

August 2024 current affairs

National news

1) India to host first multinational air exercise 'Tarang Shakti 2024' from August 6

India will host its first multinational air exercise 'Tarang Shakti 2024' in two phases from 6th of next month in Sular, Tamil Nadu.

- In this exercise, nearly 30 countries will participate, and out of 30, ten countries will join the exercise with their fighter aircraft.
- The exercise will showcase India's defense prowess and provide a platform for participating militaries to foster interoperability.
- Addressing a curtain raiser press conference in New Delhi, Vice Chief of the Air Staff, Air Marshal A P Singh informed that the first phase is to be held in Sular, Tamilnadu from 6th to 14th August, and the second phase in Jodhpur, Rajasthan from 29th August to 14th September.

2) Union Civil Aviation Minister introduces Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak 2024

The Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak 2024 was introduced in the Lok Sabha today by the Union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Rammohan Naidu. While introducing the Bill, the Minister said, Aircraft Act was established in 1934 and a lot of amendments have been made over the

years. He said the amendments were incorporated into the Act in bits and pieces.

Purpose: To address confusion created by piecemeal amendments to the 1934 Aircraft Act.

- **Empowerment:** Grants the Central Government authority to regulate aircraft design, manufacture, maintenance, and operations.
- **Safety and Investigation:** Aims to enhance rules for aircraft safety and the investigation of air accidents and incidents.

3) New Delhi host 14th Indo-Vietnamese Defence Policy Dialogue

India hosted the 14th India-Vietnam Defence Policy Dialogue in New Delhi on 1 August 2024. The meeting was part of the wider military-to-military dialogue between the two countries to strengthen the bilateral defence relationship.

The dialogue coincided with Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh's official three-day visit to India from 30 July to 1 August 2024.

Who chaired the 14th India-Vietnam Defence Policy Dialogue?

The 14th India-Vietnam Defence Policy Dialogue was co-chaired by the Indian Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane and Vietnam's

Deputy Minister of National Defence, **Senior Lieutenant General Hoang Xuan Chien.**

Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (2016):

- Bilateral relations between India and Vietnam were upgraded to a “Comprehensive Strategic Partnership” during Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to Vietnam in 2016.
- This elevated relationship signifies a deepening of ties across various sectors, including defence and security.

Agenda of the Meeting (2024):

- Both sides discussed and reviewed bilateral defence cooperation issues.
- Vietnam proposed cooperation in delegation exchanges, staff talks, Service-to-Service cooperation, education and training, and Defence Industry cooperation.
- India welcomed these proposals and suggested cooperation in emerging areas such as Submarine Search and Rescue, Cyber Security, Information Security, and Military Medicine.
- A Letter of Intent was signed to enhance cooperation in training, including the exchange of instructors and experts.

4) Supreme Court permits sub-quota in the reservation of SC/ST Category

In a significant judgement, **the seven-judge bench of the Supreme Court** led by Chief Justice of India **D Y Chandrachud** in the **Davinder Singh Vs the State of Punjab** case ruled by a **6:1 majority** that the **State Government can create sub-classifications within the Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) for reservation purposes.**

- **The seven-judge bench verdict delivered on 1st August 2024** overturned the earlier five-judge bench judgement in the **E V Chinnaiah v State of Andhra Pradesh** case of 2004.
- **In E V Chinnaiah v State of Andhra Pradesh**, the Supreme Court held **that the SC/ST list is a homogenous group and that there can be no sub-quota within it.**
- **The constitution provides 15 per cent reservation to the Scheduled Castes and 7.5 per cent to the Scheduled Tribes in government jobs and educational institutions.**

Supreme Court Review of Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes Reservation

- **Legal Basis:** Articles 341 and 342 define Scheduled Castes and Tribes; Parliament’s exclusive power to modify lists.
- **Judicial Background:** E V Chinnaiah v State of Andhra Pradesh affirmed

Parliament's sole authority; barred sub-quotas within SC/ST.

- **Punjab Act Challenge:** 2006 Act preferred Balmiki and Mazhabi Sikh communities; struck down by Punjab and Haryana High Court.
- **Current Review:** Seven-judge bench reviewing SC's homogeneity, equality within SC/ST, and socially backward classes based on recent developments.

5) President Murmu Presides over the 52nd Conference of Governors

President Droupadi Murmu presided over the 52nd Conference of Governors at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on 2 August 2024. In 2021, the 51st Conference of Governors was held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The conference was presided over by the then **President Ram Nath Kovind**.

- This was the first time that President Murmu was presiding over the Conference of Governors.
- In 1949, the **first Conference of Governors** was held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, which was then known as the **Government House**. The then Governor General of India, **C. Rajagopalachari**, presided over the conference,
- In India, the President of India has the power to appoint and dismiss the State

Governors, the Lieutenant Governors and Administrators of the Union Territories.

6) Kashmir City Receives World Craft City Certificate from World Crafts Council

In a grand ceremony held in Srinagar, the capital of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, Kashmir City was awarded the prestigious Certificate of World Craft City by the World Crafts Council International. This significant event was graced by the presence of Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Sa'ad Hani Al-Qaddumi, President of the World Crafts Council, and other notable personalities from the council. This recognition came after the World Crafts Council announced its decision in June 2024 to include Kashmir in its World Craft City list.

- **World Craft City Status:** Kashmir has been honored as the fourth Indian city to receive the World Craft City certificate from the World Crafts Council, joining Jaipur, Mamallapuram, and Mysore.
- **Previous Recognitions:** Jaipur and Mamallapuram were recognized in 2015, with Mamallapuram specifically noted for stone carving. Mysore received the title in 2018.
- **Cultural Heritage:** Kashmir boasts a rich cultural heritage spanning over 4000 years, influenced by Iranian and Central Asian art.

Crafts: The region is renowned for several crafts:

1. **Carpet Weaving:** Known for intricate designs.
2. **Kani Shawl:** Fine wool with detailed patterns.
3. **Paper Machie:** Artistic creations from paper pulp.
4. **Khatamband:** Unique wooden ceiling designs.
5. **Wood Carving:** Detailed craftsmanship.
6. **Kandikari Copperware:** Exquisite copper utensils.
7. **Tilla Work:** Embroidery using gold and silver threads.

Word crafts council:

- The **current headquarters of WCC:** State of Kuwait
- The WCC was founded in 1964

7) Introduction of Electronic Human Resource Management System

Union Minister Dr.Jitendra Singh announced in the **Rajya Sabha** that **the Union Government has introduced a new Electronic Human Resource Management System (e-HRMS)**. This system aims to streamline and enhance **the management of government employees' service matters through digital means**.

Overview of e-HRMS

Purpose:

- Designed to streamline and enhance the management of government employees' service matters through digital means.
- Facilitates data-driven decisions related to training and personnel management.

Features:

- **Digitization:** Enables digital management of service records, reducing transaction time and costs.
- **Accessibility:** Provides 24/7 access to service details for all government employees (central and state).
- **Lifecycle Management:** Digitizes the entire employee service lifecycle from entry to exit.
- **Process Automation:** Facilitates digitized processing of reimbursements, claims, advances, leaves, etc.
- **Transparency:** Enhances transparency and accountability with e-sign functionality and alerts/notifications.

Key Benefits of e-HRMS

- **Enhanced Productivity:** Reduces manual intervention and enhances productivity in cadre management.

- **Cost Efficiency:** Lowers transaction costs associated with traditional paper-based processes.
- **Accurate Data:** Ensures a single source of authentic data for improved decision-making.
- **Improved Service Delivery:** Enables quicker and more efficient handling of employee-related matters.
- **Compliance:** Helps in maintaining compliance with regulations through automated processes.

8) India and Vietnam Partner on Maritime Heritage Complex in Lothal

India and Vietnam have partnered to develop the **National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC)** in **Lothal, Gujarat**, reflecting their **deep maritime connections**. The **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** signed at **Hyderabad House in New Delhi** marks a significant step in this collaborative effort, which aims to **preserve and celebrate the shared maritime heritage of both nations**.

Key Points:

1. **Collaborative Partnership:** India and Vietnam signed an MoU to develop the NMHC in Lothal, Gujarat, reflecting shared maritime heritage.

2. **Artifact Exchange:** Both nations will exchange maritime artifacts, replicas, paintings, and archival data.
3. **Expertise Sharing:** Collaboration includes sharing design, technology, and maintenance expertise to create an educational and recreational space.

Project Development:

- **Location:** 400 acres in Saragwala village, Gujarat.
- **Progress:** Phase 1A is over 55% complete; opening expected next year.

4. Innovative Features:

- World's tallest lighthouse museum
- World's largest open aquatic gallery
- Grandest naval museum in India
- Recreation of Harappan architecture and lifestyle
- Four theme parks and fourteen galleries showcasing maritime heritage.

9) "VIRAASAT", 10th National Handloom Day Begins At Handloom Haat, New Delhi

"VIRAASAT," a fortnight-long handloom expo, began on **August 2024** at Handloom Haat, Janpath, celebrating the **10th National Handloom Day**.

- **Organizers:** The event is organized by National Handloom Development Corporation Ltd (NHDC) under the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India, and will run until 16th August 2024.
- **Event Highlights:** The exhibition features 75 stalls showcasing handloom products from across India, along with live loom demonstrations, workshops, folk dances, and regional cuisines.
- **Public Participation:** The event is open to the public daily from 11 am to 8 pm, with a special emphasis on promoting handloom weavers and artisans.
- **My Product My Pride:** Prime Minister Modi, during the 112th episode of “Mann kiBaat,” encouraged people to support local handloom products and share their experiences on social media with the hashtag #MyProductMyPride.

10) Union Minister PralhadVenkatesh Joshi Launches Price Monitoring System (PMS) Version 4.0

Union Minister PralhadVenkatesh Joshi, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution (MoCAF&PD), launched the Version 4.0 Price Monitoring System (PMS) Mobile Application on August , 2024, in New Delhi.

Expanded Monitoring: The Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) has expanded its PMS to include 16 additional commodities, bringing the total monitored items to 38, up from 22. Newly added items include Bajra, Jowar, Ragi, Suji, Maida, Besan, Ghee, Butter, Brinjal, Egg, Black Pepper, Coriander, Cumin, Red Chillies, Turmeric Powder, and Banana.

11) Government Measures to Control Inflation:

- The government has implemented measures like providing subsidized food items under the “Bharat” brand and selling tomatoes through the National Co-operative Consumers’ Federation of India Ltd. (NCCF).
- These measures, along with progress in Kharif pulses (2024-25), have stabilized the market.

Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF):

- **The government has allocated Rs 10,000 crore under the PSF in the Union Budget 2024-25 to maintain stable prices and ensure the affordability of key commodities like pulses, onions, and potatoes.**
- The PSF is designed to address inflationary trends by procuring, storing, and regulating the release of selected agri-horticultural

commodities to moderate prices and protect consumer interests.

12) Ministers Mandaviya and Scindia Releases Commemorative Stamps for Paris 2024 Olympics in New Delhi

Commemorative stamps celebrating the 33rd Olympics Paris 2024 were released by Youth Affairs and Sports Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya and Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia.

- **Significance:** Stamps symbolize India's commitment to sports and national pride.
- **Dr. Mandaviya's Remarks:** Emphasized the role of sports in national health and prosperity; highlighted government support for athletes through initiatives like Khelo India and TOPS.
- **Athletes' Achievement:** Of the 117 Indian athletes going to Paris, 28 benefited from the Khelo India scheme.
- **Scindia's Remarks:** Stamps honor India's sports legacy; aligns with the Prime Minister's vision of improving sports infrastructure.

13) Sports Depicted in the Commemorative Stamp

The four stamps released by the ministers depict five Olympic sports – **Javelin Throw, Field Hockey, Sailing and Table Tennis.**

- India has one gold medal in Javelin at the Olympics. **Neeraj Chopra** won the medal in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
- **The Indian men's hockey team has won 12 medals—8 gold, 1 silver, and 3 bronze—in the Olympics.** It won a bronze medal in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.
- **Leander Paes** is the only Indian to win a medal in tennis at the Olympics. He won a bronze medal in the men's singles at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

14) Approval of 8 National High-Speed Road Corridor Projects by CCEA

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi has approved 8 National High-Speed Road Corridor projects, with a length of 936 kilometers (km) for Rs. 50,655 crore across India.

15) The 8 National High-Speed Road Corridor projects include:

Approved Projects:

1. **6-Lane:** Agra (Uttar Pradesh) – Gwalior (Madhya Pradesh)
2. **4-Lane:** Kharagpur – Moregram (West Bengal)
3. **6-Lane:** Tharad – Deesa – Mehsana – Ahmedabad (Gujarat)

4. **4-Lane:** Ayodhya Ring Road (Uttar Pradesh)
5. **4-Lane:** Pathalgaon – Gumla (Raipur, Chhattisgarh) – Ranchi (Jharkhand)
6. **6-Lane:** Kanpur Ring Road (Uttar Pradesh)
7. **4-Lane:** Northern Guwahati Bypass and Widening/Improvement of Existing Guwahati Bypass (Assam)
8. **8-Lane Elevated:** Nashik Phata – Khed Corridor near Pune (Maharashtra)

16) PM Marks 5 Years of Abrogation of Articles 370 and 35(A)

On the **fifth anniversary of the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35(A)**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi highlighted the decision as a pivotal moment in Indian history, marking **the beginning of a new era of progress and prosperity for Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Ladakh**. He emphasized that the abrogation ensured the **full implementation of the Indian Constitution in these regions**, aiming to **enhance security, dignity, and development opportunities for marginalized communities while reducing corruption**.

Article 370:

- **Context:** Part of the Indian Constitution.
- **Purpose:** Provided special autonomy to the region of Jammu and Kashmir.
- **Key Provisions:**

- Allowed Jammu and Kashmir to have its own constitution.
- Gave the state legislative powers over all matters except defense, foreign affairs, finance, and communications.
- The state had a special relationship with India, including a unique flag and laws.

- **Abrogation:** On August 5, 2019, the Indian Parliament abrogated Article 370 through the Presidential Order and the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, effectively ending the special status of Jammu and Kashmir and bifurcating it into two Union Territories: Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

17) SOPs for Seamless Transportation of Human Organs

The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW)** has introduced **Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)** for the **seamless transportation of human organs via air, road, rail, and waterways**.

Objective: To streamline the transportation of human organs across various modes of transport—air, road, rail, and waterways—to ensure timely delivery between hospitals or cities, thereby improving organ transplant outcomes.

Key Features:

- **Timely Transport:** Addresses the urgent need to deliver organs swiftly due to their limited shelf life.
- **Coordination:** Facilitates collaboration among multiple agencies to ensure efficient transport logistics.

Background:

1. **Collaboration:** Developed with inputs from:
 - National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog
 - Ministries of Civil Aviation (MoCA), Housing and Urban Affairs (MOHUA), Railways, Road Transport & Highways (MORTH), Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MOPSW), Home Affairs (MHA), and Defence.
2. **Context:**
 - **Global Ranking:** India is the 3rd largest globally in organ transplants and 2nd in corneal transplants.
 - **Achievements:** In 2023, India achieved over 1,000 deceased organ donations and saw an increase in annual transplants from 4,990 in 2013 to 17,168 in 2023.

18) Peacock Sanctuaries Declared in India

Union Minister Bhupender Yadav of the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has declared two new Peacock Sanctuaries in India:

1. **Choolannuar Peacock Sanctuary** in Kerala
2. **Adichunchanagiri Peacock Sanctuary** in Karnataka

Details on Sanctuaries:

1. Choolannuar Peacock Sanctuary

- **Established:** March 14, 1996 (originally named “Chulannur Peafowl Sanctuary”).
- **Location:** About 30 km from Palakkad town, Kerala.
- **Renaming:** Renamed to “Chulannur Peafowl Sanctuary” in 2008 to honor K.K.
- **Local Name:** Mayiladumpara.
- **Significance:** First Peacock Sanctuary in India and unique to Kerala.

2. Adichunchanagiri Peacock Sanctuary

- **Established:** 1981.
- **Location:** Nagamangala Taluk, Mandya district, Karnataka (about 115 km west of Bengaluru).
- **Area:** Approximately 88.4 hectares.
- **Features:** Popular for trekking and mountain climbing; scenic views.

- **Significance:** Close to the Chunchanagiri Temple, a notable pilgrimage site.

19) India's First GI-Tagged Fig Juice Exported to Poland

Purandar Highlands company has achieved a significant milestone by exporting India's first Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged fig juice to Poland.

- **First GI-Tagged Purandar Figs Export:** In February 2023, the company also made history by exporting India's first commercial consignment of GI-tagged Purandar figs to Hong Kong.

Significance:

- **Pioneering Export:** Purandar Highlands has become the first Indian company to export both **fig juice and commercial quantities of Purandar figs to international markets.**
- **GI-Tagged Produce:** The GI tag highlights the unique qualities of Purandar figs, including their taste, size, and nutritional value, which have been recognized internationally.

Government Support: Acknowledgment: The company credits its success to the support and encouragement from key figures such as PiyushGoyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry,

and SharadPawar, former Agriculture and Defence Minister.

20) Reconstitution of the Executive Council and General Body of NIPCCD

The Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), Government of India (GoI) has reconstituted the **Executive Council (EC) and General Body (GB)** of the **National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD)** after more than 50 years.

Key Details:

- **Historical Context:** The NIPCCD, an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), was previously known as the Central Institute of Research and Training in Public Cooperation. It was initially established in 1966.
- **Reconstitution:** The Executive Council (EC) and General Body (GB) have been reconstituted after more than 50 years.
 - **General Body (GB):** Reduced from 94 to 22 members.
 - **Executive Council (EC):** Reduced from 21 to 13 members.
- **Current Leadership:**
 - **President of GB:** Annpurna Devi
 - **Chairperson of EC:** Annpurna Devi

21) QCI Launches Surajya Recognition & Ranking Framework to Enhance State Excellence and Quality of Life

- The Quality Council of India (QCI), an autonomous body set up by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I), is introducing the QCI Surajya Recognition & Ranking Framework, designed to drive excellence among states to improve citizens' quality of life for Viksit Bharat.
- This framework is categorised under 4 pillars namely, Shiksha (Education), Swasthya (Health), Samriddhi (Prosperity), and Sushasan (Governance).

22) Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill 2024 Introduced in Lok Sabha

The Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill 2024 was introduced in the Lok Sabha today by Union Minister of State for Finance, Pankaj Choudhary.

- This bill seeks to amend several significant banking laws to modernize and enhance the regulatory framework of the banking sector.
- The amendments proposed include changes to the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, the Banking Regulation Act,

1949, the State Bank of India Act, 1955, and the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Acts of 1970 and 1980.

- The bill aims to streamline banking operations and align them with contemporary financial practices, reflecting the government's commitment to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of banking regulations.

23) Lok Sabha Introduces Railways (Amendment) Bill 2024

The Lok Sabha saw the introduction of the Railways (Amendment) Bill 2024 by Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. The bill aims to amend the Railways Act of 1989 to enhance the powers of the Railways Board and improve operational efficiency.

- Key provisions of the bill include the integration of the Indian Railway Board Act, of 1905 into the Railways Act, of 1989.
- This move seeks to simplify the legal framework governing Indian Railways by repealing the Indian Railway Board Act, of 1905 and incorporating its provisions into the Railways Act.
- The changes are intended to streamline the constitution and composition of the

Railway Board, thereby boosting the overall efficiency of railway operations.

- **The bill was introduced to modernize and strengthen the administrative framework of Indian Railways.**

24) HarGharTiranga Campaign to be celebrated from August 9-15

As India prepares to celebrate its 78th Independence Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has issued a nationwide call to action, urging citizens to participate in the ‘HarGharTiranga’ campaign. The Prime Minister is encouraging Indians to hoist the national flag at their residences, transforming the initiative into a mass movement.

- **Leading by example, PM Modi changed his social media profile picture to the Tricolor and invited others to do the same.** He also shared a link to the **official campaign website, harghartiranga.com**, where citizens can upload selfies with the national flag.

25) Why Waqf Board Amendment Bill 2024 In News?

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, seeks to amend the Waqf Act, 1995, introducing over 40 amendments aimed at increasing government regulation and ensuring broader

representation, including Muslim women and non-Muslims, in Waqf Boards.

- **Board Composition:** The Bill mandates the inclusion of two Muslim women and two non-Muslim members in Waqf Boards.
- **Property Regulation:**
 - Introduces measures to prevent the wrongful declaration of properties as Waqf.
 - Requires registration of Waqf properties with the District Collector, who will evaluate and decide if a property is Waqf or government land.
- **Government Oversight:** The Central Government gains authority to audit Waqf properties at any time through the Comptroller and Auditor-General or designated officers.
- **Dispute Resolution:** Appeals against Waqf Board decisions can now be made to the respective High Courts.
- **Waqf Property Declaration:** The Bill limits the designation of properties as Waqf without proper documentation, requiring a valid waqfnama to avoid disputes.
- **Impact on Waqf Boards:** The amendments aim to curtail the powers of Waqf Boards in property management, shifting more control to government authorities.

- **Background:** Waqf Boards manage properties donated by followers of Islam for religious or charitable purposes. The Waqf Act was last amended in 2013.

26) Draft Broadcasting Services (Regulation) Bill 2024:

The Bill is set to replace the Television Network Act of 1995, bringing new regulations to the broadcasting sector.

- **Inclusion of Digital News:** The draft Bill proposes to classify social media influencers and pages that create content or write about current affairs and news online as “digital news broadcasters.”
- **Broader Scope:** The Bill aims to regulate not just traditional television networks but also digital platforms that disseminate news and current affairs content.
- **Impact on Influencers:** Social media influencers who engage in news-related content creation may fall under new regulatory frameworks, potentially requiring them to comply with broadcasting standards and regulations.

27) Centre Reshuffles Senior Bureaucrats, Amit Negi Made Additional Secretary

The Centre has implemented a significant top-level reshuffle, appointing senior IAS officer Amit Singh Negi as additional secretary in the

Prime Minister’s Office (PMO). Mr. Negi, a 1999-batch IAS officer of the **Uttarakhand cadre**, is currently the **joint secretary in the Department of Expenditure under the Union Ministry of Finance.**

Top-Level Government Reshuffle: Key Appointments Across Ministries and Departments

- **Prime Minister’s Office (PMO):** Amit Singh Negi, a 1999-batch IAS officer of the Uttarakhand cadre, has been appointed as Additional Secretary.
- **Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO):** Samir Ashwin Vakil appointed as Director.
- **Election Commission of India:** Maneesh Garg, Sanjay Kumar, and Ajeet Kumar appointed as Deputy Election Commissioners.
- **Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT):**
 - Manisha Saxena appointed as Additional Secretary.
 - Mugdha Sinha to take over as Director General (Tourism).
- **Union Ministry of Home Affairs:**
 - Ashutosh Agnihotri appointed as Additional Secretary.
 - Niraj Kumar Bansod appointed as Joint Secretary.

- **Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry:** Ajay Bhadoo appointed as Additional Secretary.
- **Union Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change:** Amandeep Garg appointed as Additional Secretary.
- **Employees' State Insurance Corporation:** Ashok Kumar Singh appointed as Director General.
- **Khadi and Village Industries Commission:** VatsalyaSaxena appointed as CEO.
- **NITI Aayog:** NidhiChhibber appointed as Additional Secretary.
- **Union Ministry of Rural Development:**
 - TK Anil Kumar appointed as Additional Secretary.
 - CaralynKhongwarDeshmukh appointed as Additional Secretary.
- **Union Ministry of Cooperation:** Rabindra Kumar Agarwal appointed as Additional Secretary.
- **Union Ministry of Road Transport & Highways:** Puneet Agarwal appointed as Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor.
- **Department of Telecommunications:** N Gulzar appointed as Additional Secretary.
- **Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India:** Ashish Chatterjee appointed as Managing Director.
- **Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances:** Puneet Yadav appointed as Additional Secretary.
- **Cabinet Secretariat:** NilaMohanana appointed as Joint Secretary.
- **Department of Defence:** Pawan Kumar Sharma appointed as Joint Secretary.
- **Department of Economic Affairs:** Alok Tiwari appointed as Joint Secretary.
- **Department of Military Affairs:** Kumar Ravi Kant Singh appointed as Joint Secretary.
- **National eGovernance Division (NeGD):** NandKumarum appointed as CEO.
- **Department of Health & Family Welfare:**
 - LathaGanapathy and Nikhil Gajraj appointed as Joint Secretaries.
 - V Kiran Gopal appointed as Joint Secretary in the National Health Authority.
- **Capacity Building Commission:** V Lalithalakshmi appointed as Secretary with additional charge of CEO, Karmayogi Bharat.
- **Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India:** Sunil Kumar appointed as Additional Registrar General.
- **Census Operations:**
 - P Bala Kiran, Pooja Pandey, and SheetalVerma appointed as

Directors in Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh & Meghalaya, and Uttar Pradesh, respectively.

- **Department of Petroleum & Natural Gas:** Vinod Seshan appointed as Joint Secretary.
- **Department of Revenue:** Naval Kishore Ram appointed as Joint Secretary.

