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MONTH OF AUGUST' 2024"**

LAW AND AMENDMENT

Supreme Court Allows SC/ST Sub-Classification by States

- The Supreme Court, led by Chief Justice DY Chandrachud, ruled that state governments can sub-classify SCs and STs for reservations.
- This verdict overrules a 2004 decision which deemed such sub-classification impermissible.
- The court's ruling requires that sub-classification be based on sufficient data showing inadequate representation and varying levels of social backwardness.
- In 1975, Punjab's circular dividing its 25% SC reservation into two categories was an early example of sub-classification.
- Article 14 of the Constitution allows for sub-classification of groups that are not similarly situated under the law.
- The court affirmed that sub-classification must not provide exclusive benefits to specific castes to comply with Article 341(2).
- The seven-judge bench clarified that sub-classification must reflect different levels of social backwardness within SCs and STs.
- State governments are now empowered to adjust reservations to better address disparities within SC and ST communities.

The Supreme Court formed a 10-member task force to ensure the safety of doctors

- The Supreme Court has established a 10-member national task force (NTF) focused on the safety of doctors.
- This task force was formed in response to protests following the tragic death of a doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College.
- The task force will create a national protocol to ensure the protection and proper facilities for healthcare workers.
- Senior doctors from various fields have been included in the task force.
- Four ex-officio members are part of the task force: the Cabinet Secretary, Health Secretary, National Medical Commission Chairperson, and the National Board of Examiners President.
- The task force will also address workplace safety for healthcare professionals.
- A national action plan to combat gender-based violence has also been mandated by the Supreme Court.
- The task force has been instructed to submit an interim report within three weeks.
- A final report is expected within two months of the task force's formation.
- The initiative underscores the importance of protecting doctors and healthcare workers nationwide.

SC to examine need for a permanent environmental regulator

- The Supreme Court has initiated discussions on establishing a 'permanent environmental regulator' similar to those in sectors like telecom and electricity.
- This move addresses concerns over the current environmental regulatory framework's adequacy and advocates for a more cohesive approach to environmental management.
- The amicus curiae suggested that existing environmental regulators function in isolation and recommended merging them into a single body for better oversight.
- India's environmental governance is currently fragmented, with entities like CPCB, SPCBs, NGT, and various ministries working independently within their mandates.
- The lack of coordination among these bodies often leads to inconsistencies in environmental regulation and enforcement.
- The Supreme Court emphasized the need for increased accountability and efficiency in these regulatory bodies.
- Regular audits and transparent operations have been highlighted as essential to improving the effectiveness of environmental governance.
- Institutionalizing these authorities is seen as crucial for ensuring their integrity and independence in preserving the country's ecological balance.
- The proposed unified regulator would enhance the monitoring and enforcement of environmental laws across India.
- The deliberations reflect a broader push towards strengthening India's environmental regulatory framework and addressing climate change challenges more effectively.

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Kerala's 24x7 Open and Networked Courts

- The Kerala High Court launched the '24x7 ON Courts' as part of judicial reform.
- '24x7 ON Courts' is a networked system facilitating online case filing, case monitoring, and adjournment applications.
- This initiative aims to enhance accessibility and efficiency in the judicial process.
- The system was established with support from Public Collective for Avoidance and Resolution of Dispute (PUCAR).
- The introduction of '24x7 ON Courts' marks a significant step in modernizing court operations.
- It provides round-the-clock services to streamline legal procedures and improve case management.
- The system will be implemented at magistrate courts, which face high case backlogs and low policy focus.
- It includes a scheduling system to list court matters and inform stakeholders about the next steps.
- Integration with ePost and iCoPS will facilitate the management of summons and warrants.
- Dashboards will provide judges with real-time information on case progression.
- This initiative aims to improve efficiency and transparency in handling court cases.

Supreme Court Reaffirms: 'Bail is the Rule, Jail the Exception' Even Under PMLA

- The Supreme Court reaffirmed that "bail is the rule and jail is the exception" applies even under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) 2002.
- PMLA, enacted by the Indian Parliament in 2002, targets money laundering linked to activities like drug trafficking, smuggling, and terrorism financing.
- A recent Supreme Court ruling emphasized that bail should be granted in deserving cases under special statutes like the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act 1967.
- The court observed that denying bail in deserving cases violates Article 21, which protects personal liberty under the law.
- Section 479 of the Bhartiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, outlines that bail must be granted for bailable offences.
- Under this code, undertrial prisoners cannot be detained for more than half the maximum period of imprisonment.
- First-time offenders who have served one-third of their maximum sentence while in detention must be granted bail.
- Special laws like POCSO Act (2012) and Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act (2005) also have specific bail provisions.
- The court's ruling emphasizes that procedural fairness must be upheld even under special statutes.

Government to introduce Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, in the Lok Sabha

- The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, will be introduced in the Lok Sabha by Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju.
- This bill proposes 40 amendments to the Waqf Act, 1995.
- One key change involves replacing the term 'Waqf' with 'Unified Waqf Management, Empowerment, Efficiency and Development.'
- The bill aims to reduce the discretionary powers of Waqf Boards.
- It introduces the district collector into the process, granting them authority to resolve disputes between Waqf Boards and the government.
- The amendments will address the issue of Waqf Boards claiming properties without proper verification.
- A separate Board of Auqaf will be established for the Bohras and Aghakhanis under this bill.
- The bill will also create a central portal and database to streamline Waqf registration.
- The proposed changes aim to enhance transparency and efficiency in Waqf management.

Himachal Pradesh has raised the minimum marriage age for women from 18 to 21 years.

- Himachal Pradesh has increased the minimum marriage age for women from 18 to 21 years.
- The Himachal Pradesh State Assembly passed the Prohibition of Child Marriage (Himachal Pradesh Amendment) Bill, 2024 on August 27.
- The Bill was approved by voice vote in the State Assembly.
- This amendment to the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, is aimed at promoting gender equality and education.
- The Bill also amends related Acts as applicable in Himachal Pradesh.
- Himachal Pradesh is the first state in India to raise the minimum marriage age for women to 21 years.
- The initiative was introduced by Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhwinder Singh Sukhu.
- The Bill's goal is to ensure better educational opportunities for women by raising the marriage age.
- This move is a significant step toward empowering women and ensuring gender equality in the state.
- Earlier, in June 2024, a Central bill 'Prohibition of Child Marriage (Amendment) Bill, 2021' lapsed in Lok Sabha which aimed to bring uniformity in the age of marriage for men and women. 2021 Bill was based on

recommendations of Jaya Jaitley Committee.

APPOINTMENTS

Sadhna Saxena Nair has become the first woman to be appointed as Director General Medical Services (Army).

- Lt Gen Sadhna Saxena Nair became the first woman appointed as Director General Medical Services (Army).
- She previously served as the first woman Director General of Hospital Services (Armed Forces).
- Nair graduated from the Armed Forces Medical College in Pune.
- She also holds the distinction of being the first woman Principal Medical Officer in both the Western Air Command and the Training Command of the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- Lt Gen Nair was nominated as an expert member of the Dr. Kasturirangan Committee.
- The Dr. Kasturirangan Committee was tasked with drafting the medical education component of the National Education Policy.
- Her appointment marks a significant milestone in the history of the Indian Army's medical services.

Daljit Singh takes additional charge of Director General BSF

- Daljit Singh Chawdhary has taken additional charge as Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF).
- He is a 1990-batch Indian Police Service officer from the Uttar Pradesh cadre.
- Chawdhary has served in various roles in Uttar Pradesh and has been ADG in the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and SDG in the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).
- He has received four Gallantry medals, the Police Medal for Meritorious Service, and the President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service.
- The BSF was established on December 1, 1965.
- It is tasked with securing India's borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh.
- The motto of the BSF is 'Jeevan Paryant Kartavya'.
- The BSF's headquarters are located in New Delhi.
- Chawdhary's new role underscores his extensive experience and recognition in the field.

Grinson George has been appointed Director of CMFRI

- Grinson George has been appointed as the Director of CMFRI.
- Previously, he led the Marine Biodiversity and Environmental Management Division at CMFRI.
- George also served as Senior Programme Specialist with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation in Dhaka.
- He brings over 20 years of expertise in fisheries research.
- His areas of knowledge include climate change, remote sensing, marine biodiversity, and resource management.
- The ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute was founded on February 3, 1947, and joined ICAR in 1967.
- CMFRI is based in Kochi, Kerala, and operates under the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
- Dr. George's appointment marks a significant leadership change at this key research institute.

Challa Sreenivasulu Setty has been appointed Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI).

- Challa Sreenivasulu Setty has been appointed as the Chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI).
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved his appointment.
- Setty's term will begin on or after August 28 and will last for three years or until further notice.
- Previously, Setty was the Managing Director of SBI, overseeing Global Markets & Technology.
- The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) recommended Setty for the SBI Chairman role in June.
- Dinesh Kumar Khara, the current Chairman, will retire on August 28, his 63rd birthday, which is the retirement age limit for the position.
- Rana Ashutosh Kumar Singh has also been approved by the ACC as the new Managing Director of SBI.
- Setty's appointment follows Khara's retirement, marking a significant leadership change at SBI.

Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus to take oath as head of interim govt.

- Nobel laureate Mohammad Yunus is about to be sworn in as the head of Bangladesh's interim government.
- Yunus has called for calm and urged against violence amidst the political turmoil.
- Army Chief Gen Waker-Uz-Zaman has announced the swearing-in schedule and mentioned the interim government might have 15 members.
- The armed forces will back Yunus, who is currently traveling from Paris to Dhaka.
- This development follows the resignation of Sheikh Hasina, who left the country amid violent protests.
- Yunus's appointment comes in the wake of significant unrest and political upheaval.
- The interim government's formation aims to restore stability and order in Bangladesh.

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Rahul Navin has been appointed as Director of Enforcement Directorate.

- Rahul Navin, a 1993 batch IRS officer, has been appointed as the new Director of the Enforcement Directorate (ED).
- The Directorate of Enforcement operates under the Union Finance Ministry.
- Before becoming Director, Navin served as the Special Director of the Enforcement Directorate.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved Navin's appointment for a two-year term.
- Rahul Navin joined the ED in November 2019 as a Special Director (OSD).
- The Enforcement Directorate investigates money laundering and foreign exchange law violations.
- Navin took over as acting Director of the ED after Sanjay Kumar Mishra's tenure ended in September 2023.
- The Directorate enforces laws such as FEMA 2019, Fugitive Economic Offenders Act 2018, and certain aspects of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

Goalkeeper PR Sreejesh will be the new head coach of India's junior men's team.

- Hockey India has appointed PR Sreejesh, the retiring goalkeeper, as the head coach of the junior men's hockey team.
- Sreejesh played a key role in securing India's bronze medal by defeating Spain 2-1 at the 2024 Paris Olympics.
- Following the 2024 Olympics, PR Sreejesh announced his retirement from professional hockey.
- India secured its second consecutive Olympic bronze medal in men's hockey.
- Sreejesh was honored with the prestigious Khel Ratna in 2021.
- He previously received the Padma Shri, India's fourth highest civilian award, in 2017.
- His brilliant performance as the Indian goalkeeper was instrumental in the Olympic victory.
- The decision to appoint Sreejesh as head coach comes after his celebrated career as one of India's top goalkeepers.

Govind Mohan has been appointed as the new Union Home Secretary.

- Govind Mohan, a senior IAS officer, has been named the new Union Home Secretary.
- His appointment has received approval from the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.
- Sandeep Poundrik has taken over as Secretary of the Ministry of Steel.
- Govind Mohan will take over from Ajay Kumar Bhalla, whose term ends on August 22.
- Prior to this, Sandeep Poundrik served as an advisor to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).
- The transition in the Home Secretary position follows the completion of Bhalla's tenure.
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved the appointments of both Govind Mohan and Sandeep Poundrik.
- Govind Mohan's new role as Union Home Secretary is a key appointment in the government.
- Sandeep Poundrik's experience includes significant contributions in disaster management.

Morne Morkel appointed bowling coach of Indian men's team.

- Morne Morkel, the former South African fast bowler, has been appointed as the bowling coach for the Indian men's cricket team.
- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) secretary, Jay Shah, confirmed Morkel's role for the upcoming two-Test series against Bangladesh starting on September 19.
- Morkel previously served as the bowling coach for Lucknow Super Giants, where Gautam Gambhir was the team's mentor.
- Before his appointment as head coach, Gambhir advocated for Morkel's inclusion in the Indian coaching staff.
- Morkel also has experience as a bowling coach with various franchise teams globally.
- In addition to his franchise coaching roles, Morkel was the bowling coach for the Pakistan men's team during the 2023 ODI World Cup in India.
- Morkel's appointment adds significant international experience to the Indian coaching setup.

Ashok Kumar Singh assume as Director General of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC).

- Ashok Kumar Singh, a 1999 batch IAS officer from Kerala, has been appointed as the Director General of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC).
- The ESIC is a statutory body established under the Ministry of Labour and Employment in 1952.
- Singh has previously served as Executive Director of the National Mission for Clean Ganga.
- He has also held positions as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Defense and as Director in the Ministry of Finance.
- The ESIC was created by the ESI Act of 1948 to manage the Employees' State Insurance scheme.
- As Director General, Singh will oversee the governance and management of ESIC operations.
- Singh's experience includes extensive roles in district and state-level administration.
- The ESI scheme aims to provide social security and health insurance to employees.

M. Suresh has assumed the additional charge of Chairman of the Airports Authority of India (AAI)

- M. Suresh has taken on the additional role of Chairman of AAI, while continuing as Member (Air Navigation

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Services).

- His tenure as Chairman will last for three months or until further notice.
- He has been with the Airports Authority of India since September 2021.
- Suresh has extensive experience, having served as Regional Executive Director for the North East Region.
- He has also held positions as Airport Director at Goa, Jammu, and Madurai Airports.
- Suresh is a technical expert in Air Navigation Services with vast knowledge in planning, provision, and maintenance of CNS facilities.
- His appointment brings his technical expertise to the forefront of AAI's leadership.
- The appointment underscores his significant contributions to the aviation sector.

Arun Agarwal appointed as the chairman of TEDC board of directors

- Arun Agarwal, a Dallas-based Indian-American entrepreneur, has been appointed as chairman of the Texas Economic Development Corporation (TEDC).
- TEDC focuses on promoting Texas as a leading business destination in the US and internationally.
- Agarwal brings significant expertise in business, philanthropy, and international relations to the TEDC board.
- He is the current chairman of the National Cricket League (NCL) in the USA.
- Agarwal also holds the position of co-chair at the Indian American CEO Council.
- His leadership role at TEDC is expected to further enhance Texas's global business presence.
- Agarwal is involved in several key organizations, including serving on the board of the US-India Friendship Council.
- His appointment highlights his ongoing contributions to strengthening business ties between the US and India.

Jay Shah becomes youngest ever ICC Chairman

- Jay Shah, the BCCI Secretary, was elected unopposed as the next Independent Chair of the ICC on August 27, 2024.
- Shah will replace Greg Barclay from New Zealand, whose term concludes on November 30, 2024.
- He is set to begin his term as the ICC Chair on December 1, 2024.
- Jay Shah is the youngest person to ever chair the ICC, at the age of 35.
- He is the fifth Indian to hold the position of ICC Chair.
- Greg Barclay's term as the current ICC Chair will end in late November 2024.
- Jay Shah's unopposed election marks his rise to a significant role in international cricket governance.
- Shah will officially take over the role at the beginning of December 2024.
- The BCCI Secretary's election makes him the youngest Chair in ICC history.

Government of India appointed B Srinivasan as the new NSG director general.

- B Srinivasan, an IPS officer, has been appointed as the new Director General of the National Security Guard (NSG).
- The appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.
- B Srinivasan will serve as NSG's Director General until August 31, 2027.
- He succeeds Nalin Prabhat, who has been assigned as the Special Director General of Police in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The NSG is an elite counter-terrorism unit operating under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- The National Security Guard was established on September 22, 1986, under the National Security Guard Act.
- NSG personnel are commonly known as Black Cats.
- The NSG headquarters are located in New Delhi.
- The government has chosen B Srinivasan to lead the NSG due to his extensive experience in security matters.
- The NSG is a specialized force designed for counter-terrorism operations and high-risk situations.

Satish Kumar has been appointed as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Railway Board.

- Satish Kumar has been appointed as the Chairman and CEO of the Railway Board, starting from September 1.
- He will succeed Jaya Varma Sinha, who is retiring on August 31.
- Satish Kumar, an Indian Railway Management Service officer, is currently serving as Member (Traction & Rolling Stock).
- He is the first Dalit to be appointed as the Chairman and CEO of the Railway Board.
- Jaya Varma Sinha was the first woman to hold the CEO position at the Railway Board.
- Satish Kumar's appointment marks a historic milestone in the Railway Board's leadership.
- On July 29, an order was issued appointing Jaya Varma Sinha as an administrative member of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT).
- The new appointment of Satish Kumar follows Jaya Varma Sinha's upcoming superannuation.
- His extensive experience in the Indian Railways positions him well to lead the Railway Board.

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IMPORTANT DAYS

World Breastfeeding Week 2024 observed from 1 to 7 August

- World Breastfeeding Week runs annually from August 1 to 7 in over 120 countries to highlight the benefits of breastfeeding for both mothers and babies.
- The 2024 theme is "Closing the gap: Breastfeeding support for all".
- The week was established in 1992 and commemorates the Innocenti Declaration of August 1990.
- In 2018, the World Health Assembly endorsed World Breastfeeding Week as a key strategy for promoting breastfeeding.
- Colostrum, the first milk produced, offers crucial protection and immunity to newborns and reduces risks of certain cancers in mothers.
- Breastfeeding acts as a baby's initial vaccination, shielding them from many common childhood illnesses.
- The week is a global effort to increase awareness and support for breastfeeding practices.
- Breastfeeding contributes to healthier outcomes for both infants and mothers.

National Watermelon Day 2024 observed on August 3.

- National Watermelon Day is observed on August 3.
- This day honors the watermelon, a fruit with origins dating back to Ancient Egypt.
- Watermelon cultivation began around 2000 B.C., with the first harvest about 5,000 years ago.
- Historically, watermelon seeds were traded through the Kalahari Desert in Africa.
- The fruit consists of 92% water.
- Over 1,200 varieties of watermelon exist.
- Watermelon Day celebrates the long history and refreshing qualities of this popular fruit.

National Javelin Day 2024 celebrated on August 7.

- National Javelin Throw Day is celebrated annually on August 7 in India.
- The Athletics Federation of India established August 7 as National Javelin Day to honor Neeraj Chopra's historic Tokyo Olympics victory.
- On August 7, 2021, Neeraj Chopra won gold in the men's javelin throw at the Tokyo Games with a throw of 87.58 meters.
- Chopra's win was India's first gold medal in track and field at the Olympics.
- His victory also made him the second individual Indian to win an Olympic gold, following Abhinav Bindra's gold at the 2008 Beijing Games.
- The celebration marks Chopra's groundbreaking achievement and its significance for Indian athletics.
- Neeraj Chopra's performance set a new milestone in Indian sports history.
- The day commemorates not only Chopra's success but also highlights India's growing presence in Olympic track and field events.

National Handloom Day 2024 observed on August 7.

- National Handloom Day is observed annually on August 7 in India.
- The day commemorates the launch of the Swadeshi Movement in 1905, which promoted local industries, including handloom weaving.
- This year marks the 10th edition of National Handloom Day.
- The celebration highlights the socio-economic contributions of the handloom industry and raises awareness about its significance.
- The Ministry of Textiles oversees the nationwide observance of National Handloom Day.
- On August 7, 1905, the Swadeshi Movement began, encouraging support for indigenous industries.
- In 2015, the Indian government designated August 7 as National Handloom Day, with the first observance held in Chennai.
- The day recognizes and honors the craftsmanship and impact of handloom weavers across the country.

