

THE OAS GAZETTE

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SEPTEMBER 2023



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E-Audio guide tour



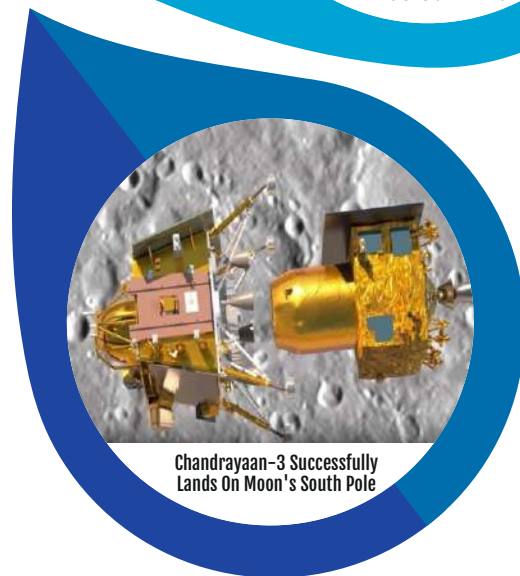
Kalahandi's
Utkela Airport



The fifteenth
BRICS Summit



Odia Journalism Day



Chandrayaan-3 Successfully
Lands On Moon's South Pole

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COMPREHENSIVE COVERAGE OF CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR ODISHA STATE CIVIL SERVICES EXAMS



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JYOTI PRADHAN RANK 22 RAKESH PARIDA RANK 25 SUBHAM S. RANK 26 CHODAGANGA P. RANK 27 MANAS SETH RANK 29 SWETALINA S. RANK 30 RAKESH SAHU RANK 32 SUMIT AGRAWAL RANK 33 ADITYA MOHAPATRA RANK 35



SHRUSTY P. RANK 36 DIBYA NATH RANK 38 BHABASHREE BAL RANK 39 VISHAL P. RANK 41 SMARANIKA D. RANK 42 STHITA P. PATI RANK 43 SAMIKSHYA M. RANK 45 ANKIT MOHAPATRA RANK 48 TAMANNA M. RANK 49

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And many more...

Odisha Current Affairs

Hepatitis declared a notifiable disease in Odisha

- The Odisha government designated Hepatitis "B" and Hepatitis "C" to be notifiable diseases with immediate effect.
- These are both blood-borne and transmittable viral infections, While Hepatitis-C can be cured with timely therapy for three months, Hepatitis-B requires lifelong treatment. If left misdiagnosed and untreated, these disorders can cause liver damage and Hepato-cellular carcinoma (liver cancer).

Odia Journalism Day: Celebrating 157 years of its journey

- In 1866, 'Utkala Deepika' is regarded as the first Odia newspaper. The weekly publication was started by Gouri Shankar Ray and Babu Bichitrananda Das. To mark this momentous event, August 4 is also celebrated as Odia Journalism Day in the state.
- Bichitrananda Das established the Cuttack Printing Press in 1866 and 'Utkala Deepika', edited by Gouri Shankar Ray, was published from there. Ray continued to be the editor of the publication till his death in 1917.
- Though 'Utkala Deepika' is popularly accepted to be the first Odia newspaper, the publication of 'Kujibara Patrika', which was published by Sadhu Sundar Das, a saint, predated it. Its publication started in 1837. In 1861, five years before the catastrophic famine of Odisha of 1866, the first Odia magazine 'Bodha Dayini' was published from Balasore. The main object of this magazine was to spread the Odia literature and to point out the administrative lapses.

50 More Categories of Workers Included In Social Security Scheme

- Odisha Unorganised Workers' Social Security Board Welfare Scheme.
- In case of accidental death, the assistance amount has been raised from Rs 2 lakh to Rs 4 lakh.
- Natural deaths, the assistance amount has been hiked from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 2 lakh.
- Since its inception in May 2017, the Odisha Unorganised Workers' Social Security Board Welfare Scheme has been benefiting approximately 3.65 lakh registered workers from 10 categories.
- However, with the inclusion of 50 more categories of unorganized workers, the scheme is set to extend its reach and impact even more lives, fostering a safer and more secure working environment for the labour force in the state.
- CM Launches 'Mo Jungle Jami Yojana' On World Indigenous Peoples Day
- On the occasion of the Int. Day of the World Indigenous Peoples Day 9th August in the development of tribals.
- The objective of the scheme is to ensure the rights of all eligible individuals and communities over forest land. Along with this, all development programs will be linked to this scheme and steps will be taken to create stability in the livelihood of the tribals.
- 4, 50,000 tribals and forest-dwelling families have been given forest land rights.
- Jagannath Saraka said the aim of this scheme is to recognise the rights of tribals as managers of forest land.

PM Modi Lays Foundation Stone for Upgradation of Odisha's 57 Railway Stations

- The redevelopment of 508 railway stations across the country, of which 25 are from Odisha in first phase..
- The railway stations will be upgraded under Amrit Bharat Station scheme at a cost of over Rs 24,470 Crore.
- The upgradation work will be completed within a period of two years.
- In the first phase, 25 railway stations under East Coast Railway (ECoR) have been selected for redevelopment under the Amrit Bharat Station scheme.
- The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme was launched to redevelop 1309 stations across the country.
- The stations are Sakhigopal, Mancheswar, Dhenkanal, Chhatrapur, Angul, Palasa, Meramandali, Balugaon, Lingaraj Temple Road, Talcher Road, Khurda Road, Kantabanji, Bargarh Road, Hirakud, Rairakhol, Barpali, Muniguda, Balangir, Harisankar Road, Mahasamund, Bhawanipatna, Khariar Road, Vizianagaram, Duvvada and Damanjodi.

Odisha doing Strategy to Eliminate Measles, Rubella by December 2023

- Both are contagious viral infections.
- The Health and Family Welfare department has planned to strengthen routine immunization among the babies across the state.

- Measles and rubella can be easily prevented through vaccination. The state government provides free vaccination for the babies to eliminate the two diseases.

Justice Talapatra: The Chief Justice of Odisha High Court

- He became the 33rd Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court, succeeding Dr. Justice S. Muralidhar who retired on 8 Aug. He was transferred as Judge of Orissa High Court from Tripura High Court on 1 June 2022. He had taken oath as the Judge of Orissa High Court on 10 June 2022.
- Odisha has been awarded the prestigious award as the best state in India for its contribution to the Digitisation of Land Records for the 19 districts. Odisha Govt. targets 100% Digitisation Of Land Records By March 2024.

Odisha to Build 300 Bridges, improve 6,500 Km Roads this year

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Patnaik also laid foundation stone for widening, and strengthening of Moter-Banner road via Ladugaon in Kalahandi district of Odisha on the occasion.
- The budget of state Works department has seen a quantum jump since 2000, from about Rs 280 crore to more than Rs 15,000 crore.
- Two airports at Jeypore and Utkela and a greenfield airport at Malkangiri is under construction.
- Gurupriya bridge connecting the Swabhiman anchal in Malkangiri
- This was revealed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik during the inauguration of the 4-laning of Kamakhya Nagar-Duburi Section of NH-53. The 51-km stretch has been constructed at a cost of Rs 761 crore which will connect the coal belt of Talcher to the steel hub at Kalinga Nagar in Jajpur.

Odisha adds 4.13 Lakh new beneficiaries under Madhu Babu Pension Scheme

- With this, the target of Madhu Babu Pension Yojana has been enhanced to 32.75 lakh. Earlier 28.61 lakh beneficiaries were getting benefits under the scheme.
- All the newly sanctioned beneficiaries will get their first pension amount on 15th August, 2023 i.e. JANASEVA DIWAS at the Gram Panchayat headquarters or Ward Offices in the presence of elected representatives, state government provides social security pension to 28.61 lakh (28,61,195) beneficiaries under Madhu Babu Pension Yojana (MBPY) at Rs. 500/-, Rs. 700/- and Rs. 900/- per month.

Kalahandi's Utkela Airport

- The Union Government granted Utkela Airport in Odisha's Kalahandi district the necessary permission to begin flying operations. The Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), in exercise of the powers given to him by S.O. no. 727 (E) dated 4th October, 1994, gives the Government of Odisha a licence for Utkela Airport.
- The licence allows the airfield to be utilised as a regular location of landing and departure for all people on equal terms and conditions for aircraft operation. If any provision of the Aircraft Act 1934 or the Aircraft Rules 1937 is violated, the licence may be suspended, changed, or withdrawn, or any condition imposed. Bhubaneswar and Bhawanipatna will be up and running soon.

Free Textbook

- Free textbooks for students in all private and unaided Odia medium schools in the state: it will help over five lakh students in about 3,620 private and unaided Odia language schools... From the school year 2024-25, students in grades I through VIII will receive free textbooks. with annual expenses of Rs 9.43 crore.

E-Audio Guide Tour

- CM Introduces an E-Audio Guided Tour In the capital's Kalabhoomi Museum.
- Odia, Hindi, and English are the languages accessible for the e-audio tour.
- The audio tour functions as a personal companion, guiding visitors through engrossing storylines and providing insights into the artifacts on display.
- It provides tourists with an immersive experience that connects them to the heart and spirit of Odisha's rich cultural history.
- This unique offering connects visitors to a seamless blend of technology and cultural exploration, resulting in an unforgettable and enriching museum experience.
- The CM also introduced the museum's redesigned website, which includes sophisticated elements like an enthralling 360 virtual tour, an e-ticketing system, and the publication of a compelling Coffee Table Book, an

aesthetic masterpiece developed by the renowned maestro of contemporary art. Rita Sahoo, Minister of Handloom, Textiles, and Handicrafts.


The Odisha government has appointed the chairs of 14 new SDCs

- SDCs (Special Development Councils), Since 2017, SDCs have been operating in nine districts across the state. Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Sundargarh, Kandhamal, Gajapati, Koraput, Rayagada, Nabarangapur, and Malkangiri are among them. SDCs now covering 14 additional districts.
- The government established SDCs to engage tribals in all stages of development, beginning with the identification of deficit regions, perceived needs, plan creation, execution, and monitoring. Furthermore, the Councils are concerned with the preservation of tribal culture and traditions, as well as history and identity.

The Centre has made funds available for the conservation of Odisha's Chilika Lake

- The monies were made available by the Centre under the National Plan for the Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA).
- After receiving the Utilisation Certificates (UCs), physical progress report, and images presented by the Chilika Development Authority (CDA), the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change disbursed the funding... The Centre approved the implementation of an Integrated Management Plan (IMP) for the conservation of Chilika Lake in March 2012, with an estimated cost of Rs 23.50 crore over a period of time. The expenditure would be split 60:40 between the federal and state governments.

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OPSC Current Affairs



NATIONAL

Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya delivers keynote address at the 13th Indian Organ Donation Day ceremony

- Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, emphasised the profound act of giving life to another person via organ donation during the 13th Indian Organ Donation Day (IODD) ceremony.
- He emphasised the field's outstanding growth, adding that in 2013, roughly 5000 people stepped forward to donate their organs, whereas the number has already climbed to over 15,000 organ donors per year.

Aadi Perukku - Celebrating Water, Gratitude, and Global Unity


- Aadi Perukku, also known as Pathinettam Perukku, has a particular place in the hearts of Tamil Nadu's cultural community.
- This important event, celebrated on August 3rd during the Tamil month of Aadi, is a time of celebration and reverence for the monsoon season and soil fertility. It is a lovely chance to offer gratitude to water bodies as the monsoon season begins.

The Education Ministry has chosen Oracle Cloud Infrastructure to modernise the DIKSHA educational technology platform

- According to the firm, the Ministry of Education has chosen Oracle Cloud Infrastructure (OCI) to upgrade the national education technology platform, Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing (DIKSHA).
- This relocation intends to improve DIKSHA's accessibility while lowering IT costs. The seven-year collaboration agreement will allow OCI to assist the ministry in expanding DIKSHA's reach, bringing educational resources to millions more students, teachers, and collaborators around the country.
- This effort is expected to result in considerable advances in education and knowledge sharing in India.

The Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change hosted a Consultative Committee Meeting on '75@75 Ramsar Sites'

- Union Minister Shri Bhupender Yadav presided over a meeting of the Consultative Committee of Members of Parliament attached to the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) in New Delhi.
- During the discussion, India's important achievement of adding 75 Ramsar Sites to the Ramsar Convention's list of Wetlands of International Importance on the occasion of the country's 75th year of independence was highlighted.
- The committee members were informed during the meeting about the recently announced Amrit Dharohar Initiative by MoEF&CC on World Environment Day, June 5, 2023. This effort intends to promote the conservation qualities of Ramsar Sites while also serving as a model for other wetlands of national and worldwide significance. Over the following three years, the project will be implemented with the purpose of protecting and improving biological diversity, cultural heritage, food, water, and climate security, sustainable livelihood options, and societal well-being.
- PM e-Vidya Initiatives: Empowering Education in the Digital Age



- > Will enable digital/online/on-air access to education
- > Will benefit more than 25 Crore school going children
- > DIKSHA : Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing
- > SWAYAM online courses in MOOCS format for school and higher education
- > One earmarked TV channel per class from 1 to 12
- > Extensive use of Radio, Community radio and CBSE Podcast - Shiksha Vani
- > Special e-content for visually and hearing impaired

The government has introduced the Ayush Visa for foreign nationals seeking treatment under Indian medical systems

- In the Visa Manual, the Ministry of Home Affairs has added a new chapter called Chapter 11A - Ayush Visa, which is intended for foreign nationals seeking treatment under Ayush or Indian medical systems.
- This initiative seeks to increase Medical Value Travel in India and promote the country as a global destination for traditional Indian medicine.
- The creation of the Ayush Visa category is in line with the government's Heal in India campaign, which intends to position India as a medical tourism destination.
- This unique visa category was established by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi during the Global Ayush Investment and Innovation Summit (GAIIS) in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, in April 2022.

India's Mining Sector Revolution: Empowering the Private Sector and Resource Development

- The Indian Parliament has enacted the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2023, marking a watershed event in the Mining Sector Revolution. This historic legislation authorises private firms to conduct mining operations for six of the twelve atomic minerals, including lithium, as well as deep-seated minerals such as gold and silver. The passage of this measure is expected to open up several opportunities for the private sector, strengthen the role of the central government, and boost domestic exploration and production of vital minerals.
- By allowing private corporations to discover and exploit formerly reserved atomic minerals, the Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill, 2023, marks a significant shift from previous mining regulations.



INTERNATIONAL

The 5th World Coffee Conference will be held in Bengaluru, India, as a gateway to the global coffee market

- India is set to host the famous 5th World Coffee Conference (WCC) in Bengaluru from September 25 to 28 in a landmark milestone for the Indian coffee sector.
- The convention, which gathers worldwide buyers from over 80 countries, will be hosted in Asia for the first time.
- The event's major goal is to exhibit India's different coffees to an international audience while fostering novel opportunities and markets, with a special emphasis on assisting coffee farmers, who are crucial in the coffee supply chain.

The Visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Greece

- During Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Greece, the two countries raised their bilateral relationship to a "strategic partnership," with an emphasis on improving political, defence, and security cooperation.
- A strategic partnership is a long-term relationship between two countries that is founded on political, economic, social, and historical considerations.
- This was the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister in 40 years.
- Greece awarded Modi the Grand Cross of the Order of decoration, the country's second highest civilian decoration, making him the first foreign leader of government to receive this title.