28) ISLRTC and AWES Partner to Promote Indian Sign Language and Enhance Accessibility for Deaf Students

the Indian Sign Language Research and Training Centre (ISLRTC) signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **the Army Welfare Education Society (AWES)** to promote Indian Sign Language (ISL) and enhance accessibility for students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Key People Involved:

- **N. Honnareddy:** Director of ISLRTC, who signed the MoU.
- **Major General P.R. Murali:** Managing Director (MD) of AWES, who also signed the MoU.
- **Rajesh Aggarwal:** Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPWD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MOSJE), who chaired the signing ceremony.

Key Points of the MoU:

- **Training and Promotion:** The partnership aims to train school administrators, students, parents, and teachers to promote Indian Sign Language (ISL), with a special focus on enhancing sign language skills among the faculty of Army Public Schools (APS).
- **Empowerment and Integration:** The collaboration is intended to expand the reach and effectiveness of ISL initiatives, contributing to the empowerment and integration of the Deaf community.
- **Educational Impact:** This partnership is expected to significantly impact the educational ecosystem by empowering educators and fostering an inclusive environment for students who are deaf or hard of hearing.

India-Nepal MoU for Launch of Munal Satellite

29) **Ministry of External Affairs (India) and NewSpace India Limited (NSIL)** signed an **MoU for the launch of Nepal's Munal satellite.**

- **Signatories:** Shri Anurag Srivastava (MEA) and Shri Arunachalam A (NSIL) signed the MoU.
- **Witnessed by EAM:** External Affairs Minister of India witnessed the exchange of the Launch Service Agreement during his visit to Nepal.

- **Munal Satellite:** Developed by Nepal's NAST, with assistance from AntarikhyaPratishan Nepal (APN), designed to build a vegetation density database.
- **Launch Vehicle:** The satellite will be launched on NSIL's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).

30) Chhattisgarh Approves Country's Third Largest Tiger Reserve

Chhattisgarh clears the proposal for Guru Ghasidas-TamorPingla Tiger Reserve, the third largest in India, spanning 2,829 sq km across four northern districts.

- **Declining Population:** Chhattisgarh's tiger population dropped from 46 in 2014 to 17 in 2022, according to a 2023 NTCA report.
- **States with Small Populations:** States like Mizoram, Nagaland, Jharkhand, Goa, Chhattisgarh, and Arunachal Pradesh report low tiger populations.
- **Eco-tourism & Employment:** The reserve aims to boost eco-tourism and create jobs for local villagers in the core and buffer zones.
- **Legal Push:** The decision follows a 2019 PIL and a high court order in July 2023 urging the state to act.

- **Largest Reserves:** NagarjunasagarSrisailam (Andhra Pradesh) is the largest, followed by Manas (Assam).

31) Odisha Launches India's First 'Rice ATM'

Odisha has introduced India's first round-the-clock grain dispensing machine, known as the Annapurthi Grain ATM, designed to transform the Public Distribution System (PDS) for ration cardholders. Officially launched by Food Supplies and Consumer Welfare Minister **Krushna Chandra Patra**, this innovative machine is located at a **warehouse in Mancheswar and developed in collaboration with the World Food Programme.**

Operation: Dispenses up to 50 kg of rice in 5 minutes with a 0.01% error rate. Users enter their ration card number, complete biometric verification, and receive up to 25 kg of rice.

Benefits:

- **Reduced Queues:** Minimizes waiting times at traditional distribution points.
- **Decreased Theft:** Reduces fraud and black marketing.
- **Accuracy:** Ensures precise distribution and cuts waiting times by 70%.
- **24/7 Access:** Provides continuous availability.

Expansion Plans:

- **Initial Deployment:** Launched in Bhubaneswar, with plans for statewide expansion.
- **Energy Efficiency:** Consumes 0.6 watts per hour, compatible with solar panels.

32) Vice President flagged off HarGharTiranga Bike Rally from Bharat Mandapam in Delhi

Vice President JagdeepDhankhar flagged off the HarGharTiranga Bike Rally from Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi this morning.

- Culture Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Parliamentary Affairs minister KirenRijiju were also present on the occasion.
- The rally will end at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium. The 'HarGharTiranga' campaign is part of the AzadiKaAmritMahotsav, designed to bring the tricolor into homes across the nation.

33) MP govt gives cash to girl students to buy sanitary napkins

The Madhya Pradesh government, led by Dr. Mohan Yadav, has become the first state in India to provide cash directly to adolescent girls for purchasing sanitary napkins. This initiative is a

part of the state's broader Sanitation and Hygiene scheme.

Key Features:

- **Eligibility:** School girls from classes 7 to 12.
- **Benefit:** Each eligible girl receives ₹300 for one year.
- **Impact:** Over ₹57.18 crore has been transferred to more than 19 lakh beneficiary girls.

Udita Scheme

The Udita Scheme, launched on November 1, 2016, under Madhya Pradesh's Women and Child Development Project, aims to address menstrual myths and taboos. The scheme is implemented through Anganwadi workers and assistants.

Key Features:

- **Eligibility:** Adolescent girls and women aged 18 to 49 years.
- **Implementation:** Initially launched in Gwalior, Indore, and Badwani districts, it has now expanded to all districts in Madhya Pradesh.

Aims:

- **Education:** Raise awareness about proper hygiene during menstruation and menstrual management.

- **Myth Dispelling:** Challenge and eliminate menstrual myths and taboos.
- **Sanitary Pads:** Encourage the use of quality sanitary pads, increase their availability and accessibility in villages, and ensure proper disposal.
- **Health Awareness:** Educate adolescents on anemia and nutrition.
- **Provision:** Provide free sanitary napkins to adolescent girls and women.

This comprehensive approach aims to improve menstrual hygiene management and overall health awareness among adolescent girls and women in Madhya Pradesh.

34) **One India-One Ticket’ to boost tourism**

The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) and the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) have collaborated to launch ‘One India-One Ticket’ initiative to enhance the travel experience for passengers on Indian Railways and Nammo Bharat Trains. It will allow passengers to book Nammo Bharat tickets through IRCTC platform with flexible cancellation and payment.

IRCTC in a statement said that passengers can generate **Unique QR code for Nammo Bharat train ticket**. The code will be valid for **4 days around the journey date options**. **Nammo Bharat tickets**

can be booked up to 120 days in advance, aligning with the current Railway reservation window.

35) **Union Jal Shakti Ministry launches Flood Watch India 2.0 App**

The Government of India has launched the **Flood Watch India 2.0 App** to enhance flood forecasting and management systems across the country. This upgraded app provides real-time information on flood situations, offering critical data to users through their smartphones.

Launch Details:

- **Launched by:** Union Minister for Jal Shakti, **C.R. Paatil**.
- **Date:** August 13, 2024.
- **Location:** New Delhi.
- **Attendees:**
 - **Ms. Debashree Mukherjee** - Secretary of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation.
 - **Kushvinder Vohra** - Chairman, Central Water Commission.
 - Other dignitaries were present.

Development:

- **Developed by:** Central Water Commission, under the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti.

- **Technology:** Utilizes satellite data analysis, mathematical modeling, and real-time monitoring for accurate and timely flood forecasts.

Features of Flood Watch India 2.0:

- **Real-Time Information:** Provides real-time flood forecasts up to 7 days in advance.
- **State/Basin-Wise Forecasts:** Offers state-wise and basin-wise flood forecasts up to 24 hours in advance.
- **Extended Coverage:**
 - **Monitoring Stations:** Covers 592 flood monitoring stations, up from 200 in the previous version.
 - **Reservoirs:** Includes storage position information for 150 major reservoirs across the country.
- **Language Support:** Available in both English and Hindi.
- **User-Friendly:**
 - Information is available in text format.
 - Audio broadcasts are also accessible through the app.
- **Compatibility:** Available for both Android and iOS devices.

37) India adds three new Ramsar sites to wetlands network, bringing the total to 85

Ramsar Sites are wetland areas designated under the Ramsar Convention, an international treaty aimed at conserving and sustainably using wetlands. The Convention was established in 1971 in Ramsar, Iran, and focuses on the ecological significance of these areas.

Key Points About Ramsar Sites:

1. Ramsar Convention:

- **Full Name:** Convention on Wetlands of International Importance.
- **Adopted:** February 2, 1971.
- **In Force:** From 1975.
- **World Wetlands Day:** Celebrated annually on February 2.

2. Criteria for Designation:

- **Ecological Importance:** Wetlands must support biological diversity, including vulnerable or endangered species.
- **Hydrological Functions:** They play a role in flood control, water purification, and support human life through resources like fish and water.
- **Unique Features:** Wetlands with unique ecological features or significant biodiversity are also considered.

3. Importance of Ramsar Sites:

- **Global Recognition:** Ramsar Sites are acknowledged for their global ecological value.
- **Protection:** They are protected under the Ramsar Convention's framework, which encourages national governments to manage and conserve these areas.
- **Awareness and Resources:** The designation helps in raising awareness and attracting resources for the conservation and sustainable management of wetlands.

- **Objective:** The initiative aims to modernize agricultural practices and empower farmers with scientific knowledge.
- **Content:** The programme will feature agricultural scientists, department officials, and the minister, providing vital information on best practices and scientific advancements.
- **Target Audience:** The programme is specifically designed to educate and inform farmers across the country.

Recent Additions:

- **India's Ramsar Sites Count:** As of the latest update, India has 85 Ramsar Sites.
- **New Additions:**
 - **Nanjarayan Bird Sanctuary** (Tamil Nadu)
 - **Kazhuveli Bird Sanctuary** (Tamil Nadu)
 - **Tawa Reservoir** (Madhya Pradesh)

38) Government to Launch 'Kisan Ki Baat' Radio Programme for Farmers

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced the launch of 'Kisan Ki Baat', a monthly radio programme.

39) India-SriLanka ferry service resumes between Nagapattinam and Kankesanthurai near Jaffna

The passenger ferry service between India and Sri Lanka has resumed, marking an important development in maritime connectivity between the two nations.

Service Details:

- **Route:** The ferry connects **Nagapattinam** in India with **Kankesanthurai (KKS)** near Jaffna in Sri Lanka's Northern Province.
- **Launch Date:** Initially launched in October 2023.
- **Ferry Name:** **Sivagangai**, operated by **IndSri Ferry Services**.
- **Journey Duration:** Approximately four hours.

- **Capacity:** Carried around 50 passengers on its maiden journey.

Ceremonies and Support:

- **Welcome Ceremony:** Passengers were received at KKS port by the **Indian Consul General** in Jaffna.
- **Indian Government Support:** India is providing **over 25 million Sri Lankan Rupees (LKR) per month** for one year to cover operational costs at Nagapattinam port.
- **Sri Lankan Government Support:** Sri Lanka has reduced the deviation tax for passengers departing via passenger vessels and ships.

40) Launch of ‘JiyoParsi Scheme Portal’ and ‘Haj Applications (App) – 2025’

On August 2024, **Union Minister KirenRijju, Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA)** along with the **Minister of State (MOS) George Kurian, MOMA** launched the ‘**JiyoParsi Scheme Portal’ and ‘Haj Applications (app) – 2025’** at Manthan Hall in New Delhi, Delhi.

Key Figures:

- **Union Minister:** KirenRijju, Ministry of Minority Affairs (MoMA)
- **Minister of State (MOS):** George Kurian, MoMA

- **National Commission for Minorities (NCM):**

- **Chairman:** Iqbal Singh Lalpura
- **Vice-Chairperson:** KersiKaikhushrooDeboo

JiyoParsi Scheme Portal:

- **Purpose:** Enables Parsis to apply, check application status, and receive financial aid through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
- **Scheme Overview:**
 - **Launched:** 2013-14
 - **Objective:** Stabilize and reverse the decline in the Parsi population through scientific protocols and structured interventions.
 - **Components:** Medical Assistance, Advocacy, and Health of Community.
 - **Assistance:** Provides support for medical treatment, childcare, and elderly dependents. Over 400 Parsi youths have benefited.

Haj Applications (App) – 2025:

- **Introduction:** For the first time, applications can be submitted via the Haj Suvidha App as well as the Haj Committee of India (HCI) website.
- **Application Deadline:** September 9, 2024

- **App Features:**
 - Access to training content, accommodation, flight details, baggage information, emergency helpline (SOS), grievance redressal, feedback, language translation, and other pilgrimage-related services.
 - Improved coordination and control for Indian pilgrims in Saudi Arabia.
- **Quota:** Over 1.75 lakh slots allocated by Saudi Arabia for Haj 2025.
- **Passport Requirement:** Must be machine-readable, valid through at least January 15, 2026, and issued before the application deadline.

41) **India-Israel Partnership: Establishment of 'Center of Water Technology'**

India and Israel have partnered to set up a **'Center of Water Technology (CoWT)'** at the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras, Chennai, Tamil Nadu**. This center focuses on **Water Resources Management (WRM) and Water Technologies**.

- **Initiative Launch:** A capacity-building course titled **'24/7 Water Supply in Urban Areas'** was held at **IIT Madras from August 5 to 8, 2024**, to equip stakeholders with skills for managing urban water systems.
- **Background:**

- A tripartite agreement for the CoWT was signed in 2023 among the Embassy of Israel, IIT Madras, and the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) mission of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MOHUA).
- This partnership underscores the commitment of both nations to tackle water scarcity and improve water management.

42) **"Maharashtra Declares Ratnagiri's Petroglyphs and Geoglyphs as Protected Monuments"**

The Maharashtra Government has officially designated the **Petroglyphs and Geoglyphs** in Ratnagiri as 'Protected Monuments' under the Maharashtra Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1960. This designation is aimed at preserving these ancient artworks, which hold significant historical and cultural value.

Key Details:

Petroglyphs:

- **Location:** Found in **Deud**, Ratnagiri, Maharashtra.
- **Dating:** Mesolithic age (approximately **20,000-10,000 years ago**).

- **Features:** Includes depictions of footprints and images of animals such as a donkey, a rhino, a deer, and a monkey.
- **Significance:** Represents the artistic endeavors of Mesolithic humans.
- **Protected Area:** A **210 square meters** area surrounding the petroglyphs has been designated as protected.
- **Discoveries:**
 - Seven significant petroglyphs discovered in Umbarle village of Dapoli taluka, including a notable **17-foot long petroglyph**.
 - An additional petroglyph found in Borkhat village of Mandangad.

Geoglyphs:

- **Location:** Spread along the **900 km Konkan coast** in Maharashtra and Goa.
- **Characteristics:** Unique clusters of pictorial representations that depict marine and riverine species, animals, reptiles, amphibians, and birds no longer present in the region.
- **Concerns:** Conservationists have raised concerns about a proposed **oil refinery in Barsu** (Maharashtra), which could potentially damage these geoglyphs.

43) Union Cabinet Approves Major Airport Projects in West Bengal and Bihar

The Union Cabinet has approved significant airport infrastructure projects in West Bengal and Bihar, with a combined investment of approximately ₹2,962 crore. These projects aim to enhance air travel facilities and accommodate growing passenger demand in these regions.

1. Patna's Second Airport

- **Location:** Indian Air Force (IAF) base in Bihta, Patna.
- **Investment:** ₹1,413 crore.
- **Scope:**
 - **New Civil Enclave:** To alleviate capacity constraints at the existing Patna airport.
 - **Terminal:** Covers **66,000 square meters**.
 - **Capacity:** Designed to handle up to **3,000 passengers per hour**.
 - **Facilities:** Includes an apron with two link taxiways and 10 parking bays.
 - **Annual Capacity:** The Bihta airport is designed to accommodate up to **1 crore passengers annually**.

2. Bagdogra Airport Expansion

- **Location:** Bagdogra, West Bengal.
- **Investment:** ₹1,549 crore.
- **Scope:**

- **New Terminal Building:** To address the near-full capacity due to proximity to popular tourist destinations in Sikkim.
- **Terminal Size:** Spans **70,390 square meters**.
- **Capacity:** Capable of handling **3,000 passengers per hour** and supporting up to **10 million passengers annually**.
- **Facilities:** Includes an apron for 10 A-321 type aircraft, two taxiways, and multi-level parking facilities.

45) “Launch of Krishi-DSS: A Cutting-Edge Geospatial Platform for Advancing Indian Agriculture”

On August, 2024, Bhagirath Choudhary, Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, launched the **Krishi-Decision Support System (DSS)** at the Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi. This event was part of the nationwide **Space-Driven Solutions for Agricultural Transformation** conference and coincided with the Department of Space’s celebrations of Chandrayaan-3’s success and the establishment of **National Space Day** on August 23.

Krishi-DSS Overview:

- **Purpose:** A digital geo-spatial platform designed to enhance agricultural practices in India.
- **Features:**
 - **Data Access:** Provides satellite images, weather data, reservoir storage levels, groundwater information, and soil health insights.
 - **Modules:** Includes advanced tools for crop mapping, drought monitoring, and weather impact analysis.
 - **Sustainability:** Supports sustainable agriculture through crop rotation analysis and real-time updates on crop conditions, soil moisture, and weather effects.
 - **Integration:** Combines various data sources to deliver farmer-centric solutions for improved agricultural management.

46) CM Sukhu launches ‘Mukhyamantri Bal PaushtikAaharYojana’ in HP

Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister **Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu** launched ‘**Mukhyamantri Bal PaushtikAaharYojana**’ to provide nutritious foods to schoolchildren and a scheme to provide free Tablets to primary school teachers to boost digitalisation in the state educational and administrative system. The scheme was launched by the chief minister Sukhu

in **Hamirpur, Himachal Pradesh**, on 17 August 2024.

Mukhyamantri Bal PoshtikAaharYojana

- The **Mukhyamantri Bal PoshtikAaharYojana** is only for **government school children**.
- Students from **nursery to class eight** will be provided **boiled eggs or fruits** once a week. The fresh fruits will be sourced from local markets based on the preferences of the children,
- The scheme will complement the existing mid-day meal scheme and provide nutritious food to children in government schools.
- It will cover **15,181 government schools** and 5,34,293 students in the state.
- The state government has allocated **Rs.12.75 crore** for the **‘Mukhyamantri Bal PoshtikAaharYojana’** for 2024-25.

47) Commemorative Coin Released for MuthuvelKarunanidhi’s Birth Centenary

On 18th August 2024, Union Minister **Rajnath Singh, Ministry of Defence (MoD)**, released a commemorative **Rs. 100 coin** to mark the birth centenary of former **Chief Minister (CM) of Tamil Nadu (TN) KalaingarMuthuvelKarunanidhi**.

The coin was released at the event organised by **the Government of Tamil Nadu** in **KalaivanarArangam, in Chennai (TN)**.

Key People:

MK Stalin, the CM of TN and Union Minister of State (MOS) LoganathanMurugan, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB) and Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs were present during the event.

About the coin:

- The reverse side of the coin features a **portrait of Karunanidhi and Tamil slogan ‘Tamil Vellum’ (Tamil win) along with the text “Birth Centenary of KalaingarKarunanidhi’** in **Hindi and English**.
- The **Rs 100 denomination coin** weigh 35 grams, have a **diameter of 44 millimeters, with 200 serrations on its edge**.
- It will be composed of an alloy comprising **50% silver, 40% copper, 5% nickel, and 5% zinc**.

48) India’s First Constitution Museum Marks 75 Years of the Indian Constitution

India’s first Constitution Museum, named “The Constitution Academy and The Rights & Freedoms Museum,” is set to be inaugurated by **OP Jindal Global University** on November

26, 2024. This initiative celebrates the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Indian Constitution.

Indian Constitution Museum: Key Highlights

1. **Significance and Focus:** The museum offers a comprehensive exploration of the Indian Constitution, showcasing its various sections and their importance. Visitors can delve into profiles of Constituent Assembly members, the debates that shaped the Constitution, and its evolution over time through diverse formats including textual, audio-visual, and experiential exhibits.
2. **Artistic and Educational Elements:** The museum will display artwork from the original handcrafted Constitution and pieces inspired by its themes. It also features a Children's Corner with interactive installations, quizzes, and graphic materials to educate young visitors about the Constitution.
3. **Curator's Vision:** Curator Anjchita B. Nair, CEO of Culture and Head at the Centre for Museums, aims to make the Constitution more accessible to the public. The museum seeks to deepen understanding of the creators' intentions and foster appreciation for India's constitutional journey over the past 75 years.

49) **Union Minister Shri Manohar Lal Khattar Launches Portal for Online Monitoring Of Projects – Thermal (PROMPT)**

The Union Minister of Power and Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Shri Manohar Lal, today launched Portal for Online monitoring of Projects – Thermal (PROMPT) in New Delhi.

PROMPT Portal Launched for Enhanced Thermal Power Project Monitoring

- **Real-Time Tracking:** Centralized platform for real-time tracking and analysis of thermal power projects.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** Digitizes monitoring, ensuring transparency, timely issue resolution, and improved project efficiency.
- **Resource Optimization:** Aids in resource predictability, helping meet electricity demand at reasonable costs.
- **Stakeholder Coordination:** Facilitates informed decision-making by project managers and stakeholders to avoid delays.
- **Development:** Portal developed with assistance from NTPC, under the guidance of the Central Electricity Authority (CEA).

50) **Indian Navy Signs MoU with BEML Ltd.**

The Indian Navy has signed a significant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with BEML Ltd., a leading defence and

heavy engineering manufacturer, on August 20, 2024. This strategic partnership, concluded at the Naval Headquarters in New Delhi, marks a pivotal step towards bolstering indigenous marine engineering capabilities in alignment with the Government of India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

- **Objective:** Enhance self-reliance in defense through Indigenous Design, Development, and Production of marine equipment.
- **Focus Areas:** Heavy engineering, hydraulics, diesel engines, and R&D.
- **Aatmanirbhar Bharat Initiative:** Supports India's goal of reducing foreign dependency in defense production.
- **Impact:** Upgrades the Navy's capabilities with advanced, domestically produced technology.
- **Long-Term Vision:** Strengthens immediate and future naval projects and infrastructure.

51) NITI Aayog and CSIRO Launch Climate Smart Agritech RISE Accelerator Program

On August 2024, the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog)'s backed- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) in collaboration with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation

(CSIRO), an arm of Government of Australia has launched the Climate Smart Agritech cohort of the India-Australia Rapid Innovation and Startup Expansion (RISE) Accelerator program and has invited applications from startups and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) for the program.

- **Partners:** Atal Innovation Mission (NITI Aayog) and Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Australia.
- **Aim:** Utilize advanced technologies to tackle climate challenges in agriculture and foster cross-border innovation.
- **Program Focus:** Support for agritechstartups and MSMEs enhancing agricultural productivity and resilience.
- **Program Start:** October 2024
- **Application Deadline:** September 15, 2024
- **Target Participants:** Agritechstartups and MSMEs addressing farmers' needs and improving on-farm practices.

52) Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla Constitutes 6 New Parliamentary Committees for 2024-25

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla constituted 6 new Parliamentary Committees for 2024-25, including the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), Committee on Estimates(CoE), Committee on Public Undertakings (CoPU) and

committees focused on the **welfare of Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Scheduled Castes (SCs), and Scheduled Tribes (STs).**

- **Committees Formed:** Public Accounts Committee (PAC), Committee on Estimates (CoE), Committee on Public Undertakings (CoPU), and welfare committees for OBCs, SCs, and STs.
- **Tenure:** All committees have a 1-year term, with members from both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha.
- **PAC Chair:** K.C. Venugopal (INC), responsible for overseeing government expenditures and CAG reports.
- **PAC Composition:** 22 members (15 from Lok Sabha, up to 7 from Rajya Sabha).
- **CoE Chair:** Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal (BJP), responsible for examining budget estimates and suggesting efficiency improvements.
- **CoPU Chair:** Baijyant Panda (BJP), focuses on public sector undertakings.
- **OBC Welfare Committee Chair:** Ganesh Singh (BJP), MP from Satna, Madhya Pradesh. **Function:** Review reports from the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) and assess welfare measures for OBCs.

53) AshwiniVaishnaw Launches ‘Create In India Challenge-Season One’

Information and Broadcasting Minister AshwiniVaishnaw launched ‘**Create in India Challenge-Season One**’ in New Delhi on August 22 in the run-up to the **World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit**. **Speaking on the occasion, Mr Vaishnaw** said that reflecting **the evolution of Indian economy and the impact of technological advancements, 25 challenges have been launched.**

- **Event:** ‘Create in India Challenge-Season One’ unveiled by Information and Broadcasting Minister AshwiniVaishnaw.
- **Context:** In preparation for the inaugural World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit (WAVES).
- **Challenges:** 25 challenges introduced to reflect India’s evolving economy and technological impact.
- **Feedback:** Positive response received; plans to scale up WAVES in the future.
- **Objective:** Promote the new creators economy and generate employment opportunities.

54) South Indian Adivasi Knowledge Centre to be launched in B.R. Hills

Kaanu, a South Indian Adivasi Knowledge Centre, will be launched at the **Tribal Health Resource Centre (THRC)** at **BR Hills, Karnataka** on **August 25**. **Prashanth N. Srinivas, a medical doctor and public health**

researcher working at the Institute of Public Health, Bangalore's field station in B.R. Hills, says that Kaanu, which means evergreen forest in both Kannada and Soliga language.

