



# Bi-weekly Current Affairs for Govt Exams 1-15 Aug (English PDF)

## **Bi-Weekly One Liners Updates**

### **1<sup>st</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

Dear readers,

**Weekly One Liners Update** is a collection of important news and events that occurred in the **first two weeks (1-15th) of August 2023**. This file is important for, **Banking, SSC, Railway & Insurance** exams.

### **Banking & Financial Awareness**

1. Which bank has partnered with the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad's (IIM-A) startup incubator Centre for Innovation, Incubation & Entrepreneurship to promote tech \_\_\_\_\_ **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**.

**Note:**

- Aims: To promote Deep Tech and science-led Innovation by facilitating access to seed capital.
- Objective: To support startups with meritorious ideas and technologies important for India's goals for 2047 to become self-reliant.

2. According to the data released by the Ministry of Commerce, India's eight core sectors have registered a growth of what percent in June 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **8.2 percent**.

**Note:**

- The growth rate of 8.2 percent in June for India's eight key infrastructure sectors, which include coal, crude oil, steel, cement, electricity.
- The core sector growth for May has been revised upward from 4.3 percent to 5.0 percent.
- The core sector growth in June 2022 was 13.1 percent.

3. Which bank hosted the first edition of 'KBL - FinOne', a fintech partnership event, in Bengaluru in July 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Karnataka Bank**.

**Note:**

- Objective: To develop innovative business models, provide a seamless banking experience and offer a complete product suite.
- The first edition of 'KBL - FinOne' featured over 30 speakers from various fintech, delving into some of the interesting and relevant topics such as emerging lending models, neo-banks.

4. According to the finance ministry, the gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues for the month of July 2023 are what percent higher than the GST revenues in the July 2022 \_\_\_\_\_ **11%**.

**Note:**

- It is for the fifth time since the rollout of the regime that the gross GST collection crossed the Rs 1.65 lakh crore mark.
- The total revenue of Centre and the States in the month of July 2023 after regular settlement was Rs 69,558 crore for CGST and Rs 70,811 crore for the SGST.

5. According to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, how much percent GST on casinos and online gaming is expected to be implemented from the 1st of October \_\_\_\_\_ **28 percent**.

**Note:**

- 28% GST would be applicable on the amount being paid at the entry level for online gaming.
- GST Council recommended certain amendments in the CGST Act 2017 and IGST Act 2017, including amendment in Schedule III of CSGT Act, 2017, to provide clarity on the taxation of supplies in casinos, horse racing and online gaming.

6. According to the S&P, India's gross domestic product is expected to grow at a rate of what percent per year from fiscal year 2024 to FY 2031 \_\_\_\_\_ **6.7%**.



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**Note:**

- Growth is projected to elevate India's GDP from \$3.4 trillion in fiscal year 2023 to \$6.7 trillion.
- As per S&P Global, the rating agency, the per capita GDP is anticipated to increase to around \$4,500.
- The main factor driving Indian growth is a capital accumulation.
- Investment as a proportion of GDP reached a 10-year high of 34% in fiscal 2023.

7. Capital markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India has canceled the registration of which organization as a stock broker in August 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Metals and Minerals Trading Corp of India (MMTC) Ltd.**

**Note:**

- Reason: Its involvement in illegal "paired contracts" in a case pertaining to now defunct National Spot Exchange Ltd (NSEL) in Aug 2023
- While cancelling the licence, Sebi directed MMTC to allow its existing clients to withdraw or transfer their securities or funds held by it within 15 days.

8. The combined market valuation of seven of the top-10 most valued firms eroded by what amount in first week of Aug 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ Rs 1,09,947.86 crore.

**Note:**

- State Bank of India taking the biggest hit, with a weak trend in the stock market.
- The valuation of SBI tumbled Rs 38,197.34 crore to Rs 5,11,603.38 crore.
- First week of Aug 2023, the BSE benchmark fell by 438.95 points or 0.66 percent.
- Tata Consultancy Services, HDFC Bank, and Infosys observed an increase in their market capitalization.

9. In the April-June quarter of 2023-24, the financial results of which Indian bank revealed a significant rise in quarterly profit to ₹16,884 crore, compared to ₹6,068 crore in the corresponding quarter of 2022 \_\_\_\_\_ **State Bank of India.**

**Note:**

- Net income also more than doubled to ₹18,537 crore from ₹7,325 crore in 2022
- Net interest income showed marginal deterioration while loan loss provisions more than doubled, leading to SBI shares tanking nearly 3 per cent on bourses.

10. Which payment company has launched a US dollar stablecoin, becoming the first major financial technology firm \_\_\_\_\_ **PayPal.**

**Note:**

- Aim: To embrace digital currencies for payments and transfers.
- Stablecoins are a type of cryptocurrency that typically track the value of a major currency such as the dollar one-for-one.
- They play a key role in connecting traditional and crypto markets, as traders use the coins like cash in order to move in and out of trades without paying high fees.

11. Which life insurance organization has introduced the 'Direct Incentive Disbursement' program in the Delhi and Uttarakhand circles \_\_\_\_\_ **Postal Life Insurance.**

**Note:**

- Aim: To ensure that it receives its hard-earned commissions from the previous month directly to their Post Office Savings Bank accounts.
- Swift and Secure Transactions: Salesforce receives incentives directly in their POSB accounts.
- Convenience and Motivation: Salesforce can conveniently manage their funds, and immediate rewards drive optimal performance.



12. According to the SEBI report, Domestic companies raised how much amount from capital markets in the fiscal 2022-23, which was 4.6 per cent higher than the amount raised in the fiscal 2022 \_\_\_\_\_  
**Rs 9.8 lakh crore.**

**Note:**

- The capital market regulator said that the funds were raised for the financing needs of the companies through various instruments such as equity, debt, AIFs, REITs, and InvITs.
- According to the SEBI its recovery from erring market participants for the year stood at Rs 6,031 crore

13. Banks have written off bad loans worth \_\_\_\_\_ in the last nine financial years starting 2014-15 in Aug 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Rs 14.56 lakh crore.**

**Note:**

- Out of the total Rs 14,56,226 crore, written off loans of large industries and services stood at Rs 7,40,968 crore.
- According to Minister of State for Finance Bhagwat Karad Scheduled Commercial Banks have recovered an aggregate amount of Rs 2,04,668 crore in written-off loans, including corporate loans, since April, 2014 2022 and up to March, 2023.

14. Star Health and Allied Insurance jointly partnered with which bank in August 2023 to enhance Star Health's distribution network \_\_\_\_\_ **Standard Chartered Bank.**

**Note:**

- Objective: To serve as a convenient one-stop destination for its customers seeking comprehensive health insurance coverage.
- Bancassurance is an insurance distribution model where insurance companies partner with banks to sell policies.
- SCB currently has 100 branches spread across 42 cities.

15. Which bank partnered with the state government for Odisha Tourism Development Corporation to help them strengthen payment solutions for Odisha Tourism Development Corporation Ltd \_\_\_\_\_  
**Bandhan Bank.**

**Note:**

- The bank has provided Point of Sale machines to facilitate card payments by tourists.
- Prime locations include Puri, and Bhubaneshwar, will be covered under this tie-up
- The PoS machines will hasten tourist payment collections, bringing convenience to both the tourists and OTDC officials.

16. ICICI Lombard General Insurance and which organization have joined forces to offer car and two-wheeler insurance plans \_\_\_\_\_ **Bajaj Finance.**

**Note:**

- Customers can easily purchase these policies on the platform, enjoying a fully digital and smooth customer experience.
- The ICICI Lombard Car and Two-wheeler Insurance policies offer comprehensive damage coverage, including third-party cover and various add-on benefits to vehicle owners.

17. As per the information shared by the FM in the Rajya Sabha, Public Sector Banks and 5 major private sector banks collected over what amount in charges since 2018 on account of non-maintenance of minimum balance, additional ATM transactions, and SMS Services \_\_\_\_\_ **₹35,000 crore.**

**Note:**

- Breakdown of Charges:
- ₹21,000 crore on account of non-maintenance of minimum balance.
- Over ₹8,000 crore was collected for transactions through ATM beyond free numbers and SMS charges gave over ₹6,000 crore.





18. According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Monetary Policy, released in August 2023, the RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) unanimously decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at what percent \_\_\_\_\_ **6.5 percent**.

