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## NATIONAL NEWS

### India celebrated its 77<sup>th</sup> Independence Day on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed India, for the 10<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, from the ramparts of the Red Fort in New Delhi on the occasion of country's 77<sup>th</sup> Independence Day.
- The theme for this year's celebration is "Nation First, Always First". This theme is in line with the government's focus on national unity and development.
- Indigenous 105-mm Light Field Guns were used for the ceremonial gun salute, replacing the British 25-pounder guns. This symbolises remarkable achievement in terms of the defence India has achieved. These indigenous guns marked their debut earlier this year with a 21-gun salute during the Republic Day parade. The 21-gun salute involves specially designed cartridges to create firing sounds.
- On 15 August 1947, British colonial rule in India came to an end, concluding almost 200 years of British rule. Since that historic day, 15 August has been celebrated as India's Independence Day.

### India became the first country to successfully soft land on Moon's South Pole.

- ISRO's Vikram lander successfully soft-landed on Moon's south pole on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2023 at 6:04 p.m. This made India the first country to successfully soft land on Moon's South Pole.
- Widely known as the dark side of the Moon, it has been an uncharted territory that scientists believe could hold important reserves.
- The solar-powered rover Pragyan will explore the surface and transmit data to Earth over its two-week lifespan.
- The lander, Vikram, which means 'valour' in Sanskrit, detached from its propulsion module and has been sending images of the Moon's surface since entering lunar orbit on August 5, 2023.
- ISRO launched the Chandrayaan-3 lunar mission to explore the Moon on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2023. It took off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Andhra Pradesh on the back of a Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark III (GSLV-MK III) heavy-lift rocket. It consisted of a lander named Vikram and a rover named Pragyan

similar to Chandrayaan-2, but does not have an orbiter. The cost of Chandrayaan-3 is merely ₹600 crores.

- Ritu Karidhal, a senior scientist at ISRO known as the 'Rocket Woman' of India, is the Mission Director for Chandrayaan-3. P Veeramuthuvel is the Project Director for Chandrayaan-3.
- In 2019, Chandrayaan-2, captured the world's attention when it successfully placed the Vikram lander and Pragyan rover near the Moon's South Pole. But the mission experienced partial setbacks. The Vikram lander on Chandrayaan-2 had crashed on the lunar surface while attempting to land. Despite the mishap, it still marked a significant achievement in India's space history.

#### Key Points

- ISRO's Chairman – S. Somanath
- ISRO's HQ – Bengaluru, Karnataka

### Chandrayaan-3's Pragyan rover confirms the presence of Sulphur on the surface of the Moon

- Chandrayaan-3's Pragyan rover module has confirmed the presence of sulphur on the surface of the Moon. This was confirmed by the 'Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS)' instrument which is onboard the Rover.
- ISRO shared the results of the first such in-situ recordings near the lunar south pole that will be crucial for understanding the Moon's elemental composition.
- Apart from Sulphur, the rover has detected elements including Aluminium (Al), Calcium (Ca), Iron (Fe), Chromium (Cr), Titanium (Ti), Manganese (Mn), Silicon (Si), and Oxygen (O).
- LIBS is a technique wherein the surface of a material, such as soil or rock bed, is exposed to high-energy laser pulses. This generates a high temperature, localised plasma which is then collected and spectrally resolved and detected by instruments such as Charge Coupled Devices.
- Each element has a unique set of wavelengths of light. It is based on this wavelength of light that the elemental composition of the surface is determined.
- LIBS was developed at the Laboratory of Electro-Optics Systems (LEOS), a unit of ISRO that deals with

the design, development and production of attitude sensors for all Low Earth Orbit (LEO) and Geostationary Equatorial Orbit (GEO) and interplanetary missions.

#### **PM Modi announces August 23 as 'National Space Day', lauds ISRO scientists**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced August 23 as the 'National Space Day' as Chandrayaan-3 made a successful historical soft landing on the south pole of the Moon on this day.
- He further announced that the point on the moon where Chandrayaan-3 landed will be called 'Shivshakti'. The point where its predecessor, Chandrayaan-2 hit, will be known as the 'Tiranga' point.

#### **President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu releases postage stamp in memory of Dadi Prakashmani**

- President Droupadi Murmu released a postage stamp in memory of Dadi Prakashmani, former chief of Brahma Kumaris at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre.
- This stamp was released under the 'My Stamp' initiative of the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications to mark the 16<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of Dadi Prakashmani.

#### **India's first Hydrogen bus launched in Leh, Ladakh**

- NTPC Ltd. has launched India's first hydrogen bus in the picturesque region of Leh, situated in the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh.
- NTPC Ltd. is a prominent Maharatna Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) operating under the Ministry of Power (MoP).

##### **Key Points**

- Lt. Governor of Ladakh – BD Mishra
- Capitals – Leh and Kargil

#### **Centre merges Project Tiger and Project Elephant**

- The Project Tiger Division has been merged with Project Elephant and a new division with the name 'Project Tiger and Elephant Division' has been created under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC).
- After the merger, the staff and divisional heads of Project Elephant (PE) will now report to the Additional Director General of Forests (ADGF), Project Tiger (PT), who has now been designated as ADGF (PT&E).

- The Inspector General Forests and Project Director, Project Elephant, will be the divisional head of the PT&E division and will be reporting to the ADGF (PT&E), who is also the member secretary of the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA).
- The Government of India introduced Project Tiger on 1<sup>st</sup> April 1973 to safeguard the Bengal tiger in its natural habitat.
- The Project Elephant was launched in 1992 with an aim to provide financial and technical assistance to states to manage their population of wild Asian elephants.

##### **Key Points**

- Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change – Bhupender Yadav

#### **Centre forms expert panel to revise anti-discrimination guidelines on campuses**

- The Union Education Ministry has constituted an expert committee to revisit its regulations and guidelines on anti-discrimination guidelines in higher educational institutions with respect to the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Other Backward Classes, Persons with Disabilities, and other minorities.
- It will undertake a comprehensive review of existing anti-discriminatory policies and practices on campuses, identifying gaps and shortcomings and proposing improvements.

##### **Key Points**

- Union Education Minister – Dharmendra Pradhan

#### **Government introduced a new category of AUSH visa for foreign nationals seeking treatment under Indian systems of medicine**

- Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India has created a new category of Ayush (AY) visa for foreign nationals for treatment under Ayush systems/Indian systems of medicine.
- The introduction of Ayush Visa fulfils the proposal for the introduction of a special visa scheme for foreigners visiting India for treatment under Ayush systems/Indian systems of medicine like Therapeutic care, Wellness and Yoga.
- A new chapter i.e., Chapter 11A – Ayush Visa has been incorporated after Chapter 11 – Medical visa of the

Visa Manual, which deals with treatment under the Indian systems of medicine and accordingly necessary amendments have been made in various chapters of the Visa Manual, 2019.

#### Key Points

Union Minister of Ayush – Sarbananda Sonowal  
 Union Minister of Home Affairs – Amit Shah

#### SC forms all-women judicial panel for humanitarian aspects in Manipur

- The Supreme Court (SC) has formed an all-women judicial panel to address the aftermath of the Manipur violence.
- This panel is being led by former Jammu & Kashmir High Court Chief Justice Gita Mittal and includes Justices (retd.) Shalini P Joshi and Asha Menon.
- This move aims to oversee various aspects beyond the investigation, such as relief, rehabilitation, and compensation for those affected by the violence.

#### Key Points

Chief Justice of India – DY Chandrachud

#### India bans two cattle medicines, ketoprofen and aceclofenac, linked to vulture deaths

- In a significant step towards vulture conservation, the Centre has prohibited the sale, manufacture and distribution of the drugs ketoprofen and aceclofenac and their formulations for animal use.
- These drugs are harmful to cattle and can kill vultures too if they eat the carcasses of the animals that were administered with these two drugs.
- The vultures are classified as endangered species in India.
- India had a vulture population of around 4 crores by the late 1990s. This has significantly declined by 99% because of a non-steroid anti-inflammatory drug administered to cattle as a painkiller.
- As part of vulture conservation, India released 20 vultures-seven rescued Himalayan griffons and 13 critically endangered Oriental white-backed vultures from Raja Bhat Khawa in the Buxa Tiger Reserve of West Bengal, in February the year, marking a landmark moment for wildlife conservation. In 2021, the first 10

captive-bred white-backed vultures were released, and 10 more were released the following year.

#### PM Modi begins Greece visit by paying tribute to Tomb of unknown soldier.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi began his engagements in Greece by paying tribute to the Tomb of Unknown Soldiers in Athens.
- He was received by Greek Foreign Minister George Gerapetritis at the airport.
- The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier is a war memorial located in Syntagma Square in Athens, in front of the Old Royal Palace. It is a cenotaph dedicated to the Greek soldiers killed during various wars.

#### Key Points

Greece's President – Katerina Sakellariopoulou  
 Greece's Prime Minister – Kyriakos Mitsotakis

#### MASI Portal for Monitoring CHILD CARE HOMES

- National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has developed an application 'MASI' – Monitoring App for Seamless Inspection for real-time monitoring of the Child Care Institutions (CCIs) and their inspection mechanism across the country.
- The effective and efficient functioning of the mechanism for inspection of CCIs provided under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 (as amended in 2021) and synchronous monitoring of the system is the rationale behind developing this comprehensive application.
- The app is linked to the monitoring Portal where the automatic reports are generated.
- 'MASI' enables unified inspections by Child Welfare Committees (CWCs), State Inspection Committees, District Inspection Committees, Members of Juvenile Justice Boards (JJBs) and State Commissions for Protection of Child Rights (SCPCRs) as laid down under the JJ Act, 2015. It serves as a single platform for inspections of all the CCIs across the country by any of the above-stated authorities. Regular follow-up is done before and after the completion of cycle of inspection. The complete reports are automatically generated on the Portal as soon as the questionnaire is filled and submitted by the authority.
- The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, makes it mandatory to establish at least one Child Welfare Committee (CWC) in each district as the

authority to dispose of cases for the care, protection, treatment, development and rehabilitation of children in need of care & protection and to provide for their basic needs and protection of human rights.

