

## Advanced Educational Activities Pvt. Ltd.

### CURRENT AFFAIRS CAPSULE (AUGUST 2023)

#### INTERNATIONAL

##### **Myanmar extends a state of emergency for 6 more months.**

Myanmar's National Defence and Security Council (NDSC) has agreed to extend the country's state of emergency by six months. This move by the Junta is likely to delay the elections which it had pledged to hold by August this year.

##### **Myanmar Junta partially Pardoned Aung San Suu Kyi**

Former Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi has been pardoned in five of 19 charges brought against her by the military. The pardon, part of a seasonal amnesty, will reduce her 33-year jail sentence by six years.

##### **Trump charged in U.S. special counsel probe in efforts to overturn 2020 election.**

Former U.S. president Donald Trump was hit with criminal charges for a third time in four months - this time arising from efforts to overturn his 2020 U.S. election defeat - as he campaigns to regain the presidency next year.

##### **Indonesia bought 12 drones worth \$300 million from Turkey**

The Indonesian government bought 12 drones worth \$300 million from Turkish Aerospace to strengthen Indonesia's defence system. The purchase aims to increase the variety, quantity and quality of Indonesia's military defence equipment with the contract signed on Feb.

##### **PM Shahbaz Sharif announced dissolution of Pakistan National Assembly on August 9**

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif has announced the dissolution of the Pakistan National Assembly on August 9. On August 9, Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif sent a formal advice to the President of Pakistan for the dissolution of the National Assembly.

##### **Iran unveiled new vessels equipped with 600-km range missiles**

Amid rising tensions with the United States, Iran has unveiled new vessels equipped with 600-km range missiles. Iran's Revolutionary Guards' navy will operate the ship. Iran unveiled the vessel during a military exercise off the coast of Abu Musa Island.

##### **Ethiopia declared state of emergency amid Amhara clashes.**

Ethiopia's government has announced a state of emergency. This follows days of clashes between the federal security forces and local ethnic militia in the northern Amhara region.

##### **Jailed Russian opposition politician Navalny gets 19 more years in prison on series of new charges**

A Russian court convicted imprisoned opposition leader Alexei Navalny of extremism charges and sentenced him to 19 years in prison. Navalny is already serving a nine-year term on a variety of charges that he says were politically motivated.

##### **Cambodia electoral body confirmed Prime Minister Hun Sen's party as winner after final vote tally**

Cambodia's electoral body has announced the final results of last month's election, confirming a landslide victory for the ruling party of long-serving Prime Minister Hun Sen and a mandate for the next five years.

##### **India provides financial assistance of ₹45 crore to support Sri Lanka's digital identity project**

In a significant stride towards bolstering Sri Lanka's digital transformation, India has provided financial assistance of 45 crore rupees to support the island nation's unique digital identity project.

##### **Construction work of Indian Buddhist Culture and Heritage Centre starts in Lumbini, Nepal**

In Nepal, the construction work of the Indian Buddhist Culture and Heritage Centre has begun in Lumbini after Bhumi Pujan ceremony with special recitation by Buddhist monks.

##### **Sri Lanka President introduced plans for 13th Amendment and devolution of powers.**

Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe has reiterated his offer to the Tamils, of implementing the 13th Amendment without police powers, while proposing a "step by step" approach to devolving powers to the provinces.

##### **Biden issues an executive order restricting U.S. investment in Chinese technology.**

President Joe Biden signed an executive order to block and regulate high-tech U.S.-based investments going toward China— a move the administration said was targeted even though it reflected an intensifying competition between the world's two biggest powers.

##### **Armenia called for UN help on Nagorno-Karabakh's humanitarian situation.**

Armenia appealed to the UN Security Council to convene an emergency meeting over what it called a "deteriorating humanitarian situation" in Nagorno-Karabakh after accusing Azerbaijan of blocking supplies to the disputed region.

##### **Niger's coup leaders to prosecute deposed President**

Niger's coup leaders that toppled Mohamed Bazoum said that they would prosecute the deposed president for high treason and undermining the security of the country.

##### **India, China held 19th round of Corps Commander-level talks**

India and China held the 19th round of Corps Commander-level talks at Chushul as part of the ongoing efforts for overall disengagement and de-escalation to resolve the stand-off in eastern Ladakh.

##### **U.S. to send Ukraine new security aid worth \$200 million**

The United States said that it will send Ukraine new security assistance valued at \$200 million, including air defense munitions, artillery rounds, and additional mine-clearing equipment. The assistance will also include anti-armor capabilities.

**Georgia charges Former U.S. President Donald Trump**  
Former U.S. President Donald Trump has been charged with a set of criminal charges in the state of Georgia. A grand jury issued an indictment accusing him of efforts to overturn his 2020 election loss to Democrat Joe Biden.

**German govt okays 'controlled' use of cannabis**  
The German government has approved a draft law legalising the purchase and possession of cannabis for recreational use. The legislation would allow adults to possess up to 25 grams (0.9 ounces) of cannabis and grow up to three plants for personal use.

**Death toll from Hawaii's Maui island firestorm reached 106 with 1300 people missing**  
The death toll in the firestorm that destroyed Hawaii's Maui island, has reached 106 with 1300 people missing. Most of the people found dead had been out in the open, in cars or in the water in western Maui's hard-hit Lahaina area.

**300 Indians stranded in capital amid worsening security situation in country in Niger**  
In Niger, around 300 Indians are stranded in the capital amid the worsening security situation in the country. They are waiting to be evacuated by the Indian government. They have sent repeated pleas to the Indian Embassy in Niger.

**PM Modi attends BRICS summit in South Africa**  
Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited South Africa to attend the 15th BRICS Summit from August 22-24. This was the first in-person BRICS Summit since 2019. It will provide an opportunity to review progress of the initiatives launched by the grouping and identify future areas of activity.

**US approves transfer of F-16 fighter jets from Denmark and Netherlands to Ukraine**  
The US has approved the transfer of F-16 fighter jets from Denmark and the Netherlands to Ukraine. This marks a major milestone for Ukraine in the war against Russia as F-16 is widely considered one of the world's most reliable fighter jets.

**Greece reeling under severe conditions and several parts of country on high alert**  
Greece is reeling under severe conditions and several parts of the country are on high alert as extreme temperatures and high winds threaten to trigger more devastating wildfires. Currently enduring longest heatwave in history, Greece is battling with temperatures predicted to reach a staggering 50-year high.

**AU suspends Niger until 'the effective restoration of constitutional order'**  
The African Union has suspended Niger from all of its institutions and activities "until the effective restoration of constitutional order" following last month's coup.

**South Korea held first nationwide defence drills in six years amid North threats**  
South Korea held its first nationwide air defence drills in six years amid North Korea's growing nuclear and missile threats.

**Finland culled 120,000 fur animals after bird flu outbreak**  
Finland, Europe's largest producer of fox fur, is culling 1,20,000 farmed foxes and minks in response to bird flu outbreaks in the country's fur farms. H5N1 bird flu outbreaks in seagulls were reported in June and the first cases of infected fur farm animals were detected in Finland in July.

**North Korea's Second Attempt Spy Satellite Launch failed**  
North Korea's second attempt to put a spy satellite into space has failed, three months after its first launch crashed into the sea.

**BRICS expansion: PM Modi welcomes 6 new members**  
Prime Minister Narendra Modi has said that during the three-day BRICS Summit, a decision has been taken for the expansion of the five-member Bloc - Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa- BRICS. Mr Modi said that Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and UAE will now become full members of BRICS.

**Japan released water from Fukushima nuclear plant**  
Japan began releasing wastewater from the crippled Fukushima nuclear plant into the Pacific Ocean. The start of the discharge of around 540 Olympic swimming pools' worth of water over several decades is a big step in decommissioning the still highly dangerous site 12 years after one of the world's worst nuclear accidents.

**Denmark to ban Koran burnings.**  
Denmark said it plans to ban Koran burnings after a string of desecrations of Islam's holy book in the Scandinavian nation sparked anger in Muslim countries. The government will present a bill that will "prohibit the inappropriate treatment of objects of significant religious importance to a religious community".

**Sarkozy faces 2025 trial over alleged Libyan corruption**  
Former French president Nicolas Sarkozy will be tried in 2025 over allegations he took money from late Libyan dictator Moamer Kadhafi to fund one of his election campaigns, prosecutors said.

**India and Iran drop foreign arbitration clause in Chabahar port issue.**  
In a move aimed at boosting India-Iran commercial relations, Tehran and New Delhi have agreed to drop the clause for arbitration in foreign courts concerning the Chabahar port, which had been a hurdle for the framing of a long-term agreement around the facility.

**France to ban Muslim abaya dress in state schools**  
France will ban children from wearing the abaya, the loose-fitting, full-length robes worn by some Muslim women, in state-run schools, its education minister said ahead of the back-to-school season.

**Japanese armed forces and the US marines held joint Resolute Dragon drills**  
The Japanese armed forces and the US marines for the first time ever, conducted joint Resolute Dragon drills on the Taiwan-facing islands in the East China Sea in October.

**Thirty-four countries including India and US to participate in joint military exercise, BRIGHT STAR-23.**  
Indian Army contingent comprising 137 personnel has departed to Egypt to participate in military exercise BRIGHT STAR- 23. This military exercise is scheduled to be conducted from 31 August to 14 of next month at Mohammed Naguib Military Base in Egypt. BRIGHT STAR- 23 is a multinational tri-services joint military exercise that will be led by US CENTCOM and the Egyptian Army.