**Note:**

- Other Highlights:
- The standing deposit facility (SDF) rate remains at 6.25%.
- The marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 6.75%.
- RBI has revised the CPI inflation target for the current fiscal to 5.4%.
- Projected real GDP growth for 2023-24: 6.5%

19. RBI has imposed ₹1.50 lakh penalty on which co-operative bank for contravention of provisions of Maintenance of Deposit Accounts \_\_\_\_\_ **Shri Vinayak Sahakari Bank**.

**Note:**

- Mizoram Urban Cooperative Development Bank was also penalized of ₹20,000 for non-compliance with specific directions under Supervisory Action Framework and KYC directions
- Further, imposed a monetary penalty of ₹1.00 lakh on Shreeji Bhatia Cooperative Bank Ltd and ₹1.50 lakh on Shri Vinayak Sahakari Bank Ltd, Ahmedabad.

20. Which payment bank has become the first Indian bank to launch an eco-friendly debit card for its new and existing customers with a savings bank account in Aug 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Airtel Payments Bank**.

**Note:**

- The debit cards will be made from certified eco-friendly r-PVC (recycled polyvinyl chloride) material, which is environmentally safe.
- Producing the r-PVC cards will lead to a 43 percent reduction in hydrocarbon usage, effectively decreasing petroleum consumption during the manufacturing process.

21. Which bank has become the first financial services provider in India to launch a 24x7 live video banking service in August 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **AU Small Finance Bank Limited**.

**Note:**

- Aims: To provide a virtual platform where customers can communicate with a video banker in real time via video calls, like video conferencing.
- Objectives: To extend the reach of banking services to areas with limited infrastructure and resources, offering a convenient and personalized banking experience.

22. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced Artificial Intelligence-powered conversational features on which interface in August 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **UPI**.

**Note:**

- Aims: To enable digital payments through voice commands
- The concept, known as "Conversational Payments," introduces a dynamic and user-friendly approach to transactions
- Objectives: To allow users to initiate payments seamlessly within chat or messaging conversations, transforming routine interactions into instant financial exchanges

23. The gross direct tax collection has registered a growth of around what percent to RS 653,000 crore compared to the same period in 2022 in Aug 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **16%**.

**Note:**

- Net direct tax collection, after adjusting refunds, stands at RS 584,000 crore, which is over 17 % higher than the net collections for the same period 2022.
- The collection is over 32% of the total Budget estimates of Direct Taxes for 2023-24.
- Refunds amounting to Rs 69,000 crore has issued, which is 3.73% more compared to year 2022

24. Which organization launched the 3rd edition of the UPI Safety Awareness Campaign, "UPI Chalega" in August 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**.



**Note:**

- Aim: To promote UPI's brand awareness, amplify understanding of its features, and encourage wider adoption among new users
- It also educates users about various features such as UPI LITE, which enables swift low-value transactions; UPI AUTOPAY, which allows secure and convenient recurring payments using any UPI application

25. Who introduced the Mahila Samman Savings Certificate (MSSC), a small savings scheme for women and girls in August 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman.**

**Note:**

- MSSC is a 2-year deposit scheme, which offers an interest rate of 7.5% per annum.
- Objective: To promote financial inclusion and empower women, including girls.
- It is a one-time program that runs from April 2023 to March 2025.
- Banks Include: Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India, Canara Bank and Bank of India

26. The wholesale price-based inflation remained in the negative territory for the fourth straight month in July 2023 at what percent on easing prices of fuel, even though food articles turned costlier \_\_\_\_\_ **(-)1.36 percent.**

**Note:**

- The wholesale price index (WPI) based inflation rate has been in the negative since April and was (-)4.12 percent in June. In July last year, it was 14.07 percent.
- Inflation in food articles skyrocketed 14.25 percent in July against 1.32 percent in June 2023

27. RBI has selected global consultancy firms McKinsey and Company India LLP and which organization to develop systems using artificial intelligence and machine learning for its supervisory functions \_\_\_\_\_ **Accenture Solutions Pvt Ltd India.**

**Note:**

- RBI is looking to AI and machine learning to analyze its huge database and improve regulatory supervision over banks, NBFCs to ensure that the benefits of advanced analytics can accrue to the Department of Supervision in the central bank.

**Obituaries**

1. Namdeo Dhondo Mahanor, who passed away, was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_ **Marathi poet.**

**Note:**

- He became a popular name in the field of poetry due to his poetry which had essence of nature.
- He also penned several songs for classic Marathi movies like Jait Re Jait, Ek Hota Vidushak and Sarja.
- In the field of literature, he was awarded with the fourth highest civilian award of the country ,Padm Shri.
- He had also been a member of the state legislative council.

2. N Vittal, who passed away in Chennai, was an/a \_\_\_\_\_ **IAS officer.**

**Note:**

- He was a former Telecom Secretary and Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC).
- As Chairman of the Telecom Commission, he also initiated the process of liberalization in the telecom sector and played a major role in getting the National Telecom Policy 1994 approved.
- He authored a book titled Corruption in India - The Roadblock to National Prosperity.

3. Gaddar, who passed away in Hyderabad, was a famous \_\_\_\_\_ **Folk singer.**

**Note:**

- His contribution to people's movements in the combined Andhra Pradesh during the peak of the Naxal movement fetched him a cult status among the Telugu-speaking population.
  - His role in the Telangana agitation cannot be forgotten and his iconic song – Podustunna Poddu Meeda Nadustunna Kaalama Poru Telanganama – was a must in every meeting of the Telangana agitation.
4. William Friedkin, who passed away, was a veteran \_\_\_\_\_ **Filmmaker**.
- Note:**
- He directed movies like "The Exorcist" and "The French Connection".
  - Friedkin exploded onto the Hollywood scene in 1971 with the gritty cop drama "The French Connection."
  - It won five Oscars, including for best director and best picture.
  - Friedkin followed that up with "The Exorcist," in 1973. It was a huge commercial and critical hit, as well as being deeply controversial.
5. Siddique, who passed away at the age of 63, was a prominent \_\_\_\_\_ **Filmmaker**.
- Note:**
- His journey in the world of Malayalam cinema began with his directorial debut, "Ramji Rao Speaking" along with his friend Lal.
  - The duo created some of the Malayalam film industry's biggest comedy blockbusters, including "In Harihar Nagar," "Godfather," "Vietnam Colony," "Ramji Rao Speaking," and "Friends," among others. He also directed films in Tamil, Telugu, and Hindi.
6. Hari Narke, passed away in Mumbai due to a heart attack at the age of 70, was a famous \_\_\_\_\_ **Author**.
- Note:**
- He was the professor of Mahatma Phule chair at Savitribai Phule Pune University and a former member of the Maharashtra Backward Class Commission.
  - He was also a member of the Rangnath Pathare committee which was formed to collect evidence to prove Marathi as a classical language.

### Important Days

1. World Wide Web Day is a day dedicated to web browsing and is celebrated on which date \_\_\_\_\_ **August 1**.
- Note:**
- Aims: To highlight the importance of the web in improving people's lives by facilitating communication, access to information and resources, education and empowerment.
  - The World Wide Web was created between 1989 and 1993 by Sir Tim Berners-Lee when he was employed at CERN (the European Organisation for Nuclear Research).
2. Muslim Women's Rights Day is observed across the nation on which date to celebrate the enactment of the law against triple talaq \_\_\_\_\_ **August 1**.
- Note:**
- The central gov enacted the law on August 1, 2019, that has made the practice of instant triple talaq a criminal offense.
  - The government has strengthened the self-reliance, self-respect and self-confidence of the Muslim women of the country and protected constitutional, fundamental and democratic rights by bringing the law against the triple talaq.
3. National Handloom Day is observed on which date \_\_\_\_\_ **August 7**.
- Note:**