- The composition and functioning of the CWC is in accordance with the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and Rules thereof. Mission Vatsalya Scheme provides infrastructure and financial support to the States/UTs for facilitating setting up of CWC in every district and to ensure their effective functioning. The CWC performs functions and Roles as laid down in Juvenile Justice Act, 2015/ Rules as amended from time to time.

#### **Digital registry on organ transplants to streamline donations on cards**

- In an initiative aimed at regulating organ donation, the government is developing a digital registry on organ transplantation to smoothen the system and make it transparent.
- The Organ Donation Registry is being developed by the National Health Authority (NHA) and the Union Health Ministry following consultation with the NITI Aayog for an overhaul of the National Organ Tissue Transplantation Organisation (NOTTO), which manages and coordinates organ transplantation across the country.
- This will help eliminate the presence of touts and middlemen. In the first phase, the registry is collecting pledges from people for their organ donation. One organ donor can save upto eight lives by donating the heart, two lungs, pancreas, two kidneys and intestine.
- The 'Organ Donation Registry' is a part of the overhaul of NOTTO which is ongoing under the National Organ Transplant Programme (NOTP) 2.0.
- Currently, the entire organ transplantation process is done manually. The registry aims to provide real-time information about donors (live as well as cadaver) and receivers on one secure platform for effective, efficient and transparent delivery of services.
- NHA is developing four registries—organ donation pledge registry, recipient registry and two registries for live and cadaver donors. This will create a centralised database with only relevant stakeholders having access to the data as per the data privacy policy of NHA. As a first step, we have started with pledge registry to promote awareness on organ donation and to have an indicative list of people who wish to become organ

donors after their life. After taking the pledge, a person will get a digital certificate.

- The portal will be linked to Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission under which Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) will be the backbone to establish the facts —whether the person who has taken the pledge is a potential organ donor or not.

#### **Key Points**

Union health minister – Mansukh Mandaviya

#### **'Sinh Suchna' mobile app launched in Gujarat to track movement of lions**

- On the occasion of World Lion Day, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel launched a mobile application named 'Sinh Suchna' that will help the state forest department track the movement of lions through the information shared by common people using the app.
- Using the 'Sinh Suchna' app, common people can directly inform the state forest department about the movement of lions in their area so that timely steps can be taken. This mobile will help the officials locate lions in real-time and also help the authorities avoid human-animal conflicts.
- To ease the burden of tourists at Sasan-Gir, the state government has approved a project to set up another lion safari park on the eastern side of Gir forest. This safari park will come up near Naliya-Mandvi village in Una taluka of Gir-Somnath district.
- The Central government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved a budget of ₹2,900 crore under 'Project Lion' for the conservation of Asiatic Lions, which are found only in Gujarat. Gir forest is the only abode of Asiatic lions in the world.

#### **Kerala Assembly passes resolution to urge centre rename state as Keralam**

- The Kerala Assembly passed a resolution urging the Centre to rename the state as "Keralam" in the Constitution and all office records.
- The Constitution of India gives the parliament the power to alter the name of a state under Article 3 of the Indian constitution. The process of renaming of a state can be initiated by either the Parliament or the state assembly. The state legislature sends a proposal in the form of a resolution to the Central government.



In Parliament, the bill cannot be presented without a recommendation from the President.

- In 'Malayalam', the state is referred to as Keralam only, however in alternative languages it is referred as 'Kerala.' The term 'Keralam' traces its roots to the fusion of two Malayalam words – 'Kera,' symbolising coconut, and "Alam" denoting land.
- This alteration would encompass the adoption of 'Keralam' as the state's official name across all languages listed in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

#### Key Points

Kerala's capital	– Thiruvananthapuram
Kerala's CM	– Pinarayi Vijayan
Kerala's Governor	– Arif Mohammad Khan

#### India proposes three bills to revamp British-era criminal laws

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah introduced three bills in the Lok Sabha to replace the Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Evidence Act.
- Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 will be established in place of the Indian Penal Code, 1860; Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha, 2023 will replace the Criminal Procedure Act, 1898; and
- Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, 2023 will replace the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.
- These bills include key changes to deal with offences of terrorism, crimes against women, corruption in election processes and acts that are against the State.

#### Delhi services bill passed in Parliament

- The Rajya Sabha passed the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023, which replaces the contentious Delhi ordinance on the control of services in the national capital. The Bill was earlier passed by the Lok Sabha by a voice vote.
- The Bill will replace the Delhi ordinance brought on May 19, overriding an order by the Supreme court which ruled that only Delhi's elected government has authority over civil servants. The court also ruled that except for issues linked to land, police, and public order, the lieutenant governor has 'no independent decision-making powers' under the constitution.
- The new Bill removes the contentious Section 3A of the ordinance that held that the Delhi legislative assembly

will not have control over services under Entry 41 of List II of the Seventh Schedule of the constitution, it empowers the Lieutenant Governor (L-G) and makes him the final authority in several important matters.

#### Key Points

Delhi's CM	– Arvind Kejriwal
Delhi's Lt. Governor	– Vinai Kumar Saxena

#### Central Water Commission Launches Mobile App 'Floodwatch' To Provide Real-Time Flood Forecasts To Public Using Interactive Maps

- Shri Kushvinder Vohra, Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC), launched the mobile application, 'FloodWatch' with the aim of using mobile phones to disseminate information related to the flood situation and forecasts up to 7 days on a real-time basis to the public.
- The app utilises near real-time river flow data from various sources. It also provides flood forecasts at the nearest location where users can check the flood advisory at the station nearest to them on the Home Page itself.
- Other key features include forecasts using an Interactive Map where users can check the CWC Flood Forecast (up to 24 hours) or Flood Advisory (up to 7 days) either by directly selecting the station from the map or the user can also search for the name of the station in the search box. The location will be zoomed in on the map when the name of the station will be selected from the dropdown.

#### AICTE Partners With Jio Institute For Faculty Development Programme On AI, Data Science

- The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has partnered with Jio Institute for a faculty development programme on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Science.
- Jio Institute, known for its AI and DS programme, will serve as the host institution for the five-day residential faculty development programme.
- The initiative will offer academic leaders and senior faculty members a deep understanding of AI and Data Science while also emphasising the ethical considerations of utilising AI tools for immersive learning. The programme will provide intensive training to 40 selected AICTE members, including faculty.

**Key Points**

AICTE Chairman – TG Sitharam

**NBRI launches lotus variety which blooms in all seasons**

- The CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute (CSIR-NBRI) launched an extraordinary variety of the national flower, Lotus, named 'Namoh 108'.
- This unique flower boasts an astonishing 108 petals and was dedicated to the nation on the eve of Independence Day, underscoring its significance in the cultural and religious tapestry of India.
- The 'Namoh 108' lotus variety has been meticulously developed by NBRI scientists, who brought the original plant from Manipur for comprehensive research. It became the first Lotus variety to have its entire genome sequenced, ensuring its longevity and protection from potential extinction.
- Unlike its counterparts, the 'Namoh 108' lotus variety has exhibited exceptional resilience to varying weather conditions, showcasing its ability to bloom magnificently from March to December.
- This prolonged flowering period significantly surpasses other lotus varieties that typically flourish for only 4-5 months.
- The significance of this variety is further accentuated by its religious connotations and the revered number '108'.

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS****Iraq eliminates trachoma as a public health problem**

- Iraq has been validated by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as having eliminated trachoma as a public health problem. It is the 18<sup>th</sup> country globally to achieve this milestone.
- In 2012, Iraq launched its national trachoma program with the objective of eliminating trachoma as a public health problem. As part of its national program, Iraq established a trachoma surveillance system to identify and manage cases within secondary and tertiary eye care facilities.
- Trachoma is a disease of the eye caused by infection with the bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis*.

**Key Points**

WHO's Director-General – Tedros Adhanom  
 WHO's HQ – Geneva, Switzerland  
 Iraq's Capital – Baghdad  
 Iraq's President – Abdul Latif Rashid

**Russia's Luna 25 spacecraft crashes on moon**

- Russia's ambitious lunar mission, the Luna-25, ended in failure as the spacecraft spun out of control and ultimately crashed into the surface of the Moon.
- The Luna-25 spacecraft encountered a catastrophic failure shortly after a critical maneuver as it was being positioned into its pre-landing orbit.
- Russia's space agency, Roscosmos launched Luna 25 on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2023 to make a soft landing on the

south pole of the moon. It entered lunar orbit on 16<sup>th</sup> August to crash on 19<sup>th</sup> August on the moon's surface.

**Russia launches e-visa facility for Indians**

- Russia has launched an e-visa facility for Indians from 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023, allowing travellers to the country to surpass the hassles of obtaining a regular visa.
- The e-visa facility, also available for travellers from 54 other countries, does not require a visit to consulates or embassies.
- To get an e-visa it is necessary to fill in an application on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia not earlier than 40 days and later than four days before the planned trip.
- The e-visa furnished is valid for 60 days from the date of issue and allows tourists to stay on the territory of Russia for 16 days.
- A digital photo and a scan of the information page of the passport are needed to apply for an e-visa.
- It will allow travel on a guest, business, or tourist visit as well as to participate in scientific, cultural, socio-political, economic, and sports events.

**Iran unveils latest 'Mohajer-10' attack drone with enhanced range, features**

- Iran unveiled its latest domestically built drone named 'Mohajer-10' with enhanced capabilities like flying at a higher altitude, for a longer duration and the ability to carry a greater payload.