**California Assembly passed anti-caste discrimination bill**  
An anti-caste discrimination bill has been passed by the California State Assembly that seeks to combat caste discrimination and strengthen protections for marginalised communities across the State. The bill was passed by the Assembly on August 28.

### **Gabon military officers declared coup**

Military officers in Gabon declared they were seizing power from President Ali Bongo Ondimba in a coup on 30 August 2023. Men in army uniform appeared on national television and announced that the Gabon President had been placed under house arrest during the military takeover.

### **India receives anti-tank Spike NLOS missiles from Israel.**

The Indian Air Force (IAF) received the Spike Non Line of Sight (NLOS) anti-tank guided missiles from Israel to strengthen its capabilities to destroy enemy targets hidden behind mountains. The NLOS missiles will now be integrated with the Russian-origin fleet of Mi-17V5 helicopters.

### **Australia all set to hold landmark national referendum on Oct 14**

Australia is all set to hold a landmark national referendum in October to recognize the country's Indigenous people in its constitution. More than 17 million registered voters across the country will vote on October 14 to decide whether to amend the Constitution, in order to establish a new advisory body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

## **NATIONAL**

### **India becomes first nation to reach South Pole of Moon**

India's third lunar mission Chandrayaan-3 successfully landed on the Moon on August 23. With this historic feat, India has become the first country to land near the Moon's south pole and also the fourth country to land on the Moon after the United States, the former Soviet Union, and China.

### **SC sets up three-member Committee to focus on relief & rehabilitation in violence-affected Manipur**

The Supreme Court of India has announced a three-member Committee comprising of former women High Court Judges and 42 Special Investigation Teams in relation to the Manipur violence cases to restore a sense of faith in the rule of law and build a sense of confidence.

### **Central Water Commission launched FloodWatch mobile app for real-time flood forecast situations**

A FloodWatch mobile app has been launched by Central Water Commission for real time flood forecast situations across the country. The app aims to disseminate information related to the flood situation and forecasts for up to seven days on a real-time basis.

### **GI tags for Goan mangoes and bebinca, crafts from Rajasthan and U.P.**

Seven products from across India, including four from Rajasthan, were given the Geographical Indication (GI) tag by the Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai. The GI tags were secured by 'Jalesar Dhatu Shilp' (a metal craft), 'Goa Mankurad Mango', 'Goan Bebinca', 'Udaipur Koftgari Metal Craft', 'Bikaner Kashidakari Craft', 'Jodhpur Bandhej Craft', and 'Bikaner Usta Kala Craft'.

### **Parliament passes Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill 2023**

Parliament has passed the Biological Diversity (Amendment) Bill 2023. The bill seeks to promote research on medicinal plants, encourage the production of plant-based medicines and benefit the local persons involved in use of forest produce.

### **Lok Sabha passed Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2023**

The Lok Sabha passed the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Bill, 2023. The Bill seeks to amend the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 which

provides for the regulation and registration of births and deaths. The Act provides for the appointment of a Registrar-General, India who may issue directions for registration of births and deaths.

### **Rajya Sabha passes The Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2023**

The Rajya Sabha passed The Multi-State Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2023. It amends the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 2002. It establishes the Co-operative Election Authority to conduct and supervise elections to the boards of multi-state co-operative societies. The Bill allows state co-operative societies to merge into an existing multi-state co-operative society.

### **LS passes Offshore Areas Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill**

Lok Sabha passed the Offshore Areas Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill. The Bill amends the Offshore Areas Mineral (Development and Regulation) Act, 2002. The new bill regulates mining in maritime zones of India. It allows the government to reserve offshore areas that are not held under any operating right.

### **Rajya Sabha passed Mediation Bill 2021**

Rajya Sabha passed the Mediation Bill 2021. The Bill requires persons to try to settle civil or commercial disputes through mediation before approaching any court or tribunal. As per the bill, a party may withdraw from mediation after two mediation sessions..

### **LS passed National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill 2023**

Lok Sabha passed the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill 2023. The Bill seeks to amend the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act 1991. It empowers the Central Government to make rules in connection with the affairs of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

### **Justice Rohini panel on OBC sub-categorisation submitted report after 14 extensions**

The Justice G. Rohini-headed Commission for the sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes (OBC) caste groups has submitted its report on the issue to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, nearly six years after the Union government first assigned the task to it.

### **NHA announces extension of its Digital Health Incentives Scheme till December 31, 2023**

The National Health Authority (NHA) has announced extension of its Digital Health Incentives Scheme (DHIS) under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) till December 31, 2023.

### **Indore best city, Madhya Pradesh top State in Smart Cities contest**

Indore has been adjudged the best Smart City while Madhya Pradesh has been chosen as the top State for exemplary performance in the Smart Cities Mission. Surat and Agra are the second and third-place winners among cities, while Tamil Nadu is the second in the State category followed by Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh in the India Smart Cities Award Contest (ISAC), 2022.

### **2.46 lakh farmers have been benefitted from PM-KUSUM Scheme, said govt**

The Union government has said that nearly 2.46 lakh farmers have been benefitted from the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan, PM-KUSUM Scheme. The scheme provides for installation of solar pumps, solarization of existing grid-connected agricultural pumps and installation of grid connected renewable power plants.

**Centre formed expert panel to revise anti-discrimination norms in higher universities.**

The Union Education Ministry has now constituted an expert committee to revisit its regulations and guidelines on anti-discrimination with respect to the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Other Backward Classes, Persons with Disabilities, and other minorities in higher educational institutions.

**Govt allocated ₹1,39,579 crore to extend Bharat Net in 6.40 lakh villages.**

The Centre has allocated 1,39,579 crore rupees to extend Bharat Net in 6.40 lakh villages across the country. The Communications Ministry said that the extension project of the Bharat Net will be achieved in nearly two year.

**Home Minister launches digital portal of Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies office in Pune**

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah has launched the digital portal of the Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies office in Pune. The Ministry of Cooperation said that the main objectives of computerization of the Central Registrar's Office are Completely paperless application, Automatic compliance to Multi State Co-operative Societies Act (MSCS Act).

**PM Modi laid foundation stone for redevelopment of 508 railway stations under Amrit Bharat Station Scheme across India**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has laid the foundation stone for the redevelopment of 508 railway stations at a cost of over 24 thousand 470 crore rupees under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme across the country through video conferencing.

**Special art exhibition dedicated to G-20 member countries held in Bihar.**

Special art exhibition dedicated to G-20 member countries was held in the Bihar Museum, Patna. The title of the two-month-long exhibition is Together We Art and it will conclude on 7th October 2023. 29 countries including India are participating in the exhibition.

**Lok Sabha membership of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi restored**

The Lok Sabha secretariat has restored the Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's membership in the Lower House. The decision was taken after the supreme court stayed Mr. Gandhi's conviction in a criminal defamation case. Mr. Gandhi is a Lok Sabha member from Wayanad constituency in Kerala.

**Lok Sabha passed Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023**

The Lok Sabha has passed the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023. The Bill has provisions for processing digital personal data in a manner that recognizes both the right of individuals to protect their personal data and the need to process such personal data for lawful purposes.

**France sets target of facilitating entry of 30 thousand Indian students by 2030.**

In a major push to Indian students and alumni, France has announced new initiatives to bolster academic excellence, cultural understanding, and long-lasting friendship between the two nations. This comes as Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently visited France as Chief Guest on the country's Bastille Day.

**Rajya Sabha passes Inter-Services Organisation (Command, Control, and Discipline) Bill – 2023**

Parliament has passed the Inter-Services Organisation (Command, Control and Discipline) Bill - 2023 with Rajya Sabha approving it. The Bill empowers the Officer-in-

Command of Inter-services Organisations to exercise disciplinary and administrative control over the service personnel under their command, irrespective of their service.

**Rajya Sabha passes Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Bill, 2023**

Parliament has passed the Indian Institutes of Management (Amendment) Bill, 2023 with Rajya Sabha approving it. The Bill seeks to further amend the Indian Institutes of Management Act, 2017. The bill declares Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) as institutes of national importance.

**Rajya Sabha passes National Nursing and Midwifery Commission Bill 2023**

Parliament has passed the National Nursing and Midwifery Commission Bill 2023 with Rajya Sabha approving it. The Bill provides for the regulation and maintenance of standards of education and services by nursing and midwifery professionals.

**Dr. P.K. Mishra chaired 7th meeting of Coordination Committee on India's G20 Presidency**

Principal Secretary to Prime Minister, Dr. P.K. Mishra chaired the seventh meeting of the Coordination Committee on India's G20 Presidency at Bharat Mandapam in Pragati Maidan New Delhi. The meeting covered Summit preparedness in substantive as well as logistical aspects.

**CBSE makes Health and Physical Education compulsory in all classes from 1 to XII**

The Union government has informed that Yoga is recommended as an integral part of Health and Physical Education. In a written reply in Lok Sabha, Union Minister of state for Education Annapurna Devi said that CBSE has made Health and Physical Education compulsory in all classes from 1 to XII.

**Nationwide Meri Mati Mera Desh Campaign launched.**

The nationwide Meri Mati Mera Desh Campaign was launched on August 9 to pay tribute to the bravehearts who laid down their lives for the country. The campaign will continue till the 30th of this month.

