed to detect mines was just launched, making it the first of its kind in the country. The "Neerakshi," which means "Eyes in the Water," is the first of its kind in the country and is slated to go through user testing with the Indian Navy, Coast Guard, and Army before going commercial. The 'Neerakshi' AUV is a cooperation between the Kolkata-based warshipbuilder Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd and the MSME firm AEPL. The 2.15m long AUV has a roughly 4-hour endurance and can operate at depths of up to 300m.



Russia Launches First Moon Mission In Half A Century With Luna-25:-

On August 11, a rocket carrying a lunar landing module was successfully launched, marking Russia's return to lunar exploration after a nearly half-century absence. The historic launch occurred at Russia's Vostochny spaceport in Russia's Far East, propelling the Luna-25 craft to its lunar destination. This is Russia's first moon mission since 1976, when the Soviet Union was still in power. The Russian lunar lander is scheduled to arrive on the moon on August 23rd, aligning with the itinerary of an Indian spacecraft launched on July 14th.



Gujarat Launches 'Sinh Suchna' App For Tracking Lions :-

On the eve of World Lion Day, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel inaugurated a smartphone app that will assist the state forest department in tracking the movement of lions using information supplied by app users. The 'Sinh Suchna' application was unveiled during a Gandhinagar ceremony. The CM also announced the establishment of a lion safari park near Una in Gir Somnath district to relieve pressure on Gir National Park in Sasan-Gir. Gir forest is the world's only home of Asiatic lions.



RBI Embraces AI For Enhanced Regulatory Oversight: Collaborates With McKinsey And Accenture :-

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has partnered with international consulting firms McKinsey and Company India LLP and Accenture Solutions Pvt Ltd India. The collaboration will concentrate on using the capabilities of artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML) to transform the RBI's supervisory operations over banks and non-banking financial companies (NBFCs). The central bank's decision to hire outside expertise demonstrates its commitment to incorporating cutting-edge technologies into its regulatory processes.



Indian Army secures patent for AI-driven accident prevention system :-

The Indian Army has been granted a patent for an accident prevention system based on artificial intelligence (AI). This system, developed within the Army's research and development (R&D) division, is poised to improve road safety and reduce accidents. Kuldeep Yadav is credited with developing this AI-powered accident avoidance system. The patent application was officially filed on February 2, 2021, and according to the patent certificate supplied by the Indian Army, it will be valid for 20 years. On July 11, the patent was formally granted.



NBRI Launches Lotus Variety Which Blooms In All Seasons :-

The CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI) has introduced a new lotus strain called 'Namoh 108 Lotus', which has 108 petals and blooms virtually all year. The institute also introduced NBRI-Nihar, a novel alo vera type, as well as six other items developed by the institute's research and development division. These include lotus-based items (perfume and clothing), colors derived from flowers supplied in temples for diverse uses, herbal products (a cold drop and anti-dandruff hair

oil), a raw drug database, a virtual herbarium, and a book on CSIR-NBRI garden roses.



'Pibot,' The Humanoid Robot That Can Safely Pilot An Airplane:-

A team of engineers and researchers from Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) is now working on constructing a humanoid robot capable of flying aircraft without the requirement for cockpit modifications. Using high-precision control technology, the robot, dubbed "Pibot," can manipulate its arms and fingers to operate flight instruments dexterously even in the presence of extreme vibration in an aircraft. Pibot's external cameras allow it to observe the present state of the aircraft, while its interior cameras assist it in managing critical controls on the control panel.



CWC Launches 'Floodwatch' To Provide Real-Time Flood Forecasts To Public :-

Kushvinder Vohra, Chairman of the Central Water Commission (CWC), launched the 'Floodwatch' mobile application. The software is designed to provide the public with real-time flood information and forecasts for the next seven days. It has information in both English and Hindi. The app's key features include real-time flood monitoring, which allows users to check current flood conditions around the country. The app uses near real-

time river flow data from multiple sources to produce flood forecasts for the local location.



Chandrayaan 3 Landed Successfully:-

The Indian Space Research Organization's (ISRO) Chandrayaan-3 Lander Module has successfully landed on the Moon's surface. On 14 July 2023, Chandrayaan-3 launched from India's Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota Range (SDSC SHAR) on a mission to demonstrate new technology and perform India's first soft landing on another celestial body. On August 5, the spacecraft entered lunar orbit. After a tense wait, ISRO declared on August 23 that Chandrayaan-3's lander had successfully landed in the Moon's southern polar zone as planned.



Aditya-L1 Mission To Be Launched In September :-

A day after Chandrayaan-3 made history by landing on the moon's surface, the Indian Space Research Organisation (Isro) announced that the Aditya-L1 mission will launch on September 2. Aditya-L1 is a mission intended to researching the Sun. Nilesh M Desai, Director, Space Applications Centre-Isro, Ahmedabad, stated that the Aditya-L1 mission is ready and waiting. The Aditya-L1 mission will be launched by an Isro PSLV rocket from Sriharikota's Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR (SDSC SHAR). The spaceship would arrive at its destination in 127 days, according to Nilesh Desai.



Kerala's First AI School Launched In Thiruvananthapuram:-

Kerala took an important step toward integrating technology into education with the opening of the state's first Artificial Intelligence (AI) school in Thiruvananthapuram. The inaugural ceremony, which was attended by former President Ram Nath Kovind, was a watershed moment for education in the state. The groundbreaking AI School at Santhigiri Vidyabhavan was created in conjunction with iLearning Engines (ILE) USA, a worldwide recognized educational platform, and Vedhik eSchool. A respected team of specialists, comprising former Chief Secretaries, DGPs, and Vice Chancellors, oversees the latter.



ISRO's Next Mission To Moon Is With Japanese, Named LUPEX :-

With the successful landing of Chandrayaan-3 on the Moon's surface, the way has been cleared for ISRO to reveal the next stage of its lunar exploration mission. ISRO is currently preparing for another lunar mission, this time in partnership with the Japanese space agency, JAXA. The LUPEX, or Lunar Polar Exploration, mission is scheduled for 2024-25. "In fact, if Chandrayaan-2 had succeeded in landing, Chandrayaan-3 would have been a sample return mission. Now, maybe Chandrayaan-4 will be the sample return mission whenever it is planned" said Myswamy Annadurai, the mission director of Chandrayaan-1 that was launched in 2008.



Agnikul Cosmos begins integrating rocket on India's first private launchpad :-

Agnikul Cosmos, a space-technology business incubated at IIT-Madras, has achieved an important step toward its first controlled sub-orbital flight. Recently, the business began integrating its launch vehicle, Agnibaan SOrTeD (SubOrbital Technological Demonstrator), with its private launchpad at Sriharikota's Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR. The Agnibaan SOrTeD launch vehicle was officially unveiled at Agnikul's Mission Control Center (AMCC) by officials from SDSC, Sriharikota, and the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Center (IN-SPACe).

16: Sports



England Pacer Stuart Broad Announces Retirement After The Ashes :-

England pacer Stuart Broad announced his retirement from international cricket after the third day of the fifth and final Ashes Test, indicating that this match and series will be his last. Broad made his England Test debut in December 2007 and played 167 test matches. During this year's Ashes, he also passed the 600-wicket mark for his country. He ranks seventh all-time in wicket-taking, and he and longstanding bowling partner Jimmy Anderson are the only two fast bowlers to have taken over 600 wickets.



Iga Swiatek Wins Home WTA Title In Warsaw :-

Iga Swiatek accomplished a historic feat by winning her fourth WTA championship of the year and her first on home soil. In the final, the Polish tennis player demonstrated her supremacy, defeating Germany's Laura Siegemund with a 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.



Torneo Del Centenario 2023: Indian Women's Hockey Team Wins Title :-

The Indian women's hockey team won the three-nation Torneo del Centenario 2023 competition at Terrassa, Barcelona, defeating hosts Spain 3-0. The Indian hockey team went undefeated in the 100th Anniversary Spanish Hockey Federation International Tournament 2023, thanks to goals from Vandana Katariya, Monika, and Udita. India began the tournament with a 1-1 tie against England before holding Spain to a 2-2 tie in the following encounter. A hat-trick by Lalremsiami propelled India to the top of the table with a 3-0 win over England on July 29th.



Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar Clinches Gold Medal At FISU Games :-

On the second day of the FISU World University Games in Chengdu, China, shooter Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar won gold for India. Olympian Tomar finished first

in the men's 50-meter rifle three-position final with a total score of 461.7 points. India now has a gold, silver, and bronze medal in shooting. The Indian men's 25 meter pistol rapid fire team of Vijayveer Sidhu, Udhayveer Sidhu, and Adarsh Singh had previously won silver. Tomar, Sartaj Singh Tiwana, and Surya Pratap Singh of India teamed up to win Bronze in the men's 50 meter rifle 3 position team event.



Asia Cup 2023 Schedule :-

The Asia Cup 2023 will be held in Pakistan and Sri Lanka from August 30 to September 17, 2023. The competition will consist of 50-over ODI matches played at international standard grounds. The 2023 Edition will feature two groups, with two teams from each group qualifying for the Super Four stage. The top two teams from the Super Four stage will then face off in the final. The tournament will feature six teams split into two groups: Group A includes Pakistan, India, and Nepal, while Group B comprises Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and Sri Lanka.



Diego Godin Announces His Retirement From Professional Football:-

Diego Godin, a former Uruguayan defender, retired from professional soccer at the age of 37, capping a 20-year career. Godin appeared in four World Cups and spent the

majority of his professional career in Spain, most notably at Atlético Madrid from 2010 to 2019. This season, he played for Velez Sarsfield in Argentina. Godin announced his retirement the day after his final game for Velez, a 1-0 loss against Huracan. Godin appeared in almost 600 professional games and scored 38 goals during his career. He won ten championships, including two in the Europa League. He has represented Uruguay in the last four World Cups.



GM Gukesh Overtakes Viswanathan Anand To Become Highest Indian In FIDE Rankings :-

Teenage Grandmaster D Gukesh defeated local favorite Misratdin Iskandarov in the World Cup second round encounter, passing his idol Viswanathan Anand in the live global (FIDE) rankings. Gukesh, 17, outplayed Azerbaijan's Iskandarov in 44 moves in the second game of their second-round encounter. Gukesh's live rating has risen by 2.5 points to 2755.9, while Anand's at 2754.0. As a result, Gukesh has surpassed Anand to become the World No. 9 in the live rankings, while the five-time World champion has dropped to tenth.



World Archery Championships 2023: India Wins Historic Gold Medal :-

The Indian women's compound archery team, comprised of Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Aditi Swami, and Parneet

Kaur, in a remarkable display of skill and precision achieved a historic feat by capturing a gold medal at the World Archery Championships in Berlin. The victorious squad triumphed in the final, outperforming Mexico by a score of 235-229. On the world stage, the Indian trio demonstrated their tremendous talent and devotion. This outstanding feat was also India's first gold medal in the championships.



Indian Wrestlers Win 11 Medals At World U-17 Championships:-

India won 11 medals, including a gold, at the 2023 World Cadet Wrestling Championships for under-17 wrestlers in Istanbul, Turkey. Savita, the defending champion, won the single gold medal for India in the women's 61kg weight division in Istanbul. India finished sixth in the men's freestyle competition and fourth in the men's Greco-Roman team competition. However, it was in the women's freestyle that India shone brightest, coming third in the team rankings, only behind Japan and the United States, with 118 points.



Asian Champions Trophy Title 2023: India Beat Malaysia Clinch Fourth Title:-

At the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium in Chennai, India defeated Malaysia 4-3 to win a record fourth Asian Champions Trophy. Malaysia were proactive in the first half as the Indians struggled to contain their opponent.

India is the tournament's most successful team, having won four Asian Champions Trophy titles. Pakistan is now in second place, with three titles. Akashdeep led the assault and scored the first goal. In the semi-finals, India had five different goal scorers, four of them scored field goals - Karthi Selvam, Mandeep Singh, Akashdeep Singh, and Sumit.



Neymar Jr Quits PSG To Sign For Saudi Arabia's Al-Hilal :-

Brazil forward Neymar has joined Saudi Arabian club Al-Hilal after six seasons with French champions Paris Saint-Germain, the clubs confirmed, joining Cristiano Ronaldo and Karim Benzema as the latest big name drawn to the oil-rich Gulf state. Neymar, 31, scored 118 goals in 173 games for PSG during six injury-plagued seasons. He won five Ligue 1 titles and three French Cups, but PSG were defeated by Bayern Munich in the 2020 Champions League final. Neymar joined PSG from Barcelona in 2017 for a world record sum of 222 million euros (\$242 million), just weeks before PSG signed Kylian Mbappe.



Dutee Chand Gets Four-Year Ban For Failing Dope Test :-

Dutee Chand, India's fastest woman athlete, has been banned for four years after failing two out-of-competition dope tests for selective androgen receptor modulators (SARMs) in December last year. She holds the national 100m record of a sensational 11.17s, which

she recorded in 2021 (Indian Grand Prix 4 in Patiala). Dutee's ban will take effect on January 3, 2023. Dutee, a double silver medalist in the 100m and 200m races at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games, was tested twice by Nada's dope control officials in Bhubaneswar on December 5 and 26, 2022.



FIFA Women's World Cup 2023: Spain Wins The Title With 1-0 Victory Over England :-

Spain won their first Women's World Cup championship with a 1-0 victory over England in the final of the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup in Sydney. The victory caps up a historic FIFA Women's World Cup campaign for Spain, which had previously failed to go past the Round of 16. Making it to the final after knockout victories over Switzerland, the Netherlands, and Sweden was already a first for Spain, and success in the final was cause for even more joy. Spain won its first major international championship, becoming the first European team to do so since Germany in 2007.



ICC unveils official mascots of the 2023 Cricket World Cup :-

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has introduced its mascots for the next World Cup 2023, which will excite the next generation of cricket fans by symbolizing the spirit and solidarity that cricket promotes around the

world. The characters reflect various attributes that emerge as emblems of gender equality and diversity, and were launched at an event in Gurugram, India, attended by ICC U-19 women's and men's winning captains Shafali Verma and Yash Dhull. The ever-present characters aim to engage and excite cricket fans and will become an ever-present staple at ICC events, with fans now having the option to assist contribute to the mascots' naming process.



India's Anahat Singh Clinches Gold In Asian Junior Squash Championships :-

Anahat Singh of India won gold in the U-17 category at the Asian Junior Squash Individual Championships, which took place from August 16 to 20. Anahat, 15, won the gold medal after defeating Hong Kong's Ena Kwong 3-1 in the final on August 20. In the quarterfinals and semifinals, she defeated Malaysian opponents Doyce Lee and Whitney Isabelle Wilson, respectively. Anahat, who is based in Delhi, earned her first gold medal in this event last year in Thailand. Anahat also won a bronze medal in the U-13 division in Macau in 2019.



Mohit Kumar Becomes U-20 World Champion In Men's 61 Kg Freestyle Category :-

Indian wrestler Mohit Kumar made history by winning the Under 20 World Championship in the men's 61 Kg Freestyle division in Amman, Jordan. In the final, Mohit defeated Russia's Eldar Akhmadudinov 9-8 to become

the fourth Indian freestyle wrestler to win a Junior World Championship. Mohit is India's fourth U20 World Championship gold medalist, following Palwinder Cheema in 2001, Ramesh Kumar in 2001, and Deepak Punia in 2019. Jaideep won the bronze medal at 74kg after defeating Kyrgyzstan's Zhakshylyk Ruslanovich Baitashov.



Priya Malik Wins Gold At U20 World Wrestling Championships In Jordan :-

Priya Malik, an Indian wrestler, won a gold medal in the U20 World Wrestling Championships in Jordan, becoming only the second Indian woman to do so. Priya won gold in the 76 kg division, defeating Laura Kuehn of Germany 5-0 in the gold medal match. Antim Panghal had previously won gold in the previous edition. The accomplishment of this Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) athlete has now awarded India two gold medals at the ongoing championships, which is only the second time in history. The previous time India done so was in 2001.



Carlsen beats Praggnanandhaa in tie-breaks to win the Chess World Cup title:-

In the first tie-break game of the Chess World Cup final, Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa was defeated by Magnus Carlsen. Carlsen prevailed in the tie-breaks, claiming the FIDE World Cup championship title. Carlsen

received a 1.5, while Praggnanandhaa received a 0.5. While Carlsen received gold, Praggnanandhaa received silver. Previously, Praggnanandhaa became the third youngest player to qualify for the Candidates event, following the famous Bobby Fischer and Carlsen. The tournament performances also helped Praggnandhaa qualify for the Candidates 2024 competition, which will be hosted in Canada.



Neeraj Chopra becomes first Indian to win gold at World Athletics Championships :-

In a historic moment for Indian athletics, Neeraj Chopra won gold in the men's javelin throw event at the World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary. The 'golden boy of Indian athletics' made history by being the first Indian athlete to win a gold medal at this renowned competition. Neeraj's incredible achievement occurred in the early hours of August 28 when he competed against competitors from all over the world. During his second effort, he threw 88.17 meters, demonstrating amazing prowess.



HS Prannoy Clinches Bronze At BWF World Badminton Championships 2023 :-

Prannoy HS of India had to settle for a bronze medal after losing to Kunlavut Vitidsarn in the semifinals of the Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Championships. Prannoy went down to world number

three and three-time Junior champion Vitidsarn by 21-18, 13-21, 14-21. Prannoy and Vitidsarn were neck-to-neck in the first game, but the Indian won the first game easily. Vitidsarn staged a comeback in the second game. Prannoy fought hard but lost the game by 13-21, setting up an exciting decider.



World Athletics Championships 2023: India men's 4x400m relay team finishes in 5th place :-

At the World Athletics Championships 2023 in Budapest, Hungary, the Indian men's 4x400m relay team finished fifth in their respective finals. The team of Muhammed Anas Yahiya, Amob Jacob, Muhammed Ajmal, and Rajesh Ramesh finished the race in 2:59.92. The gold medalists from the United States (Quincy Hall, Vernon Norwood, Justin Robinson, and Rai Benjaminwon) finished the race in 2:57:31 seconds. France (2:58.45) and the United Kingdom (2:58.71) took silver and medal, respectively. A day earlier the Indian team had shattered the Asian record in the qualifying round, taking 2:59.05 seconds to complete the race.

17: State



'CM Command Centre' Launched In Uttar Pradesh For Evaluating Governance:-

Yogi Adityanath, Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, launched the 'Chief Minister's Command Centre' and the 'CM Dashboard,' citing them as effective initiatives made to provide fast solutions to ordinary people's problems and ensure improved implementation of government schemes. The performance of officials in the police service, municipal corporations, and development agencies, as well as the implementation of numerous government schemes, would be evaluated monthly using the Command Centre and Dashboard.



Kerala To Set Up India's First Fisheries Atal Incubation Centre :-

Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (Kufos) has received a Rs 10 crore grant from NITI Aayog to develop India's first Atal Incubation Centre (AIC) in fisheries. According to university officials, the grant will create an environment of innovation and technical growth. The AIC program is part of the Atal Innovation Mission, which aims to foster a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship across the country's diverse sectors. According to the university, NITI Ayog is the government of India's foremost policy think tank, and the grant provided to Kufos is a substantial boost to innovation and entrepreneurship.



Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma Launches 'Amrit Brikshya Andolan' App :-

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has launched the Amrit Brikshya Andolan web portal/mobile application and the Wood-based Industry (WBI) registration web portal of the Department of Forest & Environment. He also debuted a theme song for the Amrit Brikshya Andolan, an effort aiming at planting 1 crore (10 million) commercially viable trees across the state by people from all walks of life on September 17. CM Sarma stated that the Amrit Brikshya Andolan would significantly strengthen the state's green economy.



Rajasthan Govt. Announces 19 New Districts, 3 New Divisions In State :-

The Rajasthan cabinet approved a proposal by a high-level committee to create 19 new districts and three new divisions within the state. The purpose of this resolution is to improve the administrative framework and accessibility of public services. As a result, Rajasthan's district count will increase from 33 to 50. The changes include the division of the Jaipur district into "Jaipur" and "Jaipur Rural", as well as the division of the Jodhpur district into "Jodhpur" and "Jodhpur Rural". The state will

now consist of 10 divisions, with the introduction of Banswara, Pali, and Sikar as the new divisions.



Bihar To Constitute 'Rhino Task Force' For Reintroduction Of Rhino Conservation Scheme :-

Following a significant increase in the number of tigers in Bihar, the state administration is now preparing to form a 'Rhino Task Force' to recommend ways for the reintroduction of the terrestrial species in the Valmiki Tiger Reserve (VTR) in West Champaran district, according to an official. P K Gupta, Additional Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Chief Wildlife Warden, stated that there is currently only one rhino in VTR and 14 rhinos at Patna Zoo. "After the reintroduction of the Rhino Conservation scheme, the number of rhinos will substantially increase in the VTR", Gupta told.



Rajouri's Chikri Wood Craft, Anantnag's Mushqbudji Rice Receive GI Tag :-

An official from the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) said that Chikri wood craft from Rajouri district and Mushqbudji rice from Anantnag district in Jammu and Kashmir have received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag, and five more products from the state are in the final stages of receiving the GI tag. NABARD general manager Anamika said, "The process for GI tagging of nine products was started by NABARD in consultation with the department of

handicrafts & handloom and department of agriculture in December 2020, during the difficult times of Covid."



Rajasthan Government Gives Free Smartphones To Women :-

Rajasthan's Chief Minister, Ashok Gehlot, recently announced a new scheme named the "Indira Gandhi Free Smartphone Yojana 2023." This effort intends to provide free mobile phones, as well as internet and voice call services, to women in the state of Rajasthan. The delivery of free smartphones began on August 10, 2023, and is slated to end on August 30, 2023. According to the Rajasthan government, the initial round of smartphone distribution will target widows and divorced women residing in Rajasthan during this time period.



Kerala Assembly Approves Resolution To Rename State As 'Keralam':-

The Kerala Assembly has passed a motion requesting the Centre that the state be renamed "Keralam" in the Constitution and other official records. The resolution, proposed by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, was voted unanimously, with no revisions proposed by the Congress-led opposition. There are various ideas as to how the name 'Kerala' came to be. Emperor Asoka's Rock Edict II of 257 BC is the first epigraphic record that references Kerala. The local ruler is referred to as

Keralaputra (Sanskrit for "son of Kerala"), as well as "son of Chera," referring to the Chera dynasty.



