

Monthly GK Digest

August 2023



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Dear readers,

This **Monthly GK Digest** is a **complete docket** of important news and events that occurred in the month of '**August-2023**'. This file is important for, **Bank, SSC, and Railway** exams.

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** has partnered with the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad's (IIM-A) startup incubator Centre for Innovation, Incubation & Entrepreneurship to promote tech.
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 **8.2 percent** in June 2023.
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. **Karnataka Bank** hosted the first edition of 'KBL - FinOne', a fintech partnership event, in Bengaluru in July 2023.
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 **11%** higher than the GST revenues in the July 2022.
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, **28 percent** GST on casinos and online gaming is expected to be implemented from the 1st of October.
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 **6.7%** per year from fiscal year 2024 to FY 2031.
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 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 **Metals and Minerals Trading Corp of India (MMTC) Ltd** as a stock broker in August 2023.
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 Rs 1,09,947.86 crore in first week of Aug 2023.
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 **State Bank of India** revealed a significant rise in quarterly profit to ₹16,884 crore, compared to ₹6,068 crore in the corresponding quarter of 2022.
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. **PayPal** has launched a US dollar stablecoin, becoming the first major financial technology firm.
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. **Postal Life Insurance** has introduced the 'Direct Incentive Disbursement' program in the Delhi and Uttarakhand circles.
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 **Rs 9. 8 lakh crore** from capital markets in the fiscal 2022-23, which was 4. 6 per cent higher than the amount raised in the fiscal 2022.
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 **Rs 14. 56 lakh crore** in the last nine financial years starting 2014-15 in Aug 2023.
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 **Standard Chartered Bank** in August 2023 to enhance Star Health's distribution network.
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. **Bandhan Bank** partnered with the state government for Odisha Tourism Development Corporation to help them strengthen payment solutions for Odisha Tourism Development Corporation Ltd.
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 **Bajaj Finance** have joined forces to offer car and two-wheeler insurance plans.
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 **₹35,000 crore** in charges since 2018 on account of non-maintenance of minimum balance, additional ATM transactions, and SMS Services.
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 **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 **Shri Vinayak Sahakari Bank** for contravention of provisions of Maintenance of Deposit Accounts.
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. **Airtel Payments 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.
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. **AU Small Finance Bank Limited** has become the first financial services provider in India to launch a 24x7 live video banking service in August 2023.
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 UPI interface in August 2023.**
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 16% to RS 653,000 crore compared to the same period in 2022 in Aug 2023.**
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. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) launched the 3rd edition of the UPI Safety Awareness Campaign, “UPI Chalega” in August 2023.**
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. Finance Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman introduced the Mahila Samman Savings Certificate (MSSC), a small savings scheme for women and girls in August 2023.**
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 (-)1. 36 percent on easing prices of fuel, even though food articles turned costlier.**
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 Accenture Solutions Pvt Ltd India to develop systems using artificial intelligence and machine learning for its supervisory functions.**
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.
- 28. Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) wholly-owned subsidiary of the RBI has launched the Pilot Project for Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit.**
Note: Aim: To enable delivery of frictionless credit by facilitating a seamless flow of required digital information to lenders. Objectives: To encourages various stakeholders, including banks, non-banking financial companies, FinTech firms, and startups, and other financial services
- 29. Zerodha has received final approval from the regulator Sebi to launch the mutual fund product.**
Note: The motivation to launch the mutual fund business was two-fold -- the shallow participation in Indian markets wherein lies the challenge and an opportunity and creating simple products for investors. Zerodha started its journey in 2010 as a ‘Rs 20 per order broker’ and gained popularity as a no-frills, low-cost player among traders.
- 30. Asian Development Bank has approved a USD 40.5 million loan for integrated early childhood development and maternal mental health in Meghalaya.**
Note: The Meghalaya government is contributing USD 15.27 million to the project. Aims: To improve access to nurturing care, including a component of maternal mental health care to enable the inclusion of fathers in caregiving. Objective: To strengthen home-based childcare and center-based childcare through daycare centers
- 31. Canara Bank has introduced Jeevan Dhara, a special savings bank account for pensioners, and prospective pensioners.**
Note: The primary benefit of this account for senior citizens is that it is a zero-balance savings account. With this savings account, senior citizens do not have to maintain a minimum balance and there are no maintenance charges. The interest rate per annum is 4% for deposits for senior citizens holding the Canara Jeevan Dhara Savings account.
- 32. Wipro introduced the launch of a new Center of Excellence on Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) in partnership with IIT Delhi.**
Note: Aim: To foster accelerated innovation in some of the most exciting emerging areas of technology. Objective: To enhance our research & development capabilities in emerging regions, such as generative AI. Teams will jointly work on building innovative solutions using AI, ML, and other technologies.
- 33. The Reserve Bank of India launched a centralized Web portal, UDGM (Unclaimed Deposits Gateway to Access Information), for searching unclaimed deposits across multiple banks.**
Note: Aim: To identify their unclaimed deposits and accounts and enable them to either claim the deposit amount or make their deposit accounts operational at

their respective banks. The 7 banks include State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Central Bank of India, South Indian Bank and Dhanlaxmi Bank

34. **BAA3** has been affirmed by the rating agency Moody's on India and maintained a 'stable' outlook on the Indian economy.

Note: The Baa3 rating and stable outlook also take into account a curtailment of civil society and political dissent, compounded by rising domestic political risk. India's long-term local and foreign-currency issuer ratings and the local-currency senior unsecured rating remain at Baa3. While the other short-term local-currency rating stands at P-3.

35. **Axis Bank** announced the launch of two lending products powered by the Public Tech Platform for Frictionless Credit, introduced by the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub.

Note: Objective: To offer Kisan Credit Card (KCC) and unsecured MSME loans to customers powered by the platform. KCC will be offered in Madhya Pradesh and will be available to customers for up to Rs 1.6 Lakh to start with. MSME loans will be available across the country and will offer loans upto Rs. 10 Lakh

36. The National Health Authority (NHA) and **IRDAI** jointly organized an exclusive three-day Accelerator Workshop.

Note: Aim: To help insurance companies complete their Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) integration and to facilitate adoption of Health Claims Exchange (HCX) specifications. IRDAI also issued a circular advising the insurers and providers get on-boarded to the National Health Claims Exchange (NHCE).

37. **YES BANK** has introduced its mobile banking app, iris by YES BANK, which aims to reform India's digital banking landscape.

Note: The app allows flexibility and personalization, enabling customers to access over 100 features on a single platform. It also ensures the utmost safety of the customers' financial data by incorporating safety features like Biometric Authentication, Sim-Binding, and a 2-factor Verification. Managing Director & CEO of YES BANK is Prashant Kumar.

38. **Indian Bank** became the First Public Sector Bank to extend facility of execution of on-line locker agreement through Digital Document Execution (DDE) Platform of National E-Governance Services Limited (NeSL).

Note: On-line locker agreement, which is available round the clock will enhance customer convenience and will reduce the turn-around time of the agreement execution. DDE is a fully automated contract execution platform with paperless e-stamp and e-Sign facility.

39. **HDFC Group** launched new life insurance and asset management services at International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in Gujarat.

Note: Aim: To offer services to Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and the global Indian diaspora. HDFC Life unveils HDFC International Life and Re, and HDFC AMC International (IFSC) Ltd to cater to the financial needs of

the worldwide Indian community to make world-class foreign currency denominated insurance solutions available for NRIs.

40. **Canara Bank** launched the UPI Interoperable Digital Rupee mobile application.

Note: It becomes the first bank in both the public and commercial sectors to offer this feature via its CBDC mobile app called the Canara Digital Rupee. Aim: To empower merchants to accept digital currency payments using their existing UPI QR codes in addition to UPI-based payments without the requirement of a separate onboarding process for CBDC. CEO of Canara Bank is K. Satyanarayana Raju

41. **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** has acquired a 6.66 per cent stake in Jio Financial Services owing to the de-merger action by Reliance Industries.

Note: According to the LIC the cost of acquisition is equivalent to 4.68 per cent of the pre de-merged cost of Reliance Industries. The country's largest insurer held a 6.49 per cent stake in RIL at the end of June 2023. JFS shares hit its lower circuit limits for the second straight session on August 21.

42. **HDFC Bank** has partnered with Marriott Bonvoy to unveil the 'Marriott Bonvoy **HDFC Bank** Credit Card.

Note: This pioneering co-branded hotel credit card, the first of its kind in India, operates on Diners Club platform, a part of the Discover Global Network, and aspires to set new standards for rewarding travel cards in the country. This card brings together the strengths of these two prominent brands, presenting consumers with an unparalleled selection of travel benefits.

43. **Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)** has reconstituted the Advisory Board on Banking and Financial Frauds (ABBFF) which conducts the first-level examination of bank frauds before recommendations or references are made to investigative agencies such as CBI.

