

TEACHERS' VISION

WAY TO GOVERNMENT JOBS

MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS

AUGUST – 2023

NATIONAL AFFAIRS

- 1. President of India inaugurates 'unmesha' and 'utkarsh' festivals:** The President of India commenced the 'Unmesha' International Literature Festival and the 'Utkarsh' Festival of Folk and Tribal Performing Arts in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. These festivals, organized by the Sahitya Akademi and Sangeet Natak Akademi, respectively, have a shared purpose of celebrating inclusivity and cultural diversity in the region.
- 2. NHAI launches mobile app 'Rajmargyatra' for national highway users:** To improve the highway user experience and offer seamless travel on Indian National Highways, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has taken a significant step by introducing the 'Rajmargyatra' mobile application. Users can access real-time weather conditions to stay updated about any potential adverse conditions along their journey. In addition, the app provides details about nearby toll plazas, petrol pumps, hospitals, hotels, and other essential services. One of the key features of the 'Rajmargyatra' app is its efficient complaint redressal system. Users can report highway-related issues directly through the app and even attach geo-tagged videos or photos for better clarity and understanding.
- 3. Oil India Upgraded to Maharatna, ONGC Videsh to Navratna by Finance Ministry:** The Finance Ministry of India elevated two major oil sector companies, Oil India and ONGC Videsh, to the esteemed Maharatna and Navratna categories, respectively. Oil India, previously classified as a Navratna company, has now been granted the esteemed Maharatna status, making it the 13th Maharatna CPSE (Central Public Sector Enterprises) in the country. ONGC Videsh is a part of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. ONGC Videsh's core focus lies in exploring for oil and gas reserves beyond India's borders, encompassing activities such as exploration, development, and production of these valuable resources. Having obtained a status upgrade to a Navratna CPSE, the company becomes the 14th Navratna CPSE in the country.
- 4. GoI introduces Ayush visa category for foreign nationals seeking medical treatment in India:** Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) introduced a new Ayush (AY) visa for foreign nationals for treatment under Ayush systems/Indian systems of medicine like therapeutic care, wellness and Yoga.
- 5. MASI Portal for Monitoring CHILD CARE HOMES:** The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has developed The 'MASI' application for real-time monitoring of Child Care Institutions (CCIs) and their inspection process across the country. The primary objective behind the development of the Monitoring App for Seamless Inspection (MASI) is to ensure the effective and

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efficient functioning of the inspection mechanism for CCIs as provided under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015.

- 6. Prime Minister launches Amrit Bharat Station Scheme for railway station:** The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme (ABSS) aims to transform and revitalize 1,309 railway stations across the nation, enhancing the overall passenger experience and making them world-class travel hubs. The rejuvenated railway stations under the ABSS will offer world-class amenities and facilities. Some of the features that these stations will incorporate include: Roof plaza; Shopping zone; Food court; Children's play area; Segregated entry and exit gates; Multi-level parking; Lifts and escalators; Executive lounge; Waiting area; Travellator; Physically challenged-friendly facilities;
- 7. Ratan Tata to get Maharashtra govt's first 'Udyog Ratna' award:** The Maharashtra Government will confer Tata group Chairman Ratan Tata with the first prestigious Maharashtra Udyog Ratna Award this year.
- 8. Gujarat to host 69th edition of Filmfare Awards in 2024:** Gujarat will host the 69th edition of Filmfare Awards in 2024, and a MoU has signed between state government's tourism cooperation and Worldwide Media (WWM) to host the event and promote the state as a film destination.
- 9. Justice G. Rohini Commission for the sub-categorisation of Of OBC:** The Justice G. Rohini-headed Commission for the sub-categorisation of Other Backward Classes (OBC) caste groups on July 31 submitted its report on the issue to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The Rohini Commission, established in 2017, was tasked with examining this issue. OBC constitute a significant portion of the population and have been granted 27% reservation in jobs and education under the central government.
- 10. Lowering the minimum age for contesting election:** A Parliamentary Standing Committee has recommended lowering the minimum age for contesting Lok Sabha and Assembly elections to 18 years, aligning it with the minimum age for voting in India. The Committee believes that young individuals can be responsible political participants, supported by global practices and increasing political consciousness among youth. According to Article 84 of the Indian Constitution and Section 36 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, a person must be at least 25 years old to contest elections to the Lok Sabha or State Legislative Assembly. As per Article 80(4) of the Constitution and Section 43 of the RP Act, 1951, a person must be at least 30 years old to become a member of the Rajya Sabha or the State Legislative Council. The Committee cited examples from countries like Canada, the United Kingdom, and Australia, where young individuals have proven to be reliable and responsible political participants. The EC disagrees with the proposal, stating that expecting 18-year-olds to possess the necessary experience and maturity for parliamentary responsibilities is unrealistic. EC believes that the existing minimum age requirements for voting and contesting elections are appropriate.
- 11. Zero FIR:** Recent incidents of violence and crime in Manipur have brought the concept of the 'Zero First Information Report (FIR)' into the spotlight. The Supreme Court has sought for all data regarding

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such FIRs in Manipur Gangrape Incidence. Zero FIR allows any police station to register an FIR for a cognisable offence without assigning a regular FIR number initially. Whereas FIRs have serial numbers assigned to them, zero FIRs are assigned the number '0'. Hence the name. The Zero FIR is later transferred to the relevant police station where the offence occurred or where the investigation should be conducted. After a police station registers a zero FIR, it has to transfer the complaint to a police station that has the jurisdiction to investigate the alleged offence. Once a zero FIR is transferred, the police station with the appropriate jurisdiction assigns it a serial number, thereby converting it into a regular FIR.

- 12. Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba gets one-year extension:** Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba has been officially granted a one-year extension by the Central government, making him the longest-serving cabinet secretary in India's history. The decision was made by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). This extension comes as a result of the relaxation of important rules, allowing him to continue in his position beyond August 30, 2023. The Central government has the authority to grant an extension in service to the cabinet secretary in the public interest. However, this extension cannot exceed four years in total. By relaxing the All India Services (Death-Cum-Retirement Benefits) Rules, 1958, and Rule 56(d) of the Fundamental Rules, Rajiv Gauba's extension has been made possible. Rajiv Gauba is an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from the 1982 batch who assumed the position of Cabinet Secretary in 2019. Initially appointed for a two-year tenure, he has now received extensions twice, first in 2021 and now, beyond August 2023. With this latest extension, his tenure will surpass that of BD Pande, who held the position from November 2, 1972, to March 31, 1977, making Rajiv Gauba the longest-serving cabinet secretary in India's bureaucratic history.
- 13. One more Cheetah dies at Kuno National Park, taking toll to nine:** A female cheetah named Dhatri (Tbilisi) has recently passed away at Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh. This brings the total number of deaths to nine, including six adult cheetahs relocated from Namibia and South Africa, along with three cubs born in India, all since March this year. Currently, a post-mortem examination is underway to determine the cause of death. In the previous month, two cheetahs fell victim to infections resulting from wounds caused by radio collars fastened around their necks. The environment ministry has attributed all cheetah deaths to natural causes. Under the ambitious Project Cheetah, Kuno National Park is dedicated to reintroducing the cheetah species to the region. To achieve this goal, a total of 20 cheetahs were brought in from Namibia and South Africa in two distinct batches. The first batch arrived in September of the previous year, followed by the second batch in February of the current year. Currently, there are 14 cheetahs residing in Kuno National Park, consisting of seven males, six females, and a female cub. These magnificent creatures are under close observation by a team of Kuno wildlife veterinarians and an expert from Namibia to ensure their well-being.
- 14. Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma launches 'Amrit Brikshya Andolan' app:** The Assam government has taken a significant step towards enhancing its forest cover and combating climate