CM Solar Mission Launched In Power Deficit Meghalaya:-

Conrad K Sangma, the chief minister of Meghalaya, has launched the Rs 500 crore CM's Solar Mission in Shillong to address the state's power issue. The government will invest the funds over the following five years. "The people-centric CM Solar Mission will be a flagship Renewable Energy intervention committed to fostering green and clean energy transformation across the state," Sangma stated at the program's inauguration. The mission will not only relieve Meghalaya's power shortfall, but will also usher in a new era of resilience, independence, and green progress.



In A First In India, Goa To Give Free IVF Treatment In Govt Hospital :-

Goa is the first Indian state to provide free in vitro fertilization (IVF) therapy. According to reports, Chief Minister Pramod Sawant inaugurated this facility, along with assisted reproductive technology (ART) and intrauterine insemination (IUI), at the Goa Medical College (GMC) in Bambolim. The cost of IVF in India ranges from Rs 70,000 to Rs 3 lakh per cycle, depending on the hospital and the type of IVF treatment. Sawant stated that the department serves a large number of patients each year, including 19,000 OPD patients.



'India's First Village Atlas' Is Of Mayem In Goa :-

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant announced the publication of a biodiversity atlas of Mayem village in North Goa, dubbed "India's first village atlas." This atlas provides a socio-cultural history of Mayem village dating back to the 12th century, he remarked while speaking at an event at the Mahamaya Devalaya Mandap in Mayem village, Bicholim taluka. "This is India's first ever village atlas," he said. The atlas was prepared based on the people's biodiversity register (PBR) prepared by the village biodiversity management committee, headed by chairperson Sakharam Pednekar.



India's First Drone Common Testing Centre To Be Established In Tamil Nadu :-

The state government announced that the country's first common testing center for unmanned aerial systems (drones) will be created in Tamil Nadu at a cost of Rs 45 crore. The facility would be built on 2.3 acres at the SIPCOT industrial park at Vallam Vadagal, near Sriperumbudur, under the Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS). It would enable the state to contribute significantly to the country's self-reliance in the aerospace and defense sectors, according to a release released by TRB Rajaa, Minister for Industries, Investment Promotion, and Commerce.



Goa government launched 'Gramin Mitra' scheme :-

The Goa government has launched its flagship initiative "Gramin Mitra" to give government services to people's homes across the state and to encourage digital empowerment in rural areas. Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said at the launch that the plan will bridge the digital divide and promote digital empowerment in the state's rural areas. The event was attended by State Minister for Information Technology, Electronics and Communication Rohan Khaunte, Union Minister Shripad Naik, and Rajya Sabha MP Sadanand Shet Tanavade.



UP's first e-office system launched in Kannauj :-

Kannauj has become the state's first district that has adopted e-office, a new digital gateway that reduces human handling of files and documents. This eliminates unnecessary paperwork in offices and securely stores files electronically. Under the National e-Governance Plan, the e-office is a Mission Mode Project (MMP). Chief secretary Durga Shankar Mishra launched the e-office system at Kannauj district magistrate Shubhant Kumar Shukla's office via video conferencing and praised his staff on the initiative's implementation.



Granting Of Geographical Indication (GI) Tag To Matti Banana Variety Of Kanniyakumari District :-

The Kanniyakumari district's Matti banana variety has been designated as a Geographical Indication (GI). These bananas thrive in the climate and soil of the district, resulting in a larger-than-human finger-sized fruit with a sweet fragrance and honey-like taste. Matti bananas are classified into six varieties, each with its own particular color, scent, and flavor. Due to the multifaceted nature of the components involved, replicating the features of Matti bananas in other places becomes difficult.



Guwahati Airport Becomes First In Northeast To Get 'Digi Yatra' Facility :-

The largest airport in the northeast, Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International (LGBI) Airport in Assam's Guwahati, has launched Digi Yatra for hassle-free travel. It is the northeast's first airport to launch Digi Yatra. Adani Airports operates the airport. The Digi Yatra service will soon be available at six more airports across India. The stepwise adoption and installation of the Digi Yatra infrastructure at airports would make air travel more convenient and efficient. In June of this year, passenger footfall at LGBI Airport increased by 15% to five lakh.



President Launches 'My Bengal, Addiction-Free Bengal' Campaign In Kolkata:-

President Droupadi Murmu launched the 'My Bengal, Addiction Free Bengal' campaign in Kolkata, West Bengal, as part of the 'Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyan' organized by the Brahma Kumaris. The campaign's goal is to address the problem of drug usage in society and throughout the country. The President raised stress in her speech at Raj Bhavan on the impact of drug usage on youth and their capacity to pick the correct path in life. The President also applauded organizations such as the Brahma Kumaris for their efforts in debating and striving to tackle the society's drug usage problem.



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

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin lay the groundwork for a new desalination plant at Perur on East Coast Road near Chennai, which will cost Rs 4,276.44 crore and have a capacity to process 400 million litres of seawater per day. According to an official announcement, once completed, the factory will be the largest of its sort in Southeast Asia. The Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (CMWSSB) will carry out the project, which will be funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), by December 2026.



NHA Launches First ABDM Microsite In Mizoram:-

Mizoram became the pioneer state in India to activate an ABDM Microsite in its capital city, Aizawl. The 100 Microsites initiative was introduced by the National Health Authority (NHA), aimed to speed up the implementation of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) nationwide. As part of this effort, all medical establishments, including private clinics, small hospitals, and laboratories in the area, will integrate ABDM technology, providing patients with digital healthcare services. The ABDM Microsites encompass specific geographical areas targeted for concentrated outreach efforts aimed at enrolling small and medium-sized private healthcare providers.



Maharashtra government to organize "Pro Govinda" League on Janmashtami :-

The Maharashtra government is poised to stage the first-ever Pro Govinda League in Mumbai, a year after making the Dahi Handi festival a "official sport." The Pro Govinda League, similar to the Pro Kabaddi League, would be conducted on August 31. This year, Krishna Janmashtami is on September 6, followed by Dahi Handi or Gopal Kala on September 7. The event has been approved by Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Ministers Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar, and it

will be held with all necessary approvals and safety procedures.



UP Cabinet Approves 18 'Atal Residential' Schools, To Cost Rs 1,250 Crore :-

The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet has approved the development of 18 Atal Residential Schools, similar to the Navodaya Vidyalayas administered by the central government, at a cost of Rs 1,250 crore. According to Parliamentary Affairs Minister Suresh Kumar Khanna, the Cabinet convened at the home of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and approved 23 suggestions. Khanna stated that the state government will spend Rs 1,250 crore to build Atal Residential Schools in all 18 districts of Uttar Pradesh. "It will have classes from six to 12. Children whose studies were affected by Covid-19 pandemic can also get admission to these schools," he said.



Assam Cabinet Creates 4 New Districts, 81 Sub-Districts After Delimitation :-

The Assam cabinet reorganized the state's districts, introducing four new ones in place of those that had previously been disbanded. The cabinet, presided over by chief minister Himanata Biswa Sarma, also established 81 new sub-districts. The state will now have 34 districts as a result of this. The move comes two weeks after the Election Commission (EC) issued a final delimitation

order for the state's 126 assembly and 14 Lok Sabha seats, resulting in the redrawing of numerous constituencies in both categories on a huge scale. The new sub-districts will go into effect on January 1, 2024.



Kolkata Becomes 3rd Indian City To Get Air Quality Early Warning System :-

Kolkata has become the third city in India to deploy an Air Quality Early Warning System, with the goal of reducing rising levels of air pollution in the city. Kolkata, India, has taken an important step forward by implementing an Air Quality Early Warning System (AQEWS) designed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) in Pune. This system provides both real-time air pollution data and projections, with the goal of improving readiness and facilitating efforts to combat the city's growing air pollution levels.

18: Summits & Conferences



'Semicon India 2023' Conference Concludes On July 30 At Gandhinagar, Gujarat :-

Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, opened SemiconIndia 2023 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. The conference, themed "Catalyzing India's Semiconductor Ecosystem" aims to showcase India's semiconductor strategy and policy, with the goal of positioning the country as a global centre for semiconductor design, production, and technological development. Prominent companies such as Foxconn, Micron, AMD, IBM, Marvell, Vedanta, LAM Research, NXP Semiconductors, ST Microelectronics, Grantwood Technologies, Infineon Technologies, and Applied Materials, among others, participated in the event.



India To Host World Coffee Conference In Bengaluru From Sept 25 :-

For the first time, India will host a World Coffee Conference, with the International Coffee Organisation (ICO) promoting the fifth edition, which will be held in Bengaluru from September 25 to September 28. The International Coffee Organization (ICO) is the principal intergovernmental organization dedicated to promoting coffee commerce and building cooperation among coffee-producing and consuming nations. K G Jagadeesha, CEO and Secretary of the Coffee Board of India, declared that tennis player Rohan Bopanna would be the event's brand ambassador. The event is being organized by ICO in conjunction with the Coffee Board of India.



PM Modi will visit Johannesburg for BRICS Summit:-

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has confirmed to South African President Cyril Ramaphosa that he will travel to Johannesburg for the BRICS summit on August 22-24. Mr. Modi and Mr. Ramaphosa spoke on the phone just days after Russian President Vladimir Putin canceled his trip to Johannesburg for the same event. "President Ramaphosa invited the Prime Minister for the BRICS Summit being hosted by South Africa on August 22-24, 2023 and briefed him on the preparations for the same." said a statement issued by the Ministry of External Affairs.



Gurugram to host 4th G20 Sherpa Group meet in September :-

According to officials, Haryana will host the fourth meeting of the G20 Sherpa Group in Gurugram during the first week of September. Chief Secretary Sanjeev Kaushal met with India's G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant via video conference to evaluate the arrangements, according to an official release. The Sherpa Group is made up of delegates from G20 member countries that meet on a monthly basis to coordinate preparations for the upcoming G20 Summit, which is set to take place later this year.



A month before G20 summit, PM's Principal secy holds review meeting :-

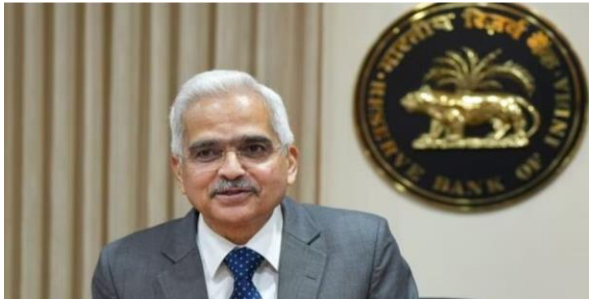
With one month till the G20 Summit, the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, P.K. Mishra, convened the Coordination Committee on India's G20 presidency on August 8 to assess preparations for the two-day summit as well as the conclusions of the Sherpa and Finance tracks. Amitabh Kant, India's G20 Sherpa, said at the conference that 185 sessions had been held thus far, including 13 ministerial-level discussions, and that 12 outcome documents and 12 additional deliverables had been agreed with consensus, according to a government release.



G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group's Third Meeting Is Being Held In Kolkata:-

According to a release, the third and final meeting of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group is being held in Kolkata from August 9-11, with a focus on topics such as extradition of fugitive economic offenders and recovery of their assets from foreign jurisdictions. The summit will be attended by about 154 participants from G20 members, 10 invitee countries, and international organizations. It will be conducted under India's G20 chair. It will be followed by the G20 anti-corruption ministerial meeting on August 12, which will be chaired

by Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Jitendra Singh.



RBI Monetary Policy Meeting 2023:-

On August 10, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) maintained the key policy rate — the repo rate — at 6.50 percent. According to RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, the six-member monetary policy committee (MPC) unanimously opted to maintain the lending rate at 6.50 percent. The central bank's committee also maintained its withdrawal of accommodation to ensure that retail inflation stays within the target range of 4%. The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has held the repo rate constant for the last three cycles.



9th India International MSME Expo & Summit 2023 :-

Inaugurated by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha the 9th India International MSME Expo and Summit 2023 held in New Delhi. The Lieutenant Governor welcomed business leaders and potential investors to invest in Jammu and Kashmir. The Lt Governor also unveiled the J&K UT's One District One Product (ODOP) Box. He stated that all of J&K's districts are being developed as export hubs, and that efforts are being made to bring the One District One Product Box, which was launched today, to the worldwide market. The Lt Governor also went to the

stalls set up by MSMEs and other stakeholders to display local products from the UT of J&K.



Traditional Medicine Global Summit To Be Held In Gandhinagar On Aug 17, 18 :-

According to a release, the World Health Organization (WHO) will hold the Traditional Medicine Global Summit on August 17 and 18 in Gujarat's Gandhinagar to investigate the role of traditional, complementary, and integrative medicine in tackling major health concerns. The summit, co-hosted by the government of India, will also look into ways to realize the promise of evidence-based knowledge in the use of traditional medicine for people's health and well-being around the world, according to a WHO statement.



The G20 Film Festival Kicked Off With The Screening Of "Pather Panchali" :-

The Ministry overseeing international relations is arranging a 17-day film festival involving G20 countries in partnership with the G20 participants and India International Centre (IIC). The debut version of this event took place from August 16 until September 3 and will display and honour the motion pictures of G20 nations. The film event was started with Satyajit Ray's 1955 masterpiece, Pather Panchali, on August 16. The 17-day festival has a lineup of 15 award-winning films apart from Pather Panchali, like My Night from France, Decision To Leave from South Korea, The Cathedral from the US.



4th G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting to begin in Jaipur:-

The G20 Trade and Investment Ministerial Meeting (TIMM) will take place in Jaipur on August 24 and 25, 2023. The summit will be preceded by the 4th and final Trade and Investment Working Group (TIWG) meeting under India's G20 Presidency in Jaipur on August 22, 2023. The first three TIWG meetings took place in Mumbai, Bangalore, and Kevadia, in that order. More than 300 delegates, including trade ministers/secretaries and heads of delegations from G20 member nations, invitee countries, regional groups, and international organizations, will attend both meetings.



G20 Summit Delhi 2023: Location, Venue, Date And Time :-

The G20 Summit in Delhi is set to take place on September 9th and 10th, 2023. This summit will bring together G20 member countries as well as guest nations to discuss various economic changes. At the conclusion of the New Delhi Summit, a G20 Leaders' Declaration will be adopted, stating leaders' commitment to the goals discussed and agreed upon during the separate ministerial and working group sessions. The G20 Summit will be held in New Delhi at the 'Bharat Mandapam' at the ITPO Convention Centre, Pragati Maidan.



Akashvani Organizes Event Related To KIP Under The Aegis Of Ministry Of External Affairs:-

Akashvani organized a Know India Program related event in New Delhi under the auspices of the Ministry of External Affairs. The program attracted approximately 55 students of Indian origin (PIOs). Know India Programme (KIP) is a major diaspora engagement initiative of the Ministry of External Affairs that introduces Indian-origin youth to their Indian ancestry. The program's goal is to raise awareness of various aspects of Indian life and the country's growth in numerous disciplines.

SECTION 2

Practice Questions with Answers



PRACTICE QUESTIONS

1. Where did PM Narendra Modi inaugurated an International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC) "Bharat Mandapam" to host the G20 leaders' meeting?

- A) New Delhi
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Gujarat
- D) Karnataka

2. To offer life cover with premium return which of the following term assurance plan has been launched by the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) recently?

- A) Jeevan Anand
- B) Jeevan Kiran
- C) Jeevan Labh
- D) Jeevan Umang

3. 'MoneySaver Export Account' has been launched by which of the following payment company for Indian exporters?

- A) Freecharge
- B) Paytm
- C) PhonePe
- D) Razorpay

4. By which of the following year India is set to become the world third largest economy as per the SBI Ecowrap report?

- A) 2030
- B) 2029
- C) 2028
- D) 2027

5. Who among the following was elected as the new chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)?

- A) Robert Watson
- B) Rajendra K. Pachauri
- C) James Ferguson Skea
- D) Hoesung Lee

6. President Droupadi Murmu has laid the foundation stone for the "Divine Light House" of Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya (PBKIVV) in which of the following state?

- A) Andhra Pradesh
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Odisha
- D) West Bengal

7. To collaborate & develop rail infrastructure projects which of the following company has signed an MoU with Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC)?

- A) RailTel Corporation of India Limited
- B) Rail Vikas Nigam Limited
- C) Engineers India Limited
- D) RITES Limited

8. Who among the following was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Global Education Mentor Awards program held in New Delhi?

- A) Aparajita Gupta
- B) Prem Prakash
- C) Sanjiv Prakash
- D) Tanya Sharma

9. Which of the following insurance company has collaborated with JM Financial Services Limited to increase its product offerings and market presence in India?

- A) Future Generali India Life Insurance
- B) HDFC Life Insurance
- C) ICICI Prudential Life Insurance
- D) Max Life Insurance

10. When the International Tiger Day was observed?

- A) 29 July
- B) 28 July
- C) 26 July
- D) 25 July

11. Which of the following refinery became the largest PSU-refinery (single location) in India for 2022-23?

- A) Hindustan Petroleum Limited
- B) Indian Oil Corporation Limited
- C) Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited
- D) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited

12. Which of the following payment bank's board has approved the proposal for the transition of the Bank into a Small Finance Bank (SFB) license?

- A) Jio Payment Bank
- B) India Post Payment Bank
- C) Fino Payments Bank
- D) Airtel Payment Bank

13. To expand urban service in Rajasthan, which of the following organisation has signed USD 200 million loan agreement with Indian government?

- A) Asian Development Bank
- B) International Monetary Fund
- C) United Nations Development Programme
- D) World Bank

14. Which of the following company became the first member from India to join the Asia Transition Finance Study Group (ATFSG)?

- A) National Hydroelectric Power Corporation
- B) NTPC Limited
- C) Power Finance Corporation Limited
- D) Power Grid Corporation of India

15. Under the G20 chairmanship of India in which of the following city the Think20 summit was organized?

- A) Lucknow
- B) Jaipur
- C) Mysuru
- D) Ahmedabad

16. Which of the following payment company has launched two new devices for Indian users, the Pocket Soundbox and Music Soundbox recently?

- A) Razorpay
- B) PhonePe

- C) Paytm
- D) Freecharge

17. Which of the following bank hosted the fintech partnership programme in Bengaluru?

- A) Axis Bank
- B) Karnataka Bank
- C) Kotak Mahindra Bank
- D) RBL Bank

18. BRICS' New Development Bank (NDB) has elected who among the following as a member of its Board of Directors and a Constituency Director?

- A) Thuraiya Hamid Alhashmi
- B) Anton Siluanov
- C) Anil Kishora
- D) A H Mustafa Kamal

19. Which of the following England pacer has announced his retirement from all forms of cricket recently?

- A) Ben Matthew
- B) James Anderson
- C) Stuart Broad
- D) Zak Crawley

20. A new book titled "Kargil: Ek Yatri Ki Jubani" was authored by which of the following author?

- A) Anand Neelakantan
- B) Durjoy Datta
- C) Indrapramit Das
- D) Rishi Raj

21. In collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) which of the following payment company has introduced RuPay credit card-based UPI payments for its member?

- A) Razorpay
- B) PhonePe
- C) Paytm
- D) CRED

22. To manufacture renewable energy and decarbonization equipment in Australia which of the

following company has signed an MoU with Brookfield Asset Management?

- A) Adani Green Energy Limited
- B) Power Grid Corporation of India Limited
- C) REC Limited
- D) Reliance Industries Limited

23. Who among the following was appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Engineering Projects (India) Ltd?

- A) Ashok Shankarrao
- B) Dhirendra Singh Rana
- C) Shivendra Nath
- D) Vinod Kumar Yadav

24. Who among the following was appointed as the Director of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)?

- A) Bhaskar Bhat
- B) Ganesan Kannabiran
- C) M. Arivazhagan
- D) Sivakumaran

25. Which state's startup mission's membership card LEAP (Launch, Empower, Accelerate, Prosper) was launched recently?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Kerala
- C) Karnataka
- D) Andhra Pradesh

26. As per the latest report by the FICCI-EY, the road accidents claim how many lives in India every year?

- A) 1.2 million
- B) 1.5 million
- C) 2.1 million
- D) 2.5 million

27. Which of the following bank has partnered with Kiwi to offer life time free KWIK virtual credit card to Kiwi app users?

- A) Axis Bank
- B) HDFC Bank

- C) ICICI Bank
- D) YES Bank

28. To set up a recyclable Lithium-ion battery manufacturing unit, which of the following state government has signed an MoU with International Battery Company (IBC) recently?

- A) Odisha
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Karnataka
- D) Jharkhand

29. Which among the following organization has handed over the first Radio Frequency (RF) Seeker of Akash Missile to the DRDO?

- A) Bharat Dynamics Limited
- B) Bharat Electronics Limited
- C) Electronics Corporation of India Limited
- D) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

30. When the World Wide Web Day was observed?

- A) 03 August
- B) 02 August
- C) 01 August
- D) 31 July

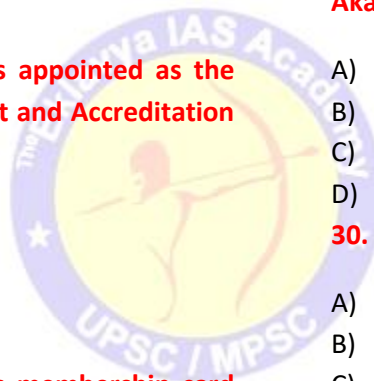
31. After replacing the iconic bird symbol what is the new logo of Twitter?

- A) Alphabet 'X'
- B) Chat symbol
- C) Rocket
- D) Tesla Car

32. Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus of which of the following country has been ordered to pay more than \$1 million in taxes on a \$7 million donation made to three charitable trusts?

- A) Bangladesh
- B) India
- C) Pakistan
- D) Sri Lanka

33. Dr Thani Al Zeyoudi of which of the following country has been appointed as the chair of the World Trade Organisation's 13th Ministerial Conference?



- A) Indonesia
- B) Iran
- C) Israel
- D) UAE

34. Who among the following won ITF W60 Evansville singles title in Evansville, USA?

- A) Yuliia Starodubteva
- B) Karman Kaur Thandi
- C) Madison Brengle
- D) Sachia Vickery

35. The Guidelines for Institutional Development Plan for Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) was approved by which of the following institution recently?