World's Indigenous Peoples Day 2024 observed on August 9.

- The International Day of the Indigenous Peoples is observed annually on August 9th.
- This day aims to raise global awareness about indigenous communities and safeguard their rights.
- Indigenous groups are deeply connected with nature, residing in areas that harbor about 80% of the world's biodiversity.
- The day highlights their vital role in environmental conservation.
- The 2024 theme is "Protecting the Rights of Aboriginal Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Early Contact."
- The observance seeks to honor and recognize the contributions of indigenous peoples to environmental protection.
- Celebrations are held worldwide to emphasize the importance of these communities.
- This day serves as a platform to advocate for the rights and preservation of indigenous cultures and their

environments.

World Lion Day 2024 observed on August 10.

- World Lion Day is observed annually on August 10 to highlight the need for lion conservation.
- The day was first celebrated in 2013, co-founded by Dereck and Beverly Joubert of the Big Cat Initiative and National Geographic.
- The Big Cat Rescue is known as the largest accredited sanctuary dedicated to big cats.
- Lions face a decline in population due to habitat loss, human-wildlife conflicts, and poaching.
- World Lion Day emphasizes the crucial role of lions in maintaining ecological balance as apex predators.
- Lions help manage herbivore populations and support the regeneration of forests and grasslands.
- They also play a role in controlling the spread of diseases among prey species.
- In India, Asiatic lions are found exclusively in the Gir Forest, with their population rising from about 523 in 2015 to around 674 in 2020.
- Project Lion, launched on August 15, 2020, aims to ensure the future of Asiatic lions, while the International Big Cats Alliance, established in April 2023, promotes global cooperation across 97 range countries.

World Organ Donation Day 2024 observed on August 13.

- World Organ Donation Day is observed on August 13 to raise awareness about the need for organ donors.
- The slogan for this year's World Organ Donation Day is "Be the Reason for Someone's Smile Today!"
- Organ donation can save up to 8 lives and improve the health of over 75 people.
- The first successful kidney transplant was performed in 1954.
- In India, the inaugural successful heart transplant from a deceased donor took place in 1994.
- National Organ Donation Day, celebrated on August 3, commemorates India's first successful deceased donor heart transplant.
- The Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act of 1994 governs organ donation practices in India.
- This day emphasizes the significant impact of organ donation in saving lives and encouraging donor registration.

Partition Horrors Remembrance Day 2024 observed on August 14.

- Partition Horrors Remembrance Day is observed annually on August 14.
- The day was designated by PM Modi in 2021 to honor the pain and suffering from the partition.
- It commemorates the struggles and sacrifices of those affected by the partition.
- The partition, outlined in the Indian Independence Act of 1947, led to widespread displacement and loss of life.
- British India was split into two Dominions, India and Pakistan, with the Bengal and Punjab regions divided based on religious demographics.
- The boundary between India and Pakistan was established by the Boundary Commission, chaired by British lawyer Cyril Radcliffe.
- The day serves as a reminder of the hardships endured during the partition.
- It aims to preserve the memory of the individuals who suffered and sacrificed during this historical event.
- Partition Horrors Remembrance Day reflects on the impact of the partition on millions of lives.

Sadbhavna Diwas 2024 observed on August 20.

- August 20 is observed as Sadbhavna Diwas, marking Rajiv Gandhi's birth anniversary.
- Rajiv Gandhi, known for his forward-thinking leadership, was India's youngest Prime Minister.
- Sadbhavna Diwas was first celebrated on August 20, 1992.
- The day serves as a reminder of Rajiv Gandhi's vision for a united and peaceful India.
- Rajiv Gandhi became Prime Minister following the assassination of his mother, Indira Gandhi, in 1984.
- Various activities promoting peace and harmony are conducted on Sadbhavna Diwas.
- The day celebrates Rajiv Gandhi's efforts towards fostering national unity and prosperity.

World Mosquito Day 2024 observed on August 20.

- World Mosquito Day is observed annually on August 20 to honor Sir Ronald Ross's 1897 discovery.
- Sir Ronald Ross found that Anopheles mosquitoes transmit the malaria parasite to humans.
- The 2024 theme for World Mosquito Day is "Accelerating the fight against malaria for a more equitable world."
- The London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine organizes World Mosquito Day each year.
- According to the World Mosquito Programme, 2024 is projected to be the worst year on record for dengue cases.
- Over 11 million dengue cases have been reported in 80 countries this year.
- India saw 2.89 lakh dengue cases and 485 deaths in 2023, compared to 2.33 lakh cases and 303 deaths in 2022.
- Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra have reported the highest number of dengue cases.
- The World Mosquito Day aims to highlight and combat mosquito-borne diseases like malaria and dengue.

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National Space Day 2024 celebrated on August 23.

- India celebrated its first National Space Day on August 23, 2024.
- The Chandrayaan-3 mission's Vikram lander achieved a soft landing on the Moon on August 23, 2023.
- President Draupadi Murmu inaugurated the main event at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.
- The theme for National Space Day 2024 is "Touching Lives while Touching the Moon: India's Space Saga."
- Over a thousand events took place nationwide to mark the occasion.
- The Bharatiya Antariksh Hackathon and ISRO Robotics Challenge were highlights of the celebrations.
- Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium in Bengaluru hosted several events to honor the Chandrayaan-3 landing.
- Activities for children included painting, pick and speak, Jigsaw puzzles, and quizzes.
- The celebrations focused on commemorating India's achievements in space exploration.

World Water Week 2024 organized from 25-29 August

- World Water Week 2024 is scheduled from August 25 to 29.
- The event aims to utilize water as a means for global change and encourage effective cooperation.
- The theme for 2024 is 'Bridging Borders: Water for a Peaceful and Sustainable Future'.
- This annual event is organized by the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI).
- The conference is designed to be inclusive and practical for participants worldwide.
- World Water Week also focuses on implementing commitments from the UN 2023 Water Conference.
- The event offers a platform for promoting sustainable water practices and peacebuilding.
- It is part of a broader initiative spanning 2023–2027 to address global water challenges.

National Sports Day 2024 observed on August 29.

- National Sports Day 2024 is observed every year on August 29.
- The Theme for National Sports Day 2024 is 'Sport for the Promotion and Peaceful and Inclusive Societies,' emphasizing the role of athletics in strengthening social bonds, promoting inclusivity, and fostering peace in communities
- The day marks the birth anniversary of legendary hockey player Major Dhyan Chand.
- Major Dhyan Chand's contributions to Indian hockey are honored on this day.
- He won Olympic gold medals in 1928, 1932, and 1936."
- The Fit India Movement was launched by the government on National Sports Day 2019.
- This day serves as a reminder of the impact of sports on a nation's health and well-being.

International Day for People of African Descent 2024 observed on August 31

- The International Day for People of African Descent is observed annually on August 31.
- It was established by the UN General Assembly in 2021.
- The day recognizes the contributions of people of African descent to societal development.
- It aims to promote tolerance, understanding, and mutual respect among different ethnic groups.
- The 2024 theme is "People of African descent: recognition, justice, and development."
- This theme aligns with the UN's International Decade for People of African Descent (2015-2024).
- The observance highlights the need for justice and development for African-descended communities.
- The day also emphasizes the importance of recognition and respect for their rights and contributions.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

The world's first postage stamp based on Lord Rama of Ayodhya was issued by Laos.

- Laos has issued the world's first postage stamp featuring Lord Rama of Ayodhya.
- This special stamp set, released on July 27, includes an image of Ram Lalla and highlights the civilizational links between Laos and India.
- The stamp was inaugurated by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Laos' Salimxay Kommasith.
- The set features two stamps: one with Lord Rama and another with the Buddha from Luang Prabang, Laos' ancient capital.
- The stamp reflects the deep cultural and religious ties between India and Laos, rooted in Buddhism and the Ramayana.
- The theme of the stamp set is "celebrating the shared cultural heritage of Laos and India."
- The Ramayana, known as the Ramakien in Laos, is revered and performed in Laos, similar to its significance in India.

Nine agreements were signed by India and Vietnam.

- India and Vietnam signed nine agreements to strengthen their comprehensive strategic partnership.
- The agreements cover areas including customs, agriculture, law, broadcasting, culture, and tourism.
- Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh visited India and met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi.
- Both leaders agreed to bolster economic, strategic, and cultural ties between the two nations.

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- India-Vietnam bilateral trade has reached \$15 billion, with both countries aiming to increase this figure.
- An action plan was established for implementing the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership from 2024 to 2028.
- A memorandum of understanding was signed between Central Agricultural University, Manipur, and Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Sciences for agricultural research and education.
- Another MoU was signed between Prasar Bharati and Voice of Vietnam for collaboration on radio and television.

India to open a consulate in Auckland to strengthen diplomatic ties

- India is set to open a consulate in Auckland to enhance diplomatic relations with New Zealand.
- The new consulate aims to strengthen ties and support the Indian community in New Zealand.
- The Indian diaspora, which numbers around 250,000 according to the 2018 census, has significantly contributed to New Zealand's development.
- People of Indian origin make up 6% of New Zealand's population.
- President Droupadi Murmu arrived in Wellington, New Zealand, as part of her three-nation visit.
- India and New Zealand established bilateral relations in 1952.
- The consulate will serve as a hub for diplomatic and community engagement.
- This move reflects India's commitment to deepening its relationship with New Zealand and supporting its diaspora.

India and Zambia held their 4th Foreign Office Consultations (FOC).

- India and Zambia held their 4th Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) to enhance bilateral relations and identify new areas for cooperation.
- The discussions covered various bilateral matters, including institutional mechanisms, scholarships, and capacity building.
- The meeting addressed trade and commercial relations, as well as collaboration in defence, health, agriculture, mining, and small and medium enterprises.
- Both delegations expressed satisfaction with the current state of their bilateral ties.
- The consultations also included talks on regional and international issues of mutual interest.
- Future cooperation in higher education was among the topics reviewed during the meeting.
- Plans were discussed for the next FOC to be held in New Delhi.
- The session aimed to explore and expand cooperative opportunities between the two nations.
- Both sides affirmed their commitment to strengthening and diversifying their bilateral engagement.

World's oldest calendar has been discovered in Turkey

- Archaeologists have uncovered the world's oldest calendar etched into a 12,000-year-old stone pillar at the Gobekli Tepe site in Turkey.
- This discovery could reshape the timeline of human civilization.
- The calendar reveals that ancient humans had sophisticated methods for tracking time long before written records began in Ancient Greece around 150 BC.
- The calendar also illustrates a comet strike that triggered a 1,200-year mini ice age.
- Gobekli Tepe is recognized as the oldest man-made structure, built between 9,600 and 8,200 BC, predating Stonehenge by over 6,000 years.
- The site features numerous stone pillars, with one specifically carved to function as a calendar.
- The discovery at Gobekli Tepe challenges previous assumptions about early human capabilities and timekeeping.
- This ancient calendar provides valuable insights into the early development of astronomical and timekeeping practices.

Syed Refaat Ahmed took the oath of office as new chief justice of Bangladesh

- Syed Refaat Ahmed has been sworn in as the new Chief Justice of Bangladesh.
- President Mohammed Shahabuddin administered the oath of office, with Professor Muhammad Yunus, the chief adviser, present.
- Professor Muhammad Yunus leads the interim government in Bangladesh.
- Syed Refaat Ahmed replaces Obaidul Hassan as Chief Justice.
- Obaidul Hassan resigned amid widespread protests demanding judicial reform and a deadline for judges to step down.
- Protesters viewed Hassan as an ally of Sheikh Hasina, the ousted prime minister.
- The resignation came in response to intense calls for changes in the judiciary.
- The transition to Syed Refaat Ahmed is part of broader efforts to address the judicial system's challenges.

BRICS partners launched a Centre for Industrial Competences.

- BRICS countries, in collaboration with UNIDO, have established a Centre for Industrial Competences.
- The centre is aimed at enhancing industrial skills and capabilities among its members.

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- It will foster partnerships within the framework of the New Industrial Revolution (NIR).
- The UAE Ministry of Industry and Advanced Technology participated in the launch alongside BRICS members.
- This centre will focus on identifying key interests, challenges, and opportunities in the evolving industrial sector.
- The initiative underscores the BRICS countries' commitment to aligning industrial policies with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The centre will play a crucial role in advancing industrial competencies among BRICS nations.
- The declaration from the launch highlighted the importance of cooperation on industrial policy to support global development goals.

Paetongtarn Shinawatra has been elected by Thailand's Parliament as country's new Prime Minister.

- Paetongtarn Shinawatra has been elected as Thailand's new Prime Minister by the country's Parliament.
- Paetongtarn is the youngest daughter of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.
- She is the leader of the ruling Pheu Thai party.
- Paetongtarn Shinawatra is Thailand's youngest-ever prime minister.
- Her nomination followed the dismissal of Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin on August 14, 2024.
- Srettha Thavisin was removed from office by the Constitutional Court for a serious ethical breach involving an alleged bribery attempt.
- The same court also dissolved the progressive Move Forward party, which had won the previous year's general election.
- Paetongtarn is the third member of the Shinawatra family to lead Thailand.
- Thailand is a Southeast Asian nation with Bangkok as its capital, and its currency is the Thai Baht.
- The country operates as a unitary parliamentary constitutional monarchy.

A strong typhoon named 'Ampil' struck Japan

- Typhoon Ampil, categorized as "very strong" by the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA), struck the eastern region of Japan.
- The powerful typhoon prompted Japan to ground hundreds of flights and issue evacuation warnings.
- Typhoon Ampil's wind speeds reached 45 metres per second, with maximum gusts of 60 metres per second (216 kph/134 mph).
- The Japan Meteorological Agency uses "very strong" and "violent" as its highest categories for typhoons.
- In Japan, a cyclone is referred to as a 'typhoon,' while in the American continent, it is called a 'hurricane.'
- A cyclone is characterized by a very low-pressure system with extremely high-speed winds revolving around it.
- The impact of Typhoon Ampil caused significant disruption to air travel and led to emergency preparations.
- Japan's authorities urged people in the affected regions to evacuate as a precaution.
- Typhoon Ampil's intensity and wind speeds posed a serious threat to the safety of those in its path.

PM Modi will start a three-day visit to Poland and Ukraine on August 21, 2024

- PM Modi will begin a three-day visit to Poland and Ukraine on August 21, 2024.
- This is the first visit by an Indian prime minister to Poland in 45 years, marking a historic moment.
- During his visit to Poland, Modi will meet with Prime Minister Donald Tusk and President Andrzej Duda.
- The visit coincides with the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Poland.
- Modi will also honor monuments reflecting the historic ties between Poland and Indian cities Jamnagar and Kolhapur.
- On August 23, Modi will travel to Ukraine at the invitation of President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.
- This will be the first visit by an Indian prime minister to Ukraine in nearly 30 years.
- Poland, located in Central Europe, has Warsaw as its capital and uses the Zloty currency.
- Ukraine, in Eastern Europe, is the second-largest European country by area, with Kyiv as its capital and Hryvnia as its currency.

Croatia will restart compulsory military service on January 1, 2025

- Croatia will reintroduce compulsory military service starting January 1, 2025.
- The service will last for two months and resumes after being suspended in 2008.
- This move comes in response to increased tensions in Europe due to Russian aggression in Ukraine.
- The decision aligns with Croatia's commitment to modernizing its Armed Forces in coordination with NATO and allies.
- Last year, Latvia reinstated military conscription due to threats from Russia's invasion of Ukraine.
- Croatia's return to mandatory military service reflects a broader trend among European countries.
- The reintroduced service aims to enhance national defense capabilities.
- Croatia's action is part of a regional reassessment of military readiness.
- Other European nations are also considering reinstating compulsory military service.

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In July, India surpassed China to become the world's largest importer of Russian oil.

- In July, India became the world's largest importer of Russian oil, surpassing China.
- Indian imports of Russian crude reached 2.07 million barrels per day (bpd), making up 44% of the country's total oil imports.
- This represents a 4.2% rise from June and a 12% increase from July of the previous year.
- China's imports from Russia amounted to 1.76 million barrels per day in July, falling short of India's imports.
- Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, India's trade with Russia, especially oil and fertiliser, has surged.
- Iraq was India's second-largest oil supplier in July, with Saudi Arabia and the UAE following.
- India's crude oil purchases from the Middle East grew by 4% in July, increasing the region's share in India's total imports to 40%.
- This increase in Middle Eastern oil imports was up from 38% in June.
- India's record oil imports from Russia mark a significant shift in global energy trade dynamics.

Supply Security Agreement signed by India and the United States.

- India and the US signed the non-binding Supply Security Arrangement (SOSA) to manage supply chain disruptions.
- The agreement aims to enhance access to critical industrial resources between the two nations for national security.
- SOSA will provide reciprocal priority support for goods and services that benefit national defense.
- The agreement was signed on August 22 by Vic Ramdas of the US Department of Defense and Sameer Kumar of the Indian Ministry of Defence.
- The arrangement addresses unforeseen supply chain issues by enabling mutual support for essential resources.
- This bilateral agreement is designed to resolve disruptions in industrial resources crucial for national security.
- SOSA facilitates priority access to industrial resources and services to bolster national defense capabilities.
- Both countries will now have mechanisms to ensure uninterrupted supply of critical materials and support each other's defense needs.
- The agreement reflects strengthened defense collaboration between the US and India through improved resource sharing.

Sri Lanka will grant free visa access to 35 nations, including India. 34 other countries are included in the list in addition to India.

- Starting October 1, Sri Lanka will offer free visa access to 35 countries, including India.
- The United States, UK, China, Israel, Japan, Australia, and several others are part of the list of eligible nations.
- Sri Lankans are set to vote in the presidential election on September 21.
- President Ranil Wickremesinghe assumed office in July 2022 after Gotabaya Rajapaksa resigned.
- Wickremesinghe has announced his candidacy for the upcoming presidential elections.
- The Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP), the largest party in parliament, has chosen to back its own candidate instead of Wickremesinghe.
- Nepal, New Zealand, Thailand, Indonesia, and Malaysia are also among the countries granted visa-free access to Sri Lanka.
- Wickremesinghe became the eighth President of Sri Lanka amidst political turmoil in July 2022.
- SLPP's decision not to support the current president in the election introduces uncertainty in the political landscape.

India and Ukraine have finalized agreements covering agriculture, medicine, and cultural cooperation

- India and Ukraine signed agreements to enhance cooperation in agriculture, medicine, and cultural ties.
- The agreements were finalized under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.
- A framework for collaboration in the food and agriculture sectors was established.
- The State Service of Ukraine on Medicines and Drugs Control and India's Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation signed a MoU on medical product regulation.
- An MoU was signed for Indian humanitarian grant support in high-impact community development projects in Ukraine.
- A Program of Cultural Cooperation for the years 2024–2028 was also agreed upon.
- The cultural program aims to strengthen cultural connections between India and Ukraine.
- Four key documents were signed to enhance bilateral relations across various sectors.
- The agreements mark a significant step in boosting cooperation between the two nations.
- These agreements will pave the way for closer ties between India and Ukraine.

From January to June this year, the US became India's leading trading partner

- The US became India's top trading partner from January to June 2024, with exports rising 10.5% to \$41.6

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billion.

- India's merchandise exports grew by 5.41% to \$230.51 billion in the first half of 2024.
- India's trade deficit with China hit a record \$41.6 billion during this period.
- Imports from Russia increased by 11.65%, reaching \$34.4 billion.
- China remained India's largest import source, with imports climbing from \$46.2 billion to \$50.1 billion.
- Exports to Italy, Belgium, Nepal, and Hong Kong declined.
- India exports goods to 239 countries, with 126 showing positive export growth.
- Imports from Russia rose from \$30.8 billion, reflecting significant growth.
- India's exports to the US grew significantly, contributing to its top trading partner status.
- Despite overall export growth, certain markets like Italy and Hong Kong saw reductions in trade.