- **Location:** Tribal Health Resource Centre (THRC) at BR Hills, Karnataka.
- **Name Meaning:** "Kaanu" translates to "evergreen forest" in Kannada and Soliga languages.
- **Purpose:** To serve as the first knowledge centre dedicated to the past, present, and culture of South Indian Adivasi communities.

Components:

- **Library:** Features publications on and by tribal communities from Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu.
- **Annotated Bibliography:** Includes over 1,200 works on the South Indian Adivasi world; available online from September at no cost.
- **Book:** Co-written by South Indian Adivasi and non-Adivasi scholars; still in preliminary stages.

Origins: Initiated by a collective of Adivasi leaders, scholars, and non-Adivasi researchers, inspired by a writing workshop held at Muntipalya, BRT foothills.

55) Health Ministry constitutes National Task Force on Healthcare Worker Safety

The Health Ministry has formed a 14-member National Task Force (NTF) to address the safety and working conditions of **medical professionals in India**. In response to ongoing protests and as mandated by **the Supreme Court, the NTF will develop recommendations focused** on preventing violence against **healthcare workers and establishing national protocols for dignified and safe working conditions across the medical profession.**

- **Formation:** A 14-member National Task Force (NTF) has been established by the Health Ministry.
- **Purpose:** To address safety and working conditions of medical professionals, in response to protests and a Supreme Court mandate.

Key Objectives:

- **Preventing Violence:** Develop an action plan to protect medical professionals from violence.
- **Safe Working Conditions:** Set protocols for the safety of all medical staff, including interns and nurses.
- **Addressing Sexual Violence:** Ensure compliance with the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013.

Immediate Actions:

- **Interim Report:** To be submitted within three weeks.
- **Final Report:** Due within two months from the Supreme Court's order dated August 20, 2024.

Infrastructure and Security Proposals:

- **Hospital Security:** Identify high-risk areas, implement screening systems, and prevent entry of intoxicated individuals.
- **Infrastructure Improvements:** Propose separate resting and duty rooms, and form "Employees Safety Committees" for quarterly safety audits.

56) PM Modi Presents BHISHM Cubes to Ukraine

Narendra Modi's trip marks the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Ukraine since its independence in 1991.

- **Humanitarian Support:** Delivery of four BHISHM Cubes, part of Project AarogyaMaitri, providing essential medical supplies and equipment for rapid deployment.
- **BHISHM Cubes Structure:** Each cube includes mini cubes for various medical needs, with mother cubes for initial care and surgical support.

- **Technology Integration:** Uses RFID technology and a multi-language app for real-time inventory updates and instructional support.
- **Cultural Diplomacy:** Signed agreements in agriculture, medical regulation, and cultural cooperation; honored conflict victims with a memorial gesture.

57) Odisha CM Majhi Launches Subhadra Scheme

Chief Minister Mohan Majhi has introduced the Subhadra scheme aimed at providing financial assistance to women in the state. Here are the key details:

Scheme Details:

- **Total Budget:** ₹55,825 crore.
- **Objective:** Provide ₹50,000 to one crore women over the next five years.

Disbursement:

- **Installments:** Funds will be distributed in annual installments of ₹10,000.
- **Payment Schedule:** Split into two payments of ₹5,000 each, given on:
 - **Rakhi Purnima**
 - **International Women's Day**

Implementation:

- **Period:** The scheme will run from the **financial year 2024-25 to 2028-29.**
- **Payment Method:** Transfers will be made directly to Aadhaar-enabled bank accounts using the **Aadhaar Payment Bridge System (APBS).** Beneficiaries will also receive a **Subhadra debit card.**

Incentives: Top Beneficiaries: ₹500 will be awarded to the top 100 beneficiaries with the highest digital transactions in each gram panchayat and urban local body.

Eligibility: Excluded Groups: Women from economically privileged backgrounds, government employees, and income tax payees are excluded to ensure targeted assistance.

Opposition Criticism: Biju Janata Dal (BJD) has criticized the scheme, noting that it does not meet the BJP's promise of delivering ₹50,000 within two years as per their election manifesto.

58) GAIL and Petron Sciencetech Partner for Bio-Ethylene Plant in India

GAIL (India) Limited and Petron Sciencetech Inc. have signed an MoU to develop a **500 KTA bio-ethylene plant in India through a 50:50 joint venture.**

- **Project Scope:** The plant will use bio-ethanol, focusing on sustainability and advancing the bio-economy.

- **Feasibility Studies:** Joint studies will evaluate the technical and financial viability before investment decisions.
- **Leadership Statement:** Rajeev Kumar Singhal from GAIL highlights the initiative's role in technological innovation and environmental sustainability.
- **Company Backgrounds:** Petron specializes in biorefinery projects, while GAIL is a leading natural gas and petrochemicals enterprise in India.
- **Stock Update:** GAIL's share price opened at ₹237.15 and reached ₹234.55 on the NSE as of August 22, 2024.

59) Launch of BoCW MIS Portal by Ministry of Labour & Employment

On August, 2024, the **Ministry of Labour & Employment (MoL&E)** launched the **'Building and Other Construction Workers (BoCW) Management Information System (MIS) Portal.'**

- **Purpose:** The portal aims to help states and Union Territories (UTs) finalize draft rules under the four Labour Codes and enhance welfare schemes for BoCW.
- **Launch:** Announced during the 15th BOCW Monitoring Committee meeting, chaired by Sumita Dawra, Secretary of MoL&E.
- **Portal Features:**

- **Centralized Data Management:** Compiles and analyzes data from BoCW Welfare Boards across states.
- **Registration and Updates:** States and UTs must register on the portal and update details related to fund utilization, worker registration, and various social security benefits.

60) Postal Dept launches DeenDayal SPARSH Yojana to Encourage Philately

The Department of Post under the Union Ministry of Communication has launched the DeenDayal SPARSH Yojana to promote research and scholarship in philately among students across India. Announced by the Postmaster General of North Gujarat Region, Ahmedabad, Krishna Kumar Yadav, during the closing ceremony of the 'The Ideal and Great Stamps' Paintings exhibition, the scheme aims to foster the hobby of stamp collection among children.

- **Eligibility:** Open to students in classes VI, VII, VIII, and IX from recognized schools who are members of a philately club or hold a Philately Deposit Account.
- **Scholarships:** 920 scholarships available nationwide, with each postal circle offering up to 40 scholarships (10 per eligible class).
- **Amount:** ₹6000 per year, disbursed quarterly.

- **Selection:** Scholarships are awarded annually, with the opportunity to reapply in subsequent years.
- **Mentorship:** Philately Mentors will guide scholarship recipients and help establish school-level philately clubs.

61) India Launches World's First Mobile Hybrid Rocket: RHUMI-1

India's space efforts received a significant boost with the successful launch of RHUMI-1, the world's first mobile hybrid rocket. This achievement also marks a milestone as the first reusable hybrid rocket in India. Developed by Chennai-based startup Space Zone India in collaboration with Martin Group, RHUMI-1 represents a leap forward in rocket technology, promising to enhance efficiency and reduce operational costs in space exploration.

- **Historic Launch:** RHUMI-1 is the world's first mobile hybrid rocket and India's first reusable hybrid rocket.
- **Launch Location:** Thiruvandhurai, near Chennai, Tamil Nadu, using a mobile launcher.
- **Payload:** Carried three CubeSats and 50 PICO satellites for climate change research.
- **Flight Details:** Achieved an altitude of 35 kilometers with a brief suborbital trajectory.

- **Hybrid Technology:** Combines solid fuel with a liquid or gaseous oxidizer, offering enhanced safety and performance.
- **Unique Features:** Includes a generic-fuel-based hybrid motor, electrically triggered parachute, and is 100% pyrotechnic-free.

62) India Celebrates National Space Day with Launch of ‘SapnokiUdaan’ E-Magazine

On India’s inaugural National Space Day, the nation witnessed a significant educational milestone with the release of ‘SapnokiUdaan’, an innovative e-magazine. This launch, spearheaded by Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, marks a fusion of science, creativity, and education, aimed at inspiring the next generation of Indian students.

Virtual Unveiling

The e-magazine was officially unveiled through a virtual launch event, reflecting the digital-first approach of modern educational initiatives. This format allowed for widespread participation and accessibility across the country.

Key Attendees

- **Dharmendra Pradhan:** Union Minister of Education
- **Jayant Chaudhary:** Minister of State for Education
- **Sanjay Kumar:** Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy

- Other notable attendees included Vipin Kumar (Additional Secretary), Prof. D.P. Saklani (Director, NCERT), Rahul Singh (Chairperson, CBSE), and Prof. Saroj Sharma (Chairperson, NIOS)

About ‘SapnokiUdaan’

Content and Contributors

The e-magazine presents a diverse array of content, including:

- Poetry
- Essays
- Stories
- Anecdotes
- Riddles

What makes ‘SapnokiUdaan’ unique is its sourcing of content from a wide range of contributors, including students, teachers, and parents from across India.

Theme and Significance: The inaugural issue centers around the theme of space, chosen to commemorate the first anniversary of Chandrayaan-3’s historic landing on the lunar South Pole. This theme resonates with the vast imagination of children and India’s recent achievements in space exploration.

62) Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh to Develop ‘Shri Krishna Gaman Path’

In a significant move to boost religious tourism and cultural heritage, the **Chief Ministers of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh** have announced plans to develop a new religious circuit called the '**Shri Krishna Gaman Path**'. This initiative aims to connect the birthplace of Lord Krishna in Mathura with the sacred city of Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh, tracing the footsteps of one of Hinduism's most revered deities.

- **Announced by:** Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma.
- **Objective:** Boost religious tourism and cultural heritage.
- **Collaborating States:** Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.
- **Religious Significance:** Connects Krishna's birthplace (Mathura) to the Sandipani Ashram (Ujjain), tracing his divine journey.

Key Locations:

- **Mathura:** Krishna's birthplace.
- **Ujjain:** Site of Sandipani Ashram, Krishna's education center.

Special Feature: Includes locations marked by Krishna's footprints, adding a spiritual dimension for devotees.

63) MHA Announces 5 New Districts in Ladakh, Expanding Administration and Governance

The **Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)**, announced the creation of **5 new districts in the Union Territory (UT) of Ladakh**, namely, **Zaskar, Drass, Sham, Nubra, and Changthang**. With the formation of the new districts, Ladakh's **total number of districts has increased to 7**.

- **New Districts Created:** Zaskar, Drass, Sham, Nubra, and Changthang.
- **Total Number of Districts:** Increases from 2 (Leh and Kargil) to 7.

Instructions:

- **Committee Formation:** To evaluate district headquarters, boundaries, and structure.
- **Report Deadline:** Within 3 months.

Objective:

- **Governance Improvement:** Enhance service delivery and Central government benefits in remote areas.
- **Progress:** Ensure that development reaches all corners of Ladakh.

Background:

- **Historical Context:** Ladakh was part of Jammu and Kashmir until the 2019 reorganization.
- **Legislative Changes:**

- **August 5, 2019:** Article 370 repealed, ending J&K's special status.
- **August 9, 2019:** Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act bifurcated J&K into 2 Union Territories (UTs).

64) Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare Organises 7th Anubhav Awards Ceremony

The Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare today organised the 7th Anubhav Awards Ceremony in New Delhi to recognise the contribution made by Government employees in service. Secretary Pension and Pensioners' Welfare **V. Srinivas** conferred five Anubhav awards and 10 Jury Certificates to employees from nine different departments and ministries.

- The 7th Anubhav Awards Ceremony was held to honor outstanding contributions by central government employees.
- Secretary **V. Srinivas** awarded five Anubhav awards and 10 Jury Certificates to employees from nine departments and ministries.
- The awards aim to inspire current employees to excel in their fields.
- The 55th Pre-Retirement Counselling Workshop was conducted for employees retiring by March 31 next year.

- The workshop covered pre-retirement processes, forms, and post-retirement benefits.

65) India's Pharma Sector to Touch \$130 Billion by 2030: JitinPrasada

Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, **JitinPrasada** has stressed that the country's pharmaceutical sector will touch the 130 billion US dollar mark by 2030, which is currently at around 55 billion US dollars. Mr Prasad inaugurated the 10th International Pharmaceutical Exhibition **IPHEX** at India Expo Mart in Noida, Uttar Pradesh.

- India is becoming a global pharma leader and cost-effective healthcare destination.
- The Production Linked Incentive scheme aims to boost domestic manufacturing and reduce import dependence.
- **Pharma exports increased from \$14.9 billion to \$27.9 billion** over the past decade.
- The sector is the third-largest by volume, with over 3,000 companies and 10,500 manufacturing facilities.
- **India holds a 20% share** in global generic medicine demand.
- **IPHEX features over 400 Indian pharma companies** and will attract more than 400 international buyers.

66) PM Modi Chairs 44th PRAGATI Meeting, Reviews Major Projects and Water Initiatives
Prime Minister Narendra Modi chaired the 44th edition of PRAGATI on August 28, marking the first meeting of his third term.

- Seven major projects were reviewed, with a total cost exceeding Rs. 76,500 crore, spanning road connectivity, rail, coal, power, and water resources sectors across 11 States and UTs.
- PM Modi stressed the importance of timely project completion to avoid cost overruns and ensure public benefits.
- He advocated for the “EkpedMaakeNaam” campaign to balance environmental concerns with development.
- AMRUT 2.0 and Jal Jeevan Mission were also reviewed, focusing on water issues in urban and rural areas.
- Emphasis was placed on effective grievance redressal and the need for robust Operation and Maintenance mechanisms for water projects.
- The Prime Minister suggested involving women self-help groups and youth for maintenance work, and highlighted the need for district-level water resource surveys and source sustainability.

67 Expansion of Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) for Enhanced Impact and Inclusivity

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi approved the following proposals: The Union Cabinet approved the progressive expansion of the Central Sector Scheme under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF). The expansion aims to make the scheme more attractive, impactful, and inclusive by broadening eligible projects and adding supportive measures.

Expansion of Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF): Objective: Broaden eligible projects and enhance the scheme’s attractiveness, impact, and inclusiveness.

Private FM Radio Channels:

- **Proposal:** 3rd batch of e-auctions for 730 FM radio channels across 234 new cities.
- **Reserve Price:** Rs 784.87 crore.

Financial Assistance for Hydro Electric Projects: Proposal: Central Financial Assistance to North Eastern States for equity in hydroelectric projects.

Railway Projects Approval:

- **Projects:** Two new lines and one multi-tracking project.

- **Cost:** Rs 6,456 crore.
- **Benefits:** Improved connectivity, reduced travel and logistics costs, and lower CO2 emissions.

Industrial Nodes/Cities under NICDP:

- **Approval:** 12 new industrial nodes/cities.
- **Investment:** Rs 28,602 crore.

68) Launch of Vehicle Scrapping Policy to Phase Out Polluting Vehicles and Promote Modernization

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MORTH) has launched the **Vehicle Scrapping Policy or Voluntary Vehicle Modernization Program (VVMP)** to create an ecosystem for phasing out unfit polluting vehicles across India. This policy will be implemented through a network of **Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities (RVSFs) and Automated Testing Stations (ATSS)**.

- **Objective:** Establish an ecosystem for phasing out unfit, polluting vehicles and replacing them with newer, less polluting models.
- **Implementation:** Through **Registered Vehicle Scrapping Facilities (RVSFs) and Automated Testing Stations (ATSS)**.
- **Tax Concessions:** Up to **25% off on motor vehicle tax for non-transport**

vehicles and up to 15% for transport vehicles. Waiver on pending liabilities for scrapped vehicles.

- **Discounts: Vehicle manufacturers will offer temporary discounts** against a **Scrappage Certificate. Discounts** will be available for a limited time (two years for commercial vehicles and one year for passenger vehicles).
- **Integration:** Scrapped vehicle details will be linked to the Vahan system for easy access.
- **OEM Discounts:** In addition to the scrappage value, discounts from Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) and existing incentives will apply.

69) Conference on Enhancing Disaster Preparedness and Resilience in India

The **Disaster Management (DM) Division of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), Ministry of Communications (MoC)**, in collaboration with the **National Telecommunications Institute for Policy Research, Innovation, and Training (NTIPRIT) and License Service Areas (LSA)**, Delhi organised the conference on **‘Experience Sharing and Capacity Building in Disaster Management’**, at enhancing **disaster preparedness and resilience in India.**

- **Inauguration:** Jointly led by **Madhu Arora (DoT)** and **RajendraRatnoo (NIDM)**, with participation from **Ravi G R (DG of Telecom)** and other senior officials.
- **Preparedness Measures:** Session chaired by **RajendraRatnoo** focusing on **local and national preparedness strategies and best practices.**
- **ICT in Disaster Management:** Session chaired by **Amit Prothi** highlighting the importance of telecommunications in **real-time data sharing, communication with responders, and maintaining connectivity during disasters.**

- **DigiLocker:** A digital document wallet under the Digital India program by the **Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)**, ensuring access to authentic digital documents.
- **Benefits:** Streamlines document verification, reduces chances of fake submissions, and allows job applicants to use digital documents equivalent to physical ones.
- **Additional Features:** Medical check-up calls and appointment letters will also be issued through **DigiLocker.**

70) Indian Railways Integrates DigiLocker with Hiring Portal to Accelerate Recruitment

Indian Railways Integrates DigiLocker with its Hiring Portal to Reduce Recruitment Time The Indian Railways (IR) has **integrated its recruitment portal with DigiLocker**, to reduce the recruitment process duration from **18-24 months to less than 6 months.**

- **Objective:** Reduce recruitment time from **18-24 months to under 6 months.**
- **Integration:** **Indian Railways'** recruitment portal now linked with **DigiLocker for streamlined document verification.**

Indian railways: Key people: **AshwiniVaishnaw** (Minister for Railways); **Satish Kumar, IRSME** (Chairperson and CEO)

71) Indian Army Launches Project NAMAN: SPARSH-Enabled Service Centres Nationwide **Project NAMAN** was launched by the **Indian Army** to provide dedicated support to **Defence pensioners, veterans, and their families.** It was inaugurated by **Chief of the Army Staff General UpendraDwivedi** and **Mrs. SunitaDwivedi, President of the Army Wives Welfare Association.**

- **SPARSH Digital Pension System:** The project is centered around the **SPARSH** system, which aims to streamline pension-related processes for **Defence pensioners.**

- **Common Service Centres (CSCs):** In the first phase, 14 CSCs have been established at key locations across India. These centers offer SPARSH-enabled pension services, Government to Citizen (G2C) services, and Business to Consumer (B2C) services.
- **MoU and Infrastructure:** A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Indian Army, CSC e-Governance India Limited, and HDFC Bank Limited in September 2023. HDFC Bank provided the IT infrastructure, while local military stations contributed the physical infrastructure.

72) NHPC, SECI, Railtel, and SJVN Gain Navratna Status

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman granted ‘Navratna’ status to four Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) – NHPC, Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI), Railtel Corporation of India (RCIL), and Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN). This brings the total number of Navratna CPSEs in India to 25.

- **Financial Performance:**
 - **Railtel Corporation:** Turnover of ₹2,622 crore and net profit of ₹246 crore for FY24.
 - **Solar Energy Corporation:** Turnover of ₹13,035 crore and net profit of ₹436 crore for FY24.

- **NHPC:** Turnover of ₹8,405 crore and net profit of ₹3,744 crore for FY24.
- **SJVN:** Turnover of ₹2,833 crore and net profit of ₹908 crore for FY24.
- **Impact of Navratna Status:** The status provides these CPSEs with increased financial and operational autonomy, enabling them to make independent decisions on capital expenditures, joint ventures, and organizational restructuring, thereby boosting their growth and efficiency.
- **SECI’s Role:** SECI plays a crucial role in India’s renewable energy sector, managing a generation capacity of 69.25 GW and trading over 42 billion units annually. The Navratna status will enhance SECI’s financial flexibility and strategic capabilities.
- **Navratna Criteria:** The status is awarded based on excellent performance, a composite score of 60 or above in key performance indicators, and the CPSEs’ Miniratna I and Schedule ‘A’ status. The scheme was introduced in 1997 to empower CPSEs with global expansion opportunities and operational autonomy.

73) Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya in collaboration with Airbus begins its first

executive training program for aviation sector in New Delhi

Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya in collaboration with Airbus has started its first executive training program for the aviation sector in New Delhi.

- **This three-day program, will be focused on Safety Management Systems for working professionals.**
- The program attracts participants from leading airlines as **well as representatives from Airbus and the Ministry of Civil Aviation.**
- This course is also being attended by international professionals, including four participants from Nepal and four from Bhutan.
- The instructors for the program are leading experts from the industry.

74) India and Saint Kitts and Nevis Sign MoU to Boost Sports Cooperation

On August 5 2024, the Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MYAS) of the Government of India (GoI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Denzil Llewellyn Douglas, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Saint Kitts and Nevis(SKN) in New

Delhi(Delhi) to enhance cooperation in various sport matters.

The MoU was signed during Denzil Douglas's official visit to India from August 4th to 9th, 2024

- Aim: Enhance sports capacities and promote mutual growth in athletic disciplines.
- Key areas of cooperation include athlete training, coach development, exchange programs, technology and infrastructure development, and sports research.
- Focus on youth and junior exchanges in sports like wrestling, kabaddi, badminton, shooting, and athletics.
- The Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis consists of two islands, with Basseterre as the capital and East Caribbean Dollar (XCD) as the currency.

75) EEPC India and ISSDA Sign MoU to Boost MSME Exports in Engineering and Stainless Steel Sectors

The Engineering Export Promotion Council of India (EEPC India) and the Indian Stainless Steel Development Association (ISSDA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to enhance the export of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

(MSME) members in the engineering and stainless steel sectors.

Signatories:

- **EEPC India:** Adhip Mitra, Executive Director
- **ISSDA:** Rohit Kumar, Executive Director
- **Other Attendees:** Rajamani Krishnamurti, President of ISSDA, and senior officials from EEPC India.

Objectives of the MoU:

- **Export Enhancement:** Identify potential export products and boost trade activities through trade exhibits, buyer-seller meetings, and economic summits. The agreement facilitates the transfer and exchange of trade and business information to member exporters.
- **International Investment:** Enhance trade information exchange and promote international investments through Joint Ventures (JVs) and technological collaboration.
- **Capacity Building:** Conduct regional capacity-building sessions to support the growth of the engineering goods and stainless steel sectors.

76) Reliance Foundation and India Meteorological Department Team Up to Protect Vulnerable Communities from Climate Change

The Reliance Foundation (RF) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the India Meteorological Department (IMD), under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MOES) to improve access to weather information for climate-vulnerable communities across India.

Objective:

- Improve access to weather information for climate-vulnerable communities in India
- Enhance forecasts, early warnings, and agro-advisories using new technologies

77) REC and JNPA Forge Rs 45,000 Crore Funding Agreement for Vadhavan Port Development

Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC), a Maharatna Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) under the Ministry of Power, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA)** to fund up to Rs 45,000 crore for various upcoming projects, including the development of Vadhavan Port in Maharashtra.

Rural Electrification Corporation Limited (REC):

- **Chairman and Managing Director:**
Vivek Kumar Dewangan

- **Role:** Public sector NBFC, PFI, and IFC providing loans for infrastructure projects.

Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA):

- **Chairman:** Unmesh Sharad Wagh
 - **Role:** Leading container-handling port managing about 50% of India's containerized cargo.

MoU Highlights:

- **Funding:** Up to Rs 45,000 crore allocated for various projects, including the development of Vadhavan Port.
- **Signatories:**
 - **REC:** Rahul Dwivedi, IAS, Executive Director
 - **JNPA:** Unmesh Sharad Wagh, Chairman
- **Inauguration Presence:** Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MOPSW).

78) ICAR-CIFE and VAMNICOM Sign MoU to Boost Cooperative Management in Fisheries Sector

On August 26, 2024, ICAR-Central Institute of Fisheries Education (ICAR-CIFE) and Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management

(VAMNICOM) signed an MoU to enhance cooperative management in the fisheries sector.

- The partnership aims to support the establishment of 2 lakh Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), **Dairy, and Fishery Cooperatives in every Panchayat.**
- The signing ceremony was attended by **Dr. Ravishankar CN, Director and Vice Chancellor of ICAR-CIFE, and Dr. Hema Yadav, Director of VAMNICOM, at ICAR-CIFE's Mumbai campus.**
- **The MoU focuses on integrating advanced technology and promoting value addition in fishery cooperatives.**

International News

1) UAE Joins BRICS to Launch Centre for Industrial Competences with UNIDO

UAE collaborates with BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) and UNIDO to establish a Centre for Industrial Competences.

- **Announcement:** Made at the 8th BRICS Industry Ministers Meeting in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia.
- **Theme:** “Strengthening Multilateralism for Equitable Global Development and Security.”
- **Future Meeting:** 9th BRICS Industry Ministers Meeting to be hosted by Brazil in 2025.
- **Centre Goals:** Support the New Industrial Revolution (NIR) framework, address industrial sector issues, and enhance industrial skills across member countries.
- **Focus Areas:** Working groups on chemicals, metals, SMEs, smart manufacturing, and clean technology.
- **Commitment:** BRICS members pledge cooperation on industrial policy to support UN’s Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9 on industry, innovation, and infrastructure.