- It is said to be an upgraded version of the 'Mohajer-6,' which the officials in the United States have accused Iran of selling to Russia amid its invasion of Ukraine. Iran has since denied these accusations.

#### Key Points

Iran's Capital	– Tehran
Iran's Supreme leader	– Ali Khamenei

#### Fresh cases of bubonic plague detected in China

- Inner Mongolia, China's northern region reported two more cases of bubonic plague.
- Bubonic plague is a highly infectious disease which is spread mostly by rodents. Most of these cases in recent years are found in Inner Mongolia and Ningxia region. Ningxia is a region in northwestern China.
- It is the most common form of plague. It can be fatal if it is not treated on time. It is caused by the bite of an infected flea.
- The plague bacteria enters the body of the patient at the bite. It then travels through the lymphatic system to the nearest lymph node. At this site, it replicates itself. This causes inflammation of the lymph node. Bubonic plague, in its advanced stage, can even affect the lungs. It then becomes pneumonic plague, a more severe type of plague.
- Preventive measures include informing people when zoonotic plague is present in their environment and advising them to take precautions against flea bites and not to handle animal carcasses. Generally, people should be advised to avoid direct contact with infected body fluids and tissues

#### NASA clocks July 2023 as hottest month on record ever since 1880

- July 2023 was hotter than any other month in the global temperature record, according to an analysis

by scientists at NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS).

- It was massively warmer than any previous July and any previous month on record, which goes back to 1880.
- The monthly climate monitoring reports from the European Union's Copernicus Climate Change Service, the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and NASA confirm the extraordinary pace of climate change as a result of heat-trapping greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

#### 'Pibot,' the humanoid robot that can safely pilot an airplane

- Pibot is the world's first humanoid pilot. It can fly an aeroplane just like a human pilot by manipulating all the single controls in the cockpit, which is designed for humans. It will use its own dexterity and advanced AI capabilities to manage the aircraft.
- It is being developed by a team of engineers and researchers from the Korea Advanced Institute of Science & Technology (KAIST), South Korea.

#### BRICS welcomes six new members in push to reshuffle world order

- The BRICS bloc of developing nations agreed to admit Saudi Arabia, Iran, Ethiopia, Egypt, Argentina and the United Arab Emirates in a move aimed at accelerating its push to reshuffle a world order it sees as outdated.
- These six new candidates will formally become members from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024.
- This was BRICS first expansion in 13 years, which currently has five members namely- India, China, Russia, Brazil, and South Africa.
- Originally an acronym coined by Goldman Sachs chief economist Jim O'Neill in 2001, the bloc was founded as an informal four-nation club in 2009 and added South Africa a year later in its only previous expansion.

## GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

#### UP Cabinet approves policy for making state adventure sports destination

- The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved a policy that aims at making the state a water tourism and adventure sports destination.
- The Uttar Pradesh Water Tourism and Adventure

Sports Policy, 2023, will be valid for 10 years.

- This policy will be applicable to all inland land-based, air-based and water routes, dams, reservoirs, lakes, rivers and ponds, and all adventure activities to be carried out on various water bodies and land parcels within the jurisdiction of Uttar Pradesh.

**Key Points**

UP's Capital	– Lucknow
UP's CM	– Yogi Adityanath
UP's Governor	– Anandiben Patel

**Kerala government launched Shubhayatra scheme**

- The State government of Kerala has launched a scheme called 'Shubhayatra'. The scheme aims to provide much-needed financial support to first-time overseas emigrants from Kerala, facilitating a positive and productive migration ecosystem.
- With financial assistance of up to ₹2 lakh, a tax holiday for six months, and attractive interest subvention, the scheme intends to help eligible candidates cover the incidental expenses associated with overseas employment.
- It offers a comprehensive solution to address the financial hurdles faced by aspiring overseas job seekers.
- The scheme will provide a soft loan called 'foreign employability skilling assistant' which covers preparatory expenses for migration. The loan amount will be proportional to the salary offered to the candidate by their employer in the recipient country.

**Key Points**

Kerala's CM	– Pinarayi Vijayan
Kerala's Capital	– Thiruvananthapuram
Kerala's Governor	– Arif Mohammad Khan

**Rajasthan government launches 'Indira Gandhi Free Smartphone Yojana 2023'**

- Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has announced a new initiative to give free smartphones to women in the state.
- The program called the 'Indira Gandhi Free Smartphone Yojana 2023' will provide smartphones, along with voice call and internet services, to women residing in Rajasthan free of cost. Ministry of Railways to establish Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) at some of the railway stations

**Key Points**

Rajasthan's Capital	– Jaipur
Rajasthan's Governor	– Karaj Mishra

**Ministry of Railways to establish Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) at some of the railway stations**

- In the pursuit to enhance the wellness and welfare of passengers visiting railway stations, Indian Railways has conceptualised a policy framework to establish Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Kendras (PMBJKs) in circulating areas and concourses of stations which will be operated by Licensees.
- This will promote the government's mission to make available quality medicines and consumables (Janaushadhi products) to all at affordable prices. It will enable passengers/visitors at railway stations to easily access Janaushadhi products.
- This will also create employment opportunities and generate avenues for entrepreneurs to open PMBJKs.

**Key Points**

Union Minister of Railways	– Ashwini Vaishnaw
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**Ministry of Minority Affairs implement Naya Savera Scheme**

- The Ministry of Minority Affairs implemented 'Naya Savera' scheme (Free Coaching and Allied scheme) to assist students/candidates belonging to the six notified minority communities namely Sikh, Jain, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist and Parsi by way of special coaching for qualifying examinations for admission in technical/professional courses and competitive examination for recruitment to Group A, 'B', & 'C' services and other equivalent posts under the Central and State Governments including public sector undertakings, banks and railways.
- The scheme was implemented across the country through empanelled Project Implementing Agencies (PIAs).

**Key Points**

Union Minister of Minority Affairs	– Smriti Zubain Irani
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**Rajasthan Cabinet approves formation of 19 new districts, 3 divisions in state**

- The Rajasthan Cabinet approved the proposal of a high-level committee to form 19 new districts and three new divisions in the state. Rajasthan will now have a total of 50 districts, up from 33.

- The high-level committee chaired by retired IAS officer Ramlubhaya was formed in March last year to give recommendations about the formation of new districts.
- Based on the interim report of the committee, the Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on March 17 this year made an announcement of the 19 new districts and the three new divisions. After the announcement, representations were received from people, public representatives and various organisations regarding the demarcation of the new districts' boundaries.

#### Chhattisgarh CM transfers ₹15 crore online to beneficiaries as part of Godhan Nyay Yojana

- Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel 5 transferred in online mode more than ₹15 crore to cattle-rearers, women SHGs and 'gauthan' committees as a part of his government's flagship Godhan Nyay Yojna (GNY).
- The state government had launched GNY scheme in July 2020 under which cow dung is procured at ₹2 per kilogram at gauthans and is used to prepare vermicompost.

#### Key Points

Chhattisgarh's Governor	– Biswabhusan Harichandan
Chhattisgarh's Capital	– Raipur

#### Bhagwan Birsa Munda Jodaraste Scheme implemented in Maharashtra

- The state cabinet decided to implement the Bhagwan Birsa Munda Jodaraste Scheme in Maharashtra to connect all tribal villages in 17 districts of the state with main roads.
- The project is estimated to cost ₹5,000 crore and nearly 6,838 km of roads will be constructed as part of the scheme.
- The Tribal Development Department will have a separate committee for these roads and the Public Works Department will build them.

- Accordingly, under the scheme, a programme will be undertaken to connect all roads in the tribal sub-plan areas to primary health centres/ashramshalas with main roads.

#### Key Points

Maharashtra's Capital	– Mumbai and Nagpur
Maharashtra's CM	– Eknath Shinde
Maharashtra's Governor	– Ramesh Bais

#### PM Vishwakarma Yojana scheme explained

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the PM Vishwakarma Yojana from the ramparts of the Red Fort on August 15, 2023.
- Vishwakarma Yojana is a scheme for strengthening and nurturing the Guru-Shishya parampara or family-based practice of traditional skills by artisans and craftspeople working with their hands and tools.
- The scheme has a budget of ₹13,000 crore for five years (From FY 2023–24 to FY 2027–28).
- One of the main purposes of the scheme is to improve the quality and reach of the products and services of artisans and craftspeople as well as ensure that they are integrated with the domestic and global value chains.
- Under the PM Vishwakarma Yojana, artisans and craftspeople will be given a PM Vishwakarma certificate and an ID card each.
- As far as the monetary benefits are concerned, Vishwakarmas will get credit support up to ₹ 1 lakh (First Tranche) and ₹ 2 lakh (Second Tranche) with a concessional interest rate of 5%.
- The beneficiaries of the scheme will also be provided with skill upgradation, incentives for digital transactions, marketing support, and toolkit incentives.
- The scheme will provide support to artisans and craftspeople in India's rural and urban areas.
- There are a total of 18 trades that will be covered under the PM Vishwakarma scheme.