**India, Vietnam held 5th Joint Trade Sub-Commission meeting**

The 5th meeting of India-Vietnam Joint Trade Sub-Commission JTSC was held in New Delhi. Vietnam is the 23rd largest global trade partner of India and the 5th largest among ASEAN countries with bilateral trade of 14.70 Billion dollars during 2022-23.

**Rajya Sabha passes Coastal Aquaculture Authority (Amendment) Bill 2023**

Parliament has passed the Coastal Aquaculture Authority (Amendment) Bill, 2023, which aims to decriminalise the offences committed in carrying out coastal aquaculture activities and ensure ease of doing business.

**Indian GPS NavIC to link to Aadhaar enrolment devices**

The Navigation with Indian Constellation or (NavIC), which consists of seven satellites and India's version of the American GPS (global positioning system), will soon be integrated into Aadhaar enrolment devices, the Department of Space (DoS) told the Parliamentary Committee of Science and Technology.

**Bill moved to remove CJI from panel to select Election Commissioners**

The Union government has introduced a Bill removing the Chief Justice of India (CJI) from a panel to select the

Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners. Instead of the CJ, the three-member panel would now consist of a Cabinet Minister besides the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Prime Minister who would head it.

**IIT-Delhi set to launch Abu Dhabi campus in January**  
IIT-Delhi Director Rangan Banerjee said their plan to develop a new campus at Abu Dhabi has come to fruition, with the institute conducting outreach programmes in the UAE ahead of its January 2024 launch.

**J&K's surrender of sovereignty to India was 'absolutely complete', said Supreme Court**  
Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, heading a Constitution Bench hearing petitions challenging the abrogation of Article 370, said Jammu and Kashmir ceded its sovereignty to the Dominion of India "absolutely and completely".

**Central Government advised Indian nationals to leave Niger**  
The Central Government has advised Indian nationals to leave Niger. Spokesperson in the Ministry of External Affairs Arindam Bagchi urged the Indian nationals to register themselves with the Indian Embassy in Niamey urgently.

**Centre to overhaul British-era IPC, CrPC, Evidence Act**  
The Union Home Minister introduced three bills in the Lok Sabha that aim to repeal and replace the Indian Penal Code (IPC), the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), and the Indian Evidence Act, which were enacted during the British rule in India.

**CJI Chandrachud launched QR code-based ePass for entry at SC**  
Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y Chandrachud unveiled the 'SuSwagatam' portal. This innovative platform offers a convenient way for advocates, litigants, and citizens to secure QR code-based ePasses, granting them entry to the esteemed halls of the Supreme Court.

**MBBS in Hindi along with English from next academic session in Uttarakhand**  
Medical courses in Uttarakhand will be taught in English as well as Hindi from the next academic session, State Medical Education Minister Dhan Singh Rawat has said.

**T.N. sets up panel to suggest steps to stamp out caste differences among students**  
Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has appointed retired Madras High Court judge K. Chandru as the one-man committee to advise the government on measures to eliminate caste and racial differences among students in educational institutions.

**Nyoma advanced landing ground in eastern Ladakh being upgraded to handle fighter jets**  
As part of the continuing infrastructure development along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), work on the expansion of the Advanced Landing Ground (ALG) at Nyoma in eastern Ladakh commenced.

**LCA Tejas successfully test-fired Astra Beyond Visual Range air-to-air missile**  
The Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas successfully fired the Astra indigenous Beyond Visual Range (BVR) air-to-air missile off the coast of Goa. The missile release was successfully carried out from the aircraft at an altitude of about 20,000 ft.

**Chandrayaan-3's landing spot on Moon to be known as Shiv Shakti point**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced that the point where the Moon lander of Chandrayaan-3 touched down will now be known as Shiv Shakti and the point where the Chandrayaan-2 left its footprints will now be called Tiranga

**Chandrayaan-3's Pragyan rover confirmed presence of sulphur in lunar surface near south pole**  
ISRO has said the Pragyan rover's Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy confirmed the presence of sulphur in the lunar surface near the south pole, through the first-ever in-situ measurements. It also detected Aluminium, Calcium, Ferrous (Iron), Chromium, Titanium, Manganese, Silicon and Oxygen as expected.

**NCERT formed 19-member panel for textbooks revision**  
The Union Education Ministry notified the formation of a committee that will prepare new textbooks for Classes 3 to 12 under the National Education Policy (NEP). Noted children's author Sudha Murthy, celebrated singer Shankar Mahadevan and Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (EAC-PM) Chairman Bibek Debroy are among the newly formed 19-member committee of National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)

**Har Ghar Tiranga campaign kicked-off**  
The Har Ghar Tiranga campaign aimed at bolstering a sense of patriotism within citizens kicked off. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has urged the people to take part in the movement which will continue till 15th August.

**Tamil Nadu moves SC for immediate release of Cauvery water by Karnataka**  
The Tamil Nadu government moved the Supreme Court seeking a direction to Karnataka to forthwith release 24,000 cusecs of Cauvery water from its reservoirs, at Biligundlu for the remaining period of the month, starting from August 14.

**Himachal rain fury: death toll climbed to 57**  
The death toll in the rain fury in Himachal Pradesh rose to 57. Heavy rains have battered Himachal Pradesh since Sunday, triggering landslides in Shimla's Summer Hill, Krishna Nagar and Fagli.

**Cabinet approves ₹13,000 crore for PM Vishwakarma scheme.**  
The Central Government has approved PM Vishwakarma scheme to support traditional artisans and craftspeople of rural and urban India with a financial outlay of 13 thousand crore rupees. The new Central Sector Scheme aims to strengthen and nurture the family-based practice of traditional skills by artisans and craftspeople working with their hands and tools.

**Over 10.16 crore people uploaded selfies with Tiranga under Har Ghar Tiranga campaign**  
Over ten crore 16 lakh people uploaded selfies with Tiranga under the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign. The three-day campaign began on the 13th of this month and aimed at bolstering a sense of patriotism among citizens.

**President Murmu launches country's stealth warship 'INS Vindhyagiri' in Kolkata**  
President Droupadi Murmu launched India's newest warship 'INS Vindhyagiri' at the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd's (GRSE) facility in Kolkata. Named after the mountain range in Karnataka, the advanced stealth frigate INS Vindhyagiri is the sixth ship of the Project 17A Frigates.

### **Cabinet approves MoU on Cooperation in Sports between India and Australia**

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

### **Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurates India's first 3D printed post office building in Bengaluru.**

Union Minister of Railways, Communications and IT minister Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated India's first 3D printed post office building in Bengaluru. The post office building in Bengaluru used 3D printing technology with technical know-how from IIT Madras and L&T.

### **Centre notifies Indian Green Hydrogen Standard under National Green Hydrogen Mission**

The Government has notified the Green Hydrogen Standard for India in a significant move for the progress of the National Green Hydrogen Mission. The standard, issued by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, outlines the emission thresholds that must be met in order for hydrogen produced to be classified as Green, that is from renewable sources.

### **G20 Health Ministers' Meeting concludes with unanimous adoption of Outcome Document**

The G20 Health Minister's Meeting at Gujarat's Gandhinagar witnessed the unanimous adoption of The Outcome Document, agreed to by all G20 delegations. The Outcome Document reaffirmed the commitment of G20 countries to continue strengthening the Global Health.

### **4-Day Y20 Summit concludes in Varanasi**

The four-day Youth 20 Summit- 2023 has concluded on 20th August 2023 with the unanimous adoption of the Y20 Communiqué. The Y20 Summit was held at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh. The Youth 20 (Y20) Summit was organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports under the framework of India's G20 Presidency.

### **Centre approves advance of ₹200 cr to flood-hit Himachal Pradesh.**

The Central Government has granted 200 crore rupees as an advance from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to the Himachal Pradesh Government. This aid aims to support relief measures during the current monsoon season.

### **LS Speaker inaugurates 9th India Region Conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in Udaipur**

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla inaugurates the ninth India Region Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association in Udaipur. The theme of the two-day conference is 'Strengthening Democracy and Good Governance in the Digital Age'.

### **1st FOC between India and Samoa held in Apia**

The 1st Foreign Office Consultations FOC between India and Samoa was held in Apia. Both sides discussed their wide-ranging bilateral relations including their development partnership.

### **G20 Pandemic Fund approves 25-million-dollar grant for strengthening Animal Health System in India**

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

### **27th edition of multilateral naval exercise Malabar 2023 concludes in Sydney, Australia**

The 27th edition of the multilateral naval exercise Malabar 2023 concluded in Sydney, Australia. The exercise saw the participation of Ships, Submarines, and aircraft from the Indian Navy, Royal Australian Navy, Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force, and the US Navy.

### **India welcomed consensus-based approach to expand BRICS: PM**

India welcomes the expansion of the BRICS grouping through a consensus-based approach, Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared in Johannesburg. Addressing the plenary session of the 15th BRICS summit in the historic South African city, the PM urged member States to take advantage of India's digital solutions and to work for the welfare of the Global South.

### **PM Modi, South African President Ramaphosa discussed regional & multilateral issues**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a bilateral meeting with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa during which they reviewed the progress made in bilateral ties, exchanged views on regional and multilateral issues and also on ways to work jointly to strengthen the voice of the Global South.

### **India entered into bilateral collaboration with five countries to conduct research in traditional medicines and study best practices**

In an effort to expand the scope and work of Indian Systems of Traditional Medicine, India has entered into a bilateral collaboration with five countries — Nepal, Cuba, Malaysia, Venezuela, and Qatar — to share best practices and benefit from the work going on here in this field.