- Goal: To pay tribute to the huge handloom community in the country for their contribution to carrying on the traditional heritage and ensuring financial stability.
  - Aims: To preserve India's handloom tradition and to provide more prospects for the people associated with the handloom industry.
  - This Day in India celebrates the Swadeshi Movement that began in Bengal to rely on Indian-made goods and boycott foreign goods.
4. Which week commenced on August 1 while it concludes on August 7 \_\_\_\_\_ **World Breastfeeding Week.**
- Note:**
- Aim: To emphasize regular breastfeeding for babies.
  - Breastfeeding is extremely crucial for the healthy growth and development of an infant.
  - 2023 theme: Let's make breastfeeding and work, work!
5. Which states Cultural community celebrates Aadi Perukku, also known as Pathinettam Perukku \_\_\_\_\_ **Tamil Nadu.**
- Note:**
- It is an auspicious festival to honor the monsoon season and the fertility of the soil.
  - Aadi Perukku is celebrated on August 3rd, coinciding with the 18th day of the Tamil month of Aadi.
6. World Lung Cancer Day is observed every year on which date and it has been celebrated on the same date since 2012 \_\_\_\_\_ **August 1.**
- Note:**
- It was first marked to raise awareness around the deadly disease and encourage more research on it to break the stigma around the disease.
  - The campaign for World Lung Cancer Day was recognized in the year 2012 though the momentum was set in the preceding years.
7. The world observed the International Day for Biological Diversity on which date to increase understanding and encourage the preservation of the Earth's diverse ecosystems \_\_\_\_\_ **May 22.**
- Note:**
- The world observes World Tribal Day or World Indigenous Day on which date, dedicated to advocating for and safeguarding the rights of indigenous populations \_\_\_\_\_ August 9.
  - Aim: To offer a prime opportunity to actively work towards safeguarding the fundamental rights of tribal communities worldwide
  - Goal: To safeguard the rights of these populations and ensure their voices received global recognition.
  - Theme for 2023: "Indigenous Youth as Agents of Change for Self-determination."
8. World Lion Day is observed every year on which date to highlight the importance of these majestic creatures and to garner support for their conservation \_\_\_\_\_ **August 10.**
- Note:**
- This day is also an opportunity to learn about the importance of lions in the natural world and the potential impacts of their extinction on humanity.
  - The IUCN has designated the Asiatic Lion as an endangered species because of its limited population and constrained habitat.
9. International Youth Day is commemorated every year on which date \_\_\_\_\_ **12 August.**
- Note:**
- The theme of International Youth Day 2023 is Green Skills For Youth: Towards A Sustainable WorldT





- Aims: To encourage youth around the world to organize activities to raise awareness about the situation of youth in their country.
- Objective: Bringing youth issues to the attention of the international community and celebrating the potential of youth as partners in today's global society.

**10. World Organ Donation Day is observed every year on which date \_\_\_\_\_ August 13.**

**Note:**

- Aim: To spread awareness around the importance of organ donation and bust myths around it.
- Theme for 2023: "Step up to volunteer; need more organ donors to fill the lacunae".
- Organ donation means when a person allows to surgically remove their organ and transplant it to another person.
- This is done with the content of the donor when they are alive or that of their kin when they are no more.

**11. International Left-Handers Day is celebrated every year on which date \_\_\_\_\_ August 13.**

**Note:**

- Aims: To raise awareness about the challenges and of left-handers, understanding in a predominantly right-handed world.
- Goal: To work on the challenges left-handers face and cater to their unique needs.
- Theme for 2023: "Left-Handers in Sports."
- Objective: To recognize and appreciate the diversity of skills, talents, and perspectives that left-handers bring to various fields and activities.

**12. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had declared that August 14, will be remembered as which day \_\_\_\_\_ 'Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas' or Partition Horrors Remembrance Day.**

**Note:**

- Reason: In memory of the struggles and sacrifices during the partition in 1947.
- Aim: To keep reminding us of the need to remove the poison of social divisions, and disharmony and further strengthen the spirit of oneness, social harmony and human empowerment.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the event on this date in 2021.

### **New Appointments**

**1. Who has been elected as a member of the Board of Directors and a Constituency Director at BRICS' New Development Bank \_\_\_\_\_ Thuraiya Hamid Alhashmi.**

**Note:**

- With her appointment at the multilateral bank, She become the first Emirati and Arab woman to assume a Director's position
- She will contribute to the UAE's financial interests on a global scale and in various financial sectors.

**2. Who was appointed as the Corporate Vice President of Microsoft India and South Asia by the company in Aug 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ Puneet Chandok.**

**Note:**

- He will be responsible for the seamless integration of Microsoft's operations across South Asian countries, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.
- His focus will be on key industries, employing a customer-centric approach empowered by generative AI technology.
- He was a Partner at McKinsey in India and Asia.



3. Name the Cabinet Secretary, whose tenure has been extended by 1-year \_\_\_\_\_ **Rajiv Gauba**.

**Note:**

- This marks his third extension in the same position.
- He is a 1982-batch IAS officer of the Jharkhand and former Union home secretary, in 2019
- He received a one-year extension in 2021, and subsequently, another extension in August of the preceding year.

4. Tesla appointed Indian-origin whom as Chief Financial Officer of the company replacing Kirkhorn \_\_\_\_\_ **Vaibhav Taneja**.

**Note:**

- He initially assumed the role of Corporate Controller in May 2018, and his commitment and competence led to his elevation to the position of CAO in March 2019.
- His portfolio encompassed the critical domains of financial reporting, tax compliance, and internal controls, underscoring his pivotal role in upholding Tesla's fiscal integrity.

5. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved the proposal of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for re-employment on a contract basis of whom as the Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation Limited for a period of one year \_\_\_\_\_ **Shrikant Madhav Vaidya**.

**Note:**

- This is one of the very rare occasions when a director on the board of a PSU has been given an extension of service beyond his retirement age.
- No chairman of a Maharatna PSU has been given an extension beyond 60 years.

6. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has given its official approval and appointed whom as the managing director & CEO of SBI Life Insurance Company in Aug 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Amit Jhingran**.

**Note:**

- He had a successful career with the State Bank of India spanning over 30 years.
- Currently, he serves as the chief general manager of the Hyderabad Circle.
- He started as a probationary officer in August 1991 and has held various positions in international banking.

7. International Gemological Institute (IGI), a Blackstone portfolio company, has appointed whom as Global CEO of IGI, effective October 1, 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Tehmasp Printer**.

**Note:**

- He would replace current CEO Roland Lorie, who will step down after spending nearly five decades.
- Tehmasp Printer has more than 30 years of experience in managing and leading businesses.
- He has been with IGI for 24 years, most recently as Managing Director of IGI India.

### Important News – India

1. Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Zubin Irani will inaugurate the G20 EMPOWER Summit in which city \_\_\_\_\_ **Gandhinagar**.

**Note:**

- Theme- 'Women-Led Development
- Aims: To accelerate women's leadership and empowerment in the private sector across G20 countries.
- Objective: To ensure sustainable, inclusive, and equitable global economic growth.



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- Highlights: G20 EMPOWER agenda including the G20 EMPOWER Tech Equity Digital Inclusion Platform and the Best Practices Playbook
- 2. Which organization has introduced the creation of an online platform National Digital Nagrik Forum(NDNF) to advance the rights of traders and consumers and other sections of society and shape policy to boost the digital trade economy \_\_\_\_\_ Confederation of All India Traders.

**Note:**

- NDNF will focus on five core themes. First, consumer protection and online safety with a core focus on efficient grievance redressal.
- Objectives: To conduct awareness camps, digital and physical dialogues and training
- 3. Which organization has observed that Earth saw its first Plastic Overshoot Day which means the point at which the amount of plastics exceeds the global waste management capacity \_\_\_\_\_ **Earth Action.**

**Note:**

- India is among the 12 countries which are responsible for 52% of the world's mismanaged plastic waste.
- When it comes to plastic consumption on a per-person basis, the world's worst offender is Iceland
- The global average consumption of plastic per person per year is 20.9 kg
- 4. Which ministry has launched the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction \_\_\_\_\_ **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.**

**Note:**

- Objective: To reach out to the masses and spread awareness about substance use with a focus on higher educational Institutions, university campuses & schools, reaching out & identifying dependent populations, focusing on counseling & treatment facilities in hospitals, and Capacity building programs for service providers.
- 5. The Government has launched a digital crop survey in how many states on a pilot basis from Kharif season of this year for better sowing data collection \_\_\_\_\_ **12 states.**

**Note:**

- Aims: To create a single and verified source of truth about the crop sown data which is useful for accurate crop area estimation and development of farmers' solutions
- The 12 selected states are Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Odisha, Assam and Telangana
- 6. According to data released by private forecaster Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, the total unemployment rate fell to what percent in July 2023, from 8.45% in June 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **7.95%.**

**Note:**

- Rural unemployment rate fell to 7.89%, from 8.73% in June, while the urban unemployment rate ticked up, to 8.06% from 7.87% in the same period
- Rural unemployment rate falls due to increased demand for laborers for farming work
- Labour force rate in urban areas also fell, indicating a broader weakness in the economy.
- 7. The Government will launch the e-CARe portal to facilitate the swift transfer of mortal remains of Indians who die abroad. What is the correct form of e-CARe \_\_\_\_\_ **e-Clearance for Afterlife Remains.**

**Note:**

- Aims: To avoid delay during the transportation of the deceased human remains across international borders.
- According to Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, through this portal intimation will be sent through email, SMS, and WhatsApp to the Central International Health Division, Nodal Officer and the Airlines.