## BANKING, FINANCE AND ECONOMY NEWS

### Geographical Indication (GI) tags granted by the Geographical Indication Registry under the Department of Industry Promotion and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry

- Under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, the GI tag is a legal recognition that safeguards the rights of products originating from a particular region. The GI tag is initially valid for ten years, with the possibility of renewal to extend its protection and recognition. The following have been allotted the latest GI tags:

- I. Chokuwa rice, fondly known as 'Magic rice,' has recently been granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag, a recognition of its exceptional attributes and heritage. Chokuwa rice has been a dietary cornerstone for centuries. It was a staple for the troops of the revered Ahom dynasty, echoing its historical significance. The cultivation of Chokuwa rice is unique to the Brahmaputra River region, encompassing areas like Tinsukia, Dhemaji, and Dibrugarh in Assam.
- II. The 'Jalesar Dhatu Shilp' is a metal craft that originated in the Jalesar town of Etah district in Uttar Pradesh. It involves intricate engraving and embossing of floral, geometric and animal motifs on brass utensils, lamps, idols, vases, trays and other decorative items.
- III. Mankurad mango is also known as malcorada, cardozo mankurad, corado, and Goa mankur. The Portuguese named the fruit malcorada, which means 'poor coloured', and with time, it became mankurad aamo (mango) in Konkani.
- IV. The Goan bebinca, also known as the 'Queen of Goan desserts', is a traditional Indo-Portuguese pudding.
- V. In 'Udaipur Koftgari Metal Craft', weapons are exquisitely ornamented by a complicated process of etching designs, heating, and then cooling, intertwined with embedding gold and silver wire into the metal, pressing and flattening it to a smooth surface with moonstone, and finally polishing it.
- VI. The Bikaner Kashidakari Craft is traditionally created on cotton, silk or velvet with a variety of fine stitches and mirror-work, mainly for objects associated with marriage, especially gift items. The

mirrors are believed to repel the 'evil eye' with their reflective surfaces. The weaving of fabrics by hand used to be done by the Meghwal community in Bikaner and nearby districts.

- VII. The 'Jodhpur Bandhej Craft' is the Rajasthani art of tying and dyeing. Bandhej is one of the most famous textile art forms of Rajasthan. The fabrics used for Bandhej are muslin, silk and voile. Cotton thread is used for tying the fabric.
- VIII. The 'Bikaner Usta Kala Craft' is also known as gold nakashi or gold manauti work due to the prominence of its long-lasting golden colour. Untreated raw camel hide is processed and moulded by the Dapgar community of leather craftspeople for the requirements of the Usta.
- IX. The Matti banana variety native to Kanniyakumari district of Tamil Nadu has been granted a Geographical Indication (GI) tag. These bananas thrive uniquely in the district's climate and soil, resulting in a larger-than-human finger-sized fruit with a sweet aroma and honey-like taste.

### India, ASEAN agree to review FTA by 2025

- In a significant move, India and the ASEAN countries have come to an agreement to reevaluate their existing free trade pact for goods. The aim of this review is to address the existing trade imbalances and disparities between the two parties.
- The Joint Committee of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA), which was originally signed in 2009, convened to discuss the roadmap for revisiting the pact.
- The committee successfully finalised the terms of reference for commencing fresh negotiations, setting the stage for a comprehensive review of the trade agreement.
- ASEAN is the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and consists of ten members- Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

### PM Modi lays foundation stone for redevelopment of 508 Amrit Bharat Stations

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the redevelopment of 508 railway stations

across the country virtually, on August 6, 2023. The redevelopment would cost more than ₹24,470 crores.

- The chosen 508 stations are spread across 27 states and union territories. These stations were part of the plan – Amrit Bharat Stations scheme in which almost 1300 prime railway stations in the country will be redeveloped.
- Master Plans were being prepared for the development of these stations as ‘City Centres’, with proper integration of both sides of the city. This integrated approach is driven by the holistic vision of the overall urban development of the city, centred around the railway station. These stations will have better seating on platforms, upgraded waiting rooms and free Wi-Fi amongst other things.
- The redevelopment will provide modern passenger amenities along with ensuring well-designed traffic circulation, inter-modal integration, and signage for the guidance of passengers. The design of the station buildings will be inspired by local culture, heritage, and architecture.

#### **NCLT approves merger of Zee Entertainment with Sony India; ZEEL shares rally 18%**

- The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) approved the proposed merger of Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd with Sony India.
- This is a key regulatory approval for the mega-merger, aimed at creating a \$10-billion media giant, which was announced in 2021 but has been delayed for multiple reasons.

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

- The Directorate General of Trade Remedies (DGTR), an arm of the Commerce Ministry of India, has imposed an anti-dumping duty on optical fibers from China, Korea and Indonesia in a move to secure the domestic industry from artificially cheap rates that are capturing the market.
- The anti-dumping duty shall be effective for a period of five years. It is likely to be a major relief to both domestic businesses and international companies that manufacture locally. Sterlite Industries, Birla Cable, Birla Furukawa Fibre Optics, HFCL, and American Corning are among the big names in the optical fibre business.

#### **India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) to set up climate change and health hub in Delhi**

- India is now all set to open a climate change and health hub in New Delhi in partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB).
- The new hub for climate change and health will facilitate knowledge sharing, promote partnerships and innovations, and also help countries beyond the G-20, especially developing countries.
- Earlier, India had bagged the first WHO Centre for Global Traditional Medicine, which will be established in Jamnagar, Gujarat.

#### **Key Points**

- ADB’s Headquarters – Mandaluyong, Philippines
- ADB’s Chief – Masatsugu Asakawa

#### **Reliance Retail launches ‘Yousta’ fashion stores; first outlet in Hyderabad, all products below ₹999**

- The retail arm of Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) launched the youth-focused fashion retail format ‘Yousta’, with its first outlet opened in Hyderabad.
- All the products at Yousta store are priced below ₹999 and a majority of them are priced below ₹499. Apart from the brand’s first store in Hyderabad, the range of products offered at Yousta stores can also be accessed online through Ajio and JioMart platforms.

#### **Hindustan Shipyard signs ₹19,000 crore contract with Defence Ministry**

- In a significant boost to self-reliance, the Union defence ministry signed a ₹19,000 crore contract with Visakhapatnam-based Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) for five indigenous fleet support ships for the Indian Navy, with the vessels capable of replenishment of warships at sea and extending their range and endurance for longer missions, officials aware of the matter said.
- HSL is expected to deliver the first vessel to the navy in four years, with the rest to follow at the rate of one every 10 months thereafter.
- The vessels, with a length of 225 metres and a width of 32 metres, will have a displacement of 44,000 tonnes.
- The fleet support vessels will be employed for replenishing ships at sea with fuel, water, ammunition and stores, enabling the naval fleet to operate for prolonged periods without returning to the harbour.



### Ujjivan Small Finance Bank sets a world record with a Grand Pookalam Depicting Kerala's Cultural and Art Heritage

- As part of Ujjivan Small Finance Bank's Onam celebration, a larger-than-life Pookalam, the traditional art form of Kerala, extending over 2450+ sq. ft. was meticulously created in a remarkable display of cultural pride and creativity.
- The magnificent floral design earned a coveted place in the prestigious World Book of Records for constructing the world's largest Pookalam.
- More than 150+ Ujjivan SFB's customers voluntarily participated in creating the largest Pookalam at Kochi Gymkhana. The awe-inspiring floral pattern depicting the map of Kerala State embodies the state's rich traditions and symbolises its cultural and artistic significance.
- Approximately 1000 kilograms (1 Ton) of flowers were used to construct an exceptional Pookalam by close to 05 skilled artisans and experts.

#### Key Points

- Ujjivan SFB's HQ – Bengaluru, Karnataka
- MD & CEO – Ittira Davis

### Indian Air Force (IAF) inducts new Heron Mark 2 drones

- In a mega capability boost, the Indian Air Force has inducted its latest Heron Mark 2 drones, which have strike capability and can carry out surveillance along the borders of both China and Pakistan in a single sortie.
- These drones can be equipped with long-range missiles and other weapons systems, and have been deployed at a forward air base in the northern sector.
- The drones with satellite communication capability have given a long desired capability to the Indian Air Force, as its drones can operate at very long distances for close to 36 hours at a stretch and can also laser illuminate enemy targets from very long ranges to help fighter aircraft destroy them using their long-range weapons.
- These can provide 24x7 surveillance of targets.

#### Key Points

- Chief of Air Staff (CAS) – Vivek Ram Chaudhari

### RBI issues revised guidelines for IDF-NBFCs

- Infrastructure Debt Fund-NBFCs (IDF-NBFCs) will now be required to have a net owned fund (NOF) of at least ₹300 crore.
- Besides, they should have a capital-to-risk weighted assets ratio (CRAR) of minimum 15% (with minimum Tier 1 capital of 10 per cent).
- A review of the guidelines applicable to IDF-NBFCs has been undertaken in order to enable them play a greater role in financing of the infrastructure sector and to harmonise the regulations governing the financing of the infrastructure sector by NBFCs.
- The review has been undertaken in consultation with the Government of India. An IDF-NBFC is a company registered as NBFC to facilitate the flow of long-term debt into infrastructure projects. It raises resources through the issue of rupee or dollar-denominated bonds of minimum 5-year maturity. Only Infrastructure Finance Companies (IFC) can sponsor IDF-NBFCs.

#### Key Points

- RBI's Governor – Shaktikanta Das
- RBI's HQ – Mumbai, Maharashtra

### RBI to use AI for Regulatory Supervision, Awards contract to McKinsey and Accenture

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will work with global consultancy firms McKinsey and Accenture to improve its regulatory supervision over banks and Non-Banking Financial Corporations (NBFCs) using artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML).
- The project is set to cost ₹91 crore.
- Although RBI has already been using AI and ML in its supervisory processes, it now intends to scale it up to ensure that the benefits of advanced analytics can accrue to the Department of Supervision in the central bank.
- Banks, urban cooperative banks, NBFCs, payment banks, small finance banks, local area banks, credit information companies, and select all Indian financial institutions come under the supervisory ambit of the RBI.
- As part of its supervision, RBI assesses the financial soundness, solvency, asset quality, governance framework, liquidity, and operational viability of these institutions to save depositors' interests and financial stability.



### **RBI's MPC keeps repo rate unchanged at 6.5%, raises inflation projection**

- The Reserve Bank of India raised its inflation projection for FY24 from 5.1% to 5.4%, while retaining its GDP projection at 6.5%.
- RBI decided to keep its key lending rate – repo rate – unchanged. It hasn't changed Repo Rate since December 2022. The repo rate is the rate at which the central bank of the country lends money to commercial banks in case of any shortfall of funds.
- Monetary Policy is given by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) bimonthly. MPC is headed by the RBI governor.