Note: The reconstituted APBFF will be chaired by former CVC Suresh N Patel. There are four Members and the tenure of the Chairman/ Members would be for two years.

44. **DBS** has partnered with commodities trader Maptrascos, and announced the completion of the first "live" transaction of electronic Bills of Lading (eBL) for shipments between Singapore and India.

Note: This landmark first shipment marks a pivotal moment for businesses operating in both Singapore and India. It grants them the opportunity to engage with the TradeTrust network through their preferred TradeTrust-enabled platforms.

45. India in partnership with **Asian Development Bank** to open a climate change and health hub in Delhi.

Note: Objective: To facilitate knowledge sharing, promote partnerships and innovations, and also help countries beyond the G-20, especially developing countries. Climate change affects all of us and this centre will give us the opportunity to have different partners

discussing this important issue and learning from each other.

46. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved the merger of **Jalgaon Peoples Co-operative Bank** with the Akola Merchant Co-operative Bank.

Note: Aim: To streamline operations and services for customers under a unified entity. The Akola Merchant Co-operative Bank branches would operate as branches of The Jalgaon Peoples Co-operative Bank. The merger of Twin Cities Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd and Kranti Co-operative Urban Bank Ltd was also given the go-ahead by the central bank

47. **Airtel Payments Bank** has joined hands with the Frontier Markets, and the Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth have announced the launch of 'She Leads Bharat: Udyam', a first-of-its-kind initiative.

Note: Aim: To elevate women-owned small businesses(WOSB) with resources, tools, and opportunities to grow and diversify their incomes. Objective: To bring together the private sector, and social enterprise, to demonstrate a digital-first model designed to unlock ways for WOSB to increase their incomes.

48. RBI has announced to enhance transaction limits for small value digital payments in offline mode to **₹500** from the earlier cap of ₹200.

Note: Aim: To enable faster, more reliable, and contactless payments for everyday small value purchases, transit payments, and so on by eliminating the need for two-factor verification for small value transactions. This effectively means that transacting parties can carry out digital transactions amounting to ₹500 each in the offline mode.

49. **Yes Bank** has launched a co-branded Corporate Credit Card in collaboration with the spend management platform Zaggie to provide businesses with direct control over company expenditures.

Note: Objective: To empower businesses to reimagine their payment processes, streamline reconciliation, and efficiently manage company expenditures. This includes the ability to set individual spending limits, apply merchant category restrictions, and implement diverse controls.

50. **Life Insurance Corporation of India** has recently tied up with Saraswat Cooperative Bank Ltd in its effort to increase the penetration of life insurance through the Bancassurance channel in Mumbai.

Note: Saraswat Cooperative Bank is the India's largest Urban Cooperative Bank. Citizens in general and customers of Saraswat Bank, in particular, will now have the opportunity to fulfill their life insurance protection needs through the Bank itself by purchasing insurance products LIC.

51. **Asian Development Bank** has joined hands with the Fourth Partner Energy Private Limited signed a long-term loan of up to 1.2 billion Rs to construct and operate a 25-megawatt solar photovoltaic-based power plant.

Note: Aim: To increase clean and low-cost energy supply to commercial and industrial customers. The power plant, located in Tamil Nadu in India, is expected to generate about 50.7 gigawatt-hours of electricity annually and will directly sell power to commercial and industrial users.

52. **Axis Bank** launched a new savings account variant – 'Infinity Savings Account' to cater to digitally savvy customers who are frequent adopters of subscription-based models.

Note: Objective: To offer Axis Bank's customers exclusive privileges, such as waived Average Monthly Balance (AMB) requirement, complimentary debit cards, and waiver of all the domestic charges against a small monthly recurring fee of Rs 150 or annual fee of Rs 1,650.

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.
7. Bindeshwar Pathak, who passed away was a founder of **Sulabh International** nonprofit organization.
Note: He was a pioneer in building public toilets. He founded Sulabh International, a social service organization that works to promote human rights, environmental sanitation, waste management. In 1991, He was awarded the Padma Bhushan for his work for liberating and rehabilitating manual scavengers and also for preventing environmental pollution by providing pour-flush toilet technology.
8. Manchanahalli Rangeswamy Satyanarayana Rao, popularly known as MRS Rao, an eminent **Scientist**.
Note: He was well known for his discipline, scientific knowledge, patience, soft-spoken nature and mentorship of PhD students. He was honored with the Padma Shri award in 2010 for his contributions to the field of science and engineering. He was the first scientist to initiate Chromatin Biology research in India.
9. Former John Warnock, who passed away, was a co-founder of **Adobe Systems**.
Note: He worked for Xerox before he and colleague Charles Geschke created a company around a rejected

idea in 1982. Later, he outlined an early version of the Portable Document Format, or PDF, transforming the way documents are exchanged. In 1964, he solved the Jacobson radical, an abstract algebra problem that had been a mystery since it was posed eight years before.

10. Raju Punjabi, who passed away, was a veteran **Singer**.
Note: A well-established name in the Haryanvi music industry, he had charted out several hit songs as "Desi desi na bolya kar", "Solid Body", "Sandal", "Aacha lage Se", "Tu Cheez Lajawab", "Bhang Mere Yaara Ne", and "Last Peg" among others. Born Raja Kumar at village of Rawtsar in Rajasthan's Hunamangarh district.
11. Terry Funk, who passed away at 79, was related to **Wrestler**.
Note: He had an intriguing and remarkable career over five decades (1965 to 2017). He was known for his hardcore style, his charisma, and his passion for the business. He was inducted into the WWE Hall of Fame in 2009 by his longtime friend and rival, Dusty Rhodes. In 2021, he also received recognition from the International Professional Wrestling Hall of Fame.
12. Dev Kohli, who passed away in Mumbai, was a veteran **Poet**.
Note: He had penned over a hundred songs for Bollywood films such as Baazigar, Hum Aapke Hain Koun, Maine Pyaar Kiya, Shoot Out At Lokhandwala, among many others. He last wrote songs for the Kangana Ranaut-starrer Rajjo, which had music by Uttam Singh. From Shankar-Jaikishan to Vishal-Shekhar, Dev Kohli worked with different generations of composers in a career that spanned from 1969 to 2013.
13. Jayanta Mahapatra, who passed away at the age of 95, was a famous **littérateur and poet**.
Note: He was the first Indian poet to win a Sahitya Akademi award for English poetry. He was also conferred with the Padma Shri award in 2009. However, he returned it in 2015 to protest against "rising intolerance in India". He is best known for authoring poems such as "Indian Summer" and "Hunger", regarded as classics in modern Indian English literature.

Important Days

1. World Wide Web Day is a day dedicated to web browsing and is celebrated on **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 **August 1** to celebrate the enactment of the law against triple talaq.
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 **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. **World Breastfeeding Week** commenced on August 1 while it concludes on August 7.
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. **Tamil Nadu** Cultural community celebrates Aadi Perukku, also known as Pathinettam Perukku.
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 **August 1** and it has been celebrated on the same date since 2012.
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. World Lion Day is observed every year on **August 10** to highlight the importance of these majestic creatures and to garner support for their conservation.
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.
8. International Youth Day is commemorated every year on **12 August**.
Note: The theme of International Youth Day 2023 is Green Skills For Youth: Towards A Sustainable World. 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.
9. World Organ Donation Day is observed every year on **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.
10. International Left-Handers Day is celebrated every year on **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.
11. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had declared that August 14, will be remembered as '**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.
12. India is celebrating its **77th** Independence Day on August 15, 2023.
Note: PM Narendra Modi addressed the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort in Delhi and unfurled the national flag. This year, the theme is 'Nation First, Always First' under the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebration. This year, around 1,800 special guests from various sections of society were invited to witness the ceremony. The G20 logo made from flowers is displayed on the ground.
13. Navroz observed on August 16, 2023, is a new year of **Parsi** community.
Note: This day marks the beginning of the Zoroastrian calendar. The Parsi New Year, also known as the festival of Navroz or Nowruz, falls between July and August in India. Derived from the Persian words 'Nav' and 'Roz' which literally translates to 'new day', the tradition of celebrating Parsi New Year is believed to have been observed by Iranians and Zoroastrians for the past 3,000 years.
14. Chingam 1 is the first day of the new year of the traditional Malayalam calendar used in **Kerala**.
Note: In 2023, it's being celebrated on August 17. Chingam 1 is also known as Chingam Month or Chingam Masam and it's followed by the Onam festival. The Malayalam Calendar is based on the solar calendar system and every year, the date of Chingam 1 varies. Chingam 1 marks the beginning of the harvest season in Kerala and is considered an auspicious day.
15. World Humanitarian Day is observed on **19th August**.
Note: Aim: To bring partners from across the humanitarian system together and work collectively for survival, well-being and dignity of people affected by crises. World Humanitarian Day 2023 theme is: NoMatterWhat. It is the day when 22 colleagues were killed at the United Nations Office in Baghdad. It is an opportunity to pay tribute to colleagues who have lost their lives in humanitarian service.
16. The World Mosquito Day is commemorated on **August 20** globally.
Note: Aim: To mark the importance of protecting ourselves and our communities from the potentially deadly diseases transmitted by the insects that are commonly seen in homes across the world. Theme for World Mosquito Day 2023 is "Fighting the World's

Deadliest killer -the Mosquito". The mosquitoes are responsible for the spread of diseases like malaria, dengue fever, Zika virus, and West Nile virus.