### **Government launches Tele-Law - 2.0**

Centre launched Tele-Law - 2.0 that Integrates Tele-Law and Nyaya Bandhu App to ensure access to Justice. Law and Justice Ministry said, this will enable the common citizen to access legal advice, legal assistance and legal representation through a single registration and single gateway of Tele-Law.

### **DAC approves proposals worth 7,800 crore rupees to enhance operational capabilities of Armed Forces**

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for capital acquisition proposals worth approximately 7,800 crore rupees in a meeting chaired by Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh.

### **India and Greece to upgrade ties to become strategic partners**

India and Greece have agreed to upgrade bilateral ties to the level of strategic partnership. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said two countries will collaborate in the field of defence industry and will soon conclude an agreement on migration mobility to smoothen movement of skilled population of both sides.

### **Defence Ministry signs ₹19,000-crore contract with HSL for five fleet support ships**

The Defence Ministry has signed a contract with Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. (HSL), Visakhapatnam, for the acquisition of five fleet support ships (FSS) for the Indian Navy at an approximate cost of ₹19,000 crore

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

Having bagged the first WHO Centre for Global Traditional Medicine, to be set up in Gujarat, India is now all set to open a climate change and health hub in the national capital in partnership with the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

### **Five MiG-29 jets of IAF participating in mega war game in Egypt**

The Indian Air Force (IAF) deployed five MiG-29 combat jets, six transport aircraft and a group of its special forces personnel at a 21-day multilateral war game in Egypt. The biennial Tri-Services exercise, Bright-Star, is taking place at Cairo (West) Air Base and it is being participated by militaries of the U.S., Saudi Arabia, Greece and Qatar besides of the host country and India.

### **India hand over B20 presidency to Brazil**

India has handed over the B20 presidency to Brazil to host G20 in 2024. B20 India Chair N Chandrasekaran said that India's B20 Presidency under its G20 Presidency worked under the theme of Vasaudeva Katumbakam (One Earth, One Family, One Future).

### **Compilation of Modi's speeches released in two volumes**

Union Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan released a two-volume book Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas in Bhopal.

### **India, Kenya agree to deepen cooperation in maritime security**

India and Kenya have agreed to deepen cooperation in maritime security in the Indian Ocean region and joint training in counter insurgency.

### **India and New Zealand signed a MoU to boost cooperation in civil aviation**

India and New Zealand have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to boost cooperation in civil aviation. This will cover the scheduling of new routes, code share services, traffic rights and capacity.

### **Government reduces prices of domestic LPG Cylinder by ₹200 for all consumers**

Centre has decided to reduce the price of domestic LPG cylinders by 200 rupees for all the consumers. The Minister said, the benefit now stands at 400 rupees per LPG cylinder for the Ujjawala beneficiaries. He said government will provide 75 lakh new free LPG connections under Ujjawala scheme.

### **Nitin Gadkari launches world's first 100% Ethanol-fueled car in New Delhi**

In a major move towards reducing carbon dioxide emission and improving fuel efficiency in vehicles, Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari launched the world's first 100 percent Ethanol-fueled car in New Delhi.

### **India to host first edition of Global India AI 2023 Conference in October**

India is going to host the first edition of Global India AI 2023 Conference in October this year. It will provide a unique platform for deliberation on various topics including next-generation learning and foundational artificial intelligence models, AI applications in healthcare, governance, electric vehicles, and computing systems.

### **Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment inks MoU with NSKFDC**

Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has inked an MoU with the National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) to enhance the socio-economic upliftment of Safai Karamcharis, manual scavengers, waste pickers and their dependents focusing on their empowerment across the nation.

## **BANKING & ECONOMY**

### **Sri Lanka's key inflation rate nearly halves to 6.3%**

Sri Lanka's key inflation rate nearly halved to 6.3% in July from 12% last month. This is the first instance where inflation has dropped to single digits in over a year since the crisis hit Indian Ocean Island.

### **At 8.2%, core sectors' growth hits 5-month high in June**

India's core sectors' output surged 8.2% in June, the fastest pace in five months, buoyed by a 21.9% spike in steel output and nearly double-digit rise in coal and cement production.

### **Soon, AI will let you make a UPI payment using voice**

In a move to make United Payments Interface (UPI) more user-friendly and to increase its popularity, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has proposed incorporating Artificial Intelligence-powered conversational features on UPI, to enable digital payments through voice commands.

### **SBI raised ₹10,000 crore through infra bond issue**

State Bank of India (SBI) had raised ₹10,000 crore at a coupon rate of 7.54% through its third infrastructure bond issuance. The proceeds from the bonds would be utilised in enhancing long-term resources for funding infrastructure and the affordable housing segment.

### **Jana Small Finance Bank filed for IPO**

Jana Small Finance Bank has filed a Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) with the Securities and Exchange Board of India for an Initial Public Offering (IPO). The company plans to raise funds through offer of equity shares with a face value of ₹10 each comprising fresh issue aggregating up to ₹575 crore.

### **U.S. biggest export destination for Indian smartphones**

India exported \$2.43 billion worth of smartphones in April-May this fiscal, driven by a multifold jump in shipments to the U.S. which emerged as the biggest destination for India-made devices. The US was followed by the UAE the Netherlands, the U.K. (\$151.33 million), Italy (\$136.57 million).

### **Top 50 willful defaulters owe ₹87,295 crore of SCBs**

The top 50 willful defaulters of the country owe 87,295 crore rupees of scheduled commercial banks. On the other hand, banks have written off an aggregate amount of more than 10 lakh 57 thousand crore rupees during the last five financial years.

### **Over 14.83 lakh accounts opened under MSSCS**

Over 14 lakh 83 thousand accounts have been opened under the Mahila Samman Savings Certificate Scheme with total deposits of over eight thousand crore rupees.

### **Brookfield Asset Management, RIL sign MoU to explore renewable opportunities in Australia**

Brookfield Asset Management and Reliance Industries Ltd had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to explore opportunities to manufacture renewable energy and decarbonization equipment in Australia.

### **Government restricts import of laptop, computers**

India has restricted imports of laptops, tablets and personal computers with immediate effect in a bid to push local manufacturing.

### **Temasek to invest ₹1,200 crore in Mahindra's passenger EV company MEAL**

Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. and global investment firm Temasek have executed a binding agreement whereby Temasek would invest ₹1200 crore into Mahindra Electric Automobile Limited (MEAL).

### **Morgan Stanley upgrades India's markets to Overweight category**

Brokerage firm, Morgan Stanley, has upgraded its view on India's markets to overweight from equal weight, predicting a 'long wave boom' ahead. The brokerage firm believes that India's reform and macro-stability agenda supports a strong capex and profit outlook.

### **Ambuja Cements acquires majority stake in Sanghi Industries**

Gautam Adani-owned Ambuja Cements Ltd. announced the acquisition of a majority stake in Sanghi Industries at an enterprise value of ₹5,000 crore, in a first major deal since Adani Group was rocked by allegations of financial misconduct by Hindenburg Research.

### **Government of India elevated Oil India Limited to Maharatna category**

The Centre has upgraded petroleum sector central public sector enterprise (CPSE) Oil India Ltd (OIL) to Maharatna, taking the number of Maharatnas to 13. Meanwhile, Oil and Natural Gas Company (ONGC) Videsh has been elevated to the status of Navaratna Company.

### **IRDAI allowed insurers to hold HDFC investments till maturity**

Insurance regulator IRDAI has clarified that bonds/debentures held by insurers in the erstwhile HDFC under the 'housing and infrastructure' category as on April 4, 2022, when the merger of the mortgage lender with HDFC Bank was announced, will be treated as investments in the same category till maturity of the respective instruments.

### **Individuals reporting annual income of above ₹1 crore doubles in 2 years to 1.69 lakh**

Individuals reporting annual total income of over ₹1 crore have doubled to 1.69 lakh in the two-year period ending March 2022. As per the tax return data filed in assessment year (AY) 2022-23, relating to income earned in fiscal 2021-22, 1,69,890 individuals have shown total income of above ₹1 crore.

### **SEBI mandated FPIs to carry 10% of corp bonds trades via RFQ platform.**

In order to boost liquidity, SEBI mandated foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to place at least 10% of their trades in corporate bonds through the Request For Quote (RFQ) platform of stock exchanges. The requirement will come into force from October 1.

### **Drone maker Dhaksha Unmanned Systems bagged order from Indian Army**

Fertiliser maker Coromandel International's subsidiary Dhaksha Unmanned Systems, which manufactures drones, has bagged an order to supply 200 medium altitude logistics drones and accessories to the Indian Army.

### **Indian auto-component industry clocked highest-ever turnover of ₹5.6 lakh crore in FY23**

The Indian auto-component industry clocked the highest-ever turnover of ₹5.6 lakh crore (\$69.7 billion), and grew 32.8% in fiscal 2022-23, reported Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA), the apex body representing the sector.

### **NIIT Learning Systems gets listed on BSE, NSE**

NIIT Learning Systems Ltd., which offers Managed Training Services to 'Fortune 1000 and Global 500 corporations' across North America and Europe, got listed on the Bombay Stock Exchange and the National Stock Exchange.

### **Centre to sell 50 lakh tonnes of wheat and 25 lakh tonnes of rice in open market to stabilize retail price**

The Union Government will sell 50 lakh tonnes of wheat and 25 lakh tonnes of rice in the open market to check retail prices. Food Corporation of India will sell wheat and rice in the open market in a phased manner under Open Market Sale Scheme through E-auction.