Maitri Setu: India-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge

- The India-Bangladesh friendship bridge, the Maitri Setu, is slated to open soon.
- The Maitri Setu bridge spans the Feni River, which runs between the Indian state of Tripura and Bangladesh.
- It runs for 1.9 km from Sabroom in Tripura to Ramgarh in Bangladesh.
- The name 'Maitri Setu' represents India and Bangladesh's increasing bilateral relations and amicable relationships.
- The National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd. oversaw the bridge's construction.
- It is a concrete bridge that has been pre-stressed.
- It has a single-span structure that enables for seamless traffic and cargo flow.



The fifteenth BRICS Summit

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the 15th BRICS Summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, during his visit.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Johannesburg, South Africa, from August 22nd to August 24th, 2023.
- BRICS was founded in 2009.
- Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa are all members.
- The Russian Federation hosted the first BRICS Summit in 2009.
- Previous BRICS Summit/14th BRICS Summit: China in 2022.
- The 15th BRICS Summit will take place in South Africa in 2023.
- BRICS is an acronym representing the world's leading rising economies, which include Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. (BRICS)
- The acronym "BRIC" was coined in 2001 by British economist Jim O'Neill to designate the four emerging economies of Brazil, Russia, India, and China.

Belem Declaration of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organisation

- Members of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organisation gathered in the Brazilian city of Belem to design a shared approach for combating climate change.
- The Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organisation (ACTO) is an international organisation founded by the signing of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty (ACT) by the eight Amazonian countries.
- On July 3, 1978, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty was prepared and signed.
- The eight nations resolved to form the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organisation (ACTO) in 1995 to reinforce and implement the Amazon Cooperation Treaty's aims.
- Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela are members.
- It was established via international cooperation to support the preservation of the Amazon basin and to manage Amazonian development.

ECOWAS

- After Niger's military junta ignored a deadline to reinstate the country's expelled president, members of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) will convene to discuss their future measures.
- The Lagos Treaty founded ECOWAS, the West African nation's regional group, in 1975.
- The goal is to have a single common currency and a broad trading bloc in industries, transportation, telecommunications, energy, financial issues, and social and cultural issues.
- Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Senegal, and Togo are all members. This region is home to over 400 million people.

ECONOMICS



Global Environment Facility (GEF)

- The Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) was ratified and established at the recently concluded Seventh Assembly of the Global Environment Facility (GEF).
- Governments, non-profit organizations, and the commercial sector can now contribute to the GBFF.
- This will ensure that the world reaches the goals and targets set by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) by 2030.
- Up to 20% of the cash would go toward Indigenous-led initiatives to protect and conserve biodiversity.
- It will also prioritize help for Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries, with more than a third of the fund's resources going to them.
- This is the first time money has been transferred to non-state entities such as indigenous groups.

Insurance Surety Bonds

- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) held a brainstorming workshop with stakeholders in order to accelerate the use of Insurance Surety Bonds for its contracts.
- Insurance Surety bonds are, in their most basic form, a written agreement to guarantee the compliance, payment, or completion of an act.

- These are arrangements in which insurance firms operate as 'surety' and give a financial guarantee that the contractor will fulfill its obligations in accordance with the terms agreed upon.
- Because it entails a three-party agreement, surety is a unique sort of insurance.

The AMBER Project

- Under Project AMBER, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) is training 1,500 people in 'cloud' skills in conjunction with Generation India Foundation (GIF) and Amazon Web Services India Private Limited (AWS India).
- The Accelerated Mission for Better Employment and Retention (AMBER) project is a collaboration between the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), which works under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), and GIF to establish the essential pathways.
- The initiative was launched under MSDE's SANKALP program, with an emphasis on women, to enhance gender diversity in the tech industry and underprivileged populations.
- This programme seeks to train 30,000 young people, half of whom will be female.

Floating Interest Rate: RBI

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently announced specific instructions for resetting floating-interest rates on personal loans with Equated Monthly Instalments (EMI).
- A floating interest rate is one that fluctuates on a regular basis.
- The interest rate fluctuates, or "floats," in response to economic or financial market conditions.
- Because it can change over the life of a debt obligation, a floating interest rate is also known as an adjustable or variable interest rate.
- The change in interest rate with a variable rate loan is often based on a reference, or "benchmark," rate that is outside the parties' control.

Centralized Public Grievance Redressal and Monitoring System

- The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) has released the 12th monthly report for States for the Centralized Public Grievances Redressal and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) for July 2023.
- DARPG has integrated the CPGRAMS portal with the AI-based language tool Bhashini.
- This integration would make it easier for Grievance Redressal Officers (GROs) to convert grievance papers from regional languages into English.
- It is a single gateway that connects all Ministries/Departments of the Government of India and the States.

Remittances: India Status

- Remittances from India Status Remittances to India increased by 26% in FY23 to roughly \$112 billion, a major rise from the approximately \$89 billion recorded in FY22.
- This increase in remittances indicates the increased demand for Indian experts worldwide as a result of the pandemic.
- Remittances are cash transferred by migrants to their relatives and friends back home.
- They provide crucial income and foreign cash to many poor countries, particularly in South Asia.
- Private remittances make a considerable contribution to India's current account, helping to offset the trade deficit caused by merchandise trade.
- In a country's balance of payments, remittances are normally classed as part of the current account.

Industrial Production Index

- The Index of Industrial Production in India fell to a three-month low of 3.7% in June, owing primarily to a disappointing showing by the manufacturing sector.
- It is one of the primary economic indicators for measuring trends in the behavior of industrial production over time with reference to a particular base year.
- It represents the relative change in physical production in the sphere of industries throughout a given year in comparison to the preceding year.
- The National Statistical Office (NSO) computes and publishes it on a monthly basis.
- The base is always assigned the value 100.
- In India, the current base year for the IIP series is 2011-12.
- If the current IIP is 116, it signifies that there has been a 16% increase since the base year.

- ICI measures the collective and individual performance of production in selected eight core industries Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Petroleum Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement and Electricity.

PUSHP Portal

- The National Power Committee (NPC) has requested that states submit ideas for providing incentives to buyers and sellers on the excess power portal PUSHP.
- The Ministry of Power launched the PUSHP site, which is a High Price Day Ahead Market (HP-DAM) and Surplus Power site (PUSHP).
- It was launched to provide greater supply of power during peak demand season at a price higher than the Rs 12 per unit ceiling set by a specific category of suppliers.
- Power distribution firms (DISCOMs) will be allowed to announce their surplus power on the portal in block times / days / months.
- Those DISCOMs who require power will be able to obtain it from the extra power.

Employee Stock Option Plan

- A legislative commission has proposed that the government alter the Income Tax Act to ensure that ESOPs (Employee Stock Option Plan) are taxed only when shares are sold, rather than on notional gains, allowing businesses to hire 'low-cost' staff.
- Employee Stock Option Plan (ESOP), also known as Employee Stock Ownership Plan in India, is a benefit plan that allows employees to purchase company stock at a predetermined price.
- It is a technique used by businesses to attract, retain, and reward employees.
- Employee stock ownership plans (ESOPs) aim to link employees' interests with the company's growth and success.

Cott-Ally App

- The Union Minister of State for Textiles informed the Lok Sabha about the Cott-Ally App.
- Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. I created a mobile app called "Cott-Ally" specifically for cotton farmers.
- The goal is to maximize the use of digital media among farmers in order to improve the reach of all government initiatives, particularly in the cotton farming industry.
- Direct connection and outreach with cotton growers in their own languages.

Udyam Assist Platform

- According to the most recent data, the government's new Udyam Assist Platform (UAP) has 35 lakh registered units as of August 3, 2023.
- On 11.01.2023, the government introduced UAP as part of the MSME formalization programme to bring Informal Micro Enterprises (IMEs) inside the formal scope of Priority Sector Lending.
- The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) created the platform.
- The Government of India has explained that IMEs are businesses that are unable to register on the Udyam Registration Portal (URP) due to a lack of needed documentation such as a Permanent Account Number (PAN) or a Goods and Services Tax Identification Number (GSTIN).

Jeevan Pramaan

- The Department of Pension & retirees' Welfare (DoPPW) has made proactive measures to improve the quality of life for Central Government retirees by widely promoting Digital Life Certificates (DLC), also known as Jeevan Pramaan.
- To ensure continuing pension payout, pensioners must submit DLC every November (with a provision for those aged 80 and above in October).
- Initially, DLC submissions used biometric means. Following that, the department, in conjunction with MeitY, created a groundbreaking Face Authentication technology system linked to the Aadhar database.
- This advancement allows retirees to generate their Life Certificates using any Android-based smartphone. This lowers the need for external biometric devices, making the process more accessible and affordable, particularly for the general public.

North East Venture Fund

- The North East Venture Fund was announced in Lok Sabha by the Union Minister for the Ministry of Development of the North Eastern Region.
- North East Venture Fund is registered as a Category I Venture Capital Fund under the Alternative Investment Funds (AIF) Regulations, 2012 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).
- The investment decision is made by an independent committee (Investment Committee) comprised of seasoned experts from venture capital, private equity, development banking, and other fields.
- As a regulatory requirement, periodic reporting on the operation/compliances with regulations is presented in an organized manner to NEVF contributors and other concerned bodies.

Direct Incentive Disbursement: Postal Life Insurance

- Recognizing the critical importance of its sales force, Postal Life Insurance (PLI) launched a test program for "Direct Incentive Disbursement" in the Delhi and Uttarakhand Circles.
- The Direct Incentive Disbursement Program will acknowledge PLI's sales force as the driving factor behind the department's achievements.
- Around two lakh sales force members across the country will be affected, including Gramin Dak Sevaks, Direct Agents, Field Officers, and Departmental Employees.
- Incentives are deposited directly into the sales force's Post Office Savings Bank accounts.
- Salespeople can easily manage their cash, and instant rewards motivate them to work well.
- Automated payouts decrease administrative costs, allowing you to focus more on providing excellent customer service.

Report on Technical Textiles

- The global Technical Textile market is estimated to reach USD 272.3 billion by 2030, according to a recent research analysis.
- Technical textiles are textile goods designed largely for functionality and utility rather than aesthetic appeal.
- They are created with high degrees of physical, mechanical, thermal, and/or chemical qualities for usage in specific industrial sectors such as earthworks, construction, civil engineering, transportation, defence, medical, and healthcare.
- The Ministry of Textiles has created NTTM to boost the penetration of technical textiles in India while capitalising on the sector's phenomenal growth pace.

Sahakar 22: National Cooperative Development Corporation

- National Cooperative Development Corporation had earlier launched its own initiative named Sahakar- 22, during FY 2017-18.
- Sahakar 22 is initiative of NCDC included the following:
- FOCUS 222 - NCDC's focused assistance for Cooperatives in 222 Districts (including 117 Aspirational Districts identified by NITI Aayog);
- PACS HUB - Transformation of PACS and other Coops as Apna Kisan Resource Centres;
- AENEC - Act East and North East Cooperatives;
- CEMtC - Centres of Excellence to Market through Cooperatives;
- SAHAKAR PRAGYA - Capacity Development through Laxmanrao Inamdar National Academy for Cooperative Research Development (LINAC).

Study in India (SII) Portal

- The Education Ministry recently launched the Study In India (SII) portal with a vision to promote Indian education to foreign students.
- Study in India (SII) portal is a dedicated website to provide information about higher education institutions (HEIs) in India.
- Aim is to establishing India as a global hub for education by welcoming students from diverse backgrounds.
- It will showcase the academic programmes in the HEIs covering undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral programmes as well courses in Indian Knowledge System (IKS) such as Yoga, Ayurveda, classical arts and more.
- The portal will have information about the academic facilities, research support and related information available in the institutes.

- It will be a one-stop spot for student registration, the visa application process, choosing the desired courses and receiving offer letters from the institute.
- It will have the provision for students to apply in more than one institute or course of their choice.
- It will offer a streamlined and well-organised application process for international students seeking higher education opportunities in India.

Sovereign Credit Rating

- Fitch has reduced the United States' sovereign rating from AAA to AA+.
- A credit rating is an assessment of a borrower's creditworthiness, which might be an individual, an organisation, or a country.
- A sovereign credit rating is an impartial assessment of a country's or sovereign entity's creditworthiness.
- Governments borrow large sums of money by issuing debt instruments such as government bonds. Creditworthiness refers to the government's capacity to repay its debts without default.
- Sovereign credit ratings can provide investors with information about the level of risk associated with investing in a country's debt instruments (such as bonds), including political hazards.

Gender Inclusion Fund

- The Minister of State for Education briefed the Lok Sabha on the Gender Inclusion Fund (GIF), which was specified in the 2020 National Education Policy (NEP).
- The Gender Inclusion Fund (GIF) will be used to ensure that all children obtain an excellent education.
- It will also be utilised to ensure that amenities like secure and sanitary vending machines are on GIF's infrastructure checklist.

AMC Repo Clearing Limited

- The Ministry of Finance established AMC Repo Clearing Limited (ARCL), a Limited Purpose Clearing Corporation (LPCC).
- AMC Repo Clearing Limited (ARCL) is a Limited Purpose Clearing Corporation that clears and settles all deals in corporate debt securities on the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).
- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) granted it preliminary permission under the Stock Exchanges and Clearing Corporations (SECC) Regulations, 2018.
- In addition, the RBI has awarded ARCL a Certificate of Authorization under the Payment and Settlement Systems (PSS) Act of 2007 to provide Central counterparty clearing house (CCP) services for repo transactions in corporate debt instruments.

National Digital Nagrik Forum

- The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) announced the establishment of a National Digital Nagrik Forum on Sunday.
- The National Digital Nagrik Forum is an online platform aimed at advancing the rights of merchants, consumers, and other members of society, as well as shaping legislation to promote the digital trade economy.
- Through expert discussions and instructional materials, the event aims to improve knowledge about digital legislation and assist individuals build their capabilities to engage with innovation.
- The goal is to drive policy discourse in India on digital economy trade in order to contribute to the Government of India's objective of building a trillion-dollar digital economy while maintaining an open, safe, trustworthy, and accountable internet ecosystem.

ULLAS Initiative: Launched Logo and slogan

- The Union Minister of Education launched the logo, slogan-Jan Jan Sakshar and mobile application of ULLAS in New Delhi.
- The Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society (ULLAS) initiative is poised to revolutionise education and literacy across the nation.
- It is done by fostering a learning ecosystem that reaches every individual, bridging the gaps in basic literacy and critical life skills.
- It imparts basic education, digital and financial literacy and critical life skills to citizens aged 15 and above who lost on the opportunity to go to school. It is being implemented through volunteerism.
- Slogan of the Initiative: ULLAS: Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram.

GEOGRAPHY & ENVIRONMENT



10th Plenary of IPBES

- The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) just held its tenth plenary.
- The 10th plenary of the IPBES was held from August 28 to September 2, 2023.
- Location: Bonn, Germany
- The scientific evaluation study on "Invasive Alien Species and their Control" is on the agenda. (Illegal Species)
- IPBES 10 will focus on the thematic assessment of invasive alien species and their control, which was accepted at IPBES 8.
- IPBES10 is the first conference of this global body after the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) was adopted.

Walking Leaves: Unknown Species of Leaf Insects

- Seven previously undiscovered species of leaf insects, often known as walking leaves, were recently described by an international research team.
- Walking Leaves, sometimes known as leaf insects, are insects that resemble leaves.
- They are any of over 50 species of flat, generally green insects (order Phasmida or Phasmatodea) with a remarkable leaflike appearance.
- They eat on vegetation and like highly forested places.
- Their native range stretches from Indian Ocean islands to areas of mainland South and Southeast Asia, as well as Papua New Guinea and Australia in the western Pacific.