2) Nepal To Export 1000 MW Electricity To India

Nepal will export nearly 1,000 MW of electricity to India, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said after meeting his Nepalese counterpart Arzu Rana Deuba in New Delhi on August 19. He went on to describe the development as a “new milestone“.

Key Development:

- **Announcement:** Nepal will export nearly 1,000 MW of electricity to India.
- **Significance:** External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar described this as a “new milestone” in India-Nepal relations.

Talks Overview:

- **Meeting:** External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Nepalese Foreign Minister Arzu Rana Deuba in New Delhi.
- **Topics Covered:**
 - **Energy Cooperation:** Notable electricity export agreement.
 - **Other Areas:** Trade, connectivity, and infrastructure development.

3) WHO declares Mpox as PHEIC for the second time

The World Health Organization (WHO) Director General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, declared mpox (monkeypox) disease a “public health emergency of international concern(PHEIC)” after an upsurge in the mpox case in the Democratic

Republic of Congo and other African countries. This is the second time **that mpox has been declared as PHEIC by WHO.** Earlier in **July 2022 it was declared as PHEIC by the WHO.**

- The monkeypox disease was renamed mpox by the WHO in November 2022 after complaints by countries that the disease’s original name was considered ‘racist and stigmatising’ in certain countries of the world.
- No such cases of Mpox have been detected in India so far.

Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)

Definition:

- **PHEIC** is the World Health Organization’s (WHO) highest alert level.
- Declared for serious, sudden, unusual, or unexpected health situations with implications beyond a country’s borders, potentially requiring international action.

Impact of WHO Declaration:

- **Legal Obligations:** Member countries must respond and take appropriate measures.

- **Funding:** Encourages international funding for research, vaccine, or medicine development.
- **Awareness:** Generates global public awareness about the disease.

Diseases Declared as PHEIC:

1. **H1N1 Influenza (2009):** Originated in Mexico; first PHEIC declaration.
2. **Wild Polio and Vaccine-Derived Poliovirus (2014):** Ongoing PHEIC affecting Afghanistan, Nigeria, and Pakistan.
3. **Ebola Virus (August 2014):** Outbreak in West Africa, spread to Europe and the US.
4. **Zika Virus (February 2016):** Started in Brazil; affected Latin America.
5. **Ebola Virus (July 2019):** Second declaration due to outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
6. **COVID-19 (January 2020):** Declared after the virus spread outside China.
7. **Monkeypox (July 2022):** Also known as Mpox; spread globally.
8. **Mpox (August 2024):** Current declaration.

4) Ancient Solar Calendar Discovered in Turkey: A Glimpse into Prehistoric Timekeeping

In a groundbreaking discovery, archaeologists may have

uncovered the world's oldest solar calendar at the renowned archaeological site of Göbekli Tepe in southern Turkey. This finding, published in the journal *Time and Mind* on July 24, offers a fascinating glimpse into the sophisticated astronomical knowledge of our ancient ancestors.

- **Publication:** The findings were published in *Time and Mind* on July 24.
- **Artifact:** A large stone pillar with intricate carvings, estimated to be about 13,000 years old.
- **Calendar System:** The pillar features 365 V-shaped symbols, suggesting a 365-day calendar similar to modern systems.
- **Lunar-Solar Hybrid:** The calendar includes 12 lunar months and an additional 11 days, indicating advanced knowledge of both lunar and solar cycles.
- **Symbolism:** The carvings include a “bird-like beast” with a V-shaped marking, possibly representing the summer solstice constellation from around 10850 B.C.

5) Germany Joins the United Nations Command (UNC) in South Korea

- On August, 2024, the Federal Republic of Germany officially became the 18th member of the United Nations

Command (UNC) in Pyeongtaek, South Korea, which is led by the United States of America (USA).

- This is the first expansion of the UNC since Italy was reinstated in 2013.

Role of the UNC:

- The UNC was established on July 7, 1950, following the UN's recognition of North Korea's aggression against South Korea.
- It is responsible for policing the heavily fortified border with North Korea and is committed to defending South Korea in the event of war.
- The UNC is led by the commander of the USA military stationed in South Korea, but it is not affiliated with the United Nations (UN).

6) India Announces \$300 Million Loan to Vietnam During Vietnam PM Visit

The government of India has announced two loans totalling \$300 million to Vietnam during the visit of the Prime Minister of Vietnam, Pham Minh Chinh. The loan is for strengthening Vietnam's maritime security.

- The Vietnamese Prime Minister was on an official three-day, from 30 July to -1 August 2024 visit to India.

- **Nine agreements** were signed between India and Vietnam during the visit of the Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh. During the visit, it was announced that Vietnam will join the **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**.

Significance of the Vietnamese Prime Visit to India

This is the first visit of a Vietnamese leader to India after India and Vietnam established their **comprehensive strategic partnership in September 2016**. India became the third country in 2016 after China (2008) and Russia (2012), with which Vietnam has signed a comprehensive strategic partnership. India has a close relationship with Vietnam and shares strong defence ties.

7) Nelson Mandela Legacy Sites Inscribed as UNESCO World Heritage

- In a momentous decision that celebrates the life and legacy of one of the world's most revered leaders, **the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)** has **inscribed several iconic South African sites associated with Nelson Mandela as World Heritage Sites**.
- **This recognition, announced during the 46th session of the UNESCO World**

Heritage Committee in New Delhi, marks a significant milestone in preserving the memory of South Africa's journey from apartheid to democracy.

8) President Droupadi Murmu conferred highest honour – Companion of the Order of Fiji in capital Suva

President Droupadi Murmu who is on a **two-day visit to Fiji**, was conferred **the Companion of the Order of Fiji, the highest honour of Fiji by the President of Fiji**. **President Murmu** addressed the Fijian Parliament where she recalled the 75 years diplomatic association between the countries.

- **Honor Conferred:** Companion of the Order of Fiji, the highest honor of Fiji
- **Ceremonial Events:**
 - **Arrival:** Received a ceremonial guard of honor from the Fiji Military Force.
 - **Welcome Ceremony:** Held in Suva with Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka.
- **Bilateral Meeting:** Held with Fijian President Williame Katonivere at State House.
- **Address to Fijian Parliament:**
 - Recalled 75 years of diplomatic relations between India and Fiji.

- Expressed gratitude for Fiji's support of India's Aditya L1 Mission.
- Mentioned India's support to Fiji during the COVID-19 crisis through the Vaccine Maitri initiative.
- Highlighted the importance of the Global South in advocating for climate justice and addressing concerns of developing nations.

10) Australia Announces Maitri Grants For Research And Cultural Collaboration With India

The Australian government has unveiled the **Maitri Research and Cultural Partnerships Grants**. These grants, aimed at fostering **Australia-India collaboration**, encompass **sustainable manufacturing, energy transition research, and artistic projects**. Minister Penny Wong praised the initiatives for **strengthening bilateral ties, emphasizing the importance of human connections in the relationship**.

Key Projects and Goals of these grants

- Among the recipients are projects focused on **sustainable manufacturing of Australian technology in India**, workshops connecting **Australian energy transition researchers with Indian start-ups, and**

an artistic duo transforming Melbourne's Federation Square into a living canvas.

- **The Maitri grants, administered by the Centre for Australia-India Relations, aim to deepen links and allow for closer collaboration between the two countries.**
- **The five Maitri Research Grants will explore opportunities in agribusiness, critical technology, energy transition, and advanced manufacturing.**

11) India and Uzbekistan Strengthen Audit Cooperation with New MoU

The **Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)** and the **Chamber of Accounts of Uzbekistan** have signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** in **Tashkent, Uzbekistan**, aimed at enhancing collaboration and expertise in **auditing between the two countries**.

Signatories:

- **Girish Chandra Murmu: CAG of India**
- **Adiz Muzaffarovich Boboyev: Chairman of the Chamber of Accounts of Uzbekistan**

Benefits of the MoU:

1. Knowledge Sharing:

- **Facilitates the exchange of best practices and innovative auditing**

solutions, creating a global network of auditing expertise.

2. Capacity Building:

- Enhances skills and capabilities of auditing professionals to effectively handle complex government audits.

3. Promoting Best Practices:

- Contributes to the development of resilient and sustainable governance frameworks.

12) India-Japan Green Ammonia Export Agreement Signed

Union Minister Pralhad Venkatesh

Joshi, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) chaired the signing ceremony of the **first-ever Heads of Terms (HoT) agreement for exporting Green Ammonia from India to Japan.**

Event: Union Minister Pralhad Venkatesh Joshi chaired the signing ceremony of the first Heads of Terms (HoT) agreement for exporting Green Ammonia from India to Japan.

Parties Involved:

- **India:** Singapore-based Sembcorp Green Hydrogen Pte. Ltd.
- **Japan:** Sojitz Corporation, Kyushu Electric Power Company, and NYK Line.

- **Singapore:** Sembcorp Industries Limited, Asia's leading energy provider.

Significance: This agreement marks the first collaboration between India, Singapore, and Japan, emphasizing India's role in the global green energy sector.

Economy news

1) SBI Projects India's GDP Growth of 7.0% to 7.1% for Q1 FY 2024-25

According to State Bank of India (SBI's) Economic Research Department (ERD) report- 'Ecowrap', India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is expected to grow by **7.0% to 7.1%** in 1st Quarter (Q1: April-June) of Financial Year 2024-25(FY 25).

• GDP Growth Projection:

- **Estimated Range:** 7.0% to 7.1% for Q1 FY 2024-25 (April-June).

• Gross Value Added (GVA):

- **Estimated Range:** 6.7% to 6.8%, with a downward bias.

• Corporate Sector Performance:

- **Top-line and Bottom-line Growth:** 9% growth reported by around 4,000 listed entities compared to Q1 FY24.
- **Corporate GVA:** Increased by approximately 10.9% in Q1 FY25,

down from 17% in Q4 FY24 and 26% in Q3 FY24.

- **Agricultural Sector Growth:**
 - **Estimated Range:** 4.5% to 5% in FY25, which is about 30 basis points higher than the RBI forecast.

2) Goldman Sachs Lowers India's GDP Forecast for 2024 and 2025

Goldman Sachs Group Inc. has revised its **GDP growth forecasts for India**, lowering the projections by 20 basis points (bps) for **both Calendar Year 2024 (CY24) and Calendar Year 2025 (CY25)**.

- **Revised GDP Growth Estimates:**
 - **CY24:** 6.7%
 - **CY25:** 6.4%

3) Impact of Climate Extremes on India: World Economic Forum Report

According to the **World Economic Forum (WEF)**, India lost **33.9 million hectares (ha)** of crops due to excess rains and an additional **35million ha** due to drought during 2015 to 2021.

Key Findings:

- **Crop Losses (2015-2021):**
 - **Excess Rains:** 33.9 million hectares

- **Drought:** 35 million hectares
- **Economic and Social Impact:**
 - **Agriculture:** Contributes 15% of India's GDP and employs 40% of the population; severely impacted by climate extremes.
 - **Economic Losses (2021):** Nearly USD 160 billion due to lost working hours from extreme climate events.
- **Insurance Gap:** A significant coverage gap prevents many from protecting their livelihoods against extreme weather and climate change.

4) DSP MF Launches India's First Nifty Top 10 Equal Weight Index Fund and ETF

DSP Mutual Fund (DSP MF) has introduced **India's inaugural Nifty Top 10 Equal Weight Index Fund and its corresponding Exchange Traded Fund (ETF)**. This initiative aims to offer investors **balanced exposure to the top 10 companies on the Nifty Index by allocating equal weight to each stock in the portfolio**.

Key Details:

- **New Fund Offer (NFO):**
 - **Open for Subscription:** August 16, 2024
 - **Closes on:** August 30, 2024
- **Fund Characteristics:**

- **DSP Nifty Top 10 Equal Weight Index Fund:** Tracks the Nifty Top 10 Equal Weight Index.
- **DSP Nifty Top 10 Equal Weight ETF:** Mirrors the returns of the Nifty Top 10 Equal Weight Index.
- **Investment Objective:**
 - To provide returns consistent with the performance of the Nifty Top 10 Equal Weight Index, subject to tracking error.

5) Retail Inflation Eases to 5-Year Low of 3.5% in July

India's retail inflation rate, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), fell to 3.54% in July, reaching a nearly 5-year low. This decline is attributed to a high base effect and a significant drop in food prices. The inflation rate has dipped below the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) medium-term target of 4% for the first time since August 2019. Despite this, the RBI is expected to maintain its current policy stance.

Food Inflation

Food inflation decreased substantially to 5.42% in July from 9.36% in June. Key contributors to this decline include reduced price increases for vegetables (6.83%), cereals (8.14%), fruits (3.84%), milk (2.99%), and sugar (5.22%). However, pulses saw a double-digit rise of 14.8%, and protein-rich items like

eggs (6.76%) and meat and fish (5.97%) experienced higher inflation.

6) Government of India Relaxes Long-Term Capital Gains (LTCG) Rules for Real Estate

- The Government of India (GOI) announced that it has relaxed Long Term Capital Gains (LTCG) Rules on real estate which will provide relief to property owners in India.
- Now property owners will have the option to choose between two tax rates either a 20% rate with indexation benefits, or a 12.5% rate without indexation for properties purchased before July 23, 2024 to ensure lower tax ability.

Key Changes:

- **Option for Tax Rates:** Property owners can now choose between two LTCG tax rates:
 - 20% with indexation benefits
 - 12.5% without indexation
- **Eligibility:** This option is available for properties purchased before 23rd July 2024.

Indexation:

- **Indexation** is a method to adjust capital gains for inflation during the ownership period, calculated using the Cost Price Index (CPI).

7) World Bank's 'World Development Report 2024: The Middle Income Trap'

The World Bank (WB) has released its report titled 'World Development Report(WDR) 2024: The Middle Income Trap', highlighting the challenges faced by middle-income countries in achieving high-income status.

- **Middle-Income Trap:** The report discusses the challenges middle-income countries face in transitioning to high-income status, a phenomenon known as the 'middle-income trap.'
- **Country Comparisons:**
 - India: Estimated to take 75 years to reach one-quarter of the USA's income per capita.
 - China: Expected to take over 10 years.
 - Indonesia: Projected to take nearly 70 years.
- **Economic Insights:**
 - The trap typically occurs when a country's GDP per capita reaches about 10% of the USA's GDP per person, approximately USD 8,000 today.
- **Global Context:**
 - As of the end of 2023, 108 middle-income countries contribute to 40% of the world's economic output, nearly two-thirds of global carbon emissions, and house three-quarters of the global population.

8) Ind-Ra Raises FY25 GDP Growth Forecast to 7.5%

India Ratings & Research (Ind-Ra) has increased its forecast for India's GDP growth in FY25 to 7.5%, up from the previous estimate of 7.1%. This revised projection surpasses the RBI's forecast of 7.2% and the Finance Ministry's Economic Survey estimate of 6.5-7%. The upward revision is attributed to expected improvements in consumption demand driven by government policies and increased capex.

Key Drivers

- **Government Initiatives:** The union budget's focus on enhancing agricultural and rural spending, improving credit access for MSMEs, and incentivizing employment is anticipated to boost consumption demand across various income brackets.
- **Corporate and Bank Balance Sheets:** A reduction in corporate and bank leverage, alongside a potential rise in private corporate capex, is expected to support economic growth.

9) GST Collection Surges 10.3% in July 2024 to ₹1.82 Lakh Crore

In July 2024, India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections rose by 10.3% to ₹1,82,075 crore, marking a significant increase from ₹1,65,105 crore in July 2023. This uptick

highlights strong domestic consumption and economic resilience.

Key Figures and Trends

- **July 2024 Collection:** ₹1,82,075 crore, a 10.3% year-on-year increase.
- **Year-to-Date 2024:** Total GST collections stand at ₹7,38,894 crore, up 10.2% from ₹6,70,766 crore in the same period of 2023.
- **Monthly Records:** April 2024 recorded ₹2,10,000 crore, May and June saw ₹1,73,000 crore and ₹1,74,000 crore, respectively.
- **2023-24 Fiscal Year:** Gross GST collections amounted to ₹20,18,000 crore, an 11.7% increase from the previous fiscal year. The average monthly collection was ₹1,68,000 crore, surpassing the previous year's average of ₹1,50,000 crore.

Banking news

1) RBI Imposes Penalties on UCO Bank and Cent Bank Home Finance Ltd

RBI Imposes Penalties on UCO Bank and Cent Bank Home Finance Ltd The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has levied penalties on two financial

entities for regulatory non-compliance. UCO Bank has been fined Rs 2.68 crore for violating provisions related to current account openings, deposit interest rates, and fraud classification. Meanwhile, Cent Bank Home Finance Ltd faces a Rs 2.1 lakh penalty for failing to adhere to **Know Your Customer (KYC) regulations**. The RBI clarified that these penalties are imposed for regulatory compliance issues and do not impact the validity of transactions or agreements between the banks and their customers.

Penalty Details:

- **UCO Bank:** Fined Rs 2.68 crore for violations related to current account openings, deposit interest rates, and fraud classification.
- **Cent Bank Home Finance Ltd:** Fined Rs 2.1 lakh for non-compliance with Know Your Customer (KYC) regulations.

2) BOBCARD Limited Launches 'ETERNA' Luxury Credit Card at GFF 2024

BOBCARD Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Bank of Baroda, unveiled its **high-end credit card, 'ETERNA'**, at the **5th Global Fintech Festival (GFF) 2024** in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**. This new luxury credit card is tailored to meet the needs of an affluent consumer base, offering exceptional value in dining, travel, retail, and luxury segments.

About ETERNA Credit Card:

- **Platform:** Available on the RuPay platform.
- **Annual Fee:** Rs 2,499.
- **Partnership:** Developed in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- **Features:**
 - Combines the convenience of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) payments with a range of exclusive benefits.
 - Offers the lowest forex markup in its category.
 - UPI convenience for international travel and daily purchases.

Key Benefits:

- **Exclusive Perks:**
 - Accelerated rewards on luxury shopping.
 - 1+1 movie ticket per month.
 - Activation bonus.
 - Spend-based fee waiver.

3) ESAF Small Finance Bank Launches INORI RuPay Platinum Credit Card

Thrissur-based ESAF Small Finance Bank (SFB) has introduced the **INORI RuPay Platinum Credit Card**, a premium offering designed to provide exclusive benefits and

privileges to its cardholders. The card was developed in partnership with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** and aims to enhance **the banking experience with a range of sophisticated features.**

Key Features of the INORI RuPay Platinum Credit Card:

- **Name Origin:** 'INORI' is derived from the Japanese word for 'wish,' reflecting the bank's commitment to fulfilling customer desires and expectations.
- **Support:** Utilizes the secure RuPay network and the robust infrastructure of NPCI.
- **Rewards:**
 - Exciting cashback offers on monthly transactions.
 - Comprehensive insurance coverage up to Rs 2 lakh.
 - Access to exclusive merchant offers.
- **Additional Benefits:**
 - Personalized services for travel, dining, and lifestyle needs.
 - International acceptance.

4) NPCI Unveils New Digital Payment Solutions: BBPS for Business and UPI Circle

On August 2024, the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has announced the

introduction of two new transformative digital payment solutions namely, **Bharat Bill Pay System (BBPS) for Business and Unified Payments Interface (UPI) Circle**, which enables payments to users.

Event: Announced at the **Global FinTech Festival (GFF) 2024** in Mumbai by **Shaktikanta Das, Governor of RBI**.

BBPS for Business:

- **Overview:** An interoperable platform by NPCI designed to enhance Business-to-Business (B2B) transactions across various ERP and accounting systems.
- **Aim:** To streamline, simplify, and automate invoice payment processes for businesses of all sizes.
- **Features:** Includes business onboarding, search and add business, Purchase Order (PO) creation, invoice management, financing, and comprehensive Accounts Receivable (AR) and Accounts Payable (AP) dashboards.
- **Benefit:** Digitalizes manual processes, offering a comprehensive solution for managing daily business operations efficiently.

5) RBI Recognizes FACE as First Self-Regulating Organization in Fintech Sector

On August 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced that it has recognised Fintech Association for Consumer Empowerment (FACE) as the 1st Self-Regulating Organisation in the Fintech sector (SRO-FT). The recognition of FACE as an SRO sets a new benchmark for self-regulation in India's rapidly evolving fintech industry.

- **Recognition:** Fintech Association for Consumer Empowerment (FACE) is recognized as the first Self-Regulating Organization in the Fintech sector (SRO-FT) by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- **Applications:** RBI reviewed three applications for SRO-FT status. One application was returned for resubmission, and one is still under consideration.
- **SRO Role:** Responsible for setting regulatory standards, promoting ethical conduct, ensuring market integrity, resolving disputes, and fostering transparency among its members.

SRO-FT Framework:

- **Release:** Final framework issued by RBI in May 2024.
- **Scope:** Must represent the fintech sector, including NBFC-Account Aggregators (AA) and NBFC-Peer-to-Peer (P2P) lending platforms, excluding banks.

- **Definition:** Fintechs are entities providing technological solutions for financial services in partnership with traditional financial institutions.
- **Objective:** SRO-FT will align its members with regulatory priorities and operate with objectivity, credibility, and responsibility.

Eligibility Criteria for SRO-FT:

- **Status:** Must be a Not-for-Profit company registered under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013.
- **Shareholding:** Diversified; no entity can hold 10% or more of the paid-up capital.
- **Financial Requirement:** Must have at least Rs 2 crore within one year of recognition or before starting operations.
- **Restrictions:** Cannot set up overseas entities or offices without prior RBI approval.

6) RBI Imposes Rs 1.25 Lakh Penalty on Valsad Mahila Nagrik Sahakari Bank for Regulatory Non-Compliance

RBI Imposes Monetary Penalty Of Rs1.25 lakh on Valsad Mahila Nagrik Sahakari Bank The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of Rs. 1.25 lakh on the Gujarat based Valsad Mahila Nagrik Sahakari Bank Limited for non-

compliance with the directions issued by the RBI.

- **Penalty Amount:** Rs 1.25 lakh
- **Bank:** Valsad Mahila Nagrik Sahakari Bank Limited, Gujarat

Reasons for Penalty:

- **Non-compliance with RBI directives on income recognition, asset classification, and provisioning.**
- Issues related to **Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs), Credit Information Companies (CICs) membership, Know Your Customer (KYC) norms, and deposit account maintenance for Primary UCBs.**

Regulatory Basis: Imposed under:

- **Section 47A (1) (c)** of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949
- **Sections 46 (4) (i) and 56** of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949
- **Section 25** of the Credit Information Companies (Regulation) Act, 2005

7) RBI Launches Unified Lending Interface (ULI) Platform Nationwide

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das introduced ULI at the 'Global Conference on Digital Public

Infrastructure and Emerging Technologies' in Bengaluru on August 26, 2024.

Pilot Program: Launched in 2023, ULI will soon be available nationwide.

Key Features:

- **Simplified Credit Appraisals:** Facilitates easier credit evaluations, especially for small and rural borrowers.
- **Digital Information Flow:** Enables seamless consent-based access to land records, PAN, Aadhaar, and credit histories.
- **Standardized APIs:** Reduces technical integration complexity and accelerates credit approvals with minimal documentation.

Background: ULI is inspired by the success of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), launched in 2016.

8) Jana Small Finance Bank Wins Four Awards at ICC Emerging Asia Banking Conclave & Awards 2024

Bengaluru (Karnataka) based Jana Small Finance Bank (SFB) Limited was honoured with 4 awards: **Best Small Finance Bank (India), Best Performance on Profitability (Runners-up), Best Performance on Asset Quality, and Best Performance on Risk Management**, at the 2nd

ICC Emerging Asia Banking Conclave & Awards (2024), organised by the **Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC)** on **22nd and 23rd August 2024** in **New Delhi, Delhi.**

Awards Received by Jana Small Finance Bank:

- **Best Small Finance Bank (India)**
- **Best Performance on Profitability (Runners-up)**
- **Best Performance on Asset Quality**
- **Best Performance on Risk Management**

Event Details:

- **Occasion:** 2nd ICC Emerging Asia Banking Conclave & Awards 2024
- **Dates:** August 22-23, 2024
- **Organized by:** Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC)
- **Location:** New Delhi, Delhi

Other Award:

- **Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited (J&K Bank):**
 - **Award:** Best Performance on Profitability (Private Sector Bank – Mid-Size category)

9) Tata AIA Life Launches 'Sampoorna Raksha Promise'

Tata AIA Life Insurance has recently unveiled its latest offering in the **term insurance segment**

– **Sampoorna Raksha Promise.** This innovative product is designed to provide **enhanced financial security to policyholders and their families, addressing various aspects of life insurance needs.**

Key Features:

- **Instant Payout:** ₹3 lakh immediate payout upon death claim to cover urgent expenses.
- **Premium Deferral:** Option to postpone premium payments for up to 12 months once every five years.
- **Terminal Illness Benefit:**
 - 50% of base sum assured paid out immediately.
 - Future premiums waived, with policy benefits continuing.