### **Airtel Payments Bank became First Indian Bank to Launch Eco-Friendly Debit Card**

Airtel Payments Bank becomes the first Indian Bank to launch eco-friendly debit card for its new and existing customers with a savings bank account. The launch comes in alignment with the Bank's commitment to sustainability and promoting eco-friendly practices within the financial sector.

### **SEBI looks to introduce disclosure requirements for unlisted companies.**

Capital markets regulator SEBI is looking to introduce disclosure requirements for unlisted companies, which are part of a business conglomerate. While listed entities are subject to comprehensive disclosure requirements, the same levels of disclosure requirements are not applicable for unlisted companies.

### **MPC holds rates, raises FY24 inflation forecast to 5.4%**

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of India decided unanimously to keep the policy repo rate unchanged at 6.5% even as it raised the projection for retail inflation in the current fiscal year by 30 basis points to 5.4%.

### **India-Japan looks to restart trilateral cooperation with Sri Lanka**

More than two years after Sri Lanka cancelled a joint India-Japan MoU for the East Container Terminal (ECT) project in Colombo, the three countries are studying ways of restarting trilateral cooperation, said envoys at a conference in Delhi.

### **Parliament paved way for 28% GST on online gaming**

The Parliament cleared amendments to the Goods and Services Tax laws to facilitate the levy of 28% GST on the face value of all bets made in casinos, horse-racing and online gaming.

### **Direct tax collections rose 17.33% as of August 10**

India's net direct tax collections had risen 17.33% as of August 10, with a kitty of ₹5.84 lakh crore that constitutes 32.03% of the total Budget Estimates from direct taxes in 2023-24.

### **Reliance Jio completes work related to connecting Maldives with High Speed Optic Fibre cable**

Reliance Jio has completed the work related to connecting Maldives with a High-Speed Optic Fibre cable. A ceremony was held in Hulhumale in Maldives to land the Ocean Connect Maldives-India Asia Express (OCM-IX) Submarine Cable System.

### **Foxconn gets board nod for USD 400 million investment in Telangana.**

Leading contract manufacturer of electronics globally Foxconn, which operates through multiple entities, has announced board approval for a \$400 million investment in Telangana, the southern State where in May it broke ground for a \$500 million manufacturing facility.

### **Retail inflation surged from 4.87% to 7.44%**

Retail inflation resurged in July to hit 7.44% from 4.87% in June, with consumers facing a sharp 11.5% spike in food prices.

### **India's imports from Russia doubled to \$20.45 billion in April-July**

India's imports from Russia doubled to \$20.45 billion during the April-July period of this fiscal due to increasing inbound shipments of crude oil and fertilizer from that country.



### **Infosys, Liberty Global ink \$1.6-bn deal to scale digital entertainment, connectivity platforms**

Us based Broadband and communications company Liberty Global and IT services firm Infosys announced expanding their collaboration to scale Liberty Global's digital entertainment and connectivity platforms in a multi-year deal valued at €1.5 billion (about \$1.63 billion).

### **Banks' lending to NBFCs jumps 35% to ₹14.2 lakh cr. In June**

Banks' lending to non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) rose by 35.1% to ₹14.2 lakh crore in June. Credit exposure of banks to NBFCs rose by a robust 35.1% year-on-year to ₹14.2 lakh crore in June, indicating non-banking finance firms' decreased reliance on international borrowings.

### **Citi appoints Gunjan Kalra as Asia Pacific Head of CCB**

Citi has announced the appointment of Gunjan Kalra as Asia Pacific Head of Citi Commercial Bank (CCB). She will be assuming her role on September 1.

### **Cricket Australia ropes in HCLTech for digital transformation**

HCLTech has been chosen by Cricket Australia (CA), the national governing body for the game in Australia, for the next phase of CA's digital transformation.

### **RBI unveils UDGM portal for search of unclaimed deposits**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) unveiled a Centralised Web Portal UDGM (Unclaimed Deposits – Gateway to Access inforMation) which been developed for use by members of public to facilitate and make it easier for them to search their unclaimed deposits across multiple banks at one place.

### **RBI issues fresh guidelines asking banks, NBFCs not to levy penal interest on borrowers in case of default**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued fresh guidelines to the Regulated Entities (REs) such as commercial and other banks, Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) and other lenders to ensure reasonableness and transparency in disclosure of penal interest.

### **Cabinet approves MRA of Authorized Economic Operators between India and Australia**

The Government of India has approved the Mutual Recognition Arrangement of Authorised Economic Operators between India and Australia. The arrangement is aimed at providing reciprocal benefits to accredited and trusted exporters of both the signatories in the clearance of goods by the Customs authorities of the importing country.

### **Logistics firm Xpressbees acquires Trackon**

Blackstone portfolio company Xpressbees, a logistics services provider, has acquired Trackon, a transportation and delivery company for an unspecified amount.

### **Jan Dhan's accounts cross 50 crore mark**

The total number of Jan Dhan accounts has crossed the 50-crore mark. The Finance Ministry said, out of these accounts 56 per cent of accounts belong to women and 67 per cent of accounts have been opened in Rural and Semi-urban areas. The deposits in these accounts are more than two lakh crore rupees.

### **China's real estate giant Evergrande filed for US bankruptcy protection**

Chinese property giant Evergrande has filed for bankruptcy protection in the US amid a deepening real estate crisis in China. It will allow the heavily indebted company to protect its assets in the US as it works on a multi-billion dollar deal with creditors.

### **RBI asked banks to provide individual borrowers option to switch over to fixed rates at time of reset of interest rates**

The Reserve Bank of India, RBI, asked banks to provide fixed interest rate options to individual borrowers. The decision was expected to provide relief to the borrowers amid rising interest rates and most of the retail loans being on floating rates now.

### **Centre imposes 40 percent export duty on Onions to improve its domestic availability**

Government imposed a 40 percent duty on export of onions to control price rise and improve supplies in the domestic market. The Finance Ministry in a notification imposed the export duty till 31st December this year. The Ministry said, the duty is applicable immediately.

### **Indian plastic market expected to reach ₹10 lakh crore by fiscal 2027-28**

According to the All India Plastics Manufacturers' Association (AIPMA), India has the potential to emerge as a global plastic supplier and the domestic plastic market is expected to more than triple to reach ₹10 lakh crore by 2027-28.

### **ONGC Videsh secures 3-year extension to explore South China Sea**

Indian energy company ONGC Videsh has secured a three-year extension from Vietnam to explore 'Block 128' in the South China Sea.

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

India and the ASEAN countries have reached an agreement to review their free trade pact for goods and set a 2025 goalpost for concluding the review aimed at addressing the "asymmetry" in bilateral trade, the Commerce Ministry said.

### **IFC invests \$100 million in IIFL Home Finance to help boost EWS, LIG housing**

IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, has invested upto \$100 million in IIFL Home Finance Ltd. The new funding will help increase access to housing finance among economically weaker sections (EWS) and low-income groups (LIG), including women borrowers in India, it added.

### **HCL, UpLink push for innovation in freshwater conservation**

HCL and UpLink, the open innovation platform of the World Economic Forum, sought applications from 'aquapreneurs' to be a part of the Zero Water Waste Challenge called for innovative water usage approaches to improve freshwater conservation from supply to demand to achieve zero water waste.

### **Bharat NCAP: India gets its own car crash testing programme**

From October 1, 2023, car manufacturers can volunteer to get a star rating indicating the safety of their models in a crash, under an indigenous programme for testing. The Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP) is modelled on the Global New Car Assessment Programme (Global NCAP).

### **ICRA estimated India's GDP growth at 8.5% in first quarter**

India's economic growth will accelerate to 8.5% in the April-June period of the current fiscal from the 6.1% growth rate witnessed in the preceding January-March quarter, ICRA Ratings said in a report.

**Nasscom unveiled portal for talent connect**

The Sector Skill Council at Nasscom unveiled a 'Nasscom Talent Connect' portal. The platform will serve as an exclusive portal for enterprises looking to hire digitally skilled and certified industry-ready talent for both IT and non-IT sectors and aspiring tech candidates looking to head-start their careers in the technology industry.

**Karnataka in 5th place in terms of corporate investments, as per RBI data**

Karnataka is one among the few States which are prime destinations for corporate investments. Karnataka secured 5th place among Indian States in attracting multi-State projects financed by select banks and financial institutions (FIs) during 2022-23. The top five states are — Uttar Pradesh (16.2%), Gujarat (14%), Odisha (11.8%), Maharashtra (7.9%) and Karnataka (7.3%).

**Kotak FYN aims to have one lakh customer base by March 2024**

Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd. (KMBL) is planning to have a customer base of one lakh on Kotak FYN, its recently introduced integrated digital platform for business banking and corporate clients.

**Hindalco mulls ₹2,000 crore investment in rail coach related green project**

Aditya Birla Group's Hindalco Industries Ltd. will invest ₹2,000 crore in a railway related green-transportation project, Chairman Kumar Mangalam Birla informed the shareholders at the company's AGM.

**Meesho to digitise 10 million sellers in India by 2027**

E-commerce platform Meesho said it has a mandate to digitise 10 million sellers in India by 2027 as part of its goal to equip MSMEs for the digital age.

**Qatar Investment Authority to invest ₹8,278 crore in Reliance Retail Ventures**

Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd. (RRVL), a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Ltd., said that Qatar Investment Authority (QIA), through a wholly-owned subsidiary, has agreed to invest ₹8,278 crore in the company.