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change by announcing a massive initiative called 'Amrit Brikshya Andolan'. This ambitious project aims to plant 1 crore saplings in a single day in September, marking a crucial milestone in the state's efforts to boost its green economy and contribute to the fight against global warming. The primary objective of this large-scale initiative is to significantly increase Assam's forest cover and encourage collective action in the face of climate change. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma officially launched an app and a web portal for the 'Amrit Brikshya Andolan'

- 15. PM YASASVI Scheme:** The NTA has started the registration procedure of the applicants for the scholarship programme on the NTA's website by 10th August 2023 under the YASASVI Scheme. The National Testing Agency (NTA) has started the application procedure for the scholarship entrance examination 2023 launched under the scheme of PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India (YASASVI). Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment offer scholarships to meritorious students under the PM YASASVI Scheme. The scholarship is restricted to OBC, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic tribes, DNT. Students in 9th grade and those in 11th grade are awarded scholarships at two different levels. The written examination of the scholarship test is known as YASASVI Entrance Test. The main of the PM YASASVI Scheme is to provide scholarships to students from various impoverished classes. PM YASASVI Scheme scholarship provides these students with the resources they need to become financially independent and continue their studies. The benefits provided to the students under the PM YASASVI Scheme are as under: Students of class 9th will be provided with financial benefit of Rs.75,000 per year. Students of class 11th will be provided with financial benefit of Rs.1,25,000 per year. This scholarship is absolutely transparent and will be conducted to international standards.
- 16. GI tags for Goan mangoes and bebinca, crafts from Rajasthan and U.P:** The Geographical Indications Registry in Chennai has recently granted Geographical Indication (GI) tags to seven products from different regions of India, including four traditional crafts from Rajasthan. The GI tags provide recognition and protection to these unique products, highlighting their distinctiveness and origin.
- 17. Amazon India to open first-ever floating store in Dal Lake:** Amazon India has inaugurated its first-ever floating store on Dal Lake in Srinagar, Kashmir. This initiative aligns with Amazon India's commitment to providing customers with reliable and convenient delivery services, while simultaneously enabling small businesses to seize profitable earning prospects. The store is part of company's 'I Have Space' delivery program, which started in 2015. The program helps them deliver packages to customers in faraway places using local shops and partners.
- 18. Cabinet approves Rs 1.39 lakh cr for connecting 6.4 lakh villages with broadband:** The Union Cabinet has approved the final phase of the last-mile optical fiber-based broadband connectivity plan, covering 6.4 lakh villages across India under the BharatNet project. Through this enhancement, the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) seeks to accelerate the endeavor of linking all 6.4 lakh

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villages within the upcoming two and a half years. The ongoing progress has seen nearly 1.94 lakh villages already integrated into the BharatNet project.

- 19. Over 5.25 crore subscribers enrolled in Atal Pension Yojana:** Launched in the year 2015, the APY was devised as a potent tool to ensure old age income security for every Indian citizen, with a special focus on those who toil in the unorganized sector. Its design aimed to cast a protective net of financial stability, allowing individuals to embrace their golden years without the imminent presence of financial uncertainty. Open to every Indian citizen aged between 18 and 40 years, not subject to income taxation, and equipped with a savings bank account, the APY welcomes individuals from diverse walks of life. In return for their commitment, subscribers are guaranteed a lifelong minimum pension, ranging from Rs. 1000 to Rs. 5000 per month upon crossing the threshold of 60 years, a tangible reward for their foresight.
- 20. India Is Committed To Eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis By 2027:** Union Health & Family Welfare Minister, Mansukh Mandaviya, made the announcement to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis by 2027 during the inauguration of the second phase of the Annual Nationwide Mass Drug Administration (MDA) initiative. Minister Mandaviya emphasized the comprehensive approach of “Whole of Government” and “Whole of Society” to combat Lymphatic Filariasis effectively.
- 21. CJI Chandrachud Launches QR Code-Based E-Pass For Entry At SC:** In a proactive effort to modernize and streamline access to justice, 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.
- 22. ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ Bike Rally Flagged-off On Independence Day 2023:** Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar has flagged off the ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ motorcycle rally at Pragati Maidan in Delhi. As part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav (AKAM) initiative, the ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ campaign is scheduled to take place nationwide from August 13 to 15. The campaign aims to inspire individuals to proudly display the national flag at their residences. The “Har Ghar Tiranga” campaign is a part of the government’s efforts to promote nationalism and patriotism among the people of India. The campaign has been launched in all states and union territories of India. The government has also urged schools, colleges, and other educational institutions to participate in the campaign.
- 23. India Aims to Triple Natural Gas Share to 15% by 2030:** India is embarking on a bold journey to significantly enhance its current 6% share of natural gas within its energy mix to a robust 15% by the year 2030.
- 24. The Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, 2023: Revamping India’s Criminal Justice System:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah introduced three new bills in Lok Sabha to reform the criminal justice system in India. Among these bills is the Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, which aims to replace the outdated Indian Evidence Act of 1872. This move is in response to the need for legal reforms that align with technological advancements and societal changes. In addition to the Bharatiya Sakshya Bill, two

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other bills have been introduced: the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, which will replace the Indian Penal Code (IPC), and the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, which will replace the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC). These bills collectively aim to revamp the legal framework pertaining to criminal justice.

- 25. New Bill Proposes Changes in Appointment Process for Election Commissioners in India:** The central government of India has recently introduced a bill in the Rajya Sabha that aims to modify the process of appointing the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners of the country. The proposed bill includes significant changes to the composition of the selection committee responsible for these appointments. According to the provisions outlined in the new bill, the selection panel responsible for appointing the Chief Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners will now consist of three members: PM, Leader Of Opposition in Rajya Sabha, Cabinet Minister
- 26. 5 Countries That Celebrate Independence Day on August 15:** August 15 is a special day for many countries around the world, as it is the date on which they gained their independence. In India, it is celebrated as Independence Day, marking the end of British rule in 1947. But India is not the only country that celebrates its independence on August 15. There are five other countries that also mark this day as a national holiday. Republic of Congo: The Republic of Congo, also known as Congo-Brazzaville, gained independence from France on August 15, 1960. South Korea and North Korea: On August 15, 1945, the Korean peninsula was freed from Japanese rule. South Korea and North Korea both celebrate this day as their National Liberation Day. Liechtenstein: Liechtenstein is a small country in Europe that is surrounded by Switzerland and Austria. It gained independence from German rule on August 15, 1866. However, it did not officially declare August 15 as its National Day until 1940. Bahrain: Bahrain is an island country in the Persian Gulf. It gained independence from the United Kingdom on August 15, 1971.
- 27. Why is the National Flag unfurled at the Red Fort every August 15?:** The National Flag of India is unfurled at the Red Fort every August 15 to commemorate the country's independence from British rule. The Red Fort was once the seat of the Mughal Empire, and it was from here that the British colonial government ruled India for over 200 years. On August 15, 1947, India finally gained its independence, and the Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru, unfurled the national flag at the Red Fort for the first time. This act symbolized India's new status as a free and independent nation. Since then, the Prime Minister of India has unfurled the national flag at the Red Fort every year on Independence Day. This is a time for the nation to come together and celebrate its freedom. The Prime Minister delivers a speech from the ramparts of the Red Fort, outlining the government's plans for the future and reaffirming India's commitment to democracy and secularism. The unfurling of the national flag is a reminder of India's journey from colonial rule to independence, and it is a symbol of the country's hope for a brighter future. The Red Fort has a long association with the Indian independence movement. It was from here that many important leaders, including Mahatma Gandhi,

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Jawaharlal Nehru, and Subhas Chandra Bose, gave speeches and rallies to inspire the Indian people to fight for freedom.