Plan Options:

1. **Life Promise:** Coverage up to age 100, with a sum assured payable upon death.
2. **Life Promise Plus:**
 - Same coverage as Life Promise.
 - Additional benefit: 100% refund of total premiums paid if the policyholder survives to maturity (excludes modal premiums and discounts).

Additional Benefits:

- **Life Stage Facility:** Increase coverage during major life events (e.g., marriage, childbirth, home loan) without additional underwriting.
- **Accelerated Instant Death Benefit:** ₹3 lakh payout within one working day after a three-year waiting period.
- **Flexi Pay Benefit:** Allows premium deferral for up to 12 months without extra cost, maintaining full coverage.

Discounts:

- **Digital Discount:** 10% off the first year's premium for online purchases.
- **Salaried Discount:** 5% off for salaried individuals.
- **Milestone Discount:** 2% off for life milestones (e.g., marriage, childbirth, first job, home loan).
- **Women's Discount:** 15% lower premium for women compared to men.

10) RBI Approves IndusInd Bank's Wholly Owned Asset Management Subsidiary

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) granted approval to **IndusInd Bank Limited** to set up a wholly owned subsidiary to undertake **the asset management business of Mutual Funds(MF).**

- **Approval Date:** Recently granted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

- **New Subsidiary:** IndusInd Bank Limited is authorized to set up a wholly owned Asset Management Company (AMC) for Mutual Funds (MF).
- **Key Features:**
 - **Operations:** The new AMC will handle mutual fund operations and benefit from equity infusion by the bank.
 - **Broader Offerings:** Enables IndusInd Bank to offer a wider range of investment options to customers.
 - **Expansion Goal:** Aligns with the bank's objective to expand its financial services and enhance its market share in asset management.
- **Capital Infusion:** IndusInd Bank can infuse equity into the new subsidiary to diversify its portfolio and access the growing mutual fund market in India.

11) RBI Guv Shaktikanta Das's performance rated A+ for 2nd consecutive year

Shaktikanta Das, RBI Governor, has been rated A+ for the second consecutive year in the Global Finance Central Banker Report 2024.

- **Congratulatory Note:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Das on his achievement.

- **Report Release Date:** The report was released by Global Finance magazine on August 19, 2024.

Criteria for Rating:

- **Controlling Inflation**
- **Managing Interest Rates**
- **Promoting Economic Growth**
- **Maintaining Exchange Rate Stability**

Global Recognition: Das, along with Christian Kettel Thomsen (Denmark) and Thomas Jordan (Switzerland), received the A+ rating, the highest grade.

12) SEBI Introduces New Borrowing Guidelines for AIFs and Extends Tenure for LVFs

On August 2024, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has introduced new guidelines for borrowing by **Category-I and Category-II Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)**. It has also extended the maximum permissible **limit of tenure by Large Value Fund for Accredited Investors (LVFs)**.

- **New Guidelines:**
 - **Borrowing:** Category-I and Category-II AIFs can borrow for up to 30 days to meet temporary or operational needs, up to 4 times a year, not exceeding 10% of investable funds.

- **Tenure Extension:** Large Value Funds for Accredited Investors (LVFIs) can extend their tenure up to 5 years with consent from two-thirds of unit holders.
- **Regulations:** Amendments made to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Alternative Investment Funds) Regulations, 2012.
- **New Framework:** SEBI has introduced a framework allowing Venture Capital Funds (VCFs) to transition to AIF regulations.

13) NPCI Launches “UPI Circle” Feature for Delegated Payments on UPI Platform

The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched a new “UPI Circle” feature on its **Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform**. This new feature will enable the primary UPI account holders to securely delegate payment responsibilities to trusted secondary users.

- **Feature Launch:** NPCI introduces “UPI Circle” to enhance payment delegation on UPI.
- **Announcement:** Introduced during the RBI’s Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting in August 2024.
- **Objective:** Improve convenience and security in digital transactions.

Functionality:

- **Primary User:** Account holder who creates and manages the circle, controlling delegation.
- **Secondary User:** Trusted individual with granted access for payments.

Delegation Types:

- **Full Delegation:** Secondary users can make transactions within set limits without further approval.
- **Partial Delegation:** Secondary users initiate transactions, but the primary user must authorize and complete them using their UPI PIN.

14) Udaan Partners with MOCAF&PD and SIDBI to Transform Fair Price Shops into Jan Poshan Kendras

Udaan, a B2B (Business to Business) e-commerce company, has partnered with the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution (MOCAF&PD)**, and the **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** to transform **Fair Price Shops (FPSs) into Jan Poshan Kendras (JPK)**.

- **Partnership Goals:** Enhance FPS dealers’ income and expand product offerings by converting Fair Price Shops (FPSs) into Jan Poshan Kendras (JPK).

- **Pilot Launch:** Initiated in 60 FPSs across Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, and Gujarat.
- **Key Figures:** Union Minister Pralhad Joshi (MOCAF&PD), Manoj Mittal (CMD, SIDBI), Vaibhav Gupta (co-founder and CEO, Udaan).
- **Partnership Details:** JPKs will receive credit from SIDBI for purchasing food grains and FMCG products, with access to over 3,500 products via Udaan's eB2B platform.

About SIDBI:

- **Established:** April 2, 1990, under an Indian Parliament Act.
- **Role:** Principal financial institution for MSME promotion, financing, and development.
- **CMD:** Manoj Mittal
- **Headquarters:** Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

15) RBI Tightens Regulations for NBFC-P2P Lending Platforms

The RBI has updated the 2017 Master Directions for NBFC-P2P platforms, effective immediately, with fund transfer timelines starting November 15, 2024.

- **Prohibition on Cross-Selling:** P2P platforms are restricted from cross-selling non-loan-specific insurance products.

- **Investment Tool Restrictions:** P2P platforms are barred from promoting P2P lending as an investment tool with assured returns.
- **Board-Approved Loan Disbursal:** Loans can only be disbursed if lenders and borrowers are matched according to a board-approved policy.
- **Escrow Account Requirement:** Fund transfers between participants must occur via escrow accounts managed by bank-promoted trustees, with separate accounts for lenders and borrowers.
- **Loan Exposure Cap:** Lenders' aggregate exposure to borrowers on P2P platforms is capped at Rs 50 lakh.

About RBI:

- **Governor:** Shaktikanta Das (25th Governor)
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Established:** April 1, 1935

16) RBL Bank Launches Special 'Vijay Fixed Deposits' for Independence Day

RBL Bank Limited, formerly known as Ratnakar Bank Limited, has introduced a special edition of 'Vijay Fixed Deposits (FD)' to celebrate India's 78th Independence Day. This limited-time offer honors the bravery of soldiers while offering attractive financial benefits.

- **Special Tenor:** Vijay Fixed Deposit (FD) is a 500-day scheme for deposits below Rs 3 crore.
- **Interest Rates:** Offers 8.85% p.a. for super senior citizens, 8.60% p.a. for senior citizens, and 8.1% p.a. for regular customers.
- **Availability:** Accessible via the RBL Bank MoBank App or at the nearest branch.
- **UPI and NCMC Integration:** On August 1, 2024, RBL Bank became the first private sector bank in India to integrate UPI and National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) features on RuPay Credit Cards.

17) Punjab National Bank (PNB) Launches 'PNB ANTAH DRISHTI' Braille Debit Card

Punjab National Bank (PNB) has launched 'PNB ANTAH DRISHTI Braille Debit Card', a new initiative designed for Visually Impaired (VI) customers. The contactless National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) debit card is accessible on the RuPay network.

The launch of the **new braille debit card** reflects the **bank's commitment to inclusivity and financial accessibility.**

Objective:

- **Inclusivity:** Designed for Visually Impaired (VI) customers to enhance financial independence and convenience.

Card Details:

- **Type:** Contactless National Common Mobility Card (NCMC)
- **Network:** Accessible on the RuPay network
- **Eligibility:** Available to visually impaired individuals with savings or current accounts at any PNB branch.

Features:

1. **Raised Braille Dots:** The card displays the brand name 'PNB' in Braille. The accompanying welcome letter is also in Braille.
2. **Rounded Notch:** Facilitates orientation of the card during use in ATMs or Point of Sale (POS) terminals by indicating the card's direction.

Features of the 'PNB ANTAH DRISHTI' Braille Debit Card

1. **Rounded Notch:**
 1. **Feature:** Rounded notch on the opposite side of the chip.
 2. **Purpose:** Helps cardholders identify the card's orientation during ATM or Point of Sale (POS) transactions.
3. **Glossy Spot UV Lamination Effect:**

2. **Bank's Logo:** Raised texture with glossy spot UV lamination.
 3. **Contactless Symbol:** Rough spot UV silk screen.
 4. **Benefit:** Aids visually impaired users in locating the bank's logo and reading the contactless symbol.
 5. **Contrasting Colours:**
 6. **Purpose:** Enhances readability of card details for visually impaired customers.
 7. **Transaction Limits:**
4. **Contactless Transactions:** Up to Rs. 5,000 per day at NFC-enabled PoS terminals without a PIN.
 5. **ATM Withdrawals:** Rs. 25,000 per day.
 6. **PoS Transactions:** Rs. 60,000 per day.

18) L&T Finance Achieves NBFC-ICC Status from RBI

L&T Finance Ltd. has transitioned from an **NBFC-Core Investment Company (NBFC-CIC)** to a **Non-Banking Financial Company (Investment and Credit Company) (NBFC-ICC)** following the merger of its wholly-owned subsidiaries, including **L&T Finance, L&T Infra Credit Ltd., and L&T Mutual Fund Trustee Ltd.** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued the certificate of registration on August 2. This change in registration is not expected to affect the company's compliance with the NBFC-ICC guidelines.

- **Compliance:** The change is not expected to impact compliance with NBFC-ICC guidelines.
- **Record Net Profit:** In Q1FY25, L&T Finance reported a net profit of ₹685 crore, a 29% year-on-year increase.
- **Loan Book Growth:** The company's consolidated loan book grew by 13% to ₹88,717 crore, with retail loans making up 95% of this total.
- **Stock Performance:** Despite a recent 0.77% decline, the stock has risen 2.31% year-to-date and 29.84% over the past year.

19) RBL Bank Launches "Vijay Fixed Deposits" to Celebrate 78th Independence Day

RBL Bank introduces "Vijay Fixed Deposits" in honor of India's 78th Independence Day.

- **Interest Rates:** Offers 8.85% p.a. for super senior citizens, 8.60% p.a. for senior citizens, and 8.1% p.a. for regular customers on a 500-day fixed deposit.
- **Booking Options:** Customers can book through the RBL Bank MoBank app or by visiting a branch.
- **Limited-Time Offer:** Available for deposits below Rs 3 crore.
- **Recent Innovations:** On August 1, 2024, RBL Bank became the first private bank in India to integrate UPI and NCMC features on RuPay Credit Cards.

- **Bank Overview:**

- **Established:** Originally founded as Ratnakar Bank in 1943, rebranded to RBL Bank in 2014.
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, India.
- **Branches:** 545 branches across 28 states and Union Territories.
- **Customer Base:** Approximately 15.90 million customers.
- **Recent Initiatives:** Integration of UPI and NCMC features on RuPay Credit Cards.

20) SEBI Report on Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) in India – FY24

According to a report by the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)**, the United States led **Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI)** in India during the **Fiscal Year 2023-24 (FY24)**, with **3,457** registered FPIs. **Luxembourg and Canada** followed with **1,393** and **804** FPIs, respectively.

Key Highlights:

- **Total FPIs:** As of March 31, 2024, the total number of FPIs in India rose to **11,219**, up from **11,081** in FY23.
- **FPI Inflows:** FY24 recorded the highest FPI inflows into **India since 1992-93**.
- **Assets Under Custody (AUC):** By **March 31, 2024**, the **AUC of FPIs** saw a

significant increase of **42.8%**, reaching **Rs 69.5 lakh crore**, up from **Rs 48.7 lakh crore** on **March 31, 2023**. This rise reflects growing foreign investor confidence in India.

Equity Assets:

- **Distribution:** Equity assets constituted **92.2%** of the total AUC.
- **Top Contributors:**
 - The USA contributed **39.2%** of the total equity assets.
 - Singapore followed with a **9.8%** share.
 - Luxembourg contributed **7.1%**.

This surge in **FPI** and **AUC** growth underscores **India's** attractiveness as an investment destination, driven by robust economic performance and a favorable regulatory environment.

SEBI:

- **Founded:** 12 April 1988
- **Founder:** Government of India
- **Agency executive:** Madhabi Puri Buch, Chairperson
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra

21) RBI Constitutes Expert Committee on Statistics – August, 2024

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has established a 10-member expert committee chaired by Dr. Michael Debabrata Patra, Deputy Governor of RBI. The purpose of this committee is to benchmark RBI's regularly disseminated statistics against global standards and best practices.

Key Responsibilities:

- **Quality Assessment:** The committee will evaluate the quality of various statistics published by the RBI, such as the **Consumer Confidence Survey (CCS), Balance of Payments (BOP), Foreign Trade Statistics (FTS), India's External Debt, and the Handbook of Statistics on the Indian Economy.**
- **Benchmarking:** It will assess these statistics against international benchmarks and best practices.
- **Guidance on Data Refinement:** The committee will also explore areas where routine data lacks existing benchmarks, including sectors like national security, and provide recommendations for further data refinement.

Timeline: The expert committee is expected to submit its report by the end of November 2024.

22) Axis Bank Launches "PRIMUS" Ultra-Premium Credit Card for Ultra-High-Net-Worth Individuals

Axis Bank has partnered with Visa Inc. to launch the "PRIMUS" credit card, targeting Ultra-High-Net-Worth (UHNW) individuals in India.

- **Exclusive Offering:** The card is offered by invitation only and provides bespoke privileges and benefits tailored for UHNW clients, positioning it as a potential alternative to the Citibank Ultima credit card.
- **Launch Locations:** The PRIMUS card was introduced in New Delhi and Mumbai during the "Axis Bank PRIMUS Soiree."
- **Joining Fee & Benefits:** The card has a joining fee of Rs 1.8 lakh, offering unlimited domestic airport lounge access and international lounge access through Priority Pass membership.

23) UPI merchant transactions in Nepal cross 100,000 milestone

NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) has exceeded 100,000 cross-border Unified Payments Interface (UPI) Person-to-Merchant (P2M) transactions in Nepal.

- **Partnership:** This success follows NIPL's collaboration with Fonepay, Nepal's

largest payment network, which started in March 2024.

- **Global Reach:** UPI, supported by a mobile-based real-time payment system, is widely accepted across several countries, including **Bhutan, France, Mauritius, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and the UAE**, establishing it as a **major real-time payment platform worldwide**.

24) Power Finance Corporation Secures ₹25.5 Billion Loan from Japan Bank for 25) International Cooperation for Karnataka Wind Energy Project

The Power Finance Corporation Limited (PFC), under the Ministry of Power, has secured a long-term loan of 25.5 billion Japanese Yen (approximately ₹1,454 crore) from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). This loan will finance the 300.3 MW Wind Energy Project of Ostro Kannada Power Private Ltd (OKPPL) in Chitradurga, Karnataka.

Key Points:

- The loan is co-financed by Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC), the Bank of Yokohama Limited (BOY), the Shiga Bank Ltd, and the Bank of Fukuoka Ltd (BoF).

- This loan is part of a credit line signed between JBIC and PFC in July 2022, specifically for renewable energy projects and energy-efficient power generation and heat supply projects.
- The loan falls under JBIC's "Global Action for Reconciling Economic Growth and Environmental Preservation (GREEN)" initiative, which aims to promote sustainable development and reduce carbon emissions.

26) ADB Provides \$200 Million Loan for Solid Waste Management in India

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has committed a \$200 million (approximately Rs 1,700 crore) loan to improve solid waste management and sanitation in 100 cities across eight states in India. This funding is part of the Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 – Comprehensive Municipal Waste Management in Indian Cities Program.

Loan Agreement Details

The loan agreement was signed by Juhi Mukherjee, Joint Secretary of the Finance Ministry, and Mio Oka, Country Director for ADB – India Resident Mission. The program aims to support the goals of the Swachh Bharat (Clean India) Mission – Urban 2.0 by enhancing

infrastructure for waste segregation, collection, and disposal.

27) IRDAI Fines HDFC Life Rs 2 Crore for Violations

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has fined HDFC Life Insurance Rs 2 crore for breaching regulatory norms. The penalty, detailed in an order dated August 1, 2024, follows an inspection covering the financial years 2017-18 to 2019-20. The penalty must be paid within 45 days, and additional directives have been issued to address the violations.

Key Points of the Penalty

Amount and Breakdown

- Rs 1 crore for violations related to policyholders' interests.
- Rs 1 crore for issues concerning outsourcing irregularities.

28) RBI Cancels Licenses of 78 UCBs Since 2014

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has canceled the licenses of 78 Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) since 2014, with Maharashtra seeing the highest number at 36.

1. Reasons for Cancellation:

- Inadequate capital
- Poor earning prospects

- Deteriorating financial position
- Operations detrimental to depositors and the public

2. Recent Statistics:

- **2024:** 10 UCB licenses canceled (spread across Maharashtra, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Assam, and Andhra Pradesh)
- **2023:** 14 UCB licenses canceled
- **2022:** 12 UCB licenses canceled

3. Geographic Distribution:

- **Maharashtra:** 36 UCBs
- **Uttar Pradesh:** 14 UCBs
- **Karnataka:** 8 UCBs
- **Gujarat:** 2 UCBs (latest: Shree Mahalaxmi Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd., Dabhoi, January 2024)
- Other affected states include Rajasthan, Assam, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, West Bengal, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, and Kerala.

29) The Launch Of A Smartwatch: Kotak Mahindra Bank, In Partnership With Tech Firm GOQii

Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd and GOQii have introduced the Kotak – GOQii Smart Vital Plus smartwatch, combining contactless payment capabilities with health monitoring features.

- **Pricing and Payment Features:** Priced at INR 3499, the smartwatch enables seamless contactless transactions up to INR 5000, powered by RuPay On-The-Go, without the need for a PIN.
- **Health Monitoring:** The smartwatch allows users to track key health metrics such as blood pressure, body temperature, and SpO2 levels directly from their wrist.
- **Ease of Use:** With a user-friendly interface, customers can easily link their Kotak accounts to enable secure contactless payments, eliminating the need for cash, cards, or smartphones.
- **Vision for Preventive Healthcare:** The collaboration between Kotak Mahindra Bank and GOQii aims to promote a convenient, healthy, and efficient lifestyle by integrating contactless payments with advanced health monitoring, reflecting the growing trend of technological integration in everyday life.

30) India and World Bank Sign \$500 Million Agreement for Green National Highway Corridors Project (GNHCP)

On August 1, 2024, **Union Minister Nitin Gadkari, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH), announced that the Government of India and the World Bank** have signed a \$500 million agreement to construct

the **Green National Highway Corridors Project (GNHCP)**.

Project Overview:

- The GNHCP aims to build safe and environmentally friendly highways using green technologies and climate-resilient methods.
- The project covers four states: Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, and Andhra Pradesh, with a total length of 781 kilometers.

Timeline: The scheduled date for the final completion of the GNHCP project is May 2026.

Background:

- The loan arrangement between the Government of India and the World Bank was initially signed in December 2020.
- The loan, provided by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), part of the World Bank Group, has a maturity period of 18.5 years, including a 5-year grace period.

Financials: The World Bank's \$500 million loan will contribute to the total project cost of \$1,288.24 million (approximately ₹7,662.47 crore).

31) RBI Grants 'Fit & Proper' Certificates for IDBI Bank Acquisition

the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued ‘Fit & Proper’ certificates, allowing these entities to proceed with the due diligence process for acquiring Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) Limited.

Ownership:

- The Government of India (GoI) and the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) together hold around 94% of IDBI Bank’s shares.
- LIC, as the promoter, holds 49.24%, while the GoI, as the co-promoter, holds 45.48%.

Potential Suitors:

- Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited, Toronto (Canada)
- Emirates NBD Bank, Dubai (UAE)
- Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL), Mumbai (Maharashtra)

32) Government Extends Deadline for Minimum Public Shareholding Compliance Until August 2026

The government has extended the deadline for the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSES), Public Sector Banks (PSBs), and Financial Institutions (FIs) to adhere to the Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS) norms until August 2026. This extension allows CPSES,

PSBs, and FIs to increase their public shareholding to at least 25% by 1 August 2026.

- **Purpose:** To allow Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSES), Public Sector Banks (PSBs), and Financial Institutions (FIs) to increase public shareholding to at least 25%.
- **Previous Deadline:** August 1, 2024
- **Regulatory Body:** Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)
- **Legal Basis:** Rule 19A(6) of the Securities Contract (Regulation) Rules, 1957

Public Sector Lenders’ Compliance:

1. **Requirement:** All listed companies, including state-owned, must maintain a Minimum Public Shareholding (MPS) of 25% for continuous listing.
2. **Lenders’ Plans:** Five public sector lenders—Bank of Maharashtra (BoM), Indian Overseas Bank (IOB), United Commercial Bank (UCO Bank), Central Bank of India (CBI), and Punjab and Sind Bank (P&S Bank)—are working to reduce government stakes to below 75%.

Current Government Holdings:

2. **P&S Bank:** 98.25%
3. **IOB:** 96.38%
4. **UCO Bank:** 95.39%
5. **CBI:** 93.08%

6. **BoM:** 86.46%
7. **Compliance Status:** As of March 31, 2024, 7 out of 12 PSBs comply with the MPS norm, including State Bank of India (SBI), Punjab National Bank (PNB), Canara Bank, Bank of Baroda, Indian Bank, Union Bank of India (UBI), and Bank of India (BOI).
8. **LIC:** Given until May 16, 2027, to achieve a 10% public shareholding.

33) RBI Issues Revised Instructions on Bad and Doubtful Debt Reserve for Co-operative Banks

On August 2024, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued revised instructions on **Bad and Doubtful Debt Reserve (BDDR)** for co-operative banks to ensure uniformity in the treatment of this reserve for prudential purposes.

Reasons for Revision:

1. Misalignment with Accounting Standards (AS) due to non-recognition of provisions for Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) as expenses in the Profit & Loss (P&L) account.
2. Inconsistent treatment of provisions for NPAs across co-operative banks, with some deviations from regulatory norms.

Key Points:

1. **Identification:**

- Banks must identify and quantify BDDR balances as of March 31, 2024, created by appropriating net profits rather than recognizing them as expenses.

2. **Provision:**

- Starting FY25 (2024-25), provisions should be charged as an expense to the P&L account in the accounting period in which they are recognized.
- Provisions will remain eligible for capital purposes as defined in existing capital adequacy guidelines.

34) Nagaland Signs First-of-Its-Kind Disaster Risk Transfer Insurance MoU with SBI General Insurance

the Government of Nagaland has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** with **State Bank of India (SBI) General Insurance Company Limited for Disaster Risk Transfer Parametric Insurance Solution (DRTPS)**. With this, **Nagaland becomes the 1st state in India to implement a disaster risk management insurance solution.**

- **MoU Duration:** 3 years (2024-2027) with immediate effect.

- **Parties Involved:** Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority (NSDMA) and SBI General Insurance.
- **Insurance Coverage:** Protects critical infrastructure and mitigates economic losses due to disasters.
- **Payment:** Government of Nagaland will cover the insurance premium.
- **Geographical Scope:** Entire state of Nagaland.

35) Thomas Cook India and NPCI Launch First RuPay Forex Card for UAE

Thomas Cook India Partners with NPCI To Launch RuPay Forex Card For UAE Mumbai (Maharashtra) based **Thomas Cook (India) Limited (TCIL)** has partnered with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** to launch **RuPay AED (United Arab Emirates Dirham) Forex Card**, first RuPay Prepaid Forex Card for Indian travellers visiting the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

- **Product:** RuPay AED (United Arab Emirates Dirham) Forex Card, India's first RuPay prepaid forex card for UAE travelers.
- **Technology Partner:** CARD91.
- **Features:**
 - Usable for transactions and ATM withdrawals across the UAE.

- Pilot launch in UAE with plans for a global phased rollout.
- **Innovation:** A Made-in-India initiative and first partnership of its kind with an Indian non-banking entity.

36) RBI Grants 'Fit & Proper' Certificates for IDBI Bank Acquisition

the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** issued 'Fit & Proper' certificates, allowing these entities to proceed with the due diligence process for acquiring **Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) Limited**.

Ownership:

- The **Government of India (GoI)** and the **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** together hold around **94%** of **IDBI Bank's** shares.
- **LIC**, as the promoter, holds **49.24%**, while the **GoI**, as the co-promoter, holds **45.48%**.

Potential Suitors:

- **Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited**, Toronto (Canada)
- **Emirates NBD Bank**, Dubai (UAE)
- **Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited (KMBL)**, Mumbai (Maharashtra)

37) HDFC Securities Limited Partners with Vested Finance Inc. for Global Investing 2.0:

The partnership aims to democratize global investing for Indians and Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) through a platform called Global Investing 2.0.

This initiative will enable investors to access international markets, offering tools, augmented protection, innovative features, and deep portfolio diversification.

- **Partnership:**
 - HDFC Securities Limited has teamed up with Vested Finance Inc., a US-based investment platform registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).
 - Vested Finance Inc. provides secure access to the US stock market for international investors, ensuring a reliable and regulated investment environment.

