

August 2023

BOLT

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Banking & Finance

1. RBI fines 4 PSUs for late reporting of overseas investments

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed late submission fees (LSF) of **Rs.2,000 crore on ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL), Indian Oil Corp. Ltd, GAIL (India) Ltd, and Oil India Ltd** for delayed reporting of their overseas investments.

The move may impact the overseas work commitments of these four state-run energy majors, prompting efforts by them to secure an extension from RBI.

2. SBI raises Rs 10,000 crore through 15-year infrastructure bonds at coupon rate of 7.54%

India's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) announced that it raised **Rs 10,000 crore after issuing 15-year infrastructure bonds at the coupon rate of 7.54%.**

The bank said that the proceeds will be directed towards bolstering long-term resources for funding critical infrastructure projects and supporting the affordable housing segment.

3. RBI approves amalgamation of Navanirman Co-op Urban Bank with Rajadhani Co-op Urban Bank

The Reserve Bank of India has sanctioned the **Scheme of Amalgamation of The Navanirman Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd with Rajadhani Co-op. Urban Bank Ltd.** Both urban co-operative banks are Hyderabad-based.

The branch of The Navanirman Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd will function as a branch of Rajadhani Co-op. Urban Bank Ltd with effect from August 03, 2023, per a RBI statement.

4. UPI records 9.96 billion transactions in July worth Rs 15.34 lakh crore

Unified Payments Interface (UPI) registered **9.96 billion transactions in July**, with the total value for the month hitting **Rs 15.34 lakh crore**, according to data from the NPCI.

This shows a **6.6% jump** in the number of transactions via UPI from 9.34 billion in June. The value of transactions in the same period rose 4% from Rs 14.75 lakh crore. Dilip Asbe, MD and CEO of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

5. South Indian Bank launches SIB EXIM Current Account

South Indian Bank (SIB) has launched **SIB EXIM Current Account** specially curated for customers involved in the **import and export business.**

The current account is available in two variants SIB EXIM Silver and SIB EXIM Gold with the required Quarterly Forex Throughput (QFT) of \$15,000 and \$50,000 respectively.

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

State Bank of India (SBI) reported first quarter net profit surged 178.25% to Rs 16,884 crore as compared with Rs 6,068 crore a year earlier on account of improvement in asset quality and loan growth.

This is the bank's highest-ever net profit.

The high profit is due to lower Non Performing Assets (NPA), lower provisioning and increase in the loan book.

7. Sebi reduces time limit for AIFs, VCs to invest overseas to 4 months

Capital markets regulator SEBI has reduced **the validity period of approval** given to **alternative investment funds (AIFs)** and **venture capital funds (VCFs)** for making overseas investments to **four months from six months** at present. If these funds fail to make investments within this time limit, then Sebi can allocate their unutilized limits to other applicant AIFs and VCs.

8. PFC, HDFC AMC, Cummins likely to enter MSCI Global

Stocks of **PFC, HDFC AMC, IDFC First Bank, Ashok Leyland, Cummins India, and Astral** are likely to be included in the **MSCI Global Standard Index** in its forthcoming rejig to be announced on August 11. These firms see inflows of multimillion dollars if included in the MSCI index. The index includes a collection of stocks of all the developed market in the world.

9. SEBI mandates FPIs to carry 10% of corp bonds trades via RFQ platform

In order to boost liquidity, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has **mandated foreign portfolio investors (FPIs)** to place at **least 10 per cent of their trades in corporate bonds through the Request For Quote (RFQ)** platform of stock exchanges. The requirement will come into force from October 1, 2023. RFQ, was launched on BSE and NSE in February 2020.

10. Indian Banks' Association Forms Sectoral Committee In GIFT City

The Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has constituted a sectoral committee for member banks operating within the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City). It is constitute to address the unique regulatory

landscape and challenges faced by banks operating within GIFT City. The committee will act as a bridge between the banking industry and regulators.

11. AU Bank Becomes India's First Bank To Provide 24x7 Video Banking Service

AU Small Finance Bank has achieved an unprecedented feat with the launch of its groundbreaking **customer service 24x7 via Video Banking**.

This service provides a virtual platform where customers can communicate with a video banker in real time via video calls, like video conferencing.

12. Sebi halves listing timeline to 3 days post IPO closure

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) reduced **the timeline for listing of securities** after the closing of an initial public offering (IPO) to **three days** from the present requirement of six working days. This will be an option for IPOs opening after September 1, 2023, and will be mandatory for public issues opening after December 1, 2023.

13. SEBI proposes to raise threshold of borrowings for large firms

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) proposed to review the framework for borrowings by large corporates. The regulator proposed to **raise the threshold for large corporates to Rs 500 crore** from the current Rs 100 crore. It was felt that the threshold should be aligned with the threshold of high-value debt-listed entities to have uniformity in the regulations.

14. SEBI amends rules; enhances disclosure requirements for certain FPIs

To ensure greater transparency, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has mandated enhanced disclosures for a certain class of Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs), including furnishing details about ownership and economic interests from time to time in the manner specified by SEBI.

15. REC doubles its Market Cap in one year, figures in MSCI Global Standard Index

REC Limited, the Maharatna CPSE and a NBFC, under the Ministry of Power, has secured coveted place in the esteemed MSCI Global Standard Index, effective from 1st September 2023. The inclusion of REC in MSCI solidifies REC's status as a leading player in the financial sector and market, and opens up new horizons to expand its reach and influence on a global scale and level.

16. Bank of Maharashtra cuts home, car loan rates by upto 20 basis points

In order to push retail loans, public sector lender Bank of Maharashtra (BoM), **cut the lending rate** for home loans and car loans by up to **20 basis points**. The revised rates would come into effect from August 14, 2023.

In contrast, it has hiked its Marginal Cost of Funds Based Lending Rate (MCLR) by 10 basis points in select tenors up to one year.

17. Sebi to focus on tech; plans Geotagging solution to boost enforcement activities

Capital markets regulator Sebi is betting big on technology, as it plans to implement a **Geotagging solution** in the current financial year to strengthen the process of its enforcement activities.

While focusing on technology, Sebi said it plans to undertake various projects to boost its

information technology (IT) capacity and build a 'fault-tolerant' architecture.

18. Bank of Maharashtra tops PSU lenders chart in loan, deposit growth in Q1

State-owned **Bank of Maharashtra (BoM)** has **emerged as the top performer** among public sector lenders in loan and deposit growth in percentage terms during Q1 FY24.

The deposit and advances of the Pune-based lender recorded almost 25 per cent rise, the highest by any public sector bank during the April-June quarter.

19. Zerodha Gets Final Approval For Asset Management Company; Vishal Jain Appointed CEO Of AMC

Zerodha Asset Management Company (AMC) has received final approval from the market regulator to commence a mutual fund (MF) business.

Zerodha AMC is a joint venture between discount broker Zerodha Broking and fintech platform Smallcase.

The new entrant to the Rs 46-trillion MF industry will only offer passive funds. Zerodha's founder Nithin Kamath.

20. RBI selects McKinsey and Company, Accenture Solutions to use AI, ML to improve regulatory supervision

The Reserve Bank of India has selected global consultancy **firms McKinsey and Company India LLP and Accenture Solutions Pvt Ltd** India to develop systems using artificial intelligence and machine learning for its supervisory functions.

On the data collection side, AI and ML technologies are used for real-time data

reporting, effective data management and dissemination.

The value of the contract is about Rs 91 crore.

21. RBI imposes monetary penalty on four co-operative banks for violating rules

RBI imposed a penalty of **Rs 2.50 lakh on Nabapalli Co-operative Bank, West Bengal and Rs 1 lakh on Bally Co-operative Bank, West Bengal**. The penalty on **Aska Cooperative Bank, Aska (Odisha) was Rs 50,000 and on Baroda Gujarat Gramin Bank, Vadodara (Gujarat) was Rs 5 lakh**.

The central bank said that the penalties were due to deficiencies in regulatory compliance by the banks.

22. RBI Proposes Framework For Transparent Reset Of Home Loan Rates And EMIs

The Reserve Bank of India has proposed a **"transparent" framework for resetting interest rates and EMIs on floating-rate home loans**.

Lenders would need to communicate to borrowers any reset in the schedule of loans and quantum of EMIs, provide options to switch to fixed-rate loans or foreclosure, and disclose various charges incidental to the exercise of these options.

23. Last mile connectivity in remote areas set for a boost with IDRBT's LoRa technology

A new technology developed by Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT), an arm of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), is now all set to be deployed to increase last mile connectivity of banking services in remote areas.

The **financial network technology, based on LoRa (Long Range) wireless protocol**, has been successfully tested at the field level.

24. Don't compound penal interest on loans : RBI to Banks, NBFCs

Reserve Bank issued guidelines to banks, NBFCs on levying of penal rates of interest on loans. RBI in a circular dated 18th Aug 2023 mentioned that there shall be **no capitalisation of penal charges** i.e., no further interest computed on such charges.

25. SBI plans to open 300 branches across country in current financial year

State Bank of India is planning to **open 300 new branches** across the country in the current financial year. The SBI currently has 22 thousand 405 branches across the country and 235 foreign branches and offices.

26. RBI issues revised guidelines for IDF-NBFCs

RBI has withdrawn requirement of a sponsor of Infrastructure debt fund non-banking financial companies (IDF-NBFC).

They will be required to have net-owned funds of **at least Rs 300 crore & capital-to-risk weighted assets ratio (CRAR) of 15%** with minimum tier-1 capital of 10%.

IDF-NBFCs can raise funds via loans under external commercial borrowings with **minimum tenor of 5 years**.

27. IndusInd Bank launches multi-branded credit card in partnership with Qatar Airways and British Airways

IndusInd Bank 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.

28. SEBI plans to bring follow-on offer rules for REITs, InvITs

For the expansion of the market for emerging investment instruments, SEBI is mulling over to bring in norms for follow-on offers by real estate investment trusts (REITs) and infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs).

The two trusts were launched in India with an aim to provide exposure to investors to real estate and infrastructure projects.

29. Bandhan Mutual Fund launches Bandhan Nifty IT Index Fund

Bandhan Mutual Fund has launched the **Bandhan Nifty IT Index Fund**, an open-ended equity scheme tracking the Nifty IT index, with an aim **to capture the growth potential of the Indian Information Technology (IT) sector**.

It was launched to provide investors with a convenient, cost-effective route to benefit from the vast opportunities in this sector over the long term

30. RBI asks banks to provide individual borrowers option to switch over to fixed rates at time of reset of interest rates

Reserve Bank of India asked banks to provide fixed interest rate options to individual borrowers and directed the lenders to levy only reasonable penalty charges in case of default in EMI payments.

RBI has issued guidelines to reset EMIs based on floating-rate personal loans, including

allowing borrowers to switch over to a fixed rate as per the bank board-approved policy.

31. IIFL Home Finance secures \$100 mn loan from IFC

IIFL Home Finance Ltd (IIFL HFL) has secured a debt-funding of up to **USD 100 million from International Finance Corporation (IFC)**, a member of the World Bank Group.

Under the loan agreement, 50 per cent of funding is earmarked to promote housing finance for women borrowers, and the remaining is dedicated to financing green housing for buyers in this underserved segment.

32. New RBI rules to regulate penal charges on loans to come into effect from next year

The Reserve Bank of India has issued instructions (effective from January 1, 2024) for penal charges in loan accounts to ensure transparency in the disclosure of penal charges and interest rates in loan accounts.

Under the extant guidelines, lending institutions have the operational autonomy to formulate Board approved policy for levy of penal rates of interest.

33. RBI imposes monetary penalty on Shree Co-operative Bank Limited, Vadodara (Gujarat)

The Reserve Bank of India imposed a monetary penalty of **Rs 50,000/- on Shree Co-operative Bank Limited, Vadodara, Gujarat**.

This penalty has been imposed in exercise of powers vested in the RBI under the provisions of Section 47 A (1) (c) read with Sections 46 (4) (i) and 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

34. Canara Bank launches UPI Interoperable Digital Rupee mobile application

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'.

35. India's banking system liquidity slips into deficit first time in FY24

India's banking system liquidity has slipped into deficit for the first time this financial year to 236 billion rupees (\$2.84 billion) as of Aug. 21, according to RBI data.

It is due to the Reserve Bank of India's temporary liquidity withdrawal move and tax outflows. **Liquidity surplus had hit a high of 2.8 trillion rupees** at the start of this month (August).

36. RBI approves voluntary amalgamation of Twin Cities Co-operative Urban Bank, Kranti Co-operative Urban Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the amalgamation of Twin Cities Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd with Kranti Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd.

The RBI further said the branch of Twin Cities Co-operative Urban Bank will function as a branch of Kranti Co-operative Urban Bank with effect from August 23, 2023.

37. First time in 4 years, MFIs overtake banks in microlending with 40 pc share

As of March 2023, after a gap of four years, **standalone MFIs overtook banks in**

microlending in 2022-23 with a **40 percent share of loans in the country**, up from 35 percent in the last year.

Banks controlled 34 percent of the industry's Assets Under Management (AUM) in FY23 down from 40 percent in FY20 and FY22. Their share had peaked at 44 percent in FY21.

38. BankSathi emerges as India's third-largest credit card issuer, reinforces commitment to financial innovation

BankSathi, a fintech startup, has become the **third-largest credit card issuer in India with 3.6 lakh Annual Recurring Revenue**. The company has issued 3 lakh credit cards as of June 2023, a fourfold increase from the previous fiscal year.

The credit card industry in India is expected to grow at a 25% compound annual growth rate and reach 20 crore credit cards by 2026.

39. RBI Raises Transaction Limit for Small Value Offline Digital Payments to Rs 500

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) raised the **transaction limit for small-value digital payments conducted offline to Rs 500 per transaction from the earlier Rs 200**.

It had clarified that while the per transaction limit was being raised to Rs 500, the overall limit would be retained at Rs 2,000 to contain the risks associated with relaxation of two-factor authentication.

40. Stricter disclosure norms for FPIs will come into effect from Nov 1: SEBI

SEBI has announced that stricter disclosure norms for FPIs will come into effect from November 1, 2023.

Overseas funds that hold more than 50% of their equity investments in a single Indian

corporate group, or have more than Rs 25,000 crore of equity assets under management in the Indian market, will have to provide detailed information about their beneficial owners.

41. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das calls for stronger governance in NBFCs, HFCs

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das met the executives of large non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) and housing finance companies (HFCs) and pushed for strong governance standards, improve risk management practices and look to contain risks associated with unsecured lending, as per a release by the central bank.

42. Airtel Payments Bank partners with Frontier Markets, Mastercard to support 1 lakh women-owned businesses

Airtel Payments Bank, Mastercard Center and Frontier Markets announced the launch of **She Leads Bharat:Udyam**, an initiative to elevate 100,000 women-owned small businesses.

43. SBI launches Aadhaar-based enrolment for social security schemes

The country's largest lender State Bank of India introduced a facility to allow customers to enrol in social security schemes by just furnishing an Aadhaar card. SBI Chairman Dinesh Khara unveiled the new feature -- which will be available at the bank's **Customer Service Points (CSPs)** -- that aims to make the process of enrolling in various social security schemes.

44. Zepto Becomes India's 111th Unicorn With \$200 Mn Funding At \$1.4 Bn Valuation

Instant grocery delivery startup Zepto has raised \$200 million in a new funding round at a valuation of \$1.4 billion. The funding makes Zepto the first Indian startup to attain the unicorn status this year.

As many as 44 startups entered the unicorn (reached/exceeded \$1 billion valuation) club in 2021 and 23 were added last year.

Kaivalya Vohra, Zepto co-founder and CTO.
Zepto co-founder and chief executive : Aadit Palicha.

45. SEBI notifies stricter delisting rules for non-convertible debt securities

SEBI notified a new framework prohibiting listed entities, with more than 200 non-QIB (qualified institutional buyer) holders of non-convertible debt securities, from delisting voluntarily.

Under the new rule, listed entity will have to obtain permission from all holders of non-convertible debt securities within **15 working days of receiving the notification of delisting.**

46. Bandhan Bank authorised by RBI to serve as pension disbursement bank

Bandhan Bank has been appointed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as an authorised pension disbursement bank on behalf of the **Central Pension Accounting Office (CPAO)**, Ministry of Finance, for civil pensioners.

The Bank will soon be integrating with the office of the CPAO to operationalise the disbursement process

47. Axis Bank launches paid saving a/c with no charges for services, balance requirements

Moving towards subscription-based accounts, Axis Bank launched a paid savings account where the customer will not be charged for many services and will not be required to maintain a minimum balance.

Customers will be charged **Rs 150 per month or the discounted Rs 1,650 per year for what has been christened as 'Infinity Savings Account'**

48. Minimum issue size for non-profits at SSEs may be cut by a half

The Securities and Exchange Board India (SEBI) has proposed to reduce the minimum issue size for non-profit organisations (NPOs) on social stock exchanges (SSEs) by 50%, and application size by 95% to facilitate more fundraising.

At present, the minimum issue size for NPOs issuing Zero Coupon Zero Principle (ZCZP) instruments is Rs 1 crore, which is deemed to be high.

49. PhonePe enters stock broking segment, launches Share.Market app

PhonePe announced its foray into stock broking business with the launch of a new mobile application called '**Share(dot)Market**', under its subsidiary **PhonePe Wealth Broking**.

According to PhonePe, the Share(dot)Market app elevates the discount broking by providing market intelligence and quantitative research-based WealthBaskets, a scalable technology platform. PhonePe CEO: Sameer Nigam

50. BSE changes expiry day of Bankex Index derivatives contracts to Monday effective October 16

Stock exchange BSE has announced to change the expiry day of all futures and options

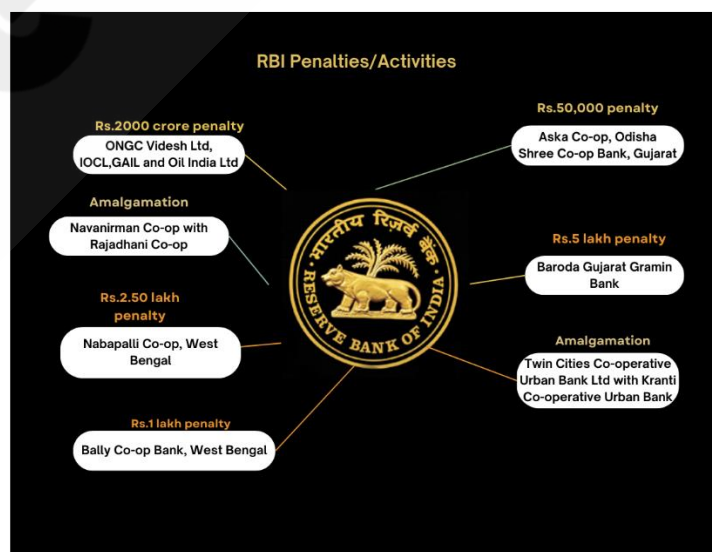
contracts of its banking index S&P BSE Bankex to Monday (from Friday) effective October 16.

In its bid to boost derivative trading, the country's premier bourse BSE had in May relaunched the Sensex and Bankex derivative contracts with a reduced lot size of and a new expiry cycle.

51. YES Bank goes live with UPI interoperability on CBDC

YES Bank has announced that it has launched Unified Payments Interface (UPI) Interoperability on the Reserve Bank of India's Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) app.

This will allow users to scan any **UPI QR code through the YES Bank Digital Rupee app and make transactions seamlessly**. This move aims to expand the reach of the Digital Rupee.



Economy

1. Govt gets over Rs 3,400 cr dividend from NIIF, ECGC

The government has received over Rs 3,400 crore as dividend tranches from the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Ltd (NIIFL) and ECGC. The government has already mopped up Rs 5,200 crore as dividend from public sector companies so far in the current fiscal.

2. India's core sector output expands to 5-month high at 8.2% in June

As per the data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Output of eight key infrastructure sectors ' known as the core sector ' expanded to a five-month high of **8.2 per cent in June**. This is due to a high base effect and positive growth in seven of the eight sectors. In June last year, the core sector had grown by 13.1 per cent.

3. Govt debt stands at Rs 155.6 lakh cr in March 2023

The Central government's debt stood at **Rs 155.6 lakh crore or 57.1 percent of the GDP at the end of March 2023**.

It has reduced from 61.5 percent of GDP in 2020-21 to 57.1 percent of GDP in FY 2022-23

4. GST Council meet: 28% tax on online gaming to become effective from 1 Oct, says FM Sitharaman, to review after 6 months

After the 51st GST Council Meeting in New Delhi, Ms Sitharaman said the **28 percent GST casinos and online gaming will be levied on face value**.

The Council had also recommended that the law may be amended to provide clarity in the

matter. It recommended certain amendments in the CGST Act 2017 and IGST Act 2017 to provide clarity on the taxation of supplies in casinos, horse.

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

The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), an arm of the Commerce Ministry of India, has imposed an **anti-dumping duty on optical fibers from China, Korea and Indonesia** in a move to secure the domestic industry from artificially cheap rates that are capturing the market. The anti-dumping duty imposed under this notification shall be effective for a period of five years

6. Morgan Stanley ranks India highest in Emerging Markets List

Morgan Stanley, the international brokerage firm, has recently upgraded India's market status to overweight from equal weight. An overweight rating means that the firm expects India's economy to perform better in the future. The **upgrade of India in the backdrop of the US losing AAA status**.

7. Government lost Rs 1 lakh crore in taxes in FY'21 due to corporate tax cut

As per the Ministry of Finance, the government lost a little over Rs 1 lakh crore in 2020-21 on account of a cut in corporate taxes. In September 2019, the government announced a cut in base corporate tax for then existing companies to 22 per cent from 30 per cent; and for new manufacturing firms, incorporated after October 1, 2019, to 15 per cent from 25 per cent

8. Unclaimed deposits of Rs 48,461 crore transferred to Depositor Education & Awareness Fund

Unclaimed deposits worth Rs 48,461.44 crore pertaining to 16,79,32,112 accounts have been transferred by the banks to Depositor Education & Awareness Fund as on March 31, 2023, informed to the Parliament. The Central Government introduced the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF) to protect investors' interests and promote awareness.

9. RBI raises inflation projection for FY24 to 5.4% amid price shocks from vegetables

The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) has increased its **CPI (consumer price index) inflation forecast for FY24 to 5.4 % from 5.1%**. For the 2nd quarter, it projected the CPI inflation to be at 6.2% followed by 5.7 % in the 3rd quarter and 5.2 percent in the 4th quarter. It further projected CPI inflation to be at 5.2% for the 1st quarter of FY25.

10. IREDA reports All-Time High Quarterly PAT of Rs. 295 Crores; Net NPAs down to 1.61%

Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd, a Mini Ratna (Category I) Government of India enterprise under the administrative control of Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, has achieved a remarkable milestone with an all-time high Quarterly Profit After Tax of Rs. 295 crores and Profit Before Tax of Rs. 440 crores in the 1st Quarter of the fiscal year 2023-2024.

11. NHPC records highest ever Quarter-I Standalone Profit after Tax

NHPC Limited, India's premier hydropower company, has reported its highest ever Quarter-I Standalone Profit after Tax (PAT) of Rs. 1,053 Crore for the financial year 2023-24,

against PAT of Rs. 1050 Crore for the corresponding previous quarter. The NHPC Board approved the Q-1 FY23-24 results in their meeting held on 11th August 2023.