8. President Draupadi Murmu will inaugurate the national festival of India's folk and tribal expressions "Utkarsh" and the international literature festival "Unmesh" in which Indian city \_\_\_\_\_ **Bhopal**.

**Note:**

- Culture Department Madhya Pradesh along with Sangeet Natak Akademi and Sahitya Akademi of the Ministry of Culture is organizing this event from 3rd to 5th August.
- The international literature festival Unmesh is Asia's largest literary convention
- 15 countries will participate in the Unmesh festival.

9. Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar jointly launched which portal in New Delhi to simplify international students academic journey in India \_\_\_\_\_ **Study in India (SII)**.

**Note:**

- Aim: To provide comprehensive information about Indian Higher Education Institutions and to provide an integrated one-stop solution for the student registration and visa application process.
- It will present information about the academic facilities, research support.

10. Which organization has launched the 'Rajmargyatra,' a citizen-centric unified mobile application \_\_\_\_\_ **National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)**.

**Note:**

- Aim: To create a seamless, user-friendly experience for highway users
- The user-centric app marks a substantial advancement in providing travelers with comprehensive information about Indian National Highways
- It provides real-time weather updates, timely broadcast notifications and details about nearby toll plazas, petrol stations and hospitals

11. The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal launched Port Health Organisation (PHO) module under which portal \_\_\_\_\_ **Sagar Setu - National Logistics Portal (Marine)**.

**Note:**

- Aim: To streamline operations, promoting Ease of Doing Business (EODB) and ensuring the health and safety of citizens and port workers
- It would conduct disease surveillance, health inspections, and quarantine measures, leveraging technology to modernize and digitize processes.

12. Along with 'ketoprofen', which drug has been prohibited for the production, sale, and distribution \_\_\_\_\_ **aceclofenac**.

**Note:**

- According to a notification issued by the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, the production, sale, and distribution of 'ketoprofen' and 'aceclofenac', along with their formulations, for animal use are prohibited under section 26A of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.
- The recommendation for this ban was made by the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB).
- DTAB is the apex authority for making statutory decisions on technical drug-related matters in India.

13. Which Public sector company and Russian company Metrowagonmash is on course to manufacture and supply around 120 Vande Bharat trains to Indian Railways, at a cost of ₹120 crore per train \_\_\_\_\_ **Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd (RVNL)**.

**Note:**

- The RVNL wants a larger share of 69%, leaving 26% for Metrowagonmash and 5% for a third partner, Locomotive Electronic Systems



- Blue-and-white trains, with AC, are expected to be manufactured at a railway factory in Maharashtra.

14. Cabinet has approved an outlay of what amount for BharatNet, the government's project for last-mile connectivity across 6.4 lakh villages in the country in Aug 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **₹1.39 lakh crore.**

**Note:**

- It is one of the biggest rural telecom projects in the world, implemented in a phased manner to all 2.5 lakh gram panchayats in the country for last-mile broadband connectivity
- Cabinet has approved ₹1,39,579 crore fund for providing last-mile optical fiber-based connectivity to homes in all the villages

15. The Finance Ministry has imposed a definitive anti-dumping duty on certain optical fibre imports from which countries \_\_\_\_\_ **China, South Korea and Indonesia.**

**Note:**

- Aim: To give some relief to the domestic optical fibre industry reeling under the adverse impact of low-price and low-quality imports.
- The anti-dumping duty ranges from \$122 per kfk to \$857.23 per kfk, with the commodity being traded in fkm (fibre kilometres).
- Optical fibres are used to transmit data in the form of light pulses.

16. Which ministry is implementing the scheme of "Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana" in August 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.**

**Note:**

- Objective: To provide the senior citizens, suffering from any of the age related disability/infirmity, with assisted living devices that can restore near normalcy in their bodily functions,
- Scheme: In the assessment camp, the ALIMCO identifies the beneficiaries, suffering from the age related disability, for required aids & appliances.

17. According to Minister of State for the Ministry Of Rural Development, Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti informed that the Centre owes what amount in dues to states and Union Territories under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme \_\_\_\_\_ **Rs 6,366 crore.**

**Note:**

- Central government owes the highest amount – Rs 2,770 crore – to West Bengal.
- MGNREGS aims to enhance livelihood security in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to unskilled manual work.

18. Which organization/commission has developed an application named MASI for real-time monitoring of the Child Care Institutions \_\_\_\_\_ **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights.**

**Note:**

- MASI stands for Monitoring App for Seamless Inspection.
- The effective and efficient functioning of the mechanism for inspection of CCIs provided under the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015 (as amended in 2021) and synchronous monitoring of the system is the rationale behind developing this comprehensive application.

19. According to the Gov, a valid License for imports of laptops, tablets, and personal computers will be required from which date \_\_\_\_\_ **1st November 2023.**

**Note:**

- The Centre has said that there is no ban on the import of IT Hardware as such devices can be imported after obtaining a valid license by companies or traders.
- Directorate General of Foreign Trade has prepared a portal, for getting a license by applying online
- Gov has notified Production Linked Incentive Scheme 2.0 for IT Hardware.





20. India is set to host its inaugural World Coffee Conference, organized by the International Coffee Organization (ICO), in which Indian city \_\_\_\_\_ **Bengaluru.**

**Note:**

- ICO serves as the chief intergovernmental organization aimed at advancing coffee trade and encouraging collaboration among coffee-producing and consuming countries
- K G Jagadeesha, CEO, and Secretary of Coffee Board of India, revealed that tennis player Rohan Bopanna would endorse the event as its brand ambassador.

21. Which organization and Centre for Development of Telematics have signed MoU to establish the mechanism of technical and institutional cooperation in telecommunications \_\_\_\_\_ **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).**

**Note:**

- According to Secretary of the Department of Telecommunication T K Rajaraman, this partnership will open new horizons in policy research, regulatory studies, and knowledge dissemination of upcoming technologies in the telecom and broadcasting sectors.

22. Which organization and Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) have signed a MoU for 1,000 Divyangjans \_\_\_\_\_ **National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited.**

**Note:**

- Aim: To provide CSR support for distribution of aids and assistive devices to around 1,000 Divyangjans (Persons with Disabilities) in the vicinity of NHPC Projects located in North and North Eastern states.

23. Which educational society have signed MoU with the All India Football Federation (AIFF) to promote football at the grassroots level \_\_\_\_\_ **Subroto Mukherjee Sports Education Society (SMSES).**

**Note:**

- SMSES would form a Subroto XI team under Junior Boys (Under-17) from this edition onwards.
- According to SMSES member Alok Sharma that the team will also participate in AIFF Youth Competition from the 2023-24 season.
- Workshop will be held by AIFF for coaches to update and educate them.

24. Which state government signed two MoUs with the union education ministry, under the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan and the Pradhan Mantri e-Vidya in New Delhi \_\_\_\_\_ **Arunachal Pradesh.**

**Note:**

- The first MoU is for the implementation of the newly launched PM-USHA, signed on behalf of the state's higher & technical education directorate
- The second one is the MoU for the launching of PM e-Vidya, signed on behalf of the State Council of Educational Research & Training.

25. The Ministry of Railways and which Institution signed a MoU in Secunderabad to establish the India 5G testbed at the Indian Railway Institute of Signal Engineering and Telecommunications (IRISET) \_\_\_\_\_ **IIT Madras.**

**Note:**

- Aim: To enhance its operational efficiency, passenger experience and overall safety
- It would serve as a cutting-edge facility to conduct comprehensive trials of 5G-enabled applications tailored for Railway operations.

26. The Bureau of Indian Standards signed an MoU with how many prestigious institutions for fostering collaboration in standardization and conformity assessment \_\_\_\_\_ **35.**

**Note:**



- The institutions included some prominent NITs, Government and Private Engineering colleges from different states nationwide.
- It will pave the way for the partner institutions to participate in standardization activities by associating with the technical committees of the Bureau at the national and international levels.