Kampala Declaration on Climate Change

- 48 African countries have made an important step by adopting the Kampala Ministerial Declaration on Migration, Environment, and Climate Change (KDMECC) to address the continent's interconnectedness between human mobility and climate change.
- The decision was considered at the Conference of States, which Kenya and Uganda co-hosted.
- The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) both backed the idea.
- The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) was founded in 1951, in the aftermath of the Second World War's instability and displacement in Western Europe.
- Africa is extremely vulnerable to the effects of climate change, which has resulted in increased migration due to catastrophic weather occurrences.

Dholpur-Karauli Tiger Reserve: National Tiger Conservation Authority approval

- The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) has approved the establishment of the Dholpur-Karauli Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan.
- It is the fifth tiger reserve in the state of Rajasthan, after Mukundra Hills, Ramgarh Vishdhari, Ranthambore, and Sariska.
- Tiger Reserves are protected areas that have been created for the conservation of striped large cats (tigers). A tiger reserve, on the other hand, may also be a national park or wildlife sanctuary.
- The Sariska Tiger Reserve is a national park as well.

"State of India's Birds, 2023" Report

- According to the "State of India's Birds, 2023" report, most bird species are dropping across the country, with some declining now and others anticipated to decline in the future.
- Raptors, migratory shorebirds, and ducks have seen the greatest losses.
- Several species, however, such as the Indian Peafowl, Rock Pigeon, Asian Koel, and House Crow, are thriving and expanding in both quantity and distribution.
- Long-distance migratory birds, such as those from Eurasia and the Arctic, have declined dramatically, although resident species have remained more steady.

- The paper emphasises the decline of species indigenous to the Western Ghats and biodiversity hotspots in Sri Lanka.

Market Coupling

- A staff paper on establishing market coupling in India's power industry has been produced by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC).
- Market coupling is a technique in the energy industry that involves matching bids from several power exchanges to determine a standard market clearing price for electricity trading.
- It attempts to optimise gearbox infrastructure utilisation, maximise economic surplus, and produce benefits for both buyers and sellers at the same time.
- This approach promotes openness and competition in the energy trading sector by facilitating effective price discovery and integration of diverse power markets or geographies.

Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden has been inducted into the Guinness Book of World Records.

- The Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden in Srinagar was recently inscribed as Asia's largest such park in the World Book of Records (London).
- The Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden, formerly known as the Model Floriculture Centre, is a tulip garden located in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir.
- It is Asia's largest tulip garden, spanning over 30 hectares.
- It is located on the Zabarwan Range's foothills, with a view of Dal Lake.

Palm Cockatoo

- The police rescued six Palm cockatoos (*Probosciger aterrimus*) from Assam's Cachar district.
- The palm cockatoo, commonly known as the goliath cockatoo or huge black cockatoo, is a giant cockatoo family smoky-grey or black parrot.
- It has a huge black beak and noticeable red cheek patches.
- It is indigenous to New Guinea, the Aru Islands, and the Cape York Peninsula.
- They can be found in rainforests like gallery forests, forest borders, eucalypt and paperbark woodlands, monsoon woodlands, dense savannas, and partially cleared regions.

Tachymenoides harrisonfordi : New species of Snake

- A newly found species of snake has been named after actor Harrison Ford.
- *Tachymenoides harrisonfordi* was identified by a team of researchers from the United States, Germany, and Peru in May 2022.
- It was discovered in Peru's Andes mountain range.

Floodwatch App: Mobile App

- The Chairman of the Central Water Commission (CWC) unveiled the "FloodWatch" smartphone application.
- The Floodwatch App provides the public with real-time flood information and forecasts for up to 7 days.
- The user-friendly software developed in-house features reading and audio broadcast, and all information is available in two languages, English and Hindi.
- Another feature of the app is real-time flood monitoring, which allows users to check the current flood condition around the country.
- The programme makes use of near-real-time river flow data from a variety of sources.

African Penguins: Facing extinction by 2035

- The Guardian recently published an article about African penguins. Scientists have warned that if nothing is done, these unusual species may become extinct by 2035.
- Disease, storms, flooding, and pollution are all risks to penguins.
- These different birds live on the beaches of Namibia and South Africa, and their population has declined from several million mating pairs in the early twentieth century to less than 11,000 now.
- Experts think that joint efforts by fisheries, governments, industries, scientists, and the general public may halt the decrease and assure the survival of this iconic species.

- The majority of African penguins live on islands off the shores of Namibia and South Africa.

Tampara Lake: Direction from National Green Tribunal

- The National Green Tribunal for the Eastern Zone has ordered the Odisha government not to proceed with 'illegal' building near Tampara Lake.
- Tampara Lake is one of the state's largest fresh water lakes.
- The gorgeous lake and adjoining Chilika Lagoon highlight Odisha's ecological richness.
- It provides critical habitat for endangered species such as *Cyprinus carpio*, common pochard (*Aythya ferina*), and river tern (*Sterna aurantia*).
- It was already included in the Ministry of Environment, Forests, and Climate Change's 2010 Wetland Atlas.

Deepor Beel: Anthropogenic threat

- Despite its protected status, Deepor Beel, an important wetland near Guwahati, Assam, faces anthropogenic concerns. Indigenous names such as "beel" represent cultural and ecological links, with local livelihoods entwined with wetland resources.
- Efforts to coexist with the marsh in a sustainable manner include activities by local women who turn water hyacinths into items, providing jobs and increasing the ecosystem's health.
- Similarly, "Kumbhi Kagaz" makes biodegradable paper from water hyacinths, improving the status of the wetland and supporting alternative livelihoods.
- The case study can be used to demonstrate how local knowledge and communities can be integrated into long-term conservation efforts.

Climate change endangers Takakia

- Climate change is threatening Takakia, which has thrived for millions of years.
- Takakia is a rare genus of moss that has evolved to living at high altitudes over millions of years.
- On the rocks where it grows, it resembles moss or green algae.
- It is a genus with only two species (*Iepidozioides* and *T. ceratophylla*), both of which can only be found together on the Tibetan Plateau.
- It has evolved the ability to withstand ice, life-threatening UV radiation, and other potentially harmful situations.
- It combines characteristics of mosses, liverworts, and green algae.

WMO: Report on the State of the Climate in Asia in 2022

- According to the World Meteorological Organization's (WMO) 2022 State of the Climate in Asia study, extreme climate events such as high temperatures, droughts, floods, and cyclones will occur in Asia in 2022, causing substantial socioeconomic repercussions.
- In 2022, the annual mean near-surface temperature was 1.15 degrees Celsius higher than the pre-industrial average.
- Because of ocean warming and ice sheet melting, global mean sea level has reached a new high.
- Northern Siberia, Central Asia, and Western China experienced above-average temperatures in 2022, with the second or third-highest mean surface temperature on record.
- Precipitation shortfalls were experienced in Iraq, the Ganges-Brahmaputra Rivers, and the Korean Peninsula.
- Excessive rains fell across South Pakistan, Southeast Asia, and northeast China.
- Excessive rains fell across South Pakistan, Southeast Asia, and northeast China.
- High precipitation was observed in Central India and the Himalayas.
- Floods in Pakistan and India uprooted millions and destroyed crops.
- 23 glaciers in High Mountain Asia continued to lose mass.
- In 2021-22, Urumqi Glacier No. 1 in Tien Shan had the second-worst mass balance, with 25 tropical cyclones forming in the western North Pacific Ocean and the South China Sea.
- The typhoon Nanmadol hit Japan, inflicting evacuations, deaths, and economic damage.
- In Pakistan, severe floods displaced 14% of the population, resulting in deaths and displacements.
- Heavy monsoons wreaked havoc on Northeast India and Bangladesh, killing and destroying.
- In 2022, floods were India's biggest natural calamity.

Vaquita Porpoise: Extinction alert

- The IWC issued the first 'extinction notice' for the vaquita porpoise.

- The Vaquita Porpoise is the smallest cetacean on the planet.
- It is unique among porpoises in that it is the only species found in warm seas, and the size of the dorsal fin is thought to be an adaptation to this, allowing excess body heat to evaporate.
- It has the shortest range of any whale, dolphin, or porpoise, living in a 1,500 square mile area in Mexico's upper Gulf of California near the town of San Felipe.
- A wide dark ring surrounds its eyes, and dark patches on its lips form a thin line from the mouth to the pectoral fins.

Palaeo Proxies

- The limits of pre-thermometer temperature estimations based on "palaeo proxies."
- It declares scientifically unfounded assertions that a given day was the warmest in over 100,000 years.
- Paleoproxies, also known as paleoclimate proxies, are indirect pieces of evidence used by scientists to infer historical climate conditions.
- Because instrumental climate records (such as thermometer measurements) are only available for a few hundred years, scientists must rely on natural sources to reconstruct climatic conditions over longer durations.
- Scientists also utilise isotopes that undergo constant radioactive decay to infer past temperatures.
- The proxies can help us understand how modern humans react to climate change.

Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana

- In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas revealed significant insights into the Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN (Jaiv Indhan- Vatavaran Anukool fasal awashesh Nivaran) Yojana.
- In March 2019, the Pradhan Mantri JI-VAN Yojana was launched.
- It focuses on integrated bio-ethanol projects that use lignocellulosic biomass and other renewable feedstocks to produce Second Generation (2G) ethanol.
- A maximum financial support of Rs.150 crore per project for commercial projects and Rs.15 crore per project for demonstration projects has been specified under this programme for boosting commercial viability, promoting R&D, and promoting the use of technology in the field of 2G ethanol production.
- The following states will benefit: Punjab, Haryana, Odisha, Assam, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh.

Fujiwhara effect

- Due to the Fujiwhara effect, strong winds tore through the Bay Area and other portions of Central and Southern California, uprooting trees and damaging power supplies.
- Sakuhei Fujiwhara, a Japanese meteorologist, discovered the Fujiwhara effect.
- It was first recorded over the western Pacific Ocean in 1964, when typhoons Marie and Kathy merged.
- When two hurricanes (or cyclones) spinning in the same direction come near together, they begin a "intense dance around their common centre" - this interaction between two cyclones is known as the Fujiwhara effect.
- It happens If the intensity of one hurricane exceeds that of the other, the smaller one will orbit it and finally smash into its vortex, where it will be consumed.
- If two storms of comparable strength pass each other, they may drift towards each other until they reach a common centre and merge, or they may simply spin each other about for a while before flying off on their separate courses.
- If the two 'dancing' cyclones are severe enough, they may merge, resulting in the birth of a mega cyclone capable of inflicting havoc along coasts.

Dibang Multipurpose Project

- The state-owned hydropower corporation NHPC has signed a first agreement with RITES to build railway siding for the 2,880 MW Dibang multipurpose project in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The Dibang Multipurpose Project is a flood control and hydroelectric generating project planned for Arunachal Pradesh's Dibang River, a tributary of the Brahmaputra River.
- It will be the country's largest hydropower facility, with a capacity of 2,880 MW.
- The National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) of India is developing it.

Six year of Minamata Convention

- The Minamata Convention on Mercury, now in its sixth year, is a major global accord aimed at protecting people and the environment from the adverse effects of mercury exposure.

- Mercury is a naturally occurring element present in the atmosphere, water, and soil.
- It has the potential to be hazardous to the neurological system, thyroid, kidneys, lungs, immune system, eyes, gums, and skin.
- The Minamata Convention on Mercury is a global pact designed to safeguard human health and the environment from the harmful effects of mercury and its derivatives.
- It was agreed upon at the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee's fifth session in Geneva, Switzerland, in 2013. It went into effect in 2017.
- One of the major obligations under the Convention is to control anthropogenic mercury leaks throughout its lifecycle.

Sulina Channel

- Following Russia's withdrawal from the Black Sea grain arrangement, Ukraine now has an alternate transport route for its grain via the Sulina Channel.
- Channel Sulina:
- Location : Romania's southeastern region.
- The length is roughly 64 km.
- It links the Danube River to the Black Sea. (Loss of 'Moskva' and Black Sea)
- It provides a direct maritime transportation route.
- Sulina Channel building began in the nineteenth century.
- It was created to let huge ships and boats navigate in and out of the Danube Delta.

Kalka-Shimla Railway Line

- Heavy rain and flooding have wreaked havoc on Himachal Pradesh's 94-kilometer-long Kalka-Shimla railway line, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- On July 8, 2008, the Kalka-Shimla Railway Line was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- It is situated at an elevation of 2,152 feet above sea level in Haryana, and 6,808 feet above the capital of Himachal Pradesh.

Solar Flare: Impact

- Recently, a strong solar flare blocked radio and GPS communications over North America.
- A solar flare is a powerful burst of radiation caused by the release of magnetic energy from sunspots.
- Flares are the most powerful explosive phenomena in our solar system.
- They appear as bright spots on the sun and can last anywhere from minutes to hours.
- They heat the material to many millions of degrees in a matter of minutes and emit a burst of radiation across the electromagnetic spectrum, including radio waves, x-rays, and gamma rays.
- Although solar flares can be seen in white light, their strong X-ray and ultraviolet emissions are generally more noticeable.

Demand for Separate Administration in the Hmar Community

- Hmar Inpui, the Hmar community's supreme tribal authority, recently requested that the Centre speed the processes of settling tribal community aspirations for separate administration for the Kuki/Hmar/Zomi.
- The Hmar tribe, also known as Mhar or Mar, live in India's North Eastern region.
- They obstruct Manipur, Assam, Mizoram, Meghalaya, and Tripura in the northeastern states.
- The Hmars are a tribe of the Chin-Kuki-Mizo group and are a Scheduled Tribe under the Indian Constitution.
- Hmar Tribes claim their origin from the Singlung, which is located in central or south-west China.

Project Devika: North India's first river rejuvenation

- The completion of North India's first River Rejuvenation Project Devika has been declared.
- It was built at a cost of more than Rs 190 crore along the lines of the 'Namami Ganga' project, which was unveiled by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.
- Devika was introduced in 2019.
- It was established as part of the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP).
- Ministry: Jal Shakti Ministry.
- The Devika River will be revitalised as part of Project Devika.
- Bathing "ghats" (places) on the banks of the Devika River will be developed as part of the project.

International Commission for the exploration of the Seabed

- The International Seabed Authority's member countries recently agreed on a two-year timeline for implementing deep-sea mining laws.
- The International Seabed Authority (ISA) is a non-governmental organisation founded in 1994 to regulate mining and related activities on the international seabed beyond national jurisdiction, which comprises the vast majority of the world's oceans.
- The International Seabed Authority (ISA) was established with the entrance into effect of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), which codified international law concerning territorial seas, sea lanes, and ocean resources.

Perseid Meteor Shower

- A meteor shower is a meteor that enters the Earth's atmosphere.
- Because of the friction, the air makes it extremely heated as it falls.
- The bright streak we see is caused by the hot air surrounding the rock, not by the rock itself.
- A meteor shower occurs when a large number of space pebbles collide with the atmosphere above Earth at the same time.
- These meteors reach speeds of tens of thousands of kilometres per hour before disintegrating because to the immense heat generated by friction with the atmosphere.
- The Perseid Meteor Shower is one of the most well-known and renowned meteor showers that happens each year.
- It normally occurs in August, precisely between August 11th and 13th, with the peak being around August 12th.

Lake Titicaca: Threat from climate change

- Climate change and drought are posing severe threats to Lake Titicaca.
- It is South America's largest freshwater lake and the tallest of the world's greatest lakes.
- The lake's water levels have dropped to near-record lows on the border between Bolivia and Peru.
- The lack of rainfall and increasing evaporation caused by rising temperatures have diminished the lake's intake and volume.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



Coil Guns

- According to reports, the Chinese navy is testing the world's most powerful coil cannon.
- Coil Guns are a sort of electromagnetic weapon that can shoot projectiles at incredible speeds in the blink of an eye.
- Gauss guns and magnetic accelerators are other names for them.
- It works on the idea of electromagnetic induction, using electromagnetism to propel a projectile.