- 28. First Female Doctor of India:** Dr. Anandi Gopal Joshi, the first female doctor of India, was a special lady who did something amazing a long time ago. She became the first woman doctor at a time when it was really hard for women to study medicine. Anandi Gopal Joshi was a trailblazing Indian physician who became the first female doctor in India in 1886. She was born in 1865 in a small village in Maharashtra, India. She was married at the age of 14, but her husband, Gopalrao Joshi, was a progressive thinker who encouraged her to pursue her education.
- 29. First Woman Judge of Supreme Court:** Justice Fatima Beevi has been appointed as the first woman judge in India's Supreme Court on 6th October 1989, breaking the rule that said only men could be judges in Supreme Court.
- 30. India's First 3D-Printed Post Office Inaugurated In Bengaluru:** Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated the first 3D-printed post office of India in Bengaluru's Cambridge Layout near Ulsoor.
- 31. CWC Launches 'Floodwatch' To Provide Real-Time Flood Forecasts To Public:** The Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC), Shri Kushvinder Vohra, has taken a groundbreaking step towards enhancing flood preparedness and response by unveiling the "FloodWatch" mobile application.
- 32. BRO Initiates Construction of World's Highest Motorable Road in Eastern Ladakh:** The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has embarked on a groundbreaking project to construct the 'Likaru-Mig La-Fukche' road in the Demchok sector of Ladakh. This strategic road will establish the world's highest motorable road, spanning an altitude of approximately 19,400 feet, surpassing the previous record held by Umling La Pass. The initiative was launched on India's 77th Independence Day, signifying its significance for national security.
- 33. CSIR Introduces 'Namoh 108': A New Lotus Species Honoring PM Modi's Legacy:** In a significant tribute to the tireless efforts and remarkable leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has introduced a new lotus species called 'Namoh 108'. This unveiling took place during a special event at the CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI) in Lucknow. The lotus, which boasts an astonishing 108 petals, was discovered several years ago in the region of Manipur and has since been part of the institute's collection of flora under study.
- 34. PM Modi gifts Bidri Surahi, Nagaland Shawl, and Gond Painting to BRICS leaders:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was on a three-day visit to South Africa to attend the 15th BRICS summit, presented special gifts to the organization's leaders including South African president Cyril Ramaphosa, First Lady of South Africa Tshepo Motsepe, and Brazilian president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. PM Modi gifts Bidri Surahi, Nagaland Shawl, and Gond Painting to BRICS leaders.
- 35. India's First Long-Range Revolver 'Prabal' To Be Launched On August 18:** In a significant stride towards indigenous manufacturing and innovation, the state-owned company Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWEIL), based in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, is all set to unveil 'Prabal',

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India's first long-range revolver. The launch date is marked for August 18, ushering in a new era of personal defense firearms. Founded in 2021, Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWEIL) is a government-owned entity located in the Armapur locality of Kanpur.

- 36. In a First In India, Goa To Give Free IVF Treatment In Govt Hospital:** In a significant stride towards accessible and affordable healthcare, Goa has emerged as the trailblazer among Indian states by introducing free In vitro fertilization (IVF) treatment.
- 37. First Woman Chief Justice of High Court in India:** Leila Seth made history as the first woman Chief Justice of High Court showing that even women can lead the way in important roles in the legal world. Leila Seth, born on 20 October 1930, in Lucknow, India, overcome early challenges after losing her father at the age of 11. Despite financial struggles, she received an education at Loreto Convent, Darjeeling. After completing her schooling, she worked as a stenographer in Kolkata. she became first woman judge (Delhi High Court) in 1978. Thirteen years after becoming a High Court judge, Leila Seth made history again by becoming the first woman to hold the position of Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court in 1991.
- 38. ADB Approves USD 40.5 Million Loan to Enhance Childhood Development and Maternal Mental Health in Meghalaya:** In a significant move towards improving early childhood development and maternal mental health, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has sanctioned a USD 40.5 million loan for the northeastern Indian state of Meghalaya. This strategic initiative, supported by the Meghalaya government's contribution of USD 15.27 million, aims to fortify both home-based and center-based childcare services through the establishment and enhancement of daycare centers known as Anganwadi centers.
- 39. Bhambavli Vajrai Waterfall:** The highest waterfall in India is the Bhambavli Vajrai Waterfall, located in Satara district of Maharashtra and drops at a height of 1840 feet (560 m).

S. No.	Name	Height (in m)	Height (in feet)	Location
1.	Vajrai Waterfalls	560	1,840	Satara district, Maharashtra
2.	Kunchikal Waterfalls	455	1,493	Shivamogga, Karnataka
3.	Barehipani Falls	399	1,309	Mayurbhanj, Odisha
4.	Nohkalikai Falls	340	1,120	East Khasi Hills district, Meghalaya
5.	Nohsngithiang Falls	315	1,033	East Khasi Hills district, Meghalaya
6.	Dudhsagar Falls	310	1,020	South Goa, Goa
7.	Kynrem Falls	305	1,001	East Khasi Hill district, Meghalaya
8.	Meenmutty Falls	300	984	Wayanad district, Kerala
9.	Thalaiyar Falls	297	974	Batlagundu, Dindigul district, Tamil

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10.	Barkana Falls	259	850	Shivamogga district, Karnataka

- 40. Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA):** The Ministry of Education has introduced the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA), a central scheme aimed at enhancing access, equity, and excellence in higher education across States and Union Territories. However, the requirement for implementing the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and adopting certain academic criteria to avail funds has sparked controversy, making the scheme seem exclusivist.
- 41. 'Lakhpati Didi' Scheme: Govt Planning Skill Training For 2 Crore Women:** In a significant move to empower women and foster economic growth, the Indian government has announced the 'Lakhpati Didi' scheme, aiming to provide skill training to two crore women across the nation. The scheme, previously implemented in select states, now seeks to expand its reach and impact on a national scale. During his recent Independence Day address, Prime Minister Narendra Modi outlined his ambitious vision of cultivating two crore 'lakhpati didis' (women millionaires) in rural areas. Drawing attention to the vital roles played by women such as 'bank-wali didi' (banking sisters), 'Anganwadi didi' (childcare sisters), and 'dawai-wali didi' (medical sisters), he underscored the need to elevate women's economic standing.
- 42. President Murmu Launches INS Vindhyagiri:** President Droupadi Murmu inaugurates INS Vindhyagiri, an advanced stealth frigate and the sixth vessel crafted as part of Project 17A at the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers. In a significant stride towards bolstering India's maritime prowess, President Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the latest addition to the Indian Navy's fleet, INS Vindhyagiri. The launch event was held at the Kolkata-based Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE). Following the launch of INS Vindhyagiri, the vessel will join its sister ships, INS Himgiri and INS Dunagiri, at the Outfitting Jetty at GRSE. The vessel derives its name from the mighty Vindhya mountain range, symbolizing strength, determination, and unwavering resolve. As INS Vindhyagiri touches the waters of the River Hooghly for the first time, it embarks on a journey that mirrors the resilience of the mountains after which it is named, upholding the cherished values that define our nation. The Defense Ministry officials express that this landmark achievement reduces India's reliance on foreign suppliers, aligning seamlessly with the nation's 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat' (self-reliant India) vision championed by the Narendra Modi-led union government. The Project 17A frigates represent a monumental achievement for the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers, boasting a contract value of approximately ₹19,200 crore. This contract marks the largest ever executed by GRSE, underscoring the shipyard's capabilities and contribution to India's maritime self-sufficiency. Project 17A was launched by the Indian Navy in: 2019.
- 43. PM Vishwakarma Scheme:** Vishwakarma Yojana, introduced following PM Modi's I-Day address, is a comprehensive scheme aimed at providing financial support and skill enhancement to traditional artisans and craftspeople.

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- 44. Maharashtra Government Launches Bhagwan Birsa Munda Jodaraste Scheme:** Scheme aims to Connect Tribal Villages with Main Roads.
- 45. Granting of Geographical Indication (GI) Tag to Matti Banana Variety of Kanniyakumari District:** The Matti banana variety native to Kanniyakumari district 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.
- 46. Biggest National Park in India:** Hemis National Park is the biggest national park in India which covers an area of about 4,400 sq. km, established in 1981 in the state of Ladakh. The India's first national park was established in 1936 named Jim Corbett National Park in Uttarakhand. In 1972, India enacted the Wildlife Protection Act and Project Tiger in 1973 to safeguard the habitats of conservation reliant species and currently there are 106 national parks in India which covers an area of 44,378 sq.km, 1.35% of the geographical area of the country.