### **Nitin Gadkari launches the world's first ethanol-run Toyota Innova**

- Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport and Highways launched the world's first version of ethanol-run Toyota Innova in a boost to enhance clean energy use in the country.
- This is the world's 1<sup>st</sup> prototype of BS-6 (Stage II) 'electrified flex fuel vehicle' developed by Toyota Kirloskar Motor.
- The launch is in line with the government's policy drive to decrease India's dependency on imported petroleum and shift away from fossil fuels.

### **India and New Zealand sign MoU to boost cooperation in Civil Aviation**

- The Government of India and the Government of New Zealand have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to boost cooperation in civil aviation. This will cover the scheduling of new routes, codeshare services, traffic rights and capacity entitlement.
- An Air Services Agreement was signed between New Zealand and India at Auckland on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2016. Both governments reviewed the existing arrangements relating to air service between the two countries.
- According to the MoU, the designated airline(s) of New Zealand may operate any number of services with any type of aircraft, with third and fourth freedom traffic rights to/from six points in India, namely New Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, and Kolkata.
- The designated airline(s) of India may operate any number of services with any type of aircraft with third and fourth freedom traffic rights to/from Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and three more points in

New Zealand to be named by the Government of the Republic of India.

#### **Key Points**

Union Minister of – Jyotiraditya M. Scindia  
Civil Aviation

### **Government debt stands at ₹155.6 Lakh Crore in March 2023**

- In March 2023, the Indian government's debt stood at ₹155.6 lakh crore, accounting for 57.1% of the country's GDP. This represents a reduction from 61.5% of GDP in 2020–21, indicating efforts to manage debt levels.
- The government has also implemented various schemes to promote capital expenditure, economic growth, and welfare at both macro and micro levels. Additionally, a roadmap has been set in place to achieve the ambitious goal of making India a \$5 trillion economy, involving digital economy promotion, technology-enabled development, energy transition, and more.
- As of March 31, 2023, the central government's debt amounted to ₹155.6 lakh crore, which represents 57.1% of the GDP.
- The debt of state governments is estimated to be around 28% of GDP at the end of the fiscal year 2022–23. Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) in the Indian economy has increased from ₹45.41 lakh crore in 2018–19 to ₹54.35 lakh crore in 2022–23 (Provisional Estimates).
- The government has implemented the 'Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Expenditure' and 'Scheme for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment' to support capital projects in sectors like health, education, irrigation, and power.
- In the fiscal year 2023–24, ₹84,883.90 crore has been sanctioned under the special assistance schemes, with ₹29,517.66 crore disbursed to various states for capital expenditure and investment.
- The government's roadmap for achieving a \$5 trillion economy focuses on growth at the macro level and inclusive welfare at the micro level. Initiatives include promoting the digital economy, fintech, technology-enabled development, energy transition, climate action, and encouraging a virtuous cycle of investment and growth.
- Major reforms have been implemented since 2014, including GST, IBC, corporate tax rate reduction,

Make in India, Start-up India, and Production Linked Incentive Schemes.

### Axis Bank Partners with Kiwi to Bolster 'Credit on UPI' on RuPay Credit Cards

- Kiwi, a fintech company specialising in enabling credit on UPI, has partnered with Axis Bank to introduce a lifetime free Axis Bank KWIK credit cards through its app.
- This unique partnership of Kiwi and Axis Bank aims to offer customers the convenience of UPI's fast and secure payments while enjoying the benefits of credit and card rewards. With a focus on simplicity and innovation, Kiwi aims to provide seamless onboarding and instant virtual credit cards to one million users within the next 18 months.

#### Key Points

Axis Bank's HQ	– Mumbai, Maharashtra
MD & CEO	– Amitabh Chaudhry

### OpenAI's Sam Altman launches Worldcoin crypto project

- Worldcoin is a cryptocurrency project founded by OpenAI CEO Sam Altman.
- The project's core offering is its World ID, which the company describes as a 'digital passport' to prove that its holder is a real human, not an AI bot.
- To get a World ID, a customer signs up to do an in-person iris scan using Worldcoin's 'orb', a silver ball approximately the size of a bowling ball. Once the orb's iris scan verifies the person is a real human, it creates a World ID.
- The company behind Worldcoin is San Francisco and Berlin-based Tools for Humanity.
- The project has 2 million users from its beta period, and with the launch, Worldcoin is scaling up 'orbing' operations to 35 cities in 20 countries.

### Over 6.23 core loans sanctioned under Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana in FY 2022–23

- Over 6 core 23 lakh loans have been sanctioned under Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) in the Financial Year 2022–23.
- The objective of PMMY is to provide access to institutional finance to new or existing micro units or enterprises up to 10 lakh rupees. The complaints with regard to the implementation of PMMY are redressed in consultation with the respective Banks.

The complaints received at the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System are also being taken up with respective Banks for redressal within the prescribed timeline.

### IIT Madras and Indian Railways set up 5G testing facility in Secunderabad

- The Indian Railways Institute of Signal Engineering and Telecommunications, and the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish the India 5G Testbed for conducting comprehensive trials of 5G-enabled applications tailored specifically for railway operations.
- This state-of-the-art testbed will be located at IRASET in Secunderabad and here testing and development of 5G use cases for the Indian Railways will be done.
- This collaboration will enable ₹1 to leverage the potential of 5G technology to enhance its operational efficiency, passenger experience and overall safety.
- The Testbed will serve as a cutting-edge facility to conduct comprehensive trials of 5G-enabled applications tailored specifically for Railway operations. By simulating real-world scenarios, researchers and industry experts will explore innovative solutions to modernize various aspects of Railway communication and services.

### 28% GST to be implemented on Online gaming and Casinos

- The Goods and Services Tax (GST) at a uniform rate of 28% on full face value for online money gaming, casinos, and horse racing is expected to be implemented from October 1, 2023.
- The GST Council took a near-unanimous decision to this effect while also agreeing to review the mechanism six months post-implementation.
- The Council simultaneously gave the same immediate minor relief to the industry.
- The GST Council has also recommended inserting a specific provision in the Integrated GST Act, 2017 to articulate that a supplier of online gaming located outside India to a person within the country is liable to pay GST.
- Further, any money paid out in the form of Virtual Digital Assets will also be liable to a GST rate of 28%.
- GST is headed by the Union Finance Minister- Nirmala Sitharaman

## Oil India is now a Maharatna and ONGC Videsh is a Navratna.

- State run oil major Oil India Limited was elevated to the Maharatna status on recommendation from the Union Finance Ministry. This makes Oil India Limited the 13<sup>th</sup> Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE).
- The other companies included in the Maharatna list are Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), Coal India Limited, GAIL India Limited, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), Indian Oil Corporation Limited, NTPC Limited, Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC), Power Finance Corporation, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited, Rural Electrification Corporation Limited and Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL).
- To be eligible for the grant of the Maharatna status, the company should have an average turnover of over ₹25,000 crore, an average annual net worth of more than ₹15,000 crore, and an average annual net profit of over ₹5,000 crore during the last three years.
- The Maharatna status allows companies to incur capital expenditure on the purchase of new items or for replacement, without any monetary ceiling. Also, these CPSEs should not depend upon budgetary support or government guarantees.
- The Oil and Natural Gas Company (ONGC) Videsh has been elevated to the status of Navaratna Company. A Navratna status imparts enhanced financial and operational freedom to a company and empowers it to invest up to ₹1,000 crore or 15% of its net worth on a single project without seeking government approval.

### Key Points

Oil India Chairman & MD	– Dr. Ranjit Rath
Oil India HQ	– Noida, Uttar Pradesh
ONGC HQ	– Delhi
ONGC Chairman & CEO	– Arun Kumar Singh

## NHAI Launches 'Rajmargyatra' a Unified Mobile Application for National Highway Users

- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) takes a significant stride towards improving the highway user experience with the launch of 'Rajmargyatra,' a citizen-centric unified mobile application. This user-

friendly app is now available for download on both Google Play Store and iOS App Store, empowering travellers with comprehensive information on Indian National Highways while also offering an efficient complaint redressal system. The app is currently available in Hindi and English.

- 'Rajmargyatra' serves as a one-stop repository of essential information for National Highway users. Get real-time weather conditions, timely broadcast notifications, and access to details about nearby toll plazas, petrol pumps, hospitals, hotels, and other essential services that ensure a seamless and safe journey on National Highways.
- The app comes equipped with an inbuilt complaint redressal and escalation mechanism. Users can easily report highway-related issues, attaching geo-tagged videos or photos for better clarity. The registered complaints will be handled in a time-bound manner, with system-generated escalations to higher authorities in case of any delays. Users can also track the status of their grievances for complete transparency.
- 'Rajmargyatra' integrates its services with various bank portals, making it convenient for users to recharge their FASTags, avail monthly passes, and access other FASTag-related banking services – all within a single platform.
- Over-speeding notifications and voice-assistance to encourage responsible and safe driving behavior.
- With these improvements, 'Rajmargyatra' aims to create a seamless, user-friendly experience for highway users, fostering a safer and more enjoyable journey on Indian National Highways.

## DRDO successfully test fires indigenously-developed laser-guided ATGMs

- Indigenously developed Laser-Guided Anti-Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM) were successfully test-fired from Main Battle Tank (MBT) Arjun by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Army at KK Ranges with the support of Armoured Corps Centre & School (ACC&S) Ahmednagar in Maharashtra.
- The missiles hit with precision and successfully destroyed the targets at two different ranges. Telemetry systems have recorded the satisfactory flight performance of the missiles.
- The all-indigenous Laser Guided ATGM employs a tandem High Explosive Anti-Tank (HEAT) warhead

to defeat Explosive Reactive Armour (ERA) protected armoured vehicles.