17. International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition is observed annually on **August 23**.

Note: Aim: To raises awareness about the horrifying nature of the slave trade and remind people about the transatlantic slave trade and its implications. Theme of international Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition 2023 is "Fighting slavery's legacy of racism through transformative education"

18. The Prime Minister announced **August 23** will be celebrated as the National Space Day.

Note: It was on this day that the ISRO Chandrayaan mission made history by landing near the south pole of the moon. On this day our Scientific and technological progress will be celebrated. He suggested that a National Hackathon must be organized by the Central and State Governments and Universities on ideas that will ensure good governance and find solutions to problems.

19. Women's Equality Day is celebrated on **26th August**.

Note: This day marks a turning point in the history of the struggle for equal treatment of women and women's rights. The theme for Women's Equality Day 2023 is "Embrace Equity,". Aim: To commemorate the Nineteenth Amendment being adopted in the 1920s in the United States. This act stopped the federal government and states from preventing people from the right to vote based on their gender.

20. The National Sports Day in India is celebrated on **29 August** every year.

Note: It is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand Singh. The day also serves as a reminder for all of us to recall the contributions, determination and extraordinary achievements of the athletes and their influence in shaping societies. The theme for this year's National Sports Day celebration is "Sports are an enabler to an inclusive and fit society".

New Appointments

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

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

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. Cabinet Secretary, **Rajiv Gauba** tenure has been extended by 1-year.

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 **Vaibhav Taneja** as Chief Financial Officer of the company replacing Kirkhorn.

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 **Shrikant Madhav Vaidya** as the Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation Limited for a period of one year.

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 **Amit Jhingran** as the managing director & CEO of SBI Life Insurance Company in Aug 2023.

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 **Tehmasp Printer** as Global CEO of IGI, effective October 1, 2023.

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.

8. PayPal appointed **Alex Chriss** as CEO, replaced its longest-serving chief executive officer Dan Schulman in August 2023.

Note: He currently serves as the Executive Vice President and General Manager of Intuit's Small Business and Self-Employed Group. The change of guard marks a watershed moment for digital payments giant PayPal, which has been looking to push deeper into the cryptocurrency payments space with the launch of a U.S. dollar stablecoin last week.

9. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) appointed **Parminder Chopra** as the first full-time women Chairperson and Managing Director of Power Finance Corporation (PFC) Limited.

Note: Presently, she is serving as Director (Finance) of the same Maharatna Power PSU. She has also been holding the additional charge of company's CMD post. She has more than 35 years of experience in power sector, serving in key power sector organizations like NHPC and Power Grid.

10. The Reserve Bank of India appointed **PR Seshadri** as MD & CEO of South Indian Bank and he will serve for a period of three years.

Note: He is currently mentoring businesses both at an operating level as well as at the board level at various companies. He has served as Managing Director & CEO of the Karur Vysya Bank Limited. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from the Delhi College of Engineering and a PG Diploma in Management from the IIM Bangalore.

11. The government has approved the appointment of Kamlesh Varshney and **Amarjeet Singh** as SEBI Whole-Time Members.

Note: Kamlesh Varshney, a 1990-batch officer of the Indian Revenue Service, is a joint secretary at the revenue department in the Finance Ministry. Amarjeet Singh is an executive director at the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). Both have been appointed for three years from the date of assumption of charge or until further orders.

12. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) has appointed **Rahul Dravid** as BPCL latest brand ambassador.

Note: He will represent BPCL's Pure for Sure initiative and its range of MAK lubricants. BPCL operates three refineries in Bina, Kochi and Mumbai. It was ranked 309th on the 2020 Fortune list of the world's biggest Public sector undertakings in India.

13. Viacom18 has appointed **Kiran Mani** as CEO overseeing digital business operations in August 2023.

Note: Currently, he holds the position of General Manager and MD for Android and Google Play in the Asia Pacific region at Google. He has been associated with the company for over 13 years now. Mani, in his role as the head of the digital business, will have the responsibility of leading the expansion of JioCinema, according to the sources.

14. **Srettha Thavisin** has become Thailand's prime minister after clinching parliamentary support.

Note: He co-founded Sansiri in 1988, which later became one of Thailand's largest real estate developers, leading Srettha to become a property tycoon. He was the former chief executive and president of Sansiri. Srettha will lead an alliance of 11 parties that includes two pro-military parties affiliated with outgoing Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha.

15. **Emmerson Mnangagwa** has been re-elected as the President of Zimbabwe, for a second and final five-year term in August 2023.

Note: His victory over his closest competitor, Nelson Chamisa after his first full term in office, strengthened ZANU-PF's grip on power. Zimbabwe has over the past two decades suffered under disastrous economic policies that have led to soaring prices, high unemployment, and a medical system lacking basic drugs and equipment.

16. The Finance Industry Development Council has appointed **Umesh Revankar** as its new chairman.

Note: He currently holds the position of executive vice chairman for Shriram Finance and has decades of experience and expertise in the financial services industry. He has risen through the ranks, assuming responsibilities and leadership roles in business operations. He played a pivotal role in making Shriram Transport Finance Company the largest commercial vehicle financier in India.

17. The IndianOil has been appointed **Chef Sanjeev Kapoor** as the brand ambassador for its Indane XTRATEJ LPG brand.

Note: This announcement was made at the prestigious Indane XtraTej Hotelier Harmony Meet in Bengaluru. The event witnessed the unveiling of the new XTRATEJ TV commercial featuring Chef Sanjeev Kapoor, who commended IndianOil's commitment to culinary innovation and efficiency. Indian Oil Chairman: Shrikant Madhav Vaidya.

Important News – India

1. Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Zubin Irani will inaugurate the G20 EMPOWER Summit in **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. Highlights: G20 EMPOWER agenda including the G20 EMPOWER Tech Equity Digital Inclusion Platform and the Best Practices Playbook

2. **Confederation of All India Traders** 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.

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. **Earth Action** 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.

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. **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** has launched the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction.

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 **12 states** on a pilot basis from Kharif season of this year for better sowing data collection.

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 **7.95%** in July 2023, from 8.45% in June 2023.

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 (**e-Clearance for Afterlife Remains**) portal to facilitate the swift transfer of mortal remains of Indians who die abroad.

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 **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 **Study in India (SII)** portal in New Delhi to simplify international students academic journey in India.

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

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 **Sagar Setu - National Logistics Portal (Marine)** portal.

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', **aceclofenac** has been prohibited for the production, sale, and distribution.

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. **Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd (RVNL)** 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.

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 **₹1. 39 lakh crore** for BharatNet, the government's project for last-mile connectivity across 6. 4 lakh villages in the country in Aug 2023.

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 **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. **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** is implementing the scheme of "Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana" in August 2023.

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 Niranjan Jyoti informed that the Centre owes **Rs 6,366 crore** in dues to states and Union Territories under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

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. **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights** has developed an application named MASI for real-time monitoring of the Child Care Institutions.

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

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

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

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

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 **IIT Madras** signed a MoU in Secunderabad to establish the India 5G testbed at the Indian Railway Institute of Signal Engineering and Telecommunications (IRISET).