S. No.	Name	Area (in sq.km)	State	Year of establishment
1.	Hemis National Park	4,400	Ladakh	1981
2.	Desert National Park	3,162	Rajasthan	1981
3.	Gangotri National Park	2,390	Uttarakhand	1989
4.	Namdapha National Park	1,985.2	Arunachal Pradesh	1983
5.	Khangchendzonga National Park	1,784	Sikkim	1977
6.	Guru Ghasidas (Sanjay) National Park	1,440.7	Chhattisgarh	1981
7.	Sundarban National Park	1,330.1	West Bengal	1984
8.	Indravati National Park	1,258.4	Chhattisgarh	1975
9.	Papikonda National Park	1,031	Andhra Pradesh	2008
10.	Kanha National Park	940	Madhya Pradesh	1955



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- ❖ LLB/CLAT
- ❖ POLICE JOBS
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- 47. Guwahati Airport Becomes First In Northeast To Get 'Digi Yatra' Facility:** Guwahati's Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport (LBBI) has become the first airport in the area to introduce the innovative 'Digi Yatra' facility. This cutting-edge service is set to revolutionize the way passengers navigate through airports, providing a seamless and hassle-free journey. The Digi Yatra initiative revolves around the use of facial recognition technology to create a seamless airport journey for passengers. This technological marvel aims to eliminate the need for traditional methods of ticket verification and ID checks at various touchpoints within the airport premises. By utilizing facial recognition, passengers can experience a swift and efficient check-in process, enhancing their overall travel experience.
- 48. TN CM Stalin Lays Foundation Stone For South-East Asia's Largest Desalination Plant:** In a significant stride towards resolving the water crisis gripping Chennai city, Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister, M K Stalin, has laid the foundation stone for what is set to become South East Asia's largest water desalination project.
- 49. Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary:** The National Green Tribunal (NGT) recently addressed a serious issue concerning the Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary, located in the Balasore district of Odisha. Situated in the Chota Nagpur Plateau region, Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary is strategically connected to the Simlipal National Park through the Sukhupada and Nato hill ranges. Illegal mining is happening in a sensitive area of the Kuldiha Wildlife Sanctuary, and someone has complained about it. They are worried because this mining is taking place near a place called Similipal-Hadgarh-Kuldiha-Conservation Reserve.
- 50. India's First Hydrogen Bus Hits the Public Roads in Leh, Ladakh:** NTPC Limited, a prominent Maharatna Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) operating under the Ministry of Power (MoP), has embarked on a groundbreaking venture by launching the trial of India's inaugural hydrogen bus in the picturesque region of Leh, situated in the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh.
- 51. National Vegetable of India:** Indian Pumpkin, commonly known as "Kaddu" in Hindi, holds the distinction of being India's national vegetable. This versatile vegetable can be cultivated as both a climber and a creeper. Regarded as a humble vegetable, Indian Pumpkin stands out for its accessibility and nutritional value. Its straightforward cultivation process results in abundant and high-quality vegetables. Pumpkin is often associated with simplicity, fittingly earning the label of a "poor person's vegetable." Its ability to grow easily and yield abundant produce makes it a valuable addition to the Indian diet.
- 52. Chandrayaan-3 becomes world's most viewed live-stream on YouTube:** The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has achieved an impressive feat on YouTube's live streaming platform. The Chandrayaan-3 Mission Soft-landing LIVE Telecast, broadcasted on August 23, 2023, captured the attention of over 80 lakh peak concurrent viewers (PCVs), making it the most-watched live stream globally. The Chandrayaan-3 Mission took the top spot in terms of peak concurrent

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viewers, beating the Brazil vs Croatia football match from the FIFA World Cup 2022 that had 61 lakh PCVs and the the Brazil vs South Korea football match from the same tournament with 52 lakh PCVs.

- 53. First Woman to go to Space in India:** Kalpana Chawal, from Karnal, Haryana, created history by becoming the first woman in India to go to space in 1997 through a space shuttle called Columbia. In 1997, India sent its first astronaut to space, Kalpana Chawla. She was the first Indian woman to go the space and created a history in the field of science. Kalpana Chawla's journey from humble beginnings to the boundless expanse of space serves as an evidence of the power of dreams and the indomitable spirit of human exploration. In 1988, Kalpana Chawla joined NASA Ames Research Centre as a scientist. She knew a lot about how things move in the air and she was good at it. She even learned how to take off planes and land in a special way. Later, she became a pilot. In 1995, she became a part of special group called Astronaut Corps. In 1997, she got a chance to go to space through a spaceship called, Space Shuttle Columbia STS-87. Kalpana Chawla's greed for knowledge and exploration was insatiable. In 2000, she was selected for her second space mission, STS-107. On 16th January 2003, she embarked on her last journey abroad Space Shuttle Columbia. Tragically, this mission ended in disaster as the shuttle disintegrated during re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere on 1st February 2003. Kalpana Chawla, along with six fellow crew members, made the ultimate sacrifice in the pursuit of the scientific discovery.
- 54. Kerala's First AI School Launched In Thiruvananthapuram:** The state of Kerala introduces its first AI school situated at Santhigiri Vidyabhavan in Thiruvananthapuram. It was inaugurated by the Former President of India, Ram Nath Kovind. This inaugural ceremony heralded the inception of a fresh era in the educational domain, distinguished by innovative technology and forward-looking pedagogical methods.
- 55. Space City of India:** Among the various cities in India, Bengaluru, located in the state of Karnataka, has gained the title of "Space City of India" for its pivotal role in India's space exploration. Bengaluru is also known as the "IT City," "Electronic City" and the "Garden City" due to its vibrant technological landscape and lush greenery. Bengaluru is home to critical institutions that play a vital role in India's space initiatives. The U R Rao Satellite Centre, named after the renowned space scientist Dr. Udupi Ramchandra Rao, is situated here. This center takes on a significant responsibility in the construction of satellites and contributed extensively to their technical development. Apart from this, there is also a satellite which helps ISRO to track the satellite during its launch. The headquarters of Department of Space and ISRO is also located in Bengaluru. These are the reasons why Bengaluru is also known as "Space City of India."
- 56. Mera Bill Mera Adhikar' GST Reward Scheme To Launch Soon:** The 'Mera Bill Mera Adhikar' GST Reward Scheme is set to launch on September 1 with the aim of promoting transparency in financial transactions and empowering consumers. This pioneering scheme, aims to promote the habit of requesting bills during purchases, thereby fostering a culture of fiscal responsibility and accountability.