**China suspended all imports of seafood from Japan with immediate effect**

China's customs authorities have announced that the country has suspended all imports of seafood from Japan with immediate effect. The announcement came after Tokyo Electric Power Company started releasing treated and diluted water from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant into the Pacific Ocean.

**Omega Seiki Mobility signed MoU with PNB for EV financing**

Electric Vehicles (EV) manufacturer Omega Seiki Mobility (OSM) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Punjab National Bank (PNB) to augment finance for its dealers and customers.

**Rafael Nadal is Infosys' brand ambassador**

IT major Infosys has roped in tennis icon Rafael Nadal as ambassador for brand Infosys and its Digital Innovation.

**Saraswat Cooperative Bank to sell LIC products under bancassurance tie-up**

Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) and Mumbai-headquartered Saraswat Cooperative Bank have entered into a partnership under which the bank will sell the insurance major's products.

**Heineken sold its Russian operations for 1 euro, taking a 300-million-euro hit**

Dutch brewer Heineken has completed its withdrawal from Russia, 18 months after Moscow launched its full-scale invasion of Ukraine, selling its business in Russia for just 1 euro. Heineken said it would incur a total loss of 300 million euros (\$325 million) for the sale to Russian manufacturing giant the Arnest Group.

**Online grocery firm Zepto raises \$200 million**

Zepto, an online grocery company had raised \$200 million in Series E fundraise, valuing the company at \$1.4 billion. The round was led by StepStone Group.

**ACME Group to set up green-hydrogen plant at Odisha for ₹27,000 crore**

Renewable energy entity ACME Group has signed an agreement with Tata Steel Special Economic Zone Ltd. (TSSEZL) to establish a green hydrogen and green ammonia project at the Gopalpur Industrial Park (GIP) in Odisha. This will be the largest single location green hydrogen and its derivatives manufacturing facility in the country.

**Realty sector set to expand to \$5.8 tn in 2047: Knight Frank**

Knight Frank India, a real estate consultancy in the country, in association with NAREDCO, has projected that India's real estate sector is expected to expand to \$5.8 trillion by 2047. This estimated real estate output value will contribute 15.5% to the total economic output in 2047 from an existing share of 7.3%, as per the projection.

**India's forex reserves drop \$7.27 billion**

India's forex reserves dropped by \$7.273 billion to \$594.888 billion for the week ended August 18, the Reserve Bank said.

**Govt. imposed 20% export duty on parboiled rice**

The Centre has imposed a 20% duty on the export of parboiled rice, a move aimed at maintaining adequate local stock and keep domestic prices under check. The export duty, imposed on August 25, will remain effective till October 16, 2023.

**Fitch revises Kerala's rating to 'stable' from 'negative'**

Fitch Ratings has revised the outlook on Kerala to 'stable' from 'negative' while retaining a 'BB' rating for the State's long-term foreign and local currency issuer default ratings (IDR). The revision of the outlook to stable reflects an improving trend in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Railway crossed one lakh crore capex mark in first four months of FY 2023-24**

Indian Railways has invested over one lakh crore in various ongoing infrastructure and safety projects across the country till July in the current financial year of 2023-24. It was for the first time that the capex utilisation had crossed the mark of a lakh crore during the first four months of the financial year.

**Shriram Finance's Umesh Revankar took charge as chairman of FIDC**

The Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC), the representative body for asset and loan financing of Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs), has appointed Umesh Revankar as its new chairman. The managing committee elected Revankar unanimously during a meeting held in Mumbai.

**Meta fights sprawling Chinese 'Spamouflage' operation**  
Meta removed thousands of Facebook accounts that were part of a widespread online Chinese spam operation trying to covertly boost China and criticize the West. The campaign, which became known as "Spamouflage", was active across more than 50 platforms and forums.

**India's space economy has potential to reach 100 billion dollars by year 2040**

India's space economy has the potential to reach 100 billion dollars by the year 2040, which currently stands at around eight billion dollars. Union Minister of State in the Department of Space Dr Jitendra Singh said. The Minister stated that ISRO has launched more than 380 foreign satellites, earning more than 250 Million Euros and more than 170 Million Dollars by launching American satellites.

**Tata Passenger Electric Mobility unveils new brand identity, Tata.ev**

Tata Passenger Electric Mobility, a subsidiary of Tata Motors, has announced the introduction of its new brand identity, TATA.ev, for the EV business. This new identity is aligned to Tata Motors' commitment on sustainability & pioneering innovation as well as Tata Group's focus towards community development.

**Indian Bank gets nod to raise ₹4,000 crore**

Public sector lender Indian Bank said that its Committee of Directors for Capital Raising had accorded approval for raising up to ₹4,000 crore. The fund raising of ₹4,000 crore (including premium) will be done through Qualified Institutions Placement in one or more tranches, subject to necessary approvals.

**Fintech firm PhonePe forays into stock broking**

Fintech firm PhonePe forayed into the stock-broking business by introducing Share.Market, a new stock broking platform, under its subsidiary PhonePe Wealth Broking.

**SoftBank fund cuts stake in India's Zomato in \$115-mn deal**

SoftBank Vision Fund sold a 1.17% stake in Indian food delivery firm Zomato in a deal valued at ₹9.47 billion (\$114.7 million). The venture capital fund, part of Japan's SoftBank Group, sold 100 million shares at ₹94.7 apiece in bulk deals.

## AWARDS

**NAFIS gets Gold Award for fool-proof fingerprint identification system**

National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS) team of the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) has won the Gold Award under the Excellence in Government Process Reengineering for Digital Transformation Category-1 of the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG).

**President approved four Kirti Chakras, 11 Shaurya Chakras for armed forces and CAPF personnel.**

The Kirti Chakra, the second-highest peacetime gallantry award in the country, will be awarded to four personnel of the Central Reserve Police Force who were killed in action during an anti-Naxal operation in Chhattisgarh in April 2021. The posthumous recipients of the Kirti Chakra are Dilip Kumar Das, Raj Kumar Yadava, Bablu Rabha and Sambha Roy.

**954 police personnel awarded Police Medals on occasion of Independence Day**

A total of 954 Police personnel have been awarded Police Medals on the occasion of Independence Day. Union Home Minister said, the President's Police Medal for Gallantry has been awarded to a CRPF personnel and the Police Medal for Gallantry has been awarded to 229 personnel.

**I-Day: 53 personnel awarded Fire Service Medals**

A total of 53 personnel have been awarded Fire Service Medals on the occasion of Independence Day, 2023. Out of these, President's Fire Service Medal for Gallantry has been awarded to three personnel and Fire Service Medal for Gallantry has been awarded to one personnel for their acts of valour and gallantry. President's Fire Service.

**Ratan Tata conferred with 'Udyog Ratna' award**

Eminent industrialist Ratan Tata was conferred with the first ever 'Udyog Ratna' award instituted by the Maharashtra government.

## PERSONS IN NEWS (National and International)

**Vaibhav Taneja**

Indian-origin Vaibhav Taneja is the new Chief Financial Officer of Elon Musk-owned US-based electric car major Tesla. His appointment comes as the previous finance chief Zachary Kirkhorn announced his decision to step down.

**Hun Manet**

Cambodia's King Norodom Sihamoni has appointed former Prime minister Hun Sen's son, Hun Manet- as the new prime minister of the country. A royal decree was issued by the King regarding the appointment.

**Imran Khan**

Former Prime Minister and Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), Chief Imran Khan has been arrested after being sentenced to three years in prison in the Toshakhana case on 5th August 2023. The Islamabad Court has found the PTI Chief guilty in the case.

**Emmerson Mnangagwa**

Zimbabwe's President Emmerson Mnangagwa was re-elected for a second and final term in an election marred by widespread allegations that the governing party, ZANU-PF had committed fraud.

**Bernardo Arévalo**

Bernardo Arévalo, a progressive from outside Guatemala's power structure, was resoundingly elected the country's next president.

**Anwaar-ul-Haq Kakar**

Senator Anwarul Haq Kakar from Pakistan's restive Balochistan province was appointed the caretaker prime minister to head a neutral political set-up to run the cash-strapped country until the next general elections.

**Terry Gou**

Terry Gou, the billionaire founder of the electronics giant Foxconn, declared that he will run as an independent candidate for president in Taiwan's 2024 election, ending months of speculation.

### **Srettha Thavisin**

Srettha Thavisin of the populist Pheu Thai party has won the backing of parliament to become Thailand's next prime minister, paving the way to a new coalition government and an end to weeks of uncertainty and political impasse.

### **Shohini Sinha**

An Indian-American Shohini Sinha known for her work on counter-terrorism investigations, has been named as a special agent in charge of the FBI's field office in Salt Lake City in the US state of Utah.

### **Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar**

Cricket legend Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar would begin a new innings as the 'National Icon' for voter awareness and education for the Election Commission of India. A MoU was signed with Sachin for a period of three years.

### **Rajiv Gauba**

The Centre approved an extension in service to 1982 batch IAS officer of Jharkhand cadre Rajiv Gauba as Cabinet Secretary for a further period of one year beyond the 30th of August 2023.

### **Sonali Ghosh**

Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer Sonali Ghosh will be the first woman officer to take charge as Field Director of Kaziranga National Park (KNP) in Assam.

### **Ajay Bhalla**

Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla was given another one-year extension, his fourth in the post, till August 22, 2024. Mr. Bhalla, a 1984-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre.