Australia's 'right to disconnect' law is about to come into force.

- Australia's 'right to disconnect' law, effective from August 26, grants workers the right to ignore work-related communications outside of their work hours.
- The law, which was passed in February, protects employees from being penalized for not monitoring, reading, or responding to messages from their employers after work hours.
- This legislation aligns with similar "right to disconnect" laws already in place in countries like France, Germany, and other EU nations.
- Employers' groups criticized the law when it passed earlier this year, arguing that it was drafted hastily and contained flaws.
- The law permits exceptions where it may be deemed unreasonable for an employee to refuse communication, depending on their role and the context of the contact.
- This new regulation emphasizes the importance of work-life balance for Australian workers.
- The law seeks to protect workers from being overburdened by work demands beyond their regular working hours.
- The right to disconnect is part of broader efforts to modernize labor laws and protect employees' rights in the digital age.
- The law takes into consideration the nature of the employee's job, the reason for the contact, and how the communication was made when determining exceptions.

Brazilian Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira arrived in India

- Brazilian Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira began his official visit to India from August 25-28.
- During his visit, Vieira will co-chair the 9th India-Brazil Joint Commission meeting with EAM S Jaishankar on August 27.
- The visit aims to explore new areas of cooperation in bilateral, regional, and multilateral fields.
- Brazil will host the G-20 leaders summit in Rio de Janeiro on November 18-19, 2024.
- This visit is expected to further enhance the strategic partnership between India and Brazil, which was established in 2006.
- Brazil, holding the G20 presidency until November 2024, is part of the G20 Troika alongside India and South Africa.
- The Foreign Minister's visit will focus on strengthening the relationship between the two nations.
- The discussions will seek to deepen cooperation across a variety of sectors.
- Brazil's G20 presidency will see close collaboration with India and South Africa.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un unveiled new 'suicide drone.'

- North Korea successfully tested its suicide drones, which accurately hit designated targets after following pre-set routes on August 24.
- Kim Jong Un highlighted the need to expand the production of suicide drones along with strategic reconnaissance and multi-role attack drones.
- These suicide drones, similar to the Israeli "Harop" and "Hero 30" drones and the Russian "Lancet-3," are designed to be used as guided missiles.
- The drones can fly over 1,000 km (600 miles) to reach and strike enemy targets on both land and sea.
- North Korea's expanding drone arsenal will be integrated with nuclear weapons for a variety of strike capabilities.
- Suicide drones are equipped with explosives, allowing them to crash into enemy targets deliberately.
- The official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) reported Kim's emphasis on the development of these advanced unmanned aerial systems.
- The newly unveiled drones resemble models from Israel and Russia in their design and functionality.
- These drones are part of North Korea's efforts to bolster its military capabilities against potential adversaries.
- The KCNA report emphasized the strategic role these drones will play in North Korea's defense strategy.

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Japan is on high alert as Typhoon Shanshan gets closer.

- Typhoon Shanshan is approaching Japan and could make landfall in western Japan between August 27 and 28.
- Japan's Meteorological Agency has issued warnings for strong winds, high waves, and heavy rain.
- The typhoon is currently near Amami Oshima island and may intensify into a very powerful storm by the end of the week.
- Residents are being urged to prepare for severe weather conditions as the typhoon nears.
- High winds of up to 162 kilometres per hour are expected to impact Kyushu and Amami.
- Waves as high as 9 meters are predicted for regions including Kyushu, Shikoku, and Amami.
- Japan is on high alert as Typhoon Shanshan continues its approach.
- The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) is closely monitoring the typhoon's strength and trajectory.
- Typhoon Shanshan may bring extreme weather conditions to several parts of Japan as it gets closer.

Pacific Islands Forum's annual meeting was held in Nuku'alofa, Tonga.

- The Pacific Islands Forum's annual meeting took place in Nuku'alofa, Tonga.
- The event began on August 26, with over 1,500 delegates from around 40 countries participating.
- Key discussions centered on climate change and the strategic rivalry between China and the US.
- The Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) is an intergovernmental organization of 18 Pacific nations.
- Australia and New Zealand are the largest and wealthiest members of the forum.
- Other members include Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Tonga, and the Cook Islands.
- The forum aims to promote economic growth, political governance, and regional security.
- Its vision is for a resilient Pacific region marked by peace, harmony, and prosperity.

NATIONAL NEWS

India is the 2nd largest aluminum Producer in the World

- India is the world's second-largest aluminum producer.
- It is also the third-largest lime producer and fourth-largest iron ore producer globally.
- For April-June FY 2024–25, primary aluminum production grew by 1.2% compared to the previous year.
- Iron ore production rose from 72 MMT in FY 2023–24 to 79 MMT in FY 2024–25.
- Limestone production increased from 114 MMT in FY 2023–24 to 116 MMT in FY 2024–25.
- Manganese ore production saw an 11% rise to 1.0 MMT in FY 2024–25.
- Iron ore and limestone together represent about 80% of total MCDR mineral production by value.
- In FY 2023–24, India produced 275 MMT of iron ore and 450 MMT of limestone.

Government of India releases commemorative stamps for the 33rd Paris Olympics

- The Department of Post, under the Union Ministry of Communication, Jyotiraditya Scindia, and Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr Mansukh Mandaviya has issued four commemorative stamps for the 33rd Summer Olympics.
- The 33rd Summer Olympics will take place in Paris, France, from July 26 to August 11, 2024.
- The stamps were unveiled at a ceremony in New Delhi on August 5, 2024.
- The release highlights India's celebration of the upcoming Olympic Games.
- The commemorative stamps honor the international sporting event and its significance.
- The four stamps released by the ministers depict five Olympic sports - Javelin Throw, Field Hockey, Sailing and Table Tennis.

Amit Shah launch four new App for implementation of New Criminal laws

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah introduced four new apps—e-Sakshya, Nyaya Setu, Nyaya Shruti, and e-Summon—to facilitate the implementation of three new criminal laws.
- The app launch event took place in Chandigarh on August 4, 2024.
- Punjab Governor and Chandigarh Administrator Gulab Chand Kataria and Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla attended the event.
- Amit Shah emphasized that the new laws aim to enable Supreme Court judgments within three years.
- These apps are designed to streamline legal processes and enhance efficiency in the criminal justice system.
- The launch underscores the government's commitment to modernizing the legal framework and judicial procedures.

National Commission for Women Opens Digital Shakti Centre in New Delhi

- The National Commission for Women (NCW) has inaugurated the Digital Shakti Centre in New Delhi to combat cybercrimes against women.
- Ms. Rekha Sharma, NCW Chairperson, opened the centre in collaboration with the Cyber Peace Foundation.
- The centre is designed to enhance public awareness about cybercrimes and offer technical assistance for managing complaints.

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- The initiative aims to empower women to use technology safely and effectively.
- The facility will provide expert guidance to ensure swift and effective resolution of cybercrime issues.
- The Digital Shakti program, which started in 2018, serves as the foundation for this new centre.
- NCW highlighted a rise in cybercrime cases, increasing from 52,974 in 2021 to 65,893 in 2022.
- There has been a notable increase in complaints related to cybercrimes against women.
- The new centre will build on the success of the Digital Shakti program to better address these concerns.

Government Declares New Peacock Sanctuaries in Karnataka and Kerala

- The Central Government has designated Adichunchanagiri in Karnataka and Choolannur in Kerala as peacock sanctuaries.
- The Minister for Environment, Forest, and Climate Change has established breeding and conservation centers for peacocks.
- Adichunchanagiri Peacock Sanctuary, located in Karnataka's Mandya district, was originally established in 1981.
- This sanctuary provides a safe habitat for peacocks and is situated near the Chunchanagiri Temple.
- The sanctuary also hosts various migratory bird species, such as the Purple Heron, White-necked Stork, Black-headed Ibis, and Snakebird.
- Choolannur Peafowl Sanctuary is situated in Chulanur village, Palakkad district, Kerala.
- In 1963, the peacock was declared the national bird of India.
- These new designations aim to enhance conservation efforts and protect peacock populations in India.

NIPCCD Reconstitutes Executive Council and General Body to Streamline Operations

- The Government has reconstituted the Executive Council and General Body of NIPCCD for the first time in over 50 years.
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development announced the restructuring on August 5.
- Women and Child Development Minister Annapurna Devi chaired the meeting that approved the changes.
- NIPCCD, established in 1966 under the Societies Registration Act, is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- The General Body has been reduced from 94 to 22 members.
- The Executive Council's size has been cut from 21 to 13 members.
- The General Body sets overall policies, while the Executive Council handles administrative affairs.
- The restructuring aims to create a more streamlined and effective organizational structure.

The Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign will run from August 9th through August 15th.

- The Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign will run nationwide from August 9th to 15th.
- To inspire patriotism, citizens are encouraged to display the national flag at home and share selfies on the Har Ghar Tiranga website.
- The campaign, launched in 2022 as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, celebrates India's independence.
- Culture and Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat has called on people to participate actively.
- Over 200 cultural events will be held across the country during the campaign.
- On August 13th, a Tiranga Bike Rally featuring Members of Parliament and ministers will take place.
- The campaign aims to foster a sense of national pride among citizens.
- Participants are invited to upload their flag selfies to contribute to the campaign's online presence.

Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, was introduced by the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, in the Lok Sabha.
- The bill allows customers to designate up to four nominees per bank account, up from the current limit of one.
- It proposes increasing the threshold for 'substantial interest' for directorships from ₹5 lakh to ₹2 crore.
- The bill grants banks more discretion in setting the remuneration for statutory auditors.
- It also updates the reporting schedule for regulatory compliance, shifting deadlines from the second and fourth Fridays to the 15th and last day of each month.
- The proposed amendments affect several acts, including the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, and the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- Other acts impacted are the State Bank of India Act, 1955, and both Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Acts of 1970 and 1980.
- The Finance Minister previously mentioned changes to the Banking Regulation Act during the 2023-24 Budget speech.
- These amendments aim to modernize banking regulations and improve operational flexibility.

The Indian government has formed a five-member committee to oversee situation on Bangladesh border

- The Indian government has established a five-member committee to oversee the Bangladesh border situation.
- The committee's role is to evaluate and monitor current conditions along the India-Bangladesh border.

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- This decision was made by the Border Management Division of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- Ravi Gandhi, Additional Director General of the Border Security Force (BSF) Eastern Command, will chair the committee.
- The committee includes the IG of BSF Frontier Headquarters South Bengal, the IG of BSF Frontier Headquarters Tripura, a member from the Planning and Development division of the Land Ports Authority of India (LPAI), and the Secretary of LPAI.
- Its responsibilities include maintaining effective communication with Bangladeshi counterparts.
- The committee aims to ensure the safety and security of Indian citizens and minority communities in Bangladesh.
- Ensuring open communication channels with Bangladesh is a key task of the committee.

Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) has been established to review the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024.

- A Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) has been set up to review the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024.
- The 31-member JPC includes 21 members from the Lok Sabha and 10 from the Rajya Sabha.
- Notable members of the committee include AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi and Congress MP Imran Masood.
- The motion to establish the JPC was approved by both Houses of Parliament.
- The bill, which aims to replace the Waqf Act of 1995, faced strong opposition, prompting its referral to the JPC.
- The committee's task is to thoroughly examine the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024.
- The JPC is expected to present its report by the end of the first week of the next parliamentary session.
- The review process will involve assessing proposed changes and their implications for the Waqf management system.
- This step reflects a significant legislative review in response to concerns raised by opposition parties.

Three Indian Ocean structures named Ashoka, Chandragupta and Kalpataru.

- India has proposed names for three underwater geological structures in the Indian Ocean: Ashoka, Chandragupta, and Kalpataru.
- The Ashoka seamount and Chandragupta ridge are named after ancient Maurya dynasty rulers.
- The Kalpataru Ridge is the third structure for which names proposed by India have been recently approved by the International Hydrographic Organisation (IHO) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO.
- India now has a total of seven underwater structures in the Indian Ocean named after Indian scientists or proposed by India.
- These structures were recently discovered by oceanographers from the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) in Goa.
- The structures are situated in the Southwest Indian Ridge region and were found during an international exploration survey.
- The Ashoka Seamount, an oval structure covering 180 sq km, was discovered in 2012 by the Russian vessel Akademik Nikolay Strakhov.
- The same vessel also identified the Kalpataru Ridge that year, an elongated feature spanning 430 sq km.
- In 2020, the Indian vessel MGS Sagar discovered the Chandragupta Ridge, an elongated, oval-shaped area of 675 sq km.

Ayush Standardisation Department will be established by the BIS.

- The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is set to establish a new department dedicated to standardizing Ayush practices.
- Announced by the Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Ministry, this initiative aims to improve the safety, efficacy, and quality of Ayush products.
- The new department will oversee standards for Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa, and Homeopathy.
- It will include seven sectional committees, each responsible for a specific Ayush system.
- The department will focus on creating evidence-based standards that adhere to both national and international guidelines.
- The goal is to ensure that Ayush products meet rigorous quality and safety standards.
- This move reflects a commitment to enhancing the credibility and effectiveness of traditional health practices.
- The establishment of the department aims to harmonize standards across various Ayush systems.
- By setting clear standards, the BIS hopes to support the growth and reliability of Ayush therapies and products.

Railways and NCRTC collaborated to promote 'One India-One Ticket' initiative

- Railways and NCRTC have teamed up to launch the 'One India-One Ticket' initiative.
- The collaboration aims to streamline travel by integrating booking for Indian Railways and RRTS services.

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- After booking an IRCTC train e-ticket, users can now add Nammo Bharat Train tickets for up to eight passengers.
- RRTS booking options will be visible on the PNR confirmation page and in the user's booking history.
- Each RRTS ticket will feature a unique QR code, which can be printed on the Electronic Reservation Slip (ERS).
- The QR code will be valid for four days, including one day before, the day of, and two days after the RRTS travel date.
- This initiative aims to simplify the booking process and enhance travel convenience.
- Tickets can be booked up to 120 days in advance as per the Railway Reservation Window (ARP).
- The collaboration is designed to offer a more integrated and efficient travel experience.

Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the 'Amrit Gyan Kosh' and 'Faculty Development' portals as part of Mission Karmayogi

- Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the 'Amrit Gyan Kosh' and 'Faculty Development Portal' at the Public Service Training Institute Conference in New Delhi.
- These initiatives are part of Mission Karmayogi Bharat and were introduced at Vigyan Bhavan.
- Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted the progress of the National Capacity Building Commission and Mission Karmayogi Bharat, emphasizing a new approach to civil service training.
- The initiative aims to create a future-ready civil service that aligns with Indian values while maintaining a global outlook.
- Dr. Singh announced that 31 lakh government employees will be trained annually under this mission.
- He also launched the 13th Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) for the ongoing enhancement of training institutes.
- Five Civil Services Training Institutions were recognized for their highest number of IGoT courses offered.
- These institutions include the Institute of Secretariat Training and Management, National Telecommunications Institute, Rafi Ahmad Kidwai National Postal Academy, National Institute of Communication Finance, and SVP National Police Academy.
- The recognition reflects a strong commitment to improving the quality of civil service training across various sectors.

Centre released rules to boost offshore mineral exploration & production

- The central government unveiled the Offshore Areas Mineral Trust Rules, 2024, to regulate offshore mineral exploration and production.
- Offshore mine holders are required to contribute 10% of their royalty payments to the Trust, which will be deposited into India's public account.
- The Ministry of Mines has identified 10 offshore mineral blocks that may be auctioned in the near future.
- The new rules establish specific exploration norms for various minerals, including construction-grade silica sand, calcareous mud, phosphatic sediments, and more.
- The regulations aim to promote sustainable practices in offshore mineral exploration.
- These rules will ensure proper oversight of mineral activities in India's offshore areas.
- Contributions from offshore mine holders are meant to support the goals of the Offshore Areas Mineral Trust.
- The government is focusing on sustainable development through these newly introduced rules.
- The rules include guidelines for the exploration of different types of mineral deposits in offshore regions.

'Kisano Ki Baat' radio programme will be launched by the government.

- The Government of India will launch a monthly radio program called 'Kisano Ki Baat' to quickly deliver scientific knowledge to farmers.
- Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced that the program will begin next month.
- The program will be broadcast on radio, with participation from scientists, agriculture department officials, and the Union Agriculture Minister.
- The initiative aims to fully integrate Krishi Vigyan Kendras with farmers.
- Efforts will be made to ensure farmers promptly receive the benefits of scientific advancements.
- The program will provide essential information to farmers directly from experts.
- Shivraj Singh Chouhan highlighted that the agricultural budget has been significantly increased from Rs 27 thousand crore to Rs 1.52 lakh crore.
- The radio program will serve as a direct channel of communication between the government and farmers.
- The goal is to ensure that farmers are well-informed and can immediately apply new agricultural practices.

Mauritius Vice President Marie Cyril Eddy Boissezon arrived in New Delhi for the 19th CII India-Africa Business Conclave.

- Vice President of Mauritius, Marie Cyril Eddy Boissezon, arrived in New Delhi for the 19th CII India-Africa Business Conclave.
- Liberia's Vice President, Jeremiah Kappan Kong, is also in Delhi to attend the same conclave.

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- The 19th CII India-Africa Business Conclave is scheduled to take place in New Delhi from August 20-22.
- This visit strengthens the longstanding and robust relations between India and Mauritius.
- The conclave aims to promote Africa's development and showcase the significance of India-Africa partnerships.
- The event will focus on integrating regional and global value chains through India-Africa collaboration.
- The participation of African leaders underscores the growing importance of the India-Africa relationship.
- The conclave is an important platform for advancing mutual economic interests between India and Africa.

2+2 Ministerial Dialogue between India and Japan held in New Delhi on 20th August 2024.

- India and Japan's 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue was held in New Delhi on August 20, 2024.
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar represented India in the talks.
- Japanese Minister of Defense Kihara Minoru and Minister of Foreign Affairs Ms. Yoko Kamikawa attended from Japan's side.
- A separate bilateral meeting took place between the Defence Ministers of India and Japan.
- The Ministers discussed and reviewed ongoing bilateral cooperation.
- They also shared perspectives on regional and global issues of common concern.
- India and Japan maintain a 'Special Strategic and Global Partnership,' according to the Defence Ministry.
- The second edition of the India-Japan 2+2 dialogue was held in Japan in September 2022.
- The meeting underscored the strong and strategic ties between the two nations.

Indira Gandhi International Airport is India's first to achieve net zero carbon emissions.

- Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) is the first in India to achieve net zero carbon emission status.
- The airport is operated by DIAL, a subsidiary of the GMR Group.
- IGIA initially aimed for net zero carbon emissions by 2030 but accomplished it ahead of schedule.
- In 2024, the airport reached level 5, the highest level of net zero emission accreditation.
- This milestone was achieved under the Airport Council International's (ACI) accreditation program.
- The ACI is a global trade association representing airports worldwide.
- The accreditation program provides a comprehensive framework for carbon management at airports.
- IGIA's accomplishment marks significant progress in sustainability efforts within the aviation industry.
- There are five levels in the accreditation system, with level 5 being the highest.

BIS has launched a hackathon to promote Indian standards awareness

- The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has launched a hackathon to promote awareness of Indian standards.
- This initiative aims to highlight the importance of Indian standards in ensuring quality and safety.
- The hackathon invites students from institutions that have signed an MOU with BIS to participate.
- Participants are tasked with creating a platform for online activities and games centered on Indian standards.
- Entries for the hackathon must be submitted by August 23.
- The online platform will feature activities designed to boost awareness and quality consciousness regarding BIS standards.
- BIS is the national standards body of India, operating under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.
- Established by the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016, BIS is a statutory organization.
- The BIS headquarters is located in New Delhi.

Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav unveiled 25 new challenges as part of the 'Create in India Challenge—Season 1'

- Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnav introduced 25 challenges under the 'Create in India Challenge—Season 1' for the World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES).
- The challenges span various fields such as animation, filmmaking, gaming, music, and visual arts.
- Industry associations and organizations are hosting these challenges.
- Notable challenges include the Anime Challenge by the Media and Entertainment Association of India and the Comics Creator Championship by the Indian Comics Association.
- Vaishnav highlighted the emergence of a new creator's economy, recognized by the Prime Minister of India.
- The inaugural national Creators Awards were presented in March 2024.
- The draft Broadcasting Bill 2024 now includes social media accounts and online video creators alongside OTT content and digital news.
- The 'Create in India Challenge' aims to promote innovation and creativity across different media disciplines.
- These initiatives are designed to enhance opportunities and recognition for creators in India.

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the National Conclave: Sangathan Swasthya Samriddhi in New Delhi.

- Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the National Conclave: Sangathan Swasthya Samriddhi in

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New Delhi.

- The conclave focuses on women's collectives and their impact on Food, Nutrition, Health, and WASH (FNHW).
- Attendees include women from across India, including members of self-help groups.
- Organized by the Ministry of Rural Development under DAY-NRLM, the conclave addresses core themes of Sangathan, Samridhi, and Swasthya.
- Sangathan signifies the collective strength of 10 crore women in 91 lakh SHGs.
- Samridhi represents economic transformation, aiming for 3 crore Lakhpati Didis.
- Swasthya highlights health as a crucial link between collective action and economic success.
- Key ministries like Health and Family Welfare, Women and Child Development, and Drinking Water and Sanitation participated.
- The conclave also included representatives from State Rural Livelihoods Missions, community institutions, international organizations, and CSO partners.

OP Jindal Global University to set up first Constitution Academy to mark 75th anniversary of Constitution

- O.P. Jindal Global University is installing India's first Constitution Museum to mark the 75th anniversary of the Constitution's adoption.
- The initiative, titled "Constitution Academy and the Museum of Rights and Freedom," is a historic step in Indian constitutional history.
- This unique museum will be located on the JGU campus.
- The museum will be inaugurated and opened to the public on November 26, 2024.
- The launch date coincides with the 75th anniversary of India's Constitution.
- The institution will serve as a significant landmark for preserving and showcasing constitutional history.
- The project reflects JGU's commitment to commemorating and educating about India's constitutional legacy.

Sapno Ki Udaan has been released by Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

- Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan released the e-magazine "Sapno Ki Udaan" on National Space Day (August 23).
- The magazine features a collection of poetry, essays, stories, anecdotes, and riddles.
- Contributions for the magazine came from students, teachers, and parents across India.
- The theme of this edition is centered around space.
- "Sapno Ki Udaan" was released in collaboration with the Department of School Education and Literacy and NCERT.
- The magazine commemorates the first anniversary of Chandrayaan-3's successful landing on the lunar South Pole.
- The e-magazine highlights creative expressions related to space exploration.
- It serves as a platform to encourage interest in space among students and educators.

Government of India announced five new districts of Ladakh

- The central government has introduced five new districts in Ladakh: Zaskar, Drass, Sham, Nubra, and Changthang.
- These new districts are aimed at enhancing access to government services and opportunities for local residents.
- Prior to this, Ladakh comprised only two districts, Leh and Kargil.
- Ladakh's current districts, including the new ones, are each managed by an autonomous district council.
- Ladakh became a separate Union Territory following the revocation of Article 370 in August 2019.
- Before becoming a Union Territory, Ladakh was a part of Jammu and Kashmir state.
- The creation of these new districts reflects the government's commitment to regional development in Ladakh.
- The move is expected to improve administrative efficiency and local governance in the region.
- Ladakh's separation from Jammu and Kashmir marked a significant change in its administrative structure.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana completed 10 years.

- The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), launched on August 28, 2014, by Narendra Modi, has completed 10 years.
- PMJDY is recognized as the largest financial inclusion initiative globally.
- As of August 14, 2024, the total number of PMJDY accounts reached 53.13 crore.
- Women account for 55.6% (29.56 crore) of the total Jan Dhan accounts.
- A significant 66.6% (35.37 crore) of these accounts are in rural and semi-urban areas.
- The total deposit balances in PMJDY accounts stand at Rs. 2,31,236 crore.
- The average deposit per account is Rs. 4,352 as of mid-August 2024.
- A total of 36.14 crore RuPay cards have been issued to account holders under this scheme.
- PMJDY has played a transformative role in advancing financial inclusion in India.

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Centre issued new guidelines for public grievance redressal within 21 Days

- The Centre has reduced the grievance redressal timeline on the CPGRAMS portal from 30 days to 21 days.
- New guidelines have been issued by the Centre to ensure timely and effective handling of public grievances.
- Nodal Officers will be appointed in all Ministries and Departments to manage public grievances efficiently.
- These guidelines are intended to make grievance redressal more accessible, timely, and meaningful for citizens.
- Each Ministry or Department will establish Dedicated Grievance Cells with adequate resources and knowledge.
- A monthly grievance redressal assessment index will rank the performance of ministries and departments.
- The role of Nodal Officers includes categorizing grievances, monitoring pending cases, and reviewing feedback.
- The CPGRAMS portal successfully redressed approximately 60 lakh public grievances during 2022-24.
- The Centre's new guidelines emphasize prompt grievance resolution and enhanced citizen empowerment.

She-Box portal has been launched by the government to make workplaces safer for women.

- The government launched the She-Box portal to enhance workplace safety for women.
- Women and Child Development Minister Annpurna Devi unveiled the portal in New Delhi on August 29, 2024.
- She-Box serves as a centralized platform for registering and monitoring complaints of workplace sexual harassment.
- The portal allows users to file complaints, track their progress, and ensure timely processing by internal committees.
- Annpurna Devi emphasized that this initiative is a significant step toward providing a safer and more efficient mechanism for addressing workplace harassment.
- The platform is designed to streamline the handling of sexual harassment complaints at work.
- The She-Box portal aims to create a more secure and supportive environment for women in the workplace.
- This initiative reflects the government's commitment to improving workplace safety and accountability.

PM Modi addressed the National Conference of District Judiciary

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the National Conference of District Judiciary.
- The conference marked the 75th anniversary of the Supreme Court's establishment.
- Discussions focused on judicial efficiency, human resources, and other justice-related issues.
- A session dedicated to judicial wellness was part of the conference.
- PM mentioned Rs 800 crore was invested in judicial infrastructure over the last decade.
- In the past 10 years, 7,500 new court halls have been constructed in district courts.
- PM Modi inaugurated three Vande Bharat trains on routes: Meerut-Lucknow, Madurai-Bangalore, and Chennai.
- The Supreme Court was established on January 26, 1950, and inaugurated two days later.
- The initial inauguration took place in the Chamber of Princes in the old Parliament building.
- In 1958, the Supreme Court moved to its current building, symbolizing scales of justice.

The Government of India has granted Navratna status to SJVN, NHPC, RailTel, and Solar Energy Corporation of India

- SJVN, NHPC, RailTel, and Solar Energy Corporation of India received 'Navratna' status from the Indian government.
- RailTel Corporation of India became the 22nd 'Navratna', followed by Solar Energy Corporation of India as the 23rd, NHPC as the 24th, and SJVN as the 25th.
- SJVN, based in Shimla, has 55% of its shares held by the Government of India and 26.85% by the Himachal Pradesh government.
- NHPC, headquartered in Faridabad under the Ministry of Power, is India's largest hydropower development organization.
- RailTel is a Central Public Sector Undertaking (CPSU) under the Ministry of Railways.
- Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited (SECI) is the central government's nodal agency for renewable energy project auctions.
- Navratna status allows PSUs to make large investments up to Rs 1,000 crore without needing central government approval.
- To achieve Navratna status, a company must have Miniratna Category I status and be listed under Schedule A of CPSEs.

STATE NEWS

Ramanagara district has been renamed as Bengaluru South

- The Karnataka Government has renamed Ramanagara district to Bengaluru South.
- Chief Minister Siddaramaiah led the Cabinet meeting where the renaming decision was made.

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- Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who first proposed the renaming in October 2023, is also the minister-in-charge of Ramanagara.
- The renaming aims to enhance the benefits associated with Bengaluru's prestige for Ramanagara residents.
- Ramanagara district was formed in 2007 after splitting from Bangalore Rural district.
- It includes the taluks of Ramanagara, Channarayana, Harohalli, Kanakapura, and Magadi.
- Karnataka now has a total of 31 districts.
- The change is intended to align Ramanagara more closely with Bengaluru's development and opportunities.

Chhattisgarh government approved India's third-largest tiger reserve

- The Chhattisgarh government has established the Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve, now the third-largest in India.
- This new reserve covers 2829.38 square kilometers and integrates the Guru Ghasidas National Park with the Tamor Pingla Sanctuary.
- The reserve spans across the districts of Manendragarh-Chirmiri-Bharatpur, Koriya, Surajpur, and Balrampur.
- India's largest tiger reserve is the Nagarjunasagar Srisailem Tiger Reserve in Andhra Pradesh, measuring 3296.31 square kilometers.
- Assam's Manas Tiger Reserve, at 2837.15 square kilometers, is the second-largest in the country.
- The formation of the Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla Tiger Reserve aims to boost eco-tourism and create job opportunities.
- According to the latest tiger census, Chhattisgarh currently has only 17 tigers remaining.
- Despite efforts, Chhattisgarh has struggled to effectively protect its tiger population.

Andhra Pradesh govt abolishes two-child policy for local body elections

- The Andhra Pradesh government has removed the two-child norm that previously disqualified candidates with more than two children from local body elections.
- The decision to abolish this norm stems from the state's declining fertility rate, making the restriction increasingly irrelevant.
- The Cabinet has approved the repeal of amendments made in 1994 to the Andhra Pradesh Municipal Corporation Act 1955.
- Amendments to the Andhra Pradesh Municipalities Act 1965, which also enforced the two-child limit, have been repealed.
- The policy change aims to adapt to the current demographic trends and encourage broader participation in local governance.
- Previously, individuals with more than two children were barred from contesting urban local body elections due to these restrictions.
- The removal of this restriction could lead to a more diverse pool of candidates in local elections.

Gujarat CM launched IACC's Centre of Excellence for MSME.

- Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel has inaugurated the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce's (IACC) Centre of Excellence for MSME.
- This centre, the first of its kind by IACC, is dedicated to upgrading and enhancing micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs).
- Bhupendra Patel emphasized that MSMEs are vital to the economy.
- The MSME sector is expected to be pivotal in propelling India to become the world's third-largest economy.
- The Indo-American Chamber of Commerce (IACC) was established in 1968.
- IACC serves as the primary organization fostering economic engagement between India and the United States.
- Ambassador Chester Bowles, along with leading industry figures, founded the IACC.
- The new Centre of Excellence is a key initiative aimed at strengthening MSMEs in India.
- The IACC's Centre of Excellence represents a significant step in supporting and advancing the MSME sector.

Madhya Pradesh is the first state to fund sanitary napkins for girl students

- Madhya Pradesh is the first state to offer financial aid for sanitary napkins to girl students.
- Each girl student will receive ₹300 annually under the Sanitation and Hygiene Scheme.
- The funds will be directly transferred to the students' accounts.
- This initiative will benefit approximately 19 lakh students from classes seven through twelve.
- Over ₹57.18 crore has been disbursed to the accounts of these students.
- Some other states, like Karnataka, Rajasthan, and Delhi, provide free sanitary napkins directly to students.
- Chief Minister Dr. Mohan announced that Rani Durgavati will be included in the state curriculum.
- Dr. Mohan also honored girls who excelled in international and national sports competitions.
- The program aims to support menstrual hygiene and education for young women in the state.

The registration of temples, mutts, and trusts has been made compulsory by the Bihar government

- The Bihar government has mandated the registration of all temples, mutts, and trusts in the state.

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- District magistrates have been instructed to ensure the registration of these entities and submission of their property details to the Bihar State Board of Religious Trusts (BSBRT).
- BSBRT operates under the State's Law Department.
- The Bihar Hindu Religious Trust Act, 1950, requires all public temples, mutts, dharamshalas, and trusts to be registered with BSBRT.
- There are 2,512 unregistered temples and mutts in Bihar, holding 4,321.64 acres of land, according to BSBRT records.
- There are 2,499 registered temples in the state, collectively owning 18,456 acres of land.
- Vaishali district has the highest number of unregistered temples (438), followed by Bhabua (307) and West Champaran (273).
- The state government will take strict action against any illegal transactions involving properties owned by registered or unregistered religious entities.
- The registration process aims to curb unlawful activities and protect the assets of these religious bodies.

Ancient Maharashtra rock art declared a 'Protected Monument'

- The Maharashtra government declared the geoglyphs and petroglyphs in Ratnagiri as 'protected monuments' under the Maharashtra Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1960.
- The Culture Department's notification states that the petroglyphs at Deud in Ratnagiri are from the Mesolithic Age, dating back approximately 20,000–10,000 years.
- Geoglyphs and petroglyphs are ancient art forms, created by carving or engraving images on the earth's surface or rocks.
- The petroglyphs include depictions of animals such as rhinoceros, deer, monkeys, donkeys, and various footprints.
- The Konkan region's petroglyphs are significant as they represent the artistic expressions of Mesolithic humans.
- These ancient artworks are spread across a 900-kilometer stretch along the Konkan coast, covering parts of Maharashtra and Goa.
- Ratnagiri itself boasts over 1,500 geoglyphs and petroglyphs, distributed across 70 different sites.
- Seven of these sites in Ratnagiri are listed on UNESCO's tentative World Heritage List.
- This declaration underscores the importance of preserving these ancient artworks, which offer valuable insights into early human civilization.

First 'Solar Village' launched by Maharashtra with Manyachiwadi

- Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde inaugurated the state's first 'solar village' in Manyachiwadi on August 18.
- Manyachiwadi village, located in Patan taluka of Satara district, is now recognized as Maharashtra's first 'solar village.'
- The state government, under the Mukhyamantri Saur Krushi Pump Yojana, offers farmers a 90 to 95% subsidy to install solar pump sets.
- Chief Minister Eknath Shinde emphasized the government's commitment to promoting renewable energy and reducing reliance on conventional sources.
- Maharashtra aims to generate 12,000 MW of electricity from solar energy within the next one and a half years.
- Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company (MSEDCL) has launched a plan to provide 100% solar-powered electricity to two villages in each district.
- The burden of electricity bills in the state has decreased due to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana.
- Over 70 additional villages across Maharashtra are set to become solar-powered following the success of Manyachiwadi.
- The initiative marks a significant step in Maharashtra's efforts to expand the use of renewable energy sources.

Madhya Pradesh Pioneers Digital Summons and Warrant Rules

- Madhya Pradesh is the first state in India to formalize rules for issuing digital summons and warrants.
- The new laws permit the digital issuance of summons and warrants in judicial processes.
- Judicial authorities in Madhya Pradesh can now use electronic methods like email for official communication.
- Messaging apps such as WhatsApp are now authorized for sending judicial summons and warrants in the state.
- Text messages are also included as a valid method under the new digital summons and warrant rules.
- This move is part of Madhya Pradesh's effort to modernize judicial processes through digital means.
- The state leads the way in embracing digital tools for legal and judicial communications.

Kaanu will be launched on August 25 at the Tribal Health Resource Centre in BR Hills, Karnataka.

- Kaanu, an Adivasi Knowledge Centre, will be launched at the Tribal Health Resource Centre in BR Hills, Karnataka, on August 25.

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- "Kaanu" means evergreen forest in Kannada and Soliga languages.
- The centre will serve as a hub for South Indian Adivasi history, culture, and customs.
- It will house a library with literature by and about indigenous communities from Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Karnataka.
- Kaanu will feature an annotated bibliography of over 1,200 works related to the South Indian Adivasi world.
- A book co-authored by Adivasi and non-Adivasi researchers from South India will also be part of the centre's offerings.
- The initiative is spearheaded by academics and leaders from various Adivasi communities in South India, alongside non-Adivasi researchers.
- Kaanu is envisioned as the first knowledge hub dedicated to the South Indian Adivasi community.
- The centre aims to preserve and promote the rich heritage and knowledge of South India's indigenous people.

Himachal Pradesh government has launched 'Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojana'.

- The Himachal Pradesh government has launched the 'Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojana' to support education and child welfare.
- The scheme aims to provide financial aid to widows, destitute women, divorced women, and disabled parents to help their children's education and well-being.
- A budget of Rs 53.21 crore has been allocated annually to fund this initiative.
- The initiative seeks to prevent child abuse, trafficking, teenage marriages, and drug abuse by reinforcing child protection at the family level.
- Eligible women and disabled parents with children under 18 will receive a monthly grant of Rs 1,000 for educational, health, and nutritional needs.
- Financial support will be provided to children who gain admission to undergraduate, postgraduate, diploma, or vocational courses to cover tuition and hostel fees.
- The 'Mukhya Mantri Sukh Shiksha Yojana' targets two specific age groups for its benefits.
- The scheme is designed to strengthen the educational and health support systems for vulnerable children in Himachal Pradesh.
- The government initiative also focuses on reducing social issues like child exploitation and early marriages by supporting families.

Sports University inaugurated in Rajgir by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar.

- Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inaugurated a sports university, sports academy, and sports complex in Rajgir on National Sports Day, August 29.
- This venue is the first in India to feature both a sports university and a sports complex in the same location.
- The Rajgir Sports Complex includes facilities for 24 indoor and outdoor sports.
- A 24-bed hospital with modern facilities for treating sports injuries is part of the complex.
- The sports university will offer undergraduate and postgraduate programs in sports management, nutrition, and sports science technology.
- Three Centers of Excellence have been established for wrestling, weightlifting, and athletics to nurture new talent.
- The university will house the largest sports library in India, second only to the National Institute of Sports in Patiala.
- The newly inaugurated facilities aim to promote sports and physical education in Bihar.
- The Rajgir campus is equipped to support the development of future sports professionals and athletes.

Mega projects and fintech innovation launched in Maharashtra by PM Modi on August 30.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Maharashtra on August 30, where he laid the foundation stone for the Vadhavan Port project in Palghar, costing around Rs 76,000 crore.
- The Vadhavan Port is set to become one of India's largest deep-water ports, enhancing maritime connectivity and boosting India's status as a global trade hub.
- Modi also addressed the Global Fintech Fest 2024 in Mumbai, highlighting India's advancements in the Fintech sector.
- The Global Fintech Fest (GFF) was jointly organized by the Payments Council of India, National Payments Corporation of India, and Fintech Convergence Council.
- During his visit, PM Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation for 218 fisheries projects across the country, worth around Rs 1,560 crore, aimed at improving infrastructure and productivity.
- The Prime Minister also launched the National Roll Out of the Ship Communication and Assistance System, with an investment of approximately Rs 360 crore.
- This project will see the installation of 1 lakh transponders on mechanized and motorized fishing vessels across 13 coastal states and union territories.
- The GFF 2024 served as a platform to showcase India's significant progress in Fintech and brought together key industry stakeholders.

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- The initiatives launched by Modi are expected to significantly boost both the maritime and fisheries sectors in India.

Goa shipyard launched India's first pollution control vessel, Samudra Pratap.

- Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) launched Samudra Pratap, India's first pollution control vessel for the Indian Coast Guard.
- Samudra Pratap marks the first time that pollution control vessels have been designed and built indigenously in India.
- The vessel is specifically designed to assist the Coast Guard in managing oil spill response operations within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).
- Alongside Samudra Pratap, GSL is also constructing two additional pollution control vessels for the Indian Coast Guard.
- Samudra Pratap features a length of 114.5 meters, a breadth of 16.5 meters, and a displacement of 4,170 tonnes.
- This vessel project boasts over 60% indigenous content, showcasing India's growing capabilities in shipbuilding.
- The launch of Samudra Pratap highlights GSL's significant role in strengthening India's maritime infrastructure.
- The vessel's advanced design and construction reflect the nation's commitment to enhancing its pollution control efforts at sea.
- Samudra Pratap is a key milestone in the Indian Coast Guard's efforts to protect the marine environment from pollution.