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- 57. NHA Launches First ABDM Microsite In Mizoram:** Under the “100 Microsites” initiative, the National Health Authority (NHA) of India has unveiled the first Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) Microsite in the capital city of Mizoram. This achievement is poised to transform the healthcare sector by propelling the advantages of digitalization to the forefront. Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram now stands as the first ABDM Microsite in India, setting an inspiring example for other regions to follow suit. This achievement showcases Mizoram’s commitment to advancing healthcare services and improving patient experiences through innovative digital solutions.
- 58. Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan-2023: Madhya Pradesh’s IT Hub Indore Secures First Rank:** The city of Indore has clinched the top spot in the Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan -2023 conducted by the Central Pollution Control Board, in the category of cities with a population exceeding 10 lakhs. The results of the survey reflect not only the city’s dedicated efforts but also highlight the overall progress made by several cities in Madhya Pradesh. The Swachh Vayu Sarvekshan -2023 witnessed a remarkable display of dominance by Madhya Pradesh, particularly in the category of cities with a population of more than 10 lakhs. Out of the top five positions, two were secured by cities from the state. While Indore claimed the prestigious first position, Bhopal secured a commendable fifth rank. This achievement reinforces Madhya Pradesh’s proactive approach to tackling pollution and promoting cleaner air quality.
- 59. PS Sreedharan Pillai Released Three New Books on Nature, Trees, and Geopolitics:** Goa governor PS Sreedharan Pillai released three books at a function held at the Raj Bhavan. His recently authored three new books namely ‘Heritage Trees of Goa’, ‘When Parallel Lines Meet’, and ‘Ente Priya Kavithakal’ (‘My Dear Poems’ a collection of poems).
- 60. Telangana Partners With UNESCO To Implement Recommendation On Ethics Of AI:** The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the Information Technology, Electronics and Communications (ITE&C) Department of the Government of Telangana have forged a pioneering partnership to infuse the Ethics of AI into the very essence of artificial intelligence systems.
- 61. Chandrayaan-3: India to celebrate August 23 as ‘National Space Day:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 26 announced to celebrate August 23, when India’s Chandrayaan-3 landed on the Moon, as National Space Day. He also announced that the spot where the lander landed on the Moon will be known as ‘Shivashakti’ and where Chandrayaan-2 touched down will be called as ‘Tiranga Point’.
- 62. Ministry Of Education Announces Launch Of Smart India Hackathon-2023:** In a stride towards nurturing innovation and collaborative problem-solving, the Ministry of Education’s Innovation Cell and the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) have unveiled the much-anticipated sixth edition of the Smart India Hackathon (SIH) 2023. This landmark event continues to be a testament to the growing spirit of innovation in India’s educational landscape.

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- 63. SVAMITVA Scheme Of Ministry Of Panchayati Raj Won National Award For E-Governance**
2023: The SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages Abadi and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas) Scheme, initiated by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, has been honored with the prestigious National Award for e-Governance 2023 (Gold) in recognition of its groundbreaking application of emerging technologies to deliver citizen-centric services.
- 64. Zepto is first Indian unicorn of 2023, raises \$200 million at \$1.4 billion valuation:** Online grocery delivery startup Zepto has successfully raised \$200 million in a Series-E funding round, achieving a valuation of \$1.4 billion. This achievement marks Zepto as the first unicorn of 2023. The funding was led by StepStone Group, a US-based private markets investment firm, and is StepStone Group's inaugural direct investment in an Indian company.
- 65. Khanan Prahari App Helping to Curb Illegal Coal Mining Activities Through Public Participation:** Illegal coal mining poses a significant risk to both the environment and the economy of India. In response to this issue, the government has introduced the Khanan Prahari App. This mobile application allows citizens to report any suspicious activities related to coal mining in their vicinity, thereby contributing to the fight against this illegal practice. The Khanan Prahari mobile app is an initiative led by the Ministry of Coal, aimed at curbing illegal coal mining through public participation.
- 66. MP govt hikes financial aid, 35% reservation in govt jobs for women:** Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on 27 August raised the financial aid given to women in the Ladli Behna Scheme from ₹1,000 to ₹1,250 per month. Apart from this, the MP CM also announced 35 percent reservation for them in government jobs and said cooking gas cylinders will be provided to women at ₹450 in August to mark 'Sawan'.
- 67. 69th National Film Awards 2023 Winners List:** The winners of the 69th National Film Awards were announced at the National Media Center in New Delhi.

Category	Winner
Best Feature Film	Rocketry
Best Actor	Allu Arjun, Pushpa
Best Actress	Alia Bhatt, Gangubai Kathiawadi and Kriti Sanon, Mimi

- 68. Chokuwa Rice: The Enchanting "Magic Rice" of Assam Gets GI Tag:** Chokuwa rice, fondly known as "Magic rice," has recently been bestowed with the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) tag, a recognition of its exceptional attributes and heritage.
- 69. 'Harami Nala':** Union Home Minister has visited the sensitive and strategically important 'Harami Nala' creek in the Kutch region of Gujarat, near the India-Pakistan border. This channel, notorious for its historical connections to infiltrations, illegal activities, and maritime challenges, offers a glimpse into the complexities of border security and regional dynamics. Situated at the Rajasthan border, 'Harami Nala' is a 22-kilometer tidal channel in Gujarat's Kutch region, serving as a natural boundary

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between India and Pakistan. Translated as the "rogue or treacherous channel," the name 'Harami Nala' encapsulates the channel's notoriety as a potential ingress point for infiltrators.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- 70. Beijing Faces Historic Flooding as China Witnesses Highest Rainfall in 140 Years:** China's capital, Beijing, experienced a historic deluge, recording a staggering 744.8 millimeters of rainfall over the course of five days. This torrential downpour, the highest in 140 years, was triggered by the remnants of Typhoon Doksuri, leaving streets submerged and residents stranded.
- 71. Iraq becomes 18th country recognised by WHO for eliminating Trachoma:** Iraq has been officially recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) as the 18th country to successfully eliminate trachoma as a public health concern. Trachoma is a contagious bacterial eye infection caused by bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis*. It primarily affects the surface of the eye and the inside of the eyelid. It is transmitted through direct contact with the eye or nose secretions of infected individuals or from fomites and flies or indirectly through contaminated objects like towels or clothes.
- 72. Richest Man in the World By August 2023, Top 10 List:** Elon Musk stands on the first position in the list of Richest Man in the World. He is the Richest Man in the World with the net worth of \$239.3B. The world's Billionaires List or Real-Time Billionaires list is an annual ranking of the world's wealthiest billionaires based on their recorded net worth. It is produced and published by Forbes Magazine every March. The first edition of this ranking was published in 1987. The net total worth of each person is approximated on the basis of their reported assets and accounting for debt and other considerations. The ranking published the net total worth of each person in US dollar. These rankings do not include royalty or dictators whose wealth is derived from their status.

Sr. No.	Name	Net worth (in Billions)	Country
1.	Elon Musk	\$240.7	United States
2.	Bernard Arnault & family	\$231.4	France
3.	Jeff Bezos	\$154.9	United States
4.	Larry Elison	\$146.1	United States
5.	Bill Gates	\$119.3	United States
6.	Warren Buffet	\$117.4	United States
7.	Mark Zuckerberg	\$115.2	United States
8.	Larry Page	\$111.9	United States
9.	Sergey Brin	\$106.2	United States
10.	Steve Ballmer	\$103.4	United States

- 73. Construction work of Indian Buddhist Culture and Heritage Centre begins:** The International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) held the Bhumi Pujan ceremony for the construction of the India

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International Centre for Buddhist Culture and Heritage (IICBCH) in Lumbini, Nepal. Lumbini, where Lord Buddha was born, is one of the primary pilgrimage sites that make up the Buddhist Circuit. Others include Bodh Gaya in Bihar, India (where he attained enlightenment), Sarnath in Uttar Pradesh, India (where he delivered his first sermon), and Kushinagar, also in Uttar Pradesh (his final resting place). These locations are intricately linked to the life and teachings of Lord Buddha. International Buddhist Confederation is the largest Buddhist religious confederation headquartered in Delhi. This organization is dedicated to establishing a significant presence for Buddhism on the world stage, with the aim of safeguarding our cultural legacy, spreading wisdom, and upholding our principles.

- 74. Record-Breaking July 2023: Hottest Month on Earth:** In July 2023, our planet experienced an unprecedented rise in temperatures, marking it as the hottest month ever recorded. This alarming trend underscores the urgency of addressing global climate change and its root cause, greenhouse gas emissions. July 2023 was estimated to have been approximately 1.5°C warmer than the historical average from 1850-1900.
- 75. Iraq bans media from using term 'homosexuality':** The Iraqi Communications and Media Commission (CMC) has enforced a ban on the use of term 'homosexuality', instead mandates using the term 'sexual deviance' as a replacement. LGBTQ+ individuals face extensive discrimination in Iraq, with open homosexuality leading to military service bans and the illegality of same-sex marriages or civil unions. As per World Data, gay sex is considered a criminal offense in over 60 countries, while same-sex sexual acts have been decriminalized in more than 130 nations.
- 76. Australia to be testing ground for US missiles:** Australia's involvement in the AUKUS (Australia, United Kingdom, United States) pact has gained attention due to its potential role as a testing ground for advanced hypersonic and long-range precision weapons. The agreement, initially focused on supplying Australia with nuclear-powered submarines, has evolved to address the growing influence of China in the Asia-Pacific region. The AUKUS pact, signed in late 2021, serves as a strategic response to counter China's increasing dominance in the Asia-Pacific region. By enhancing Australia's defense capabilities, the pact aims to create a deterrent against potential aggression from China, a stance that has been criticized by Beijing but strongly supported by the pact's member nations.