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 35 prestigious institutions for fostering collaboration in standardization and conformity assessment.
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 **Sri Lanka** to fund its unique digital identity project in Aug 2023.
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 **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 13 railway stations in the State under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme.
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. **Meri Mati Mera Desh** campaign has been launched to pay tribute to the 'Veers' who laid down their lives for the countrys.
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), India ranked **18th** among the Leading exporters in world merchandise trade (2022).
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 **700,000 USD** from the India-UN Development Partnership Fund to the Tuvalu project in August 2023.
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 **15** Eco-parks during the last 5 years.
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. **Air India** unveiled its mega brand makeover and new logo, which signifies "limitless possibilities" in August 2023.
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 (**Initial Public Offering**) to three days from the present requirement of six working days.
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 **Rs 500 crore** (amount) Chief Minister's Solar Mission for minimizing the power deficit in this northeastern hill state in August 2023.
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. National Company Law Tribunal** approved the merger scheme of India's homegrown entertainment company Zee Entertainment Enterprises with Culver Max Entertainment in Aug 2023.
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. Niveshak Sarathi** was launched by Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority (IEPFA) CEO Anita Shah Akella.
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. Union Minister Amit Shah** laid the foundation stone for the Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Limited Nano Urea Plant at Gandhidham in Kutch in August 2023.
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. Union Minister for Education, Dharmendra Pradhan** launched the Direct Benefit Transfer in National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme in New Delhi in August 2023.
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 **Goa** to begin a knowledge partnership with a focus on evidence-based policy formulation and its impact in the State.
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 **YES BANK** to enable IIITD-IC to strengthen its mentoring initiatives for startups.
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.
- 44. The Union Minister for Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Parshottam Rupala** has unveiled the 'A-HELP' (Accredited Agent for Health and Extension of Livestock Production) along with an Infertility Camp in Gujarat.
Note: Gov is leading these initiatives as part of the Pashudhan Jagrati Abhiyaan under Inclusive Development. Objective: To mark a significant stride towards empowering women, enhancing livestock productivity, and advancing the socio-economic landscape of the region.
- 45. Veteran actor Victor Banerjee and Amitabh Kant (India's G20 Sherpa)** have inaugurated the G20 Film Festival, which was held in **New Delhi**.
Note: Aims: To celebrate and showcase a vibrant and collaborative partnership existing amongst the G20 and invited countries in the field of cinema. It is organized by the India International Centre and the G20 Secretariat of the Ministry of External Affairs. The event will continue till 2nd September.
- 46. The G20 4th Digital Economy Working Group and Digital Economy Ministerial meetings** will be held in **Bengaluru** from August 16th to 19th.
Note: Aim: To discuss the various issues relating to digital information, service delivery to citizens and the growth of the digital economy. There would be the Digital Innovation Alliance summit on August 17 and 18th to recognize and support innovators from various G20 member countries and Guest countries.
- 47. The special scheme named Vishwakarma scheme** would be launched by the government of India for traditional craftsmen and workers during Vishwakarma Jayanti.
Note: Objective: To benefit individuals skilled in traditional craftsmanship, particularly from the OBC community. Weavers, goldsmiths, blacksmiths, laundry workers, barbers, and their families will be empowered through the Vishwakarma Yojana. The PM showcase the importance of capitalising on the demographic dividend and preparing a skilled workforce.
- 48. The first-ever crude oil transaction** under the newly implemented Local Currency Settlement (LCS) system took place between Abu Dhabi National Oil Company and **Indian Oil Corporation Limited**.
Note: Both Indian Rupees and UAE Dirhams were used for the transaction. India and UAE have a strong oil and gas relationship and the UAE is a key partner for India's energy security. UAE is the fourth largest source of crude oil and the second largest source of LNG and LPG for India. Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari launched the Bharat New Car Assessment Programme (Bharat NCAP) to improve road safety through raising the safety standards of motor vehicles up to **3.5 tonnes** in India.
Note: Aim: To provide a tool to the car customers to make a comparative assessment of crash safety of motor vehicles available in the market. Under Bharat NCAP, car manufacturers can voluntarily offer their cars for testing as per the Automotive Industry Standard (AIS) 197.

49. India and **Trinidad and Tobago** have recently entered into a significant partnership by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to share the renowned INDIA STACK technology.
Note: This collection of open APIs and digital public goods, pioneered by India, is designed to enhance identity, data, and payment services on a large scale. This move reflects India's commitment to aiding the digital transformation of nations through collaboration and technology sharing.
50. The union cabinet approved 'PM-eBus Sewa' for augmenting city bus operations under which **10,000** e-buses will be deployed across cities in the country.
Note: Aim: To improve public transport in cities and is also in line with India's objectives concerning climate change. Rs 57,613 crores will be spent on this project and around 10,000 new electric buses will be provided across the country. Under this scheme, priority will be given to cities not having organized bus services.
51. The finance ministry will organise a two-day Chintan Shivir in which Indian state starting from August 20 2023 held at the Statue of Unity at Kevadia, **Gujarat**.
Note: Aim: To discuss various issues including the roadmap for India to become a developed nation by 2047. Objective: To review the work of the Ministry and to evolve an action plan to implement Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's "Vision 2047". FinMin Nirmala Sitaraman reviewed the progress of the G 20 Finance track.
52. **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** has embarked on a groundbreaking project to construct the 'Likaru-Mig La-Fukche' road in Ladakh.
Note: Goal: To establish the world's highest motorable road, spanning an altitude of approximately 19,400 feet, surpassing the previous record held by Umling La Pass. The proposed road between Likaru-Migla-Fukche would provide an axis connecting Hanle to CDFD road at Fukche.
53. **All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE)** partnered with the Jio Institute for a Faculty Development Programme on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Science.
Note: Aim: To empower academic leaders and senior Faculty members with a deep understanding of AI and Data Science while also emphasizing on the ethical considerations of utilizing AI tools for immersive learning. This is being initiated under AICTE's ATAL (AICTE Training and Learning) programme
54. **World Health Organization (WHO)** and the G20 India presidency announced a new Global Initiative on Digital Health (GIDH) at the Health Minister's Meeting of the G20 Summit.
Note: The new GIDH initiative will operate as a WHO-managed network and platform to support the implementation of the Global Strategy on Digital Health 2020-2025. WHO is committed to working with countries to strengthen their capacities and to improve access to quality-assured digital solutions.
55. **Union Minister of State Science & Technology Jitendra Singh** launched the CSIR Prima ET11, the first indigenous e-Tractor developed by the Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute (CMERI), Durgapur.
Note: Jitendra Singh focused on the role of Agri StartUps in India's economy and called for the adoption of new and AI-driven technologies in Agriculture. An increasing number of new Startups are venturing into the Agriculture sector, focussing on niche technology.
56. The 1st Foreign Office Consultations FOC between India and **Samoa** was held in Apia.
Note: Aim: To discuss their wide-ranging bilateral relations including their development partnership covering areas such as health, Information and Communications Technology ICT, Education, and Small and Medium Sized Enterprises SME. They also discussed follow-up on Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation FIPIC III Summit, as well as regional and global issues
57. The 4th G20 Culture Working Group (CWG) Meeting will begin in **Varanasi** in August 2023.
Note: Aim: To arrive at actionable outcomes while positioning culture at the heart of policy-making. G20 Culture: Shaping the Global Narrative for Inclusive Growth". will be launched in Varanasi as a part of the Culture Ministers' Meeting. The CWG will also release a special stamp to commemorate the Culture Unites All' campaign to highlight India's unwavering belief in multilateralism.
58. **Sachin Tendulkar** has been appointed as the 'National Icon' for voter awareness and education for the election commission of India.
Note: MoU will be signed with Sachin for a period of three years in the presence of Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar in New Delhi. Aim: To bridge the gap between citizens, especially youth and urban populations, and the electoral process thereby, trying to address the challenges of urban and youth apathy.
59. **Minister of Science Jitendra Singh** launched "NBRI Namoh 108", a unique variety of Lotus (Nelumbo nucifera) with 108 petals, in Lucknow.
Note: It was developed by the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research- National Botanical Research Institute (CSIR-NBRI), Lucknow. He also introduced apparel made from lotus fibre and perfume 'Frotus'. The perfume is extracted from lotus flowers and was developed by NBRI, and the Fragrance & Flavour Development Centre.
60. Government e-Marketplace, GeM has crossed **One lakh crore rupees** Gross Merchandise Value in the current financial year 23-24.
Note: The average GMV per day has also witnessed growth from INR 412 crore per day in FY 22-23 to INR 690 crore per day in FY 23-24. About GeM: It is an online platform for the procurement of goods and services by

government departments, public sector units, and other agencies. It is working towards promoting the Make in India initiative.

61. The standard issued by **Ministry of New and Renewable Energy** to outline the emission thresholds that must be met in order for hydrogen produced to be classified as 'Green', i. e., from renewable sources.

Note: The scope of the definition encompasses both electrolysis-based and biomass-based hydrogen production methods. The Ministry of New & Renewable Energy has decided to define Green Hydrogen as having a well-to-gate emission of not more than 2 kg CO₂ equivalent/kg H₂.

62. India has handed over the B20 presidency to **Brazil** to host G20 in 2024.

Note: According to B20 India Chair N Chandrasekaran India's B20 Presidency under the its G20 Presidency worked under the theme of Vasaudeva Katumbakam (One Earth, One Family, One Future). Worked on 9 themes which included the empowerment of women and youth, the transition towards an Artificial Intelligence world, building a global resilient supply chain, and financing for the global economic recovery.

63. **Law and Justice Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal** launched Tele-Law- 2. 0 which Integrates Tele-Law and Nyaya Bandhu App to ensure access to Justice in New Delhi.

Note: Aim: To enable the common citizen to access legal advice, legal assistance, and legal representation through a single registration and single gateway of Tele-Law. The Minister called upon legal professionals to contribute pro bono services to ensure that no citizen is deprived of essential legal assistance.

64. The Ministry of Education and **All India Council of Technical Education** have launched the sixth edition of the Smart India Hackathon 2023.

Note: Aim: To showcase the growing culture of innovation in India's education sector. Objective: To bring together the creativity of India's young minds with real-world challenges faced by various government departments. It has become a global model for hackathons and innovation frameworks, reflecting its dynamic evolution over time.

65. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in partnership with **IIT Bombay** and Shakti Sustainable Energy Foundation launched HSBC India's strategic partnerships to enable innovation in green hydrogen.

Note: Aim: To provide a roadmap towards reducing carbon intensity in the economy and enable the creation of green job opportunities. Green hydrogen has a pivotal role to play as we counter climate change and work towards enabling a low-carbon and self-reliant economy

66. **Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari** launched the world's first 100 percent Ethanol-fueled car in New Delhi.

Note: Aim: To reduce carbon footprint, improve sustainable mobility, and decrease the country's

dependency on traditional fuel sources. According to Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri with the implementation of 20 percent ethanol blending in petrol, the country will save 35 thousand crore rupees annually as import bill.

67. **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** will organize the first edition of the Global IndiaAI 2023 in October 2023.

Note: The leading AI players, researchers, startups, and investors in India and worldwide will participate in the event. Union MoS for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship and Electronics & IT, Rajeev Chandrasekhar chairs the conference's steering committee which is entrusted with the task of shaping the contours of the Global IndiaAI 2023.

68. Two world-famous local specialty products of **Jammu and Kashmir**, namely Bhaderwah Rajma and Ramban Sulai Honey have earned coveted Geographical Indication (GI) Tag.

Note: The process for GI Tagging of these products was initiated by the Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Jammu. GI tagging will also promote the economic prosperity of locals in the geographical territory and will act as a tool for social economic growth of the producer.

69. **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)** has signed a performance-based MoU with the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India.

Note: The Ministry of Finance outlines strategic targets that IREDA aims to achieve during the fiscal years 2023-24 and 2024-25. IREDA is a Mini Ratna (Category - I), Government of India, enterprise. The Gov of India has set a Revenue from Operation target of Rs 4,350 crores for the FY 2023-24 and Rs 5,220 crores for 2024-25

70. **NHPC** signed MoU with Rail India Technical and Economic Service to construct railway siding for a 2,880 MW Dibang multipurpose project.

Note: NHPC's total installed capacity is 7,097. 2 MW of renewable power (including wind and solar) through its 25 power stations, including 1,520 MW through its subsidiary. RITES will provide comprehensive and efficient solutions for developing rail infrastructure facilities for NHPC Dibang

71. **Indian Coast Guard** has signed a MoU with the Philippine Coast Guard to enhance maritime cooperation in New Delhi.

Note: Aim: To enhance bilateral maritime cooperation between the two nations for ensuring safe, secure, and clean seas in the region. Objective: To enhance the professional linkage between the two Coast Guards in the domain of Maritime Law Enforcement, Maritime Search and Rescue, and Marine Pollution Response.

72. **NHPC Limited** has signed an MoU with APGENCO for the implementation of Pumped Hydro Storage Projects and Renewable Energy Projects in Andhra Pradesh.

- Note:** The MoU envisages the implementation of two identified Pumped Hydro Storage Projects with a total capacity of 1,950 MW. The projects will be implemented under Joint Venture mode. The MoU seeks to harness Pump Storage Projects as Energy Storage Solutions to achieve the national objective of clean and green energy.
73. An MoU was signed between the Inland Waterways Authority of India and **Numaligarh Refinery Limited** to use the National Waterways-2 (Brahmaputra) and Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route.
Note: Reason: For export of petroleum products to Bangladesh and other southeast Asian countries in Guwahati. Aim: To fulfill the 'Hydrocarbon Vision 2030 for Northeast' by enabling inland waterways transportation via NW2 and IBPR, unveiling a new chapter of EXIM trade for the Northeast region
74. NITI Aayog and **United Nations Development Programme** signed an MoU to formalize a cooperative framework to fast-track India's pursuit to achieve its sustainable development goals (SDGs).
Note: Objective: To focus on the two organizations' cooperation in a range of areas, including SDG localization, and data-driven monitoring, among others. NITI Aayog is the nodal Institution for coordinating the adoption and monitoring of SDGs at the national and sub-national levels.
75. India and **New Zealand** have signed a MoU to boost cooperation in civil aviation in New Delhi.
Note: Aim: To cover the scheduling of new routes, codeshare services, traffic rights, and capacity entitlement. The designated airlines of New Zealand may operate any number of services with any type of aircraft, with third and fourth freedom traffic rights to and from six points in India, namely New Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, and Kolkata.
76. The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and the National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) signed an MoU for **2023-25**.
Note: Aim: To enhance the socio-economic upliftment of Safai Karamcharis, and their dependants focusing on empowering these marginalized communities across the nation. The MoU underscores the commitment to accelerate inclusive growth through the effective allocation and utilization of funds for targeted welfare programs.
77. South African President and BRICS Chair Cyril Ramaphosa has announced that the group has invited Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE to become full members of the bloc from **January 1, 2024**.
Note: Aim: To open the doors for numerous interested countries to align with a coalition committed to championing the interests of the "Global South". It can be an example of reforms in other global institutions that were established in the 20th century
78. **26th** edition of the National Conference on e-Governance is being organized in Indore to deliberate on providing better facilities to the citizens.
Note: Theme: 'Developed India: Empowering Citizens'. Aim: To focus on 11 subjects including district level initiatives, emerging technologies for providing citizen-centric facilities and data governance. Organized by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances and Ministry of Electronics in collaboration with Gov of MP
79. Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the 15th BRICS Summit, which was held under chairship of **South Africa**.
Note: Aim: To discuss global economic recovery, partnership with Africa and the Global South, and review the progress made on the BRICS agenda so far. During his address, the PM called for a strengthened BRICS that is: B - Breaking barriers. R - Revitalising economies. I - Inspiring Innovation. C - Creating opportunities. S - Shaping the future
80. The B20 Summit India 2023 has been started in **New Delhi** on August 25th, 2023.
Note: The three-day Summit will be attended by Union Ministers Nirmala Sitharaman, Dr. S Jaishankar, G20 India Sherpa Amitabh Kant, Trade Ministers of various countries, and several business leaders. PM Narendra Modi will attend the special session on the 27th of August as Chief Guest. Theme of B20 India: R. A. I. S. E: Responsible, Accelerated, Innovative, Sustainable, Equitable Businesses.
81. **CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan** has inaugurated the scheme Mukhyamantri Seekho-Kamao yojna means 'Chief Minister's Learn-Earn' scheme in Madhya Pradesh.
Note: The scheme has facilitated on-the-job training on the lines of 'learn and earn along with skill development, and has been started for the youth in the age group of 18 to 29 yrs. Under the scheme, the selected youth will be given training according to the requirements of the industries and also get an 8 to 10 thousand rupees stipend.
82. The cabinet approved the continuation of the North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme (NESIDS) with an approved outlay of **Rs. 8139. 50 crore**.
Note: Objective: To support infrastructure development in identified sectors including connectivity in the North Eastern States. For the period from 2022-23 to 2025-26, Cabinet approved two components: NESIDS-Road and NESIDS-Other Than Road Infrastructure. The scheme is a central sector scheme with 100% central funding.
83. **State Bank of India** introduced a facility to allow customers to enrol in social security schemes by just furnishing an Aadhaar card.
Note: Aim: To make the process of enrolling in various social security schemes simpler. Customers visiting CSPs will need only their Aadhaar cards to enrol in schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, the

Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, and the Atal Pension Yojana.

- 84. Ministry of Jal Shakti** released the report on the sixth census on minor irrigation schemes.

Note: 23. 14 million minor irrigation (MI) schemes have been reported in the country, out of which 21. 93 million are groundwater and 1. 21 million are Surface Water schemes. UP has the largest number of MI schemes in the country followed by Maharashtra. For the first time, information about the gender of the owner of the MI scheme was also collected in case of individual ownership.

- 85. Madhya Pradesh** has raised the financial aid given to women in the Ladli Behna scheme from Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,250 per month.

Note: He also announced 35 percent reservation for them in government jobs and provided gas cylinders for Rs 450. Under the programme, women between the ages of 23 and 60, who do not pay income taxes and whose families make less than Rs 2. 5 lakh annually, receive Rs 1,000 every month.

- 86. Tamil Nadu** launched the expansion of the state government's breakfast scheme at Thirukkuvilai.

Note: The scheme has been extended to 31,000 government schools across the state benefitting 17 lakh students. Initially, the scheme was devised to provide nutritious breakfast to 1,14,095 students of classes 1 to 5 studying in 1,545 government schools and an amount of Rs 33. 56 crore was allocated for this scheme.

- 87. Government** to launch a new scheme for Promotion of Research and Innovation in Pharma- Med Sector with a total outlay of **Five thousand crore rupees**.

Note: Objective: To transform the Indian Pharma Med Tech sector from cost-based competitiveness to

innovation-based growth by strengthening the research infrastructure in the country. Aim: To promote the growth of the pharma industry in the country, enhance manufacturing of drugs and promote research and innovation in the sector.