27. India has handed over INR 450 million in advance to which country to fund its unique digital identity project in Aug 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Sri Lanka.**

**Note:**

- It is the most crucial step in the island nation's digitalization program being implemented through the Indian grant assistance.
- Aims: To collect biographic and biometric information which will be stored in a centralised system to issue identification cards as per the standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

28. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman laid the foundation stone for an archeological museum at Adichanallur, located in which Indian city \_\_\_\_\_ **Tamil Nadu.**

**Note:**

- Objective: To focus on establishing the significance of the archaeological sites identified as part of the cultural landscape of the Thamirabarani valley, not limiting to the site of Adichanallur.
- Adichanallur was one of the five archaeological sites declared to be developed as 'Iconic Sites' in the Union Budget 2020-21.

29. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched work on the redevelopment of how many railway stations in the State under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme \_\_\_\_\_ **13.**

**Note:**

- Out of 508, 13 stations are listed in Karnataka.
- Aims: To transform and modernize 1,309 railway stations across the nation and enhance the overall passenger experience and make them world-class travel hubs.
- Gov is working to transform the railway stations across the country in line with its vision of 'Naya Bharat'.

30. Name the nationwide campaign has been launched to pay tribute to the 'Veers' who laid down their lives for the country \_\_\_\_\_ **Meri Mati Mera Desh.**

**Note:**

- AIM: It will include programs at the village, and block levels, by local urban bodies, as well as state and national level.
- During the campaign of "Meri Mati Mera Desh", an Amrit Kalash Yatra will also be taken out.
- It will start on 9th August, with scheduled programs until Independence Day 2023.

31. According to the World Trade Statistical Review 2023, the annual flagship publication of the World Trade Organization (WTO), what is the rank of India among the Leading exporters in world merchandise trade (2022) \_\_\_\_\_ **18th.**

**Note:**

- On a global scale, India holds the 9th spot in merchandise importing and ranks 7th in merchandise exporting (2022).
- The leading exporters in world merchandise trade for the year 2022 are China, the USA, and Germany, occupying the top three positions.

32. India will contribute what percent from the India-UN Development Partnership Fund to the Tuvalu project in August 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **700,000 USD.**

**Note:**



- Aim: To store and supply clean water to students, teachers, and school staff, fostering good hygiene and lowering the incidence of water-borne illnesses.
  - In May 2023, PM Narendra Modi announced the “Sagar Amrut Scholarship” scheme for the Pacific Island countries, at the Summit of the Forum for India–Pacific Islands Cooperation.
33. After passing the IIM (Amendment) Bill 2023 in the ongoing Monsoon Session, in the Parliament, the National Institute of Industrial Engineering (NITIE) would be officially renamed as \_\_\_\_\_ **Indian Institute of Management, Mumbai (IIM Mumbai).**
- Note:**
- With this, NITIE becomes the 21st IIM of India and second in Maharashtra, after IIM Nagpur.
  - Presently, NITIE ranked 7th in the Management Category by National Institute Ranking Framework (NIRF) in 2023.
34. The Minister of Coal, Pralhad Joshi informed in Lok Sabha, Coal/Lignite PSUs have established \_\_\_\_\_ Eco-parks during the last 5 years \_\_\_\_\_ **15.**
- Note:**
- No fund has been allocated by the Government for Eco-parks.
  - It was developed by Coal/Lignite PSUs for recreational purposes of nearby localities and no revenue earned from these Eco-parks is spent on the development of the mining areas.
  - Kenapara Eco-Park, SECL, Chhattisgarh is run and maintained by local SHGs to promote mine tourism.
35. Which airlines unveiled its mega brand makeover and new logo, which signifies “limitless possibilities” in August 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Air India.**
- Note:**
- AI's new logo 'The Vista' includes a modern design with golden, red and purple colours.
  - It is inspired by the peak of the gold window frame, signifying limitless possibilities, progressiveness, and the airline's bold, confident outlook for the future.
  - It represents the spirit of a bold new India, marking a significant turning point in its Vihaan.
36. SEBI reduced the timeline for listing of securities after the closing of IPO to three days from the present requirement of six working days. What is the fulform of IPO \_\_\_\_\_ **Initial Public Offering.**
- Note:**
- The reduction in timelines will benefit both issuers as well as investors
  - Issuers will have faster access to the capital raised thereby enhancing the ease of doing business, and the investors will have opportunity for having early credit and liquidity of their investments
37. Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma launched the \_\_\_\_\_ (amount) Chief Minister's Solar Mission for minimizing the power deficit in this northeastern hill state in August 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Rs 500 crore.**
- Note:**
- The mission will be a flagship Renewable Energy intervention committed to fostering green and clean energy transformation across the state.
  - The mission will begin a new era of resilience, independence, and green progress for Meghalaya.
38. Which body approved the merger scheme of India's homegrown entertainment company Zee Entertainment Enterprises with Culver Max Entertainment in Aug 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **National Company Law Tribunal.**
- Note:**
- Aim: To create a \$10-billion Indian media giant.



- ZEE will have 30 days to file with the registrar of companies, following which, the shares of the company will be de-listed from the stock exchanges and the merged company will get re-listed in another six weeks
39. What is the name of Investor Awareness Vans, which was launched by Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) CEO Anita Shah Akella \_\_\_\_\_ **Niveshak Sarathi**
- Note:**
- Theme: From Unawareness to Financial Independence.
  - Aims: To disseminate crucial financial education and raise awareness against fraudulent schemes across the Delhi NCR region.
  - These vans are equipped with a TV screen running "Hisab Ki Kitab," developed by IEPFA.
40. Who laid the foundation stone for the Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited Nano Urea Plant at Gandhidham in Kutch in August 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Union Minister Amit Shah.**
- Note:**
- Aims: To fulfill 3 primary goals which include achieving self-sufficiency in food production and bringing prosperity to the farmers.
  - This will reduce imports of fertilizers and make India self-reliant in the field of fertilizers and conserve the nutrients of the soil and ensure judicious use of fertilizers.
41. Who launched the Direct Benefit Transfer in National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme in New Delhi in August 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Union Minister for Education, Dharmendra Pradhan.**
- Note:**
- The Scheme marks a stride towards transparency and efficiency as the skilled workforce is paramount, to encompass policy evolution
  - Objective: To focus on the vision of making skilling an apprenticeship aspirational as well as encouraging earning while learning as envisioned in the National Education Policy.
42. The Indian School of Business (ISB's) Bharti Institute of Public Policy signed an MoU with which state government to begin a knowledge partnership with a focus on evidence-based policy formulation and its impact in the State \_\_\_\_\_ **Goa.**
- Note:**
- Objectives: To improve the social and economic prosperity indicators through evidence-based public policy interventions, capacity-building workshops, and citizen-centric governance-based initiatives as a knowledge partner.
43. Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi Innovation and Incubation Centre (IIITD-IC) signed a MoU with which bank to enable IIITD-IC to strengthen its mentoring initiatives for startups \_\_\_\_\_ **YES BANK.**
- Note:**
- It will also identify newer investment and funding opportunities that can benefit startups.
  - Under the partnership, YES BANK will offer banking facilities to Startups that are in a developmental phase at IIITD-IC under the Bank's YES Head Startup program.

### Important News – State

1. The University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS) will be opening a first-of-its-kind museum on its campus in which Indian city \_\_\_\_\_ **Bengaluru.**
- Note:**
- Minister of Agriculture N. Cheluvarayanaswamy would inaugurate the museum.
  - Aim: To introduce the evolution of agricultural practices into the lives of students and the general public increasingly cut-off from the experience by the "urban buzz".