### **Gaddar**

Telugu singer Gaddar passed away in Hyderabad. G Vithal Rao, popularly known as Gaddar, played a key role in the Telangana movement through his songs.

### **Ambareesh Murty**

Pepperfry Co-founder and CEO Ambareesh Murty passed away in Leh due to cardiac arrest. Murty was also an angel investor. Murty founded omnichannel furniture and home decor company Pepperfry in 2012 with Shah.

### **Sashidhar Jagdishan**

Sashidhar Jagdishan, HDFC Bank's Managing Director and Chief Executive emerges as the highest-paid bank chief executive in FY23, with his remuneration in fiscal year 2023, reaching ₹10.55 crore.

### **Siddique**

Prominent filmmaker Siddique passed away at a private hospital in Kochi. He was 63. Siddique's journey in the world of Malayalam cinema began with his directorial debut, "Ramji Rao Speaking" along with his friend Lal.

### **Bikash Sinha**

Eminent physicist Bikash Sinha who probed a primordial state of matter called the quark-gluon plasma and inspired Indian scientists into joining global experiments, including those that led to the 2012 discovery of the elusive subatomic particle named the Higgs boson, died.

### **Bindeshwar Pathak**

Sulabh International founder, Padma Bhushan recipient, and social worker Bindeshwar Pathak died of a cardiac arrest. He was credited with bringing in the revolutionary Sulabh Complex public toilet system to India.

### **V.S. Arunachalam**

Former Chairman of the DRDO, V.S. Arunachalam has passed away at the age of 87. A recipient of the Padma Vibhushan, Dr. Arunachalam was the Chief Architect of many strategic programs like the Integrated Missiles Development Programme.

### **Yevgeny Prigozhin**

Yevgeny Prigozhin, head of the Russian mercenary force Wagner, was among 10 killed in plane crash north of Moscow. The crash comes two months after Yevgeny Prigozhin launched a short-lived rebellion against Russian President Vladimir Putin.

### **C Radhakrishna Rao**

C.Radhakrishna Rao, one of India's greatest mathematicians and statisticians, died in the US. He was the former director of Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) Earlier this year he was awarded the International Prize in Statistics, which many consider equivalent to the Nobel Prize.

## **SPORTS**

### **India bags 14 medals including nine gold at Sri Lanka Athletics National Championships**

Indian contingent finished their Sri Lanka Athletics National Championships with 14 medals including nine gold, four silvers and a bronze.

### **Hockey: 7th Men's Asian Champions Trophy began in Chennai**

In hockey, the 7th Men's Asian Champions Trophy has begun in Chennai. Six teams - India, Pakistan, South Korea, Japan, China, and Malaysia will vie for glory in the prestigious 10-day tournament.

### **Gukesh overtook Anand in live world rankings**

D. Gukesh overtook Viswanathan Anand in live world rankings after overpowering home favourite Misratdin Iskandarov in 44 moves for the second time in their second-round match in the FIDE World Cup at Baku (Azerbaijan).

### **World Archery Championships: Indian women's compound team won first-ever gold medal at Berlin**

Indian women's team created history when the trio of V. Jyothi Surekha, Aditi Swami and Parneet Kaur clinched their first ever gold medal in the World Archery Championships in Berlin.

### **World University Games 2023: Jyothi Yarraji won bronze medal in women's 100m hurdles**

India's Jyothi Yarraji won the bronze medal in the women's 100m hurdles at the FISU World University Games 2023 in Chengdu, China. This was India's second athletics medal at the Chengdu meet after Bhavani Bhagavathi Yadav claimed a bronze in the women's long jump event.

### **FISU World University Games: India won 26 medals**

In FISU World University Games 2023 in Chengdu, India have won 26 medals including 11 gold, five silver, and 10 bronze. India is now in fourth position in the medal table. The ongoing World University Games in the sixth largest city of China is the 31st edition of the biennial multi-sport event.

### **Aditi Swami became 1st Indian to clinch individual World Title at World Archery Championships**

Aditi Swami created history by becoming the first-ever Indian to clinch the individual World Title at the World Archery Championships final in Berlin. With the win, she became the first Indian world champion in an individual event at the Senior World Championships.

### **Jeswin Aldrin strikes gold in Switzerland**

Jeswin Aldrin produced a timely 8.22m as he won the long jump gold at the Citius athletics meeting in Bern, Switzerland.

### **Pramod Bhagat and Sukant Kadam won a gold medal**

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

### **World Athletics Championships: Neeraj To Lead 28-Member Indian Team**

Neeraj Chopra will lead the country's challenge at the World Athletics Championships from August 19-27 in Budapest. India is sending a 28-member contingent to the prestigious event.

### **BAI inaugurates National Centre of Excellence in Guwahati**

In a major boost to the sport in the country, Badminton Association of India (BAI) inaugurated the National Center of Excellence in Guwahati that will not only hone players' skill but will develop coaches.

### **India scripts dramatic comeback to beat Malaysia, clinch record fourth Asian Champions Trophy title**

Harmanpreet Singh-led Indian men's hockey team scripted a dramatic turnaround in a space of just 11 minutes as they fought back from 1-3 down in opening half to beat Malaysia 4-3 and clinch a record fourth Asian Champions Trophy title in Chennai.

### **American golfer Lilia Vu captures second major in 2023**

American golfer Lilia Vu won the Women's British Open to claim her second major title of 2023, by shooting 5-under 67 for a six-stroke victory.

### **Indian men's hockey team jumped to third spot**

Indian men's hockey team has jumped to the third spot in FIH Men's Hockey World Rankings following their Asian Champions Trophy title win in Chennai. India has reached the third spot with 2771.35 points.

### **Pegula overpowers Samsonova, clinches Montreal Open crown**

Jessica Pegula overpowered Liudmila Samsonova to clinch the second WTA 1000 title of her career with a victory in the Montreal Open.

### **Steven Finn announces retirement from all forms of Cricket following chronic knee injury**

Former England pacer Steven Finn has announced retirement from all forms of Cricket following chronic knee injury. A knee injury that he suffered almost a year ago kept him out of action from most of the activity this year.

### **England all-rounder Ben Stokes reverses retirement from ODI ahead of World Cup in India**

England all-rounder Ben Stokes has reversed his decision to retire from One Day Internationals ahead of the ICC ODI World Cup scheduled for October in India.

### **Neymar joined Saudi club Al-Hilal from PSG**

Brazil forward Neymar has signed for Al-Hilal from French champions Paris St Germain, the Saudi Professional League (SPL) club announced. The transfer was reported to be for a fee of about 90 million euros (\$98.24 million) plus add-ons and subject to a medical for the 31-year-old.

### **Wrestling: India's Mohit Kumar becomes Under 20 World Champion**

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

### **Indian football legend Mohammed Habib dead**

Mohammed Habib, the playmaker par excellence of the 1970s who scored against Pele's New York Cosmos in Mohun Bagan colours and made the football icon take note of his game, died.

### **Priya Malik won Gold medal at 2023 U20 World Wrestling Championships**

Indian grappler Priya Malik won Gold medal at the 2023 U20 World Wrestling Championships in Jordan. Priya became just the second woman wrestler from India to be crowned U20 world champion. Antim Panghal had been the first woman from India to win a junior world title in wrestling at last year's edition.

### **India wins mixed team air pistol gold in ISSF World Championship at Baku, Azerbaijan**

Shooters Esha Singh and Shiva Narwal brought cheers to the India camp, clinching the 10 m air pistol mixed team gold by defeating Turkey in the final of the ISSF World Championship at Baku, Azerbaijan.

### **ICC unveils mascots for upcoming ODI World Cup at an event in Gurugram**

The International Cricket Council (ICC) unveiled the mascots for the upcoming ODI World Cup at an event in Gurugram. According to the ICC, the unnamed male and female mascots represent distinct traits that stand as symbols of both gender equality and diversity.

### **Bharat Petroleum names Rahul Dravid as brand ambassador**

Bharat Petroleum, the second largest Indian Oil Marketing Company and one of the premier integrated energy companies in India, has unveiled, cricketing legend and current Head Coach of the Indian cricket team, Rahul Dravid as its new brand ambassador.

### **FIFA Women World Cup: Spain defeats England 1-0 to become world champions**

In Football, Spain made history by defeating England 1-0 to lift the FIFA Women's World Cup title in Sydney for the first time. Captain Olga Carmona's wonderful strike in the 29th minute proved to be the winner.

### **India's Anahat Singh clinched gold in Asian Junior Squash**

India's Anahat Singh has clinched the gold medal in the U-17 category of the Asian Junior Squash Individual Championships, held in Dalian, China.

### **R Praggnanandhaa first Indian after Vishwanthan Anand to reach semifinals of FIDE World Cup**

R Praggnanandhaa, the first Indian after Vishwanthan Anand to reach the semifinals of the FIDE World Cup, drew against his higher-ranked opponent Fabiano Caruana, in Baku, Azerbaijan. In the other semi-final,

former world champion Magnus Carlsen defeated Nijat Abasov in the first game with white pieces.

### **Praggnanandhaa heads to World Cup Chess finals, beating Fabiano Caruana**

R. Praggnanandhaa took World No. 3 Fabiano Caruana out of his comfort zone, pulled him into shorter time-control games and nailed him to challenge favourite Magnus Carlsen in the final of the FIDE World Cup in Baku, Azerbaijan.