12. Retail inflation rises to 15-month high of 7.44 per cent in July

According to data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO), India's retail inflation jumped to a 15-month high of 7.44% in July as prices of vegetables and other food items spiked.

This is a sharp acceleration from the 4.87% inflation reported in June. A year ago, retail inflation was at 6.71%.

Previously, high inflation was recorded at 7.79% in April 2022.

13. India, UAE settle 1 million barrels of crude oil transaction in national currencies

Exactly a month after India and UAE signed a Memorandum of Understanding on having trade in national currencies, the UAE's Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) made their first ever crude oil transaction in national currencies.

The transaction involved the sale of one million barrels of oil. **UAE is 4th largest source of crude oil and 2nd largest source of LNG and LPG for India.**

14. WPI contracts 1.36 per cent in July, after deflating 4.12 per cent in June

India's wholesale inflation contracted 1.36% on a year-on-year basis in the month of July after contracting 4.12% in June, data showed on Monday. On a month-on-month basis, the index stood at 1.95%.

India's WPI reading has remained in the negative territory for four straight months.

June's WPI reading of 4.12% was the lowest since September 2015.

15. Hotel industry to contribute \$1.5 tn to GDP by 2047

The Indian hotel market has significant growth opportunities and is poised to contribute \$1,504 billion to the country's overall GDP by 2047, **from \$65 billion in 2022**, suggests a report by the Hotel Association of India. It forecasts that the demand for hotels will increase over the next 25 years, however, the supply will grow in the same ratio.

16. Reserve Bank nudges banks to settle UAE trades in rupee, dirham

India's central bank is nudging local banks to ask their clients to settle trade between the United Arab Emirates and India using the dirham (AED) or Indian rupee (INR) to reduce U.S.-dollar-based transactions.

The move is part of the Reserve Bank of India's broader aim of promoting settlement in local currencies with countries with which India has a trade deficit.

17. Credit card spends may be brought under LRS after May 2024

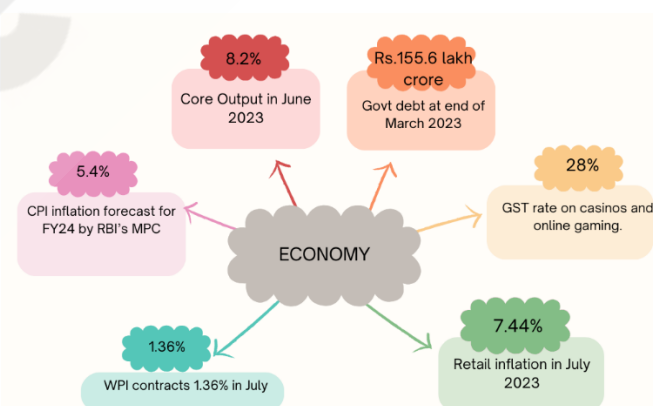
Spending of Indians via credit cards abroad will likely be brought under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) in FY25.

In June, the Centre changed its Budget 2023-34 decision to bring such credit card spending outside India under LRS, thereby exempting such spending from the levy of Tax Collected at Source (TCS) for now.

18. FDI Equity Inflows Decline 34% to \$10.94 Billion in April-June 2023

Foreign direct investment (FDI) into India declined 34 percent to \$10.94 billion during April-June 2023-24, **dragged by lower inflows in computer hardware and software, telecom, auto, and pharma, according to government data.**

During the quarter, FDI equity inflows decreased from major countries including Singapore, Mauritius, the US, UK, and UAE. FDI inflows stood at \$16.58 billion during April-June 2022-23.



National

1. BCAS kicks off Aviation Security Culture Week across all Indian airports

The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), tasked with laying down standards and measures related to security of civil flights at international and domestic airports in India is celebrating Aviation Security Culture Week from July 31. **'See it, Say it, Secure it' is the tagline that BCAS has set for the Aviation Security Culture Week.**

Zulfiqar Hasan, Director General BCAS.

2. Parliament passes Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2023 prohibiting unauthorized recording and exhibition of films

Parliament has passed the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill, 2023 which seeks to amend the Cinematograph Act, 1952 under which the certificate issued by the Central Board of Film Certification was valid for 10 years. Now, the certificate will be perpetually valid. It also prohibits the unauthorized recording of films and eases the process of the licensing procedure.

3. India's installed wind energy capacity to rise to 99.9GW by 2029-30

India's wind energy sector is witnessing a remarkable surge, with the installed capacity reaching an impressive **43,773 megawatts (MW) as of 30 June 2023.**

The major wind energy producing States for the year 2022-23 were Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Telangana.

4. India has largest 5G network in world: Sh. Vaishnaw

India now has the **second largest 5G network in the world, on the back of the fastest 5G rollout with 300,000 sites set up in 10 months**, the government said.

The world's fastest 5G rollout continues, over 3 lakh sites installed in 714 districts.

5. G20 Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment to begin at Gandhinagar in Gujarat

G20 Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment has begun in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

The three-day conference will be chaired by Union Minister of Women and Child Development, Smriti Irani.

The theme of the conference is 'Women-led Inclusive Development as Cusp of Inter-Generational Transformation.

6. Rajya Sabha passes Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2023 in Parliament

The Rajya Sabha passed the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2023, that seeks to promote ease of business by decriminalising minor offences through amendments in 183 provisions of 42 Acts.

The Bill, which was cleared by the Lok Sabha on July 27, was passed by a voice vote in the Upper House.

7. GI Tags To Goan Food Items, Uttar Pradesh's Metal Craft, Four Rajasthan Crafts Among Seven Products

The Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai granted the Geographical Indication

(GI) tag to seven products from various regions of India, including four from Rajasthan.

The GI tags were secured by 'Jalesar Dhatu Shilp', 'Goa Mankurad Mango', 'Goan Bebinca', 'Udaipur Koftgari Metal Craft', 'Bikaner Kashidakari Craft', 'Jodhpur Bandhej Craft', and 'Bikaner Usta Kala Craft'



8. Parliament passes the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023

The Rajya Sabha passed the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023, which seeks to make amendments to the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002 ('OAMDR Act').

The proposed amendments introduce auction for allocation of operating rights in offshore areas.

9. Indiaspora to host G20 Forum in New Delhi

Indiaspora, a leading non-profit organisation dedicated to uniting the Indian diaspora for a stronger, more interconnected global community, announced that it will host a G20 Forum in New Delhi later this month to brainstorm the Indian diaspora's role in the country's march towards 2047.

10. Rajya Sabha Passes Bill To Amend Advocates Act, Seeks To Punish 'Touts

The Rajya Sabha passed the Advocates (Amendment) Bill, 2023, which was introduced on August 1. It amends the Advocates Act, 1961

.The major changes which the Bill seeks to bring is, making the act of 'Tout' punishable and certain provisions of Legal Practitioners Act, 1879 which have become obsolete.

11. PNGRB partners with World Bank to chalk out roadmap for hydrogen blending in natural gas

Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) has collaborated with the World Bank to prepare a roadmap for hydrogen blending in natural gas and their transmission through gas pipelines in the country.

The regulatory frameworks will be amended to help achieve the **national target of 5 million metric tonnes per annum of hydrogen consumption by 2030.**

12. PM Modi to lay foundation stone to revamp 508 railway stations

PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for redevelopment of 508 railway stations across the country.

These stations will be redeveloped under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme at an estimated cost of over Rs 24,470 crore.

The redevelopment will provide modern passenger amenities along with ensuring better designed traffic circulation and inter-modal integration.

13. Lok Sabha passes Inter-Services Organisation (Command, Control & Discipline) Bill ' 2023

The Lok Sabha has passed the Inter-Services Organisation (Command, Control & Discipline) Bill - 2023.

The bill seeks to empower Commander-in-Chief and Officer-in Command of Inter-Services Organisations (ISOs) with all disciplinary and administrative powers in respect of the personnel serving in or attached to such organisations.

14. Government restricts import of laptop, computers, tablets

The Indian government has imposed immediate restrictions on importing laptops, tablets, and personal computers falling under HSN 8741 category.

As per a government notification, the import of restricted items will be allowed only against a valid license.

However, the curbs will not be applicable to imports under Baggage Rules.

15. National Virtual Library of India is being developed to fulfill the vision of One Nation One Digital Library

President Droupadi Murmu has inaugurated the "Festival of Libraries 2023" at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.

The two-day Festival, which is being organised by the Ministry of Culture, will highlight iconic libraries from across the world to initiate a conversation on the modernisation and digitisation of libraries in India.

16. Cabinet Okays Rs 1.4-L cr Plan for Rural Broadband Reach

The Union Cabinet has approved a Rs 1.40-lakh-crore plan to provide broadband services to households in all 640,000 villages in the country under the BharatNet project. The last-mile broadband connectivity project has already connected 194,000 villages, with the rest likely to be completed in two-and-a-half years.

17. NABARD sanctions Rs 1974 crore to Rajasthan govt

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.

18. Postal Life Insurance launches direct incentive disbursement for sales staff

Postal Life Insurance (PLI), has initiated the 'Direct Incentive Disbursement' for its sales force in the Delhi and Uttarakhand circles. The insurance sector player has taken the step in order to benefit its sales staff. Through this agents will be able to seamlessly receive the transfer of their commissions directly to their Post Office Savings Bank Accounts.

19. NeGD Organises 39th CISO Deep Dive Training Programme Under MeitY's initiative Cyber Surakshit Bharat

National e-Governance Division (NeGD), under its Capacity Building scheme, organised the 39th CISO Deep-Dive training programme from August 7th-11th 2023 with 25 participants from Central Line Ministries at Indian Institute of Public Administration in New Delhi. The purpose is to spread awareness, build capacity to create a cyber resilient eco system.

20. Parliament Passes Delhi Services Bill (GNCTD Amendment Bill)

The Rajya Sabha on Monday passed the contentious Government of NCT of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023 - which seeks to dilute the powers of the Delhi Government over services.

The Bill seeks to establish a permanent authority named "National Capital Civil Service Authority" to control of civil servants.

It was already approved by Lok Sabha on August 03.

21. TRAI recommends creation of new category of license for digital connectivity infra providers

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has recommended creation of a new category of license called the Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Provider (DCIP) which will be allowed to create active as well as passive digital connectivity infrastructure. The license category will be an authorisation under the unified license and would not be levied any license fees.

22. Centre Agrees To Look Into 'Havana Syndrome' In India

The mysterious condition known as 'Havana Syndrome' has been puzzling doctors and scientists for years, and it appears that India may be the latest country to be affected by it. The syndrome has been making headlines after the Indian Government announced it would look into the condition, following reports of possible cases in India.

23. Standing Committee on Economic Statistics gets a new name

The government said Standing Committee on Economic Statistics has been renamed as Standing Committee on Statistics.

The committee will advise Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) on all surveys.

It will advise on survey methodology including sampling frame, sampling design, survey instruments, etc and to finalize tabulation plan of surveys.

24. MeitY launches Indian Web Browser Development Challenge; proposed browser to have cutting edge features

Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) launched the Indian Web Browser Development Challenge (IWBDC) on 9th August 2023 in Launch Programme organized at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

The Indian Web Browser Development Challenge is spearheaded by MeitY, CCA and C-DAC Bangalore.

25. Indian Railways' Historic Milestone! 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 third station of Central Railway CR to be a Pink Station to be fully managed by women staff.

Central Railway has inaugurated the New Amravati station under the capable management of an all-women team.

26. 6 BioCNG plants and more than 11,100 small biogas plants commissioned under National Bioenergy Programme

As on 31.07.2023, six BioCNG plants and 11,143 small biogas plants have been commissioned under the National Bioenergy Programme. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy notified the National Bioenergy Programme (NBP) in November, 2022 for the period 01.04.2021 to 31.03.2026. This programme, with a budgetary outlay of Rs. 1715 Crore. It shall be implemented in two phases.

27. Sugar mills must sell at least 90% of allocated quantity

The Government of India set the minimum monthly sales quota for sugar mills at 90% of their allocated quota to prevent mills from selling either more or significantly less than what they are allocated each month. The move is aimed at keeping sugar prices in check ahead of the festival season.

28. India aims to triple natural gas share to 15% by 2030

India has embarked on an ambitious trajectory to amplify its **existing 6% share of natural gas in the energy amalgam to a formidable 15% by 2030**, as the government presses forward with a suite of comprehensive measures. These include the expansion of the National Gas Grid Pipeline, expansion of the City Gas Distribution (CGD) network, setting up of LNG Terminals, etc.

29. Railways Ministry to establish Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras at railway stations across the country

Railways Ministry will establish Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras at railway stations across the country. It aims to make available quality medicines to all at an

affordable price. The Ministry has identified the list of fifty stations for the pilot project.

30. Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah introduces three new Bills in Lok Sabha

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah introduces the Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita Bill 2023, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita Bill, 2023 and the Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, 2023 in the Lok Sabha.

31. PM GatiShakti: NPG Proposes Six Major Road And Rail Projects Worth Rs 28,000 Crore To Transform Connectivity

A total of six infrastructure projects, valued at over Rs 28,000 crore, have been proposed under the PM GatiShakti initiative.

These recommended projects pertain to the Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

The decision was taken at the 53rd National Planning Group (NPG) meeting, held in New Delhi.

32. First ONDC-Centric Venture Ecosystem Launched For Indian Entrepreneurs

A new platform aimed at aiding entrepreneurs in creating solutions for the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) has been introduced by Antler, an early-stage venture capital company.

Antler has partnered with Infosys non-executive chairman, Nandan Nilekani's Foundation for Interoperability in Digital Economy (formerly Beckn Foundation) and ONDC for this platform.

33. India To Deploy Its First Polar Research Ship In Five Years, Will Help In Sustaining Indian Bases In Antarctica

India is planning to have its first Polar Research Vessel (PRV) within the next five years, according to Union Earth Sciences Minister Kiren Rijiju.

This initiative is aimed at sustaining India's bases in Antarctica.

The proposal regarding the ship is expected to undergo Cabinet approval during the current financial year. The estimated cost of the vessel has been revised to Rs 2,600 crore.

34. G20 Film Festival to begin in New Delhi with screening of Satyajit Ray's Pather Panchali

The G20 Film Festival has begun in New Delhi with screening of Satyajit Ray's Pather Panchali.

The festival aims to celebrate and showcase a vibrant and collaborative partnership existing amongst the G20 and invited countries in the field of cinema.

The festival is organised by the India International Centre and the G20 Secretariat of the Ministry of External Affairs

35. Centre Renames Nehru Memorial As Prime Ministers' Museum And Library

The Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML) has officially been renamed as the Prime Ministers' Museum and Library (PMML) Society with by the Centre.

The decision was taken at a special meeting of the Memorial Museum and Library Society which was presided over by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who is the Vice-President of the Society.

36. Cabinet approves seven rail projects worth Rs 32,500 crore to boost connectivity

With a view to improve rail connectivity and ease travel for commuters, the Union Cabinet approved seven projects for Ministry of Railways at a cost of around Rs 32,500 crore. Spanning 35 districts in nine States - Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Odisha, Jharkhand, and West Bengal, the projects will add 2,339 km to the existing network.

37. Chairman, Central Water Commission Launches Mobile App 'Floodwatch' To Provide Real-Time Flood Forecasts To Public

The Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC), Shri Kushvinder Vohra today launched the mobile application, 'FloodWatch' with the aim of using mobile phones to disseminate information related to the flood situation and forecasts up to 7 days on a real-time basis to the public. The in-house developed user-friendly app has readable and audio broadcast.

38. Two reforms introduced for Mobile User Protection to promote a cleaner and safer digital ecosystem

In strengthening Government of India's commitment to foster a digitally inclusive society while maintaining the highest standards of security and customer protection, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of Communications, Railways and Electronics & IT, today launched two reforms towards digital transformation and enhancing customer Protection.

39. Prime Minister to address G20 Health Ministers' meeting in Gandhinagar through video conferencing

As part of India's G20 presidency, the G20 Health Ministers' meeting formally began

today. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will virtually address the meeting in the afternoon. Addressing the meeting, Addressing at the inaugural session, WHO Director General, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus commended India for its steps taken in advancing Universal Health Coverage.

40. Sadbhavana Diwas Observed with Pledge Taking in DEPwD

'Sadbhavana Diwas' is observed nation-wide on 20th August annually but as it falls on a Sunday this year, Sadbhavana Pledge taking was organised today, i.e. 18th August, 2023 in all Government Offices.

41. President Droupadi Murmu gives assent to Central GST (Amendment) Bill and Integrated GST (Amendment) Bill, 2023

The Central Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023 defines the expressions online gaming, online money gaming, and virtual digital assets.

The Integrated Goods and Services Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2023 amends the Integrated Goods and Services Tax Act 2017 to exclude online money gaming from the definition of online information and data access or retrieval services.

42. India rolls out green hydrogen production standards

The ministry of new and renewable energy has rolled out standards for green hydrogen production in the country.

In a notification, the ministry defined green hydrogen as hydrogen derived from renewable energy sources, either via electrolysis or biomass conversion. The definition also encompasses green energy preserved in energy storage systems.

43. 4th Trade & Investment Working Group meeting under India's G20 Presidency to begin in Jaipur

The fourth and final meeting of the Trade and Investment Working Group of G 20 is going to take place in Jaipur from 21st August, 2023.

The five priority issues - Trade for Growth & Prosperity, Resilient Trade and GVCs, Integrating MSMEs in World Trade, Logistics for Trade and WTO Reforms will be discussed among the G20 member/invitee countries during the meetings.

44. Chintan Shivir of Finance Ministry to be officially inaugurated at Statue of Unity at Kevadiya

The Chintan Shivir of the Ministry of Finance will officially be inaugurated at the Statue of Unity at Kevadiya, Gujarat.

The shivir will discuss various issues including the roadmap for India to become a developed nation by 2047.

Secretaries and Senior officials from various departments of the Ministry of Finance and ministry of corporate affairs will attend the shivir.

45. Government notifies Indian Green Hydrogen Standard under National Green Hydrogen Mission

The Government has notified the Green Hydrogen Standard for India in a significant move for the progress of the National Green Hydrogen Mission.

It defined Green Hydrogen as having a well-to-gate emission including water treatment, electrolysis, gas purification, drying and compression of hydrogen of not more than 2 kg

CO₂ equivalent / kg H₂. The standard is issued by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy.

46. Centre imposes 40 percent export duty on Onions to improve its domestic availability

The Government of India imposed a 40 percent duty on export of onions to control price rise and improve supplies in the domestic market till 31st December 2023.

Earlier, the government released 3 lakh tonnes of onions from its buffer stock to increase the availability. It also maintaining an onion buffer, under the Price Stabilization Fund, to check prices of onions.

47. G20 Pandemic Fund approves 25 million dollar grant for strengthening Animal Health System in India

The G20 Pandemic Fund has approved a 25 million dollar proposal of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying for strengthening the Animal Health System of India.

Established under Indonesia's G20 Presidency, the Pandemic Fund finances critical investments to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response capacities at national, regional, and global levels. It mainly focuses on low- and middle-income countries.

48. Centre to set up Rs 12,000-cr inland waterway on Brahmani river in Odisha

The Centre is preparing a Rs 12,000-crore inland waterway on the Brahmani river in Odisha to move goods from four key industrial clusters to the ports of Paradip and Dhamra.

Under the proposed plan, the inland waterway will be developed on the engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) model in

which the total project funding is made by the government.

49. CCI fines ADIA and TPG-controlled entities Rs 55 lakh

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has imposed penalties on Platinum Trust and TPG Upswing for their stake acquisition in UPL Sustainable Agri Solutions Ltd (UPL SAS), marking the first-ever case of gun jumping in the green channel route. A penalty of Rs 5 lakh has been imposed for gun jumping, while a penalty of Rs 50 lakh was given for making false declarations.

50. India's Chandrayaan-3 successfully lands on the Moon

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully landed its Chandrayaan-3 Lander Module on the surface of the Moon.

ISRO's Chandrayaan-3 mission successfully completed its month-long journey from Earth to the Moon, making a soft landing on the lunar south pole. This is the same region where its predecessor, Chandrayaan-1, discovered the presence of water molecules. Pragyan (rover) has a mission life of 1 lunar day, approximately equal to 14 Earth days.

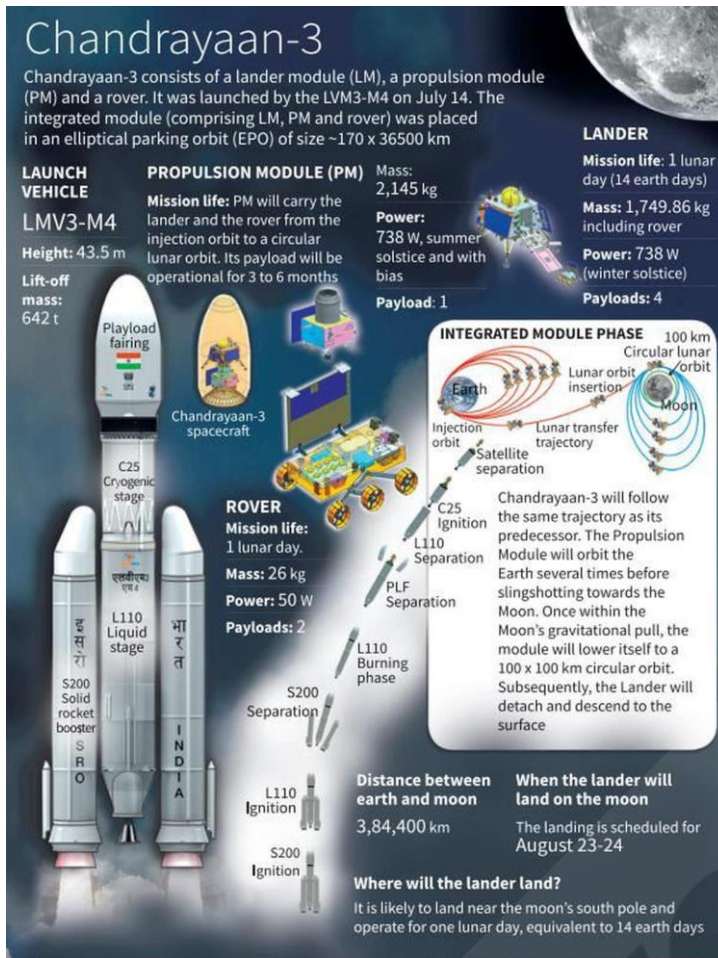


Image courtesy and copyright: The Hindu

51. India Aims for 65% Renewable Energy Share by 2030, Exceeding Previous Targets

The Union Power Minister announced ambitious plans to significantly increase the country's reliance on renewable energy sources. India is poised to achieve a remarkable 65% share of renewable energy in its energy mix by the year 2030.

Back in 2015, the country had set a target of reaching 40% renewable energy penetration by 2030.

52. Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare organizes an immersive two-day training programme inviting more than 200 chefs

Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare is organizing an immersive two-day

training programme inviting more than 200 chefs/cooks serving at various paramilitary and other government canteens, focusing on millet-based recipes.