- The ATGM has been developed with multi-platform launch capability and is currently undergoing technical evaluation trials from the 120 mm rifled gun of MBT Arjun.

#### Key Points

Chairman, DRDO	– Sameer V. Kamat
HQ	– New Delhi

#### India launches 'Neerakshi' – Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) for mine detection

- India recently launched 'Neerakshi', the AUV designed to detect mines. It is the first of its kind in the country.
- 'Neerakshi' is a collaboration of Kolkata-based warship maker Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) Ltd and MSME entity AEPL.
- The commercial launch of the AUV is likely to be within six months to a year after completion of user trials by the Indian Navy, Coast Guard and possibly the Army.
- This can be used for a variety of functions ranging from mine detection to mine disposal to underwater surveys.
- It is a 2.1-metre-long cylindrical unmanned vehicle about a foot in diameter and weighs around 45 kg. It has an endurance of four hours and can go up to 300 metres deep.
- The process is to enhance the AUV's endurance from 200 to 300% and these can then be deployed across the coastal waters to ensure the safety of the coast. This platform is for deployment from either a mother ship or at the coast for coastal protection.

#### Airtel Payments Bank launches r-PVC-based eco-friendly debit card

- Airtel Payments Bank launched an eco-friendly debit card for its customers with savings bank accounts, underlining the company's 'commitment to sustainability and promoting eco-friendly practices within the financial sector.'
- The company will manufacture these debit cards from r-PVC (recycled polyvinyl chloride) material, which it claims to be eco-friendly. Moreover, the payments bank stated that every batch of 50,000 cards produced

would reduce carbon emissions by 350 kilograms, compared to conventional PVC cards in the market.

- Producing these eco-friendly debit cards will also diminish petroleum consumption during manufacturing, cutting hydrocarbon usage by 43%.
- The company further asserts that this manufacturing approach will conserve 6.6 million litres of water for every batch of r-PVC produced.
- Airtel Payments Bank is developing two cards under the classic variant; a personalised Classic card and an Insta Classic card. The former can be ordered through the Airtel Thanks app, while the latter will be available at select neighbourhood banking points by the end of the current quarter.

#### Key Points

MD & CEO	– Anubrata Biswas
Headquarters	– New Delhi

#### Defence Ministry to switch to locally built OS Maya amid threats

- The Defence Ministry has decided to replace the Microsoft Operating System (OS) in all computers connected to the Internet with the Maya Operating System(OS).
- Maya OS is a new operating system that is based on Ubuntu, a popular Linux distribution that uses free and open-source software.
- It has been developed by the Ministry of Defence Ministry with the help of various government agencies, including the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), and the National Informatics Centre (NIC).
- One of the main advantages of Maya OS is that it has a similar interface and functionality as Windows, making it easy for users to adapt to it.
- It also has a feature called Chakravayuh which is an end-point anti-malware and antivirus software that creates a virtual layer between the user and the internet, blocking hackers from accessing sensitive data.
- India's critical infrastructure has seen numerous cyberattacks and security breaches in recent years. Some of the most notable incidents include the cyberattack on Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant (KKNPP) in 2019, the Mumbai Power Grid outage in



2020, the ransomware attacks on Oil India Limited and Spice Jet servers in 2022, and the Goa Flood Monitoring System hack.

- Hence, using an indigenous operating system could not only be a promising step towards securing India's vital computer systems from malicious actors, but also reduce the country's reliance on foreign software and enhance its cyber resilience.

### Key Points

Union Defence Minister – Rajnath Singh

### Indian Army connects last village on LoC in J&K with bridge as Independence Day gift

- The Indian Army linked this Last Danna village on LoC in Machhal Sector, Kupwara District, of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) with the 115 Feet Long Bridge.
- The 115-foot-long Bridge has been named as Bhagat Bridge in memory of Late Major Bhagat Singh, Veer Chakra, who laid down his life defending this sector in the 1965 war. Danna Village is also popularly known as Bhagat Village in memory of the brave son of India.
- The dedication ceremony was attended by villagers, including children, women, and elders from seven nearby villages, who expressed gratitude for the infrastructure that would improve education, healthcare access, and tourism prospects in the region.

### Tamil Nadu govt launches India's first-ever night street racing circuit in Chennai

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

### Air India Unveils New Logo And Livery As Tata Group Rebrands Airline

- Air India unveiled the new logo and livery for the airline as part of Tata Group's rebranding plan. The new look of the airline will include a gold window frame instead of the iconic Indian window shape.

- The new logo will be called 'The Vista', which draws inspiration from the peak of the gold window frame. The new brand design system symbolises a 'window of possibilities'.
- Along with a new logo, the airline is also set to get a new livery. Its aircraft would now feature a palette of deep red, aubergine, and gold highlights with a chakra-inspired pattern. It also boasts a striking new custom-made 'Air India Sans' font, marrying confidence with warmth to position Air India as premium, inclusive, and accessible.

### Key Points

Air India's CEO – Campbell Wilson

### SEBI shortens the Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) listing timeline to three days post closure for investor and issuer benefit.

- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has reduced the timeline for listing of shares on stock exchanges after the closure of IPOs to three days from six days at present.
- The new listing timeframe will be voluntary for all public issues opening on or after September 1 and mandatory for all the issues which come after December 1, 2023.
- Under the new guidelines, IPOs will have to mandatorily list after three days of the issue closing date.
- SEBI said that T+3 timeline for listing shall be appropriately disclosed in the offer documents of public issues. Under the new rules, companies will have to finalise allotment before 6 pm on T+1 day. The transfer of funds will be made to unsuccessful applicants on T+2 day.
- The reduction in timelines for listing and trading of shares will benefit both issuers as well as investors. Issuers will have faster access to the capital raised thereby enhancing the ease of doing business and the investors will have the opportunity to have early credit and liquidity for their investment.

### Key Points

SEBI's Chairman – Madhabi Puri Buch  
SEBI's HQ – Mumbai

### **Viacom18 completes merger of JioCinema and Voot OTT platforms**

- Viacom18 has nearly completed the merger of its two OTT platforms, JioCinema and Voot.
- Viacom18 launched Voot in 2014, and later its paid premium service Voot Select entered the streaming business. Later, Reliance moved Jio Cinema, which was launched under its telecommunications business, 'Jio' to Viacom18 in 2022.
- In April 2023, when Viacom18 completed the scheme of a merger involving Reliance Industries, Bodhi Tree Systems and Paramount Global, it also integrated JioCinema into Viacom18.
- Since then, Jio Cinema has become the front for all the marquee content under Viacom. Viacom streams the Indian Premier League under Jio Cinema, and all of the marquee English content, by HBO and NBC Universal, has been acquired under Jio Cinema.
- Thus Viacom18 decided to merge the two OTT platforms, Voot and Jio Cinema.

### **RBI approves voluntary amalgamation of Twin Cities Co-operative Urban Bank, Kranti Co-operative Urban Bank**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the amalgamation of Twin Cities Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd. with Kranti Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd.
- The branch of Twin Cities Co-operative Urban Bank will function as a branch of Kranti Co-operative Urban Bank with effect from August 23, 2023.

### **Telangana and UNESCO join hands to implement UN recommendations on ethics of AI**

- The Telangana government and UNESCO will be collaborating to implement the UNESCO Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence (AI).
- The collaboration focuses on promoting the ethical development and use of AI awareness raising, capacity building, and contributions to UNESCO's Global Observatory on AI Ethics.
- The partnership signifies a shared commitment to an AI-powered future that prioritises societal good and equitable development.

#### **Key Points**

- UNESCO's HQ – Paris, France
- UNESCO's Director General – Audrey Azoulay

### **DGCA forms a panel to suggest ways to ensure gender equality**

- The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in India has taken a proactive step towards promoting gender equality within the nation's aviation sector.
- It established a four-member committee composed of senior officers to devise strategies and recommendations aimed at achieving gender parity in the industry.
- The committee's objective is to propose actionable measures that the DGCA can implement to foster gender equality in the aviation sector.
- The committee is tasked with formulating norms and guidelines that will facilitate gender equality within the aviation sector.
- These norms will subsequently be shared with aviation stakeholders, encouraging them to adopt and integrate these practices into their operations. The intention is to create a more inclusive and balanced work environment.

### **President Murmu launched INS 'Vindhyagiri' in Kolkata, the sixth ship under 'Project 17 Alpha' of the Indian Navy**

- President Droupadi Murmu launched 'Vindhyagiri', at Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd's (GRSE) facility on the banks of Hooghly river. Vindhyagiri has been named after the mountain range in Karnataka.
- INS 'Vindhyagiri' is an advanced stealth frigate, or warship. This is the sixth of seven ships built under 'Project 17 Alpha' for the Navy. The first five ships of the project were launched between 2019 and 2022.
- This is the third and last stealth frigate that the Kolkata-based warship maker was contracted to build for the Navy under the project.
- 75% of orders for equipment and systems of P17A ships are from indigenous firms, including micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).
- The state-of-the-art ship will be fitted with the latest gadgets and undergo extensive trials before being handed over to the Indian Navy for commissioning into service.
- These warships are follow-ons of the Project 17 Class Frigates (Shivalik Class), with improved stealth features, advanced weapons and sensors and platform management systems.
- P17A ships are guided missile frigates, each of which is 149 metres long, with a displacement of approximately 6,670 tonnes and a speed of 28 knots. These are capable of neutralising threats in all three dimensions of air, surface and sub-surface.