DEFENCE

Indian Coast Guard (ICG) launched 'Suvidha Software Version 1.0'.

- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) introduced 'Suvidha Software Version 1.0' at the Annual Operational Sea Training Conference in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- This new software aims to improve training protocols and ensure uniformity across all ICG platforms.
- The conference, which included senior ICG officers from various regions, was a key forum for discussing best practices and strategies.
- It served as a platform for sharing insights and addressing the evolving maritime security challenges.
- The Indian Coast Guard, celebrating its Raising Day on February 1, 2022, is the fourth-largest coast guard globally.
- The ICG's motto is "Vayam Rakshamah," which translates to "We Protect."
- 'Suvidha Software Version 1.0' represents a significant step in enhancing operational consistency within the ICG.
- The conference also facilitated alignment of strategies to effectively respond to maritime security issues.

India will hold "Tarang Shakti 2024" its first multinational air exercise

- "Tarang Shakti 2024" is India's inaugural multinational air exercise.
- The exercise will occur in two phases: the first at Sular, Tamil Nadu, from August 6 to 14, and the second in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, from August 29 to September 14.
- About 30 countries will participate, with 10 bringing fighter aircraft.
- The event aims to showcase India's military capabilities and enhance interoperability among the participating forces.
- The exercise will serve as a platform for international collaboration and military demonstration.
- The first phase will be held in Tamil Nadu, focusing on initial training and operations.
- The second phase in Rajasthan will continue the exercise, concluding in mid-September.
- This multinational drill is expected to strengthen defense relationships and operational coordination.

Strategic Vision for "Viksit Bharat" unveiled by Indian Navy Chief

- Indian Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi unveiled a new strategic vision for the Navy on August 7.
- The document, named "CNS Course to Steer-2024 (CTS-2024)", outlines the Navy's role in advancing a developed India, or "Viksit Bharat".
- CTS-2024 details objectives to ensure the Navy is combat-ready, credible, cohesive, and future-oriented.
- This strategic plan aims to align the Navy's capabilities with India's national development objectives.
- Admiral Tripathi introduced this vision shortly after taking over as the 26th Navy Chief on April 30, succeeding Admiral R. Hari Kumar.
- The strategic vision was released amid the Navy's active participation in international collaborations.
- The roadmap is designed to guide the Navy in contributing effectively to India's growth.
- The release of CTS-2024 marks a significant step in shaping the Navy's future role and readiness.

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The Army conducting exercise 'Parvat Prahar' in Ladakh

- The Indian Army is conducting the 'Parvat Prahar' exercise in Ladakh, focusing on high-altitude operations.
- The exercise, named 'Parvat Prahar' (Mountain Strike), is designed for mountainous and rugged terrains like those in Eastern Ladakh.
- It aims to enhance the readiness and effectiveness of forces in the strategic area close to the India-China border.
- Over a fortnight, soldiers will face simulated real-world warfare scenarios to address unique high-altitude challenges.
- The exercise involves multiple Army units, including infantry, armored, artillery, and support elements.
- The Mountain Strike Corps of the Northern Command, responsible for operations near the Line of Actual Control (LAC), is leading the exercise.
- This training is crucial for maintaining operational preparedness in this critical and challenging region.
- 'Parvat Prahar' ensures comprehensive readiness for high-altitude warfare scenarios.

10th MITRA SHAKTI Exercise Kicks Off in Sri Lanka

- The 10th edition of Exercise MITRA SHAKTI has begun at the Army Training School in Maduru Oya, Sri Lanka.
- This joint military exercise between India and Sri Lanka will run from August 12 to 25, 2024.
- The Indian contingent consists of 106 personnel, including a Battalion from the Rajputana Rifles.
- The Sri Lankan side is represented by personnel from the Gajaba Regiment.
- Exercise MITRA SHAKTI is an annual event, alternating between India and Sri Lanka.
- The previous edition took place in Pune in November 2023.
- The exercise aims to improve joint military capabilities for counter-insurgency operations in semi-urban settings.
- This training event focuses on enhancing cooperation and operational effectiveness between the two nations.

The Coast Guard's new Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in Chennai.

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Coast Guard's new Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) in Chennai on August 18.
- The MRCC will enhance coordination for rescuing mariners and fishermen in distress along the East Coast of India and beyond.
- The centre is equipped with state-of-the-art communication systems and advanced equipment for distress monitoring via terrestrial and satellite systems.
- During the event, Rajnath Singh also virtually inaugurated two new Coast Guard units: the Regional Marine Pollution Response Centre (RMPRC) in Chennai and the Coast Guard Air Enclave in Puducherry.
- The RMPRC, located at Chennai Port, is the first facility of its kind to coordinate responses to marine pollution in the Indian Ocean Region.
- The Coast Guard Air Enclave in Puducherry will host Chetak and Advanced Light Helicopter Squadrons, capable of conducting maritime patrol, search and rescue, and other missions.
- The new MRCC will act as a nodal centre for coordinating all maritime rescue operations, ensuring the safety of mariners and fishermen.
- The helicopters stationed at the Puducherry Air Enclave are built using indigenous technology and can operate from both land and Coast Guard ships.
- These new facilities will significantly strengthen India's maritime safety and pollution response capabilities.

AWARDS

Google CEO Sundar Pichai Honored with Honorary Doctorate from IIT-Kharagpur

- Sundar Pichai and Anjali Pichai received prestigious honours from IIT Kharagpur at a ceremony in San Francisco.
- Sundar Pichai was awarded an honorary Doctor of Science (Honoris Causa) for his contributions to digital transformation and innovation.
- Anjali Pichai was honoured with the Distinguished Alumnus Award by IIT Kharagpur.
- The honorary degree for Sundar Pichai was conferred by President Draupadi Murmu at IIT-Kharagpur's 69th convocation in December 2023.
- Sundar Pichai has been with Google since 2004 and became its CEO in August 2015.
- The awards highlight their achievements and contributions to technology and education.
- Anjali Pichai's recognition underscores her role as a distinguished alumna of IIT Kharagpur.
- The ceremony in San Francisco marked a significant occasion for the Pichais and their alma mater.

Fijian President Awards Companion of the Order of Fiji to Droupadi Murmu

- The President of Fiji awarded the Companion of the Order of Fiji to President Droupadi Murmu.

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- President Murmu is on a two-day visit to Fiji and addressed the Fijian Parliament.
- She highlighted the 75 years of diplomatic relations between India and Fiji in her speech.
- During her visit, President Murmu met with Fijian President Willame Katonivere for bilateral discussions.
- She expressed gratitude to the Fijian Government for its support of India's Aditya L1 Mission.
- President Murmu recalled India's aid to Fiji during the COVID-19 crisis through the Vaccine Maitri initiative.
- The Companion of the Order of Fiji is the highest honor awarded by Fiji.
- Fiji, an island nation in Melanesia with over 300 islands, has Suva as its capital.

Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar has been announced by the government.

- The Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar recognizes significant contributions in science, technology, and innovation in India.
- The Vigyan Team Award will honor the ISRO-Chandrayaan 3 Team for their achievements in space research and technology.
- Professor G. Padmanabhan, former Director of the Indian Institute of Science, will receive the Vigyan Ratna Award for his lifetime contributions to biological sciences.
- The Vigyan Ratna Award celebrates notable lifetime achievements in any field of science or technology.
- The Vigyan Shri Award recipients include Rahul Mukherjee, Sanjay Behari, Adimurthi Adi, Bhim Singh, Anandharamakrishnan C, and Syed Wajh Ahmad Naqvi.
- The Vigyan Yuva Award will be given to Dr. Bappi Paul, Dr. Abhilash, Radha Krishnan Mahalakshmi, Purabi Saikia, Digendranath Swain, Prabhu Rajagopal, and Prashant Kumar.
- The award ceremony is scheduled for August 23, coinciding with National Space Day.
- Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar aims to honor both individual and team achievements in various scientific disciplines.
- These awards celebrate exceptional contributions by scientists, technicians, and inventors across different fields.

President Murmu receives the Highest Civilian Award of Timor Leste

- President Droupadi Murmu received Timor Leste's highest civilian honor, the Grand Collar of the Order of Timor Leste, from President Jose Ramos Horta.
- The award ceremony took place on August 10, 2024, in the capital of Timor Leste, Dili.
- President Murmu is on a three-nation tour, visiting Fiji from August 5-7, New Zealand on August 8-9, and arriving in Timor Leste on August 10.
- She is the first Indian President to visit Timor Leste, an island country in Southeast Asia formerly known as East Timor.
- Accompanying President Murmu on her tour were Union Minister George Kurien and Lok Sabha MPs Saumitra Khan and Jugal Kishore.
- Currently, there are no diplomatic missions between India and Timor Leste in each other's countries.
- The Grand Collar of the Order of Timor Leste is the highest civilian award given by Timor Leste.
- This visit marks a significant moment in strengthening ties between India and Timor Leste.
- The award reflects the growing bilateral relationship and mutual recognition between the two nations.

Shah Rukh Khan received lifetime achievement award at Locarno Film Festival

- Shah Rukh Khan was honored with a lifetime achievement award at the Locarno Film Festival.
- Khan became the first Indian to receive the Pardo alla Carriera (Career Leopard) award.
- The award was presented at the 77th Locarno Film Festival.
- As part of the tribute, the festival featured a screening of Khan's 2002 film Devdas.
- The 2024 Locarno International Film Festival is taking place from August 7 to August 17 in Locarno, Switzerland.
- This recognition highlights Khan's significant contributions to cinema.
- The festival is showcasing a range of films alongside this special tribute.
- The award underscores Khan's international impact and career achievements.
- The Locarno Film Festival is known for celebrating outstanding cinematic talent and innovation.

70th National Film Awards

- The National Film Awards, founded in 1954, are one of the most prestigious recognitions in the Indian film industry.
- These awards are managed by the Directorate of Film Festivals under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.
- The National Film Awards are presented annually to celebrate excellence in Indian cinema.
- The awards were established to recognize and honor the best contributions to Indian cinema each year.
- Rishab Shetty won the Best Actor award at the 70th National Film Awards for his role in 'Kantara.'
- 'Kantara' also received the award for 'Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment.'

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- The Malayalam film 'Aattam,' directed by Anand Ekarshi, won the Best Feature Film award.
- Manoj Bajpayee's film 'Gulmohar' was honored as the Best Hindi Film.
- The 70th National Film Awards recognized a diverse range of films and performances.
- Rishab Shetty's performance in 'Kantara' was highly acclaimed, earning him the top acting honor.
- The awards celebrated excellence in Indian cinema, highlighting standout films across different languages.

Twenty-one geoscientists have received the National Geoscience Awards

- President Droupadi Murmu awarded the National Geoscience Awards (NGA) to 21 geoscientists.
- The awards were given for achievements in geosciences, mineral exploration, and natural hazard investigations.
- There are three categories: Lifetime Achievement Award, National Geoscience Award, and National Young Geoscientist Award.
- Prof. Dhiraj Mohan Banerjee was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his work in phosphorites, isotope geology, and organic geochemistry.
- Dr. Ashutosh Pandey received the National Young Geoscientist Award for his research on the Eastern Dharwar Craton's geodynamic evolution.
- Twelve awards were distributed across these categories.
- Recent amendments to the MMDR Act enable the central government to auction 24 critical and strategic minerals.
- The Ministry of Mines has introduced an exploration license for 29 deep-seated minerals.
- The NGA recognizes significant contributions in the fields of geoscience and mineral research.

Rohit Sharma won the 'Men's International Cricketer of the Year' at the Ceat Cricket Awards 2023–24.

- Rohit Sharma was honored as the 'Men's International Cricketer of the Year' at the Ceat Cricket Rating Awards 2023–24.
- Virat Kohli was awarded 'Men's ODI Batter of the Year' at the same event.
- Mohammed Shami earned the title of 'ODI Bowler of the Year.'
- Rahul Dravid received the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' for his contributions to cricket.
- Yashasvi Jaiswal was recognized as the 'Men's Test Batter of the Year.'
- R. Ashwin was named 'Men's Test Bowler of the Year.'
- Tamil Nadu's R Sai Kishore won the 'Domestic Cricketer of the Year' award.
- New Zealand's Tim Southee was awarded 'Men's T20I Bowler of the Year.'
- England's Phil Salt was recognized as the 'Best Batter of the Year' in the T-20 format.

Lata Mangeshkar Award will be presented to K S Chithra and Uttam Singh

- The Madhya Pradesh government will award the National Lata Mangeshkar Award to K.S. Chithra and Uttam Singh on September 28.
- Uttam Singh will receive the award for 2022, while K.S. Chithra will be honored for 2023.
- The awards will be presented in a newly built auditorium dedicated to Lata Mangeshkar.
- The Lata Mangeshkar Award is presented annually on the singer's birth anniversary.
- Lata Mangeshkar was born on September 28, 1929, in Indore and passed away on February 6, 2022, in Mumbai.
- Established in 1984, the award celebrates artistic excellence in light music.
- The award includes a cash prize of Rs 2 lakh and a citation.
- This year's ceremony will be the first to be held in the state government's auditorium honoring Mangeshkar.
- The state culture department confers the award to recognize outstanding contributions to music.

RGIA Hyderabad won the Best Airport Award for the third consecutive year.

- Hyderabad's Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) has been named Best Airport at the India Travel Awards for the third year in a row.
- The award highlights RGIA's commitment to excellent social media engagement and strong airline support.
- In 2023, RGIA also won the Skytrax 'Best Airport Staff in India & South Asia 2024' award in Frankfurt.
- RGIA is the largest airport in India by area, spanning 5,500 acres in Shamshabad, Hyderabad.
- The airport, serving Hyderabad, opened on March 23, 2008.
- RGIA introduced domestic e-boarding in December 2015 and international e-boarding in October 2020, making it the first in India to do so.
- The airport's recognition underscores its excellence in service and infrastructure.
- This consistent performance has established RGIA as a leader among Indian airports.
- The airport plays a crucial role in connecting Hyderabad with international destinations.

Mohd Zeeshan Ayyub named best actor for 'Scoop', 'Maidaan' best Asian film

- The 2024 Septimius Award in the Netherlands honored the Ajay Devgn starrer Maidaan as the Best Asian Film.
- Actor Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub won the Best Actor award at the same ceremony.

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- The awards ceremony took place on August 19-20 at the Tuschinski Theatre in Amsterdam.
- Zeeshan Ayyub was recognized for his role in the 2023 crime drama series Scoop.
- Director Amit Ravindranath Sharma's Maidaan was celebrated as the best Asian film.
- Maidaan secured its win for its impactful storytelling and direction.
- The Septimius Award highlighted both the film and Ayyub's standout performances on an international stage.

24th International Mother Teresa awards given for significant contributions

- The 24th International Mother Teresa Awards Ceremony was held in Dubai, marking the second time it took place outside India.
- Organized by the All-India Minority and Weaker Sections Council, the event celebrated the 114th birth anniversary of Mother Teresa.
- The awards honored exceptional contributions across various fields, including education, science, culture, and sports.
- Individuals in social work, medicine, industry, and politics were also recognized for their significant achievements.
- The ceremony brought global attention to the impactful work of a diverse group of awardees.
- Dubai has now hosted the International Mother Teresa Awards twice.
- The event highlighted the enduring legacy of Mother Teresa's humanitarian spirit.

Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare organized the 7th Anubhav Awards.

- The Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare hosted the 7th Anubhav Awards Ceremony in New Delhi.
- The event recognized the significant contributions made by government employees during their service.
- V. Srinivas, Secretary of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare, presented five Anubhav Awards during the ceremony.
- Additionally, 10 Jury Certificates were awarded to employees from nine different departments and ministries.
- Among the 15 awardees, five were women pensioners, marking the highest number in a single ceremony.
- The ceremony highlighted the achievements and dedication of government employees in various sectors.
- The Department also organized the 11th Nationwide Pension Adalat, chaired by Mr. V. Srinivas.
- The Anubhav Awards underscore the government's commitment to honoring the service of its retiring employees.
- The event served as a platform to acknowledge the valuable experiences shared by retired government officials.

SPORTS

Swapnil Kusale won a bronze medal at 50-metre rifle 3-position shooting

- Swapnil Kusale won a bronze medal in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions event at the Paris Olympics 2024.
- Kusale's performance at the National Shooting Center in Châteauroux on August 1 earned him a total score of 451.4 points.
- He achieved scores of 156.8 in the prone position, 153.3 in kneeling, and 195 in the standing position.
- This victory marks the first time an Indian shooter has won an Olympic medal in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions event.
- With this win, India has now secured its third medal at the ongoing Paris Olympics.
- China's Y.K. Liu claimed the gold with a score of 463.6 points, while Ukraine's S. Kulish took the silver with 461.3 points.
- Swapnil Kusale's achievement has set a historic milestone for Indian shooting at the Olympics.

Novak Djokovic won his first Olympic gold medal in Olympics.

- Novak Djokovic secured his first Olympic gold medal in tennis.
- He triumphed over Carlos Alcaraz with scores of 7-6 (3) and 7-6 (2) in the men's singles final.
- Djokovic, who holds a record 24 Grand Slam titles, also became the oldest Olympic medalist in tennis.
- He joins Andre Agassi, Rafael Nadal, Steffi Graf, and Serena Williams as the only players to achieve both Grand Slam and Olympic singles gold.
- Lorenzo Musetti won the bronze medal by defeating Felix Auger-Aliassime.
- Musetti's win marked the first tennis medal in the Olympics in the last century.
- Djokovic's victory adds to his illustrious career achievements.
- The men's singles final highlighted Djokovic's enduring excellence in tennis.

Manu Bhaker named India's flag-bearer for the closing ceremony of the 2024 Paris Olympics.

- Manu Bhaker, a two-time Olympic bronze medallist, will be India's flag-bearer at the 2024 Paris Olympics closing ceremony.
- The closing ceremony is scheduled for August 11.
- Bhaker will represent India as the women's flag bearer during the event.

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- The male flag bearer for India at the ceremony has not yet been announced.
- Bhaker achieved notable success in Paris, winning two bronze medals.
- She won her first bronze in the women's 10-metre air pistol event.
- Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh secured a bronze medal in the mixed 10-metre air pistol.
- Bhaker's performance in Paris included breaking several records.

Novak Djokovic Clinches First Olympic Gold Medal at the Paris 2024 Olympics

- Novak Djokovic won his first Olympic gold medal by defeating Carlos Alcaraz in the men's singles final at the Paris 2024 Olympics.
- At 37 years old, Djokovic became the oldest man to win Olympic singles gold since 1908.
- Djokovic now holds a record 24 Grand Slam titles and the most weeks at No. 1 in the ATP rankings.
- With this win, Djokovic joins a select group of players, including Andre Agassi, Rafael Nadal, Steffi Graf, and Serena Williams, who have achieved both a Career Grand Slam and Olympic gold.
- The victory adds to Djokovic's illustrious career and achievements in tennis.
- Djokovic's Olympic gold marks a significant milestone in his career, highlighting his longevity and continued dominance in the sport.
- His win at Paris 2024 solidifies his status as one of the greatest tennis players of all time.
- Djokovic's achievement reflects his exceptional performance and enduring presence in the sport of tennis.

India wins CAVA Women's Volleyball Nations League for the second time

- India won the CAVA Women's Volleyball Nations League final, defeating Nepal 3-2.
- This victory marks India's second title in the tournament's history.
- Despite losing to Nepal in the league stage, India triumphed in the final match.
- India secured the Gold medal, while Nepal took Silver and Iran earned Bronze.
- The final match saw India overcome Nepal after an earlier defeat.
- The tournament concluded with India emerging as champions.
- The victory adds to India's impressive track record in international volleyball.