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- 77. China's Economy Slips into Deflation:** China, the world's second-largest economy, is now facing deflation, a sustained decrease in general price levels. In July, both consumer and producer price indices dropped, reflecting economic strain. Deflation, the inverse of inflation, signifies a persistent decline in the general price levels of goods and services within an economy. The recent occurrence of deflation in China, the world's second-largest economy, has triggered concerns about its economic prospects and the need for robust policy responses from Beijing.
- 78. Katchatheevu island:** The island of Katchatheevu has emerged as a symbol of historical disputes, political contention, and a reminder of complex geopolitical decisions. PM's reference to Katchatheevu during a parliamentary debate added fuel to the ongoing discussions surrounding this small island, nestled between Tamil Nadu and Sri Lanka. Katchatheevu, a 285-acre island, has its origins in a 14-century volcanic eruption. It was historically under the control of the Jaffna kingdom in Sri Lanka and later the Ramnad Zamindari in India. Both India and Sri Lanka claimed Katchatheevu in the early 20th century to establish fishing boundaries. The ownership dispute continued even during the British Raj. Indira Gandhi's government decided to cede Katchatheevu to Sri Lanka as part of the 1974 agreement, aiming to establish maritime borders. The agreement allowed Indian fishermen access to Katchatheevu "hitherto," but fishing rights remained ambiguous, leading to disputes.
- 79. Lunar South Pole Mission:** The moon exploration scene has intensified as Russia's "Luna 25" mission prepares for a soft landing near the lunar South Pole, challenging India's "Chandrayaan-3" in the race to touch down first.
- 80. Typhoon Lan Hits Japan, Causing Flooding and Power Outages:** Typhoon Lan made landfall in Japan, August 15, bringing heavy rain and strong winds. The typhoon has caused flooding and power outages in several areas.
- 81. India's First Drone Common Testing Centre To Be Established In Tamil Nadu:** Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO), the nodal agency overseeing the implementation of the Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor (TNDIC), is set to establish India's first Unmanned Aerial Systems (Drone) Common Testing Centre at an outlay of Rs 45 crore.
- 82. The G20 Film Festival kicked off with the screening of "Pather Panchali":** The first G20 film festival, organized by the Ministry of External Affairs and India International Centre, commenced in Delhi with the screening of the renowned drama film "Pather Panchali" by Satyajit Ray. The distinguished veteran actor Victor Banerjee and G20 Sherpa Amitabh Kant graced the festival's grand opening, symbolizing a significant stride towards nurturing cross-cultural comprehension through the medium of cinema. The G20 Film Festival commenced in New Delhi with the screening of the 1955 Indian classic "Pather Panchali", a drama film directed by Satyajit Ray
- 83. The Resilience of the Piripkura Tribe: Last Survivors Found Deep within the Amazon Rainforest:** The Piripkura tribe is a secluded indigenous group found in Brazil.

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- 84. India Becomes 4th Country landed Successfully on Moon:** India successfully landed its Chandrayaan-3 mission on the lunar surface on August 23, 2023, making it the fourth country to do so after the United States, Russia, and China. The lander Vikram touched down on the south pole of the moon, a region that has never been explored before. The rover Pragyan is expected to roll out of the lander and begin its exploration of the lunar surface in the coming days.
- 85. BRICS Welcomes New Members: Inclusion of Argentina, Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, and Egypt:** In a significant geopolitical development, the BRICS alliance, comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, has announced the inclusion of six new member countries. This expansion marks a notable shift in the alliance's composition and has the potential to reshape the dynamics of global cooperation. President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa, the host nation of the recent BRICS summit, made a historic announcement on August 24th, revealing the names of the new entrants to the alliance. The expanded BRICS now welcomes Argentina, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia, and Egypt into its fold. This move not only diversifies the alliance but also provides a platform for emerging economies from different regions to align their interests on the global stage.
- 86. PM Modi first Indian prime minister to visit Greece in 40 years:** Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi embarked on a landmark visit to Greece, marking a significant diplomatic milestone as he became the first Indian Prime Minister to set foot in the country in 40 years. This visit is aimed at fortifying the bilateral relationship between India and Greece, and it comes at the invitation of Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis.
- 87. B20 Summit India 2023:** At the B20 Summit India 2023, leaders emphasize India's G20 presidency's inclusive approach and AI's responsible development. The B20(Business 20) Summit India 2023 is currently taking place, and several prominent figures have shared their insights on various topics. The theme for the B20 India 2023 is Responsible, Accelerated, Innovative, Sustainable, Equitable (R.A.I.S.E) Businesses.
- 88. ISRO's next mission to Moon is with Japanese, named LUPEX:** Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is preparing for one more lunar mission, this one in collaboration with Japanese space agency, The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA). This mission, called LUPEX, or Lunar Polar Exploration, is slated for 2024-25. But there would be more in the Chandrayaan series as well. LUPEX will offer ISRO another opportunity to probe the surface of the Moon.
- 89. Emmerson Mnangagwa Wins Second Term As Of Zimbabwe:** Emmerson Mnangagwa has been declared the winner of Zimbabwe's presidential election, securing a second term as the nation's leader. The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) announced Mnangagwa as the victor with 52.6% of the vote, while his closest rival, Nelson Chamisa of the Citizens' Coalition for Change (CCC), trailed behind at 44%. This election marks a significant moment in Zimbabwe's political landscape, occurring six years after the fall of longtime ruler Robert Mugabe, who was ousted from power in a military coup.

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90. YASUNI NATIONAL PARK: Ecuadorians made a historic decision by rejecting oil drilling by a referendum in Yasuni National Park, a biodiverse Amazonian region. Yasuni National Park, declared a UNESCO biosphere reserve in 1989, spans 1 million hectares and harbors exceptional biodiversity. It is part of the Amazon rainforest, which itself is a global hotspot for species diversity. It is situated in the northeastern part of Ecuador, within the Napo and Pastaza provinces. It covers an area of approximately 9,820 square km (3,791 square miles). The park is considered one of the most biologically diverse areas on Earth.

APPOINTMENTS

- 91. Justice Subhasis Talapatra sworn in as new Chief Justice of Orissa High Court:** Justice Subhasis Talapatra was officially appointed as the 33rd Chief Justice of the Orissa High Court. The oath of office was administered by Governor Ganeshi Lal, marking his succession of Justice S Muralidhar. He is set to hold the position of Chief Justice for a relatively short period of under two months, concluding with his retirement on October 3, 2023.
- 92. Sanjay Kumar Agarwal takes charge as CBIC Chairman:** IRS officer Sanjay Kumar Agarwal has taken charge as the Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC). The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) is a statutory body under the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. It is responsible for the administration of indirect taxes in India, which include customs, central excise, service tax, and goods and services tax (GST). The CBIC also has the responsibility of preventing tax evasion and smuggling.
- 93. SBI Life's Appointment of Amit Jhingran as MD & CEO Receives IRDAI Approval:** Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) approved the appointment of Amit Jhingran as the new Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer for SBI Life Insurance Company Limited.
- 94. Justice Prakash Shrivastava appointed as NGT chairperson:** Justice Prakash Shrivastava has been appointed as Chairperson of National Green Tribunal (NGT). After the former Chairperson Justice A.K Goel retired. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) is a specialized body set up by the Government of India under the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 to provide speedy and effective justice to cases related to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other natural resources. It is a quasi-judicial body with powers to hear and decide cases relating to environmental pollution, environmental degradation, and other matters affecting the environment. The NGT has its headquarters in New Delhi and has five zonal benches located at Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata, Chennai, and Guwahati. The Tribunal is headed by a Chairperson who is a retired judge of the Supreme Court or the High Court. The other members of the Tribunal are also qualified legal professionals.
- 95. Srettha Thavisin Elected As Thailand Prime Minister:** Official currency of Thailand: Thai baht
- 96. ISRO Chairman List (1963 to 2023):** Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) is India's Space Agency which has its headquarters in Bengaluru. The parent organization of ISRO is the Department of Space, to which ISRO reports. The Chairman of ISRO also serves as an executive of DOS. There

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have been 11 ISRO Chairpersons appointed since 1963. On 12 January 2022, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) appointed S. Somnath as the eleventh chairman of the ISRO. Dr. Vikram Sarabhai was the first ISRO Chairman.