- 88. Karnataka** launched the 'Gruha Lakshmi' women's financial aid scheme in Mysuru.

Note: Under this scheme, about 1. 1 crore women heads of family will get ₹2,000 each at a function in Mysuru. 'Gruha Lakshmi' scheme is one of the five pre-poll 'guarantees' of the Congress, which ousted the BJP from power in the Karnataka Assembly election held in May. The government has earmarked ₹17,500 crore for 'Gruha Lakshmi' programme in the current financial year.

- 89. The Textiles Ministry** released the guidelines of the GREAT scheme (**Grant for Research and Entrepreneurship across Aspiring Innovators in Technical Textiles**), under which they will provide a grant-in-aid of up to Rs 50 lakh for startups and individuals to promote innovation in the niche technical textiles segment.

Note: They would grant-in-aid of up to Rs 50 lakh for up to a period of 18 months. Additionally, they will provide 10% of the total grant-in-aid to incubators.

- 90. Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda** has inaugurated the 'Awareness Campaign and Training of Trainers' initiative.

Note: Aim: To educate grassroots workers and enable them to raise awareness about sickle cell anemia, particularly in tribal regions. The government aims to eradicate the disease by 2047, under its National Sickle Cell Anemia Elimination Mission targets. PM Narendra Modi formally launched the mission on July 1 in Shahdol district, MP.

Important News – State

- 1. The University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS)** will be opening a first-of-its-kind museum on its campus in **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. Uttar Pradesh** cabinet approved the Water Tourism and Adventure Sports Policy 2023.

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. Rajasthan** Cabinet approved the proposal of a high-level committee to form 19 new districts and 3 new divisions in the State.

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 **New Amravati 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.

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. **Telangana** launched India's first Agricultural Data Exchange (ADeX) and Agriculture Data Management Framework (ADMF).
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. **PM Narendra Modi** 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.
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.
7. **Rajasthan** launched the Mukhyamantri Nishulk Annapurna Food Packet Scheme on the occasion of Independence Day.
Note: Under the scheme, families covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) will get the Annapurna food packets every month from the fair price shops (FPS) for free. Each packet will contain one kg each of gram pulses, sugar and iodized salt, one litre soybean refined edible oil, 100 gram each of chili powder and coriander powder.
8. **Goa** launched the flagship scheme "Gramin Mitra" in August 2023.
Note: Objective: To provide doorstep delivery of government services across the state and promote digital empowerment in rural areas. Aims: To empower rural communities with access to information and opportunities that can transform their lives and drive socio-economic growth. The program will help us accelerate the delivery of e-governance services to rural areas across the state.
9. **Maharashtra** launched a mobile app and WhatsApp helpline for the Chief Minister's Medical Assistance Fund.
Note: A helpline number 8650567567 has been started for patients and their relatives. More than 12 thousand 500 patients have benefited from the Chief Minister's Aid Fund in the last one year. On this occasion, the fifth edition of the medical aid manual and the book 'Rokthok' based on the ideology of Balasaheb Thackeray was launched.
10. **Telangana** has announced a farm loan waiver of up to 99 thousand 999 in August 2023.
Note: It will be cleared within the next 45 days. The Government has released over 5,800 crore rupees towards this end which will benefit over 9 lakh farmers. The amount will be transferred directly into loan accounts of farmers. With the latest decision, farm loans up to 99,999, amounting to 7753.43 crore rupees, of over 16 lakh 66 thousand farmers will be cleared.
11. **Arunachal Pradesh** signed MoAs with three Central Public Sector Undertakings to allot 12 'stalled' hydropower projects in August 2023.
Note: The three CPSUs are National Hydroelectric Power Corporation Limited, Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd (SJVN) and North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited. The total operational capacity of these 12 projects, withdrawn from the private players, will be to the tune of 11,523 MW. CM of Arunachal Pradesh is Pema Khandu.
12. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is organizing Youth 20 Summit-2023 from 17th August to 20th August in **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh**.
Note: The themes include Future of Work: Industry 4.0, Innovation and 21st Century Skills, Peacebuilding and Reconciliation: Ushering in an Era of No War, and Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction. The Y20 Summit will bring together youth experts, decision-makers, and youth representatives from G20 countries.
13. Based on the FY23 revised budget estimates, **Maharashtra** secured the top position as the best state in overall fiscal health in a report conducted by a foreign brokerage firm.
Note: Chhattisgarh, one of the poorest states in the country, is in 2nd position followed by Telangana, while the bottom 3 are Bengal, Punjab, and Kerala. The report, penned by Kaushik Das, chief economist at the Deutsche Bank, was conducted to survey the fiscal health of 17 major states across the country.
14. **Mayem** has become the first village in Goa to have a biodiversity atlas, a 250-page document with maps detailing the floral and faunal biodiversity of the village.
Note: The atlas was prepared based on the People's biodiversity register (PBR) prepared by the village Biodiversity management committee. There are huge funds to be tapped for villages that have registered biodiversity atlases. For every lake, the government of India is ready to give Rs 10 crore to maintain it.
15. India's first 3D-printed post office is coming up at Cambridge Layout in **Bengaluru**.
Note: 3D printing is a process of making three-dimensional solid objects from a digital file. In this process an object is created by laying down successive layers of material until the object is created. Each of these layers can be seen as a thinly sliced cross-section of the object. 3D printing enables you to produce complex shapes using less material than traditional manufacturing methods.
16. **Maharashtra** cabinet decided to implement the Bhagwan Birsa Munda Jodaraste Scheme in Maharashtra to connect all tribal villages in 17 districts of the state with main roads.
Note: The project is estimated to cost Rs 5,000 crore and nearly 6,838 km of roads will be constructed as part of the scheme. In the Budget Session, Deputy CM and Finance Minister Devendra Fadnis announced the

- implementation of the scheme to connect all the tribal padas by perennial roads
17. **NLC India (NLCIL)** has inked a pact to supply 300 MW of solar power for 25 years to Rajasthan Urja Vikas Nigam under the CPSU scheme.
Note: NLCIL is presently having 1,421 MW of Renewable Energy Capacity. As per its corporate plan, it contemplates establishing a 6,031 MW capacity by 2030. NLC India has entered into a long-term power usage agreement with Rajasthan Urja Vikas Nigam Limited to supply 300 MW of solar power under the CPSU Scheme in Rajasthan.
 18. **Uttar Pradesh (UP)** has topped the in terms of new investments in 2022-23.
Note: According to RBI, UP and Gujarat together accounted for 57.2% of the total investment proposals made during the year. In 2022-23, UP attracted the highest share of new investments, with a total project cost of Rs. 43,180 crore. Followed by Gujarat (Rs. 37,317 crore), Odisha (Rs. 11,810 crore), Maharashtra (Rs. 7,900 crore) and Karnataka (Rs. 7,300 crore).
 19. Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi International (LGBI) Airport became the first in the northeast to launch Digi Yatra for hassle-free travel, is located in **Guwahati**.
Note: Aim: To eliminate the need for verification of tickets and IDs at various touchpoints. The Digi Yatra service will be available in three major areas namely - first entrance, check-in and boarding areas. Passengers will be able to register their documents on the 'Digi Yatra' app and enter the airport by scanning their faces.
 20. **Former President Ram Nath Kovind** inaugurated Kerala's first AI (Artificial intelligence) school at Santhigiri Vidyabhavan in Thiruvananthapuram.
Note: It is an innovative learning method that ensures international standards and quality learning opportunities for students with the help of artificial intelligence technology. It is designed and molded by one of the world's most advanced educational platforms iLearning Engines USA in collaboration with Vedhik eSchool.
 21. National Tiger Conservation Authority approved India's **54th** tiger reserve in Rajasthan's Karauli and Dholpur district.
Note: This is Rajasthan's fifth tiger reserve after Ranthambore, Sariska, Mukundra Hills, and Ramgarh Vishdhari. The number of tigers in India has increased from 2,967 in 2018 to 3,682 in 2022, an annual rise of 6%. The number of tigers in Rajasthan has increased from 32 in 2006 to 88 in 2022. Madhya Pradesh has the maximum number of tigers in the country (785).
 22. **Sri Lanka** hosted its very first Karnataka cultural festival organized by the International Cultural Council of India in collaboration with Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre and M. E Global Peace Foundation.
Note: Aim: To celebrate cultural diversity and mark a significant moment in the shared cultural heritage of India and Sri Lanka. The event showcased performances by over 30 artists from Karnataka including dances, folk songs, multi-lingual poems, and captivating puppet shows
 23. The second G20-Chief Scientific Advisers' Roundtable meeting officially began in **Gandhinagar** in August 2023.
Note: Science advisors, Scientists, researchers from G20 countries, and invited countries will participate. Themes Include: Opportunities in One Health. Synergizing Global Efforts to Expand the Access to Scholarly Scientific Knowledge. Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility in Science & Technology. Institutional Mechanism for Inclusive Global S&T Policy Dialogue
 24. **Union Home Minister Amit Shah** chaired the 26th Western Zonal Council (WZC) meeting at Gandhinagar.
Note: Aim: To enhance cooperation between the states through regular dialogue and discussion. The meeting is being organized by the Inter-State Council Secretariat under the Ministry of Home Affairs in collaboration with the Government of Gujarat. The WZC comprises the states of Gujarat, Goa, Maharashtra, and the Union Territories of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu
 25. Keralalites across the globe are celebrating "Thirunam" on the 10th and the most auspicious day of **Onam**.
Note: Onam, the harvest festival of Kerala, symbolises prosperity, secularism, and harmony. Keralites celebrate the festival welcoming the visit of the righteous and mythical king Mahabali, in the memory of good old days. Thirunam is being celebrated in all its cultural and traditional glory instilling the minds with hope.
 26. **Maharashtra** has signed an MoU with Germany's professional association football league, 'Bundesliga', to build a football team for players under the age of 14.
Note: Aim: To help young footballers to develop their skills and potentially compete at a high level. The Bundesliga is Germany's premier professional football league. It is one of the leading football leagues in Europe and the best football players and teams belong to the league.
 27. **Gujarat** announced a 27 percent reservation for Other Backward Classes in local bodies like panchayats, municipalities, and civic corporations.
Note: In the Panchayats Extension to Scheduled Areas notified areas, the reservation for OBCs will continue to be 10 percent to protect the interest of tribals. The existing quota for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will remain unchanged and there has been no breach of the 50 percent reservation ceiling.