Sodium Ion Battery

- AR4 Tech has collaborated with Singapore-based Sodion Energy to manufacture sodium-ion battery packs for domestic and overseas markets.
- A chemical reaction produces power in a sodium-ion battery.
- These consist of an anode, a cathode, a separator, and an electrolyte.
- Lithium ions are replaced with sodium ions in the cathode of a sodium-ion battery, and lithium salts are exchanged for sodium salts in the electrolyte.

Eastern Equine Encephalitis

- Eastern Equine Encephalitis is a disease that affects horses.
- This unusual virus has lately been reported in Alabama and New York, with major public health concerns.
- Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) is a viral infection that causes brain inflammation (encephalitis). It is transmitted to humans and animals through the bite of an infected mosquito.
- In 1831, EEE was discovered in horses in Massachusetts, United States.
- EEE is caused by the Eastern Equine Encephalitis Virus (EEEV), a member of the Alphavirus genus and the Togaviridae family.

- The RNA genome of the EEE virus is single-stranded and positive-sense.
- EEEV is predominantly transmitted through the bite of infected mosquitos, particularly *Culiseta melanura* species.

Geospatial Artificial Intelligence: ISRO

- Geographical Artificial Intelligence (GAI) is the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in conjunction with geographical data, research, and technology.
- It improves real-world awareness of commercial possibilities, environmental consequences, and operational dangers.

Zika Virus: Mumbai reported first case

- The Zika Virus is a mosquito-borne virus that was discovered in Uganda's Zika Forest in 1947.
- It is mostly spread to humans via the bite of an infected *Aedes* mosquito, specifically *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*.
- It can also be passed from an infected mother to her infant during pregnancy or childbirth, as well as through sexual contact and blood transfusion.
- Many people infected with this virus have no symptoms (are asymptomatic).

Khanan Prahari App

- The Ministry of Coal's smartphone app Khanan Prahari is a crucial step toward reducing illegal coal mining activities.
- The Khanan Prahari App allows individuals to report unlawful coal mining incidents using geo-tagged images and textual information.
- The associated online platform, Coal Mine Surveillance & Management System (CMSMS), was created in collaboration with Gandhinagar's Bhaskaracharya Institute of Space Application & Geoinformatics and Ranchi's CMPDI.
- The goal is to increase public participation by reporting on illicit coal mining.

Equal Contrast Technique (ECT)

- Equal Contrast Technique (ECT) was created by scientists to analyze Sun images in white light, which can assist prevent temporal and latitudinal variations in observations caused by equipment and sky circumstances.

Microsites Project

- The National Health Authority (NHA) launched 100 Microsites projects to speed the country's adoption of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).
- The microsites initiative defines geographical locations where intensive outreach efforts to onboard small and medium-sized private healthcare providers would be made.

Chandrayaan-3 Successfully lands on Moon's south pole

- Chandrayaan-3 created history by being the first mission to soft-land on the lunar south pole, a previously unexplored location.
- The mission's goal was to show a safe and gentle lunar landing, rover mobility, and on-the-ground scientific experiments.
- India is now one of just four countries to have successfully landed on the Moon, along with the United States, Russia, and China.

Project Worldcoin

- OpenAI, an artificial intelligence company, has announced a project dubbed Worldcoin. The initiative promises to be creating the world's largest public identification and financial network.
- Project Worldcoin is an endeavor to build a digital network in which anybody can claim a share and participate in the digital economy.
- The program use a device named "Orb" to capture biometric (iris) data and assist participants in obtaining a World ID via the World app.
- Participants can gather a cryptocurrency known as Worldcoin [WLD] using the app.

Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (LUPEX): India and Japan

- The Indian and Japanese space agencies are collaborating on the Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (LUPEX).
- The Lunar Polar Exploration Mission (LUPEX) is a joint project of the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).
- The mission is set to take off in 2025.
- LUPEX will explore the feasibility of building a base on the Moon, the availability of water ice, and surface exploration technology with a rover and lander.

Methanotrophs: Recent study

- According to a recent study, *Methylobacterium buryatense* 5GB1C, a Methanotroph, has the ability to remove methane from major emission locations.
- Methanotrophs are a broad category of gram-negative bacteria linked to other Proteobacteria species.
- Under oxic and anoxic circumstances, methanotrophic microbes oxidize methane to generate energy.
- They thrive in methane concentrations of 5,000-10,000 parts per million (ppm).

Seamless M4T

- Meta, the technology business formerly known as Facebook, recently announced a sophisticated multilingual multimodal AI translation and transcription model called 'SeamlessM4T.'
- SeamlessM4T (Massively Multilingual and Multimodal Machine Translation) is a sophisticated multilingual multimodal AI translation and transcription model.
- Meta, the technology corporation formerly known as Facebook, created it.
- SeamlessM4T can execute a variety of tasks, such as speech-to-text, speech-to-speech, text-to-speech, and text-to-text translations.

RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus)

- The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently approved the first vaccine against Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) for neonates.
- A frequent respiratory virus is Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV).
- RSV is one of the most common causes of sickness in children.
- It typically produces mild, cold-like symptoms.
- Premature newborns, babies fewer than 6 months old, persons over the age of 65, and people with a weakened immune system, chronic lung disease, or a congenital heart issue are more likely to have a severe case of RSV.
- Pneumonia and bronchiolitis can result from a severe infection.

Demon Particle: Massless Particles

- Particles with no mass are referred to as Demon Particles.
- Researchers at the University of Illinois have found a massless particle known as a "demon particle," which could pave the path for the development of room-temperature superconductors.
- Superconductors, which can conduct electricity without resistance, are currently required to operate at extremely low temperatures, frequently below 100 degrees Fahrenheit.
- This new discovery has the potential to lead to the development of superconductors that can operate at room temperature, revolutionizing industries such as computing and medical imaging.
- The scientists discovered the demon particle while studying the properties of the metal strontium ruthenate, which is akin to high-temperature superconductors.

AgniKul Cosmos

- AgniKul Cosmos, a Chennai-based space tech startup, is preparing to launch the world's first 3D-printed rocket into space, the Agnibaan SubOrbital Technological Demonstrator (SOrTeD).
- The journey of AgniKul Cosmos is made possible by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe).
- The Agnibaan SOrTeD is a launch vehicle that can be launched in either one or two stages.
- AgniKul's proprietary Agnilet engine powers it.
- Agnilet is a 6 kilonewton (kN) semi-cryogenic engine that is 3D-printed and employs liquid oxygen and kerosene as propellants.

Gene-edited Mustard

- Indian scientists created the world's first pest and disease-resistant low-pungent mustard.
- Gene-edited Rapeseed-mustard is India's most important locally cultivated oilseed.
- Mustard seeds are strong in glucosinolates, a group of sulfur and nitrogen-containing chemicals that contribute to the pungency of its oil and meal.

NASA's STEREO-'s Earth Flyby

- NASA's (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) Solar Terrestrial Relations Observatory (STEREO-A) spacecraft has completed its maiden Earth flyby over 17 years after its launch.
- STEREO-A will work with NASA's Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO) and NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO) to improve its observations during the Earth flyby.
- The goal of this partnership is to improve the spacecraft's stereo vision so that it can collect varying-sized solar objects at varied distances.

Psoriasis Awareness Month 2023

- Every August is marked as Psoriasis Awareness Month.
- Psoriasis is an autoimmune disease that produces a fast accumulation of skin cells. This cell accumulation creates scaling on the skin's surface.
- It develops a rash with itchy, scaly spots on the knees, elbows, trunk, and scalp.
- It is a prevalent long-term (chronic) condition for which there is no cure.

Gandhinagar Declaration

- The WHO South-East Asia Region recently pledged to accelerating efforts to eradicate tuberculosis by 2030 by adopting the Gandhinagar Declaration.
- It was agreed at the conclusion of a two-day meeting in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, to track the progress made by WHO South-East Asia Region nations in eradicating tuberculosis (TB).

Pibot: Humanoid Robot

- A team of engineers and researchers from Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) is now working on a humanoid robot called 'Pibot' that can fly aircraft without the need for cockpit modifications.
- Pibot is the first humanoid pilot in the world.
- It can fly an airplane like a human pilot by operating all of the individual controls in the cockpit designed for humans.
- It integrates artificial intelligence and robotics technology, and it can process the natural language of the flight manual and operate the aircraft in real time.

Program Graphene-Aurora

- The "Graphene-Aurora Program" was started in Kochi, Kerala, by MeitY Maker Village.
- This program, led by Digital University Kerala, seeks to overcome the graphene research and commercialization gap.
- The India Graphene Engineering and Innovation Centre (I-GEIC) will play a critical role in this effort.
- Graphene is a two-dimensional structure formed by a single layer of carbon atoms organized in a hexagonal lattice.
- It is well-known for its outstanding qualities, which include exceptional strength, electrical conductivity, and thermal conductivity.

Aditya-L1 Mission

- Aditya-L1, India's first solar mission, has recently arrived at the Sriharikota spaceport.
- The Aditya-L1 project is India's first space-based project to study the Sun.
- The PSLV-XL launch vehicle will carry it into orbit.
- The spacecraft will be positioned in a halo orbit around the Sun-Earth system's Lagrange point 1 (L1), which is approximately 1.5 million kilometers away from Earth.
- A satellite in halo orbit around the L1 point has the significant benefit of continuously viewing the Sun with no occultation/eclipses.

Bubonic Plague

- The plague is an infectious disease caused by the bacteria *Yersinia pestis*.
- Pestis can infect both humans and animals and is primarily transmitted by fleas.
- One type of plague is bubonic plague, often known as Black Death. It takes its name from the disease's swollen lymph nodes (buboes).
- Other types of plague include:
- Septicaemic plague occurs when the illness spreads throughout the body.
- Pneumonic plague occurs when the lungs become infected.

Enhanced analysis of Global Water Distribution

- According to a recent study conducted by experts from the University of Bonn, droughts are more widespread than previously reported by the Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment (GRACE) data from 2002 to 2017.
- The research combines GRACE satellite data with the WaterGAP hydrological model, increasing the spatial resolution of water distribution maps from 300 km to 50 meters.
- The findings show that serious droughts, such as the 2010 Amazon drought, cover bigger areas than satellite data alone implies.

Legionnaire's Disease

- Legionella bacteria were discovered on a house barge used by the British government to transport refugee seekers.
- Migrants are removed from the Bibby Stockholm barge after evidence of Legionnaire's disease-causing bacteria were discovered in the onboard water system.
- Legionnaire's disease is a severe form of pneumonia-related lung inflammation that is typically caused by infection.
- It is caused by the legionella bacterium.
- This bacterium is commonly found in lakes and ponds, but it can also grow in tanks and other types of water systems.

Celestial Body: Earendel

- The James Webb Space Telescope has discovered new information about Earendel, a distant celestial entity.
- Earendel is the most distant and oldest known star, found by the Hubble Space Telescope in 2022.
- It is a big B-type star that is more than twice as hot and a million times brighter than our Sun.
- It is approximately 12.9 billion years away and is located in the Sunrise Arc Galaxy.
- Both Webb and Hubble discovered it thanks to natural phenomena known as gravitational lensing.

Lymphatic Filariasis: Eradicating by 2027

- The Union Health and Family Welfare Minister has stated that India is dedicated to eradicate Lymphatic Filariasis by 2027, three years ahead of the worldwide target.
- Lymphatic filariasis, often known as elephantiasis, is a tropical disease that is often overlooked.
- Infection occurs when filarial parasites infect humans via mosquitoes.
- This damages the lymphatic system and can result in abnormal growth of bodily parts, resulting in discomfort, severe disability, and social shame.
- Infection with parasites categorized as nematodes (roundworms) of the family Filarioididea causes it.

IMS-1 Satellite Bus Technology

- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has transferred its IMS-1 Satellite Bus Technology to Alpha Design Technologies Pvt Ltd., supporting private industry participation in India's space sector.
- ISRO's commercial arm, NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), supported the technology transfer.
- ISRO's IMS-1 Satellite Bus is a platform designed for low-cost space access.
- It serves as a multipurpose payload vehicle, enabling missions such as Earth photography, space science, and remote sensing.

Nuclear Medicine

- India expressed support for South Africa's Integrated Early Warning Systems and Russia's BRICS Nuclear Medicine Collaboration.
- Nuclear Medicine is a medical specialty that diagnoses and treats diseases using radioactive chemicals.
- It entails the introduction of small amounts of radioactive materials, known as radiopharmaceuticals, into the body.
- These compounds generate gamma rays, which specialist cameras can detect and use to build images of organs and tissues.
- This imaging technology aids in the diagnosis of a variety of illnesses, including cancer, heart disease, and bone abnormalities, by providing precise information on the functioning and structure of internal organs.

Digital India RISC-V (DIR-V) Program

- The Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology spoke at the Digital India RISC-V (DIR-V) Symposium, which was hosted by IIT Madras in Chennai.
- The IIT Madras-organized one-day symposium underlined the government's goal for DIR-V, which currently intends to develop a robust ecosystem for RISC-V through effective public-private partnerships and cooperation with renowned academic institutions.
- The Digital India RISC-V (DIR-V) Program is a forward-thinking effort aimed at strengthening India's semiconductor ecosystem.

GSAT-24: Communication Satellite

- Tata Play, a direct-to-home (DTH) provider, plans to increase its bandwidth capacity by 50% by installing 24 extra Ku-band transponders on the communication satellite GSAT-24.
- ISRO manufactured GSAT-24 for NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), and it was successfully launched into geostationary orbit by the Ariane 5 rocket.
- It is a 4,180 kg 24-Ku band communication satellite with pan-India coverage to suit DTH application needs.
- It was NSIL's first demand-driven communication satellite mission following space sector reforms.
- It is built on ISRO's tried-and-true I-3k Bus and has a 15-year mission life.

Raynaud's Phenomenon: Genetic cause

- Researchers from Queen Mary University of London's Precision Healthcare Research Institute (PHURI) and Berlin's Berlin Institute of Health (BIH) recently investigated the genetic roots of Raynaud's phenomenon.
- Raynaud's Phenomenon is a condition in which blood vessels in the extremities constrict, limiting blood flow.
- The "attacks" or episodes mainly involve the fingers and toes.
- Attacks in other locations, such as the ears or nose, are infrequent.
- An attack is frequently triggered by exposure to cold or emotional stress.
- The arterioles and capillaries in your fingers and toes tighten more than they should during a Raynaud's attack.

Samudrayaan Project: First Mission to Explore Ocean

- According to the Union Minister of Earth Sciences, India's ambitious Samudrayaan project will transport three people to a depth of 6000 meters in a submersible vehicle.
- The Samudrayaan Project is India's first human deep-sea exploration project.
- It is intended to explore deep ocean resources as well as conduct biodiversity surveys.
- Because the submersible is only used for exploration, the mission will have little impact on the environment.
- The project is part of the wider Deep Ocean Mission, which supports the Blue Economy strategy of the Central Government.

Neerakshi: Underwater Vehicle for Mine Detection

- India just introduced the 'Neerakshi' Autonomous Underwater Vehicle for mine detection.
- Neerakshi is a mine-detecting autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV).
- The "Neerakshi," which means "Eyes in the Water," is the first of its kind in the country and is slated to go through user testing with the Indian Navy, Coast Guard, and Army before going commercial.

Messier 57

- The James Webb Space Telescope was utilized by astronomers to obtain a new photograph of Messier 57, also known as the Ring Nebula.
- Messier 57 was found in 1779 in the constellation Lyra, some 2,000 light-years away.
- The object is extremely brilliant and may be seen with medium-sized telescopes.
- It was formed when a dying star discharged its outer layers into space, resulting in the formation of a planetary nebula.