Aman Sehrawat won the bronze medal in the men's 57kg free-style category at the Paris 2024 Olympics.

- Aman Sehrawat secured a bronze medal in the men's 57kg freestyle category at the Paris 2024 Olympics.
- Sehrawat defeated Darian Toi Cruz from Puerto Rico with a score of 13-5.
- Representing Haryana, Sehrawat is the youngest Indian to win an individual Olympic medal.
- He was the sole Indian male wrestler to qualify for the Paris Games.
- In 2022, Sehrawat also earned a bronze medal in the 57kg category at the Asian Games.
- He achieved a gold medal at the Asian Wrestling Championships in April 2023.
- His first National Championship title came in 2021.
- Sehrawat's achievements highlight his growing prominence in wrestling on the international stage.

Neeraj Chopra Wins Silver at 2024 Paris Olympics

- Neeraj Chopra earned a silver medal in men's javelin at the 2024 Paris Olympics with a season-best throw of 89.45 meters.
- This achievement makes Chopra the first Indian track and field athlete to win two Olympic medals since independence.
- The gold medal was claimed by Pakistani javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem, who set a new Olympic record with a throw of 92.97 meters.
- Grenada's Anderson Peters secured the bronze medal with a throw of 88.54 meters.
- Chopra's performance marked a significant milestone in Indian athletics history.
- The 2024 Paris Olympics saw a high level of competition in the javelin throw event.
- Chopra's silver medal adds to his previous Olympic success, highlighting his consistency and skill in the sport.
- The Paris 2024 Olympics will be the third time the city has hosted, following 1900 and 1924.
- There will be 32 sports, including breakdancing, which is appearing for the first time in the Olympics.

Badminton World Federation (BWF) suspended para shuttler Pramod Bhagat.

- Pramod Bhagat, the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic gold medalist, has been suspended by the Badminton World Federation (BWF) for 18 months.
- His suspension is due to three whereabouts failures within a 12-month period, as determined by the Anti-Doping Division of the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).
- Bhagat's suspension will last until September 1, 2025, barring him from all badminton-related activities.
- As a result of the suspension, Bhagat will be unable to participate in the Paris Paralympics 2024.
- The BWF officially announced that Pramod Bhagat's suspension is due to breaches of anti-doping regulations.
- Bhagat, an SL3 category player, had won gold in the men's singles SL3 category at the Tokyo Paralympics.
- He appealed the CAS decision to the Appeals Division, but the appeal was dismissed in July 2024.
- The BWF cited whereabouts failures as the reason behind Bhagat's suspension.

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Sumit Antil and Bhagyashree Jadhav will carry the Indian flag at the Paris 2024 Paralympics opening ceremony

- Sumit Antil and Bhagyashree Jadhav will be flag bearers for India at the opening ceremony of the Paris 2024 Paralympics.
- The Paris 2024 Paralympics will run from August 28 to September 8, utilizing the same venues as the Olympics.
- India is sending its largest-ever Paralympic team to Paris, consisting of 84 athletes across 12 sports.
- The contingent for Paris 2024 is significantly larger than the 54 participants who represented India in Tokyo.
- Sumit Antil is the reigning javelin throw champion and will be one of the flag bearers.
- Bhagyashree Jadhav, a leading shot put athlete, has also been selected to carry the Indian flag.
- For the first time, India will compete in para cycling, para rowing, and blind judo at the Paralympics in Paris.
- The Paralympic Games in Paris will take place at the same venues where the Olympics concluded on August 11.
- India's participation in the Paris Paralympics marks a historic moment with its expanded and diverse sports roster.

The ICC has relocated the ninth Women's T20 World Cup from Bangladesh to the UAE

- The ninth Women's T20 World Cup will be relocated from Bangladesh to the UAE.
- Despite the move, the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) will remain the official host.
- The tournament will take place in Dubai and Sharjah from October 3 to October 20.
- The event's dates are unchanged despite the venue shift.
- Political unrest in Bangladesh led to the decision to move the tournament.
- The UAE was chosen over Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka, which also bid to host the event.
- The 2023 ICC Women's T20 World Cup was held in South Africa, marking its eighth edition.
- This will be the ninth edition of the Women's T20 World Cup.
- The UAE will now host the event due to logistical and political reasons affecting Bangladesh.

Indian women secured their first team title at the Under-17 Wrestling World Championships.

- Indian women claimed their first-ever team title at the Under-17 World Wrestling Championship in Jordan, amassing 185 points.
- Japan secured the second spot with 146 points, while Kazakhstan came in third with 79 points.
- Kajal clinched gold in the 69kg category, defeating Ukraine's Oleksandr Rybak 9-2.
- Shrutika Patil earned a silver medal in the 46kg category, losing to Japan's Yuu Katsume.
- Raj Bala won a bronze medal in the 40kg category with an 11-5 victory over Japan's Monaka Umekawa.
- Muskan added another bronze for India by defeating Isabella Gonzales of the USA in the 53kg category through technical superiority.
- Indian women dominated the championship, winning a total of eight medals.
- The medal tally for India included five golds, one silver, and two bronze medals.
- The victory marked a historic moment for Indian women's wrestling on the global stage.

Diana Pundole became the first female national racing champion from India

- Diana Pundole has become India's first female national racing champion.
- She secured the national championship title in the saloon category at the MRF Indian National Car Racing Championship 2024 in Chennai.
- Pundole is a Pune-based teacher and mother of two.
- She was among 200 women selected for intensive trials in a national talent hunt.
- Her success is attributed to her data analysis and refined driving techniques.
- Pundole is the sole female competitor in the prestigious Indian Touring Cars mixed category.
- Her victory marks a significant milestone for women in Indian motorsport.

India won a silver medal at the 2024 Asian Surfing Championships' Maruhaba Cup in the Maldives.

- India earned a silver medal at the Maruhaba Cup during the Asian Surfing Championships 2024 in Thulusdhoo, Maldives.
- Japan clinched the gold medal in the event's final, with Taipei and China securing third and fourth places, respectively.
- India topped Heat 2 in the semi-finals with a score of 32.16, ahead of Taipei and the Republic of Korea.
- The Indian team included Kamali P, Ajeesh Ali, Srikanth D, and Sanjay Selvamani.
- India won their first-ever surfing quota for the Asian Games just a day before their silver medal victory.
- The 2024 Asian Surfing Championships served as a qualifying event for the 2026 Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.
- The Indian men's and women's teams will now participate in the 2026 Asian Games.
- Harish Muthu made history by being the first Indian to reach the quarterfinals of the men's open event at the

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championships.

- Although Muthu couldn't advance to the semi-finals, his performance was noteworthy.

Karthik Venkataraman won the 61st National Chess Championship.

- Karthik Venkataraman clinched the title at the 61st National Chess Championship.
- He finished with nine points out of 11 rounds, along with Ganguly and Neelash Saha.
- The Buchholz System was used to break the tie, placing Karthik first.
- The championship took place at RPS International School in Gurgaon, organized by the Haryana Chess Association.
- Karthik was awarded a trophy and a cash prize of six lakh rupees (approximately USD 7,150).
- The tournament saw participation from 341 players across India.
- The total prize fund for the event was thirty lakh rupees (approximately USD 35,000).
- The All India Chess Federation served as the chief guest and distributed the awards.
- The 61st National Chess Championship showcased intense competition among top players.

Bangladesh achieved a historic victory in the SAFF U-20 Championship football tournament.

- Bangladesh emerged as the new champion of the SAFF Under-20 Championship by defeating Nepal 4-1 in the final.
- The victory marks Bangladesh's first-ever win in the history of the SAFF U-20 Championship.
- The final match was held at the ANFA ground in Satdobato, Lalitpur, Nepal.
- The 2024 edition of the SAFF U-20 Championship saw participation from six nations: Bangladesh, Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, and Bhutan.
- India had previously secured the title in 2019, 2022, and 2023.
- This biennial tournament, organized by the South Asian Football Federation, is a key competition for male footballers under 20.
- The SAFF U-20 Championship was first hosted in Nepal back in August 2015.
- Bangladesh's historic victory is a significant milestone in their football achievements.

INDEX AND RANKINGS

India is ranked 39th in Travel & Tourism Development Index 2024

- India is ranked 39th in the 2024 Travel & Tourism Development Index, which evaluates 119 countries.
- The index report is published by the World Economic Forum.
- In 2022, India accounted for 14.3 million international tourist arrivals, making up 1.47% of the global market.
- India's share of international arrivals in Asia and the Pacific was 15.66% in 2022.
- The UN Tourism Barometer reported 975 million global international tourist arrivals in 2022.
- Minister of Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat highlighted improvements in India's travel and tourism scores.
- India's progress was noted in areas such as prioritization of travel and tourism, safety and security, and health and hygiene.
- The Travel & Tourism Development Index assesses countries based on various factors related to tourism growth and infrastructure.

Barclays-Hurun India Report 2024

- The 2024 Barclays Private Clients Hurun India Most Valuable Family Businesses List reveals the Ambani family's wealth at Rs 25.75 trillion, roughly 10% of India's GDP.
- The Ambani family tops the list as India's wealthiest business family, followed by the Bajaj and Birla families.
- The combined valuation of the top three families—Ambani, Bajaj, and Birla—is \$460 billion, comparable to Singapore's GDP.
- The report provides valuations as of March 20, 2024, based on companies owned by these families.
- Private investments and liquid assets are not included in the reported valuations.
- The report does not cover first-generation business families such as the Adanis.
- The Ambani family's wealth alone represents a significant portion of India's economic output.
- The Bajaj and Birla families also hold substantial wealth, ranking them just below the Ambanis.
- The report highlights the immense financial influence of these family-run businesses in India.

Roshni Nadar Malhotra is India's most influential woman, leading a family-owned business.

- Roshni Nadar Malhotra, chairperson of HCL Technologies, is recognized as India's most influential woman in business for 2024.
- She tops the 2024 Barclays Private Clients Hurun India Most Valuable Family Businesses list.
- Nisaba Godrej, from the Godrej family, is the second most notable woman in this business ranking.
- Other prominent female leaders include Sushila Devi Singhania of JK Cement and Manju D. Gupta of Lupin.
- The Ambani family, valued at Rs 25.75 trillion, leads the list of the most valuable family businesses.

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- The Bajaj family holds the second position, while the Birla family is ranked third.
- The Nadar family, led by Roshni Nadar Malhotra, is ranked fifth, following the Sajjan Jindal-led family.
- Roshni Nadar Malhotra is the only female member among the top 10 family businesses listed.
- First-generation family businesses, like the Adani family led by Gautam Adani, are not included in this ranking but are noted as the most valuable in their category.

According to the latest Food & Drink 2024 report, Amul has been ranked as the strongest food brand in the world.

- Amul has been named the strongest food brand globally in the latest Food & Drink 2024 report.
- Previously ranked second, Amul is now the top dairy brand worldwide.
- The report awards Amul a brand strength index of 91 out of 100 and an AAA+ rating.
- Amul's brand value has risen by 11% to reach \$3.3 billion.
- Brand Finance, a leading global brand consultancy, published the report on the strongest food, dairy, and non-alcoholic drink brands.
- Amul excelled in familiarity, consideration, and recommendation metrics.
- Nestlé remains the most valuable food brand, with a valuation of \$20.8 billion.
- Lay's has moved up to the second spot with a brand value of \$12 billion.
- In non-alcoholic drinks, Coca-Cola leads globally, with Pepsi in second place.

Hurun India Rich List is topped by Gautam Adani

- Gautam Adani tops the Hurun India Rich List 2024 with a net worth of Rs 11.6 lakh crore, marking a 95% increase from the previous year.
- Mukesh Ambani is in second place with a wealth of Rs 10.1 lakh crore.
- The Shiv Nadar family ranks third on the list.
- Cyrus S. Poonawala, the founder of Serum Institute of India, and Dilip Sanghvi, of Sun Pharmaceutical Industries, follow in the rankings.
- Over the last five years, six individuals have consistently appeared in the top 10: Gautam Adani, Mukesh Ambani, Shiv Nadar, Cyrus S Poonawala, Gopichand Hinduja, and Radhakishan Damani.
- India has seen a 29% increase in the number of billionaires, bringing the total to a record 334.
- The combined wealth of all Indian billionaires is Rs 159 lakh crore.
- The youngest billionaire on the list is Kaivalya Vohra, co-founder of Zepto, at 21 years old.
- The youngest self-made woman billionaire is Neha Bansal, co-founder of Lenskart, at 42 years old.

BANKING, ECONOMY AND FINANCE

India's April-June fiscal deficit stood at Rs 1.36 lakh crore

- India's fiscal deficit for April-June 2024 reached Rs 1.36 lakh crore, representing 8.1% of the annual estimate.
- Total receipts for the period were Rs 8.34 lakh crore, while expenditures amounted to Rs 9.70 lakh crore.
- The previous year's total receipts were 22.1% of the estimate, while expenditures were 23.3%.
- Revenue receipts were approximately Rs 8.30 lakh crore, including Rs 5.50 lakh crore from tax revenue and Rs 2.80 lakh crore from non-tax revenue.
- Tax revenue was 21.1% of the budgeted estimate, and non-tax revenue was 70.1%.
- Tax revenue last year was higher at 18.6% of the budgeted figure.
- Expenditure in the current period is slightly lower compared to the previous year's percentage.
- The fiscal deficit reflects the shortfall between total receipts and expenditure for the first quarter.

India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grew by 4.2% in June 2024

- India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP) grew by 4.2% in June 2024.
- This is a decrease from May 2024's growth rate of 6.2%, according to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- The IIP growth rate for June 2023 was 4.0%.
- In October 2023, the IIP reached a peak of 11.9%.
- Sector-wise in June 2024, mining, manufacturing, and electricity saw growths of 10.3%, 2.6%, and 8.6%, respectively.
- The growth rate for capital goods in June 2024 compared to June 2023 was 2.4%.
- Consumer durables saw an increase of 8.6%, while consumer non-durables decreased by 1.4%.
- Building and infrastructure goods experienced a slight growth of 4.4% in June 2024.
- Output of primary goods grew by 6.3% in June 2024.

In July, India's merchandise imports rose to \$57.48 billion.

- In July, India's merchandise exports dropped by 1.47% to \$33.98 billion, marking an eight-month low due to weak global demand and geopolitical challenges.

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- Gold imports saw a decline of 10.65%, amounting to \$3.13 billion in July.
- According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry's data released on August 14, imports of crude oil, silver, and electronic goods contributed to the increase in merchandise imports.
- Merchandise imports in July rose by 7.4%, reaching \$57.48 billion, compared to \$53.49 billion in the same month last year.
- Petroleum and crude product imports grew by 17.4%, totaling \$13.87 billion in July.
- Services exports were estimated at \$28.4 billion in July, showing an 8% increase from \$26.2 billion in July last year.
- The surge in petroleum product imports, which represent over 15% of India's total exports, saw a 22% decline in value to \$5.23 billion in July.
- The drop in export growth was influenced by falling prices in crude oil, commodities, and metals.
- India's merchandise export performance was also impacted by a slowdown in global economic activity.

Unemployment rate in April-June (Q1) declined to 6.6 percent from 6.7 percent

- The unemployment rate in April-June (Q1) FY25 decreased to 6.6 percent, slightly down from 6.7 percent in January-March FY24.
- The female unemployment rate rose to 9 percent in Q1FY25, up from 8.5 percent in the previous quarter.
- The jobless rate for young males has shown a decline, while that for young females has increased.
- The labor force participation rate in urban areas fell to 50.1 percent in Q1FY25 from 50.2 percent in Q4FY24.
- The survey indicated a reduction in self-employment, with the percentage dropping to 40 percent from 40.5 percent in the prior quarter.
- Overall unemployment showed a slight improvement in Q1FY25.
- Female unemployment has risen, reflecting challenges in job creation for women.
- The decrease in the urban labor force participation rate suggests fewer people are working or seeking jobs.
- A decline in self-employment indicates fewer people are engaged in their own businesses or freelance work.

India's GDP growth forecast for FY24 raised to 7.2% by Moody's Ratings.

- Moody's Ratings has revised India's GDP growth forecast for FY24 to 7.2%, up from the earlier estimate of 6.8%.
- The growth projection for 2025 has also been increased to 6.6%, compared to the previous 6.4%.
- The upward revision is attributed to strong and broad-based growth driven by resilient private consumption and improved business conditions.
- The Indian economy recorded a 7.8% year-on-year growth in the first quarter of 2024, despite tight monetary policies and fiscal consolidation.
- The industrial and services sectors have shown significant strength, with the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) remaining above 60 since the start of the year.
- Moody's noted that the capital expenditure cycle is expected to strengthen, supported by rising capacity utilisation.
- The agency highlighted that continued government infrastructure spending is contributing to this positive outlook.
- The report reflects optimism about India's economic prospects despite global challenges.
- Moody's emphasizes that the growth momentum is being sustained by various favorable factors within the Indian economy.

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

State-of-the-art web portal “Nivahika” launched by National Institute of Technology-Calicut

- The National Institute of Technology-Calicut (NIT-C) launched a cutting-edge web portal named “Nivahika.”
- The portal aims to transform how institutions manage and report their data.
- Nivahika was inaugurated by NIT-C Director Prasad Krishna on August 2.
- The tool promises improved accuracy and consistency in institutional data management.
- It assists with tasks ranging from center presentations to national rankings.
- Development of Nivahika was led by the Dean (Planning & Development) and supported by several IT and computer centers.
- The portal facilitates systematic and timely recording of departmental and multidisciplinary center activities.
- Nivahika will ensure data availability and secure access for authorized users.

Government to include AYUSH in the Ayushman Bharat scheme.

- The Union Government will integrate the AYUSH package into the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY).
- AB PM-JAY provides ₹5 lakh in annual health coverage per family for secondary and tertiary care hospitalizations.

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- The inclusion of AYUSH is expected to benefit 55 crore individuals across 12.34 crore families.
- Discussions are ongoing regarding the package design, hospital onboarding, treatment guidelines, and financial implications.
- The Central Government Health Scheme (CGHS) currently operates 110 Ayush Wellness Centers and one Ayurvedic Hospital in India.
- The Ministry of Ayush initiated the National Ayush Mission (NAM) as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme in 2014.
- The AYUSH package will expand the healthcare options available under the AB PM-JAY scheme.
- The new package will support both traditional and modern healthcare practices.
- The government's move aims to strengthen holistic healthcare by incorporating Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, and Homeopathy into the scheme.

Union Minister JP Nadda inaugurated the ‘First Policy Makers’ Forum’ in New Delhi.

- Union Minister JP Nadda inaugurated the ‘First Policy Makers’ Forum in New Delhi.
- The forum, organized by the Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) with the Ministry of Health, hosted international policymakers and drug regulators from 15 countries.
- This initiative aims to enhance discussions on the recognition of Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) and implement Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP).
- The event also introduced innovative digital platforms for pharmacopoeia and drug safety monitoring.
- The IP Online Portal is a significant move towards digitalizing the Indian Pharmacopoeia.
- The ADRMS software, India's first indigenous medical product safety database, was highlighted at the forum.
- The forum will promote the recognition of IP on an international level.
- The new digital platforms will contribute to improving drug safety and monitoring practices.
- JP Nadda also serves as the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare & Chemicals and Fertilizers.

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has unveiled the SOP for the Green Tug Transition Program (GTTP)

- Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal launched the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the Green Tug Transition Program (GTTP).
- The GTTP is part of the ‘Panch Karma Sankalp’ initiative, aimed at transitioning to eco-friendly harbour tugs.
- The program will phase out conventional fuel-based tugs at Indian major ports, replacing them with green tugs.
- Phase 1 of the GTTP starts on October 1, 2024, and will last until December 31, 2027.
- During this phase, four major ports—Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority, Deendayal Port Authority, Paradip Port Authority, and V.O. Chidambaram Port Authority—will each acquire or charter at least two green tugs.
- An estimated INR 1000 Crores will be invested in the construction of these green tugs.
- The initial tugs will be battery-electric but will also include options for other emerging green technologies.
- The GTTP aims to significantly enhance the domestic tug industry, with tugs being built in Indian shipyards under the ‘Make in India’ initiative.
- This transition is expected to be a major advancement in reducing environmental impact and promoting sustainable maritime practices.