- The museum will serve as a one-stop solution where they can get information about agriculture.
2. Which state cabinet approved the Water Tourism and Adventure Sports Policy 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Uttar Pradesh.**

**Note:**

- Aims: To make the state a water tourism and adventure sports destination.
  - According to Tourism Minister Jaiveer Singh, this policy will be valid for 10 years from the date notified by the state government
  - The policy will be applicable to all inland land-based, air-based and all adventure activities to be carried out on various water bodies and land parcels in the state.
3. Which state Cabinet approved the proposal of a high-level committee to form 19 new districts and 3 new divisions in the State \_\_\_\_\_ **Rajasthan.**
- Note:**
- Rajasthan will now have a total of 50 districts and 10 divisional headquarters.
  - According to CM Ashok Gehlot formation of new districts will improve governance and bring relief to people who have to cover long distances to go to the district headquarters.
  - The new districts are like, Jaipur has been divided into Jaipur and Jaipur Rural
4. Central Railway has inaugurated which station as the 1st “Pink Station” on the Bhusaval Division and the 3rd station on Central Railway to be fully managed by an all-women staff \_\_\_\_\_ **New Amravati station.**

**Note:**

- The examples are set by Matunga station in the Mumbai division and Ajni station in the Nagpur division.
  - Railway has a staff strength of 12 women employees including 4 Deputy Station Superintendents, 4 Pointswomen, 3 Railway Protection Personnel and 1 Ticket Booking Agent
5. Which IT and Industries Minister launched India’s first Agricultural Data Exchange (ADeX) and Agriculture Data Management Framework (ADMF) \_\_\_\_\_ **Telangana.**

**Note:**

- The ADeX has been developed as a digital public infrastructure (DPI) for the agriculture sector
  - Aims: To ensure fair and efficient usage of agricultural data by the industry and startups and provide a big boost to the data economy specifically in the agriculture sector.
6. Who laid the foundation stone for a temple-cum-memorial for Sant Ravidas and along with that also inaugurated developmental works which are worth Rs 4,000 crore in Madhya Pradesh in Aug 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **PM Narendra Modi.**

**Note:**

- The memorial is steeped in the spirit of ‘Samrasta’ as the soil of more than 20,000 villages and 300 rivers have been used in it
- Sant Ravidas was an Indian mystic poet-saint of the bhakti movement and founder of the Ravidassia religion during the 15th to 16th century CE

**Important News- World**

1. Bhutan's Tiger population has increased by what percent since its last count in 2015 \_\_\_\_\_ **27 percent.**

**Note:**

- The latest survey estimates there are now 131 tigers in the country.





- It reflected the success of Tiger conservation efforts in the South Asian Himalayan landlocked nation situated between China and India.
  - It was in 2010 that Bhutan continued its commitment to protecting its wildlife when the country joined the global effort to double the number of tigers in the wild by 2022.
2. According to which climate change service report, the oceans have hit their hottest-ever recorded temperature as they soak up warmth from climate change \_\_\_\_\_ EU.

**Note:**

- The average daily global sea surface temperature beat a 2016 record this week as it reached 20.96C.
  - That is far above the average for this time of year.
  - The broken temperature record follows a series of marine heatwaves this year including in the UK, the North Atlantic, the Mediterranean, and the Gulf of Mexico.
3. According to two official's privy to the latest assessment made for submission to the United Nations, India's greenhouse emissions rate dropped by a faster-than-expected what percent in 14 years \_\_\_\_\_ 33%.

**Note:**

- Reason: Renewable energy generation rose and forest cover increased
  - India is well on the way to meeting a commitment to the UNFCCC, to reduce emissions intensity by 45% from the 2005 level by 2030.
  - India's average rate of reduction in emissions increased to 3% annually during 2016-2019.
4. Which online travel company has joined hands with the Ministry of Tourism to launch a microsite, 'Traveller's Map of India' \_\_\_\_\_ **MakeMyTrip(MMT)**.

**Note:**

- Aim: To showcase 600-plus destinations beyond the popular travel spots in the country
- Objective: To discover lesser-known tourism gems that lie within the country's borders based on their preferences
- According to MMT "This microsite has been designed in line with the Government of India's visionary 'DekhoApnaDesh' program,"

**Honor & Awards**

1. The Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2023 in Pune conferred to whom \_\_\_\_\_ **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.

**Note:**

- The 41st recipient of this award will be the PM.
  - Every year on 1st August, the death anniversary of Lokmanya Tilak, this award is bestowed upon individuals who have made remarkable and extraordinary contributions to the progress and development of the nation.
  - To inaugurate the services of the completed second phase of the Pune Metro, the PM will flag off the metro rail.
2. Which organization received the prestigious "Best Managed Pharmaceutical Sustainable Organizations 2023" award \_\_\_\_\_ **Medec Dragon Pvt Ltd**.

**Note:**

- While Deepak Shenoy, Managing Director of Medec Dragon was honored as the "Global Visionary Entrepreneur of the year 2023" at the 6th Edition of South Asia Pacific Healthcare Summit & Business Award 2023.
- The event was organized by BrandsCouncil Ratings & Medilinks in Mumbai.



- The awards were presented by India's first Mrs. World, Aditi Govitrikar.
3. Who bagged the 'Best Actor' trophy, the film's cinematographer Piyush Puty won the award for 'Best Cinematography' at the Durban International Film Festival 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Manoj Bajpayee**.

**Note:**

- The film is a psychological thriller about a hunted displaced man who is on the run to protect his daughter directed by Devashish Makhija.
  - The film also deals with issues such as social inequalities, injustice with the tribal communities and deforestation.
4. Who was honoured with the Diversity in Cinema Award at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Mrunal Thakur**.

**Note:**

- The recognition comes as she completes a year of having made her debut in South Indian Cinema with Telugu film Sita Ramam (2022)
  - The award is a recognition of her versatile performances across films of different languages.
  - The actor, who made her film with "Love Sonia", and then featured in movies such "Super 30", "Toofan", "Jersey".
5. Which state bagged the Best Performing State award 2023 in cadaver organ donation \_\_\_\_\_ **Tamil Nadu**.

**Note:**

- Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya presented the Best State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation award to Health Minister Ma Subramanian at the 13th Indian Organ Donation Day function held in New Delhi.
  - Tamil Nadu leads all Indian states in organ donations with 1,705 people donating their organs and saving 6,247 human lives.
6. Which State Road Transport Corporation has won Asia's Best Brand Employer Award 2023 under the category 'Organisation with Innovative HR Practices' \_\_\_\_\_ **Karnataka**.

**Note:**

- It was announced at the 14th edition of the 18th Brand Congress and would be presented on August 17 in Singapore.
  - KSRTC:
  - It was inaugurated by the Mysore Road Transport Department on 12 September 1948.
  - Later it was converted to an independent corporation and renamed Karnataka Road Transport Corporation.
7. Who was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award 2023 at the first-ever RICS South Asia Awards \_\_\_\_\_ **Chairman Subhash Runwal**.

**Note:**

- Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors is a global industry body representing professionals across the country.
  - Aim: To acknowledge outstanding accomplishments in both global and Indian industries, showcasing the commitment to the highest levels of professionalism and ethics by individuals and teams working within built and natural environments.
8. Who was named as the recipient of the 'Union Home Minister's Medal of Excellence in Investigation' for the year 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Kanwardeep Kaur**.

**Note:**

- She was given the award for her outstanding investigative work in a minor's rape case, which resulted in the accused being sentenced to death within 11 months of committing the crime.
- She worked the case when she was the SSP of Kapurthala district.



9. How many police personnel have been awarded Police Medals on the occasion of the 76th Independence Day \_\_\_\_\_ **954.**

**Note:**

- The President's Police Medal for Gallantry (PPMG) has been awarded to the Central Reserve Police Force's Assistant Commandant Loukrakpam Ibomcha Singh
- The Police Medal for Gallantry (PMG) has been awarded to 229 police personnel
- President's Police Medal for Distinguished Service (PPM) to 82 and Police Medal for Meritorious Service (PM) has been awarded to 642.

10. Which district has been conferred with the award for the "Best Performer District 2023 in UT of J&K under PMAY-G" by Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor J&K UT, held at Srinagar \_\_\_\_\_ **District Kupwara.**

**Note:**

- Kupwara has received the award in recognition of the construction of 4723 PMAY houses out of a target of 4902 houses for FY 2022-23
- PMAY-G is successfully fulfilled the dream of several poor and vulnerable families having their own Pucca house in frontier Kupwara district.

11. Which team won Gold Award under Excellence in Government Process Reengineering for Digital Transformation Category-1 by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Complaints in Aug 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS) Team.**

**Note:**

- ABOUT NAFIS
- NAFIS helps in the quick and easy disposal of cases with the help of a centralized fingerprint database.
- It assigns a unique 10-digit National Fingerprint Number (NFN) to each person arrested for a crime.