Bhu-Vision: Internet of Things-Based Automated Soil Testing

- Bhu-Vision, a groundbreaking IoT-based automated soil testing and agronomy advising platform, was officially launched at AICRP (ICAR-IIRR), Hyderabad.
- KRISHI-RASTAA Soil Testing System is another name for Bhu-Vision.
- It was created in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research-Indian Institute of Rice Research (ICAR-IIRR) and KrishiTantra.
- In approximately 30 minutes, our system performs 12 important soil parameter checks.
- It offers farmers and stakeholders with immediate and precise findings via a soil health card on their mobile devices.

Einstein Cross

- Astronomers have uncovered a beautiful, uncommon example of a "Einstein cross" dividing and magnifying light from the universe's furthest reaches.
- Back in 1915, Einstein predicted the appearance of these crosses.
- Einstein's general theory of relativity describes how heavy things bend the fabric of the universe, known as space-time.
- When a huge galaxy passes directly "in front of" a more distant background object (such as a galaxy or a quasar), the distribution of matter surrounding that galaxy and its gravitational pull can "bend" the light as it goes by.
- In this example, the Earth, the lensing galaxy, and the quasar have all aligned to exactly duplicate the quasar's light, forming an Einstein ring.

CHD1L Gene

- A new study found that some persons of African heritage have a CHD1L gene variation that controls the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).
- The Chromodomain Helicase DNA Binding Protein 1 Like (CHD1L) gene encodes proteins that allow the body to repair DNA damage.
- A mutation of the CHD1L gene found in the African population has been related to a lower viral load (the amount of HIV in the blood) of the most prevalent and virulent kind of HIV, known as HIV-1 (a more common and severe retrovirus than HIV-2).

Lunar Codex

- With the Lunar Codex initiative, a collection of varied human-created art may become immortal.
- The Lunar Codex collection of art will remain stranded on the lunar surface as a permanent record of human creativity, even in times of war, pandemics, and economic disasters.
- Samuel Peralta, a semi-retired scientist and art collector from Canada, is the driving force behind this program.
- The diverse collection of digitized art will be delivered to the moon as a permanent record of human inventiveness.
- Lunar Codex is saved on memory cards or laser engraved on NanoFiche, a modern take on film-based microfiche. These will ensure that the art forms arrive safely on the lunar surface.

Akira: Ransomware

- The Computer Emergency Response Team of India issued a warning about the Akira ransomware.
- Akira Ransomware encrypts data, generates a ransomware notice, and deletes Windows Shadow Volume copies on infected computers.
- The ransomware got its name from its ability to change the filenames of all encrypted files by appending the ".akira" extension to them.

- Akira Ransomware is programmed to halt processes or shut down Windows services, preventing it from encrypting files on the infected system.
- It leverages VPN services to deceive users into downloading malicious files, especially when two-factor authentication is not set.

TransLunar Injection (TLI): ISRO

- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) recently carried out the TransLunar Injection (TLI) to launch Chandrayaan-3 to the moon.
- TransLunar Injection (TLI) is a vital space mission maneuver that sends spacecraft from Earth's orbit to a trajectory that will take them to the Moon.
- It is a critical phase in lunar missions, allowing spacecraft to escape the gravitational pull of Earth and go to the Moon.
- The TLI is carried out when the spacecraft is at the 'perigee,' or closest point to Earth in its orbit.

DEFENCE AND SECURITY



The Indian Air Force participates in Exercise BRIGHT STAR-23 in Egypt

- An Indian Air Force (IAF) contingent has gone on a historic voyage, participating in Exercise BRIGHT STAR-23 for the first time.
- This biannual multilateral trilateral exercise will be held at Cairo (West) Air Base in Egypt from August 27 to September 16, 2023.
- The involvement of the IAF in this exercise marks the beginning of a new era of international cooperation and partnership.

Indian and Philippine Naval Chiefs Sign SOP for White Shipping Information Exchange

- On August 23, 2023, the Chief of Naval Staff and the Commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard signed the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the exchange of White Shipping Information.
- The signing of the SOP between the Philippine Coast Guard and the Indian Navy will ease the operationalization of information exchange on merchant marine traffic, which will contribute to improved regional maritime safety and security.

LCA Tejas Fires Astra beyond Visual Range Air-To-Air Missile successfully

- The Astra indigenous Beyond Visual Range (BVR) air-to-air missile was successfully fired by the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas off the coast of Goa.
- This accomplishment represents a significant improvement in India's defense capabilities and demonstrates the country's success in producing cutting-edge military technologies.

The INS Vagir establishes a new record for the longest deployment of a Scorpene submarine

- The Indian Navy's submarine, INS Vagir, has created history by setting a new record for the longest deployment of any scorpene-class submarine.
- The submarine traveled an incredible 7,000 kilometers to Australia to engage in joint military drills, marking a watershed milestone for both naval power and international cooperation.

INS Vindhyagiri is launched by President Murmu

- President Droupadi Murmu launched the latest addition to the Indian Navy's fleet, INS Vindhyagiri, in a critical step toward strengthening India's maritime supremacy. Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) in Kolkata hosted the launch event.
- Following its launch, INS Vindhyagiri will join its sister ships, INS Himgiri and INS Dunagiri, at the GRSE Outfitting Jetty.

The government has approved a Rs 20,000 crore deal to build five warships

- The Central Government has given final approval for a critical project to build five fleet support ships, which would improve the operating capabilities of the Indian Navy.
- These vessels, which are intended to act as major logistical lifelines, will be critical in refilling warships with essential supplies such as fuel, food, and ammunition during missions.

INS Kulish takes part in Singapore's 77th Independence Day celebrations

- During Singapore's 77th Independence Day celebrations, the guided missile corvette INS Kulish conducted a spectacular display of maritime cooperation.
- The crew and officers of the INS Kulish celebrated the occasion at the High Commission of India in Singapore as part of their ongoing participation in the multinational SEACAT 2023 exercise.

The 'Prabal,' India's first Long-Range Revolver, will be released on August 18

- The state-owned business Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWEIL), based in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, is preparing to showcase 'Prabal,' India's first long-range revolver, in a significant step toward domestic production and innovation.
- The launch date of August 18 has been set, ushering in a new era of personal defense guns.

India receives new Heron Mark-2 drones

- The Indian Air Force has received its latest Heron Mark 2 drones, which have strike capabilities and can conduct border surveillance with both China and Pakistan in a single sortie.
- The Heron Mark-2 is an improved version of the Heron Mark-1, which has been in IAF service since 2009.
- The Heron Mark-2 is a medium-altitude long-endurance (MALE) drone with a maximum range of 3,000 kilometers and a 24-hour endurance.

In response to threats, the Defense Ministry is switching to locally produced operating systems in computers

- India's Ministry of Defence has taken a critical step in strengthening its cyber defenses by opting to replace the Microsoft operating system with a domestically produced alternative known as the 'Maya' operating system.
- In the wake of rising cyber threats, this strategic step intends to strengthen the nation's cybers security safeguards.

Malabar Joint Drills set to begin with a focus on Anti-Submarine Warfare

- The Malabar series of naval exercises, including the marine forces of India, Japan, the United States, and Australia, is about to begin along Australia's eastern coast.
- The focus of this round of exercises will be on improving anti-submarine warfare capabilities, demonstrating the countries' common commitment to maritime security and cooperation in the Indo-Pacific area.

Swathi Mountains: A small Weapon Detection Radar

- The Indian Army has just added the "Swathi Mountains," a lighter and more compact version of the indigenous Weapon Locating Radar (WLR-M), to its arsenal.
- This powerful radar system, created by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) in Bengaluru, is critical in improving military operations, particularly in difficult terrain. Let's look more into this cutting-edge technology's features, capabilities, and relevance.

India introduces the 'Neerakshi' - an autonomous underwater vehicle for mine detecting

- The 'Neerakshi' AUV is a cooperation between the Kolkata-based warship builder Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd and the MSME firm AEPL. An autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) intended to detect mines was launched, making it the first of its kind in the country.
- The "Neerakshi," which means "Eyes in the Water," is the first of its kind in the country and is slated to go through user testing with the Indian Navy, Coast Guard, and Army before going commercial.

India has successfully completed anti-tank guided missile trials

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

SPORTS



Results of the BWF World Championships 2023

- The 2023 BWF World Championships (formally known as the TotalEnergies BWF World Championships 2023 due to sponsorship reasons) were a badminton competition held from August 21 to 27, 2023.

BWF World Championships 2023 Results

Men's doubles

- Kang Min-hyuk and Seo Seung-jae (Gold)

Men's singles

- Kunlavut Vitidsarn (Gold)
- HS Prannoy (Bronze)

Women's single

- An Se-young (Gold)
- Carolina Marín (Silver)

Women's doubles

- Chen Qingchen and Jia Yifan (Gold)

Mixed doubles

- Seo Seung-jae and Chae Yoo-jung (Gold)
- HS Prannoy Clinches Bronze At BWF World Badminton Championships 2023
- Indian badminton player HS Prannoy secured the bronze medal in the men's singles category at the prestigious BWF World Badminton Championships 2023. Despite a valiant effort, Prannoy was eliminated in the semi-finals that took place in Copenhagen, Denmark on Saturday. His remarkable journey in the tournament showcased his skill and determination on the international stage.

Below is the list of five Indian male singles players who have secured a medal at the World Championships.

Sl. No.	Player	Medal
1	Kidambi Srikanth	Silver
2	Lakshya Sen	Bronze
3	B Sai Praneeth	Bronze
4	Prakash Padukone	Bronze
5	HS Prannoy	Bronze

Max Verstappen wins Dutch Grand Prix 2023

- Max Verstappen has won the Dutch Grand Prix for the third year in a row, dominating at home once more. Verstappen has now matched Sebastian Vettel's all-time record of nine consecutive F1 victories.

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

- Neeraj Chopra made history by winning the men's javelin throw gold medal at the World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary. He was the first Indian athlete to accomplish this feat, marking an important milestone in Indian athletics. Neeraj's outstanding performance was capped by a stunning throw of 88.17 metres on his second try. This tremendous result demonstrated his skill and supremacy in the event, firmly establishing him as a global contender.

Praggnanandhaa of India finishes second in the Chess World Cup 2023 final

- Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa came in second place in the FIDE World Cup. Magnus Carlsen won the FIDE World Cup for the first time in his career after three days and four games of very stressful chess across two formats.
- Praggnanandhaa, who turned 18 during the World Cup, was the youngest World Cup finalist and winner in history.

Wrestling Federation of India membership has been suspended on the international scene

- The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), India's wrestling regulatory body, has been threatened with suspension from the United World Wrestling (UWW) due to continuous issues and lengthy delays in holding crucial elections.

Asmita Women's League Will Replace Khelo India Women's League

- The Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Anurag Singh Thakur, has announced that the prestigious Khelo India Women's League will be known as the "Asmita Women's League" from now on. This deliberate transformation demonstrates the government's commitment to developing gender equality and encouraging women's active participation in sports.
- The new name, "Asmita Women's League," has a deep significance. ASMITA is an acronym that stands for "Achieving Sports Milestones by Inspiring Women Through Action," and it embodies the spirit of perseverance, tenacity, and achievement that characterises women athletes across the country. This transformation not only provides a new identity, but also reflects the hopes of numerous women who aspire to make their mark in sports.

Tirupati boy bags silver at Singapore Math Olympiad

- Raja Anirudh Sriram, a student in the fourth standard from Tirupati, has secured a silver medal at the Singapore Math Olympiad.

Priya Malik wins gold at the U20 World Championships in Jordan

- Priya Malik, an Indian wrestler, has achieved a spectacular accomplishment by winning gold at the U20 World Wrestling Championships in Jordan.
- Priya Malik, competing in the 76 kg weight class, demonstrated her prowess on the mat. She easily defeated Germany's Laura Kuehn in the gold medal match, winning 5-0.

Anahat Singh of India wins Gold at Asian Junior Squash Championships

- Anahat Singh of India won gold in the U-17 category at the renowned Asian Junior Squash Individual Championships, adding another pearl to her increasing crown of accomplishments.

Mohit Kumar becomes U-20 World Champion in Men's 61 kg Freestyle category

- Mohit Kumar of India achieves the title of Under 20 World Champion in the Men's 61 kg Freestyle category, marking the first time since 2019.

Spain won the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 with a 1-0 victory over England

- Spain won their first Women's World Cup championship with a 1-0 victory over England in the final of the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup in Sydney.

Asian Champions Trophy title 2023: India beat Malaysia clinch fourth Asian Champions Trophy

- At the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium in Chennai, India defeated Malaysia 4-3 to win a record fourth Asian Champions Trophy.

Indian wrestlers win 11 medals at World U-17 championships

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

SAI launched short movie series 'Halla Bol' Under 'Cheer4India' Campaign

- Sports Authority of India (SAI) under the Umbrella Campaign 'Cheer4India' has launched a short movie series 'Halla Bol' on the journey of Asian Games bound athletes to motivate them for Hangzhou Asian Games and spread awareness about the upcoming Asian Games.

India captures a historic gold medal at the World Archery Championships in 2023.

- The Indian women's compound archery team made history when they won gold at the World Archery Championships in Berlin, Germany. This was India's first gold medal at the archery world championships in any category. It was India's first gold medal in archery at the world championships in any category.

GM Gukesh has surpassed Viswanathan Anand to become the highest-ranking Indian in the FIDE rankings.

- D. Gukesh, a 17-year-old chess prodigy, has surpassed Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand to become India's top-ranked chess player in the live world rankings.
- Gukesh accomplished this milestone by defeating Mistradin Iskandarov in the second round of the FIDE World Cup, moving to ninth place in the classic open category with a live rating of 2755.9.
- Anand, on the other hand, fell to tenth place due to his rating of 2754.0. This is only the second time Anand has been deposed from the top spot since 1986.

Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar wins gold at the FISU Games

- Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar, compound archers Avneet Kaur and Sangampreet Singh Bisla, and the men's 10m air rifle team all won gold medals at the FISU World University Games 2023 in Chengdu, People's Republic of China.



AWARDS

The 69th National Film Awards 2023 winners have been announced

- The 69th National Film Awards were presented at the National Media Centre in New Delhi.

Winners of the National Film Awards in 2023

- The winners of the 69th National Film Awards were announced in a dazzling ceremony. Allu Arjun was named Best Actor for his performance in Pushpa, while Alia Bhatt and Kriti Sanon were named Best Actress for their roles in Gangubai Kathiawadia and Mimi, respectively. The Nambi Effect received the Best Feature Film Award. The Nargis Dutt Award for Best Film on National Integration went to The Kashmir Files.

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj's SVAMITVA Scheme has won the National Award for E-Governance 2023.

- The Ministry of Panchayati Raj's SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas) Scheme has received the prestigious National Award for e-Governance 2023 (Gold) in recognition of its groundbreaking application of emerging technologies to deliver citizen-centric services.
- The award was presented at the 26th National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) in Indore, Madhya Pradesh, which was organised by the Government of India's Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).

PM Modi was awarded Greece's Grand Cross of the Order of Honour

- Greek President Katerina N. Sakellaropoulou awarded Prime Minister Narendra Modi the Grand Cross of the Order of Honour in Athens.
- The medal is Greece's highest civilian honour awarded on a foreign head of government.
- The award was granted to PM Modi "in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the promotion of bilateral relations between Greece and India," according to the citation.
- It also applauded his "dedication to strengthening bilateral ties in the political, economic, cultural, and people-to-people spheres."
- Prime Minister Modi is the first Indian prime minister to be awarded the Grand Cross of the Order of Honour.
- He is also the first foreign head of state to receive the honour since 2017.