53. Student Scientist Connect Program Event held under the "One Week One Lab" Campaign

Under the "One Week One Lab" Campaign CSIR-Central Glass and Ceramic Research Institute (CGCRI), Kolkata conducted a school connect programme. It was intended to promote scientific temper among school students and encourage them to pursue research in different scientific domains. Dr S.K. Mishra, Director CSIR-CGCRI welcomed the participants.

54. Vedanta wins arbitration against govt in \$1.1 bn cost disallowance case

Mining magnate Anil Agarwal's Vedanta Ltd has won an arbitration against a demand for a higher payout from its prolific Rajasthan oil and gas fields after disallowance of Rs 9,545 crore (\$1.16 billion) in certain costs incurred, the company said.

55. President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu releases the commemorative coin on Late Shri NT Rama Rao on his centenary year

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu released the commemorative coin of Rs. 100 on Late Shri NT Rama Rao on his centenary year at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre on August 28, 2023.

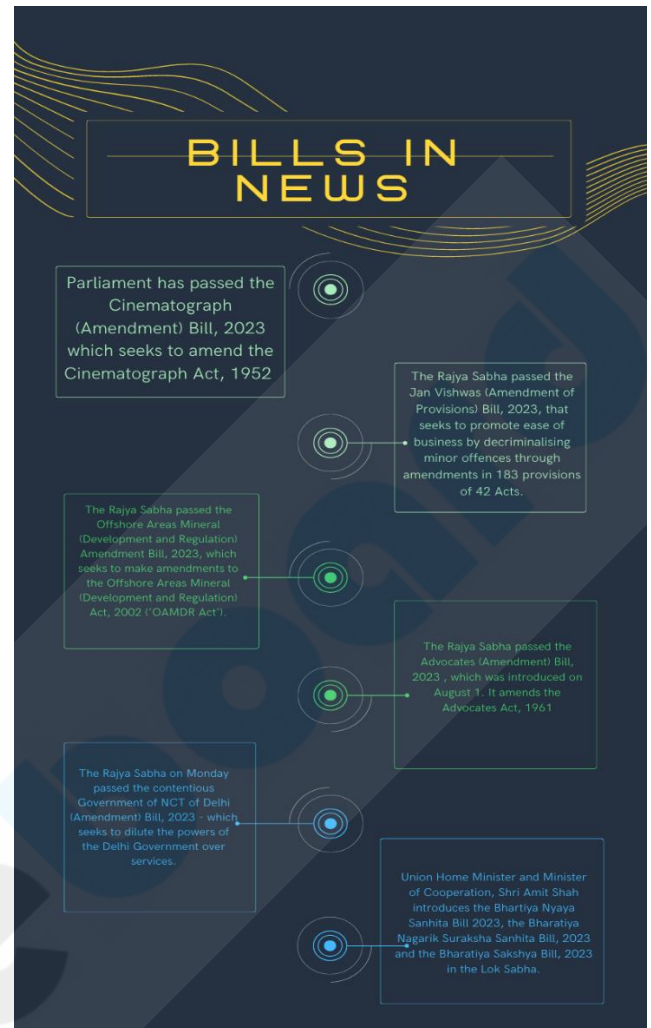
Shri NT Rama Rao has enriched Indian cinema and culture through Telugu films. He also spread the message of social justice and equality through one of his films 'Manushulanta Okkate.

56. Akashvani organises event related to Know India Programme under the aegis of Ministry of External Affairs

Akashvani organised an event related to Know India Programme under the aegis of Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi.

Know India Programme (KIP) is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of External Affairs for diaspora engagement, which familiarizes Indian-origin youth with their Indian roots.

In 1956 the name AKASHVANI was adopted for the National Broadcaster.




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Harshita Ma'am
PD Trainer &
Interview Expert



Dr. Anubhav
Goswami
English & GD Expert

International

1. UNESCO recommends putting Venice on heritage danger list

The UN's cultural agency UNESCO has said, the iconic Italian city, Venice should be added to a list of world heritage sites in danger.

UNESCO in its report said, the city is at risk of irreversible damage from overwhelming tourism, over development and rising sea levels due to climate change.

The agency aims to encourage the better preservation of the site for the future

2. India Gives Rs 45 cr to Sri Lanka to fund its 'Digital Identity Project'

India has handed over Rs 45 crore in advance to Sri Lanka to fund its unique digital identity project, the most crucial step in the island nation's digitalisation programme being implemented through the Indian grant assistance. It is only the 15% of the total funds required for the successful implementation of the project given as an advance payment.

3. Carbon credit export may be allowed, framework with Japan in offing

India is working on a framework for carbon credit export with Japan and is looking at extending the facility to other countries that buy green hydrogen (GH₂) from it. The government had on August 8, 2022 revised the carbon credit policy to ban international trading of carbon credits generated by Indian companies to support the domestic carbon credit market.

4. Iraq is the 18th country to be recognized by WHO for eliminating Trachoma

The World Health Organization formally recognized Iraq as the **18th country to have successfully eliminated trachoma as a public health hazard**. This accomplishment also places Iraq as the fifth country in the WHO's Eastern Mediterranean Region to reach this milestone. The WHO has **designated Iraq as the 50th country to have eradicated at least one Neglected Tropical Diseases**

5. US To announce \$200 Million of new weapons aid for Ukraine Ukraine war

President Joe Biden's administration will announce \$200 million of new weapons aid for Ukraine. Ukraine needs weaponry that can be shipped from US stocks in a matter of days or weeks so it can keep up its fight to repel Russia's invasion - the accounting error worked to Kyiv's benefit because more equipment can be sent.

6. Russia launches first Moon mission in nearly 50 years

Russia launched its first moon-landing spacecraft in 47 years yesterday in a bid to be the first nation to make a soft landing on the lunar south pole, a region believed to hold coveted pockets of water ice.

The Russian lunar mission, known as Luna-25, was launched using a Soyuz 2.1v rocket from the Vostochny cosmodrome, located over 5,500 km east of Moscow. It is Russia's first lunar mission since 1976. Yuri Borisov, the head of Roscosmos.

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

Mr Kakar, the 52-year-old first-time Senator, is an ethnic Pushtun from Balochistan and a member of the Balochistan Awami Party (BAP).

He was administered oath of the office by President Arif Alvi in a ceremony held at the Aiwan-i-Sadr (the President House) in Islamabad. He became the 8th interim prime minister of Pakistan.

8. BRICS Bank signs \$173 mn loan agreement for Lesotho water project

The New Development Bank (NDB), which was established by the BRICS bloc, and the Trans-Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA) have inked a loan agreement for the implementation of phase II of the Lesotho Highlands Water Project (LHWP).

The NDB will provide a project loan of 3.2 billion South African Rand (\$173 million) to TCTA under the sovereign guarantee of South Africa. Lesotho-->

Capital: Maseru

Currency: Lesotho Loti

9. Indian Mission at Bahrain Launches New Mobile App to Ease Consular Access

The Embassy of India in Bahrain hosted an open house session on August 25, under the guidance of Ambassador Designate Vinod Kurian Jacob.

10. Zimbabwe's Mnangagwa re-elected president, opposition rejects result

Zimbabwe's elections commission said late on August 26 that incumbent Emmerson Mnangagwa had won this week's presidential election with roughly 53% of the vote, but the opposition and analysts immediately questioned the result.

Emmerson Mnangagwa's main challenger, Nelson Chamisa, secured 44% of the presidential vote, according to the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission.

11. USFDA grants VAI classification to Torrent's Gujarat manufacturing site

The US health regulator has granted Voluntary Action Indicated classification to Torrent Pharmaceutical's manufacturing site in Dahej, Gujarat.

A VAI classification means objectionable conditions or practices were found but the agency is not prepared to take or recommend any administrative or regulatory action.

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Ex-GM, SBI



Aditya Sir
GA & Interview Expert



Dr. Anubhav Goswami
English & GD Expert



Harshita Ma'am
PD Trainer & Interview Expert

Sports

1. Hyderabad to host India's first IAU 50 Km World Championships, half-marathon

Hyderabad is all set to host meg sporting event, the IAU 50 Km World Championships 2023, which will be held for the first time in India. The IAU 50 Km World Championships 2023 which in affiliation with the International Association of Ultra Runners (IAU) and the Athletics Federation of India (AFI) will see participants from several countries.

2. Subroto Mukherjee Sports Education Society sign MoU with AIFF to promote football at the grassroots level

For the first time ever, Subroto Mukerjee Sports Education Society (SMSES) has collaborated with All India Football Federation (AIFF) to promote football at grass root level.

As part of this MoU, from this edition onwards, a Subroto XI team will be formed in Junior Boys (U-17) category.

The team will participate in AIFF Youth Competition from the 2023-24 season.

3. World University Games 2023: Jyothi Yarraji wins bronze medal in women's 100m hurdles

India's Jyothi Yarraji won the bronze medal in the women's 100m hurdles at the FISU World University Games 2023 in Chengdu, China.

The run in the final saw Jyothi Yarraji better her previous national record by 0.04 seconds.

This was India's second athletics medal at the Chengdu meet after Bhavani Bhagavathi Yadav claimed a bronze in the women's long jump event. India's medals tally now stands at 25 medals- 11 gold, five silver and nine bronze.

4. Alex Hales announces international retirement

England batsman Alex Hales has announced his retirement from international cricket at the age of 34. The right-hand batsman, who played 11 Test matches, 70 one-day internationals and 75 Twenty20s for England, was dropped from England's 2019 ODI World Cup squad after news of a failed recreational drugs test broke before tournament.

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

World No. 1 men's doubles pair of Pramod Bhagat and Sukant Kadam won a gold medal in SL3-SL4 category in the Four Nations Para-Badminton International- 2023 in Sheffield, England, defeating compatriots Deep Ranjan Bisoyee and Manoj Sarkar 21-17 21-17.

Bhagat also secured a silver in the singles SL3 category, as also a silver in mixed doubles SL3-SU5 category with Manisha

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

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

Earlier Japan clinched Bronze Medal, defeating South Korea.

7. In Tennis, Jannik Sinner clinches his first Masters 1000 title in Toronto

Jannik Sinner beat Australian Alex De Minaur 6-4 6-1 at the National Bank Open in Toronto to clinch his first Masters 1000 title after finishing runner-up in two editions of the Miami Open in 2021 and 2023.

Sinner has become the second Italian player in history to win a Masters 1000 title following Fabio Fognini's triumph in Monte-Carlo in 2019.

8. India climbs to number 3 in FIH Men's Hockey Rankings following Asian Champions Trophy win

Indian men's hockey team jumped to the third spot in FIH Men's Hockey World Rankings following their 4-3 win over Malaysia in the final of Asian Champions Trophy in Chennai.

India has reached the third spot with 2771.35 points. They saw an uptick of 8.61 points following their win and were earlier at 2762.74.

Top 5 now: Netherlands, Belgium, India, England and Germany.

9. Priya Malik wins Gold medal at 2023 U20 World Wrestling Championships in Jordan

Indian grappler Priya Malik won Gold medal at the 2023 U20 World Wrestling Championships in Jordan. **Priya became just the second woman wrestler from India to be crowned U20 world championship.**

10. India clinch mixed team air pistol gold in ISSF World Championship at Baku, Azerbaijan

Shooters Esha Singh and Shiva Narwal brought cheers to the India camp, clinching the 10m air pistol mixed team gold by defeating Turkey in

the final of the ISSF World Championship at Baku, Azerbaijan on 18th August 2023.

India is currently placed second on the medals table with a gold and a bronze medal, while China is leading the tally with five gold and two bronze medals.

11. ICC unveils official mascots of the 2023 Cricket World Cup

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has finally unveiled the two mascots for the Cricket World Cup 2023, starting October 5 in India.

Cricket fans from across the world will have a chance to name these two mascots 'a male and a female, in an engaging process, as announced by cricket's governing body.

These mascots were revealed during an event in Gurugram.

12. Spain beats England to win its first FIFA Women's World Cup title

Spain won the Women's World Cup for the first time with Olga Carmona's first-half strike giving La Roja a 1-0 victory over England in final.

The win gave the Spanish women their first major international trophy and avenged a quarterfinal loss to eventual champion England in the European championship last year.

Sweden picked up their fourth Women's World Cup bronze medal.

13. Avani Prashanth claims Ahlsell Final golf tournament; becomes the first Indian to win on the LET Access Series

Indian amateur Avani Prashanth claimed the Ahlsell Final golf tournament title at Elisefarm Golf Club (Sweden).

The 16-year-old carded a six-under 210 overall to edge out her nearest rivals Isabell Ekstrom (Sweden) and Matilda Bjorkman (Sweden) by one shot.

Avani, who started the final round in tied-ninth spot, climbed to the top with a stellar five-under 67.

14. IBSA World Games: Indian women's visually challenged cricket team wins gold

The visually challenged Indian women's cricket team, on Saturday, scripted history winning a gold medal beating Australia by nine wickets at the IBSA World Games.

India restricted Australia for 114/8 in the allotted 20 overs and then chased down the revised target of 42 in 3.3 overs.

15. In badminton, HS Prannoy wins bronze medal at BWF World Championships in Copenhagen

India's ace shuttler HS Prannoy had to settle for a bronze medal as he registered a loss to Kunlavut Vitidsarn in the semifinals of the ongoing 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.

With this win, World Number 7 Prannoy assured a bronze medal for India.

16. Pakistan reclaim No. 1 ODI ranking spot after Afghanistan whitewash

The 3-0 series win saw Pakistan pip Australia for the No. 1 spot in the ICC Men's ODI Rankings.

Heading into the Afghanistan series, Pakistan were at the second spot with 115.8 rating points, behind top-ranked Australia (118). Pakistan now sit atop with 118.48 rating point, going past Australia only marginally in the rankings chart.

17. India win inaugural Women's Asian Hockey 5s World Cup Qualifier, beat Thailand 7-2 in final

India defeated Thailand 7-2 in the final here to win the inaugural Women's Asian Hockey 5s World Cup Qualifier and seal their berth in the berth in the next year's World Cup.

Mariana Kujur (2nd, 8th minutes) and Jyoti (10th, 27th) scored a brace for India, while Monika Dipi Toppo (7th), skipper Navjot Kaur (23rd) and Mahima.

18. Maharashtra Govt signs MoU with Germany's professional association football league to help young players

The Maharashtra Government has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Germany's professional association football league, 'Bundesliga', to build a football team for players under the age of 14.

It will help young footballers to develop their skills and potentially compete at a high level.

Agreements & MoUs

1. DGT collaborates with Amazon Web Services India to offer skilling programs on emerging technologies

The Directorate General of Training (DGT), under the aegis of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), is collaborating with Amazon Web Services (AWS) India to upskill students in cloud computing, data annotation, artificial intelligence (AI), and machine learning (ML), to boost their capabilities and employability.

2. Reliance signs MoU with Brookfield for renewable power equipment manufacturing in Australia

Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Brookfield Asset Management for manufacturing renewable energy and decarbonization equipment in Australia. Brookfield will work with Reliance to explore avenues of direct capital investment and the development of skills, knowledge, and expertise in the renewable energy sector of Australia.

3. AIIMS partners with IREDA for solarization of campus

IREDA and AIIMS signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to initiate the technical assessment of AIIMS, New Delhi campus for solarization.

By engaging in this partnership and implementing solar power projects at AIIMS, the institute aims to significantly reduce its electricity expenditure while concurrently minimizing its carbon footprint with the help of IREDA. IREDA's Chairman- Pradip Kumar Das

4. NHPC and ALIMCO sign MoU for providing aids and assistive devices to Divyangjans

NHPC Limited and Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding, under which NHPC will provide CSR support for distribution of aids and assistive devices to around 1,000 Divyangjans (Persons with Disabilities) in the vicinity of NHPC Projects located in North and North Eastern states. The MoU was signed under the CSR initiative of NHPC

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

Tata Power Renewable Energy Ltd. has inked two separate pacts to supply a total of 350 MW electricity from its solar projects to Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Co. Located in Maharashtra, these projects of 200 MW and 150 MW will play a crucial role in fulfilling the state's renewable energy targets, a company statement said.

6. IIT-Ahmedabad's CIIE.co partners with SIDBI to set up pre-seed deeptech accelerator fund

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has announced the SIDBI Accelerator Fund in partnership with the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad's startup incubator, CIIE.CO, with an initial corpus of INR 40 Cr. The fund provide pre-seed funding to deeptech startups. The corpus will be equally contributed by the two entities.

7. Indian Railways, IIT Madras join hands to establish 5G testbed in Hyderabad

The Indian Railways Institute of Signal Engineering and Telecommunications (IRISET)

under the Ministry of Railways and the IIT Madras have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish the India 5G testbed.

This testbed will be located at IRISSET in Secunderabad to test 5G use on the Indian Railways.

8. SJVN inks an MoU for power trading with Sikkim Urja Limited

SJVN Limited has inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Sikkim Urja Limited for power trading.

In terms of MOU, SJVN shall trade 180 MW hydropower from SUL's 1200 MW Teesta-III Hydro Electric Project in Sikkim to distribution licensees and open access consumers.

This will be SJVN's first venture in the State of Sikkim

9. BHEL signs MoU with Greenstat to explore opportunities in Hydrogen value chain

BHEL has signed an MoU with Greenstat Hydrogen India Pvt. Ltd. for 'potential collaboration opportunities in Green Hydrogen and derivatives in the Hydrogen Value Chain.'

This partnership will pave the way for collaboration in Hydrogen value chain, contributing towards 'National Green Hydrogen Mission' of the Government of India, making India 'Atmanirbhar'.

10. India to home South Asia's first-ever Center for Species Survival

With a vision to create a just world that values and conserves nature, IUCN Species Survival Commission has partnered with Wildlife Trust of India (WTI) to set up the first-ever Center for Species Survival in South Asia. This collaborative effort aims to enhance

conservation efforts by wildlife experts and specialist groups and safeguard the rich biodiversity of India.

11. NewSpace India Limited partners with Tata Play to commission GSAT-24

NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) has collaborated with Tata Play & launched GSAT-24, a 4-tonne class communication satellite built by ISRO for providing DTH services.

Currently Tata Play has 600 channels. With the inclusion of ISRO satellite, it would be able to transmit 900 channels benefitting the general public.

Chairman & Managing Director NSIL Shri Radhakrishnan Durairaj. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman: Shri S. Somanath.

12. TCS Gets Contract To Transform Governments E-Marketplace

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has been chosen as a strategic partner to transform the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) by bringing in more transparency and efficiency into the public procurement process.

In May 2023, TCS-led a consortium which bagged a \$1.8-billion deal from the government-owned telco Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) to deploy 4G network. CEO of GeM: PK Singh; TCS, CEO and MD K Krithivasan.

13. L&T and Partners to Invest \$4 Billion in Green Hydrogen Ventures

Engineering major L&T and its green hydrogen joint venture partners-Indian Oil Corporation and ReNew-will invest upto \$4 billion ('32,000 crore) in their green hydrogen businesses over three-five years. The company will invest

approximately '500 crore in manufacturing electrolyzers. Additionally, the joint venture with IOCL and ReNew can also establish green hydrogen plants

14. HCL Tech, Verizon in \$2billion deal for Managed Network Services

HCLTech has bagged a multi-billion-dollar deal to become the primary managed network services (MNS) collaborator of Verizon Business, the enterprise division of global telecom giant Verizon Communications, in all its networking deployments for global enterprise customers. The deal has an estimated new total contract value (TCV) of \$ 2.1 billion for a duration of six years

15. AIIMS Bathinda gets a new NSDC International Skill Centre

Skill development agency NSDC said that a new skill centre has been inaugurated at the AIIMS, Bathinda. The centre, which has been opened as part of an agreement between NSDC International (NSDCI) and AIIMS, will upskill nursing candidates to make them job-ready in the global market. This partnership aims at enhancing the skills and capabilities of Indian nursing candidates.

16. 12 Stalled Hydro Power Projects of Arunachal Pradesh of more than 11.5 GW handedover to Hydro PSUs under Union Ministry of Power

The Government of India and the Government of Arunachal Pradesh have come together to rejuvenate and execute 12 stalled hydro-electric power projects in the state.

17. Apple supplier Foxconn hikes investment proposal in Telangana to \$550 million

The Board of Directors of FIT Hon Teng Ltd (Foxconn) has approved a \$400 million

investment in Telangana, as confirmed by Foxconn India representative V Lee. Foxconn is a key supplier for Apple.

18. NTPC and EDII join hands to empower women through entrepreneurship

Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), Ahmedabad, 'Centre of Excellence' recognised by the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, signed a memorandum of agreement (MoA) with the CSR Division of National Thermal Power Corporation Limited.

EDII will facilitate New Enterprise Creation among the underprivileged women in the vicinity of NTPC Noida.

19. Protean, PayNearby partner for credit marketplace on ONDC

Protean eGov Technologies and fintech platform PayNearby have collaborated for providing credit services on the 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.

20. ISRO Transfers IMS-1 Satellite Bus Technology to a Private Industry

ISRO transferred the IMS-1 Satellite Bus Technology to M/S Alpha Design Technologies Pvt. Ltd. (ADTL). NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), the commercial arm of ISRO, facilitated the technology transfer through an agreement.

IMS-1 bus, weighing about 100 kg, accommodates a 30 kg payload.

NSIL is a wholly owned Government of India company. Shri. D Radhakrishnan, Chairman and Managing Director of NSIL.

21. Indian Army Set To Get More 6x6 High Mobility Vehicles For Easing Logistics Movements In Forward Areas

The Indian Army is in the process of procuring 650 high mobility vehicles (HMV) with a 6X6 configuration and material handling crane (MHC) capabilities.

According to a request for information (RFI) released by the army, these 66 HMVs will be designed to handle payloads of at least 8,000 kg and tow a minimum load of 20 tonnes.

Additionally, the HMVs should not weigh more than 24,000 tonnes.

22. Infosys announces \$1.6 billion deal with telecom firm Liberty Global

Indian IT services company Infosys has won a USD 1.6 billion deal from Liberty Global to build and scale the entertainment and connectivity platforms of the digital communications firm. As per the current agreement between both parties, the initial tenure of the contract is five years. It can also be extended to eight years.

23. Cabinet approves signing of MoU between India and Suriname in the field of the regulation of medicines

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, was apprised of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on 4th June, 2023 between the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, and Ministry of Health, Government of the Republic of Suriname for Recognition of Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) in Suriname.

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

Wipro has launched a centre of excellence (COE) on generative artificial intelligence (AI) in partnership with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi. It will serve as a research and development hub and drive collaboration between the company's researchers and graduates of the institute. It will support foundational and applied research, and nurture talent.

25. Cabinet approves Mutual Recognition Arrangement of Authorised Economic Operators between India and Australia

The Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has approved the Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) between India and Australia.

It aims at providing reciprocal benefits to accredited and trusted exporters of both the signatories in the clearance of goods by the Customs authorities of the importing country.

26. Cabinet approves Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Sports between India and Australia

The Union Cabinet has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Cooperation in Sports between the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports of the Republic of India and the Department of Health and Aged Care of the Government of Australia.

This MoU will help both in expanding knowledge and expertise in the area of sport sciences, technologies and infrastructure, etc.

27. IRCTC, Delhi Metro Rail Sign MoU for QR code--based tickets

In order to offer DMRC tickets with QR codes via the IRCTC platform, the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCT) and the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC)

signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU).

The effort would help passengers of the IRCTC and the DMRC by expediting the travel process and cutting down on the amount of time spent in station lines.