- A) AICTE
- B) CBSE
- C) NITI Aayog
- D) UGC

36. President Draupadi Murmu has inaugurated the 'Unmesha' – International Literature Festival in which of the following state recently?

- A) Madhya Pradesh
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Odisha
- D) West Bengal

37. To provide policyholders with a regular long-term income option, which of the following Life Insurance company has launched a 'Guarantee of Life Dreams (G.O.L.D)' plan?

- A) HDFC Life Insurance
- B) IndiaFirst Life Insurance
- C) SBI Life Insurance
- D) Tata AIA Life Insurance

38. To launch a co-branded credit card powered by Visa, which of the following bank has partnered with Tiger Fintech Private Limited?

- A) Axis Bank
- B) ICICI Bank
- C) IndusInd Bank
- D) YES Bank

39. According to the S&P Global report what is the growth prediction of Indian economy from financial year FY24 to FY31?

- A) 5.7%
- B) 5.9%
- C) 6.2%
- D) 6.7%

40. Via open market transactions the financial services company Societe Generale has bought the shares of which of the following bank for Rs 382 crore?

- A) Bandhan Bank
- B) HDFC Bank
- C) IDFC FIRST Bank
- D) YES Bank

41. By which of the following date the National Health Authority (NHA) extended its Digital Health Incentives Scheme (DHIS) under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)?

- A) 31 January 2024
- B) 30 November 2023
- C) 31 December 2023
- D) 30 September 2023

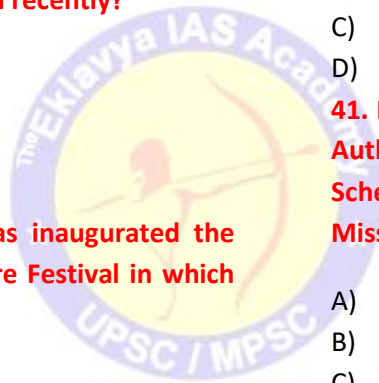
42. Which of the following state got Rs 1,974.07 crore funding from NABARD under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for 2023-24?

- A) Uttar Pradesh
- B) Rajasthan
- C) Gujarat
- D) Bihar

43. For the sale of crude oil from the Mumbai region which of the following company has signed a contract with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)?

- A) GAIL (India) Limited
- B) Indian Oil Corporation Limited
- C) National Mineral Development Corporation
- D) Oil And Natural Gas Corporation

44. Who among the following got extension as Union Home Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs till August 22, 2024?



- A) Ajay Kumar Bhalla
- B) Anshuli Arya
- C) Jagannatha Rao
- D) Rajiv Kumar

45. Which of the following company has acquired a 56.74 % stake in Sanghi Industries (SIL) recently?

- A) UltraTech Cement Limited
- B) India Cements Limited
- C) Dalmia Cement Limited
- D) Ambuja Cements Limited

46. India contributed how much fund in advance to Sri Lanka for supporting the Sri Lanka Unique Digital Identity (SL-UDI) project?

- A) 210 million
- B) 320 million
- C) 450 million
- D) 610 million

47. Union Minister of Home Affairs Amit Shah, has launched a digital portal of the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS) office in which of the following city?

- A) Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- B) Bengaluru, Karnataka
- C) New Delhi, Delhi
- D) Pune, Maharashtra

48. In collaboration with United Nations (UN) Women India which of the following state's Responsible Tourism Mission (RT Mission) has organised the 'Trainers of Trainer' programme?

- A) Tamil Nadu
- B) Odisha
- C) Kerala
- D) Karnataka

49. To establish the India 5G testbed at IRISSET in Secunderabad, Telangana which of the following IIT has signed an MoU with Ministry of Railways recently?

- A) IIT Bombay
- B) IIT Guwahati
- C) IIT Kanpur

- D) IIT Madras

50. What is the unemployment rate of India in July 2023 as per the data released by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE)?

- A) 6.94%
- B) 7.34%
- C) 7.95%
- D) 8.12%

51. The Union Cabinet has approved how much fund for a last-mile broadband connectivity plan for 6.4 lakh villages across India as part of the BharatNet project?

- A) 1.39 lakh crore
- B) 2.13 lakh crore
- C) 2.78 lakh crore
- D) 3.20 lakh crore

52. For collaboration in standardization and conformity assessment which of the following government department has signed an MoU with 35 institutions across India?

- A) Associated Chambers of Commerce & Industry of India
- B) Bureau of Indian Standards
- C) Confederation of Indian Industry
- D) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry

53. Which of the following Institute has developed the e-portal 'Bhartiya Vastra evam Shilpa Kosh'?

- A) Vogue Institute of Art and Design
- B) National Institute of Fashion Technology
- C) IIT Madras
- D) IIT Delhi

54. To promote military heritage tourism in the country, which of the following Institution has signed an MoU with the PCTI & CSC-e-Governance recently?

- A) United Services Institution of India
- B) Lovely Professional University
- C) Indian Institute of Tourism and Travel Management
- D) Banaras Hindu University

55. To support which of the following country's clean water initiatives and community development in schools project, India pledged to support USD 7,00,000 from the India-UN Development Partnership Fund?

- A) Fiji
- B) Samoa
- C) Tuvalu
- D) Vanuatu

56. Which of the following defence manufacturing company has secured a contract worth Rs 165 crore to supply 200 medium-altitude logistics drones to the Indian Army?

- A) Thanos Technologies Pvt. Ltd
- B) Paras Defence and Space Technologies Ltd
- C) Garuda Aerospace Pvt Ltd
- D) Dhaksha Unmanned Systems Pvt. Ltd

57. Which of the following Small Finance Bank (SFB) became India's first bank to offer 24X7 video banking facility for 365 days to its customers?

- A) Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
- B) Suryoday Small Finance Bank
- C) Jana Small Finance Bank
- D) AU Small Finance Bank

58. Which of the following payment bank has launched country's first eco-friendly debit card recently?

- A) Airtel Payment Bank
- B) Fino Payments Bank
- C) India Post Payments Bank
- D) Paytm Payments Bank

59. Which of the following financial institution has launched its subsidiary at the Gujarat International Financial Tec (GIFT) City in Gandhinagar recently?

- A) Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank)
- B) India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd
- C) Industrial Finance Corporation of India
- D) National Bank of Financing Infrastructure and Development

60. To improve digital and financial literacy among the weak and underprivileged segments of society, which

of the following payment company has partnered with CSC Academy?

- A) Razorpay
- B) PayU India
- C) Infibeam
- D) Freecharge

61. Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections for the month of July 2023 was _____.

- A) Rs 1.95 lakh crore
- B) Rs 1.65 lakh crore
- C) Rs 1.15 lakh crore
- D) Rs 1.05 lakh crore

62. Which of the following union ministry has notified the creation of a new visa category, Ayush Visa?

- A) Ministry of Ayush
- B) Ministry of External Affairs
- C) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- D) Ministry of Home Affairs

63. Along with which of the following company Voyager Space has announced a joint venture named Starlab station recently?

- A) Airbus
- B) Boeing
- C) Dhruv
- D) SpaceX

64. Which of the following state is conducting a caste-based survey across the state?

- A) Bihar
- B) Kerala
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Tamil Nadu

65. Which of the following union ministry has formed an expert committee to revisit its regulations on anti-discrimination in higher educational institutions?

- A) Ministry of Culture
- B) Ministry of Education
- C) Ministry of Skill Development
- D) Ministry of Social Justice

66. In which of the following state the first instance of captive breeding of the Himalayan vulture in India has been recorded?

- A) West Bengal
- B) Uttarakhand
- C) Odisha
- D) Assam

67. Along with the US which of the following country has inked the Communication Interoperability and Security Memorandum of Agreement (CIS-MOA) recently?

- A) China
- B) Pakistan
- C) Papua New Guinea
- D) Russia

68. A standard definition for water neutrality for industries has been launched by which of the following institution?

- A) Indian Navy
- B) Ministry of Jal Shakti
- C) NITI Aayog
- D) WAPCOS

69. 'All Rice Price Index' released by which of the following institution stated that the world rice price index jumps to near 12-year high in July?

- A) US Federal Reserve
- B) NITI Aayog
- C) IMF
- D) FAO

70. Who among the following became the second fastest batter to complete 100 sixes in T20 International cricket?

- A) Cameron Green
- B) David Warner
- C) Suryakumar Yadav
- D) Virat Kohli

71. Which of the following state is set to received Geographical Indications (GI) tag for its five traditional artworks including Nathdwara Pichhwai Craft?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Jharkhand
- C) Madhya Pradesh
- D) Rajasthan

72. Which of the following bank is set to raise its stake in Max Life Insurance Company to 16.22% from 9.99%?

- A) Axis Bank
- B) HDFC Bank
- C) ICICI Bank
- D) IndusInd Bank

73. To enhance road safety and mitigate accidents, which of the following defence force has secured a patent for an 'Accident Prevention System based on Artificial Intelligence (AI)' recently?

- A) Border Security Force
- B) Central Reserve Police Force
- C) Indian Army
- D) Indo-Tibetan Border Police

74. P. Jayaram Bhat the former MD & CEO of which of the following Bank has passed away recently?

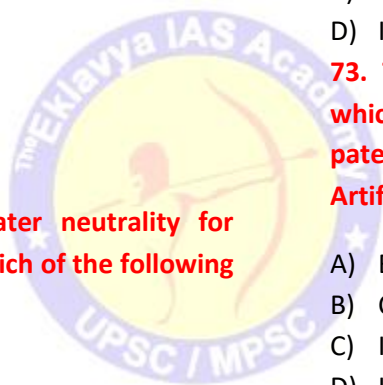
- A) Axis Bank
- B) HDFC Bank
- C) ICICI Bank
- D) Karnataka Bank

75. In a report by a global non-profit the Internet Society, what is the rank of India in internet resilience index?

- A) 06
- B) 03
- C) 02
- D) 01

76. Who among the following inaugurated the 9th India International MSME Expo and Summit 2023 in New Delhi on August 10?

- A) Amit Shah



- B) Arvind Kejriwal
- C) Manoj Sinha
- D) Rajnath Singh

77. Urging the Union Government to change the name of the state in the constitution and all official records which of the following state has passed a resolution?

- A) Assam
- B) Bihar
- C) Himachal Pradesh
- D) Kerala

78. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed to increase the payment limit for UPI Lite in offline mode from Rs 200 to how much?

- A) Rs 700
- B) Rs 500
- C) Rs 1500
- D) Rs 1000

79. Which of the following company was awarded the Tech Startup of the Year (Artificial Intelligence) at the prestigious 13th Annual Entrepreneur India Awards?

- A) Cred
- B) Dream 11
- C) Garuda Aerospace
- D) Jio Haptik

80. An instant premium payment facility through WhatsApp and UPI has been launched by which of the following insurance company?

- A) Tata AIA
- B) ICICI Prudential
- C) HDFC Life Insurance
- D) Bajaj Allianz

81. Under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) how many railway stations will be rejuvenated?

- A) 2,500
- B) 1,309
- C) 508
- D) 303

82. India won how many medals at the World University Games (WUG) 2023?

- A) 35
- B) 33
- C) 23
- D) 26

83. This year which of the following edition of the National Handloom Day was celebrated?

- A) 9th
- B) 8th
- C) 7th
- D) 5th

84. The director general of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is _____.

- A) Antonio Guterres
- B) Ban Ki-moon
- C) Qu Dongyu
- D) Robert Mugabe

85. The Food and Agriculture Organization All Rice Price Index for July rose to how much percent from the June month?

- A) 20%
- B) 10%
- C) 08%
- D) 2.8%

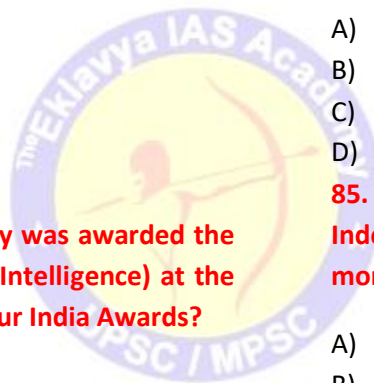
86. The Sinh Suchna Web App has been launched by which of the following state government?

- A) Gujarat
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Karnataka
- D) Andhra Pradesh

87. To support the growth of the startup ecosystem in the country which of the following bank has inked an MoU with the IIITD Innovation and Incubation Centre (IIITD-IC)?

- A) HDFC Bank
- B) ICICI Bank
- C) IndusInd Bank
- D) YES Bank

88. Who among the following was selected to chair an all-women committee constituted by the Supreme



Court of India to oversee the relief rehabilitation and rebuilding measures in Manipur?

- A) Gita Mittal
- B) Kotiswar Singh
- C) Pankaj Mithal
- D) Vinod Chatterji Koul

89. With which of the following indigenously developed Operating System (OS) the Ministry of Defense (MoD) has decided to replace the Microsoft OS in all the computers with internet connectivity?

- A) Bharat OS
- B) Ganga OS
- C) Indira OS
- D) Maya OS

90. Which of the following Public Sector Bank (PSB) achieved the highest percentage growth in profit, with a profit of Rs 1,255 crore against Rs 308 crore in the same quarter of the previous year?

- A) Bank of Baroda
- B) Bank of India
- C) Punjab National Bank
- D) State Bank of India

91. Along with the Protean eGov Technologies which of the following company has collaborated to provide credit services on the ONDC network for borrowers & MSMEs?

- A) Policybazaar
- B) PhonePe
- C) Paytm
- D) PayNearby

92. Under its Ubharte Sitare Programme (USP) which of the following bank gave a funding of Rs.18 crores to Chakr Innovation Pvt Ltd?

- A) Bank of India
- B) Canara Bank
- C) Export-Import Bank of India
- D) Union Bank of India

93. The G20 Film Festival is being held in which of the following city?

- A) Kolkata
- B) Mumbai
- C) New Delhi
- D) Jaipur

94. Who among the following was honoured with the 'Women Icon Award' by the House of Lords, UK Parliament?

- A) Kriti Bharti
- B) Laxmi Agarwal
- C) Medha Patkar
- D) Myra Grover

95. When the International Youth Day was observed?

- A) 11 August
- B) 12 August
- C) 13 August
- D) 14 August

96. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has approved the appointment of which of the following as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Zerodha Fund House?

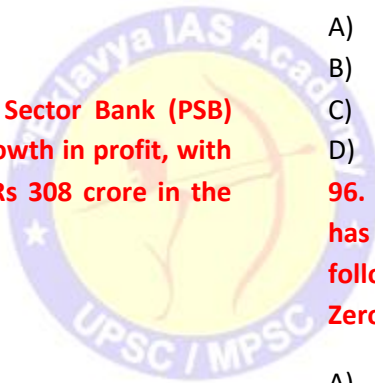
- A) Nikhil Kamath
- B) Seema Patil
- C) Shrikant Pandit
- D) Vishal Jain

97. How many police officers were awarded the Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation, 2023?

- A) 100
- B) 110
- C) 120
- D) 140

98. Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar has been appointed as the 8th Caretaker Prime Minister (PM) of which of the following country?

- A) Bangladesh
- B) Israel
- C) Pakistan
- D) Türkiye



99. The government has appointed who among the following as the Managing Director (MD) of the LIC?

- A) Vinod Kumar Verma
- B) Siddhartha Mohanty
- C) R. Doraiswamy
- D) Anil Kumar

100. When the Partition Horrors Remembrance Day (India) was observed?

- A) 12 August
- B) 13 August
- C) 15 August
- D) 14 August

101. Who among the following was appointed as the new DGP of Haryana?

- A) Ajay Hooda
- B) Ashok Khemka
- C) BS Joshi
- D) Shatrujit Singh Kapoor

102. With how much fund the Union Cabinet has approved the extension of the 'Digital India Scheme'?

- A) Rs 15000 crore
- B) Rs 14,903 crore
- C) Rs 14,503 crore
- D) Rs 14,103 crore

103. Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath and Union Minister Anurag Thakur has inaugurated the Youth 20 Summit in which of the following city?

- A) Varanasi
- B) Patna
- C) Kolkata
- D) Jaipur

104. Which of the following country was recently connected by a High-Speed Optic Fibre cable connection built by Reliance Jio?

- A) Sri Lanka
- B) Maldives

- C) Indonesia
- D) Cambodia

105. Exercise 'Zayed Talwar 2023' was organized by which of the following country?

- A) Iran
- B) Israel
- C) Pakistan
- D) UAE

106. India's first Unmanned Aerial Systems (Drone) Common Testing Centre is set to establish in which of the following state?

- A) Andhra Pradesh
- B) Maharashtra
- C) Odisha
- D) Tamil Nadu

107. To support an integrated project focusing on early childhood development (ECD) and maternal mental health in Meghalaya which organisation has approved a USD 40.5 million loan recently?

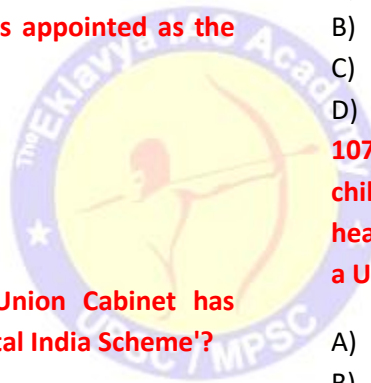
- A) Asian Development Bank
- B) New Development Bank
- C) United Nations Children's Fund
- D) World Health Organization

108. Jeevan Dhara, a special savings bank account for pensioners was launched by which of the following bank?

- A) Bank of Baroda
- B) Bank of India
- C) Canara Bank
- D) Union Bank of India

109. How much percent India's retail inflation rate surged in July, 2023 according to a data released by National Statistical Office (NSO)?

- A) 6.32%
- B) 7.16%
- C) 7.21%
- D) 7.44%



110. Who among the following has been given an additional charge as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA)?

- A) Ajay Kumar
- B) Ashok Dalwai
- C) Chanchal Kumar
- D) Faiz Ahmed Kidwai

111. Navy of which of the following country has received a Dornier maritime surveillance aircraft from India recently?

- A) Sri Lanka
- B) Seychelles
- C) Maldives
- D) Indonesia

112. In collaboration with British Airways Executive Club and Qatar Airways Privilege Club, which of the following bank has launched multi-branded credit card?

- A) YES Bank
- B) IndusInd Bank
- C) ICICI Bank
- D) HDFC Bank

113. To serve the specialised banking requirements of start-ups, which of the following bank has launched 10 start-up cells across the country?

- A) Indian Bank
- B) Canara Bank
- C) Bank of India
- D) Bank of Baroda

114. Who among the following was awarded the first ever 'Udyog Ratna' award instituted by the Maharashtra government?

- A) Ratan Tata
- B) Mukesh Ambani
- C) Gautam Adani
- D) Adar Poonawala

115. Parminder Chopra has been appointed as the first woman full-time Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of which of the following company?

- A) National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited
- B) Power Finance Corporation Limited
- C) Power Grid Corporation of India Limited
- D) Rural Electrification Corporation Limited

116. 'National Carbon Registry' an open-source software to effectively manage national data and processes for trading carbon credits was developed by which of the following organisation?

- A) International Fund for Agricultural Development
- B) United Nations Children's Fund
- C) United Nations Environment Programme
- D) United Nations Development Programme

117. 'iris' mobile banking application was launched by which of the following bank?

- A) YES Bank
- B) ICICI Bank
- C) HDFC Bank
- D) Axis Bank

118. Which of the following company manufactured India's first long-range side swing revolver 'Prabal' with twice the range of other revolvers?

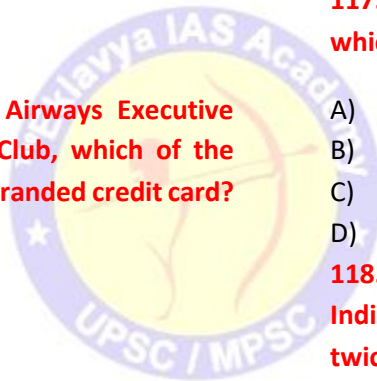
- A) Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd
- B) Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Ltd
- C) Astra Microwave Products Ltd
- D) Amol Steel Pvt Ltd

119. The second Missile Cum Ammunition (MCA) Barge Yard 76 (LSAM 8) was inaugurated in which of the following state?

- A) Andhra Pradesh
- B) Kerala
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Tamil Nadu

120. When the World Photography Day was observed?

- A) 19 August
- B) 18 August
- C) 17 August
- D) 16 August



121. Which of the following is the first bank to launch a Unified Payments Interface (UPI) Interoperable Digital Rupee mobile app?

- A) Axis Bank
- B) Bank of India
- C) Bank of Maharashtra
- D) Canara Bank

122. Which of the following country conducted the 20th ASEAN-India Economic Ministers' Meeting?

- A) Thailand
- B) Malaysia
- C) Indonesia
- D) India

123. President Droupadi Murmu has launched which of the following ship of the Project 17A frigate recently?

- A) Arunagiri
- B) Kailashgiri
- C) Shivgiri
- D) Vindhya giri

124. NTPC Limited has started country's first trial of hydrogen buses in which of the following state/UT recently?

- A) Uttarakhand
- B) Ladakh
- C) Jammu and Kashmir
- D) Himachal Pradesh

125. When the Sadbhavana Diwas was observed?

- A) 17 August
- B) 18 August
- C) 20 August
- D) 21 August

126. Which of the following Insurance company became the first private life insurance company in India to provide 24X7 inbound contact centre?

- A) Max Life Insurance
- B) IndiaFirst Life Insurance
- C) SBI Life Insurance
- D) Exide Life Insurance

127. Who among the following was named as the new brand ambassador of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL)?

- A) Yuvraj Singh
- B) Sunil Gavaskar
- C) Rahul Dravid
- D) K Srikanth

128. Who among the following was appointed as the part-time chairperson of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)?

- A) Satyanarayana
- B) Rajesh Kumar
- C) Neelkanth Mishra
- D) Amit Agrawal

129. A new Earth observation satellite named 'Gaofen-12-04' via Long March-4C carrier rocket was launched by which of the following country?