Ratan Tata has been awarded the Maharashtra government's 'Udyog Ratna' honour.

- The Maharashtra government bestowed the first-ever 'Udyog Ratna' honour to eminent industrialist Ratan Tata.
- Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy Chief Ministers Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar gave the award to the 85-year-old chairman emeritus of Tata Sons at the industrialist's home in Colaba, south Mumbai.
- The Udyog Ratna award is a distinguished honour that recognises the achievements of Maharashtra's greatest industrialists. It is a monument to these people's contributions to the state's economic progress.

5 young Indians among 2023 International Young Eco-Hero award winners

- Five youths from India have been named among 17 teen environmental activists from across the globe to receive the 2023 International Young Eco-Hero Award who have taken initiatives to tackle the world's most pressing environmental challenges.
- The young eco-warriors who were recognised for their efforts by the US-based non-profit organisation, "Action For Nature", are Eiha Dixit from Meerut, Manya Harsha from Bengaluru, Nirvaan Somany and Mannat Kaur from New Delhi and Karnav Rastogi from Mumbai.

Raj Chetty, an Indian-American economist, has been awarded the top prize at Harvard University

- Raj Chetty, an Indian-American economist, and Michael Springer, a biologist, have received the George Ledlie Prize from Harvard University for their innovative work in their respective disciplines.

Amit Shah Hails The Team Of NAFIS Of NCRB For Winning Gold Award

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah congratulated the National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS) team of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) on winning the Gold Award in the Excellence in Government Process Re-engineering for Digital Transformation Category-1.
- The award, presented by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), recognises the NAFIS team's remarkable achievements in setting a new level of efficient governance.

Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2023

- The Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) Awards once again took center stage, honouring the finest cinematic gems from the Indian film industry.
- The 14th Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) Awards were held in Melbourne, Australia, on 11 August, honouring the best of film and OTT content from India globally.
- Filmmaker Karan Johar was honoured for completing 25 years in the Indian film industry as a Filmmaker. He received a huge round of applause for his immense contributions in the field of entertainment.

PM conferred Lokmanya Tilak National Award in Pune

- The Lokmanya Tilak National Award was presented to India's Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, during a ceremony commemorating Lokmanya Tilak's 103rd death anniversary in Pune, Maharashtra. The distinguished prize, established in 1983 by the Tilak Smarak Mandir Trust, strives to honour Lokmanya Tilak's lasting legacy. Shri Narendra Modi is the 41st remarkable man to win this prestigious award.

- The Lokmanya Tilak National Award was previously given to Tessy Thomas, a distinguished senior scientist known as India's "missile woman." Ms. Thomas was the project director for the Agni-4 and Agni-5 missile systems, and she made important contributions to the nation's defence capabilities.

List of some notable recipients of the Lokmanya Tilak National Award:

Name	Position/Title	Year of Award
Indira Gandhi	Former Prime Minister	–
Atal Bihari Vajpayee	Former Prime Minister	1994
Dr Manmohan Singh	Former Prime Minister	1997
Rahul Bajaj	Chairperson of the Bajaj Group	2000
Pranab Mukherjee	Former President	2009
Sharad Pawar	Founder of Nationalist Congress Party	2016
Cyrus S. Poonawalla	Chairman of Cyrus Poonawalla Group	2021



APPOINTMENTS

Women's Tennis Champion Iga Swiatek joins Infosys as a Brand Ambassador

- Infosys, a global leader in consulting and digital services, has announced a multi-year cooperation with women's tennis World No. 1, Iga Swiatek, in a breakthrough step that further links the worlds of sports and technology. Swiatek will serve as Infosys' global brand ambassador, with a particular emphasis on supporting digital innovation and motivating women throughout the world.
- This news follows the hiring of tennis legend Rafael Nadal for the same prominent position at Infosys, demonstrating the company's dedication to both tennis brilliance and technical innovation.

Sachin Tendulkar will be the Election Commission's national icon

- Sachin Tendulkar, a former Indian cricketer, will become a "national icon" of the Election Commission (EC) and raise awareness about the importance of increased voter engagement in the political process.
- It will be a three-year deal in which the cricketing legend will raise voter awareness.

NGT Chairperson appointed: Justice Prakash Shrivastava

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has been chaired by Justice Prakash Shrivastava. Following the retirement of former Chairperson Justice A.K Goel. After former Chairperson Justice A.K Goel departed in July, Acting Chairperson Justice Sheo Kumar Singh was appointed.

Neelkanth Mishra appointed part-time chairman of UIDAI

- The Centre has appointed Neelkanth Mishra to the position of part-time Chairperson of the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). Mr. Mishra, noted for his skills in economics and research, is currently the Chief Economist at Axis Bank and the Head of Global Research at Axis Capital.

Rahul Dravid has been named Brand Ambassador by BPCL

- Cricketer Rahul Dravid has been named as the new brand ambassador for Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL). He will support BPCL's Pure for Sure effort and the MAK lubricant line.

Mr. Parminder Chopra named as Chief Executive Officer of Power Finance Corporation (PFC)

- Parminder Chopra has been named Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Power Finance Corporation (PFC), making her the first woman to oversee India's largest NBFC.
- Chopra has worked in the power and financial sectors for over 35 years. She oversaw major finance responsibilities of PFC, such as resource mobilisation (domestic and foreign markets), banking, treasury, asset liability management, and stressed asset resolution.

R Doraiswamy is named Managing Director of the LIC by the Centre

- The Government of India named R. Doraiswamy as the managing director of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC). He is currently the executive director of the Mumbai central office. He has been appointed as LIC's managing director in lieu of Mini Ipe, with effect from the date of his assumption of office on or after September 1, 2023, and lasting until his superannuation on August 31, 2026.

Sanjay Kumar Agarwal takes over as Chairman of the CBIC

- Sanjay Kumar Agarwal, a former IRS officer, has been appointed Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC). Agarwal takes over for Vivek Johri, who retired as CBIC chairman on May 31.

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

- Justice Subhasis Talapatra has been named the 33rd Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court. Governor Ganeshi Lal delivered the oath of office, marking his succession to Justice S Muralidhar.
- He is expected to retain the role of Chief Justice for less than two months, ending with his retirement on October 3, 2023.

Tesla appoints India-origin Vaibhav Taneja as its CFO

- Indian-origin Vaibhav Taneja has been named Tesla's new Chief Financial Officer as the previous finance chief Zachary Kirkhorn announced his decision to step down. He was appointed Tesla CFO in addition to his current role as Chief Accounting Officer (CAO) of the US-based electric car major after Kirkhorn.

Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba gets one-year extension

- Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba has been officially granted a one-year extension by the Central government, making him the longest-serving cabinet secretary in India's history. The decision was made by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). This extension comes as a result of the relaxation of important rules, allowing him to continue in his position beyond August 30, 2023.

G. Kannabiran is the new NAAC Director

- Prof Ganesan Kannabiran has been named the new director of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). According to NAAC's official statement, the appointment took place on July 28. Prof Kannabiran has over 30 years of experience in education, most recently as a senior professor of Information Systems at the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Tiruchirappalli.



OBITUARIES

Noted Marathi poet Namdeo Dhondo Mahanor passes away

- Namdeo Dhondo Mahanor, often known as Na Dho Mahanor, was a well-known Marathi poet and lyricist. He was 81. Mahanor was primarily known for his Marathi film lyrics and poems.
- Namdeo Dhondo Mahanor, born in 1942, was awarded the Padma Shri in 1991.
- He has also served on the state legislative council.
- Mahanor authored popular poetry and songs such as 'Jagala Prem Arpave,' 'Ganga Wahu De Nirmal,' and 'Divelaganichi Vel,' as well as songs for Marathi films such as 'Ek Hota Vidushak,' 'Jait Re Jait,' 'Sarja,' and others.

Padma Bhushan awardee and IAS officer N Vittal passes away

- N Vittal, a Padma Bhushan awardee and IAS officer of the Gujarat cadre, 1960 batch, died in Chennai. With the death on Thursday of N Vittal, 85, former Telecom Secretary and Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC), the country has lost the person who four decades ago sowed the seeds for the expansion of the information technology sector.

Telangana folk singer Gaddar passes away

- Gaddar, a well-known folk singer and campaigner who had been suffering severe heart illness, died at the age of 74. He had been in the Apollo Hospital in Hyderabad for the previous ten days after suffering a heart arrest.
- Gaddar, also known as Gummadi Vittal Rao, rose to prominence solely as a result of his stage name. He got the reputation of "people's singer" because of his songs that raised attention to many concerns that ordinary people confront. In addition, he demonstrated his acting abilities in a few films, including "Maa Bhoomi" and "Rangula Kala."

List of Awards won by Gaddar:

Year	Award	Category	Song/Movie
1995	Nandi Award	Best Lyricist	"Malletheega Ku Pandiri Vole"
2011	Nandi Award	Best Male Playback Singer	"Jai Bolo Telangana"

Renowned Malayalam director, screenwriter Siddique Ismail passes away

- Renowned Malayalam director and screenwriter Siddique Ismail has passed away at 63. He was known for making movies like Friends (2001), Engal Anna (2004), Sadhu Miranda (2008), Kaalavan (2011), and Bhaskar Oru Rascal (2018). His final directorial venture was the 2020 action thriller film Big Brother, which starred Mohanlal, Arbaaz Khan, Anoop Menon, and Honey Rose.

Oscar Winning American Director William Friedkin Passes Away

- William Friedkin, the Oscar-winning American director of films such as The Exorcist and The French Connection, died at the age of 87 in Los Angeles(LA), California, United States of America (USA). Friedkin was born on August 29, 1935, in Chicago, Illinois, USA.
- At the 44th Academy Awards, Friedki's murder thriller "The French Connection" received 5 Oscars, including Best Picture and Best Director.
- At the 46th Academy Awards (1974), his horror film "The Exorcist," based on William Peter Blatty's novel, received the awards for Writing (Screenplay-Based On Material From Another Medium) and Sound. The Exorcist was the first horror picture to receive an Oscar nomination for Best Picture.

Renowned nuclear physicist Bikash Sinha passes away

- Renowned nuclear physicist Bikash Sinha died at the age of 78 after succumbing to old age-related diseases. He was the previous director of the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics and Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre and was awarded the Padma Shri in 2001 and the Padma Bhusan in 2010. Sinha specialised in nuclear physics, high energy physics, Quark Gluon Plasma, and cosmology of the early cosmos. For the first time, he led an Indian team to engage in tests at the European Organisation for Nuclear Research in Geneva.

Mohammed Habib, former India football captain, has passed

- Mohammed Habib, former India captain and great player, has died. From 1965 through 1976, he represented India in a number of international events. Many pundits regarded him as one of the best players the country has ever produced. He also won a bronze medal at the 1970 Asian Games in Bangkok, which were led by fellow Hyderabadite Syed Nayeemuddin and supervised by the legendary P.K. Banerjee.

Padma Shri MRS Rao, an eminent scientist, deceased at the age of 75

- Prof. M.R. Satyanarayana Rao, a Padma Shri awardee and former President of the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR), died on August 13 at his residence in Tata Nagar in Bengaluru. He was 75. Prof Rao, who was born in Mysuru, received his undergraduate and postgraduate degrees from Bangalore University. He received his PhD from the Indian Institute of Science and completed his postdoctoral training at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, USA.

VS Arunachalam, the former head of the Defence Research and Development Organisation, has died

- V S Arunachalam, a well-known scientist and key figure in India's nuclear programme, died at the age of 87. He was well-known for his leadership duties at the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), where he helped shape India's defence capabilities.

- V S Arunachalam was a well-known scientist who was instrumental in India's nuclear programme and defence capabilities. He held positions of leadership in a number of prestigious organisations, including the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), the National Aeronautical Laboratory, and the Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory.

Prof. Deven Dutta, renowned educator and social crusader, has deceased

- Deven Dutta, a consumer rights campaigner and former vice-principal at Cotton University, died at the age of 81. Deven Dutta was born on April 5, 1944 in Nazira, Sivasagar, and was living in Guwahati's Sundarpur neighbourhood. He received his post-graduate degree in English in 1965 and began his career as an English lecturer at Cotton College. He was also a well-known author and columnist.

CR Rao, a legendary statistical scientist, deceased at the age of 103

- Radhakrishna Rao, India's best mathematician and statistician, has died at the age of 103. He had lately been awarded the coveted "International Prize in Statistics-2023," frequently referred to as the "Nobel Prize of statistics."
- Rao's paper titled 'Information and accuracy attainable in the estimation of statistical parameters' was published in the Bulletin of the Calcutta Mathematical Society, a lesser-known magazine in the statistics world, in 1945, when he was only 25 years old.
- His profound work has influenced subjects as diverse as economics, genetics, anthropology, geology, national planning, demography, biometry, and medicine. Rao's active contributions continue to this day, earning him the title of "living legend" with far-reaching effect, as recognised by the American Statistical Association.
- In recognition of his contributions, he was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1968 and the Padma Vibhushan in 2001. He was awarded the International Prize in Statistics in 2023.

Seema Deo, a veteran Marathi actress, deceased at the age of 81

- Seema Deo, known for her roles in Anand and Kora Kagaz, died in Mumbai at the age of 81 owing to age-related diseases. Seema Deo appeared in approximately 90 Hindi and Marathi films during her six-decade career in the Indian cinema business, from the black-and-white to the colour era.
- She is most known for her performance in the musical movie 'Anand,' in which she co-starred alongside her husband Ramesh and Amitabh Bachchan, among others. Among her many well-known Marathi films are 'Jagachya Pathivar' and 'Vardakshina'. She was last seen in the 2021 film 'Jivan Sandhya'.
- She was awarded the Dadasaheb Phalke Award for Lifetime Achievement in 2022.



IMPORTANT DAYS

1 August - National Mountain Climbing Day

- National Mountain Climbing Day is commemorated every year on August 1st. It is reported that the day was created to honour the author's son, Bobby Mathews, and his buddy Josh Madigan for successfully hiking the Adirondack Mountains' 46 High Peaks.

1-7 August - World Breastfeeding Week

- It is a global promotion that takes place every year in the first week of August in various nations around the world. The inaugural World Breastfeeding Week was commemorated in 1992.

1 August- World Lung Cancer Day

- World Lung Cancer Day is observed on August 1st. Lung Cancer Day's purpose is to increase awareness about the risks, prevention, and early detection of lung cancer, as well as to provide support to people impacted by the disease.

1 August- World Wide Web Day

- On August 1, the world celebrates World Wide Web Day. Tim Berners-Lee, the inventor of the Internet, is honoured and recognised on this day. This is regarded as the start of the modern internet.

3 August- Cloves Syndrome Awareness Day

- Every year on August 3, the world observes Cloves Syndrome Awareness Day. The goal of the day is to raise awareness about the rare genetic condition. The emphasis is on taking action to gain community support.

6 August - Hiroshima Day

- Hiroshima Day is observed on 6 August every year. This is the day when the atomic bomb was dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima.

7 August - National Handloom Day

- Every year on August 7th, it is observed to honour the country's handloom weavers. This year marks the sixth National Handloom Day.

9 August - Day of the Quit India Movement

- Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi started the 'Quit India Movement' during an All India Congress Committee meeting in Bombay on August 8, 1942. It is sometimes referred to as the August Movement or the August Kranti.

9 August - Nagasaki Day

- The United States on 9 August 1945 dropped a second bomb on Japan at Nagasaki and the bomb is also known as 'Fat Man'. It was dropped three days after the Hiroshima atomic attack.

9 August - International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

- Every year on August 9, the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is observed to encourage people all over the world to promote the UN's message on the protection and promotion of indigenous peoples' rights.