S.No.	ISRO Chairman	Tenure	Length of Term
1.	Dr. Vikram Sarabhai	1963 to 1971	9 years
2.	Prof. M.G.K. Menon	Jan. 1972 to Sep. 1972	9 months
3.	Prof. Satish Dhawan	1972 to 1984	12 years
4.	Prof. U.R. Rao	1984 to 1994	10 years
5.	Dr. k. kasturirangan	1994 to 2003	9 years
6.	G. Madhavan Nair	2003 to 2009	6 years
7.	Dr. k. Radhakrishnan	2009 to 2014	5 years
8.	Dr. Shailesh Nayak	2015 to 2015	11 days
9.	A.S. Kirar Kumar	2015 to 2018	3 years
10.	Dr. K. Sivan	Jan. 2018 to Jan. 2022	3 years
11.	S. Somnath	12 Jan. 2022 to Present	Incumbent

SPORTS

- 97. SAI launched short movie series 'Halla Bol' Under 'Cheer4India' Campaign:** Sports Authority of India (SAI) under the Umbrella Campaign 'Cheer4India' has launched a short movie series 'Halla Bol' on the journey of Asian Games bound athletes to motivate them for Hangzhou Asian Games and spread awareness about the upcoming Asian Games. The Sports Authority of India (SAI) is the Apex National Sports Body of India, established in 1984 by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of the Government of India for the development of sports in India. SAI Headquarters: Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium (Delhi), Lodhi Road, Delhi, India.
- 98. GM Gukesh overtakes Viswanathan Anand to become highest Indian in FIDE rankings:** The 17-year-old chess prodigy, D. Gukesh, has dethroned Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand as India's top-ranked chess player in the live world rankings.
- 99. Asian Champions Trophy Hockey title 2023: India beat Malaysia clinch fourth Asian Champions Trophy:** India beat Malaysia 4-3 and clinch a record fourth Asian Champions Trophy title at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Stadium in Chennai. Malaysia were aggressive in the first half as the Indians found it difficult to restrict their opponent. With four Asian Champions Trophy titles, India is the most successful team in the history of the tournament. Pakistan, with three titles, are at the second spot now.

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- 100. 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.
- 101. Khelo India Women's League To Be Known As Asmita Women's League:** Anurag Singh Thakur, the Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, has unveiled that the esteemed Khelo India Women's League will be recognized as the "Asmita Women's League" from now on. This purposeful transformation underscores the government's commitment to advancing gender equality and nurturing the vibrant engagement of women in the realm of sports. The new name, "Asmita Women's League," carries a profound meaning. ASMITA stands for "Achieving Sports Milestone by Inspiring Women Through Action", encapsulating the spirit of resilience, determination, and achievement that defines women athletes across the nation. This change not only offers a new identity but also embodies the aspirations of countless women who strive to make their mark in the sporting arena. Khelo India Programme was launched in the year: 2018
- 102. Sachin Tendulkar to be EC's national icon:** Former Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar will become a "national icon" of the Election Commission (EC) and spread awareness regarding the need for greater voter participation in the electoral process. The Commission had last year recognised actor Pankaj Tripathi as a national icon. Earlier, during the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, cricketer Mahendra Singh Dhoni, actor Aamir Khan and boxer Mary Kom had been the poll body's national icons.
- 103. Chess World Cup 2023 Final: India's Praggnanandhaa finishes 2nd:** Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa finished second in FIDE World Cup. After three days and four games of intensely nery chess across two formats, Magnus Carlsen finally managed to win the FIDE World Cup for the first time in his career.
- 104. Neeraj Chopra Makes History as First Indian to Secure Gold at World Athletics Championships:** Neeraj Chopra made history by winning the gold medal in the men's javelin throw event at the World Athletics Championships held in Budapest, Hungary. He became the first-ever Indian athlete to achieve this feat, marking a significant milestone for Indian athletics. Neeraj's exceptional performance was highlighted by a remarkable throw of 88.17 meters during his second attempt. This outstanding achievement showcased his skill and dominance in the event, solidifying his position as a global contender.

BANKING, FINANCE, ECONOMY & BUSINESS

- 105. Digital payments grew significantly at 13.24% in FY23, shows RBI index:** In the fiscal year 2022-2023 (FY23), digital payments in India experienced remarkable growth, as indicated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI).
- 106. Axis Bank Partners with Kiwi to Bolster 'Credit on UPI' on RuPay Credit Cards:** Kiwi, a fintech company specializing in enabling credit on UPI, has partnered with Axis Bank to introduce a lifetime free Axis Bank KWIK credit cards through its app.

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- 107. RBI's August 2023 Monetary Policy Meeting Highlights:** In the RBI's August 2023 Monetary Policy Meeting, the repo rate remains steady at 6.5%, marking the third consecutive meeting with no change. The decision was taken unanimously by the six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). This marks the third consecutive monetary policy meeting in which the MPC has chosen to keep the repo rate unchanged at 6.50%. Previously, the MPC had increased the repo rate by 250 basis points from May 2022 to February 2023.
- 108. Airtel Payments Bank Launched India's 1st Eco-Friendly Debit Card:** India's first payment bank, Airtel Payment Bank also became the first Indian Bank to launch an eco-friendly debit card for its new and existing customers with a savings bank account. The debit cards will be crafted from recycle-Poly Vinyl Chloride (r-PVC) material, a certified eco-friendly material, against normal PVC cards. The introduction coincides with the Bank's dedication to sustainability and its drive to advocate for environmentally conscious practices within the financial industry.
- 109. AU Bank Becomes India's First Bank To Provide 24x7 Video Banking Service:** AU Small Finance Bank, the largest small finance bank in India, has taken a remarkable step forward in customer service with the launch of their innovative 24x7 video banking platform. This pioneering service enables customers to engage in face-to-face video interactions with expert bankers, akin to video calls. This move redefines convenience, as it provides round-the-clock support, even during weekends and holidays.
- 110. Dutch Economy Enters Recession:** The Dutch economy has entered a recession, shrinking 0.3% on a quarterly basis in the second quarter. This is the first recession since the pandemic, and follows a 0.4% contraction in the first three months of the year. The eurozone's fifth largest economy was driven by a drop in consumer spending and exports. Consumer spending fell 1.6%, while exports were 0.7% lower than in the first three months of the year. Inflation in the Netherlands has dropped since hitting a peak of 14.5% in September 2022, but was still relatively high at about 6% in the second quarter of 2023. Netherland Capital: Amsterdam; Currency: The euro.;
Prime Minister: Mark Rutte.
- 111. RBI Introduces UDGM Portal:** RBI's UDGM portal presents an innovative solution to the issue of unclaimed deposits by centralizing information and providing an intuitive search process.
- 112. Jan Dhan Accounts Cross 50 Crore-Mark In Less Than 9 Years: Centre:** Out of the total Jan Dhan accounts, an encouraging 56 percent are owned by women, indicating a remarkable step towards gender inclusivity in financial matters. Around 67 percent of these accounts have been opened in rural and semi-urban areas, showcasing the program's widespread reach and positive impact in less urbanized regions. The cumulative deposits in these Jan Dhan accounts have surged beyond ₹2.03 lakh crore, underlining the financial engagement and empowerment of a significant portion of the population. The initiative has also provided approximately 34 crore RuPay debit cards free of cost to Jan Dhan account holders. These cards come with the added benefit of in-built accident insurance worth ₹2 lakh. The program offers a valuable overdraft facility of up to ₹10,000,

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providing a safety net for financial emergencies. The National Mission on Financial Inclusion, widely recognized as PMJDY, was inaugurated on August 28, 2014.