- A) Russia
- B) Japan
- C) Israel
- D) China

130. When the World Water Week 2023 was observed?

- A) 20 to 24 August
- B) 21 to 25 August
- C) 22 to 26 August
- D) 23 to 27 August

131. To speed up India's sustainable development goals (SDGs) which of the following organisation has inked an MoU with the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MDoNER)?

- A) World Bank
- B) United Nations Development Programme
- C) International Labour Organization
- D) Asian Development Bank

132. The Dholpur-Karauli Tiger Reserve of which of the following state has been approved as 54th Tiger Reserve of India?

- A) Karnataka

- B) Maharashtra
- C) Rajasthan
- D) West Bengal

133. To increase access to housing finance among economically weaker sections (EWS) and low-income groups (LIG) in India, which company has received USD 100 million investment from International Finance Corporation (IFC)?

- A) Gic Housing Finance Ltd
- B) IIFL Home Finance Ltd
- C) India Home Loans Ltd
- D) Indiabulls Housing Ltd

134. Which of the following Insurance company has launched "NIFTY Smallcap Quality Index Fund" in the Unit Linked Insurance Plan (ULIP) segment recently?

- A) Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance
- B) ICICI Prudential Life Insurance
- C) Max Life Insurance
- D) SBI Life Insurance

135. What is the projected Indian economy growth as per ICRA Limited in April-June quarter of the current fiscal year?

- A) 6.1%
- B) 7.5%
- C) 8.0%
- D) 8.5%

136. To review the functioning of DRDO and the country's entire defence R&D ecosystem, defence minister Rajnath Singh has established a 9-member committee of experts headed by _____.

- A) K Vijay Raghavan
- B) Manjul Bhargava
- C) Rajagopala Chidambaram
- D) V. K. Saraswat

137. National Health Authority (NHA) has introduced India's first Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) microsite in which of the following city recently?

- A) Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- B) Aizawl, Mizoram

- C) Bengaluru, Karnataka
- D) New Delhi, Delhi

138. Which of the following company became the Global Partner for ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023?

- A) OPPO
- B) Mastercard
- C) Capital One
- D) BharatPe

139. Along with Marriott International which of the following bank has team up to launch India's first co-branded hotel credit card?

- A) Axis Bank
- B) HDFC Bank
- C) ICICI Bank
- D) YES Bank

140. By which of the following year India's per capita income is set to increase 7.5 times as per the SBI Ecwrap report?

- A) 2028
- B) 2036
- C) 2040
- D) 2047

141. Under the Bhagwan Birsa Munda Jodaraste Scheme how many kilometers of roads are estimated to be constructed?

- A) 10,000 kilometers
- B) 6,838 kilometers
- C) 5,000 kilometers
- D) 2,500 kilometers

142. India and Trinidad and Tobago have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to share which of the following?

- A) India Stack
- B) Military cooperation
- C) Environmental conservation
- D) Economic trade agreements

143. Who among the following was elected as the chair of the 13th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade

Organization (WTO), Abu Dhabi set to be held in February next year?

- A) Thuraiya Hamid Alhashmi
- B) Thani Al Zeyoudi
- C) Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala
- D) None of the above

144. Axis Bank will launch the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) pilot initiative in which of the following states?

- A) Uttar Pradesh
- B) Rajasthan
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Madhya Pradesh

145. Within a span of less than 9 years how many Jan Dhan accounts have been opened?

- A) 50 crore
- B) 40 crore
- C) 25 crore
- D) 10 crore

146. For the export of petroleum products to Bangladesh, along with which of the following company the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has signed an MoU?

- A) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited
- B) Indian Oil Corporation Limited
- C) Jamnagar Refinery Limited
- D) Numaligarh Refinery Limited

147. Which of the following finance company has launched an innovative all-in-one digital financial platform recently?

- A) Aditya Birla Finance Limited
- B) Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited
- C) Muthoot Fincorp Limited
- D) Tata Capital Financial Services Limited

148. Through an open market transaction, Quinag Acquisition (FPI) Ltd offloaded its entire stake in Manappuram Finance Limited for Rs _____.

- A) Rs 1,177 crore
- B) Rs 2,400 crore
- C) Rs 3,490 crore
- D) Rs 5,230 crore

149. Who among the following won the Best Actor award at the 69th National Film Awards (2023)?

- A) Akshay Kumar
- B) Tiger Shroff
- C) Vicky Kaushal
- D) Allu Arjun

150. Who among the following won the Best Actress award at the 69th National Film Awards (2023)?

- A) Kriti Sanon
- B) Alia Bhatt
- C) Kangna Ranaut
- D) Both A and B

ANSWERS

1. Correct Answer: A

India will be hosting the 18th G20 Heads of State and Government Summit in New Delhi on September 9-10. Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated the newly constructed venue of the G20 summit, International Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC) "Bharat Mandapam" at the Pragati Maidan complex, Delhi, which will be held on September 9-10.

2. Correct Answer: B

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), has come up with a life insurance plan, LIC's Jeevan Kiran plan, with effect from July 27, 2023. The plan is non-linked and non-participating.

3. Correct Answer: D

Payments and banking platform for businesses Razorpay has launched a MoneySaver Export Account specifically for small and mid-size exporters. The facility allows exporters to open an account in

any country (out of more than 160 countries) and receive payments locally via the Razorpay platform.

4. Correct Answer: D

State Bank of India's Economic Research Department's report, SBI Ecwrap, said that India is likely to get the tag of the world's third largest economy by 2027 (or FY28). It further said that India should surpass both Japan and Germany in 2027 at the current rate of growth.

5. Correct Answer: C

James Ferguson 'Jim' Skea of the United Kingdom was elected as the new chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) on July 26, 2023, in Nairobi, Kenya. Skea beat his nearest rival, Thelma Krug of Brazil, in a run-off. He won 90 votes while Krug won 69.

6. Correct Answer: C

President Droupadi Murmu has laid the foundation stone for 'Divine Light House' of Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya Bhubaneswar, Odisha and launched its theme of the year 'The Year of Positive Change' for conducting seminars and conferences.

7. Correct Answer: D

Engineering firm RITES said it has signed a pact with the Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) to explore possibilities of collaborating in the railway eco-system and transport infrastructure sector. In a statement, RITES said it will offer consultancy and advisory services and assist in ascertaining the financial & technical viability of projects.

8. Correct Answer: B

Renowned veteran journalist and Asian News International (ANI) founder Prem Prakash was honoured with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award in the national capital, recognizing his outstanding contributions to the field of journalism. The Global Education Mentor Awards program was organized at Ambedkar International Center in Delhi.

9. Correct Answer: A

Future Generali India Life Insurance Co Ltd has announced an alliance with JM Financial Services Limited. The partnership will enable the life insurer to reach a larger customer base of 2.2 lakh and cater to the diverse needs of individuals, corporations and financial institutions, according to a statement.

10. Correct Answer: A

July 29 is celebrated globally as the International Tiger Day in a bid to raise awareness on various issues surrounding tiger conservation. It was first instituted in 2010 at the Tiger Summit in St Petersburg, Russia when the 13 tiger range countries came together to create Tx2, the global goal to double the number of wild tigers by the year 2022.

11. Correct Answer: C

Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL), a subsidiary of ONGC, has become the largest PSU refinery (single location) in India for 2022-23. The company achieved the feat by processing 17.14 million tonnes of crude oil in the last financial year.

12. Correct Answer: C

Mumbai-based Fino Payments Bank's Board approved the proposal for the transition of the Bank into a Small Finance Bank (SFB) license on July 28. In its press release, the payment bank stated that they have also constituted a committee to explore the possibility of group corporate restructuring and evaluate its implications and other considerations.

13. Correct Answer: A

The central government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a USD 200 million loan as additional financing for the ongoing Rajasthan Secondary Towns Development Sector Project. The additional financing will support the Rajasthan government in reducing basic infrastructure gaps in its secondary towns.

14. Correct Answer: C

Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has announced joining is the first member from India to join ATFSG. This is an initiative by Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) for promoting sustainable transition finance for Asian Countries.

15. Correct Answer: C

The Think20 Summit was organised in Mysuru, Karnataka from July 31 to August 2, with Observer Research Foundation as the Think20 Secretariat. During the Summit, Think20 has also released the final Think20 Communique.

16. Correct Answer: C

Paytm has launched two new devices for Indian users. The Paytm Pocket Soundbox can fit in the pocket and is as small as a debit card. This device will offer instant audio payment alerts to merchants who are always on the move. Meanwhile, the Paytm Music Soundbox can also be used as a speaker.

17. Correct Answer: B

Karnataka Bank hosted the first edition of 'KBL - FinOne', a fintech partnership event, in Bengaluru with the objective of forging collaborations to develop innovative business models, providing seamless banking experience and offering a complete product suite.

18. Correct Answer: A

BRICS' New Development Bank (NDB) has elected Thuraiya Hamid Alhashmi, Director of International Financial Relations and Organizations Department at the UAE Ministry of Finance, as a member of its Board of Directors and a Constituency Director. She was appointed following an internal voting process during NDB's 8th Annual Meeting, held recently in Shanghai, China.

19. Correct Answer: C

England pacer Stuart Broad has announced his retirement from cricket recently. Broad announced the decision at the end of the third day of the fifth Ashes Test at the Oval. He reached the milestone of

taking 600 Test wickets during the fourth Test at Old Trafford in Manchester.

20. Correct Answer: D

Honouring the indomitable courage of heroes who scripted historic victory in the Kargil War, Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt released book and illustrations - "Kargil: Ek Yatri Ki Jubani" - authored by renowned writer Shri Rishi Raj, and published by Prabhat Prakashan

21. Correct Answer: D

Fintech firm CRED introduced RuPay credit card-based Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments for its members, in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). The launch of credit-on-UPI will empower CRED's members to utilise their RuPay credit cards for making payments via UPI.

22. Correct Answer: D

Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has 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.

23. Correct Answer: C

Shivendra Nath is set to be next Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of Engineering Projects (India) Ltd. Presently, Nath is serving as Senior General Manager in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), a PSU under the Department of Telecommunications.

24. Correct Answer: B

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.

25. Correct Answer: B

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has launched the Statewide membership card of Kerala Startup Mission's (KSUM) 'LEAP (Launch, Empower, Accelerate, Prosper) Coworks' and also inaugurated the refurbished headquarters of the KSUM at the Thejaswini Building in Technopark Phase 1.

26. Correct Answer: B

Road accidents claim around 1.5 million lives in India every year, contributing 11 per cent to the total number of such fatalities globally, according to a Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) -EY's report. Globally, at least one life is lost every 24 seconds due to road traffic injury, said the report.

27. Correct Answer: A

Kiwi, a fintech that enables credit on UPI, has partnered with Axis Bank to offer a lifetime free Axis Bank KWIK credit card through its app. Users can make payments from the Kiwi app using their credit cards at merchant outlets that accept digital payments only via UPI QR code.

28. Correct Answer: C

The Karnataka government and US-based International Battery Company (IBC) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to set up a recyclable Lithium-ion battery manufacturing unit at an outlay of Rs 8,000 crores (USD 1 BN) in the state. The company will establish the unit on a 100-acre parcel of land in the Bengaluru Rural district.

29. Correct Answer: A

The Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) has handed over the first Radio Frequency (RF) Seeker of Akash – the Next Generation Weapon System produced at its newly commissioned state-of-the-art Seeker Facility

Centre (SFC) to the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO).

30. Correct Answer: C

World Wide Web Day is celebrated on August 1 every year. The day is observed to commemorate the World Wide Web (www) and its impact on the world.

31. Correct Answer: A

Elon Musk owned Twitter launched its new logo 'X' recently, in a major rebrand initiative, which replaced the iconic blue bird symbol. Amid the changes introduced to Twitter since Musk took over it last year, he changed its business name to X Corp.

32. Correct Answer: A

Bangladesh's top court has ordered Nobel laureate and microfinance pioneer Muhammad Yunus to pay more than \$1 million in taxes on a \$7 million donation made to three charitable trusts. Yunus, 83, is credited with lifting millions out of poverty with his pioneering micro-credit bank.

33. Correct Answer: D

UAE Minister for Foreign Trade Dr Thani Al Zeyoudi has been elected as the chair of the World Trade Organisation's 13th Ministerial Conference that will be held in Abu Dhabi in February 2024. The announcement was made during the WTO General Council in Geneva.

34. Correct Answer: B

Karman Kaur Thandi showcased her tennis prowess by winning the singles title at the esteemed ITF W60 Evansville tournament in the USA. This achievement makes her the second Indian woman, after Sania Mirza, to secure a professional title in the USA.

35. Correct Answer: D

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has passed the draft guidelines for Institutional Development Plan for Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). The UGC has developed guidelines for individual HEIs to develop their own Institutional Development Plans

to further the aims set out in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

36. Correct Answer: A

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu inaugurated 'Unmesha' – International Literature Festival and 'Utkarsh' – Festival of Folk and Tribal Performing Arts on August 3, 2023 at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. This was the second edition of 'Unmesha'. The first event was held in Shimla in June 2022.

37. Correct Answer: B

IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company Limited (IndiaFirst Life), unveiled a new product -- IndiaFirst Life Guarantee of Life Dreams (G.O.L.D.) plan. The non-linked, non-participating, individual life insurance plan is designed to provide policyholders with a regular long-term income option, IndiaFirst Life said.

38. Correct Answer: C

IndusInd Bank and Tiger Fintech - a Bajaj Capital Group company, has announced the launch of the IndusInd Bank Tiger Credit Card, a co-branded credit card powered by Visa. With this launch, customers will get access to best-in-class credit card to meet their lifestyle needs, IndusInd Bank said in a statement.

39. Correct Answer: D

The Indian economy is expected to grow at an average rate of 6.7 per cent between fiscal 2023-24 (FY24) to fiscal 2030-2031 (FY31), said S&P Global. India's gross domestic product (GDP) is likely to rise to \$6.7 trillion to FY31 from \$3.4 trillion in FY23, said S&P Global in its August volume report titled "Look Forward, India Moment".

40. Correct Answer: A

Financial services company Societe Generale has bought shares of private lender Bandhan Bank for Rs 382 crore through open market transactions. Societe Generale purchased 85.51 lakh shares on the BSE and 89.23 lakh shares on the NSE.

41. Correct Answer: C

The National Health Authority (NHA) has announced extension of its Digital Health Incentives Scheme (DHIS) under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) till 31st December 2023. The DHIS was launched with effect from 1st January, 2023 as part of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.

42. Correct Answer: B

NABARD has sanctioned Rs 1,974.07 crore to the Rajasthan government under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for 2023-24. NABARD Rajasthan Chief General Manager Dr Rajiv Siwach said Rs 930.44 crore has been sanctioned for three rural drinking water supply projects in Ajmer, Jalore, and Kota districts.

43. Correct Answer: D

In a first, Oil And Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) said it has inked a term contract with public sector unit Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) for the sale of its crude oil produced from Mumbai region. This is the first contract after the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas granted marketing and pricing freedom for domestically produced crude oil, replacing the previous allocation mechanism.

44. Correct Answer: A

Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla was given another one-year extension recently, his fourth in the post, till August 22, 2024, according to a Personnel Ministry order. Mr. Bhalla, a 1984-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre, was appointed Home Secretary in August 2019.

45. Correct Answer: D

Gautam Adani-owned Ambuja Cements has announced the acquisition of a majority stake in Sanghi Industries at an enterprise value of Rs 5,000 crore. Ambuja Cements, a part of Adani Cement Ltd (ACL), will buy a 56.74 per cent stake in Sanghi

Industries Ltd (SIL) from its existing promoter group - Ravi Sanghi & family.

46. Correct Answer: C

India has handed over ₹450 million in advance to Sri Lanka to fund its Sri Lanka Unique Digital Identity (SL-UDI) project. The implementation of the project would lead to more effective and efficient delivery of government services, poverty reduction and welfare programs.

47. Correct Answer: D

Union Home Minister Amit Shah has launched the digital portal of the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies (CRCS) office in Pune. Under the initiative, the office of the Central Registrar will introduce more computer-based operations in order to promote ease of doing business in the cooperative sector.

48. Correct Answer: C

‘Trainers of Trainer’ programme for women, organised by Kerala’s RT Mission in collaboration with UN Women as part of ‘Women-Friendly Tourism’ initiative launched by the State government to turn the vital sector gender inclusive. ‘Trainers of Trainer’ a two-day orientation programme for women at Kumarakom held in collaboration with UN Women focused on a wide range of tourism activities in which women can play a central role.

49. Correct Answer: D

The Ministry of Railways and the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) signed an MoU to establish the India 5G testbed at the Indian Railway Institute of Signal Engineering and Telecommunications (IRISET) in Secunderabad, Telangana; the facility would be dedicated to the testing and development of 5G use cases for Indian Railways.

50. Correct Answer: C

The unemployment rate in India declined in July driven by increased demand for agricultural labour in

rural areas. Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) data showed that the total joblessness rate in India fell to 7.95 per cent in July, from 8.45 per cent in June.

51. Correct Answer: A

The Union Cabinet has approved a last-mile broadband connectivity plan for 6.4 lakh villages across the country under the BharatNet project with an outlay of Rs 1.39 lakh crore. The last-mile connectivity will be provided by Bharat Broadband Network Limited (BBNL), an arm of state-owned BSNL, in partnership with village level entrepreneur (VLE).

52. Correct Answer: B

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) said it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with 35 institutions for fostering collaboration in standardisation and conformity assessment. The National Standards Body will also explore setting up of Centre of Excellence for Standardisation in partnership with these institutions.

53. Correct Answer: B

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, presided over the 9th National Handloom Day celebrations at Bharat Mandapam, Pragati Maidan, Delhi and launched the e-portal ‘Bhartiya Vastra evam Shilpa Kosh - A Repository of Textiles & Crafts’ developed by the National Institute of Fashion Technology.

54. Correct Answer: A

The United Services Institution of India (USI), the country’s oldest and prestigious National Security and Defence Services think tank, in collaboration with CSC-e-Governance and Power Conversion Technologies (PCTI), will facilitate the exploration, development, and provision of guided tours for military heritage tourism in the country.

55. Correct Answer: C

India will be providing support worth 700,000 USD from the India-UN Development Partnership Fund to

the project in Tuvalu to store and provide clean water in school, India's Permanent Mission to the UN said in a statement. Notably, 'Motufoua Secondary School' is Tuvalu's only public school.

56. Correct Answer: D

Dhaksha Unmanned Systems, a subsidiary of Coromandel International and a leading Indian drone manufacturer, has secured a contract worth Rs 165 crore to supply 200 medium altitude logistics drones, along with their accessories, to the Indian Army. Recently, Dhaksha also secured a contract from agricultural inputs cooperative Iffco to supply 400 agri-spraying drones.

57. Correct Answer: D

Jaipur headquartered AU Small Finance Bank (SFB), claims to be the first bank in India to offer 24x7 for 365 days video banking facility to all its customers. In the release, AU SFB said that their customers could use more than 400 plus services through the 24x7 video banking feature.

58. Correct Answer: A

Airtel Payments Bank has become the first Indian bank to launch an eco-friendly debit card for its new and existing customers with a savings bank account. The debit cards will come in r-PVC material, a certified eco-friendly material.

59. Correct Answer: A

Exim Bank said it has launched subsidiary Exim Finserve at the Gujarat International Financial Tec (GIFT) City to offer a comprehensive range of trade finance products to Indian exporters. Exim Finserve, or India Exim Finserve IFSC Private Limited, will extend a range of trade finance products to Indian exporters, with a primary focus on export factoring.

60. Correct Answer: B

A joint initiative to improve digital and financial literacy among the weak and underprivileged segments of society, particularly SC-ST, BPL, and women, has been launched by PayU India, a leading

online payment service provider in the country, and CSC Academy, under the Ministry of Electronics & IT.

61. Correct Answer: B

The government collected Rs 1.65 lakh crore from Goods and Services Tax (GST) in July 2023, an 11 per cent year-on-year growth, according to figures released by the Ministry of Finance. This is also the fifth time when monthly GST collection crossed the mark of Rs 1.60 lakh crore since its inception.

62. Correct Answer: D

The Ministry of Home Affairs has notified the creation of a new visa category, Ayush Visa, for foreign nationals, who are keen to visit the country for medical treatment including therapeutic care, wellness and yoga in India. The introduction of this special visa will meet the purpose of introducing a special visa scheme for foreigners visiting India for treatment across different streams.

63. Correct Answer: A

Voyager Space and Airbus Defence and Space are expanding their existing relationship via a new joint venture focused on the design, build and operation of the Starlab commercial space station. The two companies announced they will be partnering on Voyager's Starlab space station in January.

64. Correct Answer: A

Bihar's caste-based survey resumed on August 2, a day after the Patna High Court allowed the State government to continue with it. The first phase of the survey, which involved a house listing exercise, was carried out from January 7 to January 12.

65. Correct Answer: B

The Union Education Ministry has now constituted an expert committee to revisit its regulations and guidelines on anti-discrimination with respect to the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Other Backward Classes, Persons with Disabilities, and other minorities in higher educational institutions, the government told.

66. Correct Answer: D

Researchers have recorded the first instance of captive breeding of the Himalayan vulture (*Gyps himalayensis*) in India at the Assam State Zoo, Guwahati. Categorized as 'Near Threatened' on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of threatened species, the Himalayan vulture is a common winter migrant to the Indian plains, and a resident of the high Himalayas.

67. Correct Answer: B

Pakistan's Cabinet has quietly approved the signing of a new security pact with the US, a move that indicates a fresh start in defence cooperation after years of distrust between the two nations. Through a circulation summary, the Cabinet gave its seal of approval to sign the Communication Interoperability and Security Memorandum of Agreement (CIS-MOA) between Pakistan and the US

68. Correct Answer: C

The government's think-tank NITI Aayog has laid out a standard definition and approach of water neutrality for industries. In its report, the Aayog has estimated that practicing water neutrality standards could lead to a total savings of 38.23 BCM (billion cubic metre) of water over the next 10 years till 2032.

69. Correct Answer: D

The United Nations food agency's rice price index rose 2.8% in July from a month ago to their highest level in nearly 12 years as India's move to curb the exports, the agency said. The Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) All Rice Price Index, which tracks prices in key exporting countries, averaged 129.7 points in July against 126.2 points for the previous month, the agency said.