28. NEHHDC, Tide join hands to promote small weavers and artisans of North East India

In a bid to digitise the handloom and handicraft sector in North East India, Tide, UK's SME-focused business financial platform has entered into an MoU with North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation (NEHHDC).

The year-long partnership will help nearly 2.1 million handloom weavers and 3.5 million handicraft artisans across 800 clusters in NE India.

29. NHPC signs pact with RITES to construct railway siding for 2,880 MW Dibang project

State-owned hydro power giant NHPC Limited has inked an initial pact with RITES Limited to construct railway siding for a 2,880 MW Dibang multipurpose project in Arunachal Pradesh.

NHPC's total installed capacity is 7,097.2 MW of renewable power (including wind and solar) through its 25 power stations, including 1,520 MW through its subsidiary.

30. L&T wins 'significant' order to build Australia's largest urea plant

Diversified group L&T on has secured a "significant" order from Perdaman Chemicals & Fertilisers to build a 2.3 million tonne urea plant in Australia.

On completion, this facility will be the largest urea plant in Australia and one of the largest in the world.

31. PFC inks \$1.28 mn loan pact with JBIC for waste-to-energy project in Karnataka

State-owned Power Finance Corporation (PFC) has signed a loan agreement with Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) for JPY 1.85 billion or \$1.28 million for a waste-to-energy project in Karnataka.

The loan proceeds would be used to finance the 11.5 MW for waste-to-energy project of KPC Gas Power Corporation Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of KPCL, at Bidadi.

32. Mastercard signs up as ICC sponsor for 2023 World Cup

Digital payments company Mastercard has signed up as one of the 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.

ICC is the global governing body for cricket headquartered in Dubai, United Arab Emirates

33. UNDP partners govt to fast-track sustainable development in northeast

The Ministry of Development of North-eastern Region (MDoNER) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) joined hands to enhance and expedite sustainable development goals (SDGs) in the northeastern states.

Under this strategic collaboration, UNDP will provide crucial technical support to MDoNER in

several key areas, including fast-tracking progress on the SDGs.

34. Infosys signs tennis legend Rafael Nadal as brand ambassador for 3 years

Bengaluru-based tech-giant Infosys signed Spanish tennis legend Rafael Nadal as its ambassador for a three-year period.

Nadal's first collaboration with the company will be in the development of an AI-powered match analysis tool, a personalized tool that will be available in real-time to Nadal's coaching team to simultaneously track insight from his live matches. Salil Parekh is the Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director of Infosys.

35. Deendayal Port, DP World sign agreement for construction of mega-container terminal

Deendayal Port Authority and DP World have signed a concession agreement in the presence of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal in New Delhi. The project involves the construction of a mega-container terminal at Tuna-Tekra near the existing Deendayal Port, at a cost of over 4,243 crores rupees through a Public Private Partnership.

36. Inland Waterways Authority signs MoU with Numaligarh Refinery for export of petroleum products

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 Numaligarh Refinery will set up POL Oil Terminal at Jogighopa Logistics Park with rail

connectivity. IWAI chairperson: Sanjay Bandopadhyaya.

37. AAI and NLCIL signed agreement for operationalisation of TN's upcoming Neyveli Airport

NLC India Limited (NLCIL) has inked a pact with the Airports Authority of India (AAI) to provide communication, navigation, surveillance and air traffic management services at the company's brownfield Airport in Neyveli.

According to a press release, the airport is being developed under the regional connectivity scheme (RCS), also known as Udan to promote air connectivity. NLC India Limited (NLCIL), is a Navratna public sector unit.

38. IDFC First Bank Grabs 3-Year Title Sponsorship for BCCI Matches at Rs 4.2 Crore Per Match

IDFC FIRST Bank has bagged the title rights for the home international series of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

It would pay a sum of Rs 4.2 crore per international game. Moreover, the contract will commence for a three-year-long period starting from the three-match ODI series that India will host against Australia. Roger Binny is the President of BCCI.

39. Defence Ministry inks Rs 19,000-crore deal with HSL for 5 Fleet Support Ships

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed a contract with Visakhapatnam-based state-owned Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) for acquisition of first of its kind five Fleet Support Ships (FSS) of 44,000 tonnes for the Indian Navy at an overall cost of approximately Rs 19,000 crore.

The Navy envisages eight FSS over next ten years to augment its fleet of tankers.

40. ADB, Fourth Partner Energy to Build Solar Power Plant in India, Supplying Commercial and Industrial Sector

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has agreed to provide a loan of Rs1.2bn (\$14.7m) to the Indian renewable energy solutions platform Fourth Partner Energy for the construction of a solar power facility in India.

The 25MW facility will be built in the Tirunelveli district in the state of Tamil Nadu and will generate 50.7 gigawatt-hours of clean energy per year.

41. Numaligarh Refinery Limited (NRL) signs MoA with IIT Guwahati to develop sustainable material

As a part of R&D initiative of NRL, a MoA was signed with Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati to develop technology for production of marketable Grade Green Activated Carbon from bamboo dust.

Bamboo dust will be generated while preparing bamboo chips for the 2nd Generation Bio-Refinery being setup by NRL through its JV company Assam Bio-Refinery Private Limited.

42. TCS extends contract with life insurance firm Athora Netherlands

Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has expanded its long-standing partnership with Athora Netherlands (formerly VIVAT) to help the Dutch life insurance and pension provider with a better IT operating model to enhance customer experience, operational resilience and business agility.

TCS first started working with Athora Netherlands, which was then VIVAT, in 2015.

43. Amazon signs MoU with Indian postal service, partners with Railways for faster deliveries

Amazon had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian postal service and has also partnered with the Indian Railways for a dedicated freight corridor that will help Amazon expedite deliveries for its seller partners.

Amazon's partnership with the Indian Railways for a dedicated freight corridor is the first of its kind for any e-commerce company.

44. Tata Power Renewable Energy inks pact with Sanyo Special Steel Manufacturing to set up 28-MW solar plant

Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL) has partnered with Sanyo Special Steel Manufacturing India Private Limited (SSMI) to set up a 28.12-megawatt green energy plant in Maharashtra.

The plant is expected to produce 61.875 million units (MUs) of electricity annually, which would meet the energy requirement of steel manufacturing unit of SSMI.

45. Tata Steel And ACME Group Join Forces For India's Largest Green Hydrogen Project Worth Rs 27,000 Crore In Odisha

Renewable energy company ACME Group has partnered with Tata Steel Special Economic Zone Ltd. (TSSEZL) to establish a green hydrogen and green ammonia project at the Gopalpur Industrial Park (GIP) in Odisha.

This project will be India's largest manufacturing facility for green hydrogen and its derivatives in the country, according to TSSEZ Manikanta Naik, Managing Director of Tata Steel Special Economic Zone Ltd.

Schemes

1. 31.14 lakhs handicraft artisans registered under PEHCHAN Scheme benefitting

31.14 lakhs handicraft artisans have been registered under PEHCHAN scheme across the country to benefit of this programme.

These registered artisans with Pehchan card can avail the benefits of the National Handicraft Development Programme (NHDP) and Comprehensive Handicrafts Cluster Development Scheme (CHCDS) of Ministry of Textiles.

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

The Ministry of Tourism has identified 'Prayagraj' and 'Naimisharanya' in Uttar Pradesh as destinations for development under 'Swadesh Darshan 2.0 with the objective to develop sustainable and responsible tourism destinations. The government launched 'Swadesh Darshan Scheme' in the year 2014-15 for integrated development of Theme-Based Tourist Circuits in the country.

3. Over 5.25 crore subscribers enrolled in Atal Pension Yojana

Over 5.25 crore subscribers have enrolled in Atal Pension Yojana (APY), the government's flagship social security programme launched in 2015 with the objective of delivering old-age income security to all citizens of India, particularly to the workers in the unorganised sector. As of date, the total assets under management (AUM) in APY is more than Rs 28,434 crore.

4. Jal Jeevan Survekshan (JJS-2023): Srinagar Ranks First across India in implementation of JJM among Har Ghar Jal Certified Distts

The Srinagar District has been Ranked as the top performing District under Jal Jeevan Survekshan(JJS-2023) among 114 Har Ghar Jal Certified Villages across the Country in the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission(JJM) during October, 01, 2022 to June 30, 2023.

The Srinagar District has attained the top rank in implementation of JJM by obtaining highest score of 83.0.

5. Defence Minister approves substantial increase in financial aid to strengthen support systems for ex-servicemen and families.

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh approved a substantial increase in financial aid across various schemes aimed to strengthen the support systems for the ex-servicemen and their families.

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

In a significant step towards promoting the indigenous crafts and artisans of India, One District One Product (ODOP) program, an initiative under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, launched its collaboration with the Ministry of Rural Development in New Delhi.

7. Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority and Common Service Centre launches 'Niveshak Sarathi' Vans for Delhi - NCR

In a step towards financial literacy, Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) CEO Ms. Anita Shah Akella launched two Investor Awareness Vans titled 'Niveshak Sarathi', from IEPFA's headquarters as part of

the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, aligning with the theme 'From Unawareness to Financial Independence.'

8. Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launches DBT in NAPS to strengthen apprenticeship ecosystem in India

A Chintan Shivir on 'Enhancing Apprenticeship Engagement' organized to elevate the uptake of apprenticeship programs among all stakeholders.

9. Cabinet approves Rs 13,000-crore Vishwakarma Yojana; craftsmen to get subsidised loans up to Rs 2 lakh: Ashwini Vaishnaw

Union Cabinet today approved a Rs 13,000 crore PM Vishwakarma scheme that will benefit about 30 lakh traditional artisans and craftsmen, including weavers, goldsmiths, blacksmiths, laundry workers, and barbers.

Under the scheme, craftsmen will be provided a subsidised loan of '1 lakh in the first tranche, and another '2 lakh in the second tranche. The loans will be provided at a concessional interest rate of 5 per cent.

10. Cabinet approves outlay of Rs 14,903 crore to expand Digital India programme

Union Cabinet approved extension of the Digital India programme with an outlay of Rs 14,903 crore to boost digital initiatives in skilling, cyber security, high performance computing and simplifying technology for masses, among other areas.

Under the extended programme, nine more super computers will be added under the National Supercomputing Mission (NSCM). The outlay has been approved for a five-year period between 2021-22 to 2025-26.

11. Jan Dhan Accounts Cross 50 Crore-Mark in less than 9 years.

The total number of Jan Dhan accounts crossed 50 crore on August 9, according to the latest report submitted by the banks. Of these, 56% of the account holders are women, and 67% of these accounts have been opened in rural or semi-urban areas.

The deposits in these accounts stood cumulatively at above Rs 2.03 lakh crore and about 34 crore RuPay cards have been issued.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), was launched on August 28, 2014.

12. Centre rolls out Rs 5,000 crore RLI scheme for pharma, med-tech sectors

Centre has rolled out a Rs 5,000 crore research-linked-incentive (RLI) scheme for pharmaceuticals and med-tech sector to strengthen the research infrastructure in the country & promote more industry-academia linkages for research and development (R&D).

The total outlay of the scheme would be Rs 5,000 crore over a period of five years from 2023-24 to 2027-28.

Scheme has two components. Indian pharma industry constitutes 3.4% market share of the global pharma industry.

13. Government approves Rs 57,613 crore for 10,000 e-buses across 169 cities to promote green mobility

57 thousand 613 crore rupees will be spent on PM-eBus Sewa.

Ten thousand new electric buses will be deployed in 169 cities.

The scheme will cover cities having a population of three lakh and beyond as per the census 2011 including all the Capital cities of Union Territories, North Eastern Region, and Hill States

14. Eight states lag behind in meeting targets under Mission Amrit Sarovar

West Bengal, Punjab, Telangana, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Bihar and Rajasthan wherein some of the districts are yet to achieve the target of 75 Amrit Sarovars per district.

So far, out of 1,12,277 Amrit Sarovars identified, work has been started on 81,425 Amrit Sarovars and a total of 66,278 Amrit Sarovars have been built/rejuvenated.

The Amrit Sarovar mission was launched by the Prime Minister on the 24th April 2022.

15. GOI launches 'Invoice incentive Scheme' by name 'Mera Bill Mera Adhikaar'

Government of India is launching an 'Invoice incentive Scheme' by the name 'Mera Bill Mera Adhikaar' to encourage the culture of customers asking for bills for all purchases.

Under the scheme, invoices will be drawn at regular intervals monthly and quarterly. Bills can be uploaded on Mobile App 'Mera Bill

Mera Adhikaar' available on IOS and Android or on web portal ' This scheme is being implemented in association with State Governments.

16. Centre To Extend PLI Scheme For Automotive Sector By One Year Until FY28

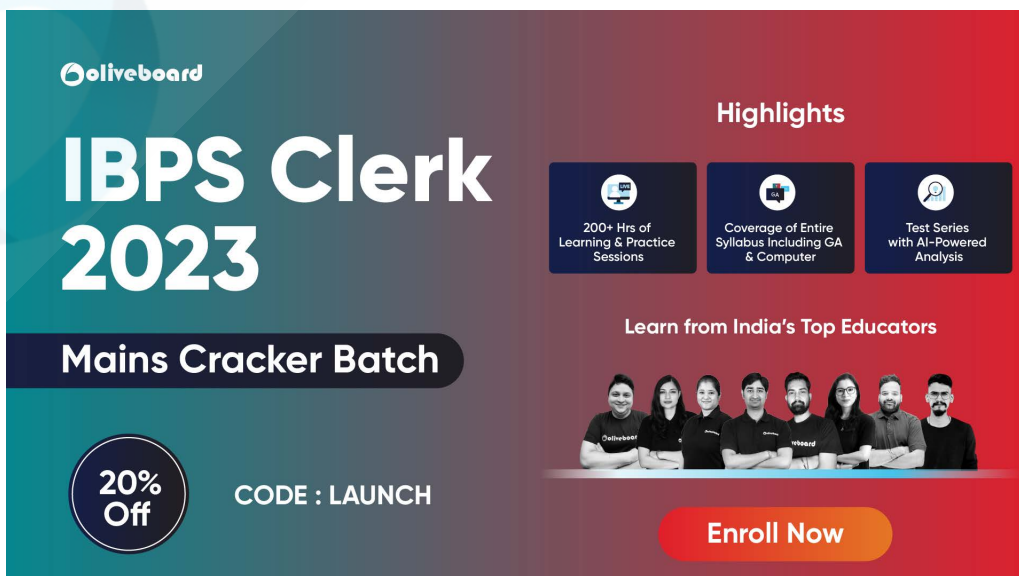
The government has decided to extend the Rs 25,938-crore production-linked incentive scheme for the automotive sector by one year, Union Heavy Industries Minister Mahendra Nath Pandey said.

Post extension, the five-year scheme, originally in place from 2022-23 to 2026-27, will be active until 2027-28.

17. Government likely to extend export benefits under RoDTEP scheme for pharma, steel, chemical sectors

The government is expected to extend export benefits under the Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) scheme to iron and steel, chemicals, and pharmaceutical sectors beyond September 30, 2023.

As exports have not doing good for the last few months, there is a demand to extend it for about six months till March 2024.



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Appointments & Resignations

1. Indian American Shohini Sinha becomes FBI special agent

Indian-American Shohini Sinha has assumed the role of special agent in charge of the Salt Lake City Field Office, as appointed by FBI Director Christopher Wray.

Her appointment marks a momentous milestone in her career, as she becomes the fortieth sovereign to undergo the prestigious coronation ceremony at the renowned Westminster Abbey.

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

Honeywell announced that Anant Maheshwari has been named President and CEO of Honeywell's High Growth Region portfolio, effective September 4, 2023. He will lead business growth across Honeywell's geographies in China, India, Southeast Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Central Asia, Africa and Latin America.

3. Cambodia king approves nomination of Hun Manet as next PM

Cambodia's king Norodom Sihamoni, has approved the government's nomination of Hun Manet, the eldest son of long-serving Prime Minister Hun Sen, to become the next Premier.

Ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) in last month's election won 120 of 125 parliamentary seats in a contest in which all viable opposition was sidelined.

4. Tesla Appoints India-Origin Vaibhav Taneja As CFO

Tesla Inc. has appointed India-origin Vaibhav Taneja as its new chief financial officer with

immediate effect. Taneja, who is currently the electric carmaker's chief accounts officer, will take on the additional responsibility of chief financial officer from Zachary Kirkhorn.

Kirkhorn stepped down on Aug. 4, after a 13-year tenure at the world's most valued carmaker.

5. Sanjay Kumar Agarwal takes charge as CBIC Chairman

Sanjay Kumar Agarwal has taken charge as the new Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC). He has taken over charge of the post with effect from August 5, 2023. The CBIC, which deals with policy making in indirect taxes - GST, customs, excise, headed by a chairman and has six members in the board.

6. Indian Oil Chairman SM Vaidya gets rare tenure extension of 1 year

In a first-of-its-kind instance, the government has extended the tenure of Indian Oil Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) Shri Shrikant Madhav Vaidya, for a period of one year beyond the date of his superannuation, i.e. w.e.f. 01.09.2023 till 31.08.2024.

The decision to extend Vaidya's tenure was authorized by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC).

7. SBI Life gets IRDAI approval for appointment of Amit Jhingran as MD & CEO

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) approved the appointment of Amit Jhingran as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer. Amit Jhingran has over three decades of experience in the insurance sector and serves

as the Assistant General Manager of the Hyderabad Circle. IRDAI headquarter is in Hyderabad, Telangana

8. Centre appoints R Doraiswamy as LIC Managing Director

Centre has appointed R Doraiswamy, Executive Director, Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) as Managing Director of the insurance behemoth from September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2026.

Doraiswamy will replace Ipe Mini, who is due to superannuate at the end of this month.

Currently, LIC has four Managing Directors ' Mini Ipe, M Jagannath, Tablesh Pandey, and Sat Pal Bhanoo.

9. Parminder Chopra to be 1st woman CMD of PFC as ACC approves her appointment

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Parminder Chopra for the post of Chairperson and Managing Director (CMD) of Power Finance Corporation (PFC) Limited. With this, she became the first full-time women CMD of PFC. PFC is a Maharatna PSU under the Ministry of Power.

10. Kamlesh Varshney, Amarjeet Singh appointed SEBI whole-time members

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Kamlesh Varshney and Amarjeet Singh as SEBI Whole-Time Members.

At SEBI, Varshney and Singh will fill in the vacancies created by the retirement of S K Mohanty and Ananta Barua.

They have been appointed for three years.

Ms. Madhabi Puri Buch is the Chairperson of SEBI. Other whole-time member at SEBI are: Shri. Ashwani Bhatia & Shri Ananth Narayan G.

11. RBI approves appointment of PR Seshadri as MD and CEO of South Indian Bank

According to Thrissur-based South Indian Bank the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the appointment of P R Seshadri as managing director and chief executive officer of the bank for a period of three years with effect from October 1, 2023.

South Indian Bank was established in 1929 at Trichur, Kerala State.

12. Axis Bank's Neelkanth Mishra appointed part-time chairperson of UIDAI

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), the nodal body in charge of issuing Aadhaar numbers, has appointed Neelkanth Mishra as its part-time chairperson. Mishra is the Chief Economist and Head of Global Research at Axis Bank Ltd.

The UIDAI board consists of a chairperson, two part-time members, and the CEO, who also serves as the member-secretary. Amit Agrawal-Chief Executive Officer of the Unique Identification Authority of India.

13. Justice Prakash Shrivastava appointed Chairperson of National Green Tribunal

Former Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court, Justice Prakash Shrivastava is the new Chairman of the National Green Tribunal (NGT). The Cabinet Appointments Committee of the Central Government approved the appointment of Justice Prakash Shrivastava as the Chairman of the NGT.

NGT was set up under the National Green Tribunal Act in 2010.

14. Doraiswamy Ramachandran named as Managing Director for LIC

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), a public sector insurance firm, has announced the appointment of Doraiswamy Ramachandran as the Managing Director, effective from September 1, 2023.

Currently, Doraiswamy is serving LIC as the Executive Director at the head office in Mumbai. He will be taking over from Mini Ipe, who is retiring as CEO and MD this month. Siddhartha Mohanty- Chairperson of LIC.

15. SMEV appoints R K Misra as its new President

The Society of Manufacturers of Electric Vehicles (SMEV), the apex body of the Indian Electric Vehicle industry, has announced the appointment of R K Misra, Co-founder of Yulu Bikes and Director at Magna Yuma, as its new President for 2023-24.

Akshay Kashyap, Managing Director, Greenfuel Energy Solutions P. Ltd has been named as Vice President.

16. Nita Ambani steps down, Isha, Akash & Anant to Join Reliance Board

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has announced a boardroom reshuffle, as Nita Ambani steps down from her position. Isha Ambani, Akash Ambani, and Anant Ambani have been nominated as Non-Executive Directors of the company.

As the Chairperson of Reliance Foundation, Nita Ambani will attend all the RIL Board meetings.

17. Shriram Finance's Umesh Revankar takes charge as chairman of FIDC

The Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC), the representative body for asset and loan financing of Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs), has appointed Umesh Revankar as its new chairman.

Kamlesh Gandhi, CMD of MAS Financial Services, and K V Srinivasan, chief executive officer of Profectus Capital, will act as the co-chairmen of FIDC.

18. Geetika Srivastava becomes India's First Woman Charge d'Affaires In Pakistan

Geetika Srivastava, currently serving in the Indo-Pacific division of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), will be the new charge d'affaires at its High Commission in Islamabad, becoming the first woman to hold that post. She will succeed Dr M Suresh Kumar.

The Indian & Pakistani missions in Islamabad and New Delhi have been without High Commissioners since August 2019.

19. Govt appoints Jaya Verma Sinha as first woman CEO, chairperson of Railway Board

The Secretariat of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet announced the appointment of Jaya Verma Sinha as first woman CEO and chairperson of Railway Board.

Sinha will assume charge on or after September 1 and her tenure will be till August 31, 2024. She succeeds Anil Kumar Lahoti.

The Railway Board is the apex decision-making body for the national transporter.

Awards

1. Jayesh Saini Receives Global Leader Award 2023 for Healthcare Expansion in Africa

LifeCare Group, led by the visionary Jayesh Saini, is proud to announce its remarkable achievements in expanding healthcare services across East Africa. Jayesh Saini's leadership and commitment to expanding healthcare services have been recognized globally as he receives the prestigious Global Leader Award 2023 - Global Indian of the Year 2023.

2. UNION HOME MINISTER'S MEDAL FOR EXCELLENCE IN INVESTIGATION, 2023

The 'Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Investigation' for the year 2023 have been awarded to 140 Police personnel.

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

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

4. 954 police medals, including 230 for gallantry, announced on Independence Day eve

According to the ministry of home affairs, President's Police Medal for Gallantry (PPMG) has been awarded to 01 CRPF personnel, Police Medal for Gallantry (PMG) has been awarded to 229, President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service (PPM) awarded to 82 and Police Medal for Meritorious Service (PM) has been awarded to 642.

These medals are announced twice a year, the other being on the occasion of Republic Day.

5. President approves 76 gallantry awards for Armed Forces and CAPF Personnel on eve of Independence Day 2023

President Droupadi Murmu approved 76 Gallantry awards to Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces personnel on the eve of Independence Day 2023.