10 August - World Lion Day

- Every year on August 10th, it is observed. The goal is to raise public awareness and educate people about lions and their conservation.

10 August - World Biofuel Day

- It is observed on 10 August to spread awareness about unconventional sources of fuels that could work as an alternative to fossil fuels.

12 August - International Youth Day

- On August 12, the world celebrates International Youth Day, which focuses on the development and protection of youth in society.

12 August: World Elephant Day

- It is observed yearly on August 12 to educate people about the need of preserving and protecting the enormous animal elephant. This is how the world can come together to help elephants.

13 August - World Organ Donation Day

- On August 13, World Organ Donation Day is held to raise awareness about the necessity of organ donation.

India celebrates Independence Day on August 15th.

- India commemorates Independence Day on August 15th each year. India gained independence from British domination on this day. It reminds us of a new beginning, the beginning of a new era free of more than 200 years of British colonialism.

17 August- Malayalam New Year

- Vishu is a traditional celebration in Kerala, Tulu Nadu, and Mahe of India that celebrates the Malayali New Year. In the Malayalam calendar, Vishu falls on the first day of the month of Medam.

19 August - World Photography Day

- World Photography Day is observed on 19 August annually to raise awareness about the importance of photography.

19 August- Hariyali Teej

- The Hariyali Teej festival commemorates Shiva and Parvati's reunion, as well as the day Shiva accepted Parvati as his bride.

20 August - World Mosquito Day

- Every year on August 20th, World Mosquito Day commemorates the British doctor Sir Ronald Ross's discovery in 1897 that "female mosquitoes transmit malaria between humans."

20 August -Sadbhavna Diwas

- Sadbhavna Divas is celebrated every year on August 20 to honour our late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Sadbhavna signifies genuineness and benevolence in English.

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

- Every year on the 23rd of August, we remember the tragedy of the slave trade in commemoration of all those who were affected by the transatlantic slave trade. It allows you to reflect on the historical causes and repercussions of the slave trade.

26 August - Women's Equality Day

- This day commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which granted the women right to vote. In 1971, the U.S. Congress officially recognized August 26 as Women's Equality Day.

29 August - National Sports Day

- National Sports Day is celebrated on 29 August every year to honour the birthday of Dhyan Chand a field hockey player. National Sports Day is also known as Rashtriya Khel Divas.

31 August- Sanskrit Diwas

- World Sanskrit Day, also known as Vishva-Sanskrita-Dinam, is an annual celebration that involves talks about the ancient Indian language of Sanskrit and aims to promote its resurrection and maintenance.



BOOKS & AUTHORS

PS Sreedharan Pillai's new books on Nature, Trees, and Geopolitics

- At a celebration conducted at the Raj Bhavan, Goa Governor PS Sreedharan Pillai distributed three books. His most recent books include 'Heritage Trees of Goa,' 'When Parallel Lines Meet,' and 'Ente Priya Kavithakal' (a collection of poems titled 'My Dear Poems').

About the Books

- 'legacy Trees of Goa' is a book that explores centuries-old legacy trees found in Goan villages and numerous sites of worship, enriching the 'Goa Sampurna Yatra' experience.
- 'When Parallel Lines Meet' is a modern geopolitical novel.
- "The third book, 'Ente Priya Kavithakal (collection of poems)," explains the author, "represents one of the best depictions of nature, art, and literature."

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

- "Drunk on Love: The Life, Vision, and Songs of Kabir," written by writer-singer Vipul Rikhi and published by HarperCollins India, depicts the 15th-century poet as he is depicted, quoted, and loved in popular imagination.
- The book compiles stories from Kabir's life, his most renowned songs, and "his fiercely iconoclastic and inspiring vision."

Poet- Diplomat Abhay K Launches his New Book 'Monsoon'

- Abhay Kumar (Abhay K), Deputy Director General of the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR), presented his latest book titled "Monsoon: A Poem of Love and Longing" at Kathika Culture Centre in Old Delhi, Delhi.

Neerja Chowdhury, a renowned journalist, has published a new book titled "How Prime Ministers Decide."

- The author examines the operational methods of the country's prime ministers via the lens of six key decisions.

Rishi Raj's New Book "Kargil: Ek Yatri Ki Jubani" Released

- At the Constitution Club of India in New Delhi, Delhi, Ajay Bhatt, Minister of State (MoS), Ministry of Defence (MoD), launched the book and illustrations titled "Kargil: Ek Yatri Ki Jubani" (Hindi Edition) published by Rishi Raj. Prabhat Prakashan issued a book honouring the Martyrs of the Kargil War.

Chetna Maroo's debut novel is on the Booker Prize longlist

- Chetna Maroo, a London-based Indian-origin author, has disclosed that her debut novel 'Western Lane' is one of 13 books that have made the cut for the 2023 Booker Prize longlist. The Booker judges complimented Kenya-born Maroo's work, set in the backdrop of the British Gujarati culture, for its use of squash as a metaphor for complicated human emotions. It tells the narrative of Gopi, an 11-year-old girl, and her relationships with her family.



1. *What is the assistance amount provided to the families of deceased unorganised workers under the Social Security Scheme in Odisha after the recent updation of the scheme?*
 - A) 1 Lakh
 - B) 2 Lakh
 - C) 3 Lakh
 - D) 4 Lakh
2. *Which Bank has partnered with the state government for Odisha Tourism development corporation to ramp up the state tourism department's payment solution?*
 - A) ICICI Bank
 - B) Axis Bank
 - C) IndusInd Bank
 - D) Bandhan Bank
3. *What is the new name of the Khelo India Women's League?*
 - A) Khelo India Women's League
 - B) Women's Sports Excellence League
 - C) Asmita Women's League
 - D) Sports Achievement League for Women
4. *The state of Kerala has introduced its first AI school situated in which city of state?*
 - A) Kochi
 - B) Thiruvananthapuram
 - C) Kozhikode
 - D) Kannur
5. *Who has been designated as a "national icon" by the Election Commission (EC) to encourage greater voter participation in the electoral process?*
 - A) Harleen Deol
 - B) Sachin Tendulkar
 - C) Mithali Raj
 - D) Smriti Mandhana
6. *Who debuted the CSIR Prima ET11, India's first indigenous e-Tractor built by the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI) in Durgapur?*
 - (a) Anurag Thakur
 - (b) Piyush Goyal
 - (c) Jitendra Singh
 - (d) Nitin Gadkari
7. *Which of the following countries has asked India to adopt the PM Bharatiya Janaushadhi Kendra Model?*
 - (a) Indonesia
 - (b) Nepal
 - (c) Bhutan
 - (d) Sri Lanka
8. *Which state government has introduced the Mukhyamantri Seekho-Kamao Yojana, often known as the 'Chief Minister's Learn-Earn' scheme?*
 - (a) Uttar Pradesh
 - (b) Gujarat
 - (c) Rajasthan
 - (d) Madhya Pradesh
9. *Who introduced the Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP) recently?*
 - (a) Anurag Thakur
 - (b) Piyush Goyal
 - (c) Jitendra Singh
 - (d) Nitin Gadkari
10. *As part of the Reserve Bank of India's Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) pilot initiative, which bank just introduced the UPI Interoperable Digital Rupee smartphone application?*
 - (a) State Bank of India / भारतीयस्टेटबैंक
 - (b) Punjab National Bank / पंजाबनेशनलबैंक
 - (c) UCO Bank / यूकोबैंक
 - (d) Canara Bank / केनराबैंक
11. *The government will shortly introduce the 'Mera Bill Mera Adhikar' GST incentive plan. When was GST introduced in India?*
 - (a) 1 June 2017
 - (b) 1 July 2017
 - (c) 1 June 2018
 - (d) 1 July 2018
12. *Who has been named Chairman of the National Green Tribunal (NGT)?*
 - (a) Ganesan Kannabiran
 - (b) Neeraj Akhoury
 - (c) Prakash Shrivastava
 - (d) Parminder Chopra
13. *Who has been appointed as the Unique Identification Authority of India's (UIDAI) part-time chairperson?*
 - (a) Neelkanth Mishra
 - (b) Ashwani Kumar
 - (c) Deepak Mohanty
 - (d) Tablesch Pandey
14. *Which edition of the naval exercise 'Malabar' completed off Australia's East Coast, off Sydney?*
 - (a) 24th
 - (b) 25th
 - (c) 26th
 - (d) 27th

15. Who wrote the book "Drunk on Love: The Life, Vision, and Songs of Kabir"?
- (a) Vipul Rikhi
(b) Vikram Seth
(c) Jhumpa Lahiri
(d) Aravind Adiga
16. Who is the first Indian athlete to win a gold medal at the World Athletics Championships?
- (a) Neeraj Chopra
(b) DP Manu
(c) Kishore Jena
(d) Rohit Yadav
17. Who has been appointed as the first woman field director of Kaziranga National Park?
- (a) Rita Chauhan
(b) Dr. Sonali Ghosh
(c) Aditi Sinha
(d) Premlata Thakur
18. What date has been set aside to commemorate National Space Day?
- (a) August 22nd
(b) August 23rd
(c) August 24th
(d) August 25th
19. Who was crowned Miss Earth India 2023?
- (a) Priyan Sen
(b) Vanshika Parmar
(c) Sweta Sharda
(d) Rakhi Kapoor
20. Which state has seen an increase in the amount of the Chief Minister Kanya Sumangala Yojana?
- (a) Bihar
(b) Uttar Pradesh
(c) Assam
(d) Madhya Pradesh
21. Who has been nominated as a member of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs by Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar?
- (a) Rahul Gandhi
(b) Varun Gandhi
(c) P Chidambaram
(d) Sanjay Raut
22. Which country was the first to host the 'Karnataka Cultural Festival'?
- (a) Maldives
(b) Sri Lanka
(c) Thailand
(d) Bhutan
23. Which country will host the Joint Military Exercise Bright Star-23?
- (a) France
(b) Turkiye
(c) Qatar
(d) Egypt
24. Which country has become the first country in the world to reach the South Pole of the Moon?
- (a) Russia
(b) India
(c) USA
(d) China
25. Who is the project director of Chandrayaan-3 mission launched by ISRO?
- (a) S Somnath
(b) S. Unnikrishnan Nair
(c) M Sankaran
(d) P Veeramuthuvel
26. BRICS has recently invited how many new countries to join the group?
- (a) 4
(b) 5
(c) 6
(d) 7
27. Which player won the title of Chess World Cup 2023?
- (a) Viswanathan Anand
(b) Levon Aronian
(c) Magnus Carlsen
(d) R. Praggnananda
28. Which film won the Best Feature Film Award at the 69th National Film Awards?
- (a) Sardar Udham Singh
(b) Rocktree
(c) The Kashmir Files
(d) Gangubai Kathiawadi
29. Who launched the Bharat New Car Assessment Program (Bharat NCAP)?
- (a) Amit Shah
(b) Rajnath Singh
(c) Nitin Gadkari
(d) Smriti Irani
30. Who was honored with the first 'Udyog Ratna' award instituted by the Government of Maharashtra?
- (a) Ratan Tata
(b) Mukesh Ambani
(c) Gautam Adani
(d) Adar Poonawala

31. *Who has been appointed as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of South Indian Bank?*
(a) Anoop Poonawalla
(b) Ajay Sinha
(c) Ramesh Puri
(d) P R Seshadri
32. *Which ministry just started the 'Graphene-Aurora Programme' in collaboration?*
(a) Agriculture Ministry
(b) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
(c) Ministry of Home Affairs
(d) Education Ministry
33. *Union Minister Parshottam Rupala launched the 'A-Help' program in which state?*
(a) Uttar Pradesh
(b) Rajasthan
(c) Bihar
(d) Gujarat
34. *Which England player has recently announced his retirement from all forms of cricket?*
(a) Moeen Ali
(b) Ben Stroh
(c) James Anderson
(d) Steven Finn
35. *Recently scientists of which institute of India have discovered a new star?*
(a) Indian Institute of Astrophysics
(b) C-DAC
(c) Indian Astrobiology Research Center
(d) None of these
36. *In which city is the G20 Film Festival being organized?*
(a) Kolkata
(b) Mumbai
(c) New Delhi
(d) Jaipur
37. *Nehru Memorial Museum and Library has been renamed as?*
(a) PM Museum and Library
(b) Gandhi Memorial Museum and Library
(c) Patel Museum and Library
(d) None of these
38. *How many gallantry awards have been approved by the President on the occasion of 77th Independence Day?*
(a) 76
(b) 77
(c) 78
(d) 79
39. *Which portal has been launched by the Reserve Bank of India to track 'Unclaimed Deposits' deposited in banks?*
(a) UDGAM Portal
(b) Sahaj Portal
(c) MADAD Portal
(d) Vishwas Portal
40. *Which Indian athlete has been banned for 4 years for doping?*
(a) Hima Das
(b) Annu Rani
(c) Dutee Chand
(d) Deepika Sinha
41. *India's first 3D printed post office building has been inaugurated in which city?*
(a) Bangalore
(b) New Delhi
(c) Mumbai
(d) Kolkata
42. *Who has become the fourth Indian to win a gold medal in the U20 World Championships?*
(a) Deepak Punia
(b) Mohit Kumar
(c) Ravi Dahiya
(d) Palwinder Cheema
43. *How many Indian youths have been nominated for the International Young Eco-Hero Award 2023?*
(a) 2
(b) 3
(c) 4
(d) 5
44. *Indian National Center for Ocean Information Services has launched which app for seafarers?*
(a) SETHUSAMUDRAM
(b) SAMUDRA
(c) MAHASAGAR
(d) SAGAR
45. *Who has become the second Indian wrestler to win a gold medal at the U20 World Wrestling Championships?*
(a) Priya Malik
(b) Shreya Malik
(c) Antim Panghal
(d) Vinesh Phogat

46. Which Indian won the gold medal in the under-17 category of the Asian Junior Squash Championship?

- (a) Aditi Sinha
- (b) Ankita Raina
- (c) Anahat Singh
- (d) Mohini Singh

47. Which country has won the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023 title?

- (a) Argentina
- (b) Brazil
- (c) England
- (d) Spain

48. In which research institute the new variety of lotus flower 'NAMO 108' has been developed?

- (a) National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow

- (b) FSSAI
- (c) National Botanical Research Institute, Howrah
- (d) none of these

49. Which Indian-origin leader has qualified for the presidential election of Singapore?

- (a) Pawan Nagarjuna
- (b) Tharman Shanmugaratnam
- (c) Abhay Deshpande
- (d) Devkrishnan

50. What rank did India secure in the 16th International Olympiad of Astronomy and Astrophysics?

- (a) 1
- (b) 2
- (c) 3
- (d) 4

ANSWERS

1. Answer: D

- The Odisha government on Wednesday expanded the coverage of the state's social security scheme to cover 50 more categories of workers including delivery boys, boatmen, pickle and papad makers, saw-mill workers, travel and tour guides, photographers and milk vendors.
- The scheme, which started in May 2017, currently covers about 3.65 lakh registered workers of 10 categories of workers such as domestic helpers, transport workers, roadside vendors and rickshaw pullers among others, officials said.
- Officials said chief minister Naveen Patnaik has also increased the ex-gratia assistance in case of accidental death of workers registered under the Odisha Unorganised Workers' Social Security Board Welfare Scheme from ₹2 lakh to ₹4 lakh.

2. Answer: D

- Bandhan Bank today announced a partnership with the Odisha government to ramp up the state tourism department's payment solutions. "The bank has provided Point of Sale (PoS) machines to facilitate card payments by tourists.

3. Answer: C

- Anurag Thakur, the Minister of Sports, reveals the renaming of Khelo India Women's League to Asmita Women's League, aimed at fostering women's empowerment within the sports arena.