70. Correct Answer: C

World No.1 T20I batter Suryakumar Yadav completed 100 sixes during the third T20I between India and West Indies at the Providence Stadium in Guyana. Suryakumar reached the mark in his 49th

innings, making him the second quickest after Evin Lewis (42) to the milestone.

71. Correct Answer: D

Geographical Indications (GI) tag approved for five traditional artworks of Rajasthan viz. Jodhpur Bandhej work, Koftagiri Metal Craft of Udaipur, Nathdwara Pichhwai craft of Rajsamand, Bikaner Usta Kala, Hand embroidery art of Bikaner. Dr. Rajiv Siwach, Chief General Manager shared that the project for GI registration of five products is supported by NABARD to preserve the intactness of disappearing artworks.

72. Correct Answer: A

Axis Bank said it will raise its stake in insurer Max Life to 16.2% from 9.99% by infusing ₹16.12 billion (\$194.6 million) through a preferential allotment of shares. Axis Bank, along with its entities, acquired a 12.99% stake in Max Life in 2021, and through this new investment they will own 19.02% in the insurer.

73. Correct Answer: C

The Indian Army has secured a patent for an artificial intelligence (AI)-driven accident prevention system. Developed within the Army's research and development (R&D) division, this system is poised to enhance road safety and mitigate accidents.

74. Correct Answer: D

Former Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Karnataka Bank P. Jayaram Bhat passed away recently. He was 71. Bhat took charge as managing director and chief executive officer of the Bank on July 14, 2009.

75. Correct Answer: A

India achieved an overall score of 43 per cent and is ranked sixth in South Asia behind Bhutan (58 per cent), Bangladesh (51 per cent), Maldives (50 per cent), Sri Lanka (47 per cent) and Nepal (43 per cent), the report said. However, the country is ranked ahead of Pakistan.

76. Correct Answer: C

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on August 10 inaugurated the 9th India International MSME Expo and Summit 2023 in New Delhi. The Lt Governor also invited the industry leaders and the potential investors to invest in Jammu & Kashmir.

77. Correct Answer: D

The Kerala Assembly has unanimously passed a resolution urging the Union Government to rename the state as "Keralam" in the Constitution and all official records. The resolution, moved by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, was passed unanimously without any amendment.

78. Correct Answer: B

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) proposed on August 10 to increase the transaction limit of UPI Lite. The RBI proposed to increase the per transaction payment limit for UPI Lite in offline mode from Rs 200 to Rs 500, in a bid to bring more convenience to users and deepen the reach of digital payments in the country.

79. Correct Answer: D

Jio Haptik has been honored with the Tech Startup of the Year (Artificial Intelligence) award at the prestigious 13th Annual Entrepreneur India Awards. Swapan Rajdev, Haptik's co-founder & CTO, received the award.

80. Correct Answer: A

To reinforce its value of 'Consumer Obsession', Tata AIA Life Insurance (Tata AIA) has introduced digital payments via WhatsApp and Unified Payment Interfaces (UPI). This industry-first feature provides an instant premium payment facility through WhatsApp and UPI-enabled payment options.

81. Correct Answer: C

In a historic move, Prime Minister, Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone for the redevelopment of 508 Railway Stations across the country via video conferencing. Redeveloped at a cost of more than Rs

24,470 crores, these 508 stations are spread across 27 states and union territories

82. Correct Answer: D

India ended their World University Games (WUG) campaign with their best-ever performance, winning a record haul of 26 medals, including 11 gold. This time, India had sent 256 athletes in the WUG.

83. Correct Answer: A

National Handloom Day is observed across India on August 7 every year. The primary goal of celebrating Handloom Day is to promote the handloom and to recognise the efforts as well as skills of the community of weavers engaged in the sector. This year, the 9th National Handloom Day was celebrated.

84. Correct Answer: C

QU Dongyu of China, who was first elected in June 2019, is the director general of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). FAO chiefs can serve only two consecutive four-year terms.

85. Correct Answer: D

Rice prices surged to their highest in almost 12 years on the back of India's rice export ban and adverse weather conditions that could impact production, said the United Nations' food agency. The Food and Agriculture Organization All Rice Price Index for July rose by 2.8% to 129.7 points.

86. Correct Answer: A

On the occasion of, World Lion Day, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel virtually unveiled the 'Sinh Suchna' Web App. Addressing the occasion, CM said the conservation of Asiatic lions in the state is one of top priorities of his government.

87. Correct Answer: D

Catapulting its endeavour to foster the growth of the startup ecosystem in the country, IIITD Innovation and Incubation Centre (IIITD-IC) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with YES

Bank. This partnership will enable IIITD-IC to strengthen its mentoring initiatives for startups, gain access to experts across the industry.

88. Correct Answer: A

The Supreme Court announced on 07 August a three-member Committee comprising of former women High Court Judges and 42 Special Investigation Teams in relation to the Manipur violence cases. The Committee will be headed by former Jammu and Kashmir High Court Chief Justice Gita Mittal and comprise former Bombay High Court Judge Shalini Phansalkar Joshi and (former Delhi HC judge) Justice Asha Menon.

89. Correct Answer: D

The Defence Ministry has decided to replace the Microsoft Operating System (OS) in all computers connected to the Internet with a new OS, Maya, based on open-source Ubuntu developed locally. The OS was reportedly developed by government agencies over a period of six months in response to rising cybersecurity threats.

90. Correct Answer: C

Public sector banks (PSBs) have once again posted stellar performance by registering more than double profit of Rs 34,774 crore for the first quarter ended June 2023. The highest percentage growth was recorded by Punjab National Bank, which earned a profit of Rs 1,255 crore against Rs 308 crore in the same quarter of the previous year, a growth of 307 per cent.

91. Correct Answer: D

Protean eGov Technologies and fintech platform PayNearby have collaborated for providing credit services on the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) network for last-mile borrowers and MSMEs. Once launched, the marketplace will also allow for easy discovery of various lending products at affordable pricing, according to a statement.

92. Correct Answer: C

Chakr Innovation has secured substantial funding of INR 18 crores from the Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank). The funds were sanctioned under EXIM Bank's Ubharte Sitare Programme (USP), reflecting the institution's commitment to fostering domestic growth and addressing international demands.

93. Correct Answer: C

The first G20 film festival, presented by the Ministry of External Affairs and India International Centre (IIC), kicked off in New Delhi on 16 August with the screening of the 1955 Indian classic – Satyajit Ray's Pather Panchali. The 17-day festival will be ongoing till September 3.

94. Correct Answer: D

Myra Grover, author and secretary of the New Delhi Social Workers Association (NDSWA), has been awarded with the esteemed 'Women Icon Award' as author on Mental Wellness by the House of Lords, UK Parliament. Myra Grover, who received the award, expressed her gratitude and stated that the recognition was a testament to diligent hardwork, discipline, and dedication.

95. Correct Answer: B

Every year, on the 12th of August, the global community comes together to celebrate International Youth Day. This annual occasion serves as a dedicated day of awareness and action, recognized by the United Nations (UN), to address pertinent issues affecting the world's youth population.

96. Correct Answer: D

Zerodha has received the final approval from Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to set up an asset management company (AMC), the discount broker's founder Nithin Kamath announced on August 11, adding that industry veteran Vishal Jain will head its operations as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

97. Correct Answer: D

140 police officers, including 15 from the CBI, 12 from the NIA and 10 from Uttar Pradesh, were selected for this year's Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation, the Union Home Ministry announced. The awardees include 22 women officers, according to an official statement.

98. Correct Answer: C

Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar was sworn in as the new interim Prime Minister of Pakistan on August 14. His appointment came after the dissolution of Pakistan's Parliament on August 9 – three days before the legislative body would have completed its five-year tenure. Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and opposition leader Raja Riaz agreed to name Senator Kakar as the caretaker Prime Minister.

99. Correct Answer: C

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) said the government had appointed R. Doraiswamy as the managing director. The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB), the headhunter for directors of state-owned banks and financial institutions, had in June recommended the name of Mr. Doraiswamy as MD.

100. Correct Answer: D

Partition Horrors Remembrance Day is an annual national memorial day, observed on August 14 each year in order to commemorate the victims and sufferings of people during the 1947 partition of India. The day was first observed in 2021, after it was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

101. Correct Answer: D

Director General of Haryana Anti-Corruption Bureau Shatrujeet Kapur has been appointed as the new director general of police in the northern state. Kapur has been appointed for a minimum period of at least two years as per a Supreme Court judgment.

102. Correct Answer: B

The Union Cabinet has approved an extension of the government's flagship Digital India scheme with an

outlay of Rs 14,903 crore for five years, starting FY2021-22 to FY2025-26. Cybersecurity has been kept as a big focus of the expansion, which includes enhancing the capabilities of the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In).

103. Correct Answer: A

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Thakur, and MoS for Youth Affairs and Sports Nisith Pramanik, inaugurated the Youth20 (Y20) Summit on August 18 in Varanasi. This Summit aims to provide opportunities for collaboration and networking with other stakeholders, contribute to the development of young people, and discuss the Youth agenda on a global platform.

104. Correct Answer: B

Indian telecommunications major, Reliance Jio has completed the work related to connecting Maldives with a High Speed Optic Fibre cable. The 22.5 million dollar project has been executed in a little over one year since signing of the agreement in February last year with Ocean Connectivity Maldives.

105. Correct Answer: D

Two Indian Navy ships, INS Visakhapatnam and INS Trikand has conducted a bilateral naval maritime partnership exercise with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Navy under the bilateral exercise named 'Zayed Talwar'. Earlier, the two ships arrived at Dubai's Port Rashid on August 8, 2023, to participate in exercise 'Zayed Talwar' with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Navy.

106. Correct Answer: D

India's first Unmanned Aerial Systems (Drone) Common Testing Centre under Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS) will be established in Tamil Nadu. According to a communication issued by the State government, this centre would be established over an area of about 2.3 acres at the

SIPCOT Industrial Park, Vallam Vadagal near Sriperumbudur.

107. Correct Answer: A

Asian Development Bank (ADB) said it has approved a USD 40.5-million loan for integrated early childhood development (ECD) and maternal mental health programme in Meghalaya. The state government is contributing USD 15.27 million to the project, the multilateral funding agency said in a statement.

108. Correct Answer: C

Canara Bank has introduced Canara Jeevan Dhara, a special savings bank account for pensioners, and prospective pensioners. All the employees who retired on a voluntary basis or normal retirements are also eligible.

109. Correct Answer: D

India's retail inflation rate surged to a 15-month high of 7.44 per cent in July 2023, primarily driven by a rise in prices of vegetables, cereals, pulses, spices and milk and products, data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) showed. The inflation print had last breached the 7 per cent mark in September 2022.

110. Correct Answer: D

The Union ministry of Personnel has announced the appointment of Madhya Pradesh cadre IAS officer Faiz Ahmed Kidwai as Chief Executive Officer (CEO), National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA). The new role for Kidwai will be in addition to his current role as additional secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

111. Correct Answer: A

India has handed over a Dornier aircraft to Sri Lanka in the presence of President Ranil Wickremesinghe, reaffirming its security ties with the island nation. Vice-Admiral S.N. Ghormade and High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, Gopal Baglay, were in

attendance at the handing-over event held on Indian Independence Day.

112. Correct Answer: B

IndusInd Bank said it has launched a first-of-its-kind multi-branded credit card -- 'IndusInd Bank Avios Visa Infinite Credit Card' -- for all customers, in partnership with British Airways Executive Club and Qatar Airways Privilege Club. This credit card aims to offer best-in-class rewards to customers, across travel, wellness, and lifestyle segments, IndusInd Bank said in a statement.

113. Correct Answer: A

Public sector Indian Bank said it has set up 10 startup cells across different centres in the country to serve its specialised banking requirements. Accordingly, the startup cells have been set up in Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Coimbatore, Chennai, New Delhi, Gurgaon, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Kanpur and Mumbai.

114. Correct Answer: A

Eminent industrialist Ratan Tata has been conferred with the first ever 'Udyog Ratna' award instituted by the Maharashtra government. The award was presented to the 85-year-old chairman emeritus of Tata Sons by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Ministers Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar at the industrialist's home in Colaba in south Mumbai.

115. Correct Answer: B

Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC) appointed Parminder Chopra as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD), with effect from August 14, 2023 becoming the first woman to lead the company. Previously, she was holding the additional charge of Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) since June 1, 2023 and was Director (Finance), PFC since July 1, 2020.

116. Correct Answer: D

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has developed an open-source software which allows countries to effectively manage national data and processes for trading carbon credits. The software, called the National Carbon Registry, has recently been accredited as a digital public good (DPG).

117. Correct Answer: A

Private lender YES Bank on August 17 introduced its state-of-the-art mobile banking app 'iris'. Designed to cater to both existing and new customers, the app offers access over 100 features and services in just a few clicks on a single platform, the bank said in a regulatory filing.

118. Correct Answer: B

The country's first long-range side swing revolver, 'Prabal' with "twice the range of other revolvers" was recently launched for civilians and arms dealers. Manufactured by the state-owned enterprise Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Ltd (AWEIL) based in Kanpur, the Prabal revolver boasts of a firing range of up to 50 metres.

119. Correct Answer: A

Second Missile Cum Ammunition (MCA) Barge, Yard 76 (LSAM 8) was launched by Commodore G Ravi, Warship Production Superintendent (Visakhapatnam), ministry of defence said. The Ammunition Barge was launched at Guttenadeevi, East Godavari, Andhra Pradesh.

120. Correct Answer: A

World Photography Day is observed every year on August 19. In 1837, two Frenchmen named Joseph Nicéphore Niépce and Louis Daguerre invented the first-ever photographic process, also called Daguerreotype. The day is dedicated to celebrating the art of clicking pictures.

121. Correct Answer: D

Canara Bank has launched UPI Interoperable Digital Rupee mobile application as a part of the Reserve

Bank of India's Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) pilot project. Canara Bank is the first Bank among public and private sector banks to introduce this feature in Bank's CBDC mobile app called 'Canara Digital Rupee app'.

122. Correct Answer: C

India and ASEAN underscored their commitment to strengthen and enhance ties between the two sides during the economic ministers' meeting in Indonesia's Semarang. Rajesh Agrawal, Additional Secretary at the Department of Commerce in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry represented India in the 20th ASEAN-India Economic Ministers' meeting and co-chaired the meeting with Dr Zulkifli Hasan, Minister of Trade, Indonesia.

123. Correct Answer: D

President Droupadi Murmu has launched Vindhyagiri, a Project 17A frigate, at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited, Kolkata. Named after a mountain range in Karnataka, Vindhyagiri is the sixth ship of the Project 17A frigates.

124. Correct Answer: B

In a first, state-run power generator NTPC has started a three-month long trial run for hydrogen-fired buses in Leh as part of its efforts towards achieving a carbon-neutral Ladakh. This project would be the first deployment of fuel cell Electric Vehicles (EVs) for public use in India.

125. Correct Answer: C

20 August 2023, marks the 79th birth anniversary of India's Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. This day is observed as 'Sadbhavana Diwas' or 'Harmony Day' with the objective to encourage national integration, peace, affection, and communal harmony among the Indian people of all religions.

126. Correct Answer: C

SBI Life Insurance launched its dedicated 24x7 inbound contact centre to address before and after purchase queries related to comprehensive

insurance solutions provided by the company. SBI Life, thus, becomes the first private life insurance company in the country to have such an extensive customer care support.

127. Correct Answer: C

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), an Indian Oil Marketing Company has announced the current head coach of the Indian cricket team, Rahul Dravid as its new brand ambassador. As per the company, Rahul Dravid will endorse BPCL's Pure for Sure initiative and range of MAK lubricants.

128. Correct Answer: C

Neelkanth Mishra, Chief Economist at Axis Bank and Head of Global Research at Axis Capital, has been appointed as part-time chairperson of Aadhaar-issuing body Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). The chairperson and the members appointed under the Aadhaar Act hold office for a term of three years or up to the age of sixty-five years, whichever is earlier.

129. Correct Answer: D

China successfully launched a Long March 4C from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre, China at 1745 GMT on 20 August. The vehicle was carrying Gaofen 12-04, a remote sensing Earth observation satellite which will be used for land surveys, road planning, crop yield estimation and disaster relief.

130. Correct Answer: A

World Water Week is a global event which is organised by the Stockholm International Water Institute every year since 1991. The programme was held from August 20 to 24 at the Waterfront Congress Center. It is a non-profit event which aims to develop solutions for the international water crisis (alongside several other problems).

131. Correct Answer: B

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has committed to provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Development of North

Eastern Region (MDoNER) to speed up India's sustainable development goals (SDGs). In this MoU, the UNDP has committed to providing technical assistance to MDoNER in several important areas.

132. Correct Answer: C

The Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change has accorded the final approval to Rajasthan's fifth Tiger Reserve in Dholpur-Karauli. It is the country's 53rd tiger reserve. The ministry also gave in-principle approval to declare Kumbhalgarh as a tiger reserve in Rajasthan.

133. Correct Answer: B

IIFL Home Finance Ltd (IIFL HFL) has secured a debt-funding of up to USD 100 million from International Finance Corporation, a joint statement said. The debt-funding will help IIFL HFL increase home finance to the economically weaker sections (EWS) and low-income groups (LIG), including women borrowers.

134. Correct Answer: C

Max Life Insurance Company Ltd. (Max Life) has launched the 'NIFTY Smallcap Quality Index Fund' in the Unit Linked Insurance Plan (ULIP) segment. This first Smallcap Index Fund of the Life Insurance industry is based on the NIFTY Smallcap 250 Quality 50 Index that has delivered a 22% 10-year CAGR +.

135. Correct Answer: D

India's economic growth will accelerate to 8.5 per cent in the April-June period of the current fiscal from the 6.1 per cent growth rate witnessed in the preceding January-March quarter, ICRA Ratings said in a report. The rating agency attributed the faster growth to a supportive base and also a recovery in the services sector.

136. Correct Answer: A

An expert nine-member committee to review the functioning of DRDO and the country's entire defence R&D ecosystem has been constituted by defence minister Rajnath Singh. The committee is

headed by former principal scientific advisor to the government Prof K Vijay Raghavan and includes some top retired military officers and scientists.

137. Correct Answer: B

Mizoram became the pioneer state in India to activate an ABDM Microsite in its capital city, Aizawl. The 100 Microsites initiative was introduced by the National Health Authority (NHA), aimed to speed up the implementation of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) nationwide.

138. Correct Answer: B

Digital payments company Mastercard has signed up as one of International Cricket Council's (ICC) top-tier sponsors for the 2023 World Cup in India, which will be held between October 5 and November 19. With this, Mastercard joins ICC's other global partners MRF Tyres, Booking.com, Aramco and Emirates.

139. Correct Answer: B

HDFC Bank has joined hands with Marriott Bonvoy, Marriott International's award-winning travel programme, to launch the 'Marriott Bonvoy HDFC Bank Credit Card', India's first co-branded hotel credit card. The co-branded credit card will run on Diners Club, part of the Discover Global Network and aims to be one of the most rewarding travel cards in India.

140. Correct Answer: D

India's per capita income is set to increase 7.5 times to Rs 14.9 lakh (\$12,400) per annum by FY47 from Rs 2 lakh (\$2,500) in FY23, according to the latest study published by SBI Research economists. The government has set a target of FY47 to become a developed economy.

141. Correct Answer: B

The state cabinet has decided to implement the Bhagwan Birsa Munda Jodaraste Scheme in Maharashtra to connect all tribal villages in 17 districts of the state with main roads. The project is

estimated to cost Rs 5,000 crore and nearly 6,838 km of roads will be constructed as part of the scheme.

142. Correct Answer: A

India and Trinidad and Tobago have recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for sharing India Stack — a collection of open APIs and digital public goods that aim to facilitate identity, data, and payment services on a massive scale.

143. Correct Answer: B

UAE Minister for Foreign Trade Dr Thani Al Zeyoudi has been elected as the chair of the World Trade Organisation's 13th Ministerial Conference that will be held in Abu Dhabi in February 2024. The conference will be attended by representatives from the 164 countries and customs blocs that make up the WTO.

144. Correct Answer: D

Days after the RBI announced a Pilot for Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit (PTPFC), Axis Bank Ltd. has announced the introduction of two lending products--Kisan Credit Card (KCC) and unsecured MSME loans--to small business customers which will be processed through this platform. As a pilot, Kisan Credit Cards will be offered in Madhya Pradesh and will be available to customers for upto Rs 1.6 lakh to start with.

145. Correct Answer: A

More than 50 crore accounts have been opened under the PM Jan Dhan Yojana in the last nine years and the deposit balance swelled to over Rs 2.03 trillion, the Finance Ministry said. The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) was launched on August 28, 2014.

146. Correct Answer: D

The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has signed a MoU with the Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) to use National Waterways-2 (Brahmaputra) and Indo Bangladesh Protocol Route (IBPR) for export of petroleum products to Bangladesh and

other south east Asian countries. The MoU is aimed at powering PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan to boost India's Act East Policy.

147. Correct Answer: C

Muthoot Fincorp Ltd. (MFL), the flagship company of Muthoot Pappachan Group (Muthoot Blue), launched Muthoot FinCorp ONE, a digital platform, to provide lending, investments, protection, and payments at the tap of an app. Furthermore, Muthoot Fincorp ONE offers investment products like Digital Gold and NCDs.

148. Correct Answer: A

Foreign fund house Quinag Acquisition has offloaded its entire stake in Manappuram Finance for Rs 1,177 crore through an open market transaction. According to the bulk deal data available with the

BSE, Quinag Acquisition (FPI) disposed of 8,37,85,880 shares amounting to a 9.90 per cent stake in Manappuram Finance.

149. Correct Answer: D

Allu Arjun bagged the National Film Award 2023 in the Best Actor category for his performance in 'Pushpa: The Rise'. He has also become the first Telugu actor to win a National Award in this category.

150. Correct Answer: D

Alia Bhatt and Kriti Sanon shared the award for Best Actress for the films Gangubai Kathiawadi and Mimi respectively. National Film Awards are the most prestigious awards, which are announced annually to honour the best filmmaking talent across the country.



SECTION 3

Detailed Analysis of Important Events



Economics

Law passed allowing Auction, Mining of Lithium Reserves



Lithium and five other minerals can now be mined commercially thanks to changes to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act that were approved by the Union Cabinet. By allowing private sector involvement, this action aims to increase the discovery and extraction of these precious resources from recently discovered mines.