These include four Kirti Chakra (posthumous), 11 Shaurya Chakras, two Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry), 52 Sena Medals (Gallantry), three Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry) and four Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry).

6. Indian-American economist Raj Chetty awarded top Harvard University prize

Prominent Indian-American economist Raj Chetty has been awarded the coveted George Ledlie Prize for wielding big data to break myths about who achieves the American Dream and the obstacles faced by others.

Along with Chetty, Biologist Michael Springer, who created a better, faster COVID test system to help deal with the spread of COVID was also honoured with the Prize.

7. India secures Second Rank at 16th IOAA in Chorzow, Poland

With Four Gold and One Silver Medals, India has secured Second Rank at the 16th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) in Chorzow, Poland.

The Olympiad was held from the 10 to the 20 of August 2023. The United Kingdom clinched the lead with five Golds.

The team was led by Prof. Surhud More from IUCAA, Pune, and Pritesh Ranadive from HBCSE-TIFR, Mumbai.

8. SVAMITVA Scheme of Ministry of Panchayati Raj won National Award for e-Governance 2023

SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas) Scheme of Ministry of Panchayati Raj won the National Award for e-Governance 2023 (GOLD) for Application of Emerging Technologies for Providing Citizen Centric Services. It is a recognition of excellent and exemplary work done by Team SVAMITVA and supported by Team NIC-MoPR.

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Ranks & Reports

1. India's manufacturing PMI eases for second month to 57.7 in July

The S&P Global purchasing managers' index (PMI) for manufacturing, fell to 57.7 in July from 57.8 in June, and 58.7 in May. A figure above 50 implies expansion and a reading below that denotes contraction.

Higher inflationary pressures remained a key challenge despite easing in the recent months, it said.

2. Cargo movement on national waterways surges 16% in 2022-23

Cargo movement on India's national waterways witnessed increased 16% year-on-year during the fiscal year 2022-23, Union minister for ports, shipping, and waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal.

"The traffic between Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh to Haldia (NW-1) increased from 10.93 million ton in 2021-22 to 13.17 million ton in 2022-23 recording an increase of 20.52%,".

3. Indian economy may grow by average 6.7% till FY31, says S&P Global

Expressing confidence in the medium-term growth potential of the Indian economy, S&P Global in its report titled 'Look Forward: India's Moment', projected an average annual growth of 6.7 per cent from the fiscal year 2023-24 (FY24) to FY31, with capital accumulation as the main driver of this growth. This increase would correspond to a per capita GDP of around \$4,500.

4. OTT, ed-tech platforms driving global payments to Indian businesses: Razorpay report

Indian OTT (over the top) platforms saw an increase of 194 per cent in revenue from international viewers in the last two years, and a 361 per cent increase in international transactions, according to Razorpay's International Payments Report.

1 crore international transactions processed on Razorpay's payments and business banking platform between April 2021 and July 2023.

5. Consumer spending to exceed \$4 trillion by 2030, UPI most preferred option

Consumer spending in India is expected to surpass \$4 trillion by 2030, according to a report titled 'eCommerce in the New Bharat and it's Future' released by e-commerce enablement platform Shiprocket. The report sees consumer spending in the country to rise at a CAGR of about 10% on account of increased domestic consumer expenditure and consumption market.

6. Walmart tops Fortune Global 500 list for 2023, Saudi Aramco most profitable company ever

Fortune announced that US retailer Walmart has topped its Global 500 list for 2023, ranking the world's largest corporations by revenue for fiscal 2022. On Fortune's authoritative ranking of the (current) corporate world order, the Arkansas-based retailer claimed No. 1 for the 10th consecutive year and for the 18th time since 1995.

7. World rice price index jumps to near 12-year high in July, UN food agency says

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 prices in key exporting countries jumped on strong

demand and India's move to curb the exports. The July score was almost 20% higher than the last year's 108.4 points and the highest since September 2011, it said.

8. Maharashtra Secures Top Position In Fiscal Health Report, Kerala Performs Worst

Based on FY 24 budget estimates, Chhattisgarh, one of the poorest states in the country, is the second best in the overall fiscal health scorecard after Maharashtra, and ahead of Telangana, while the bottom three are West Bengal, Punjab, and Kerala, shows a report on the fiscal health of the key 17 states, penned by Kaushik Das, the chief economist at Deutsche Bank India.

Based on the FY23 revised budget estimates, Maharashtra tops the ranking.

9. 12th Report on States/UTs performance on CPGRAMS released by DARPG for the month of July, 2023

The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) released the Centralized Public Grievance Redressal and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) 12th monthly report for States for July, 2023.

The said report provides a detailed analysis of types and categories of public grievances and the nature of disposal.

10. 12 per cent of sitting MPs in Rajya Sabha are billionaires: ADR report

About 12% of sitting MPs of Rajya Sabha(RS) are billionaires according to a report by Association for Democratic Reforms(ADR) and the National Election Watch(NEW).

According to the report, 5 (45%) out of 11 MPs from Andhra Pradesh, 3 (43%) out of 7 MPs from Telangana and 3 (16%) out of 19 MPs

from Maharashtra have declared assets worth more than Rs 100 crore. Out of the 225 RS sitting MPs analysed, 75 (33%) have declared criminal cases against them

11. Consumer confidence marginally down: RBI survey

After seeing a persistent recovery for almost two years, consumer confidence has dipped in July with improvement in respondents' sentiment on income and spending being offset by higher pessimism on general economic and employment situation.

The Current Situations Index (CSI) dipped to 88.1 from 88.5 in May 2023, as per the July 2023 round of RBI's Forward Looking Surveys.

12. India' GDP growth likely at 8.5% in first quarter: ICRA

ICRA Ratings in its report highlights that India's economic growth will accelerate to 8.5% in Q1 FY24, driven by a recovery in the services sector. Its estimate is higher than the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) forecast of 8.1%,

Continued catch-up in service demand, improved investment activity, and government capital expenditure will drive the growth.

13. Amul ranked world's strongest dairy brand, second strongest food brand in the world

Amul has been ranked as the world's strongest dairy brand by the Brand Finance Food and Drink Report 2023. The report evaluates and ranks the strongest and most valuable food, dairy, and non-alcoholic beverage brands.

The report was conducted by UK-based Brand Finance, the world's leading brand valuation consultancy.

14. Total Banking Transactions At GIFT IFSC Reach \$508 Billion By July

Total banking transactions at GIFT International Financial Services Centre in Gandhinagar reached \$508 billion till July this year. Till July 2023, the total banking asset size at GIFT IFSC stood at \$41.20 billion, and cumulative derivative transactions booked by banks were worth \$632 billion.

Tapan Ray, MD & Group CEO, GIFT City.

15. Renewables helped power sector save \$520 bn globally in 2022: IRENA Report

Power sectors worldwide saved an astounding \$520 billion in fuel costs last year (2022), according to a report released by the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).

The introduction and rapid expansion of renewable energy capacity since the year 2000 has collectively slashed the global electricity sector's fuel expenses by no less than \$520 billion in 2022. The report titled "Renewable Power Generation Costs in 2022."



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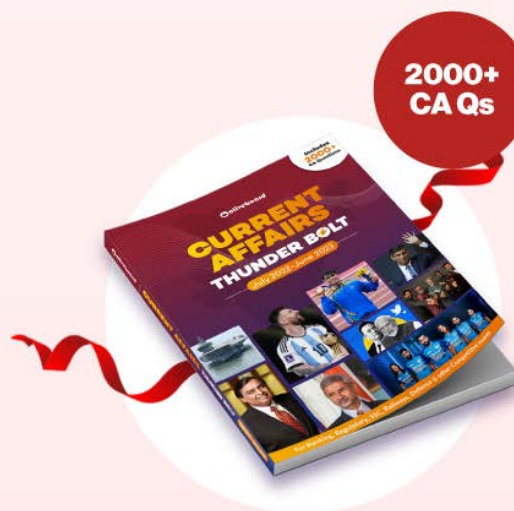
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Important Days

1. World Breastfeeding Week 2023 | August 1 to August 7

World Breastfeeding Week is held in the first week of August every year. According to World Health Organization, breastfeeding is one of the most effective ways to ensure child health and survival and yet currently, fewer than half of infants under 6 months old are exclusively breastfed.

World Breastfeeding Week 2023 Theme: Let's make breastfeeding and work, work!

2. National Handloom Day | 7 August

In 2015, the Government of India designated the 7th August every year, as the National Handloom Day. The Swadeshi Movement which was launched on 7th August, 1905 had encouraged indigenous industries and in particular handloom weavers. On this day, we honour our handloom-weaving community and highlight the contribution of this sector in the socio-economic development of India

3. World Biofuel Day II 10 August 2023

World Biofuel Day is observed every year on August 10 to spread awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative for humanity.

The day also attempts to highlight the government's efforts to encourage the biofuel sector. **This year theme 'Biofuels for Sustainability and Rural Income'**

4. World Lion Day II 10 August

World Lion Day is celebrated on August 10 every year.

The purpose of Lion Day is to create awareness about the majestic hunter, the ultimate feline, often referred to as the king of the jungle. Lions, scientifically known as *Panthera leo*, rank as the second-largest cat species globally with the Asian tiger taking the lead and weigh between 300 and 550 pounds.

5. INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY 2023

The day was designated as International Youth Day by the United Nations in the year 1999 after the General Assembly endorsed the recommendation by the 'World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth.' Subsequently, it is being celebrated every year on 12 August to highlight the importance of youth people as the driving force of change in the world.

6. World Elephant Day - August 12

World Elephant Day is an annual observance dedicated to raising awareness about the plight of elephants and promoting their conservation and welfare. It is celebrated on August 12th each year.

The idea of World Elephant Day was conceived by Canadian filmmakers Patricia Sims and Michael Clark, who co-founded the Elephant Reintroduction Foundation in Thailand.

7. World Organ Donation Day

World Organ Donation Day is observed on August 13, every year in order to raise awareness about the importance of and help people understand organ donation. Organ transplantation can help in saving and transforming the lives of people who have been fighting to survive.

8. Partition Horrors Remembrance Day | 14 August

Partition Horrors Remembrance Day' or 'Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas' is observed on August 14 to remember all those who lost their lives due to partition.

This day was announced by the Prime Minister in 2021 to remember all those who lost their lives due to the partition of the nation and were uprooted from their origins.

9. World Humanitarian Day | 19 August

In 2008, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution designating 19 August as World Humanitarian Day to honour the memory of those who lost their lives in the Baghdad bombings.

It is observed to recognise the work done by humanitarians around the world by venturing into disaster-stricken regions and onto the front lines to save and protect people's lives. The theme for World Humanitarian Day 2023 is 'No matter what'.

10. World Mosquito Day - August 20

World Mosquito Day is a special day dedicated for spreading awareness about mosquitoes and the types of diseases they carry. It is celebrated

on 20th August of every year worldwide. The health-contingency event is being observed for the past 126 years.

World Mosquito Day was established to honour the discovery made by Sir Ronald Ross in 1897, linking mosquitoes to malaria.

11. National Sports Day 2023 | 29 August

The National Sports Day in India is celebrated on 29 August every year. It is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand Singh.


The first National Sports Day was celebrated on August 29, 2012 and hence this year marks the 12th anniversary of Rashtriya Khel Divas.

2023 theme: "Sports are an enabler to an inclusive and fit society".

12. World Sanskrit Day 2023 | August 31

World Sanskrit Day, also recognized as International Sanskrit Day, Sanskrit Diwas, and Vishwa Samskrita Dinam, is commemorated on the occasion of Shravan Poornima, which corresponds to the full moon.

World Sanskrit Day is observed on August 31 with the aim of promoting Sanskrit, recognized as the world's oldest language.



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Summit & Conferences

1. For the first time in Asia, World Coffee Conference to be held in Bengaluru

Bengaluru, the coffee capital of India, is all set to host the fifth edition of the World Coffee Conference (WCC 2023) between September 25 and 28. This is the first time India and Asia are preparing to host this most prestigious global coffee event. The event to be jointly organized by the Coffee Board, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

2. PM Modi to take part in BRICS Johannesburg meet

The South African President, Cyril Ramaphosa invited the Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for the BRICS Summit being hosted by South Africa on August 22-24, 2023. BRICS' current five members - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - are due to convene there on Aug. 22-24.

3. MoS Rajeve Chandrasekhar to attend 'Digital India RISC-V' Symposium, organised by IIT Madras

Union Minister for State for Entrepreneurship, Skill Development, Electronics and IT Rajeve Chandrasekhar will be taking part in the 'Digital India RISC-V' Symposium, being organised by IIT Madras and IIT-M Pravartak Technologies Foundation in Chennai.

The event showcasing 'The future of Electronics in India through the RISC-V pathway'.

4. India to launch BRICS Startup Forum to boost startups, investors, incubators

India is all set to initiate the BRICS Startup Forum in 2023 to promote collaboration and knowledge sharing among startups, investors, incubators, and emerging entrepreneurs, said

commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal, during the virtual 7th BRICS Industry Ministers' meeting, hosted by South Africa as the Chair. BRICS is a group of Brazil, Russia, India China and South Africa

5. Global Maritime India Summit 2023 to be held in October

Global Maritime India Summit (GMIS), 2023 is slated for October 17 to October 19, at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

The meeting, with participation from more than 40 countries, including 21 Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Deputy High Commissioners, Trade Commissioners, and 23 other diplomats, underscored the global interest in the upcoming GMIS 2023.

6. Y20 Summit under G20 being hosted by Department of Youth Affairs gets underway at Varanasi

More than 100 delegates from the group of 20 countries (G20), other guest nations and international organizations will participate in the Youth20 (Y20) summit which will be held in Varanasi between August 17-20, 2023.

The Y20 summit is being organized by the Union Ministry of youth affairs and Sports.

7. First-ever WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine to be held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat

The Ministry of Ayush and World Health Organization are organizing the two day Traditional Medicine Global Summit, on 17th and 18th August 2023 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

The Union AYUSH Secretary highlighted that the Global Centre on Traditional Medicines in

Jamnagar, established by the WHO, is the first such centre in a developing country. It is the largest international event on Traditional Medicine.

8. G20 ministers agree to adopt digital public infrastructure

The G20 Digital Economy Ministers' Meeting in Bengaluru concluded with member countries and invitees showing absolute consensus on the concepts and application of Digital Public Infrastructure, Cyber security and digital skilling- the three priority areas put forth under G20 India Presidency.

9. G20 health ministers meet: Govt launches Global Initiative on Digital Health

Union minister for health and family welfare, Mansukh Mandaviya, launched the 'Global Initiative on Digital Health (GIDH)- a World Health Organisation (WHO) Managed Network' at the Mahatma Mandir convention centre in Gujarat's Gandhinagar during the second and final day of the G20 health ministers' meeting.

10. 4th G20 Culture Working Group (CWG) Meeting to begin in Varanasi

The 4th G20 Culture Working Group (CWG) Meeting will begin today in Varanasi. It will culminate in the Culture Ministers' Meeting (CMM) on 26th of this month (August).

The 4th CWG meeting in Varanasi aims to arrive at actionable outcomes while positioning culture at the heart of policy-making.

The previous three CWG meetings were held in Khajuraho, Bhubaneswar, and Hampi.

11. PM Modi addresses BRICS Business Forum Leaders' Dialogue in Johannesburg

Addressing the BRICS Business Forum Leaders' Dialogue in Johannesburg, South Africa, the Indian Prime Minister says India will soon be a 5 trillion dollar economy. India today remains the world's fastest-growing major economy.

The theme of BRICS Summit is BRICS and Africa: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development, and Inclusive Multilateralism. The BRICS grouping comprises Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

12. 26th National Conference on e-Governance to begin in Indore

The 26th National Conference on e-Governance is being organized in Indore from August 24 to deliberate on providing better facilities to the citizens.

The two-day conference is being organized by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology in collaboration with the Government of Madhya Pradesh. The conference will brainstorm on the theme 'Developed India: Empowering Citizens'.

13. Iran, Saudi Arabia and Egypt among 6 nations to join China and Russia in BRICS economic bloc

The BRICS bloc of developing nations agreed to admit Saudi Arabia, Iran, Ethiopia, Egypt, Argentina, and the United Arab Emirates in a move aimed at accelerating its push to reshuffle a world order.

The expansion adds economic heft to BRICS, whose current members are China, the world's second-largest economy, as well as Brazil, Russia, India and South Africa.

14. B20 Summit India 2023 to commenced in New Delhi

The B20 Summit India 2023 started in New Delhi. The Summit is based on the theme of B20 India R.A.I.S.E: Responsible, Accelerated, Innovative, Sustainable, Equitable Businesses.

On the first day of the Summit, seven sessions will be organized including B20 India priorities and recommendations from India for the world, aligning global priorities.

15. Network Planning Group meeting under PM GatiShakti recommends four infrastructure projects

According to the 54th Network Planning Group (NPG) meeting chaired by special secretary, logistics, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, in New Delhi, four key infrastructure projects were examined for early implementation.

Two road and two railway projects worth over Rs 7,600 crore were recommended by Prime Minister Gati Shakti to enhance connectivity.

16. B20 Summit India 2023 to conclude today

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will address the B20 Summit India 2023 in New Delhi on 27th August, 2023 at 12 noon.

B20 Summit India brings policymakers, business leaders and experts from across the world to deliberate and discuss the B20 India Communique. The B20 India Communique includes 54 recommendations and 172 policy actions for submission to G20.

17. G20 Technical Workshop on One Health- Opportunities and Challenges to held in Bengaluru from 29th to 31st of August

G20 Technical Workshop on One Health- Opportunities and Challenges will be held in Bengaluru from 29th to 31st of August.

The three-day event will culminate with the key policy recommendations relevant to addressing various challenges in the Health of humans, animals, plants, and the environment.

18. India officially hands over B20 presidency to Brazil to host G20 Summit in 2024

India has handed over the B20 presidency to Brazil to host G20 in 2024.

According to N Chandrasekaran, the B20 India Chair, India's B20 Presidency under its G20 Presidency worked under the theme of Vasaudeva Katumbakam (One Earth, One Family, One Future).

The B20 summit is the official G20 dialogue forum with the global business community.

19. 2nd G20-Chief Scientific Advisers' Roundtable meet begins in Gandhinagar

As part of India's G20 presidency, the second G20-Chief Scientific Advisers' Roundtable meet began in Gandhinagar.

There will be a total of four sessions on themes 'Opportunities in One Health, Synergizing Global Efforts to expand the Access to Scholarly Scientific Knowledge', Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility in S&T and Institutional Mechanism for Inclusive S&T Policy.

20. India to host Global IndiaAI 2023 in October, 2023

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology will be organizing the Global IndiaAI 2023, scheduled for October with participation from leading AI players,

researchers, start-ups, inventors in India and worldwide.

The conference is poised to cover a wide spectrum of topics, including next-generation learning and foundational AI models, and other AI's applications.



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Science & Technology

1. C-DOT signs consortium agreement with industry partners for Collaborative Development of Disaggregated 5G Radio Access Network

Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), the premier Telecom R&D Centre of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), signed a consortium agreement with industry partners for '**Collaborative Development of Disaggregated 5G Radio Access Network Solution**'. The consortium partners are companies engaged in the development of radio communication products (5G, LTE).

2. ISRO injects Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft into translunar orbit

ISRO announced that Chandrayaan-3 has successfully completed its orbits around the Earth and is currently on its way towards the Moon. A successful perigee-firing performed at ISTRAC (ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network). ISRO has injected the spacecraft into the translunar orbit.

3. Dr Jitendra launches India's first indigenous MRI Scanner, underlines affordable healthcare

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; launched **India's first indigenously developed, affordable, lightweight, ultrafast, high field (1.5 Tesla), next generation Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Scanner in New Delhi.**

Under the National Biopharma Mission, Voxelgrids Innovations Pvt Ltd has MRI Scanner to solve the unmet need of the country.

4. India launches 'Neerakshi' ' Autonomous Underwater Vehicle for mine detection

India has launched an Autonomous Underwater Vehicle called 'Neerakshi' for detecting underwater mines.

Neerakshi is an autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) designed to detect mines.

It is a collaboration of Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd and Aerospace Engineering Private Ltd (AEPL).

5. ISRO plans to launch Aditya L1 satellite

Indian Space Research Organisation is planning its next launch of the Aditya L1 satellite this month.

It will be the first space-based Indian mission to study the Sun.

The satellite will carry seven instruments to study the solar atmosphere, solar magnetic storms and its impact on the environment around Earth.

6. PM hails India's first 3D printed Post Office at Cambridge Layout, Bengaluru

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has called India's first 3D printed Post Office at Cambridge Layout, Bengaluru, a testament to our nation's innovation and progress. According to the postal officials, the construction of this post office building was carried out by construction company Larsen & Toubro Limited while IIT Madras provided technical guidance.

7. Jitendra Singh unveils 'Namoh 108', new variety of lotus

Union Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh on Saturday unveiled a new variety of lotus flower with 108 petals, named

'Namoh 108', developed by the Lucknow-based National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI).

The 'NBRI Namoh 108' lotus variety flowers from March to December and is the first flower whose genome is completely sequenced for its characteristics.

NBRI is a constituent institution of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

8. US FDA approves Pfizer's maternal RSV vaccine to protect infants

U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved Pfizer's respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine for use in women during the middle of the third trimester of pregnancy to protect their babies.

The approval allows the vaccine to be given to women 32 to 36 weeks into a pregnancy to prevent lower respiratory tract infection & severe disease in infants until they are 6 months old.

9. Update on ISRO's Gaganyaan mission and 'Vyommitra' robot

Union minister Jitendra Singh on Saturday gave a major update on the Indian Space Research Organisation's Gaganyaan mission and said its trials will begin in October.

During the Gaganyaan mission, Vyommitra is designed to perform certain tasks to assess how humans would act when sent into space.

What is Gaganyaan mission?

10. ISRO to launch Aditya-L1, the first space-based observatory to study Sun


ISRO's Aditya-L1, the first space-based Indian observatory to study the Sun will be launched from Sriharikota space station in Andhra Pradesh.

The satellite will be placed in a halo orbit around the Lagrange point L1 of the Sun-Earth system which is about 1.5 million kms from the Earth.

It will take around four months to reach the Lagrange point.

11. Sh. Nitin Gadkari launches world's first ethanol-run Toyota Innova car

Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari unveiled a version of Toyota Innova, which runs entirely on biofuel ethanol. Early this month, the minister had announced at a sustainability conclave that he will launch the electric flex-fuel Toyota Innova MPV, which is entirely fueled by ethanol - a fuel which comes from plants - indicated by "E100".


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Defence

1. BDL hands over 1st 'Radio Frequency Seeker of Akash' to DRDO

Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) has handed over the first Radio Frequency (RF) Seeker of Akash ' Next Generation Weapon System produced at its newly commissioned state-of-the-art Seeker Facility Centre (SFC) to Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO).

Seeker is a critical and technology intensive subsystem used in Surface-to-Air Missiles and Air-to-Air Missiles.

2. INS Visakhapatnam and INS Trikand arrive at Dubai for a bilateral exercise with UAE Navy

Two Indian Navy ships, INS Visakhapatnam and INS Trikand, arrived at Port Rashid in Dubai for a bilateral exercise with the UAE Navy.

The exercise, which will be held from August 8 to 11 aims to share best practices and increase synergies between the two navies.