38) LIC Launches New Insurance Products for Youth: Yuva Term and Digi Term Plans

The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) launched four new products for the youth of India, including LIC's Yuva Term/Digi Term, and LIC's Yuva Credit Life/Digi Credit Life, which are available offline and online for sale from August 6, 2024.

About LIC's Yuva Term/Digi Term:

- **Types:**
 - **LIC's Yuva Term:** Available offline through licensed agents, corporate agents, brokers, and insurance marketing firms.
 - **LIC's Digi Term:** Available online via LIC's website.
- **Plan Features:**
 - **Type:** Non-Par, Non-Linked, Life, Individual, Pure Risk Plans.
 - **Target Audience:** Young individuals seeking early term insurance.
 - **Entry Age:** Minimum 18 years, Maximum 45 years.
 - **Maturity Age:** Ranges from 33 to 75 years.
 - **Sum Assured:** Rs 50 lakh to Rs 5 crore (higher amounts considered on a case-by-case basis).
 - **Premium Rates:** Lower for women.
- **Death Benefits:**
 - **Regular and Limited Premiums:** 7 times the annualized premium, 105% of total premiums paid, or the absolute amount assured.

- **Single Premium Payments:** 125% of the single premium or the absolute amount assured.

39) SEBI Directs Mutual Funds to Value AT-1 Bonds on Yield-to-Call Basis

On August 5, 2024, the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** directed **Mutual Funds (MFs)** to value **Additional Tier-1 (AT-1)** bonds issued by banks using the **Yield-to-Call (YTC)** method. This decision was made to align with market practices and **Indian Accounting Standard (Ind AS) 113** principles, following recommendations from the **National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)**. The directive is based on SEBI's powers under the **SEBI Act, 1992** and **SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996**.

Key Points:

- **Directive Purpose:** Protect investor interests and regulate the securities market.
- **Scope:** The change applies only to the valuation of AT-1 bonds; other uses follow existing guidelines.
- **Bond Characteristics:** AT-1 bonds retain their 100-year maturity despite the new valuation method.

40) J&K Bank Launches “Kisan Ka Samman” Program to Reward Financially Disciplined Farmers

On August , 2024, **Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) Bank** launched the “**Kisan Ka Samman**” program to recognize and reward farmers in J&K who demonstrate exceptional financial discipline and timely management of their accounts. The initiative, which runs until September 30, 2024, aims to acknowledge farmers who have consistently renewed their **Kisan Credit Cards (KCC)** and adhered to financial best practices.

- **Launch:** The program was inaugurated by **Baldev Prakash, MD & CEO**, and **Sudhir Gupta, Executive Director**, along with other senior bank officials in **Srinagar**.
- **Recognition:** Farmers who meet the criteria will receive a **Certificate of Appreciation (COA)** at various branches, clusters, and zonal levels.
- **Incentives:** Awarded farmers will also be eligible for additional loan products under the “**Kisan Dost**” scheme to support the enhancement of their agricultural infrastructure.

41) Capital Small Finance Bank and Edelweiss Life Partner for Bancassurance

Capital Small Finance Bank (CSFB) and **Edelweiss Life Insurance** have joined forces in a bancassurance tie-up. This strategic partnership allows CSFB's 177 branches to offer Edelweiss

Life's insurance products, enhancing CSFB's financial solutions and expanding Edelweiss Life's reach.

Key Features

- **Benefits for CSFB Customers:** Gain access to Edelweiss Life's comprehensive life insurance suite, along with their digital platform and service touchpoints.
- **Strategic Win-Win:** CSFB aims to become the primary banker for middle-income customers by offering a wider range of financial products. Edelweiss Life leverages CSFB's extensive network to reach new customers and offer innovative products.
- **Bancassurance Model Explained:** This partnership utilizes the bancassurance model, where banks and insurance companies collaborate to distribute insurance products. Banks earn commission on sales, while insurers benefit from the wider distribution network.

42) Fourth Partner Energy Secures \$275 Million Investment to Expand Renewable Energy Portfolio

On August 2024, Fourth Partner Energy Limited (FPEL) secured USD 275 million from three Development Financial Institutions (DFIs): International Finance Corporation

(IFC), Asian Development Bank (ADB), and DEG

- **IFC:** USD 125 million
- **ADB:** USD 100 million (USD 70 million from ordinary capital resources, USD 30 million from LEAP 2)
- **DEG:** USD 50 million

Purpose: The investment will help FPEL expand its renewable energy portfolio to 3.5 GW by 2026.

Projects:

- FPEL will launch a 575 MW wind-solar hybrid project in Karnataka.
- The company currently has 1.5 GW of green assets and is developing an additional 1.2 GW in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Gujarat.

Achievements: FPEL has commissioned over 2,000 projects for 300+ clients, including Walmart, Unilever, and Tata Motors.

43) RBI Issues Master Directions on Wilful Defaulters and Large Defaulters

the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued a Master Directions on the Treatment of Wilful Defaulters and Large Defaulters (Directions 2024), under which banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) are required to scrutinize all Non- Performing Asset (NPA)

accounts which have **outstanding amounts of Rs 25 lakh and above for wilful default**. These directions will come into effect after 90 days from the date of publication.

Objective:

- Establish a transparent and non-discriminatory framework for identifying “wilful defaulters.”
- Disseminate credit information to prevent further financing to defaulters.

Scope: Banks and Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) must scrutinize all Non-Performing Asset (NPA) accounts with outstanding amounts of Rs 25 lakh and above for wilful default.

Implementation: Directions will come into effect 90 days from the date of publication.

Legal Basis:

- Issued under the powers of Section 45-L of the RBI Act, 1934.
- Related to Sections 21, 35-A, and 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.
- Section 11 of the Credit Information Companies (CICs) (Regulation) Act, 2005.

44) SBI General Insurance and HSBC India Form Bancassurance Partnership

SBI General Insurance (Mumbai, Maharashtra) and HSBC India (Hongkong and

Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited) have entered into a **bancassurance agreement**.

Objectives:

- **General Insurance:** To offer innovative non-life insurance solutions to HSBC India’s customers.
- **HSBC India:** To provide its customers with SBI General Insurance’s full range of non-life insurance products, including health, property, motor, and travel insurance.

Impact:

- Aims to enhance insurance accessibility and increase insurance penetration across India.
- **Partnership Significance:**
- This collaboration is a notable step towards broadening insurance coverage and improving service reach in the Indian market.

45) RBI August 2024 MPC Meeting: Repo Rate Unchanged at 6.5%

The Reserve Bank of India’s Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to maintain the repo rate at 6.5%, continuing the stance held since February 2023. The decision was made by a 4:2 majorities.

Other Key Rates:

- Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate remains at 6.75%.
- Standard Deposit Facility (SDF) rate remains at 6.25%.

Economic Projections:

- Real GDP growth for FY 2025-26 is projected at 7.2%.
- Inflation forecast is maintained at 4.5%.

46) RBI Hikes UPI Limit for Tax Payments to Rs 5 Lakh per Transaction

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has raised the upper limit for **tax payments via UPI to Rs 5 lakh per transaction, up from the previous Rs 1 lakh limit.**

- **Purpose:** The increase aims to facilitate larger tax payments in a single transaction, minimizing the need for multiple payments.
- **Convenience and Promotion:** This move is expected to enhance convenience for taxpayers, especially those making high-value payments, and is part of RBI's broader effort to promote digital payments and reduce cash dependency.
- **Encouragement for Digital Adoption:** The RBI anticipates that this will encourage more taxpayers to use digital methods for settling their tax liabilities.

- **Ongoing Reviews:** The RBI has been periodically reviewing and enhancing transaction limits across various categories, including capital markets, IPO subscriptions, loan collections, insurance, medical, and educational services.

47) RBI Shortens Frequency of Credit Reporting to Fortnightly

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revised the credit information reporting frequency from **monthly to every 15 days**, effective immediately.

- **Objective:** The change aims to enhance the accuracy and timeliness of credit data, benefiting both lenders and borrowers.
- **Faster Updates for Borrowers:** Borrowers will see quicker updates in their credit reports, allowing positive financial actions, such as loan repayments, to be reflected more promptly.
- **Enhanced Accuracy:** More frequent updates ensure that credit reports are up-to-date, offering a clearer and more accurate assessment of a borrower's financial health, potentially leading to better loan terms.

48) Pine Labs-owned Setu Launches UPISetu in Partnership with Axis Bank

Setu, a Pine Labs-owned API provider, **launched UPISetu with Axis Bank**, focusing on **UPI solutions for businesses and developers.**

- **Platform Features:** UPISetu offers a variety of UPI services including QR Code Payments, UPI Autopay, EMI Payments, Third-Party Validation, brand and bank offers, dispute resolution, instant cashbacks, and refunds.
- **Market Impact:** The platform aims to capitalize on UPI's growing adoption in India, enhancing transaction success rates and supporting merchant digitization.
- **Statements:** Pine Labs CEO B Amrish Rau and Axis Bank's Sanjeev Moghe emphasized UPISetu's potential to advance UPI's evolution and support digital payments.
- **About Setu and Pine Labs:** Setu, founded in 2018 and acquired by Pine Labs in 2022, provides API solutions and is RBI-licensed as an account aggregator. Pine Labs focuses on merchant commerce and digital payments across India, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia.

49) DBS Bank India Launches 'DBS Golden Circle' for Senior Citizens: Key Highlights

DBS Bank India Limited (DBIL) has introduced the 'DBS Golden Circle,' a priority banking program tailored for senior citizens aged 60 and above, offering enhanced banking services and income security.

- **Exclusive Benefits:** The program provides higher interest rates on savings

accounts (up to 7% per annum for balances above Rs 4 lakhs) and Fixed Deposits (additional 0.50% per annum for tenures of 376 to 540 days), cyber insurance, and other perks.

- **Milestone:** The launch coincides with DBS Bank's 30th anniversary in India, utilizing its branch network and digital services to improve customer experiences.
- **DBIL Leadership:** Managing Director and CEO – Surojit Shome. Headquarters – Mumbai, Maharashtra. Founded in 1994, DBIL is a wholly-owned subsidiary of DBS Bank Ltd, Singapore

50) RBI Ranks 12th in Global Central Bank Asset Rankings

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) secured the 12th spot in the Sovereign Wealth Fund Institute's (SWFI) Top 100 Largest Central Bank Rankings by Total Assets in 2024, with total assets amounting to USD 839 billion.

Balance Sheet Growth: RBI's balance sheet grew by 11.08% year-on-year, reaching Rs 70.47 trillion as of March 2024.

Top Global Central Banks:

- **1st:** The Federal Reserve System (FRS) of the USA, with assets of USD 7.84 trillion.
- **2nd:** People's Bank of China (PBC), with USD 6 trillion.

- **3rd:** Bank of Japan (BOJ), with USD 5.54 trillion

Rank	Name of the Bank	Total Assets	Country
1	Federal Reserve System (FRS)	USD 7.84 trillion	United States of America (USA)
2	People's Bank of China (PBC)	USD 6 trillion	China
3	Bank of Japan (BOJ)	USD 5.54 trillion	Japan
4	Deutsche Bundesbank (DBB)	USD 2.77 trillion	Germany
5	Bank of France	USD 2.01 trillion	France
6	Norges Bank	USD 1.63 trillion	Norway
7	Bank of Italy (BOI)	USD 1.38 trillion	Italy
8	Bank of England (BOE)	USD 1.28 trillion	United Kingdom (UK)

9	Bank of Spain (BOS)	USD 1.04 trillion	Spain
10	Swiss National Bank (SNB)	USD 944 billion	Switzerland

About the Sovereign Wealth Fund Institute (SWFI)

- **Incorporation:** Established in 2008, SWFI provides in-depth research and analysis on global capital, investor intelligence, money flows, and transparency.
- **Leadership:** The institute is chaired by Lakshmi Narayanan.
- **Corporate Offices:** Located in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA.

Ranks and reports news

1) India's Steel Production to Surpass 300 MT by 2030

India's steel production is expected to exceed 300 million tonnes by 2030, driven by robust demand for infrastructure projects. Steel Secretary Nagaendra Nath Sinha highlighted a 10% growth in demand due to strong GDP growth and government infrastructure push. The SIMS 2.0 portal was also launched for better monitoring and decision-making in steel imports.

2) India Ranked 39th in Travel and Tourism Development Index 2024

India ranks 39th in the World Economic Forum's Travel and Tourism Development Index 2024, scoring 4.25. The top five are the United States, Spain, Japan, France, and Australia.

3) India Retains 8th Position in Global Agriculture Exports

India remained the 8th largest agricultural exporter in 2023 despite a decline from \$55 billion to \$51 billion. Challenges included geopolitical factors and export bans on wheat, non-basmati rice, and sugar. The EU, Brazil, and Thailand are the top exporters.

4) India Ranked 2nd Largest Aluminium Producer

India is the 2nd largest global producer of aluminium, 3rd in lime, and 4th in iron ore. The fiscal year 2023-24 saw record production: 275 million tonnes of iron ore and 450 million tonnes of limestone.

5) RIL Top-Ranked Indian Company on 2024 Fortune Global 500 List

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) is the top-ranked Indian company at 86th on the 2024 Fortune Global 500 list, improving from 88th in 2023. Nine Indian companies made the list, with HDFC Bank joining for the first time.

Serial Number	Company	2024 Rank	2023 Rank	Improvement (+)/Decline (-) Compared to 2023
1	Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)	86	88	+2
2	Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)	95	107	+12
3	Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)	116	94	-22
4	State Bank of India (SBI)	178	235	+57
5	Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)	180	158	-22
6	Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)	258	233	-25
7	Tata Motors	271	337	+66
8	HDFC Bank	306	Not included	-
9	Rajesh Exports	473	353	-120

6) IIT-Madras Retains Top Ranking in NIRF 2024

IIT-Madras retained its top spot in the NIRF 2024 Overall Category for the sixth consecutive year. The NIRF evaluates institutions based on teaching, research, and other parameters.

IITs

Ranking	Institution	Year of Establishment	City	State/Union Territory
1	IIT-Madras	1959	Chennai	Tamil Nadu
2	IIT Bombay	1958	Mumbai	Maharashtra
3	Indian Institute of Science	1909	Bengaluru	Karnataka

7) Mumbai Ranks 2nd, New Delhi 3rd in Global Property Price Index

Mumbai and New Delhi ranked 2nd and 3rd, respectively, in global prime residential property price increases. Mumbai saw a 13% rise, and New Delhi a 10.6% rise.

8) AMUL Tops Brand Finance's Food & Drink 2024 Report

AMUL was named the world's strongest food and dairy brand with an AAA+ rating, a Brand Strength Index of 91, and a brand value increase to USD 3.3 billion. It improved its global ranking from 29th to 22nd.

9) Hurun India Rich List 2024

Gautam Adani tops the Hurun India Rich List 2024 with a net worth of ₹1.16 lakh crore. Mukesh Ambani is second with ₹1.01 lakh crore, and Shiv Nadar & Family are third with ₹314,000 crore. Mumbai remains the hub for billionaires in India.

Sports news

1) BFI Sets Up The National Basketball Academy In Collaboration With CAA

The Basketball Federation of India (BFI) has partnered with Corvuss American Academy to establish the National Basketball Academy in Mumbai.

Initial Setup:

- **Participants:** The Academy will start with 30 boys and 30 girls selected through a nationwide talent hunt.
- **Coaching:** Players will receive guidance from a competent foreign coach.

Support and Facilities:

- **Academic and Sports Support:** The partner institution will provide a comprehensive academic program, nutritional support, sports counseling, and access to world-class facilities.
- **Competitions:** Players will have the freedom to represent their states in state and national championships.

Location and Institution:

- **Location:** The Academy is located 95 km from both Pune and Mumbai.
- **Corvuss American Academy:** Known as India's first international residential school

for student-athletes, it follows an American curriculum and caters to students from grades 6 to 12.

2) Swapnil Kusale Secures Bronze Medal in 50m Rifle 3 Positions at Paris Olympics

In a thrilling display of marksmanship, 28-year-old Swapnil Kusale has secured India's third medal at the Paris Olympics. Kusale clinched the bronze medal in the 50m rifle 3 positions final on Thursday, adding to India's growing tally in the shooting events.

Medal Standings

- Gold: Y.K. Liu
- Silver: Serhiy Kulish
- Bronze: Swapnil Kusale

Kusale's impressive performance saw him accumulate a total of 451.4 points, narrowly missing out on the silver medal. The gold medalist, Y.K. Liu, amassed 463.6 points, while Ukrainian Serhiy Kulish secured the silver with 461.3 points.

3) Lt Col Kabilan Sai Ashok, India's Youngest Boxing Referee At Olympics

In a remarkable achievement, Lieutenant Colonel Kabilan Sai Ashok, a serving Indian Army Officer, has become the youngest Olympic referee in boxing from India at the Paris Olympics 2024. This milestone reflects his exceptional dedication, professionalism, and

integrity, embodying the high standards of the Indian Army.

About Lt Kabilan Sai Ashok: Currently serving in Indian Army as Joint Secretary at Services Sports Control Board, Lieutenant Colonel Ashok's participation as an Olympic referee demonstrates his unwavering commitment to moral ethics, fair play, and excellence in sportsmanship. As a referee, he ensures the games are conducted with utmost integrity and impartiality, upholding the true spirit of the Olympics.

4) Star Shooter Manu Bhaker Set To Be India's Flagbearer In Closing Ceremony

Manu Bhaker, a two-time Olympic bronze medallist, has been chosen as India's flagbearer for the closing ceremony of the Paris Olympics.

- **Event Details:** The closing ceremony will take place on August 11, 2024. The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has yet to confirm the men's flagbearer.
- **Performance in Paris:** Bhaker excelled in the Paris Olympics, securing two bronze medals and setting multiple records, marking a significant redemption after her gun malfunctioned during the Tokyo Olympics in 2021.

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

Novak Djokovic of Serbia secured his first Olympic gold medal at the Paris 2024 Olympics. The 37-year-old tennis legend overcame Spain's Carlos Alcaraz in a gripping men's singles final at Roland Garros on Sunday, cementing his status in the annals of tennis history.

6) Dinesh Karthik Appointed SA20 League Ambassador

Former India Wicket Keeper Dinesh Karthik Appointed as SA20 League Ambassador Krishnakumar Dinesh Karthik, an Indian commentator and former India wicket keeper has been appointed as the league ambassador of South Africa's premier T20 cricket League (SA20 League) ahead of the 2025 edition of the tournament.

- **Details:**
 - Dinesh Karthik, former Indian wicketkeeper and commentator, has been appointed as the ambassador for the 2025 SA20 League.
 - He is the first Indian player to be associated with this South African T20 tournament.
 - Karthik will join AB de Villiers, a former teammate, as one of the league's ambassadors.
 - He announced his retirement from all forms of cricket in June 2024, following the IPL 2024 season.

- Karthik has represented India in 26 Tests, 94 ODIs, and 60 T20Is, including the 2007 T20 World Cup win.

SA20 League:

- **Organized By:** Cricket South Africa (CSA)
- **Inception:** First contested in 2023
- **Upcoming Season:** 3rd season from January 9 to February 8, 2025
- **Teams:** MI Cape Town, Joburg Super Kings (JSK), Durban SuperGiants (DSG), Paarl Royals, Pretoria Capitals, Sunrisers Eastern Cape (SEC)
- **Ownership:** Teams are owned by IPL franchise owners

7) Paris Olympics- Heartbreak for Vinesh Phogat Disqualified Before Final

In a heartbreak for women's wrestler Vinesh Phogat and India, she has been disqualified from the 2024 Paris Olympics. She was to compete in the final of the women's 50 kg category on 7 August 2024. Phogat was disqualified for being overweight in her category. Although she usually competes in the 53 kg category, she competed in the 50 kg event at the Paris Olympics.

Note: She failed by 100 grams of weight extra

Before her disqualification, Vinesh was the first Indian women wrestler to reach the final of the

Olympics. Before her, Sakshi Malik is the only Indian women's wrestler to have won a medal - bronze medal at the 2016 Rio Olympics.

8) Neeraj Chopra Wins Silver at 2024 Paris Olympics; President Murmu, PM Modi Lead National Congratulations

At the 2024 Paris Olympics, India's track and field star Neeraj Chopra delivered an impressive performance, securing a silver medal in the men's javelin with a season-best throw of 89.45 meters.

- This achievement marks a significant milestone, making Neeraj the first Indian track and field athlete to win two Olympic medals post-independence.
- His performance in the final, despite fouling five of his six attempts, was highlighted by a remarkable qualification throw of 89.34 meters.
- Pakistani javelin thrower Arshad Nadeem broke the Olympic record with a throw of 92.97 meters, winning the gold medal, while Grenada's Anderson Peters took the bronze with a throw of 88.54 meters. Neeraj's silver adds to India's tally, bringing the nation's total to five medals at the Paris Games.

9) Indian Hockey Team Clinches Back-to-Back Olympic Bronze; Leaders Extend Congratulations

The Indian hockey team won a bronze medal at the 2024 Paris Olympics, their second consecutive Olympic bronze after the 2020 Tokyo Games, achieving this feat for the first time since the 1972 Munich Games.

- Captain Harmanpreet Singh played a crucial role, scoring two decisive goals in the 2-1 victory over Spain, while retiring goalkeeper PR Sreejesh made exceptional saves.

The Indian hockey team has a storied history in the Olympic Games, particularly in men's field hockey. Here are the key highlights of their achievements:

10) Olympic Games Record – Indian Men's Hockey Team

- **Gold Medals:** 8 (1928, 1932, 1936, 1948, 1952, 1956, 1964, 1980)
- India won its first gold medal in 1928 in Amsterdam and dominated the sport until the 1950s, winning six consecutive gold medals from 1928 to 1956.
- The team won its last Olympic gold in 1980 at the Moscow Games.
- **Silver Medals:** 1 (1960)
- India won the silver medal at the 1960 Rome Olympics, finishing second to Pakistan.
- **Bronze Medals:** 3 (1968, 1972, 2020)

- The team secured bronze medals in Mexico City (1968), Munich (1972), and most recently in Tokyo (2020).
- **Other Notable Performances:**
- The Indian men's hockey team is one of the most successful in Olympic history, particularly during the mid-20th century, where they were considered unbeatable.

Olympic Games Record – Indian Women's Hockey Team

- The Indian women's hockey team made its Olympic debut in 1980, where they finished in 4th place.
- The team also achieved a notable 4th place finish at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, narrowly missing out on a medal.

11) India wins the 4th CAVA Women's Volleyball Nations League

The Indian women's national volleyball team has won the 4th CAVA (Central Asian Volleyball Association) Women's Volleyball Nations League by defeating the host Nepal by 3-2 sets in the final. The final was played at the Dasharath Stadium in Kathmandu, Nepal, on 7 August 2024. This was the second CAVA title for the Indian women.

Final Medal position

- **Gold Medal winner – India**

- **Silver Medal** -Nepal runner up and Silver Medal
- **Bronze Medal** – Iran

Prez Droupadi Murmu, VP Jagdeep Dhankhar & PM Modi congratulates Indian wrestler Aman Sehrawat on winning Bronze Medal at Paris Olympics

Praised Aman Sehrawat as one of the youngest male wrestlers to win a medal in his first Olympics, highlighting his promising future and India's continued success in wrestling on winning the Bronze Medal at the Paris Olympics.

- **Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar:** Commended Aman's dedication and perseverance, expressing pride in his achievement on the global stage and wishing him continued success.
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi:** Celebrated Aman's dedication and perseverance, noting that the entire nation is rejoicing in his remarkable accomplishment.
- **Union Home Minister:** Lauded Aman for his exceptional perseverance and strength in achieving the Olympic medal

12) 2024 Paris Olympics Ends, Los Angeles to Host 34th Summer Olympics

Closing Ceremony:

- **The 33rd Summer Olympics ended on August 11, 2024, in Paris, France.**
- **International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach and French swimmer Leon Marchand extinguished the Olympic flame.**
- **The Olympic flag was handed over to Los Angeles, USA, which will host the 34th Summer Olympics in 2028.**

Paris and Los Angeles Olympic Hosting:

- **Paris hosted the Olympics for the third time (previously in 1900 and 1924).**
- **Los Angeles will also host for the third time (previously in 1932 and 1984).**

Indian Flag Bearers:

- **Opening Ceremony:** PV Sindhu (Badminton) and Sharath Kamal (Table Tennis).
- **Closing Ceremony:** Manu Bhaker (Shooting) and PR Sreejesh (Hockey).

India's Performance:

- **India finished with 6 medals: 1 silver and 5 bronze.**
- **Notable Medalists:**
 - **Silver:** Neeraj Chopra (Javelin).
 - **Bronze:** Manu Bhaker (Women's 10m Air Pistol), Manu Bhaker & Sarabjot Singh (10m Air Pistol

Mixed Team), Swapnil Kusale (Men's 50m Rifle 3 Positions), Men's Hockey Team, Aman Sehrawat (Wrestling 57kg Freestyle).