Mining of Critical Minerals

- **Minerals Removed from Atomic Minerals List:** The law eliminates lithium, beryllium, titanium, niobium, tantalum, and zirconium from the list of atomic minerals, which formerly only allowed state-run businesses to explore and extract these minerals.
- **Participation of the Private Sector:** Since these minerals are no longer listed as atomic minerals, private businesses are now able to engage in the exploration and mining operations.

Why such move?

- **New Lithium Reserves in J&K:** This year, lithium reserves were found in the Jammu and Kashmir region, which is under federal administration. Later this year, the administration intends to discover further reserves.
- **Exploration and mining activities** are anticipated to significantly rise across the nation as a result of private sector involvement, according to the government.

Significance of Private Sector Involvement

- Private company participation is viewed as a "force multiplier" since it is anticipated to increase production of these vital minerals and satisfy the nation's expanding need.
- **Increased Production Capacity:** With the involvement of private firms, production capacity is projected to increase, allowing India to fulfill the growing demand for industrial applications and batteries for electric vehicles.

Need for Vigorous Exploration and Production

- **Meeting Growing Demands:** India's increasing focus on electric vehicles and other technological advancements necessitates a robust supply of critical minerals. Vigorous exploration and production are crucial to fulfill the country's requirements.

Conclusion

- An important step has been taken toward increasing the exploration and mining of vital minerals, particularly lithium, for use in electric vehicle batteries and other industrial applications with the passing of the law by India's Parliament.
- The government wants to increase production capacity and satisfy the nation's rising demand by allowing the private sector to participate in order to secure a sustainable and technologically advanced future.

Vivad se Vishwas II Scheme launched

Smooth settlement

The Centre launches a scheme to end disputes with suppliers by offering them a voluntary settlement amount



■ FM Nirmala Sitharaman had promised in this year's Budget to introduce a settlement scheme

■ The scheme applies to all domestic contractual disputes where the government is a party

■ Govt. to offer contractors settlement amounts of up to 85% of net amount awarded by the court

The Centre has launched the Vivad se Vishwas II scheme, a one-time settlement scheme, to effectively resolve pending contractual disputes with vendors or suppliers to the government and its undertakings.

Vivad se Vishwas II Scheme

- The program was revealed in the Union Budget for 2023–2024.
- It intends to resolve legal challenges to arbitral rulings in contractual disputes involving the government and government-sponsored enterprises.
- The Vivad Se Vishwas I program was unveiled as part of the Union Budget 2020 to minimize continuing direct taxation legal issues.
- The resolution of around 150,000 cases resulted in the recovery of nearly 54% of the sum being litigated.
- Beginning in March 2020 and ending on March 31, 2021, was the scheme.

Key details about the Scheme

- Guidelines and deadline: The initiative gives businesses until October 31 to submit their applications for review. Guidelines for its operation had already been released by the Department of Expenditure in late May.
- Eligibility: The program is applicable to domestic contract disputes in which one of the parties is either the Indian government or an agency acting on its behalf.
- Cut-off Dates: The aggrieved party must have obtained an arbitral award by January 31, 2023, in order to be considered for settlement. The deadline for court orders is April 30.
- Graded Settlement arrangements: According to the dispute's level of pendingness, the program offers graded settlement arrangements. The settlement amount granted to the contractor in circumstances involving court judgments may be up to 85% of the total sum granted or upheld by the court. The threshold for arbitral awards is "up to" 65% of the total sum.
- Processing and Registration: Only the Government e-Marketplace (GeM), which has created a specific web page for implementing this scheme, shall be used to process eligible claims. Claims can be registered for Ministry of Railways contractors on the Indian Railways E-Procurement System.

Services PMI at 13-Year High



Why in news?

- According to the S&P Global India Services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), which hit a 13-year high of 62.3 in July, India's services industry has experienced tremendous development.
- Increased demand, fresh business prospects, and strong export orders are what are powering the resurgence.
- However, difficulties like escalating input costs and conservative output pricing point to a complex picture.

Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI)

- A measure of business activity in both the manufacturing and service sectors is the PMI.
- S&P Global compiles the India Services PMI based on responses to questionnaires distributed to a panel of about 400 service-related businesses.
- It is a survey-based measurement that inquires about changes in respondents' perceptions of various important business variables from the previous month.
- A composite index is created after it is individually calculated for the manufacturing and services sectors.

How is the PMI derived?

- From a series of qualitative inquiries, the PMI is derived.
- When asked if important metrics like output, new orders, company expectations, and employment were stronger than the previous month, executives from a sizable sample of hundreds of companies are asked to score these metrics.

How does one read the PMI?

- A number over 50 indicates more commercial activity. Any number under 50 indicates contraction.
- The expansion or contraction is inversely correlated with the distance from this midpoint. The PMI can also be compared to data from the prior month to determine the rate of expansion.
- The economy is growing more quickly if the number is higher than it was the prior month. It is growing more slowly if it is lower than it was the prior month.

Recent Feat Achieved

- **Output Levels:** According to the survey-based index, output levels have grown at their quickest rate since June 2010, propelled by a strong demand environment and greater new business gains.
- **Job Creation:** Despite the increase in workload, there was only a "slight" rate of hiring, keeping job creation at a modest level. Part-time, full-time, permanent, and temporary employees were all mixed together by businesses.
- **Rising Input Costs:** Due to higher costs for food, labor, and transportation, input costs rose at their quickest rate in 13 months.
- **On the other side, enterprises showed caution in their approach to output pricing, as output prices rose at the slowest rate in three months. This strategy might be explained by the desire to obtain fresh contracts.**
- **International Growth:** Export orders saw a strong uptick, with businesses reporting the second-fastest increase since the index's launch in September 2014.
- **Key development Sources:** The UAE, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and other nations have emerged as major drivers of export order development.

PUSHp Portal: A Game-Changer

In order to create incentives for both buyers and sellers on the Power High Price Day Ahead Market (HP-DAM) and Surplus Power Portal (PUSHp), the National Power Committee (NPC) has asked States to share their knowledge. The Ministry of electricity launched this cutting-edge technology with the intention of improving electricity availability, maximizing use, and facilitating effective power trade.

PUSHp Portal

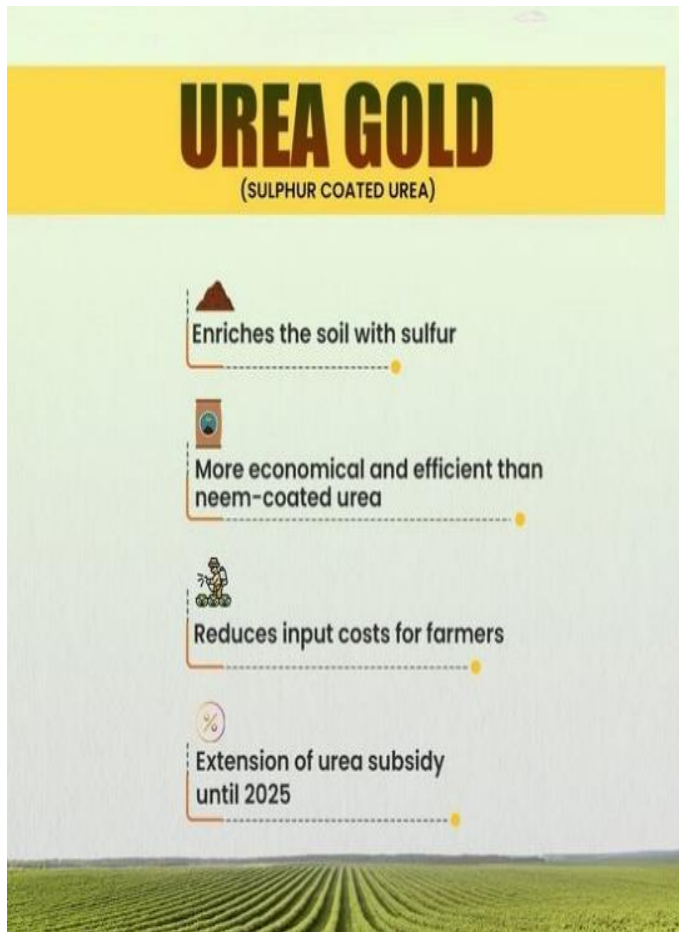
- **Concept Launch:** To alleviate power shortages during periods of high demand and to promote surplus power trading, the Ministry of Power announced the HP-DAM and PUSHp.
- **Price flexibility:** To encourage greater availability, the platform permits some sellers to supply power at prices over the ceiling of Rs 12 per unit during periods of peak demand.
- **Power distribution firms (DISCOMs) may indicate their availability of surplus power on the portal by providing block times, days, or months.**
- **Requisition Mechanism:** To encourage effective allocation, DISCOMs in need of power can request the extra power via the portal.

Operational Mechanism

- **Cost Determination:** According to government regulations, new buyers must pay both fixed expenses and variable charges.
- **The original beneficiary forfeits the right to recall authority after it has been transferred, including the full FC obligation.**
- **Reducing Fixed Costs:** By easing the burden of fixed costs on DISCOMs, power distribution becomes more effective.

- **Optimal Capacity Utilization:** The platform makes sure that every generation resource is used efficiently, reducing waste.

Urea Gold: Making Urea more efficient



The recent launch of “Urea Gold,” a fortified fertiliser by Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd (RCF), has sparked interest as it combines urea with sulphur to enhance nitrogen use efficiency (NUE). It seeks to tackle challenges of escalating urea consumption and declining agricultural efficiency.

What is Urea Gold?

- **Composition:** "Urea Gold" is a fortified fertilizer that combines urea and sulfur with the goal of enhancing crop performance and NUE.
- **NUE Enhancement:** The reinforced blend makes sure that nitrogen is released gradually,

preserving plant health and possibly lowering the frequency of fertiliser applications.

Challenges of Urea Consumption and NUE Decline

- **Increase in Urea usage:** Between 2009–2010 and 2022–2023, Urea usage increased from 26.7 million tonnes to 35.7 million tonnes, making it the most popular fertiliser in India.
- **Domestic urea production is mainly dependent on imported natural gas.** Only China, whose production is primarily based on coal, has a higher annual usage than India.
- **Declining NUE:** Crops only benefit from about 35% of the nitrogen provided by urea, prompting questions about resource waste and increased fertilizer use.

Pricing and Distribution Challenges

- **Pricing Complexities:** Current subsidies for fertilisers with coatings, such as zincated urea and boronated DAP, may not encourage businesses to market fortified goods.
- **Obstacles to Farmer Adoption:** Farmers have been discouraged from adopting coated alternatives due to price differences between fortified and non-fortified fertilisers.
- **Optimal Implementation:** To achieve even nutrient distribution and user convenience, proponents advise factory-level coating. Maximum retail pricing (MRPs) for coated fertilizers could be removed, which could increase uptake.
- **Striking Pricing Balance:** Given the significant subsidies provided to traditional fertilizers, fortified product premiums must be within reason in order to promote affordability.

Conclusion

- The introduction of "Urea Gold" and reinforced fertilizers holds promise for improving agricultural efficiency despite the difficulties of declining NUE and rising urea use.
- The path to a successful deployment requires addressing distribution complexities and pricing inconsistencies.

Environment & Diversity

Species in news: Clouded Leopards



International Clouded Leopard Day has been celebrated on 4th August since 2018. Scientists from the Wildlife Institute of India (WII) have conducted a study on clouded leopards in Manas National Park and Tiger Reserve in western Assam.

About Clouded Leopard

- The clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*) is a wild cat that lives in the deep woods of South China, Southeast Asia, and the foothills of the Himalayas.
- Its name refers to the enormous dusky-grey blotches, irregular patches, and stripes on its dark grey or ochreous fur that resemble clouds.
- It is the first cat to have genetically separated from the pantherine cats' shared ancestor, which occurred between 9.32 and 4.47 million years ago.
- On the IUCN Red List, the clouded leopard is currently classified as Vulnerable.
- It is protected throughout most of its range and is included in CITES Appendix I.

Habitat in India

- States like Sikkim, northern West Bengal, Tripura, Mizoram, Manipur, Assam, Nagaland, and Arunachal Pradesh are home to deep forests where it can be found.

- It is the national animal of Meghalaya (Note: Tripura is home to the Clouded Leopard National Park).

Features of Clouded Leopards

- Due to its powerful build and huge canines, the mainland clouded leopard is frequently compared to the Ice Age sabretooth.
- It differs from other felines in that it possesses spinning back ankles that allow it to descend from trees headfirst.
- The cat is easily recognized thanks to cloud-like markings on its fur.

Species in news: Indian Eagle Owl



The Indian eagle owl was recently classified species distinct from the Eurasian eagle owl.

Indian Eagle-Owl

- A huge horned owl species that is indigenous to hilly and rocky scrub woods in the Indian Subcontinent is the Indian eagle-owl, sometimes known as the rock eagle-owl.
- It features a white neck patch with thin black stripes and is flecked with brown and grey.
- Least Concerned according to the IUCN and Appendix II according to CITES.

Key features

- Unique Species: The Indian eagle-owl is distinguished from the Eurasian eagle-owl by its

imposing size, which can reach up to two and a half feet in length and six feet in wingspan.

- Secrets of the Night: Because the bird is nocturnal, little information about it is known, which adds to its air of mystery.
- Menacing look: The bird has a frightening look thanks to prominent ear tufts that resemble horns and may have developed to ward off predators.

Threats from Superstitions

- The bird is associated with superstitions in rural India since it is seen there as a bringer of bad omens and makes loud double-hooting noises.
- According to folklore, the Indian eagle-owl had the ability to talk in a human voice and predict the future of its listeners when it was confined and starving.

Ecological significance

- Farmers benefit from the Indian eagle owl because its diet of rats and bandicoots fits well with open scrublands and agricultural areas.
- Because there are so many rodents around where owls nest, there are more and healthier owlets.

Hurricane Hilary's rare journey towards West Coast



Hurricane Hilary's unexpected trajectory towards Southern California and Mexico has caught

meteorologists and residents off guard. The only recorded instance of a tropical storm with hurricane-force winds hitting Southern California dates back to 1858, impacting San Diego.

What is a Hurricane?

- A hurricane, also known as a tropical cyclone or typhoon in different regions, is a powerful and intense tropical storm characterized by strong winds, heavy rainfall, and low atmospheric pressure.
- Here are the key features and characteristics of a hurricane:
 1. The sea surface temperature must be at least 26.5 degrees Celsius (approximately 80 degrees Fahrenheit) for a hurricane to form over warm ocean waters. The energy required to power the storm's expansion is provided by warm ocean water.
 2. Energy Source: The heat that is released as moist air rises and condenses into clouds and rain is what gives hurricanes their power. The storm is fueled by this procedure, referred to as latent heat release, which also causes the creation of powerful winds.
 3. Eye: The "eye" is the comparatively calm and clear region near the center of a storm. The "eyewall," a ring of powerful thunderstorms that surrounds the eye, is where the storm's fiercest winds and most torrential rain falls.
 4. Hurricanes are distinguished by their extraordinarily powerful winds, which must exceed 74 miles per hour (119 kilometers per hour) in order for a storm to be categorized as a hurricane. Wind speeds greater than 111 miles per hour (179 kilometers per hour) have been recorded during major hurricanes.
 5. The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale, which goes from Category 1 (the weakest) to Category 5 (the strongest), is used to classify hurricanes. While Category 5 hurricanes have winds greater

than 157 mph, Category 1 hurricanes have sustained winds between 74 and 95 mph.

About Hurricane Hilary

- California and Mexico's west coast have little prior experience dealing with hurricanes, in contrast to hurricane-prone states on the Gulf of Mexico.
- Due to the geography and population density of the Baja peninsula in Mexico, where Hurricane Hilary is predicted to make landfall, there is a potential of landslides, flooding, and significant damage.

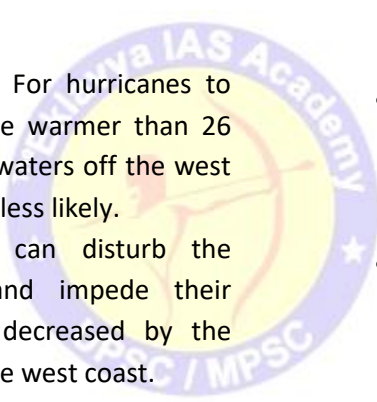
Factors behind its intensification

- Ocean Water Temperature: For hurricanes to form, ocean waters must be warmer than 26 degrees Celsius. The cooler waters off the west coast make storm formation less likely.
- Strong upper-level winds can disturb the structure of hurricanes and impede their genesis. Hurricane risk is decreased by the increased wind shear over the west coast.

- Hurricanes that develop in the eastern Pacific often track west-northwest, bringing them away from land and out to sea.

Climate Change induced factors

- Hurricanes become increasingly common and powerful as a result of climate change. Hurricane intensity has grown as a result of warmer ocean temperatures brought on by greenhouse gas emissions.
- Ocean Heat Absorption: 90% of the extra heat from greenhouse gas emissions has been absorbed by the oceans, causing higher sea surface temperatures and more powerful hurricanes.
- Marine Heat Waves: Marine heat waves are a result of high sea surface temperatures, which exacerbate storm systems and amplify their effects on the land.
- El Nino's Function El Nio, which is characterized by an anomalous warming of the equatorial Pacific Ocean waters, can lessen wind shear in the eastern Pacific, fostering the development of hurricanes.



Governance

Cabinet approves ₹1.39 lakh crore for BharatNet project



The Cabinet has given its approval for an outlay of ₹1.39 lakh crore for the BharatNet project, aimed at providing last-mile connectivity to around 6.4 lakh villages across India.

About BharatNet Project

- Goals: The initiative seeks to provide last-mile internet connectivity using optical fiber to 6.4 lakh villages, reaching all gram panchayats in the nation.
- Project implementation is the responsibility of Bharat Broadband Network (BBNL), a special purpose vehicle under Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL).
- Partnership with VLEs: Following a successful trial project in four districts that was later expanded to 60,000 villages, BBNL will work with VLEs to provide connectivity.
- Approximately 1.94 lakh villages have been connected as of this writing, and the remaining

villages are anticipated to be serviced in the following 2.5 years.

Services details

BharatNet is the world’s largest rural connectivity scheme with an Optical Fibre network.

1. Gram Panchayat: The program was designed to give 2.5 lakh gram panchayats access to 100 Mbps broadband.
2. All households should have access to cheap 2 Mbps to 20 Mbps broadband, especially in rural areas.

Key Achievements of the Project

- Broadband access: As part of the pilot initiative, 3,800 businesses gave 3.51 lakh rural broadband access.
- Data Usage: The average monthly data usage for households in connected villages was 175 gigabytes.
- Pricing and Speed: The project offers monthly broadband plans priced between \$399 and \$799 with a minimum speed of 30 mbps, with a 50% revenue split between BBNL and VLEs.
- 37 lakh route kilometers (rkm) of optical fiber cable have currently been laid in India, with BBNL adding 7.7 lakh rkm of OFC to the network.

History

Who was Sant Guru Ravidas?



Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for a ₹100 crore temple dedicated to Sant Ravidas in Madhya Pradesh’s Sagar.

Guru Ravidas

- Between the 15th and 16th centuries CE, an Indian mystic poet-saint known as Ravidas founded the Ravidassia religion.
- revered as a guru (teacher) in the states of Punjab, Haryana, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and mostly Madhya Pradesh. He was a spiritual leader, social reformer, and poet-saint.

- The specifics of Ravidas' life are disputed and unknown. He is thought to have been born in the cobbler caste around 1450 CE.
- The devotional verses of Ravidas are found in the Guru Granth Sahib, the holy book of the Sikhs.
- There are a lot of poems by Ravidas in the Panch Vani scripture of the Hindu Dadupanthi tradition.
- He advocated for eradicating caste and gender-based social barriers and forging alliances in the fight for individual spiritual liberties.

Significance of his teachings

- Our constitutional ideals now reflect Sant Ravidas' philosophy and values of social justice, equality, and fraternity.
- He had envisioned a world built on equality and devoid of all forms of prejudice.
- He called it "Be-gampura," a city close to Lahore where there is no space for sorrow or fear.
- The absence of fear, vulnerability, or scarcity would characterize such a perfect city. The foundation of governance should be the rule of law, which is founded on ideals like equality and the benefit of all people.

Karnail Singh Isru’s contribution in Goan Liberation



Karnail Singh Isru, a valiant activist, is remembered with reverence and admiration on India's Independence Day. He made the ultimate sacrifice while participating in the Goa Liberation Movement, striving for the state's accession to India.

Who was Karnail Singh Isru?

- Isru was born on September 9, 1930, in Chak 30, a village that is now in Pakistan. He lost his father when he was very young, and his mother reared him. His early years were characterized by a keen sense of justice and a desire for independence.
- National heroes inspired Isru because of their devotion to the liberation movement and their appreciation for individuals like Bhagat Singh and Udham Singh. Their fight against colonial tyranny had a profound effect on his impressionable mind.

Joining the Goa Liberation Movement

- **Ideals Formation:** Isru's participation in student action and his leadership of the student union demonstrated his dedication to social justice. He adopted rationalist principles and became a member of the Communist Party of India (CPI).
- **Goa Liberation Movement:** Despite India's independence in the 1950s, Portuguese rule continued in Goa, Daman and Diu, and Dadra and Nagar Haveli. CPI sent Gandhian ideals

adherents known as Satyagarhis to Goa to raise the Indian flag on Independence Day.