'Zayed Talwar' a bilateral exercise, is scheduled to enhance interoperability and synergy between two navies

3. Dhaksha Unmanned Systems wins order from Army for supply of 200 drones, accessories

Agri solutions provider Coromandel International's subsidiary and drone manufacturer Dhaksha Unmanned Systems announced it has secured a supply order for 200 medium-altitude logistics drones and accessories from the Indian Army.

This order comes on the back of a recent contract for the supply of 400 agri-spraying

drones from IFFCO, Dhaksha Unmanned Systems (DUS) said.

4. India, Japan, US, Australia to hold Malabar naval exercise

India, Japan, the United States, and Australia holds the Malabar Navy Drill off the coast of Sydney from 11 August to 21 August. The Indian Navy's indigenous frontline warships INS Sahyadri and INS Kolkata along with ships and aircraft from the US Navy (USN), Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF), and the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) will participate in the exercise.

5. Indian Navy holds bilateral naval drill 'Zayed Talwar' with UAE

Two Indian Naval Ships INS Visakhapatnam and INS Trikand, under the command of Rear Admiral Vineet McCarty, Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet, arrived at Port Rashid, Dubai on 08 Aug 2023 to participate in a bilateral Naval Maritime Partnership Exercise with the UAE Navy.

6. Defence Ministry to switch to locally built OS Maya amid threats

In the face of increasing cyber and malware attacks on defence as well as critical infrastructure across the country, 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.

7. Vindhyagiri: President Murmu Launches The Sixth Ship Of Project 17A Of Indian Navy

President Droupadi Murmu launched Vindhyagiri ' the sixth ship of project 17A of the

Indian Navy at Garden Reach Shipbuilders Engineers Limited.

She also launched 'My Bengal, Addiction Free Bengal' Campaign under the 'Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan', organized by Brahma Kumaris at Raj Bhavan, Kolkata.

Vindhyagiri, named after the mountain range in Karnataka. The project's first five ships have been launched by MDL & GRSE, between 2019-2022.

8. Indian Coast Guard carries out successful mid sea medical evacuation of a Chinese national off Mumbai

The Indian Coast Guard has successfully conducted medical evacuation of a Chinese national from a Panama flagged research vessel, MV Dong Fang Kan Tan No 2, around 200 Kms in Arabian sea off Mumbai on the intervening night of 16-17 Aug 23. The evacuation was carried out amidst challenging weather conditions and dark night.

9. IAF postpones October's mega multilateral air exercise to next year

The Indian Air Force (IAF) will host a mega multilateral military exercise, 'Tarang Shakti', next year that was originally planned for October.

It is learnt that air forces of France, the UK, Australia, the US and Japan would participate in the exercise.

It will be the biggest air exercise being organised in India.

10. 27th edition of multilateral naval exercise Malabar 2023 concludes in Sydney, Australia

The 27th edition of the multilateral naval exercise Malabar 2023 has concluded in Sydney, Australia.

The exercise saw the participation of Ships, Submarines, and aircraft from the Indian Navy, Australian Navy, Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force, and the US Navy.

Indian Navy was represented by Destroyers INS Kolkata, Frigate INS Sahyadri, and P8I Maritime Patrol aircraft.

11. Indian Coast Guard signs MoU with Philippine Coast Guard to enhance maritime cooperation

Indian Coast Guard has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Philippine Coast Guard to enhance maritime cooperation.

The MoU seeks to enhance the professional linkage between the two Coast Guards in the domain of Maritime Law Enforcement, Maritime Search and Rescue, and Marine Pollution Response.

12. Indian Navy's INS Visakhapatnam concluded successful visit to Kuwait

In a bid to reinforce maritime collaboration and foster stronger ties, the Indian Navy's INS Visakhapatnam recently concluded a successful visit to Kuwait.

The visit aimed to enhance cooperation and exchange best practices between the two nations' naval forces. Valuable insights and best practices were shared, signifying a commitment to mutual growth and expertise exchange. On August 19, 2023, INS Visakhapatnam made an entry into Al-Shuwaikh Port, Kuwait.

13. Navy symposium on self-reliance in missile technology held

The Missile Technology Conclave-cum-Symposium themed 'Aatmanirbharta in Missile Repairs & Indigenisation Technologies (AMRIT-2023)', was organised by INS Kalinga at Samudrika Auditorium, Naval Base, Visakhapatnam on 23 Aug 23. The event was inaugurated by Vice Admiral Sameer Saxena.

14. PARTICIPATION OF INDIAN AIR FORCE IN EXERCISE BRIGHT STAR-23 AT CAIRO AIR BASE, EGYPT

An Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent departed today, for participating in Exercise BRIGHT STAR-23 a biennial multilateral tri-service

exercise scheduled to be held at Cairo (West) Air Base, Egypt from 27 August to 16 September 2023.

15. Indian Air Force contingent reaches Egypt to participate in Multilateral tri-service exercise

In a significant move towards fostering global defence cooperation, an Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent reached the Egyptian Air Force Base to participate in Exercise BRIGHT STAR-23.

This will mark the first participation of the IAF in Ex BRIGHT STAR-23, which will also see the participation of air force contingents from the US, Saudi Arabia, Greece and Qatar.



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Obituary

1. Renowned Telangana folk singer Gaddar passes away at 77

Renowned Telangana folk singer and balladeer Gaddar, who was popularly known for his revolutionary songs during the 1980s and later during the Telangana statehood agitation, passed away due to ill-health. He was 77. Born as Gummadi Vittal Rao at Toopran in Medak district in 1949, the renowned folk singer and poet went on to become popular as 'Gaddar'.

2. Renowned nuclear physicist Bikash Sinha dies at 78 in Kolkata

Renowned nuclear physicist Bikash Sinha died in Kolkata. Sinha, 78, was suffering from old age-related ailments.

A recipient of Padma Shri in 2001 and Padma Bhushan in 2010, he was the former director of the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics and Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre.

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

Manchanahalli Rangaswamy Satyanarayana Rao, popularly known as MRS Rao, an eminent Indian scientist and Padma Shri awardee, passed away in Bengaluru.

Born on January 21, 1948, in Mysuru, the 75-year-old scientist, was the first scientist to initiate Chromatin Biology research in India.

He was honoured with the Padma Sri award in 2010.

4. Indian football legend Mohammed Habib passes away at 74

Mohammed Habib, the playmaker par excellence in the history of Indian football is no more.

One of the highest points of Habib's career was when he played for Mohun Bagan against the visiting Cosmos Club which also featured the legendary Pele in 1977 in a 'friendly'.

5. Former DRDO Chief V.S. Arunachalam passed away at the age of 87.

V.S.Arunachalam helmed the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and was the Scientific Advisor to the Defence Minister from 1982-92.

He was conferred the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award (1980), Padma Bhushan (1985), Padma Vibhushan (1990) and DRDO's Lifetime Achievement Award (2015) for his contribution to engineering science and technology.

He had set up Centre for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP) in Bengaluru.

6. Adobe co-founder John Warnock passes away at 82

Adobe's co-founder John Warnock passed away at the age of 82.

In 1982, Warnock co-founded Adobe alongside Charles Geschke, their partnership rooted in their earlier collaboration at Xerox. His leadership role within the company evolved over the years, transitioning from CEO to chairman of the board in 2000.


7. Indian English poet Jayanta Mahapatra passes away

Jayanta Mahapatra, one of India's best known English poets, passed away in Cuttack.

The legendary poet has left an imprint in the Indian English poetry with his writings spanning over 50 years.

He was conferred Sahitya Akademi Award for his poem Relationship in 1981, a rare recognition for an Indian English writer.

He was awarded Padma Shri in 2015


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Person in news

1. Teenager D Gukesh becomes top-ranked Indian in chess charts, ends Viswanathan Anand's 36-year-long stay

17-year-old Grandmaster D Gukesh has surpassed his idol, Viswanathan Anand, in the live world rankings by the International Chess Federation (FIDE). This achievement came after Gukesh's victory over Misratdin Iskandarov of Azerbaijan in a second-round match at the World Cup.

Gukesh demonstrated his prowess by outclassing Iskandarov in just 44 moves.

2. HDFC Bank's Sashidhar Jagdishan Highest Paid Bank CEO In FY23 With Rs 10.55 Crore Pay

Sashidhar Jagdishan, HDFC Bank's Managing Director and Chief Executive, has emerged as the highest-paid bank chief executive in FY23, with a significant increase of more than 62% in his remuneration in fiscal year 2023, reaching '10.55 crore, the PTI reported. Amitabh Chaudhry of Axis Bank was the second highest-paid bank CEO, with '9.75 crore as payout in FY23.

3. Italian goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon retires from football at 45

Italy great Gianluigi Buffon has announced his retirement from professional football at the age of 45.

The World Cup winner enjoyed a successful 28-year career and played his last two seasons at boyhood club Parma in Serie B.

He made his professional debut for Parma aged 17 in 1995 and four years later won the Coppa Italia, UEFA Cup and Italian Supercoppa at the club.

4. Oscar-winning director, William Friedkin dies at 87

William Friedkin, the renowned American filmmaker behind iconic movies of the 1970s such as 'The French Connection' and 'The Exorcist,' has passed away in Los Angeles. Friedkin's exceptional contributions to cinema were highlighted by his Academy Award victory for best director in 1972 for "The French Connection."

5. Infosys's Sudha Murty appointed on key committee of NSTC by NCERT

Sudha Murty, the chairman of the Infosys Foundation, has been named as a member of a 19-member committee by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). National Syllabus and Teaching Learning Material Committee (NSTC), will be focused on the development of textbooks and supplementary learning materials for the council's initiatives.

6. Neymar quits PSG to sign for Saudi Arabia's Al-Hilal

Brazil star Neymar has signed for Saudi Arabian side Al-Hilal from French champions Paris Saint-Germain, the two clubs announced.

Though financial details were not released, reports suggest that the fee was around 90 million euros plus add-ons which makes him the costliest player in cumulative transfer fee, overtaking Romelu Lukaku. Nasser Al-Khelafi, President and CEO of Paris Saint-Germain.

7. Mohit Kumar becomes first Indian wrestler since 2019 to win U20 World Wrestling Championship

Indian wrestler Mohit Kumar scripted history by becoming the Under 20 World Champion in the men's 61 Kg Freestyle category. The Championship is being held at Amman City in Jordan from August 14 to 20.

Mohit defeated Russia's Eldar Akhmadudinov 9-8 in the final to become the fourth Indian Freestyle Wrestler to win a Junior World Championship.

8. Sachin Tendulkar to bat for greater voter turnout as National Icon for Election Commission of India

Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar would begin a new innings - as the 'National Icon' for voter awareness and education for the Election Commission of India. An MoU was signed for the period of 3 years at an event organized at Rang Bhavan, Akashvani, New Delhi in the presence of Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar & Election Commissioners Anup Chandra Pandey and Arun Goel.

9. Infosys onboards tennis player Iga Swiatek as global brand ambassador

Infosys has announced that it has entered into a multi-year partnership with women's tennis World No. 1 Iga Swiatek, making her its global

brand ambassador to promote Digital Innovation and inspire women worldwide.

By leveraging artificial intelligence (AI), the partnership aims to amplify witek's training, focusing on her strengths and devising match strategies.

10. Former CJI NV Ramana appointed as member of International Mediation Panel of SIMC

Former Chief Justice of India (CJI) Nuthalapati Venkata Ramana has been appointed as a member of the International Mediation Panel of the Singapore International Mediation Centre (SIMC).

The announcement was made by SIMC chairperson George Lim, who presented Justice Ramana with the letter of appointment in Singapore.

11. Priyan Sain wins Miss Earth India Crown at Miss Divine Beauty 2023 Pageant

Priyan Sain clinched the title of Miss Earth India 2023 during the Miss Divine Beauty 2023 national final held in New Delhi.

The 20-year-old student, dancer, and taekwondo player from Jaipur, Rajasthan succeeds last year's winner Vanshika Parmar, and will now prepare to represent India at the Miss Earth 2023 pageant in Vietnam this December.

Insurance

1. LIC introduces new term assurance plan 'Jeevan Kiran'

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) introduced a new term assurance plan 'Jeevan Kiran'.

LIC Jeevan Kiran is an individual, savings, and life Insurance plan.

This plan is available for individuals from 18 years to 65 years, offers life cover with return of premium. It has a minimum sum assured of Rs 15 lakh for moderate life cover.

The policy term varies from 10 years to 40 years.

2. IRDAI lowers minimum capital need for foreign reinsurers to Rs 50 crore

Insurance regulator Irdai has lowered the minimum capital requirement for foreign re-insurance branches (FRBs) from Rs 100 crore to Rs 50 crore, with the provision to repatriate any excess assigned capital.

It also streamlined the order of preference for international financial services center insurance offices and simplified the format for reinsurance programmes.

3. NHRC organises one-day open house consultation on health insurance of persons with disabilities in Mumbai

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) is organising a one-day open house consultation on health insurance of persons with disabilities in Mumbai.

The event is being held in collaboration with the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) and National Centre for Promotion of Employment of Persons with Disabilities, Mumbai.



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India & World

1. Indian Rupee Not Legal Tender For Domestic Payments: Sri Lanka Central Bank

Sri Lanka's Central Bank said that no domestic transactions would be allowed with the Indian Rupee in the island country.

The apex bank said that even though the Indian Rupee (INR) has been endorsed as a designated foreign currency, it is not a legal tender in Sri Lanka for domestic payments/settlements.

INR was designated a foreign currency in Sri Lanka in August 2022.

2. Army Chief General Manoj Pande leaves for UK on 5-day visit

Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande was on a five-day visit to attend a prestigious military event and hold talks with the top British defence brass on bilateral strategic issues.

Gen Pande reviewed the 201st Sovereign's Parade of Commissioning Course at the prestigious Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst as the 'Sovereign's Representative' for the parade.

3. India may ink mobility, migration agreement with Taiwan

India and Taiwan are working on a migration and mobility agreement for greater collaboration and movement of skilled professionals between their technology industries. An agreement may also cover sectors like agriculture and manufacturing. Taiwan's skills in semiconductor manufacturing and advanced technologies could fit well with India's large pool of technology talent.

4. India Embarks On A 57-Kilometre Rail Project Linking Assam's Kokrajhar To Bhutan's Gelephu

India and Bhutan are soon going to be linked by a 57.5-km railway link, between Assam's Kokrajhar and Bhutan's Gelephu.

To be funded by the Indian government, the first-ever railway connection between India & Bhutan is expected to be completed by 2026.

As a landlocked country, the only transportation link between Bhutan and India for export & import is through road network.

5. Cricket Australia selects HCLTech to drive digital transformation

HCLTech has won a deal from Cricket Australia (CA), the national governing body for the game in Australia, for the next phase of CA's digital transformation.

As part of the latest agreement, HCLTech will help Cricket Australia to deliver digital experiences to fans, players, partners, employees and volunteers across the world.

6. Trinidad And Tobago Inks Pact For Sharing Indian Technology Stack

Trinidad and Tobago has signed an agreement with the Indian government for sharing the India Stack, which is a collection of open application programming interfaces and digital public goods for identity, data and payment services.

It shall create a robust ecosystem of startups, developers and system integrators working around it on next-gen innovation. Minister of State for Electronics and IT: Rajeev Chandrasekhar.

7. Nepal to export 10,000 MW power to India in next 10 years

Nepal Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal has announced to increase the export of electricity to India from 450 MW to 10,000 MW in the next 10 years.

India and Nepal have already signed a preliminary bilateral agreement for it.

Nepal is currently exporting around 450 MW of electricity to India.

8. 1st FOC between India and Samoa held in Apia

The 1st Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) between India and Samoa was held in Apia,

Both sides discussed their wide-ranging bilateral relations including their development partnership covering areas such as health, Information and Communications Technology ICT, Education, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises SME, and capacity building.

9. PM Modi gifts Bidri work pair of 'Surahi' to South African President Cyril Ramaphosa

PM Modi presented special gifts to the BRICS leaders including South African president Cyril Ramaphosa, First Lady of South Africa Tshepo Motsepe, and Brazilian president Luiz Incio Lula da Silva.

PM Modi gifted Bidri a pair of 'Surahi' from Telangana to South African President Cyril Ramaphosa.

10. PM Modi arrives in Greece on first prime ministerial visit in 40 years

Prime Minister Narendra Modi left for Greece from Johannesburg, South Africa, where he attended the BRICS summit. The visit was at the invitation of Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis. This will be the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Greece in 40 years.

PM Modi will lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Athens . President of Greece: Katerina Sakellaropoulou.

11. India & Bangladesh hold the fifth Annual Defence Dialogue in Dhaka

India and Bangladesh held the fifth Annual Defence Dialogue on 28 August 2023 in Dhaka.

The Annual Defence Dialogue between India and Bangladesh is the highest institutionalized interactive mechanism between both the countries.

In the dialogue, both the countries highlighted its significance in chartering the future course of the relations between the two Armed Forces.

12. India, New Zealand Join Hands To Boost Cooperation In Civil Aviation Sector

The Government of India and the Government of New Zealand have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to strengthen cooperation in the air transport services.

This significant development builds upon the foundation established when India and New Zealand inked the Air Services Agreement on May 1, 2016.

Apps & Portals

1. MASI Portal for Monitoring CHILD CARE HOMES

National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has developed an application 'MASI' - Monitoring App for Seamless Inspection for real time monitoring of the Child Care Institutions (CCIs) and their inspection mechanism across the country. The effective and efficient functioning of the mechanism for inspection of CCIs provided under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.

2. Shri Sarbananda Sonowal launches Port Health Organisation (PHO) under Sagar Setu

The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal launched Port Health Organisation (PHO) module under Sagar Setu - National Logistics Portal (Marine) - in an attempt to enable faster and simpler ecosystem to promote Ease of Doing Business.

PHO will conduct disease surveillance, health inspection and quarantine measures.

3. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) launches mobile app 'Rajmargyatra' for national highway users

'Rajmargyatra' serves as a one-stop repository of essential information for national highway users.

Users can get real-time weather conditions, timely broadcast notifications, and access to details about nearby toll plazas, petrol pumps, hospitals, hotels, and other essential services that ensure a seamless and safe journey on national highways.

4. CJ Chandrachud announces launch of 'Suswagatam' portal for e-passes to enter Supreme Court

The Supreme Court announced the launch of portal 'SuSwagatam' which would enable advocates, visitors, interns and others to register themselves online and get e-passes to enter the apex court.

Suswagatam' is a web-based and mobile-friendly application that allows users to register themselves online and request for e-passes attending court hearing, meeting advocates etc.

5. YES BANK introduces 'iris by YES BANK' to re-define Mobile Banking Experience for customers

YES BANK introduced its state-of-the-art mobile banking app, iris by YES BANK that aims to redefine the country's digital banking landscape.

iris by YES BANK is a comprehensive financial proposition that has been co-created based on the valued feedback received from YES BANK customers.

Prashant Kumar, Managing Director & CEO, YES BANK.

6. PNB launches app to enable MSMEs access instant loans using GST invoices

Punjab National Bank (PNB) has launched a mobile application 'PNB GST Sahay App', based on the GST Sahay scheme, an end-to-end digital product under which lending can be done using GST invoices.

With this integration, PNB has become the first public sector bank to facilitate frictionless credit flow to MSMEs using GST invoices



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Acquisitions & Mergers

1. LIC Mutual Fund completes merger of IDBI Mutual Fund schemes

LIC Mutual Fund has completed the takeover of schemes of IDBI Mutual Fund. The move is in line with LIC MF's aim to strengthen and diversify its product offerings, expand footprint and grow its assets under management (AUM) to emerge as a leading fund house in the country. As of June 2023, LIC MF had an AUM of Rs 18,400 crore, while IDBI MF had Rs 3,650 crore.

2. ICICI Bank received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to raise its stake in ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company

ICICI Bank received approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to raise its stake in ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company by up to 4% in multiple tranches. The private lender currently holds a 48.01% share in ICICI Lombard.

ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company Limited is a joint venture between ICICI Bank Ltd. and Canada based Fairfax Financial Holdings Ltd.

3. Ambuja Cements Acquires Sanghi Industries At Enterprise Value Of Rs 5,000 Crore

The Adani Group has acquired Gujarat-based Sanghi Industries in an all-cash deal, valuing the company at an enterprise value of Rs 5,000 crore. Ambuja Cements will acquire 14.66 crore shares of Sanghi Industries Ltd., representing 56.74% of the overall shareholding.

Sanghi Cement, a brand owned by Sanghi Industries, was incorporated in 1985.

4. Competition Commission approves Tata Capital merger plan

Fair trade regulator Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the merger of Tata Cleantech Capital and Tata Capital Financial Services into Tata Capital Ltd. Tata Capital Financial Services (TCFSL) and Tata Cleantech Capital Ltd are RBI-registered non-deposit accepting non-banking financial companies. Both companies are subsidiaries of Tata Capital Ltd (TCL).

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

Axis Bank has received approval to infuse Rs 1,612 crore in Max Life Insurance by subscribing to shares on a preferential basis. This will result in Axis Bank's direct stake increasing to 16.22% in the life insurer.

The collective stake of Axis Entities will increase to 19.02% in Max Life Insurance, the lender said in a release.

6. Back NCLT approves \$10 bn mega-merger between Zee and Sony

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) approved the merger scheme of India's homegrown entertainment company Zee Entertainment Enterprises with Culver Max Entertainment (erstwhile Sony Pictures Networks India or SPNI).

NCLT is a quasi-judicial body in India that adjudicates issues relating to Indian companies. It was created in 2016 under the Companies Act.

7. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approves merger of Akola Merchant Co-operative Bank with Jalgaon Peoples Co-operative Bank

RBI has given the green light to the amalgamation of Akola Merchant Co-operative

Bank Ltd, located in Akola, Maharashtra, with The Jalgaon Peoples Co-operative Bank Ltd, situated in Jalgaon, Maharashtra.

This merger has been sanctioned by the RBI, exercising its powers as per Sub-Section (4) of Section 44A in conjunction with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

Agri-Business

1. Mega Oil Palm Plantation drive organized in 49 districts of 11 states

Under the National Mission on Edible Oils ' Oil Palm, the State Governments along with Oil Palm processing companies initiated a 'that commenced on 25th July 2023 to further promote and increase oil palm cultivation, making the country and its farmers 'Atma-Nirbhar' in edible oils production.

FinTech

1. Elon Musk-owned PayPal launches dollar, treasuries-backed stablecoin PYUSD for its customers

US-based payments major PayPal announced the launch of a new stablecoin, PayPal USD (PYUSD) which is backed by dollar deposits, US treasuries, and cash equivalents.

It will be issued by Paxos Trust Co to PayPal customers in the United States.

A stablecoin is a type of cryptocurrency that is designed to have a stable value, typically pegged to a stable asset or reserve.

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

Airtel Payments Bank (APB) has announced the launch of an eco-friendly debit card for its new and existing customers with a savings bank account, becoming the first Indian Bank to launch such a card.

Airtel Payments Bank is India's only profitable multi-segment fintech operating at scale with a banking license.

3. Axis Bank partners with RBI Innovation Hub to launch Kisan Credit cards and MSME loans powered by the new Public Tech Platform

Axis Bank announced the launch of two lending products powered by the Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit (PTPFC), introduced by the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), a wholly owned subsidiary of the RBI.