- 113. HDFC Bank Launches India's First Co-Branded Hotel Credit Card With Marriott:** In a groundbreaking collaboration, HDFC Bank, India's leading private sector bank, has partnered with Marriott Bonvoy, the acclaimed travel program by Marriott International, to unveil the 'Marriott Bonvoy HDFC Bank Credit Card'. This pioneering co-branded hotel credit card, the first of its kind in India, operates on the esteemed Diners Club platform, a part of the Discover Global Network, and aspires to set new standards for rewarding travel cards in the country.
- 114. Airtel Payments Bank partners with Frontier Markets, Mastercard to support 1 lakh women-owned businesses:** Airtel Payments Bank, in collaboration with Mastercard Center and Frontier Markets, has introduced a transformative initiative named She Leads Bharat: Udyam. This initiative is designed to uplift 100,000 women-owned small businesses by providing them with opportunities to learn and earn.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- 115. Muslim Women's Rights Day 2023:** Muslim Women's Rights Day is observed across the nation on August 1 to celebrate the enactment of the law against triple talaq. The central government enacted the law on August 1, 2019, that has made the practice of instant triple talaq a criminal offence. Shah Bano Begum & Ors Vs Mo Ahmed Khan', 'Shayra Bano Vs Union of India and Others' laid the foundation stone for this move.
- 116. Hiroshima Day 2023:** On 6th August 1945, the world witnessed the most devastating events in human history when the United States dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. The atomic bomb, named 'Little Boy', killed an estimated 140,000 people by the end of 1945, either directly or through the subsequent effects of radiation. Most of the people suffered severe injuries and the survivors endured lifelong health issues.
- 117. 7 August – National Handloom Day:** National Handloom Day is observed on 7th August every year to honor and celebrate the handloom weavers in the country. This day highlights the rich cultural heritage and craftsmanship of traditional handloom textiles. The celebration aims to promote and support the handloom industry, which plays a crucial role in preserving the country's cultural diversity and providing livelihoods to numerous artisans.
- 118. 8 August – Quit India Movement Day:** Quit India Movement Day is observed on 8th August every year to commemorate the launch of the Quit India Movement on 8th August 1942 by Mahatma Gandhi. Also known as the August Movement or August Kranti, it was a significant civil disobedience movement against British colonial rule in India during World War II. On August 9, 1942, India embarked on a historic journey towards independence by launching the Quit India Movement. On August 8, 1942, Mahatma Gandhi issued a powerful ultimatum to the British Raj, urging them to "Quit India."

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- 119. 9 August – Nagasaki Day:** The second atomic bomb dropped by the United States on Japan was Fat Man, which was dropped on Nagasaki on August 9, 1945. The bomb was dropped by the B-29 bomber Bockscar, commanded by Major Charles Sweeney. The bomb exploded over Nagasaki at 11:02 am local time, killing an estimated 80,000 people instantly and another 35,000 people from radiation exposure in the following months. Fat Man was a plutonium implosion bomb, and it was much more powerful than the uranium bomb that was dropped on Hiroshima. The blast from Fat Man was equivalent to 21 kilotons of TNT, which is about 13 times more powerful than the Hiroshima bomb.
- 120. 12 August – International Youth Day:** International Youth Day is celebrated on 12 August around the globe to focus on the development and protection of youth in society.
- 121. World Tribal Day 2023: 9 August:** This day is observed by the United Nations to promote and protect the rights of the world's indigenous peoples. This year's theme for World Tribal Day is "Indigenous Youth as Agents of Change for Self-determination."
- 122. World Organ Donation Day 2023:** World Organ Donation Day 2023 is observed on August 13, 2023. It is a global event that is observed to raise awareness about the importance of organ donation and to encourage people to become organ donors. Organ donation is the process of giving an organ or tissue to someone else who needs it to survive or improve their quality of life. Organs that can be donated include kidneys, livers, hearts, lungs, pancreases, and intestines. Tissues that can be donated include corneas, skin, bone, heart valves, and tendons. There are currently over 100,000 people in the United States waiting for an organ transplant. Every day, 22 people die while waiting for a transplant. In India, there are over 5 lakh people waiting for an organ transplant. The theme for World Organ Donation Day 2023 is "Step up to volunteer; need more organ donors to fill the lacunae".
- 123. Parsi New Year 2023:** The Parsi New Year, also referred to as Navroz or Nowruz, is a joyous occasion celebrated between July and August, this year Parsi New Year marked on 16th August. Rooted in the Persian words 'Nav and 'Roz', which means 'new day', this cherished festival has a rich history spanning over 3,000 years.
- 124. World Humanitarian Day 2023:** Every year on August 19, the world comes together to honor the remarkable efforts of humanitarians who tirelessly work to improve the lives of crisis-affected populations. The theme for World Humanitarian Day 2023, "No Matter What,"
- 125. Sadbhavana Diwas 2023:** Sadbhavana Diwas, also known as Harmony Day, is an annual celebration observed on 20th August in India. 20th August 2023 marks the 79th birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. Some of his notable achievements include: National Policy on Education: Rajiv Gandhi introduced a National Policy on Education in 1986 to modernize higher education plans and promote intellectual growth. Jawahar Navodaya Vidhyalaya System: Rajiv Gandhi founded a central-government-based institution namely Jawahar Navodaya Vidhyalaya System in 1986 for the upliftment of the rural section of the society providing them free residential education from 6th to 12th class. Telecommunications Development: Due to his efforts, MTNL

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(Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited) was established in 1986 and also created public call offices (PCOs) for spreading telephones in rural areas. Economic Reforms: In post-1990, he introduced measures for reducing License Raj allowing businesses and individuals to purchase capital, consumer goods and import bureaucratic restrictions. Youth Empowerment: Rajiv Gandhi introduced the voting age as 18 to encourage the youth involvement in the voting process. He emphasized the potential of the country's youth and introduced schemes like the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana to provide employment opportunities.

- 126. World Water Week 2023:** World Water Week is a global event which is organised by the Stockholm International Water Institute every year since 1991. The programme will be held from August 20 to 24 at the Waterfront Congress Center. It is a non-profit event which aims to develop solutions for the international water crisis. The theme, Seeds of Change: Innovative Solutions for a Water-Wise World.
- 127. National Sports Day 2023:** The National Sports Day 2023 in India is celebrated on 29 August 2023. This annual observance, held on August 29 in India, is a tribute to the enduring legacy of Major Dhyani Chand. The theme for National Sports Day 2023 celebration is "Sports are an enabler to an inclusive and fit society".
- 128. World Sanskrit Day 2023:** World Sanskrit Day, also referred to as International Sanskrit Day, Sanskrit Diwas and Vishwa Samskrita Dinam is observed on the day of Shravana Purnima in the Hindu calendar, which is also marked as Raksha Bandhan, which coincides with the moon. This year we will be celebrating Sanskrit Diwas on Thursday, 31st August.

AWARDS

- 129. PM Modi honoured with Greece's Grand Cross of the Order of Honour:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with the Grand Cross of the Order of Honour by Greek President Katerina N. Sakellariopoulou in Athens. The award is the highest civilian honour that can be bestowed by Greece to a foreign head of government.



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