### Sports News

1. Sangampreet Singh Bisla and Avneet Kaur bagged gold medals each in the individual events in World University Games 2023 in China, are associated with which sports \_\_\_\_\_ **Archery.**

**Note:**

- Indian archers defeated South Africa's de Klerk in a finale.
- India bagged a total of nine gold, three silver, and five bronze medals, securing fourth position.
- China with 17 gold, 5 silver, and 4 bronze medals, followed by Korea with 10 gold, 10 silver, and 5 bronze medals, and Japan with 10 gold, 6 silver, and 7 bronze medals.

2. Who secured her fourth Women's Tennis Association title of the year 2023 by defeating Germany's Laura Siegemund in Warsaw \_\_\_\_\_ **Polish Player Iga Swiatek.**

**Note:**

- He currently holds the position of world No. 1 in singles according to the Women's Tennis Association rankings.
- She has earned the title of four-time major singles champion, conquering the French Open in 2020, 2022, and 2023 as well as the US Open in 2022.
- She became the first player from Poland to achieve a major singles title.

3. Stuart Broad announced his retirement, is associated with which sports \_\_\_\_\_ **Cricket.**

**Note:**

- He sits fifth on the all-time list of wicket-takers and is one of only two fast bowlers to take over 600 wickets



- He has also played in 167 test matches, 121 one-day internationals, and 56 international T20 games.
  - In Test cricket, he stands as the sole English player boasting two hat-tricks to his credit
  - Broad is only the second fast bowler and second bowler for England to reach the milestone
4. Who beat Indonesian Jonatan Christie to bag the men's singles title at the Japan Open 2023 in Tokyo \_\_\_\_\_ **Viktor Axelsen.**

**Note:**

- While Korean An Se-young outplayed He Bing Jiao of China to win the women's singles crown
  - World number one Axelsen, who recently retained his European title in Poland, to win his third BWF title of the year.
  - In the women's singles, world number two is Se Young from Korea.
5. Former Uruguay captain Diego Godin announced his retirement from which sports after a remarkable career spanning two decades \_\_\_\_\_ **Professional football.**

**Note:**

- He made 627 professional appearances, scored 38 goals, and earned 10 titles, including two Europa League trophies and three UEFA Super Cups, all during his captaincy at Atletico Madrid
  - He participated in four World Cups and spent a significant part of his club career in Spain.
6. Who has become as India's top chess player, surpassing Viswanathan Anand in Aug 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Grandmaster Gukesh D.**

**Note:**

- He qualified for the third round of FIDE World Cup 2023, secured victory against Azerbaijani Misratdin Iskandarov.
  - He holds a live rating of 2755.9 in Classic chess, slightly edging out Anand, whose live rating stands at 2754.0.
  - He now holds the 9th position in the live rankings, while the five-time World champion Anand has slipped to 10th place.
7. At the World University Games 2023 in China, which team secured a gold medal in the mixed archery team \_\_\_\_\_ **Indian archery Aman Saini and Pragati.**

**Note:**

- They defeat Korea's Sua Cho and Seunghyun Park to claim the top spot on the podium.
  - Presently, India holds the fourth position in the overall medal standings.
  - The bronze medal in the compound team event was secured by Ming-ching Lin and Z-wei Wu from Chinese Taipei.
  - Indians won two more medals in archery in men's and women's team events
8. Who has become the first-ever Indian to clinch the individual World Title at the World Archery Championships final 2023 in Berlin \_\_\_\_\_ **Aditi Swami.**

**Note:**

- In the final, she defeated Andrea Becerra of Mexico, 149-147 in the summit clash of the compound women's event.
  - Conversely, India's Ojas Deotale also created history after defeating Lukasz Przybylski of Poland in a thrilling final to become the new world champion in Men's Individual compound event.
9. Which organization under the Umbrella Campaign 'Cheer4India' has launched a short movie series 'Halla Bol' on the journey of Asian Games-bound athletes \_\_\_\_\_ **Sports Authority of India (SAI).**

**Note:**

- Aim: To motivate them for Hangzhou Asian Games and spread awareness about the upcoming Asian Games



- This initiative will also motivate youngsters in the country to take up sports.
- A similar movie series, 'Olympics ki Aasha,' was launched before the Tokyo Olympics.

10. Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh inaugurated the opening ceremony of which edition of Durand Cup today at SAI Stadium which marked the grand beginning of the annual football competition for the first time in the Assamese city \_\_\_\_\_ **132nd.**

**Note:**

- The mega event is being organized by the Indian Army in association with Assam Government and Bodo Territorial Region.
- The inaugural ceremony was followed by the opening match of the tournament between Bodoland FC and Rajasthan United FC.

11. In the Four Nations Para-Badminton International 2023 held in England, which men's doubles duo clinched a gold medal in the SL3-SL4 category \_\_\_\_\_ **Pramod Bhagat and Sukant Kadam.**

**Note:**

- They achieved this victory by defeating Ranjan Bisoyee and Manoj Sarkar.
- Bhagat secured a silver medal in the singles SL3 category, and he also teamed up with Manisha Ramdass to claim a silver medal in the mixed doubles SL3-SU5 category.
- Kadam won a bronze in the singles SL4 category.

12. Which Indian shuttler won silver at the Australian Open Badminton 2023 final in Sydney \_\_\_\_\_ **HS Prannoy.**

**Note:**

- He went down fighting against World No. 24 Weng Hong Yang of China.
- He also bagged the silver medal in Boys' singles at the 2010 Summer Youth Olympics.
- He followed it up with another silver, this time at the Bahrain International Challenge, in 2011.

13. Which Indian wrestler entered the event as the defending champion, won the only gold medal for India in the women's 61kg weight division in World aCadet Wrestling Championships 2023 in Turkey \_\_\_\_\_ **Savita.**

**Note:**

- India bagged a total of 11 medals, including 1 gold, 7 silver and 3 bronze at the World Cadet Wrestling Championship 2023 at Istanbul.
- It was the women's freestyle where India showed best by finishing third, only behind Japan and USA.

14. Which edition of the famed Nehru Trophy Boat Race 2023 would be held at the picturesque Punnamada Lake in Alappuzha district in Kerala \_\_\_\_\_ **69th.**

**Note:**

- 72 boats, including 19 Chundan Valloms or Snake Boats vying for the coveted trophy, will be participating in the boat race, held every year on the second Saturday of August.
- Chief Minister of Kerala Pinarayi Vijayan would inaugurate the event.
- The current champion, Pallathuruthy Boat Club from Alappuzha, has bagged the Trophy thrice

15. Which country appointed veteran all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan as its ODI captain for both the Asia Cup and the 2023 ODI World Cup \_\_\_\_\_ **Bangladesh.**

**Note:**

- He had also led Bangladesh in 49 ODIs between 2009 and 2011, when he first became captain, and won 22 of those.
- He later captained Bangladesh in three more ODIs in 2015 and 2017, each time standing in for Mashrafe.
- Shakib has so far led Bangladesh in 19 Tests and 39 T20Is, and the last of his 50 ODIs as captain was in 2017.





16. Which country's hockey team defeated Malaysia and won for the fourth time at the Asian Champions Trophy 2023 final at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium in Chennai \_\_\_\_\_ **India**.

**Note:**

- With four Asian Champions Trophy titles, India is in the first spot in the history of the tournament.
- Pakistan, with three titles, is in the second spot now.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin lauded Team India on their Asian Champions Trophy win and announced a cash prize of ₹1.1 crore for the winning team

17. Who won the Women's British Open to claim her second major title of 2023 by defeating Charley Hull \_\_\_\_\_ **American golfer Lilia Vu**.

**Note:**

- She also won the Chevron Championship in April 2023, became the first female player to win two majors in the same year since Jin Young Ko in 2019, and the first American woman since Juli Inkster in 1999.
- Three of the five women's majors have been won by American this year 2023 Allisen Corpuz won the Women's U.S. Open title at Pebble Beach

### Books and Authors

1. Name the Indian-origin author based in London, has been selected for the 2023 Booker Prize longlist with her debut novel 'Western Lane' \_\_\_\_\_ **Chetna Maroo**.

**Note:**

- The novel, set in the British Gujarati milieu, skillfully uses the sport of squash as a metaphor for intricate human emotions, earning praise from the Booker judges.
- The longlist comprises 13 books written by authors from various countries, including Ireland, Canada, the US, and the UK, explore universal and topical themes.