4. Answer: B

- The state of Kerala opens its first AI school in Thiruvananthapuram at Santhigiri Vidyabhavan. It was launched by Ram Nath Kovind, the former President of India. This inaugural ceremony signalled the beginning of a new age in education, distinguished by innovative technology and forward-thinking pedagogical practises.
- This effort is the result of a collaboration between the famous educational platform iLearning Engines (ILE) USA and Vedhik eSchool, which is led by a committee of prominent experts that includes former Chief Secretaries, DGPs, and Vice Chancellors.

5. Answer: B

- Legendary cricketer Sachin Tendulkar recognised as 'national icon' of the Election Commission (EC) to encourage greater voter participation in the electoral process.

6. Answer: C

- Jitendra Singh introduces the CSIR Prima ET11, the country's first indigenous e-Tractor.
- Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of Science and Technology, unveiled the CSIR Prima ET11, the first indigenous e-tractor created by the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI), Durgapur.

7. Answer: a

- Indonesia is attempting to replicate India's Jan Aushadhi Kendra model.
- Budi Gunadi Sadikin, Indonesia's Health Minister, paid a visit to a Jan Aushadhi Kendra in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- Sadikin lauded India's healthcare model and hoped to duplicate it in Indonesia through the PM Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana.
- Jan Aushadhi Kendras in India give low-cost medicines to seniors and middle-class families, with rates ranging from Rs 10 to Rs 20.

8. Answer: d

9. Answer: d

- Nitin Gadkari announces the commencement of the Bharat NCAP (New Car Assessment Programme).
- Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport and Highways, has started the long-awaited Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP).
- Bharat NCAP is an important step forward in the government's commitment to improving road safety in India by upgrading the safety standards of motor vehicles weighing up to 3.5 tonnes.
- The program's goal is to give automobile buyers with a tool that allows them to compare the collision safety of motor vehicles on the market.

10. Answer: d

- Canara Bank has launched a smartphone application for UPI Interoperable Digital Rupee.
- As part of the Reserve Bank of India's Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC) pilot initiative, Canara Bank has introduced the UPI Interoperable Digital Rupee smartphone application.
- It is the first bank in both the public and private sectors to provide this feature through its CBDC mobile app, Canara Digital Rupee.

- Customers can now use the Canara Digital Rupee app to scan merchant UPI QR codes and pay with digital currency, thanks to the addition of this feature.

11. Answer: b

- The government will introduce the 'Mera Bill Mera Adhikar' GST reward scheme.
- The government will introduce the 'Mera Bill Mera Adhikar' invoice incentive scheme, which will award cash prizes ranging from Rs 10,000 to Rs 1 million.
- Individuals who upload invoices received from retailers or wholesalers on the app may be eligible for cash prizes ranging from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 1 crore under the invoice incentivization plan.
- The GSTIN of the seller, invoice number, amount paid, and tax amount should all be included in the invoice sent to the app.
- An user would be able to post up to 25 real invoices per month on the app, with a minimum purchase value of Rs 200.

12. Answer: C

- Justice Prakash Shrivastava has been appointed as the Chairperson of the National Green Tribunal.
- Justice Prakash Shrivastava, a former Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court, has been chosen as the next Chairman of the National Green Tribunal (NGT).
- The Central Government's Cabinet Appointments Committee accepted the appointment of Justice Prakash Shrivastava as Chairman of the NGT.
- The National Green Tribunal was established in 2010 under the National Green Tribunal Act.

13. Answer: a

- Neelkanth Mishra has been appointed as the UIDAI's part-time chairperson.
- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), which is in charge of providing Aadhaar numbers, has named Neelkanth Mishra as its part-time chairperson.
- Mishra is Axis Bank Ltd's Chief Economist and Head of Global Research.
- The board of the UIDAI is made up of a chairperson, two part-time members, and the CEO, who also serves as the member secretary.

14. Answer: d

- The 27th iteration of the QUAD nations' naval exercise 'Malabar' has concluded.
- The 27th edition of the naval exercise Malabar finished off Australia's East Coast near Sydney.
- The drill included ships, submarines, and aircraft from the Indian Navy, Royal Australian Navy (RAN), Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF), and US Navy (USN).

15. Answer: a

- 'Drunk on Love: Kabir's Life, Vision, and Songs' Vipul Rikhi's
- Vipul Rikhi has written a new book named "Drunk on Love: The Life, Vision, and Songs of Kabir."
- A new book seeks to depict the life of the mystic poet Kabir through popular traditions, his vision, and his poetry, which has been widely quoted and translated.

16. Answer: a

- Neeraj Chopra, India's great javelin thrower and golden boy, earned the gold medal in the World Athletics Championship 2023 by performing superbly. Neeraj Chopra is the first Indian athlete to win a gold medal at the World Athletics Championships. Budapest, Hungary, hosted the World Athletics Championship. Neeraj is also the first Indian to win several medals at the Athletics Championships. With a throw of 88.17 metres, he earned this medal.

17. Answer: b

- IDFC First Bank has secured the title sponsorship rights for all of the Indian cricket team's domestic matches. The bank will have to pay 4.2 crore for each international match under this

agreement. The BCCI stated that this deal will be for three years and will begin with the India-Australia ODI series.

18. Answer: b

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has declared August 23 to be "National Space Day." On August 23, Chandrayaan-3 performed a successful soft landing on the Moon's South Pole. This day has been designated as National Space Day in order to make it historic. In addition, the 'Shiv Shakti Point' near the Moon's south pole was named after the Vikram Lander of the Chandrayaan-3 mission. The location of Chandrayaan-2's hard landing in 2019 has been designated as the 'Tiranga' point.

19. Answer: a

- Priyan Sen, who hails from Rajasthan, won the Miss Earth India 2023 title during the Miss Divine Beauty 2023 National Finals held in New Delhi. She was crowned by Korea's current Miss Earth Mina Soo Choi. While Praveena Anjana was named Miss International India 2023, both Pema Choden Bhutia and Tejaswini Srivastava were declared runners-up.

20. Answer: b**21. Answer: c**

- P Chidambaram, a Congress MP, has been nominated by Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar to serve on the Standing Committee on Home Affairs. The announcement of his appointment was made via the Rajya Sabha Secretariat's bulletin. That P. Bhattacharya, who will leave the Rajya Sabha on August 18, 2023.

22. Answer: b

- The first Karnataka cultural festival was held in Sri Lanka. It was organised in partnership with the Global Peace Foundation by the International Cultural Council of India, Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre, and M.E. The occasion was a watershed point in India and Sri Lanka's shared cultural history.

23. Answer: d

- Egypt will host the Joint Military Exercise Bright Star-23 (BRIGHT STAR-23). Armies from 34 countries, including India and America, are taking part in this. This military exercise will take place in Egypt's Mohamed Naguib Military Base from the 31st of August to the 14th of September. Bright Star-23 is a global tri-services joint military exercise led by the US Central Command and the Egyptian Army.

24. Answer: b

- India has made history by becoming the first country in the world to place a lander on the Moon's south pole. Vikram Lander recently landed near the Moon's south pole. India has become the fourth country in the world to accomplish a soft landing on the moon with the successful touchdown of Chandrayaan-3. America, China, and the former Soviet Union (now Russia) have all made successful soft moon landings. India has now been included to this list.

25. Answer: d

- P Veeramuthuvel is the project director of the Chandrayaan-3 mission; he took over as project director of Chandrayaan-3 in 2019. Prior to this, he was the Deputy Director of ISRO's Space Infrastructure Programme Office. P Veeramuthuvel was previously involved in the Chandrayaan-2 project. He is originally from Villupuram, Tamil Nadu, and attended the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M).

26. Answer: c

- The BRICS group has asked six more countries to join the group. Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates are among the new countries. South Africa is hosting the BRICS meeting this time, which is significant. The new membership will go into effect on January

1, 2024. India, Brazil, South Africa, China, and Russia are currently members of BRICS.

27. Answer: c

- Magnus Carlsen, a Norwegian chess player, has won his first FIDE World Cup title. Carlsen overcame India's young chess player Rameshbabu Praggnananda in the final match. Magnus Carlsen has also five times won the World Championship. The FIDE World Cup has been won 2-2 by India's Viswanathan Anand and Russia's Levon Aronian.

28. Answer: b

- The nominations for the 69th National Film Awards have been released. Alia Bhatt (Gangubai Kathiawadi) and Kriti Sanon (Mimi) were named Best Actress. Rocketry: The Nambi Effect (R Madhavan) was named Best Feature Film. Allu Arjun received the Best Actor Award for his performance in Pushpa. 'RRR' was named Best Action Direction, Best Special Effects, and Best Choreography.

29. Answer: c

- Nitin Gadkari, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister, launched the India New Car Assessment Programme (India NCAP) in New Delhi, with the goal of improving road safety by upgrading vehicle safety standards in India for cars weighing up to 3.5 tonnes. This assessment programme, which will be based on Automotive Industry Standard (AIS) 197, will begin on October 1, 2023.

30. Answer: a

- Ratan Tata, a well-known industrialist, received the first 'Udyog Ratna' award founded by the Maharashtra government. The event was attended by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis, and Ajit Pawar. Tata enterprises' aggregate revenue in fiscal year 2021-22 was \$128 billion.

31. Answer: d

- The Reserve Bank of India has accepted PR Seshadri's appointment as Managing Director and CEO of Kerala-based South Indian Bank. This appointment will be for three years, beginning October 1. Sheshadri graduated from Delhi College of Engineering with a degree in Electrical Engineering and a Post Graduate Diploma in Management from Indian Institute of Management Bangalore.

32. Answer: b

- The 'Graphene-Aurora Programme' was launched by Alkesh Kumar Sharma, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, during a function held at Maker Village in Kochi, Kerala. This programme was developed in conjunction with Digital University Kerala, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, and the Government of Kerala. This programme has been budgeted at Rs 94.85 crore. The burgeoning graphene technology and innovation ecosystem will benefit from its assistance.

33. Answer: d

- Parshottam Rupala, Union Minister for Animal Husbandry and Dairying, launched the 'A-HELP' (Accredited Agent for Health and Extension of Livestock Production) programme, as well as infertility camps, in Gujarat. As part of the 'Pashudhan Jagruti Abhiyan,' the Union Ministry has launched this programme.

34. Answer: d

- England fast bowler Steven Finn just announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. He was out of the game for a lengthy time owing to a knee injury. He has represented England in 36 Tests, 69 One Day Internationals, and 21 Twenty20 Internationals. During the 2010-11 Ashes series, which his team won 3-1 in Australia, he got 14 wickets.

35. Answer: a

A new star has been identified by scientists at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) in Bengaluru. This star has been designated as HE 1005-1439 by scientists. This new star has been dubbed as Carbon-Enhanced-Metal-Poor (CEMP) by scientists. The SUBARU telescope's spectrograph (HDS) was utilised to analyse the star's chemical makeup.

36. Answer: b

- The G20 Film Festival kicks out on August 16 in New Delhi. Satyajit Ray's Pather Panchali kicked off the festival. The India International Centre and the G20 Secretariat of the Ministry of External Affairs are organising the festival. It was inaugurated by actor Victor Banerjee and Amitabh Kant, India's G20 Sherpa. This film festival will take place on September 2nd.

37. Answer: a

- The Prime Minister's Museum and Library Society has formally renamed the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library (NMML). On the occasion of Nehru's 75th birthday in 1964, the Nehru Memorial Museum was built. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh presided over a special meeting of the NMML Society that made the decision.

38. Answer: a

- On the eve of the 77th Independence Day, the President has approved 76 heroism medals, nine of which are posthumous, to armed forces and CAPF personnel. Four Kirti Chakras (posthumously), 11 Shaurya Chakras (five posthumously), two Sena Medals (gallantry), 52 Sena Medals (gallantry), three Navy Medals (gallantry), and four Vayu Sena Medals (gallantry) are among them.

39. Answer: a

- The Reserve Bank of India has launched a centralised web service called 'UDGAM' to locate 'Unclaimed Deposits' deposited in banks, through which any ordinary person can locate unclaimed deposits deposited in banks. According to the RBI, information about unclaimed deposits deposited in seven banks is currently available on the web.

40. Answer: c

- Dutee Chand, an Indian sprinter, was banned for four years in December 2022 after failing two out-of-competition dope tests for selective androgen receptor modulator. This ban on Dutee Chand, 29, will take effect on January 3, 2023 and will last until January 3, 2027. This ruling was made by the Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel (ADDP). Dutee won two silver medals at the Asian Games in 2018.

41. Answer: a

- Ashwini Vaishnav, Union Minister for Railways, Communications and Information Technology, opened India's first 3D printed post office building in Bengaluru. With technical know-how from IIT Madras and L&T, 3D printing technology was utilised in the post office building in Bengaluru.

42. Answer: b

- Mohit Kumar, an Indian wrestler, made history by capturing the Under-20 World Championship title in the men's 61 kg freestyle category in Amman, Jordan. In the final, Mohit defeated Russia's Eldar Akhmadudinov. He is the fourth Indian junior freestyle wrestler to win the Junior World Championship. Prior to Mohit, gold medalists in the U20 World Championships included Palwinder Cheema and Ramesh Kumar in 2001 and Deepak Punia in 2019.

43. Answer: d

- Five Indian teenagers have been chosen as finalists for the International Young Eco-Hero Award 2023, along with 17 other young environmental activists from around the world. These young people have taken the initiative to address the world's most critical environmental issues. The International Young Eco-Hero Awards Programme honours teenagers aged 8 to 16

who have worked to alleviate the most pressing environmental concerns.

44. Answer: b

- The Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) recently unveiled a new smartphone application for boaters and fishermen called Samudra (SAMUDRA). It is a cutting-edge programme that assists users in navigating the sea environment for their safety and fishing activities. In 1999, the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) established the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services as an autonomous agency.

45. Answer: a

- Priya Malik of India won gold at the 2023 U20 World Wrestling Championships in Jordan. Priya is the second Indian female wrestler to win the U20 World Championship. Panghal became India's first female wrestler to win the junior world title last year. Priya Malik won the women's 76 kg freestyle wrestling final against Laura Celine Kuehn of Germany.

46. Answer: c

- Anahat Singh of India won gold in the Under-17 category at the Asian Junior Squash Individual Championship in Dalian, China. This competition was held from August 16 through August 20. He won his first gold medal in last year's event in Thailand. Anahat Singh was born in Delhi on March 13, 2008.

47. Answer: d

- Spain has won the FIFA Women's World Cup Final 2023. Spain's women's team claimed a historic triumph in the final,

defeating England 1-0. For the first time, Spain's women's football team has won the World Cup. Olga Carmona scored the sole goal for Spain in the final match in the 29th minute.

48. Answer: a

- Union Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh unveiled the 'NaMoh 108' lotus flower, which has 108 petals. This lotus cultivar was created by the National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI) in Lucknow. Flowers of the lotus variety 'NBRI Namoh 108' bloom from March to December, and this is the first flower of this variety.

49. Answer: b

- Three people, including Indian-origin Tharman Shanmugaratnam, have qualified for Singapore's presidential election. Former officers of Chinese heritage are among the other two. Until the deadline, the Presidential Election Committee had received six applications for the eligibility certificate. The six-year term of President Halimah Yacoob will end on September 13.

50. Answer: b

- India has been placed second in the 16th International Olympiad of Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA), which will be held in Chorzów, Poland, from August 10 to August 20, 2023. India took home four gold medals and one silver medal. The United Kingdom took first place with five gold medals. This Olympiad drew 236 students from 50 countries, who earned 27 gold, 41 silver, and 50 bronze medals across all categories.