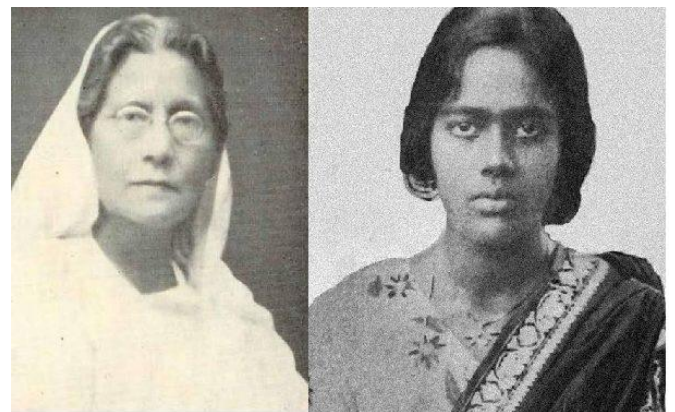
His Fateful Journey

- **Leadership of Sahodrabai Rai:** Under Sahodrabai Rai's direction, Isru and other Satyagarhis started their march into Goa. They sought to overthrow colonial authority and enshrine Indian sovereignty in the area.
- **Tragic Event:** As the Satyagarhis entered the Patradevi village in North Goa, Portuguese forces started shooting at them. Isru rose to the fore because of his unyielding will, but he unfortunately died after being shot in the chest. His death was a crucial turning point in the struggle to free Goa.

Legacy and Remembrance

- **Punjabi tributes:** Isru's memory is ingrained throughout the province, where the political establishment holds yearly events to remember his selfless act. His name is on a statue, library, park, and school, all of which attest to the esteem in which he is held.
- **Recognition in Goa:** To honor Isru's sacrifice, a bronze bust of him was erected in the village of Patradevi's elementary school. Generations have been inspired by his bravery and commitment.

President pays tribute to Matangini Hazra, Kanaklata Barua



On the eve before Independence Day, President of India paid tributes to great women freedom fighters like Matangini Hazra and Kanaklata Barua.

[A] Matangini Hazra

- **Early Years and Commitment:** Matangini Hazra was born in 1869 in the West Bengali village of Hogla, where she experienced poverty and a lack of formal education. She married young and became a widow at the age of 18. She became a committed freedom fighter after dedicating her time to humanitarian concerns.
- **Gandhian Influence:** Hazra was known as "Gandhiburi" in her village during the Nationalist struggle because of her respect for Mahatma Gandhi. She enthusiastically took part in demonstrations, which led to multiple arrests and jail terms for her.
- **Quit India Movement:** A well-known figure in the 1942 protests, Hazra led a group of over 6,000 people, largely women, to the Tamluk police station. She was killed by British police after being shot three times during a confrontation; she was 73 years old and was yelling "Vande Mataram."
- **Legacy:** Revolutionaries established local governments as a result of Matangini Hazra's selfless act. She was honored with the first statue of a woman revolutionary in Kolkata Maidan in 1977. As a mark of respect for her significant role in the struggle for liberation, she has had streets, schools, and entire communities named after her throughout Bengal.

[B] Kanaklata Barua

- **Young Martyr:** Kanaklata Barua, a representation of bravery, died as a martyr at the age of barely 17. During the Quit India Movement, she led the Mrityu Bahini march that unfurled the Tricolor at the Gohpur police station in Assam.
- **Daring Spirit:** Despite the Mrityu Bahini's 18 and older membership requirement, Barua overcame it thanks to her willpower. She had only been a member for two days when she was holding the Tricolor at the front of the parade.
- **Tragic End:** Despite being shot at by cops during an altercation at the police station, Barua

insisted on holding onto the flag. She fell while still carrying the flag, which another volunteer eventually took. Her bravery and selflessness forever changed the movement.

- **Legacy:** Generations have been inspired by the life of Kanaklata Barua. The Coast Guard will name a fast patrol vessel "ICGS Kanaklata Barua" in her honor in 2020, ensuring that her legacy endures as a reminder of her inspiring character and commitment to India's freedom.

Ajnala Massacre of 1857 and its Rediscovery



A recent collaborative effort of professional geneticists has resulted in a scientific confirmation of the Ajnala massacre – an event lost to history for 165 years. This project, marked by emotional intensity and rigorous analysis, brought long-lost victims to light through molecular and isotope data.

Ajnala Massacre

- **Buried Tragedy:** During the 1857 insurrection, the British East India Company drowned 282 troops from the 26th Native Bengal Infantry Regiment.
- **Location Found:** Cooper's book contained hints that led to the discovery of the 1857 Kallianwala Martyrs' Well, which was located beneath the Gurdwara Singh Sabha in Ajnala. Ajnala was mentioned in 2003 by historian Surinder Kochhar in a disregarded copy of Frederick Henry Cooper's "Crisis in Punjab."
- **Rediscovered Massacre:** Kochhar's investigation revealed the Ajnala Massacre, a terrible occurrence kept secret for more than 157 years.

Excavation and Revelation

- Unveiling the Remains: In 2014, the well was dug up, revealing the soldiers' skeletal remains.
- Unsettling Find: Many Indian soldiers rebelled against the British during the 1857 Sepoy Mutiny. At the Mian Mir Cantonment in Lahore, some 500 people revolted.
- They swam across the Ravi River to the town of Ajnala, which is today in the Amritsar district, to avoid being executed. At the Dadian Sofian village near Ajnala, British soldiers slaughtered 218 of them.
- The remaining 282 were crowded into a small chamber and dumped into a well, where many of them asphyxiated to death. The bodies of the remaining victims were dumped into a well that

was later given the names "Kalianwala Khu" and "Shaheedan da Khu" after being shot to death.

Verification and Acknowledgment

- DNA-based evidence provided by scientists verified that the remains belonged to members of the 26th Native Bengal Infantry regiment.
- The Ajnala Massacre contributes to the story of the 1857 Indian rebellion against the persecution of the British East India Company.

Conclusion

- The Ajnala Massacre highlights the brutality of the 1857 Indian rebellion, which is sometimes disregarded.
- The government's reluctance to handle painful portions of history can be blamed for the lack of recognition and memorials.

Polity

Supreme Court Stays Conviction in a Defamation Case



A major Congress leader named Rahul Gandhi's parliamentary representation could be significantly impacted by the Supreme Court's recent decision to suspend the conviction in a criminal defamation case. The court underscored the necessity for respect between parties and caution in public comments, pointing out that there were no good justifications for imposing the maximum term.

Disqualification of Lawmakers

- This is crucial for preserving the credibility of the legislative bodies.
- Under India's constitution and the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1951, disqualification is possible.
- The Tenth Schedule also addresses disqualifications resulting from defections.

Grounds for Disqualification

- Members of Parliament and Legislative Assemblies are ineligible under Articles 102(1) and 191(1) of the Constitution. The following grounds are also acceptable: holding a position of profit, being insane, bankrupt, or not having legal citizenship.
- Defection: The Constitution's Tenth Schedule allows for disqualification on the basis of defection.
- RPA, 1951: This Act requires criminal convictions to result in disqualification.

Disqualification under RPA, 1951

- Section 8: The RPA's Section 8 addresses disqualification for conviction of crimes.

- Goal: By prohibiting 'tainted' lawmakers from running for office, the rule seeks to avoid making politics illegal.
- Disqualification Period: According to Section 8(3), a person convicted of a crime and given a minimum term of two years in prison will be disqualified starting on the day of their conviction and continuing for an additional six years following their release.

Appeal and Stay of Disqualification

- Reversal: If a higher court orders a stay of the conviction or rules in favor of the guilty lawmaker's appeal, the disqualification may be overturned.
- In re Union of India v. Lok Prahari: The Supreme Court made it clear in a 2018 case that if the appellate court delays the conviction, the disqualification won't go into force.
- For instance, an appeal filed by a legislator found guilty would first be heard by the Surat Sessions Court before moving on to the Gujarat High Court.

Changes in the Law

- Previously, Section 8(4) of the RPA specified that the disqualification would take effect three months following the date of the conviction.
- In re: Union of India, Lily Thomas The Supreme Court declared Section 8(4) of the RPA to be unconstitutional in a historic decision in 2013.
- Importance: The judgment served to purge Indian politics by preventing convicted politicians from holding public office while their appeals were ongoing.

Supreme Court's recent observations

- Lack of Justification: The court observed that the trial judge did not give any justification for imposing the maximum sentence, even though the penal statute allowed for other possible punishments.

- High Court Omission: According to the Supreme Court, the High Court neglected to consider the key fact that the harsh punishment was not justified in its ruling.
- Impact on Representation: The court emphasized that being barred from Parliament has an impact on both the individual and the electorate they are supposed to represent, which raised questions concerning unrepresented areas.
- Public Figures' Use of Caution: The Court reminded him that due to his position in public life and his prior "thief" remarks made during the general elections, he should exercise prudence while making public declarations.

Language Complexity in India's Judiciary



Why in news?

- A request to move a motor vehicle accident case from the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT) in Farrukhabad, Uttar Pradesh, to the MACT in Darjeeling, West Bengal, was denied by the Supreme Court.
- The court emphasized that witnesses should communicate in Hindi, the official language, throughout proceedings, and that language should not be a hindrance.
- Given the linguistic diversity of India, the Supreme Court's declaration that Hindi is the national language has generated controversy.

- Despite the fact that no language is formally recognized as the "national language," Hindi plays a vital role as the Union's official language.

Official Languages and the Constitution

- According to Article 343 of the Constitution, English will be used for official purposes during the first 15 years after the Constitution's start in 1950. Hindi in the Devanagari script will be the official language of the Union.
- Article 351: In keeping with the forms and expressions of the other languages mentioned in the Eighth Schedule, the Constitution commands the Union to encourage the use of Hindi.

Eighth Schedule and Linguistic Diversity

- The Constitution's Eighth Schedule mentions 22 languages as officially recognized languages, including Hindi, Bengali, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu. Over time, the Schedule has grown to include languages including Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, and Santhali.
- Demands for Inclusion: A number of languages, including Bhojpuri, Garhwali (Pahari), and Rajasthani, want to be listed in the eighth schedule. The MHA recognizes the dynamic aspect of language evolution, but it has trouble formulating inclusion standards.
- Despite Hindi becoming an official language, the Official Languages Act of 1963 guarantees that English will still be used for official purposes after the initial 15 years have passed.

Status of English in Judiciary

- **Apex Courts:** The use of English is mandated in proceedings of the Supreme Court and High Courts, ensuring uniformity in legal communication. The Rajasthan High Court introduced Hindi for court proceedings, citing Article 348 (2) and the Official Languages Act.
 - Subordinate Courts and Regional Languages:
1. State Government has the power to choose the language of state-level subordinate courts,

according to the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC).

2. Civil Procedure Code (CPC): The State Government may define a language and character for petitions and proceedings, but the language of subordinate courts is originally retained.

Way Forward

- Considering linguistic variety, it is important to make judicial proceedings accessible to all citizens. This is why the discussion over regional languages in courts is important.
- Gradual shift: Although there is rising discussion about the use of regional languages in courts, any shift must be gradual and properly carried out to guarantee clarity and uniformity.
- Socio-Linguistic Dynamics: PM's goal of facilitating citizen comprehension of the judicial process is consistent with encouraging the use of regional languages in courtroom hearings.

Renaming Kerala: From Kerala to Keralam



The unanimous decision by the Kerala Assembly to rename the state "Keralam" in the Constitution and official documents recently generated debates over the name's historical roots and the procedure for renaming a state in India.

Renaming Kerala: Resolution and Historical Context

- Unanimous Decision: The Kerala Assembly, under the leadership of the chief minister,

adopted a resolution requesting that the state be renamed "Keralam" in the Constitution and other official documents.

- State formation based on language: The resolution notes that the name of the state in Malayalam is "Keralam," and that on November 1, 1956, states were created based on language. The resolution aims to harmonize the Malayalam name with how it appears in official documents.

Origin of the 'Kerala' Name

- The first reference to "Kerala" is found in Emperor Asoka's Rock Edict II, which dates from 257 BC. The local king is referred to as "Keralaputra" (son of Kerala) and "son of Chera" from the Chera dynasty.
- Scholars suggest that the words "Keralam" and "Cheram" may have descended from one another. German scholar Dr. Herman Gundert argued that "keram" is the Canarese (Kannada) equivalent of "cheram," and that "Keralam" may refer to the area between Gokarnam and Kanyakumari because the root "cher" means to unite.

Demand for a Unified State

- Aikya Kerala Movement: The Aikya Kerala movement gained traction in the 1920s and pushed for a single state for Malayalam-speakers. It sought to unite Malabar, Kochi, and Travancore under a single administrative region.
- Cultural Unity: The Malayalam-speaking community's shared language, cultural practices, history, and customs served as the movement's main driving forces.

Formation of Modern Kerala

- State of Travancore-Cochin: Travancore and Kochi joined in 1949 to become the State of Travancore-Cochin.
- Kerala should be established as a state for Malayalam-speaking people, according to the State Reorganisation Commission. It was

suggested to include Malabar and Kasargod while excluding some regions.

- Kerala's founding: Kerala, also known as "Keralam" in Malayalam and "Kerala" in English, was created on November 1, 1956.

Conclusion

- The decision to rename Kerala as "Keralam" is in keeping with the state's name's historical and cultural significance.
- The process of renaming a state highlights India's federal structure, where cooperation between the Centre and the States is necessary for such important changes.

EC sticks to Assam Delimitation Draft



Delimitation, the process of redrawing electoral boundaries to account for population shifts, is an essential procedure that guarantees impartial representation and an equal distribution of constituencies. The recent delimitation procedure in Assam has drawn attention because of how it has affected political dynamics.

Delimitation in Assam

- Historical Basis: The Delimitation Commission's 1976 delineation of Assam's boundaries was based on information from the 1971 census. Boundary modifications are necessary over time due to population changes.

- Delimitation tries to make sure that constituency populations are roughly equal, ensuring equitable representation.
- Delimitation decisions are backed by legal authority and cannot be challenged in court.

Process of Delimitation

- **Delimitation Commission:** The Chief Election Commissioner, State Election Commissioners, and retired Supreme Court justices form an independent Delimitation Commission.
- **Objectives:** The Commission sets the boundaries and size of the constituencies while aiming for an even distribution of the population.
- According to the concentrations of respective populations, the Commission identifies seats that are set aside for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Implementation of Delimitation

- **Draft Proposals:** The Commission releases draft proposals for public comment in official publications and newspapers.
- **Public Hearings:** To gather comments and concerns, public hearings are organized.
- **Final Order:** The Commission publishes a final order that is published in official gazettes and takes effect as indicated after taking into account complaints and suggestions.

Frequency of Delimitation

- **Early Delimitation:** Following India's first general elections, the President imposed a temporary delimitation in 1950–1951.
- **Independence is required because:** Following the dissatisfaction with the initial exercise, independent commissioners were required to carry out further delimitation.
- **Examples from the past:** Delimitation took place in accordance with the relevant Acts in 1952, 1963, 1973, and 2002.

Postponement and Justification

- **Frozen Seats:** After the 1981 and 1991 Censuses, delimitation was delayed.
- **Uneven Population Growth:** After the 2001 Census, an amendment postponed delimitation until 2026, citing the achievement of uneven population growth across India.
- **Last Exercise:** Boundaries in Assam were modified during the most recent delimitation (2002–2008) based on information from the 2001 Census and reserved seat allocations.

Conclusion

- Delimitation is essential to democratic administration because it preserves fair representation by taking population changes into consideration.
- India's dedication to fair and inclusive voting methods is demonstrated by the recent delimitation in Assam, which was guided by a formal process and legal framework.

Special Provisions of NE States under Article 371



The special constitutional protections under Article 371 that safeguard the interests of the northeastern states will continue to exist, according to a recent statement from the Supreme Court. We examine the significance of these guarantees and their ramifications as the Constitution Bench considers the Jammu and Kashmir petition to the repeal of Article 370.

What is Article 371?

- The Indian Constitution's Article 371 offers various states specific protections for their distinctive cultural and tribal identities.
- These clauses are designed to protect regional traditions, social norms, and land ownership.

Preserving Tribal Culture

- Context: To protect the tribal traditions and distinctive identities of various states, particularly those in the northeast, Article 371 offers exceptional provisions.
- Article 371(A) – Nagaland Article 371(A) guarantees that acts of Parliament pertaining to property and resource ownership, customary law, civil and criminal justice based on Naga customary law, and religious and social traditions of Nagas do not apply to Nagaland.
- Role of State Assembly: These laws only apply to Nagaland following adoption of a resolution to that effect by the State Assembly.
- Development Impediment: According to certain participants, like Neikiesalie Nicky Kire of the NDPP, Article 371(A) obstructs development by preventing the government from implementing development initiatives because of landowner preferences.

Similar Provisions in Other States

- Similar to Nagaland, Mizoram is covered by specific provisions in Article 371-G to safeguard

Mizo social and religious customs, civil and criminal justice, and property ownership.

- Article 371B - Assam: Article 371B makes it easier to create the "Meghalaya" sub-state, which aims to offer particular protections for Assam.

State-Specific Provisions

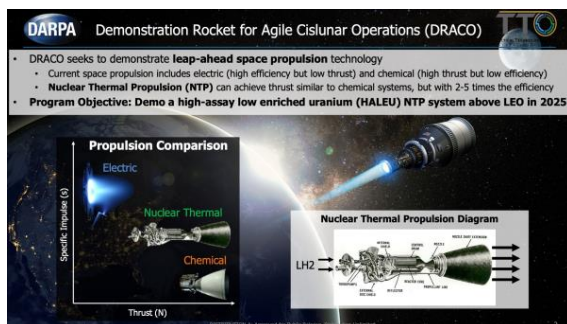
- Manipur is a state that was created in 1972, and therefore article 371C handles particular provisions for it.
- Articles 371F and 371H, which are specific to Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh, respectively, discuss special measures for those two states in order to meet their particular needs.
- The President is given the authority to create separate development boards for particular regions of Maharashtra, Gujarat, and Andhra Pradesh in accordance with Article 371, which encourages balanced growth.

Further State-Specific Provisions except NE

- Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Goa are all covered under Articles 371D and 371E, which make particular provisions for them in order to ensure their cultural and economic growth.
- Karnataka and Goa are granted exceptional provisions under Articles 371J and 371I, respectively, in order to meet their unique needs.

Science, Technology, Art & Culture

DRACO Program: Nuclear Propulsion for Faster Space Travel



Lockheed Martin has been chosen by NASA and DARPA to design and construct a nuclear-powered propulsion system for the DRACO program. It is a ground-breaking technique that might enable astronauts to reach Mars more quickly.

What is DRACO Program?

- Demonstration Rocket for Agile Cislunar Operations is known as DRACO.
- It attempts to use nuclear processes to dramatically shorten travel times, improving the

effectiveness and safety of interplanetary missions.

- In order to assure the safe disintegration of radioactive materials, the spacecraft will orbit at an altitude of roughly 700 to 1,994 kilometers and remain in orbit for more than 300 years.

How it is different from conventional spacecraft?

- DRACO is a nuclear thermal rocket (NTR) that generates thrust by burning hot propellant that has been heated to extreme temperatures in a nuclear reactor.
- NTRs have a high thrust-to-weight ratio in comparison to traditional space propulsion technologies.
- This thrust has a specific impulse (i.e., propellant efficiency) that is two to five times larger than in-space chemical propulsion and around 10,000 times greater than electric propulsion.

Benefits of DRACO

- A shorter journey to Mars is possible using nuclear-powered propulsion, which would reduce the current journey time to three to four months. There would be less need for large amounts of propellant storage if the spacecraft could keep speeding for the first half of the mission before settling down once more.
- Enhanced Fuel Efficiency: Nuclear processes that split uranium atoms use far less fuel than traditional rocket engines that burn fuel. The DRACO engine uses a nuclear reactor to heat hydrogen gas to provide propulsion, increasing interplanetary fuel efficiency.
- Faster trips to Mars would limit humans' exposure to the hostile environment of deep space, lowering the likelihood of risks and health concerns.

Nuclear Propulsion: Historical Context

- Legacy: Nuclear propulsion for space travel is not a novel idea. Project Orion investigated using nuclear explosions to speed spacecraft in the

1950s and 1960s. During that time, NASA launched Project NERVA and Project Rover with the goal of creating nuclear-thermal engines for space travel.

- enhanced Safety standards: DRACO uses a less-enriched form of uranium and features enhanced safety standards, in contrast to past nuclear propulsion efforts. To reduce the possibility of a radioactive disaster on Earth, the reactor will only be turned on in space.

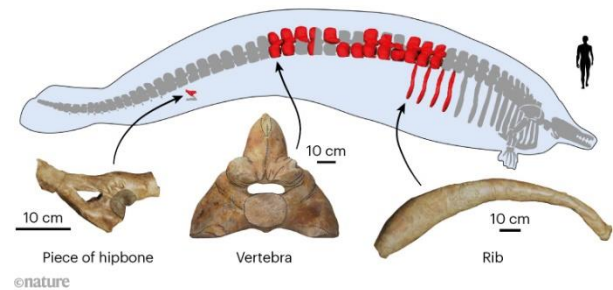
Potential Applications and Future Testing:

- DARPA's financing in the DRACO program suggests potential military applications, such as making it possible for military satellites to maneuver quickly in Earth's orbit.
- Lockheed Martin intends to launch the demonstration spacecraft in late 2025 or early 2026 for the nuclear-thermal engine test.

Perucetus Colossus Whale: Heaviest Animal that Ever Lived

A WHALE OF A WHALE

Researchers found 13 vertebrae, 4 ribs and a piece of hipbone from an ancient cetacean that, at about 180 tonnes, they think could be a contender for largest animal that ever lived. The size of the fossilized bones, uncovered in a coastal desert area of Peru, led to the whale's name: *Perucetus colossus*.



In Peru, fossils of the extinct giant whale species *Perucetus colossus* were discovered by scientists. A candidate for the title of biggest mammal to have ever lived, this giant whale has ribs that are about 5 feet long and each vertebra weighs over 100 kg.

About Perucetus Colossus Whale

- *Perucetus colossus* bones were discovered more than ten years ago in the fossil-rich Ica desert of

Peru, which is notable for its abundance of marine fossils. This species lived about 39 million years ago.

- **Huge Size:** The whale was estimated to be roughly 66 feet (20 meters) long, making it smaller than other blue whales, which may reach heights of over 100 feet.
- A slow swimmer, the ancient giant lived most likely in shallow coastal waters because of its unusual weight, which was given by its hefty and dense bones.
- **Feeding Patterns:** Prior to the skull's discovery, scientists were unsure of the whale's diet and speculated that it may have scavenged on the ocean floor or ate a lot of krill and other marine creatures.