- India ranked 71st in the overall medal tally.
- Aman Sehrawat made history by becoming the youngest Indian to win an Olympic medal. He secured a bronze medal in the men's freestyle 57 kg wrestling event at the 2024 Paris Olympics, breaking the previous record held by PV Sindhu. Sindhu had won a silver medal at the 2016 Rio Olympics at the age of 21 years, 1 month, and 14 days.

Overall Medal Tally:

- **Top Countries:**
 - **1st:** USA with 126 medals (40 Gold, 44 Silver, 42 Bronze).
 - **2nd:** China with 91 medals.
 - **3rd:** Japan with 45 medals.

Unique Features of the 2024 Paris Olympics:

- **Opening Ceremony:** Held on the River Seine, a first for the Olympics.
- **Participation:** Athletes from 206 National Olympic Committees and the IOC Refugee Olympic Team.
- **Events:** 329 medal events across 32 sports and 48 disciplines.

- **Debut Sports:** Breaking (breakdancing) introduced for the first time.

First-Time Medal Winners:

- **Countries Winning Their First Olympic Medal:**
 - Albania, Cape Verde, Dominica, Saint Lucia, Refugee Olympic Team.
- **Countries Winning Their First Gold Medal:**
 - Botswana, Dominica, Guatemala, Saint Lucia.

Mascot and Motto:

- **Mascot:** Olympic Phryge, based on the traditional French Phrygian Hat in blue, white, and red.
- **Motto:** “Alone, we go faster, but together, we go further.”

13) PR Sreejesh Appointed as New Head Coach of India’s Junior Men’s Hockey Team

Hockey India (HI) has officially announced that PR Sreejesh, the retiring goalkeeper of the Indian hockey team, will take on the role of head coach for the Indian junior men’s hockey team. This decision follows India’s achievement of winning a bronze medal at the 2024 Olympics.

Announcement and Significance

The announcement was made on August 8, 2024, after India secured a bronze medal with a 2-1 victory over Spain. Sreejesh’s critical saves during the match played a crucial role in the team’s success. Transitioning from a player to a coach marks a significant shift in Sreejesh’s career.

14) ICC Players of the Month for July 2024 Announced

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has revealed the recipients of the ICC Players of the Month awards for July 2024. England’s Gus Atkinson and Sri Lanka’s Chamari Athapaththu have been crowned as the standout performers in men’s and women’s cricket, respectively, for their exceptional contributions to the sport during the month.

- **Gus Atkinson**, a 26-year-old fast bowler, made a significant impact in Test cricket, contributing to England’s 3-0 series win against the West Indies.
- **Chamari Athapaththu**, captain of the Sri Lankan women’s team, showcased remarkable leadership and batting skills, leading Sri Lanka to victory in the Women’s Asia Cup.

15) Prasar Bharati-BCL Sign Landmark Deal to Promote Cricket

The Big Cricket League (BCL) is set to make its debut on the Indian cricket landscape, promising

a unique blend of local talent and cricketering legends. This franchise-based T20 event is poised to offer aspiring players an unprecedented opportunity to showcase their skills alongside established stars, potentially reshaping the future of Indian cricket.

- **Broadcasting Partnership:** A long-term deal with Prasar Bharati ensures nationwide coverage on DD Sports and international exposure in over 30 countries.
- **Teams:** Six regional teams will compete, including Awadh Lions, Northern Challengers, Rajasthan Kings, Mumbai Marines, Southern Spartans, and Bengal Rhinos.
- **Leadership:** The league is governed by a council including Dilip Vengsarkar, Rudra Pratap Singh, and Courtney Walsh.
- **Impact:** The BCL aims to nurture local talent, increase cricket's reach, and foster mentorship between established and emerging players.

16) Alexander Zverev becomes 1st player to earn 50 tour-level wins this season

In Tennis, German star Alexander Zverev overcame Karen Khachanov in straight sets at the Cincinnati Open in USA last night, becoming the first player to earn 50 tour-level wins this season.

Zverev defeated Khachanov 6-3, 6-2 for an opening win at the ATP Masters 1000 event. Zverev, who lifted the trophy in Cincinnati in 2021, will play Australian Max Purcell or Spaniard Pablo Carreno Busta in the third round.

17) CAS rejects Wrestler Vinesh Phogat's appeal against disqualification from Paris Olympics

Wrestler Vinesh Phogat's joint silver medal hope came to an end with the Court of Arbitration for Sport, CAS, rejecting her appeal against disqualification from the Paris Olympics.

- The ad-hoc division of the CAS rejected her appeal days after it concluded the hearing in the case.
- Vinesh Phogat was disqualified after she weighed 100 grams more than her 50-kg weight category on the day of her final gold medal bout.
- Following this, Phogat approached the CAS for a joint silver medal. In a statement, IOA President PT Usha expressed shock and disappointment at the decision of the CAS. The IOA said that it is exploring the next legal remedy available for Phogat.

18) "Hockey India Retires No. 16 Jersey in Honor of Goalkeeper PR Sreejesh"

Hockey India has officially retired the No. 16 jersey from the national senior men's team in tribute to Parattu Raveendran (PR) Sreejesh, the celebrated goalkeeper who is set to retire after the Paris Olympics 2024. This honor reflects his significant contributions to Indian hockey and his esteemed legacy.

Key Details:

- **Farewell Ceremony:** Announced during a special event organized by Hockey India.
- **New Role:** Appointed as the coach for the Junior Men's Hockey Team.

Career Highlights:**1. Olympic Participation:**

1. Competed in four Olympic Games since 2012.
2. Captained the team at the Rio 2016 Olympics.
3. Secured two Olympic bronze medals (Tokyo 2020, Paris 2024).

4. Other Accolades:

2. **Asian Games:** Gold medals in 2014 and 2023; Bronze in 2018.
3. **Commonwealth Games:** Silver medals in 2014 and 2022.
4. **Asian Champions Trophy:** Victories in 2011, 2016, 2018, and 2023.

19) Sumit Antil & Bhagyashri Jadhav: 2024 Paris Paralympic Flag Bearer

The Paralympic Committee of India has named Tokyo Paralympics gold medallist para-athletes Sumit Antil and Shot Putter Bhagyashri Jadhav as the Indian flag bearers for the opening ceremony of the 2024 Paris Paralympics Games, which will be held on 28 August 2024.

- The 17th Summer Paralympics for disabled athletes will take place in Paris, France, from 28 August to 8 September 2024.
- The International Paralympics Committee organises the Summer and Winter Paralympics games. Since the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics, the Paralympics have been held shortly after the conclusion of the Summer Olympics. The 33rd Summer Olympics ended on 11 August 2024 in Paris.

20) Indian Flag Bearer at Opening Ceremony

- Like the Olympics, the opening and closing ceremonies of the Paralympics Games involve two flag bearers—one male and one female.
- Para-athlete Sumit Antil and Bhagyashri Jadhav will be the flag bearers at the opening ceremony of the 2024 Paris Paralympics.

- 25-year-old World Champion **Sumit Antill** won a gold medal in the javelin throw at the 2020 Tokyo Paralympics in the men's F64 category. Sumit also holds the world record in the category.
- 39-year-old **Bhagyashri Jadhav** is a silver medallist in the women's shot put event in the F34 category at the Asian Para Games.
- She has also won a silver medal in women's F34 shot put at the World Para Athletics Championships in May 2024.

21) Indian Contingent for the Paris Paralympics

- **Before the Paris Paralympics, India** competed in the **11 edition of the Summer Paralympics. The first Summer Paralympic Games was held in the Italian capital city of Rome in 1960.**
- The Indian contingent consists of **84 athletes**, including 32 women athletes. It is the largest contingent of Indian athletes to participate in a Summer Paralympics edition.
- Indian athletes will compete in **12 sporting events**, including para-cycling, para-rowing, and blind judo, which they will be participating in for the first time.
- A total of 22 sports will be held at the Paris Paralympics.

Mascot and Motto of the 2024 Paris Paralympics

- **Mascot –Paralympic Phryge**—It is based on the Phrygian cap, a historical symbol of liberty and freedom. Its colours were blue, white, and red, reflecting the colours of the French Flag.
- **Motto-** Games Wide Open

22) ICC Moves Women's T20 World Cup 2024 to UAE Due to Bangladesh Unrest

The ICC has announced the relocation of the **Women's T20 World Cup 2024** from Bangladesh to the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** due to significant safety concerns. The event, originally set to be hosted in Bangladesh, will now take place from **October 3 to 20 in Dubai and Sharjah.**

- Original host: Bangladesh
- New host: United Arab Emirates (UAE)
- Dates: October 3-20, 2024
- Venues: Dubai and Sharjah

Reasons for Relocation

- Safety concerns due to political unrest in Bangladesh
- Travel advisories from participating countries
- Escalating unrest and instability

23) Pankaj Advani Wins Western India Billiards Championship, Extends Title Streak

Pankaj Advani wins billiards final of **Western India Billiards and Snooker Championship**. **Pankaj Advani** crushed **S Shrikrishna** by a margin of **822-520** in the billiards final to clinch yet another title win here in the **Western India Billiards and Snooker Championship** on **Sunday**.

- **Victory:** Pankaj Advani defeated S Shrikrishna 822-520 in the billiards final.
- **Title Count:** This win adds to Advani's record of 27 world championships.
- **Streak:** Advani has now won seven consecutive titles in Mumbai (4 snooker, 3 billiards) over the past two years.
- **Recent Success:** Sunday's win is Advani's sixth consecutive final victory.

24) Meet Diana Pundole, mother of two, who is the first woman car racer to win the Indian national championship

Diana Pundole, a Pune-based teacher and mother of two, wins the national championship title in the saloon category at the **MRF Indian National Car Racing Championship 2024**.

- **Background:** Diana's racing journey began eight years ago after being selected for a national talent hunt among 200 women.

- **Challenges:** Despite skepticism and challenges, Diana's determination led her to the top, securing a place among the top six contenders.
- **Significance:** Her victory marks a significant milestone in a male-dominated sport, breaking gender barriers in racing.

25) Shikhar Dhawan Announces Retirement from International Cricket

Shikhar Dhawan, at 38, has retired from **international cricket** but plans to **continue in league cricket, particularly the IPL**.

Career Highlights:

- **International Appearances:** 269 matches for India
- **Runs Scored:** 10,867 runs
- **Centuries:** 24
- **Half-Centuries:** 44
- **Last ODI:** December 2022 against Bangladesh
- **Early Achievements:**
- **2004 Under-19 World Cup:** Scored three centuries and accumulated 505 runs, showcasing early promise.

26) India Shines at Asian Surfing Championships 2024: A Milestone for Indian Surfing

In a significant achievement for Indian surfing, the **national team secured a silver medal at the**

prestigious **Maruhaba Cup**, a team event at the **Asian Surfing Championships 2024**. The competition, held in **Thulusdhoo, Maldives**, concluded on **Sunday**, marking a new chapter in **India's surfing history**.

Achievement:

- **Event:** Maruhaba Cup, part of the Asian Surfing Championships 2024.
- **Location:** Thulusdhoo, Maldives.
- **Result:** India won the silver medal in the team event.

Indian Team:

- **Members:** Kamali P, Ajeesh Ali, Srikanth D, Sanjay Selvamani.
- **Performance:** Showcased exceptional skill and teamwork, leading to their podium finish.

Final Standings:

1. **Japan:** Gold Medal (Score: 58.40)
2. **India:** Silver Medal (Score: 24.13)
3. **Taipei:** Bronze Medal (Score: 23.93)
4. **China:** Fourth Place (Score: 22.10)

Road to the Final:

- **Semi-Final Performance:** India won Heat 2 with a score of 32.16.
 - **Competitors:**

- Taipei: Second Place (Score: 29.70)
- Republic of Korea: Third Place (Score: 27.74)

27) Lausanne Diamond League 2024 Highlights

Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra finished 2nd at the **Lausanne Diamond League 2024** (also known as Athletissima) with his season's **best throw of 89.49 meter**.

- **Venue:** Pontaise Olympic Stadium, Lausanne, Switzerland
- **Organized by:** World Athletics

Javelin Throw Results:

- **1st Place:** Anderson Peters (Grenada) – 90.61 meters
- **2nd Place:** Neeraj Chopra (India) – 89.49 meters (Season's Best)
- **3rd Place:** Julian Weber (Germany) – 87.08 meters

28) Formula 1 Heineken Dutch Grand Prix 2024

McLaren's Lando Norris, a British racing driver, won the title at the **Formula 1 (F1) Heineken Dutch Grand Prix (GP) 2024** held at the **Circuit Zandvoort, in Zandvoort, the Netherlands**. This marks Norris's **2nd title of his F1 career**.

Event Details:

- **Race:** Formula 1 Heineken Dutch Grand Prix 2024
- **Date:** August 25, 2024
- **Location:** Circuit Zandvoort, Zandvoort, Netherlands

Results:

- **Winner:** Lando Norris (McLaren) – This victory marks his 2nd career F1 title.
- **2nd Place:** Max Verstappen (Red Bull) – Dutch-Belgian driver.
- **3rd Place:** Charles Leclerc (Ferrari) – From Monaco.

29) Five-Year-Old Teghbir Singh Conquers Mount Kilimanjaro

Teghbir Singh, a five-year-old from Ropar, Punjab, has become the youngest Asian to summit Mount Kilimanjaro.

Height: Kilimanjaro stands at 5,895 meters (19,341 feet) above sea level.

Climb Details:

- **Departure:** August 18, 2024
- **Summit Reached:** August 23, 2024
- **Summit:** Uhuru Peak

30) Jyotiraditya Scindia Inaugurates Air Pistol Shooting Range in Gwalior Honoring Manu Bhaker's Olympic Achievements

- **Union Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia** inaugurated a **10-meter air pistol shooting range at Jiwaji Club, Gwalior, named after Manu Bhaker.**
- **Manu Bhaker, who won 2 bronze medals at the 2024 Paris Olympics, is the first Indian athlete post-independence to win two medals in the same Olympics.**
- The 10m air pistol range is a standard facility for indoor competitive shooting, using electronic or paper targets and **4.5-mm air pistols powered by compressed air or CO2.**

31) Manu Bhaker's Achievements at the 2024 Paris Olympics:

- **First Bronze:** Women's individual 10m air pistol event, making her the first Indian woman shooter to win an Olympic medal.
- **Second Bronze:** 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team event with Sarabjot Singh, defeating South Korea 16-10.
- **Bhaker joins an elite group of Indian athletes with multiple individual Olympic medals:**
 - **P.V. Sindhu:** Silver (2016 Rio) and Bronze (2020 Tokyo) in women's singles badminton.
 - **Sushil Kumar:** Bronze (2008 Beijing) and Silver (2012 London) in men's freestyle wrestling (66 kg).

Additional Info: Norman Gilbert Pritchard, a British-Indian athlete, **won silver medals in 200m sprint and 200m hurdles at the 1900 Paris Olympics**, often considered the first Asian-born athlete to win Olympic medals.

32) Bangladesh Triumphs in SAFF U-20 Championship 2024

Bangladesh has emerged as the new champion of the SAFF (South Asian Football Federation) U-20 Championship football tournament. This victory marks a significant milestone in Bangladesh's football history, as it is the first time the nation has claimed this prestigious title. The tournament, which showcased the talent of young South Asian footballers, concluded with a thrilling final match that saw Bangladesh defeat the host nation, Nepal.

The Championship Final

A Decisive Victory

The final match of the SAFF U-20 Championship 2024 was held on August 30, 2024, in Nepal. The game ended with a resounding scoreline:

- **Bangladesh: 4**
- **Nepal: 1**

This convincing win not only secured Bangladesh's first SAFF U-20 title but also

demonstrated the team's dominance throughout the tournament.

33) Bihar CM Nitish Kumar Inaugurates Sports University in Rajgir on National Sports Day

Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inaugurated a sports academy, sports complex, and sports university in Rajgir, Bihar, on National Sports Day, marking a major milestone in the state's commitment to sports development.

- **Significance:** The inauguration, coinciding with National Sports Day, highlights Bihar's dedication to promoting sports and physical fitness, with the Chief Minister's presence emphasizing the government's support for this initiative.
- **Rajgir Sports Complex:**
 - **Comprehensive Athletic Hub:** The complex offers facilities for 24 types of indoor and outdoor games, equipped with state-of-the-art training areas catering to all skill levels.
 - **Medical Facilities:** It includes a 24-bed hospital with modern treatment facilities and specialized care for sports injuries.
 - **Centres of Excellence:** The complex features specialized centers for Wrestling, Weightlifting, and Athletics, aimed

at nurturing emerging talent with top-notch training and coaching.

- **Sports University:** The sports university in Rajgir will bridge athletics and academics, offering undergraduate and postgraduate programs in sports-related fields, becoming a cornerstone for sports education in the region.

34) Mona Agrawal Won Her First Paralympic Bronze Medal

Mona Agarwal made history by winning a bronze medal in the women's 10m air rifle standing SH1 event at the 2024 Paralympics on August 30. Her journey was marked by immense resilience as she balanced her responsibilities as a mother with her ambitions as an athlete. She was close to securing gold but a slight misstep in the final round saw her settle for bronze.

Defence news

1. Pollution Control Vessel Launched: Union Minister of State for Defence, Sanjay Seth, launched the Rs 2,500-crore pollution control vessel, GSL Yard 1267, for the Indian Coast Guard in Vasco, Goa. The vessel, 72% indigenously built by Goa Shipyard Limited, is equipped with advanced technology to combat coastal pollution and protect marine environments.

2. India's Second Nuclear Submarine Commissioned: India's second nuclear submarine,

INS Arighat, was commissioned in Visakhapatnam. **It is equipped with K-15 missiles (750 km range) and powered by a pressurized light-water reactor.** The submarine can stay submerged for extended periods and is 112 meters long. Additional nuclear submarines, including **INS Aridhaman with K-4 missiles, are under construction.**

3. Indian Army Orders SIG716 Rifles: The Indian Army has placed an additional order for **73,000 SIG716 rifles from US-based SIG Sauer.** This order increases the total number of these modern **7.62x51mm assault rifles to 145,400,** replacing the older INSAS rifles. This procurement is part of India's efforts to modernize its infantry's weaponry.

4. INS Mumbai's Visit to Colombo: Indian Navy's **INS Mumbai** arrived in Colombo for a **three-day visit.** This is the ship's first visit to Sri Lanka and marks the eighth Indian Navy visit this year. **The ship will deliver spare parts for Sri Lanka Air Force's Dornier maritime patrol aircraft and engage in joint activities.**

5. Shaurya Sampravah 1.0: The Indian Army held the Shaurya Sampravah 1.0 event at the Manekshaw Centre in Delhi, focusing on harnessing the experience and insights of veteran officers. The event featured a briefing on the "Decade of Transformation" roadmap.

6. INS Tabar's Visit to Denmark: INS Tabar visited Esbjerg, Denmark, for a two-day visit to enhance naval relations. The visit included bilateral interactions with the Danish Armed Forces and cultural exchanges, reflecting India's commitment to global naval partnerships.

7. DRDO Transfers NIPUN Munition Authority: The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has transferred the Authority Holding Sealed Particulars of the NIPUN munition to the Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA). NIPUN, developed by Armament Research & Development Establishment & High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, is now inducted into the Indian Army.

8. Rajnath Singh Inaugurates ICG Facilities: Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh inaugurated the Indian Coast Guard Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) in Chennai. Additional facilities include the Regional Marine Pollution Response Centre in Chennai and the Coast Guard Air Enclave in Puducherry.

9. IAF and Army Execute Para-Drop: The Indian Air Force and Indian Army conducted a precise para-drop of the BHISHM trauma care cube at 15,000 feet as part of Project BHISHM. The operation utilized C-130J Super Hercules and advanced precision drop equipment.

10. DRDO Tests GAURAV Glide Bomb: DRDO successfully tested the GAURAV Long Range Glide Bomb from an Su-30 MK-1 off Odisha's coast. The 1,000 kg bomb hit its target with precision, showcasing India's indigenous defense capabilities.

11. India-Sri Lanka Joint Exercise 'Mitra Shakti': The 10th edition of the 'Mitra Shakti' joint military exercise between India and Sri Lanka commenced at Sri Lanka's Army Training School in Maduru Oya. The exercise focuses on enhancing joint military capabilities and counter-terrorism in semi-urban environments.

12. IAF Completes Exercise Udara Shakti 2024: The Indian Air Force team returned after participating in Exercise Udara Shakti 2024 in Malaysia. IAF's Su-30MKI jets engaged in air combat missions with the Royal Malaysian Air Force's Su-30MKM fighters, enhancing interoperability between the two air forces.

13. DRDO Develops Lightest Bullet-Proof Jacket: DRDO developed the lightest Bullet Proof Jacket with a Front Hard Armour Panel, weighing 10.1 kg for medium size. The jacket meets BIS standard 17051 and offers protection against 7.62x54 R AP/API rounds, featuring a Quick Release Mechanism for enhanced comfort.

14. Indian Army Conducts 'Parvat Prahaar' Exercise: The 'Parvat Prahaar' exercise focuses on

mountainous and rugged terrains in regions like Eastern Ladakh. It showcases the operability of tanks, artillery guns, air-defense systems, UAVs, and aviation assets.

15. INS Tabar Conducts Maritime Partnership Exercise with German Navy: INS Tabar conducted a Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) with the German Navy's Sea Lynx off Kiel Canal. The exercise included advanced maritime operations, reinforcing India-Germany naval relations.

16. ITBP Receives Russian KAMAZ Typhoon Vehicles: The ITBP demonstrated the 'Typhoon' vehicle at its Transport Battalion in Chandigarh. The Typhoon-K, available in 6x6 and 4x4 configurations, offers exceptional mobility and protection. Vehicle Factory Jabalpur will manufacture these vehicles under license.

17. IAF Clears Production of Astra Missiles: The Indian Air Force has approved the production of 200 Astra Mark 1 air-to-air missiles, developed by DRDO and produced by Bharat Dynamics Limited. The Astra Mark 1 missile, with a range of up to 100 km, will equip Su-30 and LCA Tejas aircraft. The Astra Mark 2 missile, with a 130 km range, is set for its first test soon.

18. Multilateral Air Exercise 'Taranga Shakti 2024': 'Taranga Shakti 2024,' India's first multinational air exercise, started in Sular, Tamil

Nadu. The exercise includes 30 countries and will run in two phases: August 6-14 in Tamil Nadu and August 29-September 14 in Jodhpur, Rajasthan.

19. INS Tabar's Maritime Partnership with Russian Ship: INS Tabar visited St. Petersburg for the 328th Russian Navy Day Parade and conducted a Maritime Partnership Exercise with the Russian Navy Ship Soobrazitelny. The exercise featured complex naval maneuvers, enhancing professionalism and interoperability.

Science And Tech News

1) Infosys and Nvidia Partnership:

- Infosys and Nvidia are enhancing their collaboration to develop generative AI solutions for telecom operators. They have created three AI solutions using Nvidia's technology, including real-time transcription and translation for call centers. These solutions achieve up to 61% lower latency and a 22% improvement in accuracy.

2) Union Cabinet Approves 'Vigyan Dhara' Scheme:

- On August 27, 2024, the Union Cabinet approved the 'Vigyan Dhara' scheme with a budget of ₹10,579.84 crore for 2021-26. This scheme integrates three major

initiatives to enhance India's Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) ecosystem, supporting the vision of a developed India by 2047.

3) Siemens Healthineers' Mpxv RT-PCR Test Kits:

- Siemens Healthineers received approval from the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) to manufacture RT-PCR test kits for detecting Mpxv at its Vadodara facility. The kits, capable of producing results in 40 minutes, target specific regions of the viral genome and are compatible with existing COVID testing infrastructure.

4) IIM Bangalore's Global PEVC Excellence Centre:

- IIM Bangalore has established India's first Global Centre for Private Equity and Venture Capital, named after Tony James. The Centre, launched in partnership with alumnus Mathew Cyriac, aims to lead research and education in private equity and venture capital, supported by significant alumni contributions and industry collaboration.

5) Bharat Biotech's Oral Cholera Vaccine:

- Bharat Biotech announced the global launch of its oral cholera vaccine, Hilkchol, following successful Phase 3 trials. Developed under a license from Singapore-based Hilleman Laboratories, Hilkchol aims to address the global shortage of 40 million doses annually, with a production capacity of 200 million doses.

6) New Plant Species Discovered in Ambagad:

- A new plant species, *Cleistanthus Deekshabhoomiana*, was discovered in Ambagad Forest, Bhandara. This is the 9th *Cleistanthus Collinus* species in India and is found in dry deciduous forests. Conservation efforts include establishing a seed bank to protect the species.

7) Gopichand Thotakura's Space Journey:

- Gopichand Thotakura, India's first civilian space tourist, returned to New Delhi after his space journey with Blue Origin's New Shepard-25 (NS-25) mission. Thotakura is the second Indian citizen to travel to space, marking a significant milestone in India's space exploration history.

8) NASA Extends Stay for Astronauts:

- NASA announced that astronauts Butch Wilmore and Sunita Williams will remain on the ISS until February 2025 due to

safety concerns with Boeing's Starliner capsule. The Starliner will return uncrewed for further testing, while Wilmore and Williams will return aboard a SpaceX Crew-9 mission.