**PEOPLE IN NEWS/APPOINTMENTS**

Name	Designation
Puneet Chandok	President of Microsoft India and South Asia
Shohini Sinha	Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) special agent in charge of the Salt Lake City Field Office
Hun Manet	Prime Minister of Cambodia
Vaibhav Taneja	CFO of Tesla
Sanjay Kumar Agarwal	CBIC Chairman
Kareena Kapoor Khan	Fresh Food Label Pluckk
Adille Sumariwalla	Elected to World Athletics Executive Board
PR Seshadri	MD & CEO of South Indian Bank
Rahul Dravid	Brand Ambassador of BPCL
Rafel Nadal	Ambassador of Infosys
Sanjeev Kapoor	Brand Ambassador of Indian Oil
Geetika Srivastava	India's First Woman Charge d'Affaires in Pakistan
Priyan Sain	Miss Earth India 2023
Amit Jhingran	MD & CEO of SBI Life Insurance Company Ltd.
Jaya Varma Sinha	Chairman of Railways Board
Umesh Revankar	Chairman of the Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC)
Emmerson Mnangagwa	President of Zimbabwe
Dr. Sonali Ghosh	First Woman Field Director of Kaziranga National Park
Mansi Madan Tripathi	Chair of Shell India
Sunil Gavaskar	Principal advisor of 'Midwicket Stories'
Prakash Shrivastava	Chairperson of National Green Tribunal (NGT)
Kiran Mani	CEO of Viacom18's Digital business
Neelkanth Mishra	Part-time Chairperson of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)
R Doraiswamy	MD of Life Insurance Corporation of India
Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar	Caretaker Prime Minister of Pakistan
Savi Soin	President of Qualcomm India
Jim Skea	Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
TV Narendran	Global Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Tata Steel Ltd.
Irshad Ahmad	India's ambassador to Syria
Shivendra Nath	Chairman & Managing Director of Engineering Projects India Ltd
Prof. Ganesan Kannabiran	Director of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)
Ali Mahaman Lamine Zeine	Prime Minister of Niger
Faiz Ahmed Kidwai	CEO of National Rainfed Area Authority (NRAA).
N.V.Ramana	Member of International Mediator Panel of Singapore International Mediation Centre
P R. Seshadri	MD & CEO of South Indian Bank

### DAYS AND THEMES

Date	Day	Theme
1 <sup>st</sup> August	World Lung Cancer Day	
1 <sup>st</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> August	World Breastfeeding Week	Let's make breastfeeding and work, work!
1 <sup>st</sup> August	World Wide Web Day	
3 <sup>rd</sup> August	CLOVES (Congenital Lipomatous Overgrowth, Vascular Malformations, Epidermal Nevis, Spinal/Skeletal Anomalies/Scoliosis) Syndrome Day	
6 <sup>th</sup> August	Hiroshima Day	
7 <sup>th</sup> August	National Handloom Day	Handlooms for sustainable fashion
9 <sup>th</sup> August	Quit India Movement	
9 <sup>th</sup> August	International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	Indigenous youth as agents of change for self-determination
9 <sup>th</sup> August	World Nagasaki Day	
10 <sup>th</sup> August	World Biofuel Day	Biofuels for sustainability and Rural income. (Same as 2022)
10 <sup>th</sup> August	World Lion Day	
12 <sup>th</sup> August	World Elephant Day	Ending the Illegal Wildlife Trade
12 <sup>th</sup> August	International Youth Day	Green skills for youth: Towards a sustainable world
13 <sup>th</sup> August	World Organ Donation Day	Step up to volunteer; need more organ donors to fill the lacunae
14 <sup>th</sup> August	Independence Day of Pakistan	
15 <sup>th</sup> August	Independence Day of India	
15 <sup>th</sup> August	National Mourning Day of Bangladesh	
19 <sup>th</sup> August	Independence Day of Afghanistan	
19 <sup>th</sup> August	World Humanitarian Day	#No matter what
19 <sup>th</sup> August	World Photography Day	Landscapes
20 <sup>th</sup> August	World Mosquito Day	
20 <sup>th</sup> August	National Sadbhavana Diwas	
23 <sup>rd</sup> August	International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition	Fighting slavery's legacy of racism through transformative education
23 <sup>rd</sup> August	National Space Day of India	
26 <sup>th</sup> August	Women's Equality Day	
29 <sup>th</sup> August	National Sports Day	
29 <sup>th</sup> August	National Sports Day	
30 <sup>th</sup> August	National Small Industry Day	
31 <sup>st</sup> August	World Sanskrit Day	

### OBITUARIES (NATIONAL)

Name	Occupation/ Field
Vakkom Purushothaman	Politician
N Vittal	IAS officer
Copparam Shreyas Hareesh	13-year old racing prodigy
Namdeo Dhondo Mahanor	Marathi Poet
Siddique Ismail	Malayalam director and screenwriter
MRS Rao	Scientist
Mohammed Habib	Former India captain and legendary footballer
Prof Deven Dutta	Eminent educationist & social activist
Seema Deo	Marathi actress
Professor Bikash Sinha	Physicist
Bindeshwar Pathak	Indian sociologist and social entrepreneur
Dr. Vallampadugai Srinivasa Raghavan Arunachalam	Indian scientist and former head of Defence Research and Development Organisation
Jayanta Mahapatra	Poet

### OBITUARIES (INTERNATIONAL)

Name	Occupation/ Field
Ron Cephas Jones	Actor
John Devitt	Australian swimmer
William Friedkin	American director
Michael Parkinson	Renowned british chat show host / King of chats
Dr. John Warnock	Co-founder Adobe
Terry Funk	Wrestling icon and WWE hall of famer
Bray Wyatt	Wrestler

### BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Book	Name of the writer
Kargil: Ek Yatri Ki Jubani	Rishi Raj
Monsoon: A Poem of Love and Longing	Abhay Kumar
The Life, Vision and Songs of Kabir	Vipul Rakhi
Pitchside: My Life in Indian Cricket	Amrit Mathur
How Prime Ministers decide	Neerja Chowdhury

## RANKS AND INDICES

### India's tiger population estimates to 3,925 with an annual growth rate of 6.1% per annum

- India's tiger population is estimated to be 3,925 with an annual growth rate of 6.1% per annum.
- This was revealed in a report released by Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ashwini Kumar on the occasion of Global Tiger Day.
- Last year, during the celebration of 50 years of the Project Tiger at Mysuru, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared the minimum tiger population of 3167, which is the population estimated from the camera-trapped area.
- The further analysis of data done by the Wildlife Institute of India, from both camera-trapped and non-camera-trapped tiger presence areas, suggested that the upper limit of the tiger population is estimated to be 3,925 and the average number is 3,682 tigers, reflecting a commendable annual growth rate of 6.1% per annum.
- The largest population of tigers is found to be in Madhya Pradesh with 785 in numbers followed by 563 in Karnataka, 560 in Uttarakhand, and 444 tigers in Maharashtra.
- The tiger abundance within the Tiger Reserves is the highest of 260 tigers in Corbett followed by 150 in Bandipur and 141 tigers in Nagarhole.

### Reliance ranks 88 on Fortune Global 500 list

- Fortune Global 500 list has been released and eight Indian companies have been featured in the list.
- Notably, billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries has maintained its high rank, furthering another sixteen places. Reliance Industries is now ranked at number 88. Reliance Industries had been ranked at number 104 in the 2022 ranking and in the 2023 ranking it is placed at number 88.
- The other seven companies are – Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd, State Bank of India (SBI), Tata Motors, and Rajesh Exports.
- Fortune Global 500 list ranks companies by total revenues for their respective fiscal years ended on or

before 31 March 2023.

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

- Expressing confidence in the medium-term growth potential of the Indian economy, S&P Global projected an average annual growth of 6.7% from the fiscal year 2023–24 (FY24) to FY31, with capital accumulation as the main driver of this growth.
- In a report titled 'Look Forward: India's Moment', S&P predicted that India's gross domestic product (GDP) would nearly double to \$6.7 trillion by FY31 from \$3.4 trillion in FY23. This increase would correspond to a per capita GDP of around \$4,500.

### India ranks sixth in the South Asia region for Internet Resilience

- India achieved an overall score of 43% in the Internet Resilience Index (IRI), ranking sixth in the South Asian region. India's security is ranked above average, attributed to having the highest IPv6 (the newest Internet Protocol to accommodate growing networks) adoption globally.
- Countries like Bhutan (58%), Bangladesh (51%), Maldives (50%), Sri Lanka (47%), and Nepal (43%) are ahead of India in the IRI ranking.
- The report was released by the global non-profit organisation Internet Society.

### Srinagar tops in implementing JJM among Har Ghar Jal Certified Districts in India

- The Srinagar District has been ranked as the top performing District under Jal Jeevan Survekshan (JJS–2023) among 114 Har Ghar Jal Certified Villages across the Country in the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023.
- It has obtained the highest score of 83.0 under the set parameters and indicators of JJS–2023.
- The mission emphasizes regular and comprehensive testing of water sources such as bore wells, hand pumps, springs, and surface water bodies to assess their suitability for human consumption and the sources of all the villages have been tested successfully and meet the specific quality standards set by regulatory authorities.

## SPORTS NEWS

### **FIFA Women's World Cup 2023: Spain wins the title with 1-0 victory over England**

- Spain secured their first-ever Women's World Cup title with a 1-0 win over England at the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup final in Sydney.
- Captain Olga Carmona smashed the decisive goal as Spain defeated England 1-0 to lift the FIFA Women's World Cup title.
- This win has made Spain the first European team to win the Women's World Cup since Germany in 2007. In addition, Spain's victory makes them only the second nation to have won both the men's and the women's World Cups. The other nation is Germany, which won the men's World Cup in 1974 and 1990, and the women's World Cup in 2003 and 2007.

### **Diego Godin announces retirement from professional Football**

- Former Uruguay captain Diego Godin announced his retirement from professional football at the age of 37.
- Godin played in four World Cups and spent much of his club career in Spain, notably at Atlético Madrid from 2010 to 2019.
- He announced his retirement a day after his final appearance for Velez in a 1-0 loss to Huracan.