Significance

- The *Perucetus colossus* may overtake the blue whale as the heaviest known animal, both alive and extinct, if its existence is proved.
- The species serves as a prime example of how evolution may produce organisms with traits that are unfathomable to humans.
- **Paleontological Mysteries:** Since the ancient giant's head and teeth are no longer extant, more research needs to be done to determine how it fed and what function it had in the environment.

Perseid Meteor Shower to be visible soon



The Perseid meteor shower is anticipated to peak around August 13.

Perseid Meteor Shower

- The Perseid meteor shower is the result of Earth passing through ice, rock, and dust particles left behind by Comet Swift-Tuttle.
- NASA has established that this comet will not pass close to Earth until 2125 and has an orbital period of 133 years. It last shone in the sky in 1992.
- Comet Swift-Tuttle was identified by astronomers Lewis Swift and Horace Tuttle in 1862, establishing the groundwork for understanding this cosmic display.

Its occurrence

- **Annual Event:** Every mid-August, the Perseids meteor shower, a revered spectacle, reaches its peak, mesmerizing both astronomers and laypeople with its celestial display.
- **Remaining Cosmic Debris:** The Perseid meteor shower occurs as our planet crosses the path of cosmic debris that Comet Swift-Tuttle has set adrift. The width of this cosmic cloud is roughly 27 kilometers.
- **Shiny Cascade:** As Earth comes into contact with these pieces, a beautiful scene unfolds amid this cosmic ballet. Between 160 and 200 meteors gracefully streak through the atmosphere an hour during the peak, leaving a dazzling trail in their wake.
- **Speed and splendor:** These meteors burst into flames as they disintegrate about 100 km above the Earth's surface, traveling at a stunning speed of over 214,000 kilometers per hour.

What are Meteoric Showers?

- **Origins in the Cosmos:** Comets release particles of rock and ice into space as they travel around the Sun. These space rocks are heated by the Earth's atmosphere as they fall, creating bright streaks of gas in their wake.
- Meteor showers occur when our planet travels through the debris path left by comets or

asteroids as they make their way through space. A meteor shower is a coordinated display of meteorites in the sky.

- NASA's records confirm the existence of approximately 30 meteor showers each year, which paint the heavens with cosmic splendor that can be seen from Earth.

Maya OS: Everything you need to know



By using an indigenous operating system called Maya OS, the Defence Ministry is making a huge step toward improving its cybersecurity. With this change, Microsoft's Windows OS will be removed from all ministry computers, providing better security against online threats.

Understanding Maya OS

- Maya OS is a proprietary operating system created by the Union Ministry of Defense.
- The term Maya OS refers to the false appearance of reality and is derived from an old Indian concept known as illusion.
- Open-Source Framework: Maya OS makes use of the Ubuntu platform and embraces the open-source philosophy by relying on freely distributed applications. Transparency, community cooperation, and customisation opportunities are improved by this strategy.
- The Chakravyuh function, an end-point antivirus and anti-malware program, is a Maya OS innovation. It serves as a barrier between people and the internet, preventing illegal access attempts and protecting private information.

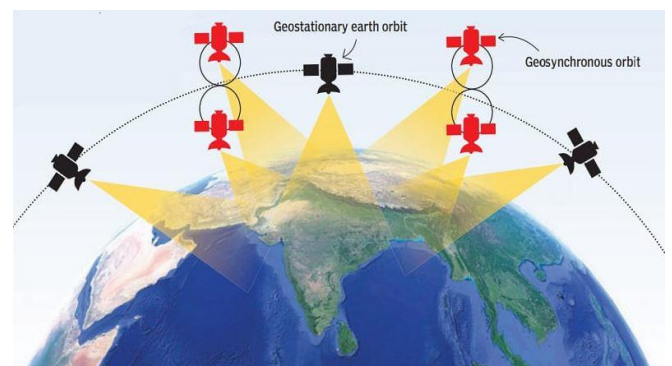
User Interface and Features

- Comfortable User Experience: Maya OS has a user-friendly interface that closely resembles Windows' well-known appearance and feel.
- Application Compatibility: The OS is compatible with widely used programs like Microsoft Office, Adobe Photoshop, AutoCAD, and more, allowing users to switch between them without any difficulty.
- Enhanced Security: To strengthen security measures, Maya OS contains technologies including cloud storage, encryption, digital signatures, and biometric authentication.

Development Journey

- Threat-Related Initiation: The development of this OS started in 2021 as a result of an increase in cyberattacks against India's vital infrastructure and defense systems.
- Collaborative Initiatives Maya OS was developed in a cooperative effort involving specialists from numerous government organizations, including DRDO, C-DAC, and NIC, as well as Indian software firms and academic institutions.
- Rapid Development: Maya OS was developed in just six months, a testament to the collaborative teams' expertise and dedication.

Integration of NavIC with Aadhaar Enrolment Devices



Aadhaar enrollment devices will incorporate India's indigenous satellite navigation system, Navigation with

Indian Constellation (NavIC). The Department of Space (DoS) has unveiled this deliberate action as an example of how cutting-edge technology may be seamlessly combined to expand the functioning and accessibility of vital services.

What is NAVIC?

- **History:** The Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS), as it was initially conceived, was a project to provide an autonomous navigation infrastructure to meet both civilian and military needs.
- **Lessening Foreign Dependency:** The main goal of NAVIC was to promote self-reliance and reduce reliance on external navigation systems like GPS.
- **Comprehensive Constellation:** There are a total of 7 satellites in the NAVIC constellation.
- **Deployment Timeline:** In July 2013, the staggered deployment of satellites such as IRNSS-1A, IRNSS-1B, IRNSS-1C, IRNSS-1D, IRNSS-1E, IRNSS-1F, and IRNSS-1I continued.

Key Features and Technical Excellence

- NavIC offers two services: Standard Position Service (SPS) for civilian customers and Restricted Service (RS) for strategic users. Both the L5 (1176.45 MHz) and S bands (2498.028 MHz) offer these services.
- **Coverage Area:** NavIC extends 1,500 kilometers beyond the boundaries of India. Future satellites will have an L1 band that can be used for commercial purposes.

NavIC and Aadhaar Enrolment Devices

- **Field Trials and Technical Assistance:** To complete the procurement specifications for integrating NavIC into Aadhaar enrolment devices, the DoS successfully performed field trials and offered technical assistance.
- **Current Configuration:** GPS location-based services are currently used by the Aadhaar

enrollment kits to collect and authenticate personal data.

Utilization in other areas

- **Disaster Management:** The National Disaster Management Agency's system for disseminating alerts for natural calamities like landslides, earthquakes, floods, and avalanches heavily relies on NavIC.
- **Ocean Information Broadcast:** The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information System uses NavIC to send out alerts to deep-sea fishermen about storms, large waves, and tsunamis.
- **Work on standardization** Several groups are actively working to establish interoperability standards for NavIC, including the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Telecom Standards Development Society of India (TSDSI), Telecom Engineering Center (TEC), and international organizations like the International Electrotechnical Committee (IEC).

Agnibaan: Pioneering with 3D-Printed Engines



Agnikul Cosmos, based in Chennai, makes a significant advancement by transporting the Agni-1 rocket to Sriharikota for integration testing. If the integration checks are successful, Agnikul could surpass Skyroot Aerospace as the second Indian space-tech company capable of suborbital space flight.

Agnikul's Remarkable Space Vehicle: Agnibaan

- Agnikul's proprietary Agnilet semi-cryogenic engine powers the single-stage launch vehicle known as Agnibaan SORTeD.
- Agnibaan SORTeD's vertical takeoff and accurate trajectory, in contrast to conventional sounding rockets, allow for planned movements while in flight.

(A) Distinct Features of Agnibaan

- Customizability: The rocket provides single- or two-stage launches with a variety of launch configurations.
- Impressive Size: At 18 meters tall and 14,000 kg in weight, Agnibaan SORTeD commands attention.
- Payload Capacity: It can launch into five distinct Lower Earth Orbits (LEOs) and reach heights of 700 km with payloads up to 100 kg.
- Engine configuration: Depending on the needs of the mission, the first stage can accommodate up to seven Agnilet engines that run on liquid oxygen and kerosene.
- Flexible Launch: Created to be launched from more than ten distinct launch ports.
- Launch Pedestal 'Dhanush': AgniKul's built 'Dhanush' supports the rocket's mobility in various configurations and ensures compatibility with various launch ports.
- Cutting-Edge Agnilet Engine: The entire system is powered by the only single-piece 3D-printed engine in existence.

(B) Innovative Agnilet Engine

- Agnilet engine, a 6 kN single-piece 3D-printed semi-cryogenic marvel, powers Agnibaan's propulsion.
- The Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre successfully tested a unique mixture of liquid kerosene and supercold liquid oxygen for the engine's propellants.

India's first 3D-printed Post Office in Bengaluru



India's pioneering 3D-printed post office located in Bengaluru's Cambridge Layout was recently inaugurated.

3D Printed Post Office

- Swift Construction: The 3D-printed post office was built in just 43 days, two days faster than the initial schedule.
- Construction Team: IIT Madras and Larsen & Toubro Limited worked together to complete the project.

Technological Process

- The post office is 1,021 square feet in size and was built utilizing cutting-edge 3D concrete printing technology.
- Robotic printers laid out the concrete in layers in accordance with the approved design using an automated technique.
- Strong Bonding: Quick-hardening concrete that was particularly prepared to provide strong bonding between layers.
- Rapid Construction: Using robotic accuracy and plans that were already incorporated, the project was finished in just 43 days, as opposed to the typical 6 to 8 months.

Advantages of 3D Printing

- **Cost-Effective:** The project's cost of Rs. 23 lakhs represents a 30–40% cost savings over conventional techniques.
- **Technology demonstration:** The project demonstrated the scalability of concrete 3D printing technology utilizing local equipment and robotics.

Distinctive Features

- The project was praised for its continuous perimeter construction, which lacked any vertical joints.
- **Flexibility:** 3D printing was able to work around the limits of flat walls by accommodating curved surfaces and various site dimensions.
- **Structural Innovation:** Three-layer walls and continuous reinforced concrete footing were made, improving structural integrity.

Chandrayaan-3 landing site will be called 'Shiv Shakti'



The practice of giving names to major locations on celestial bodies is highlighted by the PM's recent declaration that the Chandrayaan-3 lunar lander's touch-

down site will be called "Shiv Shakti." Such nomenclature is scattered throughout the lunar surface, each evoking a distinguished past of exploration and achievement.

Lunar Ownership and the Outer Space Treaty

- **Global exploration:** As a celestial body, the Moon is still outside the purview of any one nation. According to the Outer Space Treaty of 1966, national sovereignty cannot be exercised over celestial bodies like the Moon in outer space.
- **Cooperation over Competition:** The Treaty discourages exclusive claims while promoting global cooperation in space exploration. It was created during the Cold War to encourage cooperative efforts and reduce tensions brought on by superpower competition.

Role of the International Astronomical Union (IAU)

- The IAU, which has 92 member nations, is a key player in identifying planetary features, including the spots on the Moon's surface.
- **Established Conventions:** Since its establishment in 1919, the IAU has been in charge of planetary and satellite nomenclature, striving to harmonize naming conventions for improved astronomical comprehension.

Nomenclature Process for Lunar Landmarks

- **Initial naming proposals for planetary features** are made by researchers or members of IAU task groups who are involved in mapping or describing particular surfaces.
- **Examining and approving:** Task forces and the Working Group for Planetary System Nomenclature (WGPSN) evaluate suggested names. Successful names are added to the Gazetteer of Planetary Nomenclature and become part of the IAU's official nomenclature.
- **Limitations and Considerations:** The IAU's rules stress plain, straightforward names while avoiding those with political, military, or

religious connotations. It is permissible to honor somebody three years after their passing.

Legacy of Lunar Naming

- Influential Factors: Naming has been influenced by the quality of spacecraft pictures. Far-side craters frequently bear the names of engineers and scientists. Names given informally during missions finally gained official recognition.
- Variability and Symbolism: Not all famous people are given prominent crater names in their honor. The selection process can appear arbitrary because scientific success does not always entail crater-endowed immortality.
- The IAU allows names derived from Greek and Roman mythology for the satellites of Jupiter and Saturn. The list of names that can come from other sources now includes giants, monsters, and the offspring of mythological characters.

India’s earlier Lunar Naming

- Jawahar Sthal: The Chandrayaan-1 probe impact site was given the name "Jawahar Sthal" in honor of India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. The act was motivated by his support for scientific research and development in India.

Nabhmitra: Satellite-Based Safety Device for Fishermen



The ISRO Space Applications Centre (Ahmedabad) has developed ‘Nabhmitra,’ a groundbreaking

device designed to enhance the safety of fishermen during their maritime activities.

About Nabhmitra

- While at sea, Nabhmitra uses satellite-based communication to provide smooth messaging services.
- The local language will be used to communicate weather alerts, cyclone warnings, and other crucial information.
- In the event of an emergency, such as a capsized boat or a fire, fishermen can send distress signals.
- The gadget has an emergency button that allows for immediate contact with the control room.
- The control center receives the alert and the boat's location when the emergency button is pressed. The control center simultaneously sends a response message to the boat's crew.

Benefits of Nabhmitra

- Nabhmitra improves fishermen's safety by facilitating quick communication in times of need.
- Fishermen are provided with timely weather and cyclone alerts, which helps them make wise judgments.
- Information about fishing grounds, marine boundaries, and shipping lanes is provided by the device.
- The tool facilitates communication between boats and authorities during emergencies or accidents.

Security Issues

LCA Tejas successfully test-fires Astra BVR Air-to-Air Missile



The Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas has achieved another milestone with the successful test firing of the indigenous Beyond Visual Range (BVR) air-to-air missile called Astra.

Indigenous Marvel of Astra Missile

- The Indian Defense Research and Development Organization (DRDO) created the Astra missile, an indigenous Beyond Visual Range (BVR) air-to-air missile.
- Both the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Indian Navy are intended users of the missile.

Purpose and Capability

- Astra is made to engage and destroy quick-moving, nimble aerial targets in air warfare situations.
- It has sophisticated air warfare capability and can simultaneously engage several high-performance targets.

Aircraft Integration

- The Su-30MKI fighter jet, Mirage 2000 multi-role combat fighters, Tejas light combat aircraft (LCA), MiG-29 and MiG-21 Bison fighter jets, and the Sea Harrier jet fighter of the Indian Navy are just a few of the aircraft platforms that Astra is connected with.

Features and Specifications

(A) Design:

- A high single-shot kill probability (SSKP) is ensured by the missile's great agility, precision, and reliability.
- Astra's length is almost 3.8 meters, and its diameter is 178mm.
- It weighs about 160 kg when launched.

(B) Advanced Variants:

- The Astra Mk-II enhanced variant is being developed by DRDO.
- The expanded range of the Astra Mk-II is 160 kilometers.

(C) Guidance and Warhead:

- The missile uses dual-mode guidance to precisely track its targets.
- To effectively engage threats, it is outfitted with a high-explosive, pre-fragmented warhead.

(D) Propulsion and Performance:

- A smokeless, single-stage solid fuel propulsion system powers the Astra missile.
- It can launch objects at speeds between Mach 0.4 and Mach 2.

(E) Launch Range and Agility:

- The launch distance of the missile is roughly 80 kilometers.
- It can engage moving targets while performing maneuvers with up to 40 g rotations close to the surface of the ocean.

Collaborative Development

- The missile's derivative, the Astra Mk-III, is being created in cooperation with Russia.
- Advanced solid fuel ducted ramjet (SFDR) engine technology is used in this model.

Trivia

History of Pepper Trade from India



Pepper, often referred to as the “king of spices,” played a pivotal role in driving exploration, colonization, and cultural exchanges between the East and West.

Early Origins and Mystique of Pepper

- Historically regarded as a luxury good, pepper was mostly grown in India's Malabar Coast and was cloaked in mystery and lore. While Arabs, who controlled the trade, believed it grew behind waterfalls guarded by fire-breathing dragons, European Christians believed it originated in the legendary country of "Prester John."
- Trade in Antiquity: According to archeological evidence, pepper was consumed in ancient India as early as 2000 BCE. As a result of the discovery of Ramesses the Great's mummified remains from 1213 BCE along with peppercorns in Egypt, it was exported to other regions of Asia and North Africa.
- Arab Dominance: By the tenth century, Arab traders virtually controlled the spice trade, which connected India to the Middle East, Africa, and Europe. They also set supply and price levels.

Pepper's Role in Global Commerce

- Pepper was utilized as currency and as rent in many different places of the world due to its high value. For instance, during the siege of Rome in 408 BCE, the King of the Visigoths wanted 3,000 pounds of pepper.
- Spices and the Age of Discovery: The Age of Discovery was fueled by the European hankering for spices, especially pepper. Vasco da Gama discovered the way to India around the Cape of Good Hope and Christopher Columbus discovered the Americas while looking for India.
- Portuguese and Dutch Dominance: From the Malabar region, the Portuguese first had authority over the spice trade but were unable to rule the pepper-producing regions. The Portuguese hegemony was challenged by the Dutch East India Company, which controlled the pepper trade.
- The English East India Company received permission from Queen Elizabeth I to conduct business in the East Indies in 1600. The voyages of the Company laid the groundwork for English colonial rule in India.

Cultural Exchanges and Islam's Spread:

- Trading Legacy of Malabar The Malabar Coast, also referred to as "the city of spices," flourished as a center for global commerce. The Zamorin welcomed traders from various religious and ethnic groups, including the Muslim, Jewish, and Christian communities.
- Influence of Islam: From East Africa to southern China, Islam was spread through trade in pepper. In Malabar, there has been a sizable Islamic presence for about a thousand years.

Pepper's Evolution and Legacy

- From Expensive to Standard: The development of better production methods and its cultivation in tropical areas made pepper a common

ingredient in food. Its role in propelling colonial empires and exploration is still a crucial aspect of world history.

Conclusion

- The historical voyage of Pepper serves as a reflection of the world-shaping potential of trade and the impact of commodities.
- Pepper, formerly a coveted luxury, became a catalyst for East-West travel, colonization, and cultural interchange.
- Its importance as a commodity on a worldwide scale and the desire to control its trade influenced the course of history, and its legacy as an essential spice continues to this day.

Fediverse: Understanding Decentralized Social Networking



The parent company of Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp, Meta, has introduced Threads, a Twitter competitor that will eventually join the fediverse. Despite the attention that Meta's action has received, the business has not yet shared how it intends to use the fediverse to create a decentralized social network.

What is the Fediverse?

- Network of Servers: The Fediverse is a collection of federated social networking applications that

use open-source protocols to run on decentralized networks.

- Third-Party Servers: This is a network of servers that are run by independent parties and are not under the jurisdiction of any one organization. These servers can be used by social media sites to let users communicate with one another.
- Cross-Platform Interaction: Users of social media platforms inside the fediverse can interact with users of other platforms within the network without the requirement for individual accounts on each platform, enabling seamless cross-platform communication.
- Media Platforms Using: In addition to Meta's Threads, other platforms including Pixelfed (for photo-sharing), PeerTube (for decentralized video-sharing), Lemmy, Diaspora, Movim, Prismo, WriteFreely, and more may soon join the fediverse.

Benefits of Using the Fediverse

- Decentralized nature: In order to take advantage of the fediverse's decentralized nature and give users more control over the material they read and interact with, social media platforms adopted it.
- Cross-Platform Communications: Within the network, the fediverse makes it simpler for users of various social media platforms to communicate with one another.
- Data portability gives users greater flexibility and control over their online data by allowing them to easily move their data to other platforms inside the fediverse.

Challenges Hindering Wider Adoption

- Scalability: Decentralized servers may have trouble managing high volumes of traffic, which could result in scalability problems.
- Content Moderation: The fediverse's decentralized structure makes it challenging to create and enforce consistent content moderation rules across servers.

- Data Privacy: It becomes increasingly difficult to enforce data privacy policies since data uploaded on one server might not be erased because other servers have different data deletion policies.

The Fediverse's Evolution

- Long-standing Idea: Attempts to embrace decentralized networks have been attempted by businesses like Google for decades, and this has given rise to the idea of the fediverse.
- Emergence of Notable Platforms: The fediverse has grown thanks to platforms like Identi.ca (established in 2008), Mastodon, and Pleroma (all of which debuted in 2016).
- The ActivityPub protocol, which is frequently used in fediverse apps, was introduced by the W3 (World Wide Web Consortium) in 2018.

Last survivors of Piripkura tribe found



Deep within the Amazon rainforest, the story of Tamandua Piripkura unfolds, embodying the struggle of Indigenous people.

Who are the Piripkura?

- Brazil's Piripkura tribe is a tiny, outlying indigenous people.
- They have a reputation for living in complete seclusion and having little touch with the outside world.
- They have kept up their traditional way of life for many generations and have purposefully avoided touch with the rest of civilization.
- Brazil's Mato Grosso state is home to the Piripkura region.
- Their property is located in the biodiverse Amazon rainforest, which is essential to the region's ecological equilibrium.

Their dwindling population

- Only three people, according to estimates, make up the Piripkura tribe.
- Due to their seclusion and the difficulties involved in conducting a thorough census, exact population statistics are challenging to ascertain.
- They are threatened by illegal mining, logging, and encroachment on their territory, among other things, making it difficult for them to survive.

The

EKLAVYA IAS ACADEMY

UPSC /MPSC (राज्यसेवा) Preparation Strategy

OFFLINE LECTURE

On Every Sunday

BY

IPS AKSHAY MAHADIK

(AIR 212)

UPSC | MPSC



**ADMISSION
STARTED
2023 - 24**



**REGISTRATION
COMPULSORY**

SHRIDHAR SIR
7506701541

AMIT SIR
7506701542

Our Branches

Ghatkopar (W)

Office No.4, Arvind Villa Bldg,
Near Bharat Café Hotel
Above Ghatkopar Book Depot,
Opp. Ghatkopar (W),
Railway Station.

Nerul (E)

B-203, 2nd Floor Nerul
Railway Station Complex
Nerul (E)

Chembur (E)

Shop No. 02, Rajashri Buildind,
N.G. Achary Marg, Behind Mahanagar
Co.-Operative Baank
Near Hotel Royal Orchid

New Panvel

Office No. A-18, Omkar Arcade (Building)
Sector 15A, Opposite - New
Panvel Railway Station
(Near Bikaner Sweets)