Government launched the Retired Sportsperson Empowerment Training (RESET) Programme.

- The Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya launched the “Retired Sportsperson Empowerment Training” (RESET) Programme on National Sports Day.
- RESET aims to empower retired athletes by providing them with knowledge and skills to enhance their employability.
- The programme supports retired sportspersons aged 20-50 who have won international or national medals or participated in state-level competitions.
- The initiative will help retired athletes share their expertise with the next generation of aspiring sportspeople.
- RESET will also focus on bridging the generational gap between former and current athletes.
- Lakshmibai National Institute of Physical Education (LNIPE) will lead the implementation of the programme.
- The programme is divided into two levels based on the educational qualifications of participants: Class 12th and above, and Class 11th and below.
- The initiative acknowledges the contributions of retired sportspersons to the nation's glory.
- This programme aims to assist athletes in their career development after retirement from competitive sports.

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

Indian Air Force Launches First Comic Book Series Celebrating Its Heroes

- Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari launched the first comic book in a series dedicated to IAF heroes.
- This initiative aims to inspire and educate youth about the Indian Air Force's rich history and heroic deeds.
- The comic series is part of the IAF's efforts to connect with younger generations.
- The storytelling approach is designed to foster a sense of pride and duty toward the nation among the youth.
- The comic book series was officially unveiled by the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari.

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- This innovative project marks a significant step for the IAF in engaging with the younger population.
- The launch highlights the Indian Air Force's commitment to preserving and promoting its legacy.

Book Launch Spotlight: '75 Great Revolutionaries of India'

- Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh Narayan Singh attended the book launch of '75 Great Revolutionaries of India,' authored by MP Bhim Singh.
- Singh commended the book for shedding light on the contributions of lesser-known freedom fighters.
- The book aims to inspire the vision of a developed India by recognizing historical sacrifices.
- The book is seen as a source of inspiration for building a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India).
- Singh emphasized that stories of 75 revolutionaries in the book can fuel the ambition to contribute to India's progress.

Piyush Goyal Launches 'India@100': A Vision for India's Economic Future

- Union Minister Piyush Goyal launched the book "India@100: Envisioning Tomorrow's Economic Powerhouse," authored by Prof. K V Subramanian.
- The book outlines India's economic path leading up to 2047, aiming to position the country as a developed nation by its centenary of independence.
- The launch event, held in New Delhi, was a significant moment in India's economic development discourse.
- ASSOCHAM organized the event, highlighting the book's importance in business and economic sectors.
- The publication is seen as a crucial contribution to discussions on India's future economic aspirations.
- The event gathered key figures from government, industry, and academia to discuss India's economic trajectory.
- The book's launch reflects India's vision of becoming an economic powerhouse by 2047.
- "India@100" is expected to influence strategic planning in both public and private sectors.

Tarun Chugh's book, "Modi's Governance Triumph Released

- BJP General Secretary Tarun Chugh launched his book, "Modi's Governance Triumph: Reshaping India's Path to Prosperity," in New Delhi.
- The event was attended by key political figures, including Home Minister Amit Shah and Coal and Mines Minister G. Kishan Reddy.
- Chugh's book delves into the visionary initiatives and reforms under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.
- The launch highlighted the book's significance in India's political discourse.
- A central theme of the book is the government's dedication to the Antyodaya mission, focusing on uplifting marginalized communities.
- The book provides a detailed analysis of the transformative policies shaping India's path to prosperity.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ISRO will launch Earth Observation Satellite-8 (EOS-8)

- The Earth Observation Satellite-8 (EOS-8) will be launched on August 15 by the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)-D3.
- The mission will focus on designing a microsatellite and developing payload instruments compatible with it.
- Payloads for EOS-8 include the Electro-Optical Infrared Payload (EOIR), GNSS-R, and a SiC UV Dosimeter.
- The EOIR payload will capture images in the mid-wave and long-wave infrared bands.
- The GNSS-R payload aims to use GNSS-based remote sensing for analyzing ocean surface winds, soil moisture, and inland water bodies.
- EOS-8 will feature advancements in satellite mainframe systems, including the Communication, Baseband and Positioning (CBSP) Package.
- The EOIR will focus on capturing detailed thermal images in both mid-wave and long-wave infrared.
- The GNSS-R payload will demonstrate remote sensing capabilities for various environmental applications.

DRDO successfully carried out the first test flight of the GAURAV Long Range Glide Bomb (LRGB).

- DRDO successfully carried out the first test flight of the Long Range Glide Bomb (LRGB) named GAURAV.
- The test was executed from a Sukhoi-30 MK-I aircraft of the Indian Air Force.
- GAURAV, a 1000-kilogram air-launched glide bomb, is designed to strike distant targets.
- The test took place off the coast of Odisha, where the bomb demonstrated its long-range capabilities.
- The Research Centre Imarat in Hyderabad indigenously designed and developed the GAURAV bomb.
- A target was set up on Long Wheeler's Island for the flight test.
- The GAURAV glide bomb accurately hit the designated target during the test.
- This successful test highlights India's advancements in developing indigenous long-range weaponry.

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Scientists have detected liquid water on Mars for the first time.

- Scientists have discovered liquid water on Mars for the first time.
- A study suggests that there might be oceans of liquid water within Mars' rocky outer crust.
- The study, titled "Liquid water in the Martian mid-crust," was published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS).
- The water is believed to exist at depths of 10 to 20 km within the Martian crust.
- This discovery suggests that water may have seeped from the surface billions of years ago when Mars had rivers, lakes, and possibly oceans.
- The findings could enhance our understanding of Mars' water cycle.
- The discovery also boosts the search for evidence of life on Mars.
- Researchers utilized data from NASA's Mars Insight Lander, which arrived on Mars in 2018.
- This breakthrough offers new insights into the planet's geological history and potential habitability.

India launched its 1st reusable hybrid rocket, 'RHUMI-1'.

- India's first reusable hybrid rocket, 'RHUMI-1,' was launched by Tamil Nadu-based start-up Space Zone India in collaboration with Martin Group.
- The rocket, launched from Thiruvudandai in Chennai, carried 3 cube satellites and 50 PICO satellites.
- These satellites will be used to gather data for research on global warming and climate change.
- The RHUMI-1 rocket features a hybrid motor using a generic fuel system and an electrically triggered parachute deployer, making it 100% pyrotechnic-free.
- The mission was spearheaded by Anand Megalingam, founder of Space Zone.
- The rocket's suborbital launch was executed using a mobile launcher.
- RHUMI-1's design utilizes both liquid and solid fuel propellant systems for improved efficiency and reduced costs.
- Space Zone India aims to provide cost-effective and sustainable solutions for the space industry.

Gopichand Thotakura becomes first Indian space tourist to join Blue Origin's NS-25 mission

- Gopichand Thotakura has become the first civilian space tourist from India on Blue Origin's New Shepherd-25 mission.
- He is the first Indian space tourist to travel with the crew on Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin mission.
- Gopichand Thotakura studied aeronautical engineering at California State University, Los Angeles (UCLA), USA.
- He is the second Indian to go to space, following Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma of the Indian Army.
- Thotakura's journey marks a significant milestone as the first Indian civilian to participate in a space mission.
- The New Shepherd-25 mission is operated by Blue Origin, founded by Amazon's Jeff Bezos.
- His achievement adds to India's growing presence in space exploration.
- Thotakura's participation in the mission highlights his academic background in aeronautical engineering.

SUMMIT AND CONFERENCES

Prime Minister Modi inaugurated the 32nd International Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE)

- The 32nd International Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE) was inaugurated by Prime Minister Modi in New Delhi on August 3.
- This triennial event started on August 2 and will end on August 7.
- After 65 years, the ICAE is being hosted in India.
- The theme of this year's conference is "Transformation Towards Sustainable Agri-Food Systems."
- The conference aims to tackle global challenges such as climate change, resource depletion, rising costs, and conflicts affecting agriculture.
- ICAE 2024 provides a platform for young researchers and experts to present their research and connect with international peers.
- The event seeks to boost research collaborations, influence policy, and showcase advancements in Indian agriculture, including digital and sustainable practices.
- Approximately 1,000 delegates from 75 countries are attending the conference.

India is expected to host the third edition of the Voices of the Global South summit

- India will host the third edition of the Voices of the Global South summit on August 17.
- The summit, chaired by PM Narendra Modi, will be conducted virtually.
- Key topics include climate change, conflicts, and development challenges.
- The summit aims to provide a platform for Global South countries to share their views and priorities.
- Ministerial-level meetings will also be part of the summit.
- The first Global South Summit was held in January 2023 during India's G20 presidency.
- The second edition took place in November 2023, following the G20 Leaders' Summit in New Delhi.

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- This summit will build on previous editions by focusing on shared challenges and perspectives.

First BIMSTEC Business Summit is being hosted by India

- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is partnering with the Ministry of External Affairs to organize the event.
- India is hosting the inaugural BIMSTEC Business Summit from 6-8 August in New Delhi.
- The summit aims to enhance regional cooperation through improved trade and investment among BIMSTEC members.
- The event features participants from BIMSTEC countries, including ministers responsible for trade and industry.
- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar has inaugurated the Business Summit.
- High-ranking officials, policymakers, and industry leaders are attending the summit.
- BIMSTEC connects five South Asian countries with two Southeast Asian nations.
- India's commitment to BIMSTEC is highlighted through this significant summit.

The 28th Central and State Statistical Organizations Conference concluded in New Delhi.

- The 28th Central and State Statistical Organizations Conference was held in New Delhi.
- The conference was organized by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.
- Union Minister Rao Inderjit Singh inaugurated the event.
- The theme focused on 'Use of Data for Decision Making - Strengthening State Statistical System.'
- Participants included representatives from over 30 Central Ministries and departments, as well as State and Union Territories.
- The conference addressed a variety of topics of mutual interest to both Central and State Government departments.
- Strengthening the State Statistical System was a key focus of the discussions.
- The event aimed at improving the use of data for informed decision-making at various government levels.

India will host the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit

- India hosted the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit on August 17.
- The theme of the summit was "A Strong Global South for a Sustainable Future."
- The summit aimed to address complex global challenges discussed in previous meetings.
- Topics included global issues such as food and energy security crises, conflicts, and climate change.
- The summit sought to build on prior discussions about these pressing challenges.
- Addressing climate change was a key focus of the summit's agenda.
- The event highlighted the ongoing impact of various global crises on the Global South.

The EU-India Track 1.5 Conference has started in New Delhi for two days.

- The EU-India Track 1.5 Conference began in New Delhi on August 21 and will run for two days.
- This conference is jointly organized by the European Union and India's External Affairs Ministry.
- It focuses on tackling the challenges of violent extremism in the digital realm.
- The event is held in collaboration with the Global Counter-Terrorism Council.
- Participants include experts, policymakers, and law enforcement officials from India, Bangladesh, the Maldives, Sri Lanka, and Europe.
- The conference aims to strengthen counter-terrorism dialogues and partnerships.
- Discussions will cover radicalization processes in online environments.
- The conference seeks to address multifaceted issues related to digital extremism.
- It provides a platform for collaboration and knowledge exchange among international stakeholders.

Singapore hosted the 2nd India-Singapore Ministerial Round Table Conference.

- The 2nd India-Singapore Ministerial Round Table Conference was held in Singapore on August 26.
- The conference focused on enhancing trade and economic ties between India and Singapore.
- Union ministers Nirmala Sitharaman, Piyush Goyal, S. Jaishankar, and Ashwini Vaishnaw attended the meeting.
- Singaporean leaders and ministers engaged in discussions with their Indian counterparts during the visit.
- The ISMR was created as a platform to set a forward-looking agenda for India-Singapore bilateral relations.
- The inaugural meeting of the ISMR took place in New Delhi in September 2022.
- The 2024 meeting reviewed strategic partnerships and explored new avenues for collaboration.
- Singapore was the top source of FDI in India during 2023-24, with investments totaling \$11.77 billion.
- Cumulative FDI inflow from Singapore from April 2000 to March 2024 reached \$159.94 billion.
- Singapore ranked as India's sixth largest global trading partner in 2023-24, with bilateral trade amounting to \$35.61 billion.

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ASSOCHAM Environment and Carbon Conference has been inaugurated by Union Minister Kirti Vardhan Singh in New Delhi.

- Union Minister Kirti Vardhan Singh inaugurated the ASSOCHAM Environment and Carbon Conference in New Delhi.
- The conference's theme was "Fostering a Collaborative Ecosystem for Achieving Net Zero by 2070."
- Minister Singh highlighted the government's commitment to achieving net zero emissions by 2070 during his address.
- He acknowledged that climate change is a global issue but reassured that the government is taking substantial measures to protect the nation.
- The Minister linked the net zero goal to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a "Vikshit Bharat" by 2047.
- He also discussed the impact of the water crisis on rural India, noting that the Jal Jeevan Mission has alleviated many challenges for farmers and rural residents.
- Singh reiterated the government's dedication to supporting businesses and stakeholders in addressing environmental issues.
- The conference aimed to create a collaborative environment among various sectors to achieve sustainability goals.
- Minister Singh emphasized the importance of partnerships and government initiatives in tackling the environmental challenges facing India.

MISCELLANEOUS

'State Museum Conclave on the upcoming Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum' has been inaugurated.

- The State Museum Conclave for the upcoming Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum has been inaugurated.
- Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, the Minister for Culture and Tourism, launched the three-day conclave at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi.
- The primary aim of the conclave is to enhance discussions among stakeholders about various aspects of the new museum.
- Shekhawat emphasized that India is working towards establishing the largest museum in the world.
- Over 150 stakeholders are attending the conclave, including 80 representatives from state museums and universities across India.
- The Yuga Yugeen Bharat Museum will be a key component of the Central Vista Redevelopment Project in New Delhi.
- The museum is planned to cover an area of 154,000 square meters, making it the largest museum globally.

The Women Entrepreneurship Program has been introduced by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).

- The National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has launched the Women Entrepreneurship Program to tackle the specific challenges faced by women in business.
- This initiative, in partnership with Britannia Industries Limited, will feature their products and services on the Skill India Digital Hub.
- The program aims to support women entrepreneurs through training, knowledge, and networking opportunities.
- It starts with self-learning entrepreneurship courses available on the Skill India Digital Hub in multiple languages.
- Participants completing the courses will receive a co-branded certificate from NSDC, Britannia Industries, and NIESBUD.
- The program aims to empower around 25 lakh women in India.
- The initiative will culminate in a grand finale where a panel will review business ideas from the top 50 contestants.
- Britannia Industries will award ten of the top competitors with cash prizes of ten lakh rupees each.

Wing Commander Shubhanshu Shukla of the Indian Air Force has been selected as the lead astronaut for the Indo-US ISS mission

- Wing Commander Shubhanshu Shukla of the Indian Air Force will lead the Indo-US mission to the ISS.
- The mission involves a Space Flight Agreement (SFA) between Axiom Space Inc., USA, and ISRO's Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC).
- The National Mission Assignment Board has nominated Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair as the backup and Shubhanshu Shukla as the prime mission pilot.
- The Multilateral Crew Operations Panel (MCOP) will provide final approval for the crew's ISS mission.
- The Gaganyaan project aims to demonstrate human spaceflight by sending a three-person crew into a 400-kilometer orbit.
- The mission plans a 3-day stay in space, with a return to Earth involving a splashdown in Indian sea waters.

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- Gaganyaan, India's first human spaceflight program, will be launched using an LVM3 rocket.
- India's future goals include sending an astronaut to the moon by 2040 and establishing a "Bharatiya Antariksha Station" by 2035.

In 2024, Rapido became the third startup to achieve unicorn status

- Rapido, a ride-hailing startup founded in 2015, achieved unicorn status in 2024.
- The startup raised \$120 million in Series E funding led by WestBridge Capital.
- An additional \$20 million is anticipated from global investors.
- Rapido aims to enhance its technology and expand into markets currently dominated by Ola and Uber.
- It joins Perfios and Krutrim AI as the third unicorn of 2024.
- The funding will support Rapido's growth and technology development.
- Rapido's valuation surpassed \$1 billion following this funding round.

Pasang Lhamu Sherpa Honored with Moon Crater Naming

- Pasang Lhamu Sherpa, the first Nepalese woman to summit Mount Everest, has a Moon crater named in her honor.
- Nepal celebrated the naming of this lunar crater at the South Pole of the Moon.
- The US Geological Survey, along with other topographic and hydrological features on Earth, has recognized Sherpa's achievement with this naming.
- The Government of Nepal has declared Pasang Lhamu Sherpa a National Luminary.
- The crater is located at the Moon's South Pole.
- This honor acknowledges Sherpa's historic achievement as the first Nepalese woman to reach Everest's summit.
- The naming of the crater reflects international recognition of her contribution.
- Sherpa's legacy is further commemorated through this unique celestial tribute.

India retained the eighth position in global agriculture exports in 2023

- Despite a decline from \$55 billion to \$51 billion in 2023, India maintained its position as the eighth largest global agriculture exporter.
- The top ten agriculture exporters accounted for 71.9% of global exports in 2023.
- Brazil's agriculture exports rose to \$157 billion in 2023, securing the third position.
- The European Union retained its top position with \$836 billion in agricultural exports.
- China ranked as the fourth largest agriculture exporter in 2023.
- Agriculture exports from India have been affected by geopolitical issues, including the Red Sea crisis and the Russia-Ukraine war.
- Canada, Mexico, Indonesia, and Australia are among the top ten global agriculture exporters.
- The other seven economies in the top ten experienced a decline in their agricultural exports.

Neelakurinji officially becomes a 'threatened species

- Neelakurinji (*Strobilanthes kunthiana*) is now officially listed as a threatened species by the IUCN.
- This is the first global assessment of Neelakurinji for the IUCN Red List.
- The plant, known for its once-in-12-years blooming, attracts many tourists.
- The species is categorized as Vulnerable (Criteria A2c) in the IUCN Red List.
- Neelakurinji is a three-meter tall shrub native to high-altitude shola grasslands.
- Its habitat faces threats from tea and softwood plantations, urbanization, and invasive species like eucalyptus and black wattle.
- Nearly 40% of Neelakurinji's habitat has been lost, with ongoing pressures on the remaining areas.
- The species occupies 220 square kilometers and is spread across 34 subpopulations in 14 ecoregions.

Mpox has been declared a public health emergency by the Africa CDC.

- The Africa CDC has declared Mpox a public health emergency due to a growing outbreak.
- The declaration emphasizes the urgency of addressing the Mpox crisis, not just a formality.
- As of August 4, Africa has reported 38,465 Mpox cases and 1,456 deaths since January 2022.
- Mpox spreads through close contact and causes symptoms such as rashes, flu-like symptoms, and pus-filled lesions.
- The disease is particularly dangerous for children, pregnant women, and those with weakened immune systems.
- The outbreak, which began in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, has now spread to neighboring countries.
- A new variant, clade 1b, is spreading more easily than the original clade 1.
- This year alone, over 15,000 Mpox cases and 461 deaths have been reported, marking a 160% increase from the previous year.

NPCI incorporated NPCI BHIM Services as a wholly-owned subsidiary.

- NPCI established a new subsidiary, NPCI-BHIM Services Ltd (NBSL), with BHIM as a wholly-owned entity.