2. Who authored the new book, titled How Prime Ministers Decide \_\_\_\_\_ **Veteran journalist Neerja Chowdhury**.

**Note:**

- A new book also claimed that former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had good relations with several RSS leaders but carefully kept a distance between the organisation and herself.

### Science and Defence

1. Ministry of National Defense announced the air forces of China and which country will conduct a joint training exercise in Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region \_\_\_\_\_ **United Arab Emirates (UAE)**.

**Note:**

- According to the ministry, the exercise, Falcon Shield-2023, will be the first joint training between the two nation's air forces.
- Aims: To deepen pragmatic exchanges and cooperation between the two militaries and enhance mutual understanding and trust, the ministry added.

2. Which organization has handed over the first Radio Frequency (RF) Seeker of Akash - the Next Generation Weapon System to Defence Research and Development Organization \_\_\_\_\_ **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)**.

**Note:**



- Seeker is a critical and technology intensive subsystem used in Surface-to-Air Missiles and Air-to-Air Missiles for target tracking in the terminal phase.
  - RF Seeker has been designed by DRDO's Research Centre Imarat, and produced by BDL at its state-of-the-art Seeker Facility Centre
3. The Russian Defense Ministry announced the start of the Ocean Shield 2023 naval exercises in which sea \_\_\_\_\_ **Baltic Sea.**
- Note:**
- The exercises are being conducted under the command of Navy Commander-in-Chief Admiral Nikolay Evmenov
  - Objective: To assess the Russian Navy's readiness to defend the country's interests in a critical area, as well as the coordination of the various military forces.
  - The drills involve 30 combat ships 30 aircraft of naval aviation and Russia's Aerospace Forces
4. Who launched India's first Indigenously developed, Affordable Next Generation Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Scanner in New Delhi \_\_\_\_\_ **Union Minister of State Science & Technology Jitendra Singh.**
- Note:**
- MRI is a type of scan that uses strong magnetic fields and radio waves to produce detailed images of the inside of the body.
  - It is an achievement for the National Biopharma Mission, Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council, and the Department of Biotechnology.
5. According to Minister of State for Atomic Energy Jitendra Singh, India is the \_\_\_\_\_ among spacefaring countries in the world having end-to-end capabilities in space research and development \_\_\_\_\_ **fifth.**
- Note:**
- India has the capability to launch from its own land and operate programmes of earth observation, satellite communication, meteorology, space science and navigation, and ground infrastructure.
  - After space sector reforms, the NewSpace industries are also emerging at a fast pace.
6. Who has launched the massive vaccine catch-up campaign of Intensified Mission Indradhanush (IMI) 5.0 for three months in the state of Tripura in Aug 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Chief Minister Manik Saha.**
- Note:**
- Aim: To immunize pregnant women and children up to the age of five against the diseases like Measles and Rubella.
  - This is for the first time that children with up to 5 years of age has been brought under the vaccination coverage of the IMI 5.0.
7. World Health Organization has announced, which country has now joined the league of 17 other countries that have eliminated trachoma, which is world's leading infectious cause of blindness in Aug 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Iraq.**
- Note:**
- Iraq established its national trachoma programme in 2012 to coordinate the final domestic push against the disease.
  - A trachoma surveillance system was developed to detect and manage cases within secondary and tertiary eye care facilities, as well as through school pre-enrolment.
8. Which Direct-to-home (DTH) company plans to increase its bandwidth capacity by 50% by adding 24 new Ku-band transponders on the GSAT-24 communication satellite \_\_\_\_\_ **Tata Play.**

**Note:**

- Aim: To offer more channels, services, and improve picture quality.



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- The GSAT-24 satellite was launched by NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL) in June 2022 to specifically cater to Tata Play's DTH requirements.
  - NSIL has been tasked with satellite missions on a demand-driven model.
9. The Indian Space Research Organisation announced the transfer of IMS-1 Satellite Bus technology to which organization \_\_\_\_\_ **Alpha Design Technologies.**

**Note:**

- The transfer was facilitated by ISRO's commercial arm NewSpace India Limited through an agreement.
  - The IMS-1 satellite bus was developed by the UR Rao Satellite Centre and is a small satellite platform designed to enable low-cost access to space.
  - This weighs about 100 kilograms and can carry a 30-kg payload.
10. Indian Army inducted the lighter and more compact version of the developed Weapon Locating Radar (WLR-M). What is the name of WLR-M \_\_\_\_\_ **Swathi Mountains.**

**Note:**

- Aim: To enhance the Army's battlefield surveillance capabilities, enabling it to effectively monitor and respond to threats in mountainous regions.
  - Developed by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) in Bengaluru, and designed for operations in mountainous and high-altitude areas, catering to the unique challenges posed by such terrains.
11. Which INS was Deployed in the Red Sea Undertook Passage Exercise (Passex) with Royal Saudi Naval Ship HMS Al Jubail \_\_\_\_\_ **INS Chennai.**

**Note:**

- The Indian Navy's indigenously designed and constructed guided missile destroyer INS Chennai is Mission Deployed in the Red Sea.
  - Aim: To reinforcing mutual trust, cementing operational understanding and enhancing Interoperability between navies, to boost defence co-operation between India and Saudi Arabia, INS Chennai's visit to Jeddah
12. Government has approved the setting up of research parks at how many Indian Institute of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institute of Science Bangalore in August 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ **Eight.**

**Note:**

- Aim: To strengthen the research ecosystem in the country
  - Objectives: To enable entrepreneurship and incubation of students and building strong academic linkages for the same, to increase outreach of academic content to industry and enabling industry to add value to academic programme through close collaborations.
13. Which country launched its first lunar landing mission on August 11 2023 after almost 5 decades \_\_\_\_\_ **Russia.**

**Note:**

- A Soyuz 2.1v rocket carrying the Luna-25 craft will blast off from the Vostochny cosmodrome targeted to the south polar region of the Moon.
  - Aims: To study the composition of the polar regolith, and to study the plasma and dust components of the lunar polar exosphere.
  - According to Russia's space chief Yuri Borisov the spacecraft is expected to reach the lunar world on Aug 21 2023.
14. Minister of State Science & Technology Jitendra Singh has approved the establishment of a new spaceport in Kulasekarapattinam, which is located in which Indian state \_\_\_\_\_ **Tamil Nadu.**

**Note:**

- Aims: To carrying out the launches of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicles developed by ISRO.



- The Indian Space Policy 2023 has the provision for utilisation of a spaceport for carrying out launch activities by Non-Government Entities, subject to technical feasibility and range safety constraints.

15. The first space-based Indian observatory Aditya-L1 is getting ready for its launch in September 2023, this space programme would study which star \_\_\_\_\_ **Sun.**

**Note:**

- The spacecraft is expected to be placed in a halo orbit around the Lagrange point - L1 of the Sun-Earth system, which is about 1.5 million Km from the Earth and has advantage of continuously viewing the Sun without any eclipses.
- This will provide a greater advantage of observing the solar activities and its effect on space weather in real-time.

16. Health Minister, Mansukh Mandaviya, declared the goal of suppressing Lymphatic Filariasis by which year during the inauguration of the second phase of the Annual Nationwide Mass Drug Administration initiative \_\_\_\_\_ **2027.**

**Note:**

- The second phase, targeting 81 districts across nine endemic states, including Assam and Uttar Pradesh.
- He highlighted the "Whole of Government" and "Whole of Society" approach as pivotal to successfully eliminating the disease.

17. The Union Ministry of Defense has informed that the ministry would install a secure operating system (OS), indigenously developed. what is the name of this OS \_\_\_\_\_ **Maya OS.**

**Note:**

- This OS would replace the existing OS, 'Microsoft Windows'.
- About Maya OS:
- It is based on open-source Ubuntu software.
- It would shield against cyber threats, offering a familiar interface while boosting security.
- It uses Chakravyuh, a protective feature inspired by ancient Indian defence tactics.

18. Two Indian Navy ships named INS Visakhapatnam and which INS have arrived at Port Rashid in Dubai, United Arab Emirates \_\_\_\_\_ **INS Trikand.**

**Note:**

- Reason: For a bilateral exercise 'Zayed Talwar 2023' with the UAE Navy
- The exercise is being organized from August 8 to 11, 2023.
- Aim: To share best practices and increase synergies between the two navies
- Led by Captains Ashok Rao and Pramod G Thomas, INS Visakhapatnam, and INS Trikand showcase advanced maritime capabilities.



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