### **England all-rounder Moeen Ali confirms his retirement from Test Cricket after Ashes 2023**

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

### **Shooter Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar clinches Gold medal at FISU World University Games in Chengdu, China**

- Shooter Aishwarya Pratap Singh Tomar clinched a Gold medal for India on the second day of FISU World University Games in Chengdu, China.

- Olympian Tomar, competing in men's 50-meter rifle three positions, secured the top podium by scoring a total of 461.7 points in the final.
- Earlier, the Indian men's 25-meter pistol rapid-fire team of Vijayveer Sidhu, Udhayveer Sidhu and Adarsh Singh claimed silver. The Indian trio of Tomar, Sartaj Singh Tiwana and Surya Pratap Singh joined forces to secure Bronze in the men's 50-meter rifle 3 position team event.

### **Asian Champions Trophy: India clinches record fourth title in thrilling 4-3 win against Malaysia**

- India has clinched their record fourth Asian Men's Hockey Champions Trophy after a thrilling 4-3 against Malaysia.
- The finals was played at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium in Chennai. With four Asian Champions Trophy titles, India is the most successful team in the history of the tournament.

### **Leon Marchand breaks Michael Phelps' world record at Swimming Championships**

- Leon Marchand has broken Michael Phelps' world record in the men's 400-metre individual medley in a time of four minutes, 2.50 seconds.
- Phelps set the old record of 4:03.84 at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.
- Marchand is a 22-year-old French swimmer.

### **SAI launches short movie series 'Halla Bol' on journey of Asian Games bound athletes**

- 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 the Hangzhou Asian Games and spread awareness about the upcoming Asian Games.
- The initiative will not only motivate the athletes heading to Asian Games, but also youngsters of the country to take up sports. A similar movie series, 'Olympics ki Aasha,' was launched before the Tokyo Olympics.

### **BWF World Badminton Championships 2023: HS Prannoy settles for bronze medal**

- Indian badminton player HS Prannoy finished with a

bronze medal in the men's singles at the BWF World Badminton Championships 2023 held in Denmark.

- He lost to Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn to be ranked third.

#### **India's fastest woman athlete Dutee Chand gets 4-year ban for failing dope test; likely to challenge order'**

- India's fastest woman athlete Dutee Chand who has two Asian Games silver medals received a four-year ban from the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA).
- The international sprinter was provisionally suspended in January 2023 after the officials found 'anabolic agents/SARMS' in her urine samples. The substances are listed under the 'WADA's 2023 prohibited list of non-specified substances'.
- The ban on Dutee Chand will be effective from 3 January 2023 and the results of all her competitions will be scrapped from 5 December 2022- the day she took her first test. The athlete is not satisfied with the punishment and is expected to challenge the same.

#### **GM Gukesh D overtakes Anand to become highest ranked Indian chess player**

- Teenaged Grandmaster D Gukesh posted a win over home favourite Misratdin Iskandarov in a second-round match of the World Cup here on Tuesday and

overtook his idol Viswanathan Anand in live world (FIDE) rankings.

- The 17-year-old Gukesh outclassed Iskandarov of Azerbaijan in 44 moves in the second game of their second-round match.
- The latest gain of 2.5 rating points took Gukesh's live rating to 2755.9, while Anand's is 2754.0. As a result, Gukesh replaced Anand as the World No. 9 in live rankings while the five-time World champion slipped to 10<sup>th</sup>.
- Anand, who first made it to the World's top 10 in July 1991, has remained India's top-ranked player in all published lists since January 1987.

#### **World Archery Championships 2023: India wins historic gold medal**

- The Indian women's compound team of Jyothi Surekha Vennam, Aditi Swami and Parneet Kaur won the gold medal at the 2023 Berlin World Archery Championships beating Mexico 235–229 in the final.
- In the process, the trio became the first Indian women's compound team to carry the tag of world champions and ensured India opened its medal account in spectacular style – although in a non-Olympic compound discipline – in an otherwise underwhelming World Championships.

## EVENTS

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

- The First WHO Traditional Medicine Global Summit took place on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> August 2023 in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India.
- The theme of the summit was 'Towards Health and Well-being for All', to explore the role of traditional

complementary and integrative medicine in addressing pressing health challenges and driving progress in global health and sustainable development.

- WHO convened the Traditional Medicine Global Summit, co-hosted by the Ministry of AYUSH. It was the first-ever Global Summit on Traditional Medicine.

## AWARDS AND HONOURS

#### **Industrialist Ratan Tata conferred with Udyog Ratna award by Maha govt**

- Veteran industrialist Ratan Tata was conferred the first-ever Udyog Ratna award instituted by the Maharashtra government.
- The award was presented to the 85-year-old chairman

emeritus of Tata Sons by Chief Minister Eknath Shinde and Deputy CMs Devendra Fadnavis and Ajit Pawar at the industrialist's home in Colaba, south Mumbai.

- The honour comprised a shawl, a citation and a memento from the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC).



**69<sup>th</sup> National Film awards**

- The National Film Awards are organised annually by the Directorate of Film Festivals, under the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The 69<sup>th</sup> National Film Awards were announced across languages for

the calendar year 2021. Feature and non-feature films certified by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) between January 1, 2021, and December 31, 2021, were eligible for contention.

CATEGORY	WINNER
Best Feature Film	Rocketry
Best Actor	Allu Arjun, Pushpa
Best Actress	Alia Bhatt, Gangubai Kathiawadi and Kriti Sanon, Mimi
Best Supporting Actor	Pankaj Tripathi
Best Supporting Actress	Pallavi Joshi, The Kashmir Files
Best Child Artist	Bhavin Rabari, Chhello Show
Nargis Dutt Award for Best Film on National Integration	The Kashmir Files
Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment	RRR
Best Music Director (Songs)	Devi Prasad, Pushpa
Best Music Direction (Background Music)	MM Keeravaani, RRR
Best Male Playback Singer	Kaala Bhairava, RRR
Best Female Playback Singer	Shreya Ghoshal, Iravin Nizhal
Best Lyrics	Chandrabose, Konda Polam's Dham Dham Dham
Best Hindi Film	Sardar Udham
Best Choreography	Prem Rakshith, RRR
Best Cinematography	Avik Mukhopadhyay, Sardar Udham
Best Costume Designer	Veera Kapur Ee, Sardar Udham
Best Special Effects	Srinivas Mohan, RRR
Best Production Design	Dmitrii Malich and Mansi Dhruv Mehta, Sardar Udham
Best Editing	Sanjay Leela Bhansali, Gangubai Kathiawadi
Best Makeup	Preetisheel Singh, Gangubai Kathiawadi
Special Jury Award	Shershaah, Vishnuvardhan
Best Non-feature film	Ek Tha Gaon
Best Direction (Non-feature film)	Bakul Matiyani, Smile Please
Best Anthropological Film	Fire on the Edge
Best Arts Films	T.N. Krishnan Bow Strings to Divine
Best Book on Cinema	Music by Laxmikant Pyarelal: The Incredibly Melodious Journey by Rajiv Vijayakar
Best Film Critic	Purushothama Charyulu
Best Film Critic (Special Mention)	Subramanya Bandoor

### Greece confers Grand Cross of the Order of Honour on PM Modi

- Greece conferred the Grand Cross of the Order of Honour, the country's highest civilian order that can be awarded to a premier, on Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Narendra Modi is the first Indian premier to visit Greece in four decades. He is also the first foreign head of government to receive the honour.

### R. Ravi Kannan wins Ramon Magsaysay Award 2023 among others

- Oncologist Ravi Kannan, a recipient of India's fourth-highest civilian award Padma Shri and the director of Assam's Cachar Cancer Hospital and Research Centre (CCHRC), has been named one of the four winners of the 2023 Ramon Magsaysay Award, Asia's equivalent of the Nobel prize.
- He won the award for revolutionising the treatment of cancer in Assam through his people-centered and pro-poor programmes (offering free treatment, food, lodging, and employment for caregivers).
- Ramon Magsaysay Award was established in 1957 as Asia's highest honour and premier prize.
- It celebrates individuals who demonstrate exceptional spirit in serving the people of Asia, regardless of their background.

### Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) 2023

- IFFM Awards were held in Melbourne, Australia. They honoured the best of film and OTT content from India globally.

Category	Winner
Best Indie film	Agra
Best documentary	To Kill a Tiger
Best performance in film (Male)	Mohit Agarwal, Agra
Best performance in film (Female)	Rani Mukerji for Mrs. Chatterjee Vs Norway
Best Film	Sita Ramam
Best performance in film (Male) in a series	Vijay Varma for Dahaad
Best performance in film (Female) in a series	Rajshri Deshpande for Trial by Fire
Best series	Jubilee
Best short film – People's Choice	Connection Kya Hain by Nilesh Naik

- The award is presented annually on August 31, which coincides with the birthday of Ramon Magsaysay, the third president of the Republic of the Philippines, who inspired its creation.
- Awardees are presented with a certificate, a medallion with an embossed image of Ramon Magsaysay and a cash prize.

### Satyajit Majumdar honoured with Dr V G Patel Memorial Award 2023

- Mumbai Professor Satyajit Majumdar, dean of School of Management and Labour Studies from Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), has received the 'Dr V G Patel Memorial Award–2023 for Entrepreneurship Trainer, Educator and Mentor' for his work in promoting and strengthening entrepreneurship in India.
- Patel is widely acknowledged as the Father of the Entrepreneurship Movement in India.

### PM Narendra Modi conferred Lokmanya Tilak National Award in Pune, Maharashtra

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi was conferred the Lokmanya Tilak National Award in Pune, Maharashtra.
- The Award was constituted by Tilak Smarak Mandir Trust in 1983 to honor the legacy of Lokmanya Tilak. The Prime Minister donated the cash prize to the Namami Gange Project.