Important News- World

1. Bhutan's Tiger population has increased by **27 percent** since its last count in 2015.
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.
- According to **EU** climate change service report, the oceans have hit their hottest-ever recorded temperature as they soak up warmth from climate change.
Note: The average daily global sea surface temperature beat a 2016 record this week as it reached 20.96°C. 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.
 - 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 **33%** in 14 years.
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.
 - MakeMyTrip (MMT)** has joined hands with the Ministry of Tourism to launch a microsite, 'Traveller's Map of India'.
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,"

- According to the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR), about **12%** of sitting MPs of the Rajya Sabha are billionaires with Andhra Pradesh having the highest percentage of such parliamentarians.
Note: 5 (45%) out of 11 MPs are from Andhra Pradesh, 3 (43%) out of 7 MPs are from Telangana, and 3 (16%) out of 19 MPs from Maharashtra.
- The ADR and the National Election Watch (NEW) have analyzed and updated the criminal, financial, and other details of Rajya Sabha MPs. The WHO South-East Asia Region committed to further accelerate efforts to end tuberculosis by **2030** with member countries adopting the Gandhinagar Declaration.
Note: The South-East Asia Region bears a disproportionate burden of nearly half of the global TB cases and deaths. The Declaration calls for establishing a high-level multi-sectoral commission reporting to the highest political level in each country for synergy of efforts among various stakeholders.
- Saudi Arabia** Environment Ministry has launched a program to combat desertification using artificial intelligence (AI).
Note: Aim: To study the status of vegetative cover in the Kingdom and contribute to the goals of afforestation projects and the "Green Saudi" initiative. It will use AI to analyze satellite imagery to identify areas that are most vulnerable to desertification. Remote sensing technologies will be used to monitor vegetation cover, and track its changes over time.

Honor & Awards

- The Lokmanya Tilak National Award 2023 in Pune conferred to **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.
- Medec Dragon Pvt Ltd** received the prestigious "Best Managed Pharmaceutical Sustainable Organizations 2023" award.
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.
- Manoj Bajpayee** bagged the 'Best Actor' trophy, the film's cinematographer Piyush Puty won the award for 'Best Cinematography' at the Durban International Film Festival 2023
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.
- Mrunal Thakur** was honoured with the Diversity in Cinema Award at the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne 2023.
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".
- Tamil Nadu** bagged the Best Performing State award 2023 in cadaver organ donation.
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. **Karnataka Road Transport Corporation** has won Asia's Best Brand Employer Award 2023 under the category 'Organisation with Innovative HR Practices'.

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. **Chairman Subhash Runwal** was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award 2023 at the first-ever RICS South Asia Awards.

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. **Kanwardeep Kaur** was named as the recipient of the 'Union Home Minister's Medal of Excellence in Investigation' for the year 2023.

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. **954** police personnel have been awarded Police Medals on the occasion of the 76th Independence Day.

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. **District Kupwara** 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.

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. **National Automated Fingerprint Identification System (NAFIS) 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.

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.

12. President Droupadi Murmu has conferred **76** Gallantry awards to members of the Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces on the occasion of Independence Day 2023.

Note: Awards include: Kirti Chakra awards (awarded posthumously) – 4, Shaurya Chakra awards (including five posthumous) – 11, Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry) - 2, Sena Medals (Gallantry) – 52, Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry) - 3, Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry) - 4

13. **53** personnel have been awarded Fire Service Medals on the occasion of Independence Day, 2023.

Note: Awards Include: President's Fire Service Medal for Distinguished Service has been awarded to 8. Personnel and Fire Service Medal for Meritorious Service has been awarded to 41. The President's Fire Service Medal for Gallantry has been awarded to 3. The Personnel and Fire Service Medal for Gallantry has been awarded to 1 personnel for their acts of valour and gallantry

14. **Raj Chetty** has been awarded Harvard University's coveted George Ledlie Prize 2023 for wielding big data to break myths about who achieves the American Dream.

Note: The award is given every two years to a member of the Harvard community who has made the most valuable contribution to science or in any way for the benefit of mankind. He is also director of Opportunity Insights, a group of economists based at Harvard who studies inequality.

15. The Matti banana variety, native to **Kanniyakumari** district was recently granted the Geographical Indication (GI) tag.

Note: There are six known types of the Matti banana and they are indigenous to Kanniyakumari. They are known as 'Baby Banana' which flourishes mainly in Kalkulam and Vilavancode taluks. Its low total soluble solids content (TSSC) recommends it as a baby food. This GI tag is valid for 10 years following which it can be renewed.

16. **Ratan Tata** conferred the first-ever 'Udyog Ratna' award instituted by the Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

Note: The honour comprised a shawl, a citation and a memento from the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC). The aim of the Maharashtra Udyog Ratna Awards is to honour those people and groups who have significantly impacted Maharashtra's business, industry, education, financial services, fashion, and other sectors.

17. **Allu Arjun** won the Best Actor award at the 69th National Film Awards.

Note: He was awarded for his movie 'Pushpa: The Rise' (Directed by: Sukumar). Alia Bhatt and Kriti Sanon won the Best Actress award for their phenomenal roles in Gangubai Kathiawadi and Mimi, respectively. Other

awards: Best Feature Film: Rocketry. Best Director: Nikhil Mahajan (Godavari). Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment: RRR. Nargis Dutt Award for Best Film on National Integration: The Kashmir Files.

18. **Indore** was awarded with the national smart city award 2022.

Note: While MP received the state award and Chandigarh received the UT award. Aim: To provide core infrastructure, clean environment and a decent quality of life to their citizens through the application of 'smart solutions'. It includes 35 in Project Award, six in Innovation Award, 13 in the National/Zonal City Award,

five in State/UT Award and seven in Partner Award categories.

19. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** was awarded with 'The Grand Cross of the Order of Honour' award by Greek President Katerina Sakellaropoulou.

Note: This is the second-highest civilian honour in Greece. The Greek State Honours the Prime Minister of India, a statesman who has tirelessly promoted the global reach of his country and who works systematically for India's economic progress and prosperity, bringing about bold reforms.

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

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 **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. **Viktor Axelsen** beat Indonesian Jonatan Christie to bag the men's singles title at the Japan Open 2023 in Tokyo.

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 **Professional football** after a remarkable career spanning two decades.

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. **Grandmaster Gukesh D** has become as India's top chess player, surpassing Viswanathan Anand in Aug 2023.

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, **Indian archery Aman Saini and Pragati** secured a gold medal in the mixed archery team.

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. **Aditi Swami** has become the first-ever Indian to clinch the individual World Title at the World Archery Championships final 2023 in Berlin.

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. **Sports Authority of India (SAI)** under the Umbrella Campaign 'Cheer4India' has launched a short movie series 'Halla Bol' on the journey of Asian Games-bound athletes.