### **Sha'Carri Richardson crowned women's 100m champion**

Sha'Carri Richardson is the women's 100m world champion. The American ran a Championship record 10.65 seconds in the final at the track and field 2023 World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary taking 0.02 seconds off the previous best set by Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce last year.

### **Anurag Thakur announces Khelo India Women's League will officially be known as Asmita Women's League**

Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh Thakur has announced that the Khelo India Women's League will officially be known as Asmita Women's League. ASMITA refers to Achieving Sports Milestone by Inspiring Women Through Action.

### **Indian's Honey Dabas and Rahul Jograjya, clinch first historic gold and silver medals**

In a historic first, Indian powerlifters, Honey Dabas and Rahul Jograjya, clinched gold and silver medals respectively on the opening day of the World Para Powerlifting Championships in Dubai. These Medals are historic for India as these are the first ever Gold and Silver for India in any World Championships.

### **India's R. Praggnanandhaa settled for silver after losing to Magnus Carlsen in World Cup final 2023**

Magnus Carlsen of Norway beat India's R. Praggnanandhaa in tie-breaks to win the title of the FIDE Chess World Cup 2023 at Baku in Azerbaijan. In the final, Carlsen won the World Cup after drawing the second tie-break against Praggnanandhaa.

### **Amanpreet Singh wins gold in Men's 25 metre standard pistol event at ISSF World Championship in Azerbaijan**

Indian shooter Amanpreet Singh won the gold medal in Men's 25 metre standard pistol shooting event at the ISSF World Championship 2023 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

### **World wrestling body suspends Wrestling Federation of India for not conducting elections**

The United World Wrestling (UWW) has suspended Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) with immediate effect for failing to conduct elections on time. The move will not allow Indian grapplers to compete at the upcoming World Championships under the Indian flag.

### **IBSA World Games: Indian women's visually challenged cricket team won gold**

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

### **IBSA World Games 2023: Indian men's Blind cricket team settles for silver medal**

In Cricket, Indian men's visually impaired team settled for a silver medal after a defeat against Pakistan in the final of the men's T20 cricket event at the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) World Games 2023 at Edgbaston, Birmingham.

### **Noah Lyles won third 200m title for rare world sprint double**

American Noah Lyles won his third world 200m title to become the first male sprinter since Usain Bolt in 2015 to seal the sprint double at the World Athletics Championships. Lyles, who charged to 100m gold last weekend, clocked 19.52sec for the win with teenage teammate Erriyon Knighton claiming silver in 19.75sec.

### **HS Prannoy won bronze medal at BWF World Championships in Copenhagen**

H.S. Prannoy's dream run at the World Championships ended after he lost in three games to World No. 3 Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand in the men's singles semifinal to sign off with a bronze, extending India's record of having at least one medallist in the showpiece event since 2011.

### **Neeraj Chopra became first Indian to win Gold medal at World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary**

Javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra won India's first-ever gold at the World Athletics Championships in Budapest, Hungary. In the men's javelin final, Neeraj Chopra wins Gold medal with a throw of 88.17 metres. Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem clinched Silver with a throw of 87.82 metres.

### **An and Kunlavut earn historic first titles at badminton worlds**

An Se Young and Kunlavut Vitidsarn became the first women's and men's singles winners from South Korea and Thailand at the badminton world championships. An won the title and prevented Carolina Marin of Spain from a record-extending fourth world crown by taking their final 21-12, 21-10 in 42 minutes.

### **Dutch Grand Prix- Max Verstappen claims the ninth win in a row**

Red Bull's Max Verstappen celebrated a record-equalling ninth successive Formula One victory after winning a chaotic and rain-halted Dutch Grand Prix for the third year in a row. He equalled now-retired Sebastian Vettel's 2013 streak of success and was Red Bull's 14th consecutive triumph and 13th of the season.

### **Lyles, Richardson anchor U.S. sweep of relays at world championships**

Noah Lyles and Sha'Carri Richardson anchored their 4x100 teams to victories, giving the U.S. its first sweep of the short relays at world championships since 2007 and a boost of confidence heading into next year's Olympics. Lyles finished 3 for 3 at these championships — with wins in the 100, the 200 and the 4x100.

### **Viktor Hovland wins PGA Tour's season-ending FedEx Cup title at East Lake**

Norway's Viktor Hovland hit a superb bogey-free seven-under-par 63 to win the Tour Championship and FedEx Cup title at East Lake in Atlanta.

### **Govt to set up 1,000 Khelo India Centres in country within a year**

Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur has announced that one thousand Khelo India Centres will be established within a year in the country.

### **WR Chess clinches FIDE World Rapid Team 2023 with a round to spare, Freedom second**

With just two draws and ten victories in 12 matches, the team WR Chess won the inaugural FIDE World Rapid Team Championship, securing the title with a round to spare. Team Freedom finished second, while the Indian squad of MGD1 was third.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### **UNESCO said Venice should be added to heritage danger list.**

UNESCO has said, the iconic Italian city, Venice should be added to a list of world heritage sites in danger. In its report it said, the city is at risk of irreversible damage from overwhelming tourism, over development and rising sea levels due to climate change.

### **World's oceans hit hottest ever recorded temperature of 20.96C after soaking up the warmth from climate change.**

The oceans have hit their hottest ever recorded temperature as they soak up warmth from climate change. According to the EU's climate change service, the average daily global sea surface temperature beat a 2016 record this week as it reached 20.96C. That is far above the average for this time of year.

### **'Bharat Utsav' Commences in Dubai to Showcase Indian Culture, Commemorate Indian Independence**

In Dubai, UAE, a three-day event celebrating Indian art and heritage, 'Bharat Utsav', commenced in Dubai. The festival, which commemorates India's Independence Day on August 15th, displayed the country's diverse cultural richness.

### **Saudi Arabia Launched AI-Powered Program to Combat Desertification**

The Saudi Environment Ministry has launched a program to combat desertification using artificial intelligence (AI). The program aims to study the status of vegetative cover in the Kingdom and contribute to the goals of afforestation projects and the "Green Saudi" initiative.

### **Dengue cases reached nearly one lakh in Bangladesh.**

In Bangladesh, Dengue positive cases reached 99,994 this year as 2134 fresh cases were reported overnight. According to the Directorate General of Health Service (DGHS), 476 deaths reported from dengue disease this year, the highest in a year since dengue was detected in 2000.

### **Ecuadorians rejects oil drilling in the Amazon in historic decision.**

In a historic decision, Ecuadorians voted against the oil drilling of a protected area in the Amazon that's home to two uncontacted tribes and serves as a biodiversity hotspot. With over 90% of the ballots counted by early Monday, around six in ten Ecuadorians rejected the oil exploration in Block 44, situated within Yasuni National Park, one of the world's most biodiverse regions.

### **INS Visakhapatnam and INS Trikand arrives at Dubai for a bilateral exercise with UAE Navy**

Two Indian Navy ships, INS Visakhapatnam and INS Trikand, arrived at Port Rashid in Dubai for a bilateral exercise 'Zayed Talwar, with the UAE Navy. The exercise was aimed to share best practices and increase synergies between the two navies.

### **India's urban population would require 230 million housing units by 2047**

India's population is expected to surge to 1.7 billion in 2047 with close to 51% of the individuals residing in urban

areas. To accommodate the urban population, cities in India would require 230 million housing units by 2047. This projected data was shared as part of the 'Vision 2047' report, unveiled by the National Real Estate Development Council (NAREDCO) and Knight Frank.

### **Japan's PM Fumio Kishida observed moment of silence in ceremony to mark 78th anniversary of atomic bombing**

Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida observed a moment of silence during a ceremony marking the 78th anniversary of the world's first atomic bombing at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima, Japan on August 6.

### **Historic India Club in London announces closure**

The India Club in London, with its early roots in the Indian independence movement as a hub for nationalists including Krishna Menon, will shut down next month after losing a protracted battle against its closure.

### **Bhutan cuts daily tourist fee by half to lure more visitors**

The Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan is to halve the \$200 daily fee it charges tourists in an effort to boost a sector still struggling to recover a year after the end of COVID-19 restrictions. Bhutan raised its "Sustainable Development Fee" to \$200 per visitor per night, from \$65.

### **Partition Horrors Remembrance Day 2023 was observed on Aug 14**

India is observing partition Horrors Remembrance Day on August 14 in the memory of the struggles and sacrifices during the partition in 1947. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had declared the August 14, will be remembered as 'Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas' or Partition Horrors Remembrance Day in memory of those who lost their lives during Partition.

### **77th Independence Day celebrated with patriotic fervor across India and abroad**

The 77th Independence Day is being celebrated with patriotic fervour and enthusiasm across India and abroad on August 15. Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the celebrations by hoisting the National Flag and addressing the Nation from the Ramparts of historic Red Fort.

### **India secures Second Rank at 16th IOAA in Chorzów, Poland**

With Four Gold and One Silver Medals, India has secured Second Rank at the 16th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) in Chorzów, Poland. The United Kingdom clinched the lead with five Golds.

### **Sadbhavana Diwas was observed on 20th August, 2023**

Sadbhavana Diwas, also known as Harmony Day, is an annual celebration observed on 20th August in India. 20th August marks the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

### **World Mosquito Day was observed 20th August, 2023**

World Mosquito Day is celebrated on August 20. This is done to commemorate the contributions of British doctor Sir Ronald Ross who was the first person to discover the connection between malaria and female anopheline mosquitoes.