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- Lalitha Nataraj, who has prior experience with IDFC FIRST Bank and ICICI Bank, is appointed as the CEO of NBSL.
- Rahul Handa will serve as the Chief Business Officer (CBO) of NPCI-BHIM Services Ltd (NBSL).
- NPCI-BHIM Services Ltd (NBSL) is a newly incorporated entity under the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- Rahul Handa previously held the position of Executive Vice President at Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC).
- PhonePe and Google Pay currently handle around 85% of the UPI transaction volumes in India.
- Lalitha Nataraj has been selected as the CEO of NBSL, bringing her expertise from IDFC FIRST Bank and ICICI Bank.
- NBSL is a new arm of NPCI focused on enhancing the Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) services.

India's CAG and Uzbekistan's Chamber of Accounts signed a MoU

- India's Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Uzbekistan's Chamber of Accounts.
- The MoU aims to strengthen collaboration and knowledge exchange in auditing between the two countries.
- This agreement represents an important step toward fostering closer ties between the Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) of India and Uzbekistan.
- The MoU will provide a platform for sharing expertise and best practices among auditing professionals.
- The collaboration will focus on building capacity for conducting effective audits in both nations.
- The agreement highlights the need for institutions to adopt a new phase of cooperative engagement.
- This MoU will promote the exchange of knowledge and experience in the auditing field.
- The partnership seeks to enhance the professional development of auditors in India and Uzbekistan.
- The MoU underscores the importance of international cooperation in strengthening auditing practices.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das became the top central banker for the second consecutive year

- RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das has been rated 'A+' for the second year in the Global Finance Central Banker Report Cards 2024.
- Das shares the 'A+' rating with Christian Ketel Thomsen of Denmark and Thomas Jordan of Switzerland.
- The report card evaluates central bankers based on inflation control, economic growth, currency stability, and interest rate management.
- An 'A' grade signifies excellent performance, while 'F' denotes poor performance.
- The Central Banker Report Card, published annually by Global Finance, has been assessing central bank governors since 1994.
- This report covers nearly 100 countries, territories, and districts.
- Other regions evaluated include the European Union, Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, Bank of Central African States, and Central Bank of West African States.
- Shaktikanta Das's consecutive high rating highlights his effective central banking.
- The grading scale ranges from A to F to reflect the success of central bank policies.

Dr. Virendra Kumar Opens 17th Divya Kala Mela in Raipur

- Union Minister Dr. Virendra Kumar inaugurated the 17th Divya Kala Mela in Raipur.
- The week-long event focuses on empowering artisans and entrepreneurs with disabilities.
- Organized by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan).
- Over 100 Divyang artisans and entrepreneurs from 20 states and UTs are showcasing their products.
- The mela offers visitors a chance to explore and buy unique handcrafted items.
- It features the 'Divya Kala Shakti' Job Fairs and Loan Mela to support Divyangjan.
- The cultural program highlights talents in music, dance, and drama by participating artists.
- The event emphasizes cultural diversity through various products and performances.
- The mela provides a platform for artisans with disabilities to gain visibility and support.

MedTech Zone has launched India's first indigenously developed monkeypox RT-PCR kit.

- India's first indigenous monkeypox RT-PCR kit, named 'ErbaMDx MonkeyPox RT-PCR Kit', has been launched by Andhra Pradesh-based MedTech Zone (AMTZ).
- The kit was developed in collaboration with Transasia Diagnostics Private Limited.
- This RT-PCR kit has been validated by the Indian Council for Medical Research and has received emergency use authorization from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization.
- The Transasia-Erba RT-PCR kit for monkeypox is known for its high sensitivity.
- This kit aims to aid in the early detection and effective management of monkeypox infections.
- Monkeypox is a viral zoonotic disease with symptoms that closely resemble those of smallpox.
- The name "monkeypox" originates from its initial discovery in monkey colonies in 1958, later detected in humans in 1970.

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- The disease is transmitted from animals to humans through direct contact with blood, bodily fluids, or infected lesions.
- The kit represents a significant step forward in India's ability to respond to emerging infectious diseases.

Teghbir Singh became the youngest Asian to conquer Mt Kilimanjaro

- Five-year-old Teghbir Singh from Ropar became the youngest Asian to scale Mount Kilimanjaro.
- Mount Kilimanjaro, standing at 5,895 meters, is Africa's highest peak, located in Tanzania.
- Teghbir began his ascent on August 18 and reached the summit, Uhuru Peak, on August 23.
- He received an official mountain climbing certificate from the conservation commissioner of Tanzania National Parks.
- Teghbir Singh matched the world record set by Serbian boy Ognjen Zivkovic, who also scaled Kilimanjaro at the age of five on August 6, 2023.
- This achievement makes Teghbir one of the youngest climbers to conquer Kilimanjaro globally.
- His accomplishment highlights his extraordinary determination and physical endurance at such a young age.
- Teghbir's record is celebrated as a significant milestone in mountaineering for young climbers in Asia.

India and Saudi Arabia signed an MoU in Riyadh to boost cooperation in public sector auditing.

- India and Saudi Arabia signed an MoU on 30 August in Riyadh to enhance bilateral cooperation in public sector auditing.
- The agreement was signed by Shri Girish Chandra Murmu, India's Comptroller and Auditor General, and Dr. Hussam Al-Angari, President of the Saudi General Court of Audit.
- The MoU aims to strengthen collaboration and exchange expertise in the field of public sector audits between the two nations.
- Key cooperation areas include joint training programs on financial, performance, and compliance audits.
- The exchange of audit manuals and methodologies is also part of the cooperation under this MoU.
- The agreement is expected to further solidify the close working relationship between the auditing institutions of India and Saudi Arabia.
- This MoU is particularly significant as Saudi Arabia prepares to assume the ASOSAI chairmanship from India next year.
- India currently holds the Chair of the Association of Asian Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI).
- The signing underscores the ongoing commitment to fostering greater ties in audit practices between the two countries.

Scientists discovered human body's natural killer cells that protect from cancer.

- Scientists at the University of Southampton have made a breakthrough in cancer research.
- They discovered how the body's natural killer cells can detect and attack cancer cells.
- The immune system plays a crucial role in identifying and fighting cancer, with killer cells being a promising area of immunotherapy.
- A peptide from the XPO1 protein has been found to attract natural killer cells, activating the immune response against cancer.
- Patients with active killer cells and high XPO1 levels show notably better survival rates.
- This discovery paves the way for developing therapies that leverage the body's immune system to combat cancer.
- The research highlights the potential of natural killer cells in targeted cancer treatments.
- This finding could lead to more effective and personalized immunotherapy strategies.
- The study underscores the importance of the XPO1 protein in enhancing the immune system's ability to fight cancer.

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Current Affairs MCQs

1. The Supreme Court formed a national task force in response to which event?
(a) Increasing violence against women
(b) The death of a doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College
(c) Rising cybercrimes
(d) Environmental degradation
2. Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus is about to be sworn in as the head of the interim government of which country?
(a) Nepal (b) Sri Lanka (c) Bangladesh (d) Maldives
3. Which Indian states have Telugu as their official language?
(a) Andhra Pradesh and Telangana (b) Tamil Nadu and Karnataka
(c) Kerala and Maharashtra (d) Odisha and West Bengal
4. Who is captain of the Indian team for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024?
(a) Harmanpreet Kaur (b) Shafali Verma (c) Smriti Mandhana (d) Deepti Sharma
5. Which of the following railway station in Uttar Pradesh was renamed as Guru Gorakhnath Dham?
(a) Kasimpur Halt (b) Misrauli (c) Jais (d) Akbarganj
6. Which of the following state assembly passed the Prohibition of Child Marriage (Himachal Pradesh Amendment) Bill, 2024?
(a) Punjab (b) Himachal Pradesh (c) Uttarakhand (d) Haryana
7. Where will the Women's Asian Champions Trophy 2024 be held from 11th to 20th November 2024?
(a) Ranchi, Jharkhand (b) Rajgir, Bihar (c) Tokyo, Japan (d) Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
8. Which Indian state launched the '24x7 ON Courts' initiative to improve the judicial process?
(a) Maharashtra (b) Kerala (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Gujarat
9. Who is responsible for introducing the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, in the Lok Sabha?
(a) The Prime Minister (b) The Minister of Minority Affairs, Kiren Rijiju
(c) The Home Minister (d) The Finance Minister
10. How many new districts have been created in the Union Territory of Ladakh by the Central Government?
(a) 4 (b) 5 (c) 6 (d) 7
11. Who has been appointed as the Director of the Enforcement Directorate (ED)?
(a) Sanjay Kumar Mishra (b) Sushil Chandra (c) Rahul Navin (d) Rakesh Asthana
12. The Supreme Court allowed which type of classification for reservations within SCs and STs?
(a) Regional classification (b) Economic classification
(c) Sub-classification based on social backwardness (d) Educational classification
13. Which country is the second-largest producer of aluminum in the world?
(a) China (b) India (c) United States (d) Russia
14. Who launched the four new apps for implementing new criminal laws in India?
(a) Rajnath Singh (b) Amit Shah (c) Narendra Modi (d) Arvind Kejriwal
15. Who has become the first woman to be appointed as Director General Medical Services (Army)?
(a) Lt Gen Sadhna Saxena Nair (b) Lt Gen Madhuri Kanitkar
(c) Lt Gen Anjali Singh (d) Lt Gen Smita Nair
16. What is the title given to the women earning more than one lakh rupees per year who were felicitated by the Prime Minister?
(a) Udyami Didis (b) Kisan Didis (c) Mahila Shakti Didis (d) Lakshpati Didis
17. Who is ranked as India's Richest Person, as per the Hurun India Rich List 2024?
(a) Gautam Adani (b) Mukesh Ambani (c) Shiv Nadar (d) Cyrus S. Poonawalla
18. Who won the U-15 girls' singles title at the Asia Under-17 & Under-15 junior badminton championships in Chengdu, China in 2024?
(a) Tasnim Mir (b) Samiya Imad Farooqui (c) Tanvi Patri (d) Nguyen Thi Thu Huygen
19. Which ancient institution's spirit did Prime Minister Modi seek to revive during his Independence Day speech at the Red Fort on August 15, 2024?

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- (a) Takshashila University (b) Nalanda University (c) Vikramshila University (d) Aligarh University
20. Which of the following organization developed India's first reusable hybrid rocket 'RHUMI-1'?
- (a) ISRO (b) DRDO (c) NASA (d) Space Zone India
21. Daljit Singh Chawdhary has taken additional charge as Director General of which Indian paramilitary force?
- (a) CRPF (b) BSF (c) ITBP (d) CISF
22. What does UPS stand for in reference to benefits for government employees?
- (a) Unified Payment System (b) Unified Pension Scheme
(c) Universal Pension Service (d) Union Payment Scheme
23. Who inaugurated the 32nd International Conference of Agricultural Economists (ICAE) in New Delhi?
- (a) Union Minister Rao Inderjit Singh (b) President Draupadi Murmu
(c) Prime Minister Narendra Modi (d) External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar
24. Who has been named the new Union Home Secretary of India?
- (a) Ajay Kumar Bhalla (b) Govind Mohan (c) Sandeep Poundrik (d) Rajiv Gauba
25. Morne Morkel has been appointed as the bowling coach for which cricket team?
- (a) Australia (b) South Africa (c) Pakistan (d) India
26. Who has assumed the additional charge of Chairman of the Airports Authority of India (AAI)?
- (a) Arun Kumar (b) M. Suresh (c) Anuj Aggarwal (d) Rajiv Bansal
27. Jay Shah, elected as the youngest ever ICC Chairman, previously held which position?
- (a) BCCI President (b) BCCI Secretary (c) IPL Chairman (d) ICC Treasurer
28. Who has been appointed as the new Director General of the National Security Guard (NSG)?
- (a) Rakesh Asthana (b) Sanjay Kumar (c) B Srinivasan (d) Nalin Prabhat
29. National Javelin Day is celebrated in India on August 7 to commemorate whose Olympic victory?
- (a) Abhinav Bindra (b) Neeraj Chopra (c) P.T. Usha (d) Milkha Singh
30. Which slogan is associated with World Organ Donation Day 2024?
- (a) "Gift of Life" (b) "Donate Organs, Save Lives"
(c) "Be the Reason for Someone's Smile Today!" (d) "Organs for All"
31. Which historical event does Partition Horrors Remembrance Day honor?
- (a) India's Independence Day (b) The partition of British India in 1947
(c) The formation of the United Nations (d) The Quit India Movement
32. Sadbhavana Diwas is observed on August 20 to commemorate whose birth anniversary?
- (a) Mahatma Gandhi (b) Indira Gandhi (c) Rajiv Gandhi (d) Jawaharlal Nehru
33. What is the name of the earth observation satellite launched by ISRO on 16 August 2024, using its Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV D3) from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota?
- (a) SSLV-D1 (b) PSLV-C50 (c) EOS-03 (d) EOS-08
34. What milestone does National Space Day on August 23 celebrate in India?
- (a) The launch of India's first satellite (b) The Chandrayaan-3 mission's successful Moon landing
(c) The establishment of ISRO (d) The first manned space mission
35. Which country won the first-ever team title in women's wrestling at the Under-17 World Wrestling Championship 2024?
- (a) USA (b) Kazakhstan (c) India (d) Australia
36. What is the theme for World Water Week 2024?
- (a) "Water for Sustainable Development" (b) "Water for All: Ensuring Access"
(c) "Bridging Borders: Water for a Peaceful and Sustainable Future"
(d) "Water Conservation: A Global Responsibility"
37. National Sports Day in India commemorates which legendary athlete's birth anniversary?
- (a) Major Dhyan Chand (b) Sachin Tendulkar (c) P.V. Sindhu (d) Abhinav Bindra
38. When is National Sports Day celebrated in India?
- (a) August 21 (b) August 23 (c) August 29 (d) August 30

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39. When is the third edition of the Voices of the Global South summit scheduled to be held?
(a) August 10 (b) August 15 (c) August 17 (d) August 20
40. Which organization is partnering with the Ministry of External Affairs to host the inaugural BIMSTEC Business Summit?
(a) The Indian Chamber of Commerce (b) The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)
(c) The Federation of Indian Export Organizations (d) The Indian Council of World Affairs
41. What did the Supreme Court set up on 20 August 2024 to ensure the safety of medical professionals?
(a) A national advisory council (b) A national task force
(c) A government committee (d) A special police force
42. Where was the 2nd India-Singapore Ministerial Round Table Conference held?
(a) New Delhi (b) Singapore (c) Mumbai (d) Kolkata
43. Which scientist received the Vigyan Ratna Award 2024?
(a) Dr. Anandharama Kkrishnan (b) Prof. Govindarajan Padmanabhan
(c) Prof. Avesh Kumar Tyagi (d) Prof. Jayant Bhalchandra Udgaonkar
44. Where was the 10th edition of the India-Sri Lanka Joint Military Exercise MITRA SHAKTI, which concluded on August 25, 2024, held?
(a) Pune, India (b) Colombo, Sri Lanka
(c) Army Training School, Maduru Oya, Sri Lanka (d) New Delhi, India
45. Where did Prime Minister Narendra Modi lay the foundation stone for Vadhvan Port on 30th August 2024?
(a) Dahanu, Maharashtra (b) Palghar, Maharashtra (c) Surat, Gujarat (d) Mumbai, Maharashtra
46. Who was the President of Ukraine during PM Modi's visit in August 2024?
(a) Viktor Yanukovich (b) Petro Poroshenko (c) Volodymyr Zelensky (d) Oleksii Reznikov
47. When was the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) launched?
(a) August 28, 2014 (b) January 26, 2015 (c) October 2, 2016 (d) July 1, 2014
48. Which astronauts, stuck on the ISS due to a fault in the Boeing spacecraft, are set to return to Earth in February 2025 with SpaceX?
(a) Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin (b) Mark Kelly and Scott Kelly
(c) Sunita Williams and Barry Wilmore (d) Chris Hadfield and Peggy Whitson
49. When and where will the 2024 Paralympic Games be held?
(a) July 24 to August 9, 2024, in Tokyo (b) September 1 to September 15, 2024, in London
(c) August 15 to August 25, 2024, in Los Angeles (d) August 28 to September 8, 2024, in Paris
50. Who won the Best Actor award at the 70th National Film Awards for his performance in the film 'Kantara'?
(a) Manoj Bajpayee (b) Rishab Shetty (c) Suraj Sharma (d) Rahul V. Chittella

ANSWER – KEY

1	B	11	C	21	B	31	B	41	B
2	C	12	C	22	B	32	C	42	B
3	A	13	B	23	C	33	D	43	B
4	A	14	B	24	B	34	B	44	C
5	C	15	A	25	D	35	C	45	B
6	B	16	D	26	B	36	C	46	C
7	B	17	A	27	B	37	A	47	A
8	B	18	C	28	C	38	C	48	C
9	B	19	B	29	B	39	C	49	D
10	B	20	D	30	C	40	B	50	B

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DELHI



MADHYA PRADESH



**NITIN
AGNIHOTRI**
(Test Series & IGP)

JHARKHAND



GUJARAT



ODISHA



ALL INDIA RANK - 2

UPSC (2021), PROSECUTING
ATTORNEY, MINISTRY OF
CORPORATE AFFAIRS, GOI.

BIHAR



UTTAR PRADESH



UTTRAKHAND



UPSC P.P CBI Results-2022



RAJASTHAN



UTTRAKHAND APO



UPSC A.P.P CBI Results-2022



HARYANA



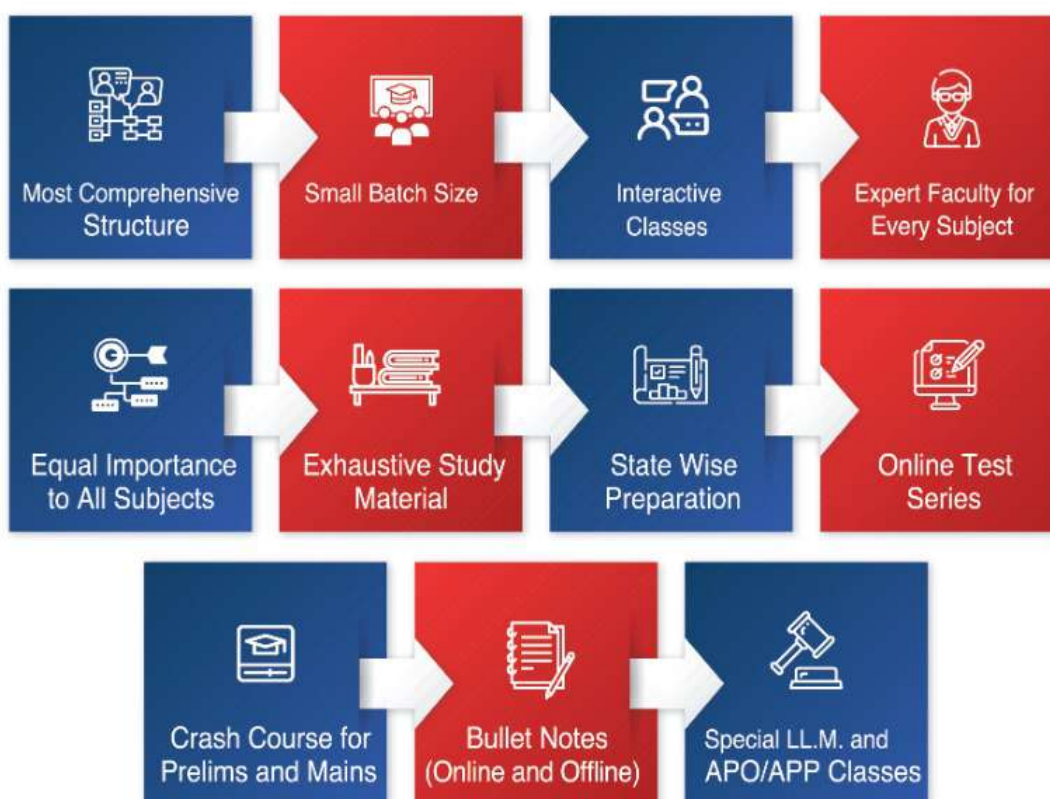
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