Axis Bank will offer Kisan Credit Card (KCC) and unsecured MSME loans to small business customers, powered by the platform.

PSUs

1. Oil India Ltd gets Maharatna status, ONGC Videsh Ltd becomes Navratna

The Finance Ministry has approved the upgradation of Oil India Ltd to the category of 'Maharatna', a move which will impart enhanced powers to the OIL board while taking financial decisions. Post the upgrade, the state-run oil major has become India's 13th Maharatna CPSE's. The Finance Ministry also approved the upgradation of ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL) to Navratna CPSE.

2. NTPC REL secures bid for 80 MW floating solar project at Omkareshwar Reservoir in MP

NTPC Renewable Energy Limited (NREL) is the successful bidder for 80 MW Floating Solar capacity at Omkareshwar Reservoir, Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh. With completion of this project, the floating solar capacity of NTPC shall be 342 MW. The biggest floating solar project in the country is of 100 MW capacity located at NTPC Ramagundam in Telangana.

3. ONGC to scale up renewable capacity to 10 GW by 2030

The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is planning to increase its renewable energy capacity from 189 megawatt (MW) to 10 gigawatt (GW) by 2030.

It also plans to significantly increase its spending on green initiatives to reduce its carbon footprint as a broader effort to achieve net zero for scope-1 and scope-2 emissions by 2038.

4. BHEL manufactures first set of indigenous SCR Catalysts to limit NOx emission

State-owned engineering firm Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has successfully manufactured the first set of indigenous selective catalyst reactors (SCR) Catalysts for limiting NOx emissions from thermal power plants.

The first set of indigenously manufactured SCR catalysts for the 5x800 MW Yadadri Thermal Power Station in Telangana.

5. Stock exchanges slap fines on IOC, ONGC, GAIL for failure to meet listing regulations

Stock exchanges have slapped fines on state-owned oil and gas firms including IOC, ONGC and GAIL for their failure to meet listing requirements of having a requisite number of independent directors and women directors.

State/UTs

Arunachal Pradesh

1. Arunachal Pradesh signs pact with 3 PSUs for 11,523 MW hydropower projects

The Arunachal Pradesh Government inked memorandums of agreement (MoAs) with three central public sector undertakings (PSUs) for the development of 12 hydropower projects with a total capacity of 11,523 MW in the state.

An estimated investment of Rs 1,42,000 crore would be made while executing the projects.

Assam

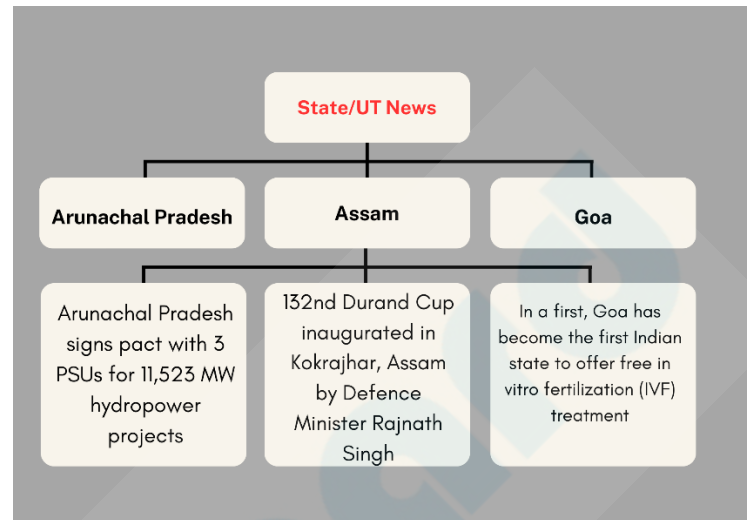
1. Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurates 132nd Durand Cup in Kokrajhar, Assam

The 132nd edition of Durand Cup kicked off in Kokrajhar, Assam on August 05, 2023. Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh graced the opening ceremony, which marked the grand beginning of the annual football competition for the first time in the Assamese city. The tournament is organised by the Armed Forces and supported by the Government of Assam.

Goa

1. In a first in India, Goa to give free IVF treatment in govt hospital

In a first, Goa has become the first Indian state to offer free in vitro fertilization (IVF) treatment. The inauguration of this service, alongside assisted reproductive technology (ART) and intrauterine insemination (IUI), was done by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant at the Goa Medical College (GMC) in Bambolim.



Jharkhand

1. Jharkhand government signs pact with TGESPL to set up India's 'first' hydrogen fuel project in Jamshedpur

Jharkhand government inked a pact with TCPL Green Energy Solutions Private Ltd (TGESPL), a joint venture between Tata Motors and Cummins Inc, USA to set up the country's "first" hydrogen fuel project in Jamshedpur.

The capacity of the proposed unit will be over 4,000 hydrogen IC engine/fuel agnostic engine and more than 10,000 battery system. To set up this project, it would entail an investment of Rs 354.28 crore.

Kerala

1. Kerala's first AI school launched in Thiruvananthapuram

Kerala got its first AI school at Santhigiri Vidyabhavan in Thiruvananthapuram. The inauguration was done by Former President Ram Nath Kovind.

The AI School is designed and moulded by one of the world's most advanced educational platforms iLearning Engines (ILE) USA in collaboration with Vedhik eSchool.

2. Keralites across the globe celebrating "Thiruvonam", the most auspicious day of Onam

Keralalites across the globe is celebrating "Thiruvonam", the 10th and the most auspicious day of Onam, the biggest cultural festival of the State.

Onam, the harvest festival of Kerala, symbolises prosperity, secularism, and harmony.

Keralites celebrate the festival welcoming the visit of the righteous and mythical king Mahabali, in the memory of good old days.

Madhya Pradesh

1. President of India to inaugurate 'UNMESHA' and 'UTKARSH' festivals in Bhopal

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu visited Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh) to inaugurate 'Unmesha' ' International Literature Festival and 'Utkarsh' ' Festival of Folk and Tribal Performing Arts, being organised by the Ministry of Culture in association with Sahitya Akademi and Sangeet Natak Akademi respectively.

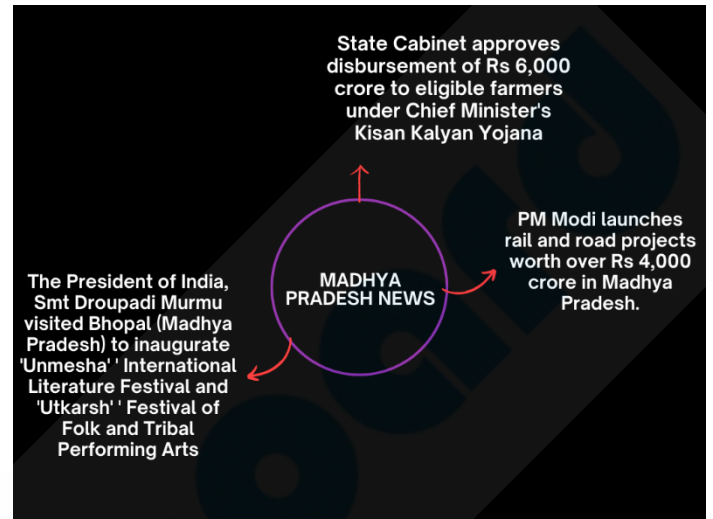
2. PM Modi to launch rail and road projects worth over Rs 4,000 crore in Madhya Pradesh.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and lay the foundation stone of projects worth more than four thousand crore rupees in Sagar, Madhya Pradesh.

3. Madhya Pradesh Cabinet approves disbursement of Rs 6,000 crore to eligible farmers under Chief Minister's Kisan Kalyan Yojana

Madhya Pradesh Cabinet has approved disbursement of 6,000 rupees to the eligible farmers under the Chief Minister's Kisan Kalyan

Yojana for the financial year 2023-2024. The decision was taken in a cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan in Bhopal.



Maharashtra

1. Bhagwan Birsa Munda Jodharaste Scheme: Maharashtra govt to link all tribal villages in state with main roads

The state cabinet decided to implement the Bhagwan Birsa Munda Jodharaste 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.

2. Maharashtra tops in attracting FDI in 1st quarter of current FY

Maharashtra secured the top rank in attracting Foreign Direct Investment worth Rs 36,634 crore which is more than the sum of investment received by Delhi, Karnataka and Telangana in the first quarter of FY 2023-24.

Maharashtra's FDI is more than the cumulative sum of FDI in Delhi, Karnataka and Telangana which rank second, third and fourth, respectively.

Meghalaya

1. ADB approves USD 40.5 mn loan for integrated early childhood development programme in Meghalaya

The Asian Development Bank 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 also contributing USD 15.27 million to the project.

It will strengthen home-based childcare (children 0-1.5 years) and centre-based childcare(1.5-6 years) through Anganwadi centres. ADB headquarters in Manila, Philippines

2. Meghalaya hosts Pineapple Fest 2023 at New Delhi

Meghalaya Pineapple Fest - 2023, organized by the Government of Meghalaya, kicked off on Day 1 at the iconic Dilli Haat, New Delhi, celebrating Meghalaya's famed produce, the Kew pineapples.

Meghalaya's Pineapples with its sweetness measuring high brix value of 16-18 is gradually making it a sought-after fruit by retailers across the globe.

Odisha

1. NLC plans to set up 2,400 MW thermal plant in Odisha for Rs 19,422 crore

NLC India Ltd is planning to set up a 2,400 MW coal-based plant in Odisha. The plant will be set up at an investment of Rs 19,422 crore at Talabira (Talabira coal mines) in Odisha. The plant will supply 1,450 MW of power to Tamil Nadu, 100 MW to Puducherry and 400 MW to Kerala.

Rajasthan

1. NLC India Limited enters into Long Term Power Usage Agreement for 300 MW Solar Project with Rajasthan

NLC India Limited, a Navratna Central Public Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of Ministry of Coal has entered into Long Term Power Usage Agreement with Rajasthan Urja Vikas Nigam limited for supply of 300 MW Solar Power under CPSU Scheme at Rajasthan.

2. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to inaugurate 9th India Region Conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in Udaipur

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to inaugurate the ninth India Region Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association today in Udaipur, Rajasthan. The conference will have two separate sessions.

The theme of the two-day conference is 'Strengthening Democracy and Good Governance in the Digital Age'.

State News

Jharkhand government signs pact with TGESPL to set up India's 'first' hydrogen fuel project in Jamshedpur

Thiruonam celebrated.

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

Meghalaya hosts Pineapple Fest 2023 at New Delhi

JHARKHAND

KERALA

MAHARASHTRA

MEGHALAYA

First AI school launched in Thiruvananthapuram. Thiruonam celebrated.

Maharashtra tops in attracting FDI in 1st quarter of current FY

ADB approves USD 40.5 mn loan for integrated early childhood development programme in Meghalaya

Tamil Nadu

1. 4,000 MW Renewable Energy Power Project being set up in Tamil Nadu

The Union Minister for New & Renewable Energy and Power has informed that under Green Energy Corridor Phase-II, a project has been approved for setting up of 624 km of transmission lines and 2200 MVA capacity substations by FY 2025-26, for evacuation of renewable energy power of approx. 4000 MW capacity in the state of Tamil Nadu.

2. Tamil Nadu celebrates Cultural Festival Aadi Perukku

The Tamil Cultural community celebrates Aadi Perukku, also known as Pathinettam Perukku, as an auspicious festival to honor the monsoon season and the fertility of the soil.

Aadi Perukku is celebrated on August 3rd, coinciding with the 18th day of the Tamil month of Aadi.

3. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman lays foundation stone for Adichanallur museum that will exhibit 3,000-yr-old artefacts

Union finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman laid the foundation stone for an archeological museum in Adichanallur in the Thoothukudi district.

Adichanallur was one of the five archaeological sites declared to be developed as 'Iconic Sites' in the Union Budget 2020-21. It is an archaeological site located on the banks of river Thamirabarani in this district.

4. Shipping & logistics firm UPS opens India's first tech centre in Chennai

UPS, a global shipping and logistics firm, inaugurated its first technology centre in

Chennai. The new centre is focused on innovations that aim to make business dealings easier for UPS customers.

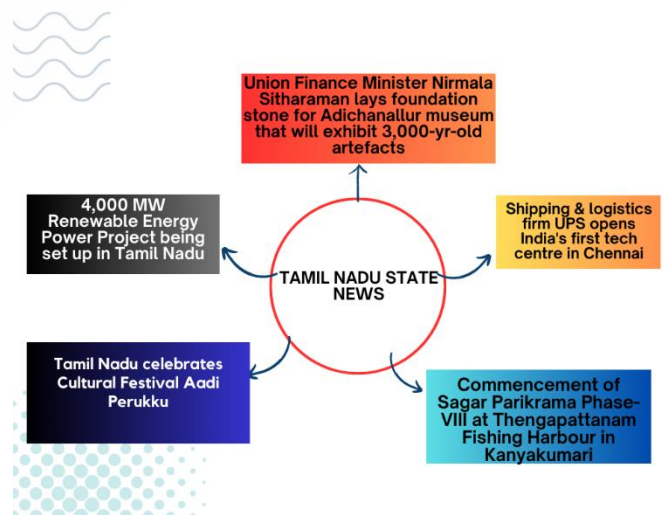
Earlier this year, UPS announced a strategic investment of \$15-20 million in India, intended to complement its existing technology teams in the US and Europe.

5. Commencement of Sagar Parikrama Phase-VIII to take place at Thengapattanam Fishing Harbour in Kanyakumari

The commencement of Sagar Parikrama Phase-VIII is set to take place at Thengapattanam Fishing Harbour in Kanyakumari district.

This particular phase of Sagar Parikrama will encompass an exploration of four coastal districts in Tamil Nadu, namely Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli, Thoothukudi, and Ramanathapuram.

Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying will inaugurate the event.



Uttar Pradesh

1. UP Cabinet approves policy for making state water tourism, adventure sports destination

The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved a policy that aims at making the state a water tourism and adventure sports destination.

The Uttar Pradesh Water Tourism and Adventure Sports Policy, 2023, will be valid for 10 years from the date notified by the state government.

2. NLC along with UP Govt to set up 1,980 MW Thermal Plant for Rs 19,406 crore

NLC India Limited has entered into a joint venture with the UP government to set up a thermal power plant at a cost of Rs 19,406 crore.

The 1,980 MW Plant will have three units of 660 MW each. The first phase of the project will start generating power by the end of this year.

The plant will come up at Ghatampur near Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh

3. Ministry of Jal Shakti Releases the 6th Census Report On Minor Irrigation (MI) Schemes

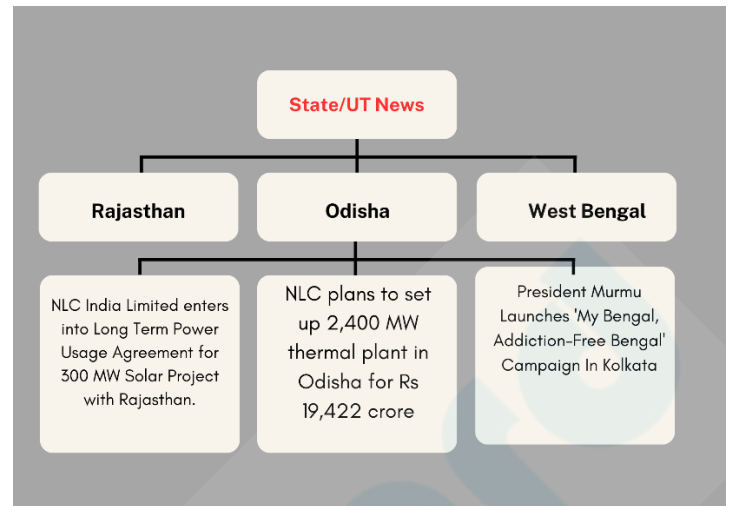
Out of 23.14 million MI schemes, 21.93 million (94.8%) are Ground Water and 1.21 million (5.2%) are Surface Water Schemes

Uttar Pradesh Possesses Largest Number of MI Schemes Followed by Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Tamil Nadu

West Bengal

1. President Murmu Launches 'My Bengal, Addiction-Free Bengal' Campaign In Kolkata

President Droupadi Murmu launched 'My Bengal, Addiction Free Bengal' Campaign under the 'Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan', organized by Brahma Kumaris at Raj Bhavan, Kolkata on August 17.



Jammu and Kashmir

1. North India's first River Rejuvenation Project Devika is nearing completion

North India's first River Rejuvenation Project Devika is nearing completion. Built at a cost of over Rs 190 crore on the lines of 'Namami Ganga', the Project was launched by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Dr. Jitendra Singh said this while reviewing. Liquid Waste Management Project undertaken separately to protect the sanctity of holy Devika River in Udhampur, J&K.

2. Three-day National Thematic Workshop on Localization of (LSDGs) Sustainable Development Goals in Panchayats begins in Srinagar

Ministry of Panchayat Raj (MoPR), Government of India, in close collaboration with Panchayati Raj & Rural Development Department, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, is organizing a three-day (21-23 Aug) National Workshop on Localization of Sustainable Development Goals in Gram Panchayats.

It has been organized on Theme 8: Panchayat with Good Governance in Srinagar, J&K.

3. Bhaderwah Rajma & Ramban Sulai Honey of Jammu and Kashmir get GI Tag

In Jammu and Kashmir, two world-famous local specialty products namely Bhaderwah Rajma and Ramban Sulai Honey have earned coveted Geographical Indication (GI) Tag.

Now, only an authorized user has the exclusive rights to use the Geographical Indication in relation to these products. It will also boost exports and promote their brands at the international level.

Ladakh

1. BRO commences construction of world's highest motorable road in Eastern Ladakh

Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has commenced the Rs. 520 cr construction of the world's highest motorable road, the Likaru-Migla-Fukche road close to Hanle in Eastern Ladakh.

The 64-km long road will connect Likaru to Fukche which is situated 3 km away from the LAC in Eastern Ladakh.

The new highest motorable pass will set a **new world record at an altitude of 19,400 feet**. Presently, Umlingla pass at the height of 19,024 feet, is world's highest motorable pass.

Introducing

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Limited Seats Only

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Committees

1. Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) reconstitutes advisory board on bank frauds

The CVC has reconstituted the advisory board on Banking and Financial Frauds (ABBFF) that conducts the first level examination of bank frauds before recommendations or references are made to investigative agencies such as Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

The reconstituted APBFF will be chaired by Suresh N Patel, former Central Vigilance Commissioner. Prabooveen Kumar Srivastava is the current Central Vigilance Commissioner.

2. Committee of Experts to 'Onshoring the Indian Innovation to GIFT IFSC'

A 'Committee of Experts to 'Onshoring the Indian Innovation to GIFT IFSC' constituted by the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA) has submitted its report to Chairperson, IFSCA.

The main focus areas of the committee were directed toward understanding the reasons for shifting of Indian startups outside India and suggestions to avoid externalization. The committee was chaired by Shri G. Padmanabhan, Former Executive Director, RBI.

3. Centre Sets Up High Powered 9-Member Committee To Review DRDO's Activities, Report Expected In 3 Months

Led by former Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government, **Prof K Vijay Raghavan**, the 9-member committee has been tasked with the mission to comprehensively overhaul the DRDO.

The committee's primary objective is to compile a comprehensive report, outlining recommendations aimed at enhancing the adaptability of the DRDO amidst the rapidly evolving technological terrain.

Important CA

1. National Javelin Day | 7 August

August 7 is celebrated as National Javelin Day in India. The Athletics Federation of India, the apex body for the athletics in India, took the decision to celebrate August 7 as the National Javelin Day to commemorate **Neeraj Chopra's historic gold medal** during the Tokyo Olympics.

Chopra scripted history as it was India's first-ever gold medal in Track and Field events.

Possible Question: Which of the following day is celebrated as National Javelin to commemorate Neeraj Chopra's historic gold medal during the Tokyo Olympics?

2. RBI Monetary Policy August 2023: RBI keeps repo rate unchanged at 6.5%; FY24 CPI inflation forecast raised to 5.4%

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das announced the 3rd bi-monthly monetary policy for FY24. RBI kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.5%. The standing deposit facility (SDF) rate kept unchanged at 6.25 per cent and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 6.75 per cent.

The next meeting of the MPC is scheduled during October 4-6, 2023.

Possible Question: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its 3rd bimonthly monetary policy for FY23 kept the repo rate unchanged at _____.

3. Sulabh International founder Bindeshwar Pathak passes away

Sulabh International founder and social activist Bindeshwar Pathak, a pioneer in building public toilets, died.

Sh. Pathak founded Sulabh International in 1970 with a vision to eradicate open defecation and unclean public toilets.

It is a social service organisation that works to promote human rights, environmental sanitation, waste management and reforms through education.

Possible Question: 'Bindeshwar Pathak' has recently passed away. He is a renowned _____.

4. Reserve Bank of India to Launch the Pilot Project for Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced the development of a Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit. The Platform is being developed by Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH), a wholly owned subsidiary of RBI.

The Public Tech Platform would enable delivery of frictionless credit by facilitating seamless flow of required digital information to lenders.

Possible Question: Recently, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced to develop digital public tech platform to _____.

5. RBI launches - UDGAM - Centralised Web Portal for searching Unclaimed Deposits

The Governor, Reserve Bank of India launched a Centralised Web Portal UDGAM (**Unclaimed Deposits 'Gateway to Access inforMation**). This portal has been developed by RBI for use by members of public to facilitate and make it easier for them to search their unclaimed deposits across multiple banks at one place.

Possible Question: Which of the following statements is/are correct about 'UDGAM'? I. The centralised portal was launched by Reserve Bank of India. II. It is for use by members of public to facilitate and make it easier for them to search their unclaimed deposits across multiple banks at one place. III.UDGAM stands for Unclaimed Deposits ' Gateway to Access inforMation.

6. Antim Panghal creates history by defending 53-kg title, Savita takes 62-kg gold; India win team championship

Indian wrestler Antim Panghal won her back-to-back women's U20 world titles, successfully defending her 53kg crown and **became the first Indian woman to do so.**

Panghal, who hails from Hisar in Haryana, dominated Ukrainian Mariia Yefremova in a facile 4-0.

In the 62kg final, Savita defeated Venezuela's A Paola Montero Chirinos.

Possible Question: In August 2023, who became the first Indian woman wrestler to win two U20 Wrestling World Titles?

7. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari launches Bharat NCAP safety test program

The union minister for Road, Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari, launched **India's much awaited crash test rating assessment programme, called Bharat NCAP.**

Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP) is being launched to improve road safety and **raise safety standards for vehicles up to 3.5 tonnes.**

This makes India only the **5th country in the world to have its own crash test programme.**

Possible Question: Identify the correct statement regarding the 'Bharat NCAP' recently launched by the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways.

8. FIDE World Cup 2023: Magnus Carlsen wins maiden World Cup, Praggnanandhaa finishes as runner-up

Norwegian Grand Master Magnus Carlsen became the new world chess champion after defeating India's 18-year-old Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa in FIDE World Cup Chess Championship 2023 final at Baku.

Carlsen beat the Indian grand master 1.5-0.5 in the tie-break after the classical games ended in a stalemate.

The five-time world champion clinched his first world cup title. Magnus Carlsen won prize money of \$110,000.

Possible Question: Who is the winner of the 'FIDE World Cup Chess Championship 2023'?