9) **Microplastics in Human Brains:**

Recent studies have detected microplastics in human brains, lungs, placenta, reproductive organs, and bone marrow, with the brain showing the highest levels. Microplastics make up about 0.5% of brain weight on average and have increased by 50% over the years, raising concerns about potential links to diseases like dementia and Alzheimer's.

10) **New Plant Genome Editing Tool**

'ISDra2TnpB':

- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Penn State developed a miniature genome editing tool, ISDra2TnpB. This tool, less than half the size of traditional CRISPR systems, achieves up to 33.58% efficiency and could enhance crop traits and resilience against pests and extreme weather.

11) **Mithun Recorded in Assam:**

- Assam has officially recorded the Mithun (*Bos frontalis*) for the first time.

Previously listed under "others" in livestock censuses, this discovery highlights tribal rearing practices and is seen as a potential boost for eco-tourism and sustainable agriculture in the region.

12) **Delhi Airport Achieves Net Zero Carbon**

Emission:

- Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport has achieved Net Zero Carbon Emission status, becoming the first Indian airport with Level 5 certification by Airport Council International. The airport achieved a 90% reduction in Scope 1 and 2 emissions using renewable energy, electric vehicles, and green infrastructure. A target is set for net zero Scope 3 emissions by 2050.

13) **SpaceX's Polaris Dawn Mission:**

- SpaceX's Polaris Dawn mission, launched on August 26, 2024, will send a private crew to altitudes of 870 miles, entering Earth's radiation belts. This risky mission aims to explore new frontiers in space.

14) **New Electric Vehicle Testing Facility in**

Bengaluru:

- Union Minister Pralhad Joshi will lay the foundation for a new Electric Vehicle (EV) Testing Facility at RRSL Camp in

Bengaluru. The facility will support the growing EV industry in southern India.

15) **Rare Super Blue Moon:**

- A rare "Sturgeon Moon," marking a super blue moon event, appeared on August 19, 2024. A supermoon looks 14% bigger and 30% brighter as it occurs when the moon is closest to Earth in its orbit. The blue moon is the second full moon in a month or the third in a season with four.

16) **Kerala University's Advanced Cyanide Sensor:**

- Kerala University developed a new cyanide sensor to enhance food and water safety. The sensor changes color upon detecting cyanide, providing a reliable method to monitor this toxin in cyanide-prone areas.

17) **ISRO's Earth Observation Satellite EOS-08:**

- ISRO's EOS-08 satellite was launched on August 16, 2024, by SSLV-D3 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre. The satellite, designed for a one-year mission, carries advanced technologies for imaging, GNSS-R remote sensing, and UV dosimetry.

18) **New Edible Bug Species Discovered in Bengaluru:**

- Researchers at Bengaluru's Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) discovered three new edible bug species traditionally consumed by North-East India's indigenous communities. The species are *Coridius adii*, *Coridius esculentu*, and *Coridius insperatus*.

19) **World's Oldest Sun-and-Moon Calendar Discovered in Turkey:**

- Archaeologists at Göbekli Tepe, Turkey, uncovered the world's oldest known Sun-and-Moon calendar, carved into a 13,000-year-old stone pillar. The pillar features 365 V-shaped symbols, reflecting a sophisticated understanding of solar and lunar cycles.

20) **India Begins Phase 3 Trials for Dengue Vaccine 'DengiAll':**

- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Panacea Biotech started Phase 3 trials for DengiAll, India's first indigenous dengue vaccine. The vaccine aims to address all four dengue virus serotypes and is being tested across 19 sites with over 10,000 participants.

21) IIT Indore's Advanced Shoes with TENG Technology:

- IIT Indore has developed advanced shoes using Tribo-Electric Nanogenerator (TENG) technology. These shoes convert walking motion into electrical energy, with applications in GPS tracking, sports, health monitoring, and factory attendance.

22) ESA's JUICE Mission to Attempt Lunar-Earth Flyby:

- The JUICE mission is set for a Lunar-Earth flyby on August 19-20, 2024, marking the first double gravity assist maneuver using both the Moon and Earth. This maneuver will help conserve propellant for the mission's later stages, including its orbit around Jupiter's moon Ganymede.

23) Anti-Diabetic Herb Discovered on Brahmayoni Hill:

- Researchers identified **Gymnema sylvestre (Gurmar) on Brahmayoni Hill, Gaya**. This plant, used in the anti-diabetic drug BGR-34, is known for its potential to lower blood sugar levels and reduce intestinal sugar absorption.

24) Three Indian Ocean Structures Named:

- India has named three underwater structures in the Indian Ocean: Ashoka seamount, Chandragupt ridge, and Kalpataru ridge. These discoveries, part of India's Southern Ocean Research Programme, highlight India's contributions to oceanographic research.

Award News

1) 70th National Film Awards (2022) - Winners

The 70th National Film Awards for the year 2022 were announced on 16 August 2024. **The awards honored films made in 2022 and were presented by Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister for Railways, Information and Broadcasting, and Electronics and IT.** The jury included Rahul Rawail (Feature Films), Nila Madhab Panda (Non-Feature Films), and Gangadhar Mudalair (Best Writing on Cinema).

Key Awards:

- **Best Feature Film:** Aattam (Malayalam), Director: Anand Ekarshi
- **Best Debut Film of a Director:** Fouja (Haryanvi), Director: Parmod Kumar
- **Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment:** Kantara (Kannada), Director: Rishab Shetty
- **Best Feature Film Promoting Social, National, and Environmental Values:** Kutch Express (Gujarati), Director: Viral Shah
- **Best Film in AVGC:** Brahmastra Part 1: Shiva, Director: Ayan Mukerji
- **Best Direction:** Uunchai (Hindi), Director: Sooraj R. Barjatya
- **Best Actor:** Rishab Shetty (Kantara)
- **Best Actress:** Nithya Menen (Thiruchitrabalam - Tamil) & Manasi Parekh (Kutch Express - Gujarati)

- **Best Supporting Actor:** Pavan Raj Malhotra (Fouja)
- **Best Supporting Actress:** Neena Gupta (Uunchai)
- **Best Child Artist:** Sreepath (Malikappuram - Malayalam)
- **Best Male Playback Singer:** Arijit Singh (Brahmastra)
- **Best Female Playback Singer:** Bombay Jayashri (Chaayum Veyil - Malayalam)
- **Best Music Direction:** Pritam (Brahmastra)

Other Awards:

- **Best Hindi Film:** Gulmohar, Directed by Rahul V. Chittella
- **Best Tiwa Film:** Sikaisal (If Only Trees Could Talk), Directed by Dr. Bobby Sarma Baruah
- **Best Non-Feature Film:** Ayena (Hindi/Urdu), Directed by Siddhant Sarin
- **Best Book on Cinema:** Kishore Kumar: The Ultimate Biography by Anirudha Bhattacharjee & Parthiv Dhar
- **Best Film Critic:** Deepak Dua (Hindi)

2) Major Milestones in Airport Carbon Accreditation: IGIA and KIA Achievements

1. **Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA)**
 - **Achievement:** First airport in India to achieve Net Zero Carbon Emission (NZCE) status.
 - **Certification:** Level 5 under the Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA) program.
 - **Significance:** Demonstrates the airport's complete offsetting of its carbon emissions, showcasing its commitment to sustainability.
2. **Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), Bengaluru**
 - **Achievement:** First airport in Asia to receive Airports Council International's (ACI) highest Level 5 accreditation.

- **Significance:** Establishes KIA as a leader in carbon neutrality and environmental sustainability in the aviation industry.

3) Thiruvananthapuram International Airport Limited (TIAL) Receives Greentech Award

- **Award:** Pollution Control Waste Management & Recycling (PCWR) Award 2024 by the Greentech Foundation.
- **Event:** Presented at the Greentech PCWR 2024 Summit in Guwahati, Assam.
- **Recognition:** For implementing a 'zero waste to landfill' policy, showcasing environmental responsibility.

National Geoscience Awards 2023

- **Organizer:** Union Ministry of Mines.
- **Established:** 1966, renamed in 2009.
- **Award Categories:**
 1. National Geoscience Award for Lifetime Achievement
 2. National Young Geoscientist Award
 3. National Geoscience Award (various sub-categories)

Key Award Recipients:

- **Lifetime Achievement Award:**
 - Prof. Dhiraj Mohan Banerjee, Emeritus Scientist, Indian National Science Academy (INSA).
- **National Young Geoscientist Award:**
 - Dr. Ashutosh Pandey, Assistant Professor, Pondicherry University.
- **National Geoscience Award - Mineral Discovery & Exploration:**
 - Team Award: Geological Survey of India teams led by Abhishek Kumar Shukla and Sanjay Singh.
 - Individual Award: Dr. Pawan Dewangan, National Institute of Oceanography, Goa.
- **Mining, Mineral Beneficiation & Sustainable Mineral Development:**

- Dr. Harsh Kumar Verma and Prof. Mangadoddy Narasimha.
- **Basic Geosciences:**
 - Dr. Rahul Mohan, National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research, Goa.

4) 26th CEAT Cricket Awards - Key Highlights

The **26th CEAT Cricket Awards** celebrated outstanding cricket performances during the 2023-24 season. Sponsored by CEAT Tyres, these prestigious awards have recognized cricketing excellence since 1995-96.

Top Award Winners:

- **International Cricketer of the Year: Rohit Sharma**
 - **Achievements:** Led India to the final of the 13th ICC Men's ODI World Cup, scoring 1800 international runs, including 597 runs in the World Cup, becoming the second-highest run-scorer.
- **ODI Batter of the Year: Virat Kohli**
 - **Achievements:** Scored 1377 ODI runs in the 2023-24 season, with six centuries. Kohli was the leading run-scorer in the World Cup with 765 runs, and surpassed Sachin Tendulkar's record with 50 ODI centuries.

Complete List of Winners:

- **Lifetime Achievement Award:** Rahul Dravid
- **Performance in Test Matches (Men's):**
 - Test Batter of the Year: Yashashvi Jaiswal
 - Test Bowler of the Year: Ravichandran Ashwin
- **Performance in ODI (Men's):**
 - Batter of the Year: Virat Kohli

- Bowler of the Year: Mohammad Shami
- **Performance in T20 (Men's):**
 - Batter of the Year: Phil Salt (England)
 - Bowler of the Year: Tim Southee (New Zealand)
- **Performance in Domestic Cricket (Men):**
 - Cricketer of the Year: Sai Kishore (Tamil Nadu)
- **Best Indian Women Cricketer:**
 - Batter of the Year: Smriti Mandhana
 - Bowler of the Year: Deepti Sharma

Special Memento Awards:

- Most Matches as Captain in Women's T20I History: Harmanpreet Kaur
- Outstanding Leadership in IPL: Shreyas Iyer
- Fastest Double Century in Women's Test Match: Shafali Verma

Other Awards:

- Excellence in Sports Administration: Jay Shah (BCCI Secretary)

5) 1st Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar: Chandrayaan 3 Team wins Team Award

The **1st Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar** celebrated significant achievements in science, technology, and innovation, with the **Chandrayaan 3 team** from the **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** being honored with the **Vigyan Team Award**. This recognition is among the highest in Indian scientific accolades.

Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar Overview:

- **Introduction:** Instituted in 2023 by the Government of India, the Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar consolidates over 300 previous awards into one prestigious

recognition for Indian scientists, technologists, and innovators.

- **Award Structure:** Recipients receive a **medal** and **citation** but no cash prize.
- **Categories:**
 - **Vigyan Ratna:** Up to 3 individuals
 - **Vigyan Shri:** Up to 25 individuals
 - **Vigyan Yuva:** Up to 25 young scientists
 - **Vigyan Team:** Up to 3 teams
- **Domains:** Covers 13 fields, including:
 - **Biological Sciences**
 - **Mathematics and Computer Science**
 - **Physics**
 - **Chemistry**
 - **Earth Science**
 - **Medicine**
 - **Engineering Sciences**
 - **Agricultural Science**
 - **Environmental Science**
 - **Technology and Innovation**
 - **Atomic Energy**
 - **Space Science and Technology**

6) Google CEO Sundar Pichai Honored with Honorary Doctorate from IIT-Kharagpur In a momentous occasion that bridged Silicon Valley and the prestigious halls of Indian academia, **Google and Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai and his wife Anjali Pichai** were honored by their alma mater, the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur**. The ceremony, held in San Francisco, marked a significant milestone in the couple’s already illustrious careers and underscored the global impact of India’s premier technological institutes.

7) Shah Rukh Khan Honored with Career Achievement Award at 77th Locarno Film Festival

Shah Rukh Khan received a career achievement award on **August 10, 2024, at the Locarno Film Festival’s Piazza Grande, addressing an audience of 8,000.**

- **Views on Cinema:** He described cinema as a profound artistic medium that

transcends boundaries and emphasized that art’s purpose is to affirm life.

- **Reflections on Creativity:** Khan highlighted love as the foundation of creativity, connecting it to universal understanding and joy.
- **Humorous Award Renaming:** He humorously renamed his award the “Leopard award for being the most awesome in the world, in the history of humility and kindness and goodness.”

8) 7th Anubhav Awards Ceremony Recognizes Outstanding Personnel with Record Female Awardees

On August 2024, V. Srinivas, Secretary, Department of Pension and Pensioners’ Welfare (DoPPW) under the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions (MOPPG&P) conferred the 5 Anubhav Awards and 10 Jury Certificates to the personnel from 9 different ministries in 7th Anubhav Awards ceremony held in the Plenary Hall of Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi(Delhi).

- **Awards Presented:** 5 Anubhav Awards and 10 Jury Certificates
- **Record Achievement:** 5 of the 15 awardees are women, marking the highest proportion of female recipients in the history of the Anubhav Awards since 2015.
- **Additional Events:**
 - **55th Pre-Retirement Counselling (PRC) Workshop:** Organized for Central Government employees retiring on 31st March 2025.
 - **11th All-India Pension Adalat:** Presided over by V. Srinivas, Secretary (Pensions), also held in New Delhi on the same day.

9) FICCI Young Leaders Awards: Honoring Ayushmann Khurrana and Neeraj Chopra

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) held its prestigious **Young Leaders Awards in New Delhi**, celebrating the achievements of talented individuals from various sectors.

- **Youth Icons Honored:**
 - **Ayushmann Khurrana:** Bollywood superstar known for his versatile acting.
 - **Neeraj Chopra:** Olympic gold medalist in javelin throw.
- **Award Presenters:**
 - **Shashwat Goenka:** President of FICCI Young Leaders Forum.
 - **Aishwarya Bansal:** President of FICCI Young Leaders Delhi NCR Chapter.
- **Purpose of the Awards:**
 - Recognize excellence across various fields.
 - Honor young leaders who have demonstrated exceptional skills.
 - Acknowledge contributions to positive societal change.

10) Kerala Tourism Clinches PATA Gold Award 2024 for Innovative 'Holiday Heist' Campaign

Kerala Tourism won the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Gold Award 2024 in the Digital Marketing Campaign category for its innovative online contest, '**Holiday Heist.**'

- **Event Details:**
 - **Location:** The award was presented at the PATA Travel Mart 2024 in Bangkok.
 - **Venue:** Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre (QSNCC).
 - **Key Figures:**
 - **Peter Semone:** PATA Chair, presented the award.
 - **Sikha Surendran:** Kerala Tourism Director, received the award.
- **Campaign Overview:**

- **'Holiday Heist':** A month-long campaign launched in July 2023.
- **Platform:** Hosted on Kerala Tourism's WhatsApp chatbot, Maya.
- **Concept:** Participants engaged in a 'lowest unique bidding' game to win tour packages.
- **Significance:** Kerala was the only Indian destination to win a PATA Gold Award this year, highlighting its leadership in creative tourism promotion on the global stage.

11) NTPC Kanti's Silver Medal at Tusker Awards:

- NTPC Kanti won the Silver Medal for **CSR Innovation** at the **Tusker Awards**, organized by the Indo-Continental Trade and Entrepreneurship Promotion Council.
- The award, presented by Kerala's Tourism Minister, **PA Mohammed Riyas**, was given to **Chandra Prakash** for NTPC's impactful initiatives in **skill development, youth employment, women empowerment, health, infrastructure, and education.**

12) 24th International Mother Teresa Awards:

- Held in Dubai on **August 26, 2024**, the awards honored significant contributions in **education, social work, and the arts.**
- Notable recipients included **João Bernardo Vieira II, Mohammed Mahtabur Rahman, and Ahmed al Hashemi.** The event featured cultural segments and a documentary on **Mother Teresa.**

13) Best Airport Award to Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA):

- **Hyderabad's RGIA** won the **Best Airport** award at the **India Travel Awards** for the third consecutive year.
- This accolade recognizes **RGIA's excellence in social media engagement and airline support.**

14) **India's Medals at the 17th International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO):**

- Indian students secured **three gold, two silver, and three bronze medals** at the event held in **Beijing.**
- The IESO promotes awareness of **climate change and environmental issues**, and the Indian participants were selected through the **Indian National Earth Science Olympiad (INESO)**, supported by the **Ministry of Earth Sciences (MOES).**

15) **CRPF Gallantry Medals on Independence Day:**

- The **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** received **52 gallantry medals**, the highest among Indian forces, for bravery in **Jammu and Kashmir** and **anti-Maoist operations.** Notable recipients included **Sub-Inspector Raushan Kumar (posthumous)** and **Assistant Commandant Teja Ram Choudhary.**
- CRPF Director General: **Anish Dayal Singh.**
- Motto: **Service and Loyalty.**

16) **Abhinav Bindra Honored with Olympic Order:**

- **Abhinav Bindra**, India's first Olympic gold medalist, received the **Olympic Order** for his contributions to the **Olympic Movement.**
- He is currently the **vice chair** of the **IOC Athletes' Commission.**

17) **Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar Announcements:**

- The Indian government announced the **Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar** for outstanding contributions across 13 domains, such as **Physics, Chemistry, Engineering, and Space Science.**
- Notable winners include **Prof. Govindarajan Padmanabhan** (Biological Sciences), **Prof. Lakshmanan Muthusamy** (Physics), and the **ISRO Chandrayaan-3 Team** (Space Science).

Books and author news

1) **Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari Launched IAF Heroes Comic Book**

- **ACM V R Chaudhari** launched the first comic book on Indian Air Force heroes, highlighting historical and heroic narratives of the IAF.
- The book features stories of **Marshal of the Air Force Arjan Singh** and the **1971 Battle of Boyra**, and includes information on IAF careers.
- It will be distributed free during IAF Induction Publicity drives, with a digital release on **Air Force Day**, October 8.

2) **Tarun Chugh's Book on PM Modi's Governance Released**

- **Tarun Chugh's** book, "**Modi's Governance Triumph: Reshaping India's Path to Prosperity**," explores **PM Modi's policies, including 'Make in**

India' and GST, and addresses challenges during his tenure.

- The book critiques Modi's leadership, highlighting progress in poverty alleviation, economic disparity, and national security while envisioning India's future by 2047.

3) Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Attended '75 Great Revolutionaries' Launch

- **Harivansh Narayan Singh**, the Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman, attended the launch of **75 Great Revolutionaries of India** by Rajya Sabha MP Bhim Singh.
- The book highlights lesser-known freedom fighters, offering inspiration for building a 'Viksit Bharat'.
- Singh was praised for his research and contribution to documenting these unsung heroes.

4) PM Modi Praised Book on Asiatic Lions by Parimal Nathwani

- **PM Modi** lauded Parimal Nathwani's book "**Call of the Gir**" for its focus on Asiatic lions and conservation.
- The book features vivid photography and narratives about **Gir's** landscapes and conservation needs.
- Nathwani presented the book to PM Modi, highlighting his passion for wildlife.

- The first scientific description of the Asiatic lion was published in **1826** by Austrian zoologist **Johann N. Meyer**.

Obituary news

1) National Award-Winning Filmmaker Utpalendu Chakrabarty Passed Away

- **West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee** expressed sorrow over the death of National Award-winning filmmaker **Utpalendu Chakrabarty**.
- Chakrabarty was a renowned director in the Bengali film industry, creating films like '**Chokh**' and '**Debshishu**'.
- He earned the **National Award for Best Feature Film and Best Direction** for '**Chokh**' at the 30th National Film Awards.

2) World's Oldest Person, Maria Branyas Morera, Died Aged 117

- **Maria Branyas Morera** became the world's oldest person in **January 2023**. She passed away at the age of 117.

Here is the information in a more readable format:

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5) RN Agarwal, 'Father of Agni Missile,' Passed Away

- **R.N. Agarwal**, the "Father of the Agni Missile" and Padma Bhushan awardee, passed away due to old-age ailments.
- Agarwal was an Indian aerospace engineer known for his contributions to the **Agni series of surface-to-surface missiles**.

- Awards he received: **Padma Shri (1990)**, **Padma Bhushan (2000)**, **Dr. Biren Roy Space Science Award (1990)**.

6) Gandhian Shobhana Ranade Passed Away at 99

- Renowned Gandhian and social worker **Shobhana Ranade**, who met **Mahatma Gandhi** at 18, passed away in Pune at 99.
- She dedicated her life to uplifting underprivileged women and children and was awarded the **Padma Bhushan** in 2011 for her contributions to social work.
- Ranade's influence extended to many, including historian **Pandurang Balkawde**, whom she encouraged during his youth.

7) Yamini Krishnamurthy: Iconic Indian Classical Dancer Passed Away at 83

- **Yamini Krishnamurthy**, an acclaimed Bharatanatyam, Kuchipudi, and Odissi dancer, passed away on **August 3**.
- She was a recipient of **Padma Shri (1968)**, **Padma Bhushan (2001)**, and **Padma Vibhushan (2016)**.
- She was also conferred the **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award** in 1977.
- Her demise marks the end of an era, and the loss of a cultural pillar.

8) Former India Cricketer Anshuman Gaekwad Passed Away at 71

- Former Indian cricketer **Anshuman Gaekwad** passed away at 71 after a battle with cancer.
- Gaekwad played **40 Tests** and **15 ODIs** for India from 1975-1987, scoring **1,985 Test runs**, including a high score of 201 against Pakistan.
- Appointed as India's coach in **1997**, he was at the helm when **Anil Kumble** took all ten wickets in an innings against Pakistan in **1999**.

Important days

Event	Date	Purpose/Significance	Additional Information
National Mountain Climbing Day	August 1, 2024	Celebrates the spirit of adventure and the achievements of mountaineers.	Honors Bobby Matthews and Josh Madigan for scaling all 46 peaks of the Adirondack Mountains, completed on August 1, 2015. Established in 2015.
Indian Organ Donation Day	August 3, 2024	Increases awareness about organ donation and commemorates the contributions of deceased donors and their families.	Observed since 2010, originally on November 27. Since 2023, observed on August 3rd to commemorate the first successful deceased donor heart transplant in India on August 3, 1994.
National Friendship Day	August 4, 2024	Celebrates the cherished bonds of friendship.	In India, observed on the first Sunday of August. International Friendship Day is recognized on July 30th by the United Nations.
National Handloom Day	August 7, 2024	Honors India's rich textile heritage and commemorates the Swadeshi Movement.	Marks the anniversary of the Swadeshi Movement launched in 1905. Initiated in 2015 to recognize the handloom industry's role in India's socio-economic and cultural fabric.
National Javelin Day	August 7, 2024	Celebrates Neeraj Chopra's gold medal win in javelin throw at the Tokyo Olympics 2020 and promotes the sport of javelin throw in India.	Marks the 3rd National Javelin Day. Declared by the Athletics Federation of India on August 11, 2021. Chopra became the first Asian to win Olympic gold in javelin throw.
Quit India Movement Day	August 8, 2024	Commemorates the launch of the Quit India Movement in 1942, a pivotal event in India's fight for independence.	Highlights non-violent resistance and civil disobedience. Marks the 82nd anniversary in 2024.
International Youth Day	August 12, 2024	Recognizes the contributions of young people to society and addresses the challenges they face.	Theme for 2024: "From Clicks to Progress: Youth Digital Pathways for Sustainable Development." Established by the UN in 1999, first celebrated on August 12, 2000.
World Humanitarian Day	August 19, 2024	Honors humanitarian workers and raises awareness of their challenges, especially in conflict zones.	Marks the anniversary of the 2003 bombing of the Canal Hotel in Baghdad, Iraq. 2023 was the deadliest year for aid workers, with 2024 potentially surpassing it.
International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the	August 21, 2024	Honors and supports victims and survivors of terrorism.	Aims to promote the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms for victims of terrorism.

Victims of Terrorism			
World Water Week	August 25-29, 2024	Addresses critical water-related challenges globally, including access to clean water, sanitation, and sustainability.	Organized by Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI). Theme: "Bridging Borders: Water for a Peaceful and Sustainable Future." Originated from the Stockholm Water Symposium in 1991.
National Sports Day	August 29, 2024	Honors the spirit of sports in India and celebrates the birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand.	Established in 2012. Major Dhyan Chand is known as the 'Wizard of Hockey' and led India to three consecutive Olympic gold medals in 1928, 1932, and 1936.