9. 69th National Film Awards: Madhavan's 'Rocketry: The Nambi Effect' wins Best Feature Film

Rocketry: The Nambi Effect, the biographical drama written, produced and directed by R. Madhavan in his directorial debut, won the Best Feature Film award. The National Film Award for best director went to Nikhil Mahajan for Marathi film Godavari.

The Best Actor award went to Allu Arjun for his performance in director Sukumar's Pushpa: The Rise.

Possible Question: Which movie won the best feature film award in the 69th National Film Awards 2023?

10. Chandrayaan-3: India to celebrate August 23 as 'National Space Day', says PM Modi

PM Modi further celebrated the success of India's moon mission and named the landing spot of the Vikram lander as '**Shivshakti**'.

He also christened the location where **Chandrayaan-2** had left its mark in 2019 as '**Tiranga Point**'.

PM Modi was at the Indian Space Research Organisation Telemetry Tracking and Command Network in Bengaluru.

Possible Question: As announced by honourable Prime Minister, which day will be celebrated as the National Space Day in India?

11. Neeraj Chopra becomes first Indian to win gold at World Athletics Championships

Neeraj Chopra, in a historic moment for Indian athletics, clinched the gold medal in the men's javelin throw event at the World Athletics Championships held in Budapest, Hungary.

Displaying exceptional prowess, he recorded a stellar throw of 88.17 meters during his second attempt.

Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem & Jakub Vadlejch of the Czech Republic bagged silver and bronze.

Possible Question: _____ has become the first Indian to win gold at World Athletics Championships 2023.

12. NITI Aayog, UNDP Sign MoU On Fast-Tracking SDGs

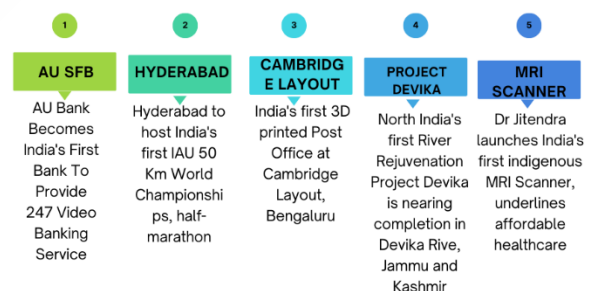
NITI Aayog & UNDP India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formalise a framework of cooperation on a range of areas, including SDG localisation, data-driven monitoring, Aspirational Districts and Blocks, among others.

UNDP will also provide support for NITI Aayog's work on women's livelihoods, innovation, & Mission LiFE.

The MoU was signed for a period of 5 yrs. Shri B. V. R. Subrahmanyam: CEO, NITI Aayog.

Possible Question: Which of the following organization/institution has recently partnered with the Ministry of Development of North-eastern Region (MDoNER) to fast-track sustainable development in northeast?

SOME FIRSTS



QUICK LEARNERS

BANKING

Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	4.50%
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	18.00%

POLICY/EXCHANGE RATE & RESERVE RATIO	PERCENTAGE
Repo Rate	6.50%
Reverse Repo Rate	3.35%
Marginal Standing Facility Rate (MSF)	6.75%
Bank Rate	6.75%

APPOINTMENTS

APPOINTMENT	POST
Shohini Sinha	FBI Special Agent, Salt Lake City Field Office
Anant Maheshwari	President and CEO of Honeywell's High Growth Region
Hun Manet	Prime Minister of Cambodia
Vaibhav Taneja	CFO, Tesla
Sanjay Kumar Agarwal	Chairman, CBIC
SM Vaidya	Chairman, Indian Oil
Amit Jhingran	MD & CEO, SBI Life
R Doraiswamy	MD, LIC
Parminder Chopra	CMD, Power Finance Corporation
Kamlesh Varshney, Amarjeet Singh	Whole-time members, SEBI
PR Seshadri	CEO, South Indian Bank
Neelkanth Mishra	Part-time chairperson, UIDAI
R K Misra	President, Society of Manufacturers of Electric Vehicles(SMEV)
Isha Ambani, Akash Ambani and Anant Ambani	Non-Executive Directors, Reliance Industries Limited
Umesh Revankar	Chairman, Finance Industry Development Council
Geetika Srivastava	Charge d'Affaires, Pakistan High Commission
Jaya Verma Sinha	CEO and Chairperson, Railway Board

IMPORTANT DAYS

DATE	DAY	THEME
August 1 st -7 th	World Breastfeeding Week	Let's make breastfeeding and work, work!
August 7 th	National Handloom Day	
	National Javelin Day	

August 10th	World Biofuel Day	Biofuels for Sustainability and Rural Income
	World Lion Day	
August 12th	International Youth Day	
	World Elephant Day	
August 13th	World Organ Donation Day	
August 14th	Partition Horrors Remembrance Day or Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas	
August 19th	World Humanitarian Day	No matter what
August 20th	World Mosquito Day	
	Sadbhavana Diwas	
August 23rd	National Space Day	
August 29th	National Sports Day	Sports are an enabler to an inclusive and fit society
August 31st	World Sanskrit Day	

SPORTS

NAME OF THE SPORTS PERSON	RELATED FIELD
Neeraj Chopra	Javelin
Jyothi Yarraji	Athletics (hurdles)
Alex Hales	Cricket
Pramod Bhagat	Para-badminton
Sukant Kadam	Para-badminton
Jannik Sinner	Tennis
Alex De Minaur	Tennis
Priya Malik	Wrestling
Esha Singh	Shooting
Shiva Narwal	Shooting
Avani Prashanth	Golf
HS Prannoy	Badminton
Navjot Kaur	Hockey
D Gukesh	Chess
Gianluigi Buffon	Football
Neymar	Football
Mohit Kumar	Wrestling
Iga Swiatek	Tennis
Antim Panghal	Wrestling
Savita	Wrestling
Magnus Carlsen	Chess

R Praggananandhaa

Chess

SCHEMES

NAME OF THE SCHEME	THEME
PEHCHAN	Launched in 2016 to provide new identity to deserving handicraft artisans and help them avail benefits of various schemes implemented by the Ministry of Textiles.
Swadesh Darshan 2.0	Launched in 2014-15 to develop sustainable and responsible tourism destinations
Atal Pension Yojana	Launched in 2015 with the objective of delivering old-age income security to all citizens of India, particularly to the workers in the unorganised sector.
One District One Product	For promoting the indigenous crafts and artisans of India
PM Vishwakarma scheme	The scheme will provide support to artisans and craftspeople of rural and urban areas across India.
Digital India Programme	To boost digital initiatives in skilling, cyber security, high performance computing and simplifying technology for masses, among other areas.
Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)	Launched on August 28, 2014, it is a National Mission for Financial Inclusion to ensure access to financial services, namely, a basic savings & deposit accounts, remittance, credit, insurance, pension in an affordable manner.
Research-Linked Incentive (RLI)scheme	For pharmaceuticals and med-tech sector to strengthen the research infra in the country & promote more industry-academia linkages for research and development(R&D)
PM-eBus Sewa	10000 e-buses across 169 cities to promote green mobility
Mission Amrit Sarovar	Launched in 2022, the Mission is aimed at developing and rejuvenating 75 water bodies in each district of India.
Mera Bill Mera Adhikaar	To encourage the culture of customers asking for bills for all purchases.
Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme	To attract investments in key sectors and cutting-edge technology; ensure efficiency and bring economies of size and scale in the manufacturing sector and make Indian companies and manufacturers globally competitive.
RoDTEP Scheme	Provides for rebate of all hidden Central, State, and Local duties/taxes/levies on the goods exported which have not been refunded under any other existing scheme.
Amrit Bharat Station Scheme	Redevelopment of railway stations in India.
BharatNet Project	Last-mile broadband connectivity project

AGREEMENTS & MOU'S

ENTITIES INVOLVED	MoU THEME
Maharashtra and Bundesliga	Build football team for players under age of 14.
DGT and Amazon Web Services India	Offer skilling programs on emerging technologies
Reliance and Brookfield	Renewable power equipment manufacturing in Australia
AIIMS and IREDA	Solarization of campus
NHPC and ALIMCO	Aids and assistive devices to Divyangjans
Tata Power Renewable Energy Ltd and Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Co.	Supply 350 MW electricity from its solar projects
IIM Ahmedabad's CIIE.co and SIDBI	Set up pre-seed deeptech accelerator fund
Indian Railways and IIT Madras	Establish 5G testbed in Hyderabad
SJVN and Sikkim Urja Limited	Power trading
BHEL and Greenstat	Explore Opportunities in hydrogen value chain
IUCN Species Survival Commission and Wildlife Trust of India	Set up South Asia's first-ever center for species survival
NewSpace India Limited and Tata Play	Commission GSAT-24 for providing DTH services
TCS and GeM	Strategic partner to transform GeM
L&T and Partners-Indian Oil Corporation and ReNew	Invest \$4 billion in green hydrogen ventures
HCL Tech and Verizon	\$2 billion deal for Managed Network Services
AIIMS Bathinda and NSDC International	Skill centre
Goi and Government of Arunachal Pradesh	Hydro-electric projects
Foxconn and Telangana	\$550 million investment
NTPC and EDII	Empower women through entrepreneurship
Protean and PayNearby	Credit marketplace on ONDC
ISRO's NewSpace India Limited and Alpha Design Tech	Transferred the IMS-1 Satellite Bus Technology
Infosys and Liberty Global	\$1.6 billion deal to build and scale platforms of the firm
NITI Aayog and UNDP	Fast-track SDGs
HCLTech and Cricket Australia	Digital transformation
Wipro and IIT Delhi	Centre of Excellence on Generative AI
IRCTC and Delhi Metro	QR code-based tickets
NEHHDC and Tide	Promote small weavers and artisans
NHPC and RITES	Railway siding for Dibang multipurpose project

L&T and Perdaman Chemicals & Fertilisers	Build Australia's largest urea plant
PFC and JBIC	\$1.28 mn loan for waste-to-energy project in Karnataka
Mastercard and ICC	Sponsor for 2023 World Cup
MDoNER and UNDP	Fast-track sustainable development in northeast
Infosys and Rafael Nadal	Brand ambassador
Deendayal Port and DP World	Concession agreement
Inland Waterways Authority and Numaligarh Refinery	Export of Petroleum Products
AAI and NLCIL	Operationalisation agreement for upcoming Neyveli airport, Tamil Nadu
IDFC First Bank and BCCI	Title rights for the home international series
Defence Ministry and HSL	Rs 19000 crore deal for 5 fleet support ships
ADB and Fourth Partner Energy	Construction of solar power facility in India
Numaligarh Refinery Limited and IIT Guwahati	Develop sustainable material
TCS and Athora Netherlands	IT Operations
Amazon and Indian Postal Services, Indian Railways	Faster deliveries
Tata Power Renewable Energy and Sanyo Special Steel Manufacturing India	Set up 28-MW solar plant in Maharashtra
Tata Steel and ACME Group	Establish India's largest green hydrogen project in Odisha

OBITUARY

OBITUARY	RELATED FIELD
Bindeshwar Pathak	Social Activist
Gaddar	Telangana Folk Singer
Bikash Sinha	Nuclear Physicist
MRS Rao	Eminent scientist
Mohammed Habib	Football Player
VS Arunachalam	Former DRDO Chief
John Warnock	Adobe co-founder
Jayanta Mahapatra	Poet
William Friedkin	Filmmaker

DEFENCE

DEFENCE EXERCISE NAME	COUNTRIES INVOLVED
27 th Malabar Naval Exercise	India, Japan, USA and Australia
Zayed Talwar	India and UAE
Tarang Shakti	India and other air forces (France, UK Australia, US and Japan)
Bright Star – 23	Egypt(host), India, US, Saudi Arabia, Greece and Qatar

INDIA AND WORLD

COUNTRIES INVOLVED	FIELD OF CO-OPERATION
India and Suriname	MoU in field of regulation of medicines
India and Taiwan	Migration and mobility agreement
India and Bhutan	Railway link
India and Trinidad and Tobago	Sharing Indian Technology Stack
India and Nepal	Export of power
India and Samoa	Foreign Office Consultations
India and Greece	First visit by an Indian PM in 40 years
India and Bangladesh	5 th Annual Defence Dialogue
India and New Zealand	Civil Aviation Sector
India and Sri Lanka	Digital Identity Project
India and Australia	Mutual Recognition Arrangement
	Cooperation in Sports

ACQUISITION AND MERGERS

ENTITY	ACQUIRED BY/MERGED WITH
IDBI Mutual Fund schemes	LIC Mutual Fund
ICICI Lombard General Insurance	ICICI Bank
Sanghi Industries	Ambuja Cements
Tata Cleantech Capital and Tata Capital Financial Services merges into	Tata Capital Ltd
Max Life Insurance	Axis Bank
Zee Entertainment Enterprises	Culver Max Entertainment
Aloka Merchant Co-operative Bank	Jalgaon Peoples Co-operative Bank

AWARDS

AWARDEE	AWARD NAME	RELATED FIELD
Jayesh Saini	Global Leader Award 2023	Healthcare expansion in Africa
NAFIS	Gold under Excellence in Government Process Reengineering for Digital Transformation Category-1	Awarded by Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).

Raj Chetty	George Ledlie Prize	Economy
India – 2nd rank	International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics	
SVAMITVA scheme	Gold in National Award for e-Governance	
Priyan Sain	Miss Earth India 2023	Beauty Pageant
Rocketry: The Nambi Effect	Best Feature Film	69 th National Film Awards
Allu Arjun	Best Actor, Pushpa	
Alia Bhatt and Kriti Sanon	Best Actress, Kathiawadi and Mimi	
Nikhil Mahajan	Best Director, Godavari	

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCE

SUMMIT/ CONFERENCE NAME	THEME	LOCATION
5th World Coffee Conference		Bengaluru
BRICS Summit	BRICS and Africa: Partnership for mutually accelerated growth, sustainable development and inclusive multilateralism	Johannesburg
Digital India RISC-V		Chennai
Global Maritime India Summit in October		New Delhi
Y20 Summit		Varanasi
1st WHO Global Summit on Traditional Medicine		Gandhinagar, Gujarat
G20 Digital Economy Ministers' Meeting		Bengaluru
G20 Health Ministers' Meeting		Gandhinagar
4th G20 Culture Working Group Meeting		Varanasi
26th National Conference on e-Governance		Indore
B20 Summit India 2023	R.A.I.S.E – Responsible, Accelerated, Innovative, Sustainable and Equitable Businesses	New Delhi
54th Network Planning Group under PM GatiShakti		New Delhi
G20 Technical Workshop on One Health – Opportunities and Challenges		Bengaluru

2nd G20 Chief Scientific Advisers' Roundtable Meet	Opportunities in One Health, Synergizing Global Efforts to expand the Access to Scholarly Scientific Knowledge	Gandhinagar
Global IndiaAI 2023 in October		
G20 Ministerial Conference on Women's Empowerment		Gandhinagar
G20 Forum on Indian Diaspora		New Delhi
Festival of Libraries 2023		New Delhi
39th CISA Deep Dive Training Programme		New Delhi
G20 Film Festival		New Delhi
4th Trade & Investment Working Group Meeting of G20		Jaipur
Know India Programme		New Delhi
9th India Region Conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association		Udaipur, Rajasthan

COMMITTEE

THEME OF THE COMMITTEE	FORMED BY	CHAIRPERSON
National Syllabus and Teaching Learning Material Committee	NCERT	MC Pant and Manjul Bhargava
Reconstituted Advisory board on Banking and Financial Frauds (ABBFF)	Central Vigilance Commission	Suresh N Patel
Onshoring the Indian Innovation to GIFT IFSC	IFSCA	G Padmanabhan
9-member committee has been tasked with the mission to comprehensively overhaul the DRDO.	Centre	K Vijay Raghavan

RANKS AND REPORTS

NAME OF THE REPORT/INDEX	RELEASED BY	RANKING OF INDIA/STATE/COMPANY ETC	COUNTRY WHICH TOPPED THE LIST
Global PMI	S&P	July month – 57.7	
Look Forward: India's Moment	S&P		
eCommerce in the New Bharat and its Future	Shiprocket		
2023 Global 500	Fortune	Walmart	
Fiscal Health Report	Report on the fiscal health of the key 17 states, penned by Kaushik Das, the chief economist at Deutsche Bank India.	Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and Telangana – top 3; West Bengal, Punjab and Kerala – bottom 3.	
12 th report on States/UTs performance on CPGRAMS	DARPG		
Analysis of Sitting MPs in Rajya Sabha	Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and the National Election Watch (NEW).	12% of sitting MPs in Rajya Sabha are billionaires. Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra – top 3	
Current Situations Index	RBI	88.1 in July 2023	
Food and Drink Report 2023	Brand Finance	Amul – world's strongest dairy brand	
Renewable Power Generation Costs in 2022	IRENA		

BANKING AND FINANCE

RBI in News	SEBI in news	IRDAI in news
RBI has selected McKinsey and Company India LLP and Accenture Solutions Pvt Ltd India to develop systems using artificial intelligence and machine learning for its supervisory functions.	SEBI reduces time limit for AIFs and VCFs to invest overseas to 4 months.	IRDAI lowers minimum capital requirement for foreign reinsurers to Rs 50 crore.
RBI proposes framework for transparent reset of home loan rates and EMIs	SEBI mandates FPIs to carry 10% of copr bonds	

	trades via Request For Quote (RFQ) platform.	
RBI issues revised guidelines for IDF-NBFCs	SEBI halves listing timeline to 3 days post IPO closure.	
RBI asked banks to provide fixed interest rate options to individual borrowers and directed the lenders to levy only reasonable penalty charges in case of default in EMI payments.	SEBI proposes to raise threshold of borrowings for large firms to Rs 500 crore.	
RBI Raises Transaction Limit for Small Value Offline Digital Payments to Rs 500	SEBI plans to bring follow-on offer rules for REITs, InvITs	
RBI to launch Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit	SEBI notifies stricter delisting rules for non-covertible debt securities	
RBI launches UDGAM portal for searching unclaimed deposits.		

IMPORTANT STATIC & CURRENT INFO

INDIAN STATES, CAPITALS, CHIEF MINISTERS & GOVERNORS

STATE	CAPITAL	CHIEF MINISTER	GOVERNOR
Andhra Pradesh	Amaravati	Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy	Justice (Retd.) S. Abdul Nazeer
Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar	Pema Khandu	Lt. General Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik
Assam	Dispur	Himanta Biswa Sarma	Gulab Chand Kataria
Bihar	Patna	Nitish Kumar	Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar
Chhattisgarh	Raipur	Bhupesh Baghel	Biswa Bhusan Harichandan
Goa	Panaji	Pramod Sawant	P.S. Sreedharan Pillai
Gujarat	Gandhi Nagar	Bhupendra Patel	Acharya Dev Vrat
Haryana	Chandigarh	Manohar Lal Khattar	Bandaru Dattatraya
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla	Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu	Shiv Pratap Shukla
Jharkhand	Ranchi	Hemant Soren	CP Radhakrishnan
Karnataka	Bengaluru	Siddaramaiah	Thaawarchand Gehlot
Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	Pinarayi Vijayan	Arif Mohammed Khan
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal	Shivraj Singh Chauhan	Mangubhai Chhaganbhai Patel

Maharashtra	Mumbai	Eknath Shinde	Ramesh Bais
Manipur	Imphal	N Biren Singh	Sushri Anusuiya Uikye
Meghalaya	Shillong	Conrad Kongkal Sangma	Phagu Chauhan
Mizoram	Aizawl	Pu Zoramthanga	Dr Kambhampati Haribabu
Nagaland	Kohima	Neiphiu Rio	La. Ganesan
Odisha	Bhubaneswar	Naveen Patnaik	Ganeshi Lal
Punjab	Chandigarh	Bhagwant Mann	Banwarilal Purohit
Rajasthan	Jaipur	Ashok Gehlot	Kalraj Mishra
Sikkim	Gangtok	PS Golay	Lakshman Prasad Acharya
Tamil Nadu	Chennai	M. K. Stalin	R. N. Ravi
Telangana	Hyderabad	K. Chandrasekhar Rao	Tamilisai Soundararajan
Tripura	Agartala	Dr. Manik Saha	Satyadeo Narain Arya
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow	Yogi Aditya Nath	Anandiben Patel
Uttarakhand	Dehradun	Pushkar Singh Dhami	Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh
West Bengal	Kolkata	Mamata Banerjee	C V Ananda Bose

UNION TERRITORIES, LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS & ADMINISTRATORS

UNION TERRITORY	LT. GOVERNOR & ADMINISTRATOR
Andaman and Nicobar Island (UT)	Admiral D K Joshi (Lieutenant Governor)
Chandigarh (UT)	Banwarilal Purohit (Administrator)
Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (UT)	Praful Patel (Administrator)
Delhi (NCT)	Vinai Kumar Saxena (Lieutenant Governor)
Jammu and Kashmir (UT)	Manoj Sinha (Lieutenant Governor)
Lakshadweep (UT)	Praful Patel (Administrator)
Puducherry (UT)	Dr. Tamilisai Soundararajan (Addl. Charge) (Lieutenant Governor)
Ladakh (UT)	Brig. (Dr.) BD Mishra (Retd.) (Lieutenant Governor)

UNION MINISTERS & PORTFOLIO

UNION MINISTER	PORTFOLIO
Narendra Modi	Ministry of Personnel, Public grievances and Pensions Department of Atomic Energy Department of Space
Rajnath Singh	Ministry of Defence
Amit Shah	Ministry of Home Affairs Ministry of Cooperation
Nitin Gadkari	Ministry of Road Transport and Highways

Nirmala Sitharaman	Ministry of Finance Ministry of Corporate Affairs
Piyush Goyal	Ministry of Commerce and Industry Ministry of Textiles Ministry of Consumer affairs, Food and Public Distribution
Narendra Singh Tomar	Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare
Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar	Ministry of External Affairs
Arjun Munda	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
Smriti Zubin Irani	Ministry of Women and Child Development Ministry of Minority Affairs
Dharmendra Pradhan	Ministry of Education Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
Pralhad Joshi	Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs Ministry of Coal Ministry of Mines
Narayan Tatu Rane	Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
Sarbananda Sonowal	Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH)
Dr. Virendra Kumar	Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Giriraj Singh	Ministry of Rural Development Ministry of Panchayati Raj
Jyotiraditya M. Scindia	Ministry of Civil Aviation Ministry of Steel
Ashwini Vaishnaw	Ministry of Railways Ministry of Communications Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
Pashu Pati Kumar Paras	Ministry of Food Processing Industries
Gajendra Singh Shekhawat	Ministry of Jal Shakti
Kiren Rijiju	Ministry of Earth Sciences
Raj Kumar Singh	Ministry of Power Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
Hardeep Singh Puri	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
Mansukh L. Mandaviya	Ministry of Health and Family Welfare Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
Bhupender Yadav	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry of Labour and Employment
Mahendra Nath Pandey	Ministry of Heavy Industries
Parshottam Rupala	Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying
G. Kishan Reddy	Ministry of Culture Ministry of Tourism

	Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
Anurag Singh Thakur	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
Ministers of State (Independent Charge)	
Arjun Meghwal	Ministry of Law and Justice
Dr. Jitendra Singh	Ministry of Science and Technology
Rao Inderjit Singh	Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation Ministry of Planning

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