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 **132nd** 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.
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, **Pramod Bhagat and Sukant Kadam** men's doubles duo clinched a gold medal in the SL3-SL4 category.
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. Indian shuttler **HS Prannoy** won silver at the Australian Open Badminton 2023 final in Sydney.
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. **Savita** entered the event as the defending champion, won the only gold medal for India in the women's 61kg weight division in World Cadet Wrestling Championships 2023 in Turkey.
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. **69th** famed Nehru Trophy Boat Race 2023 would be held at the picturesque Punnamada Lake in Alappuzha district in Kerala.
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. **Bangladesh** appointed veteran all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan as its ODI captain for both the Asia Cup and the 2023 ODI World Cup.
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. **India** 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.
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. **American golfer Lilia Vu** won the Women's British Open to claim her second major title of 2023 by defeating Charley Hull.
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.
18. **Mohit Kumar** has become the Under 20 World Championship 2023 in the men's 61 Kg Freestyle category by defeating Russia's Eldar Akhmadudinovin in Jordan.
Note: He is the fourth male wrestler from India to earn a gold medal in the U20 World Championships, following Palwinder Cheema in 2001, Ramesh Kumar in 2001. Jaideep won the bronze in the 74kg category. Sagar Jaglan won the silver medal 79 kg category while Deepak Chahal won the bronze medal in 97 kg category.
19. **Priya Malik** clinched a Gold medal at the 2023 U20 World Wrestling Championships (women's 76kg freestyle) in Jordan by defeating Laura Celine Kuehn of Germany.
Note: She became just the second woman wrestler from India to be crowned U20 world championship. Antim Panghal had been the first woman from India to win a junior world title in wrestling at last year's edition. She has now won both the U17 2021 and 2022 and U20 world titles.
20. **Tamil Nadu** partnered with Racing Promotions Private Limited to launch India's first-ever night street racing circuit in India and South Asia that will be hosting a night race.
Note: RRPL is also the promoter of the Indian Racing League and F4 Indian Championship. As for the track, it is a 3.5km layout, located around the Island Grounds that resides in the heart of the city. Minister for Youth Welfare and Sports Development Udhayanidhi Stalin has launched the circuit
21. Wahab Riaz announced retirement from international cricket in August 2023, is associated with **Pakistan**.
Note: In his career of 15 years, he played 27 Tests, 91 ODIs and 36 T20Is, taking 237 wickets from 154 internationals. The Pakistani paceman is fondly remembered for his fiery spell in the 2015 World Cup against Shane Watson. He will be remembered as one of

- the most popular and respected players in Pakistan's recent history.
22. The duo of Indian shooters, **Esha Singh and Shiva Narwal** won the gold medal at the 10m air pistol mixed event in the final of the ISSF World Championship 2023 at Baku, Azerbaijan.
Note: The Indian duo defeated the Turkish pair of Ilayda Tarhan and Yusuf Dikec 16-10 in the final match. Presently, India placed second on the medals table with a gold and a bronze medal, while China is leading the tally with five gold and two bronze medals.
 23. **India** has secured Second Rank at the 16th International Olympiad 2023 on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) in Poland With Four Gold and One Silver Medal.
Note: The United Kingdom clinched the lead with five Golds. A total of 236 students from 50 nations participated at the Olympiad. Rajdeep Mishra from Kota, Rajasthan, Koduru Tejeswar from Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh, Md. Sahil Akhtar from Kolkata, West Bengal, Akarsh Raj Sahay from Nagpur, Maharashtra were awarded Gold medals.
 24. **R Pragganandhaa** becomes the first Indian after Viswanathan Anand to reach the semifinals of the FIDE World Cup 2023, defeated his higher-ranked opponent, Fabiano Caruana, in Baku.
Note: Out of four Indians, who had made it to the quarterfinals, Pragganandhaa remains the only Indian in the fray. No Indian has reached the last four stage of the Chess World Cup, except Anand, who won the first two editions of the tournament in 2000 and 2002.
 25. **Mehuli Ghosh** secured bronze medals behind the People's Republic of China's Jiayu Han and Zhilin Hang in the women's 10-meter air rifle event at the ISSF World Championship 2023 in Baku.
Note: This Championship 2023 was a qualifying event for the Paris 2024 Olympics. A total of 48 Olympic quotas are on offer with the top four finishers (one per country) in each of the 12 Olympic individual shooting events. This was India's fourth Paris 2024 quota in shooting.
 26. **Spain** secured their first FIFA Women's World Cup title 2023 by defeating England at the Accor Stadium in Sydney.
Note: Spain and Germany are now the only two nations to win both the men's and women's tournaments. The victory made La Roja the first team to hold the under-17, under-20 and senior world titles at the same time – and the fifth winner in nine editions of the Women's World Cup. Spanish captain Olga Carmona's first-half goal proved to be the difference maker
 27. **Anahat Singh** has bagged the gold medal defeating Hong Kong's Ena Kwong in the U-17 category in the Asian Junior Squash Individual Championships 2023 held in China.
Note: She also has a bronze medal win, at Macau in the U-13 category in 2019. She won the U-11 title during the British Junior Open Squash and by winning the U-13 title in the Dutch Junior Open Squash 2019. In 2021, she also reached the quarterfinals of the Indian Open held at Noida.
 28. **Novak Djokovic** secured the Men's single title of Cincinnati Open 2023 after defeating Carlos Alcaraz of Spain.
Note: The win delivered Djokovic his 95th career title and 39th Masters 1000 crown. The Spaniard is currently ranked at number one in the ATP Tour rankings, with Djokovic ranked just behind him at number two. Djokovic is the only player in tennis history to be the reigning champion of all four majors at once across all three different surfaces
 29. **Honey Dabas and Rahul Jograjiya** clinched first-ever gold and silver respectively in the junior men's 72kg category at the World Para Powerlifting Championships 2023 in Dubai.
Note: Dabas lifted a best total of 135kg while Jograjiya had his best total lift of 132kg. Dabas has two gold medals from the Dubai 2022 Fazza World Cup. India's only medal at a World Championships has been claimed by Parmjeet Kumar (men's -49kg) at the Tbilisi 2021 World Championships.
 30. Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Anurag Singh has announced that the Khelo India Women's League will officially be known as **Asmita Women's League**.
Note: ASMITA refers to Achieving Sports Milestone by Inspiring Women Through Action. The Asmita Portal serves as a comprehensive resource, offering valuable insights into upcoming leagues among other features. It will enable any school, college, government, or private organization to host the 'Asmita Women's League.'
 31. **33 Khelo India Centres (KIC)** in Rajasthan at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium in Jaipur.
Note: He also announced that a National Center of Excellence with a sports science center will be set up in Rajasthan along with an additional 18 KIC, thus taking the total number of KIC in the State to 51. The total number of KICs across India is 960, out of which 715 are operational KICs
 32. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced a sponsorship agreement with **Mastercard**.
Note: Under this deal, the brand has become a global partner for the upcoming ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023, which is set to be held in India from October 5 to November 19, 2023. The advantages are to interact with legendary cricketers, see the Men's Cricket World Cup trophy up close, and gain special access to games.
 33. **Amanpreet Singh** won the gold medal in the Men's 25 metre standard pistol shooting event at the ISSF World Championship 2023 in Baku.
Note: South Korea's Gunhyeok Lee had to settle for silver while France's Kevin Chapon secured a bronze. In the Women's 25-meter Standard Pistol shooting event, Tiwana, Yashita Shokeen, and Kritika bagged bronze.
 34. The two medals on the day took India's tally in the Championship to nine - five gold and four bronze medals.

Rajeshwari Kumari has secured a shooting spot for India in the Paris 2024 Olympics.

Note: She finished fifth in the women's trap final at the ISSF World Championship 2023 in Baku, Azerbaijan. The ISSF World Championship 2023 serves as a qualifying event for the Paris Olympics 2024. The best four finishers (one from each country) in each of the 12 Olympic individual shooting events receive a seat on their national teams, giving a total of 48 shooters

35. **HS Prannoy** bagged a bronze medal in badminton at BWF World Championships 2023 in Denmark.

Note: He registered a loss to Kunlavut Vitidsarn in the semifinals at the Championships and went down to world number three position. This is India's 14th medal at the World Championships. This includes one gold, four silvers and nine bronze medals. China is the most successful team in the tournament's history, with 196 medals, including 69 gold, 48 silver and 79 silvers.

36. Indian women's visually impaired team won the T-20 final of the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) World Games 2023, held at **Birmingham**.

Note: The Indian team defeated Australia by nine wickets in the rain-interrupted match. The Indian men's blind cricket team lost to Pakistan in the IBSA World Games final to settle for a silver medal. Cricket for the visually challenged made its debut in the International Blind Sports Federation World Games in 2023.

37. **Neeraj Chopra** made history by winning the gold medal in the men's javelin throw (88. 17 meters) event at the World Athletics Championships 2023 held in Budapest, Hungary.

Note: He became the first-ever Indian athlete to achieve this feat, marking a significant milestone for Indian athletics. Neeraj faced tough competition, notably from Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem, who secured the silver medal with a commendable throw of 87. 82 meters.

38. The Indian men's 4x400 metres relay team comprising of Muhammed Anas Yahiya, Amoj Jacob, Muhammed Ajmal and Rajesh Ramesh ended with what position in the 4x400 metres relay race final at the World Athletics Championships 2023.

Note: The USA relay team of Quincy Hall, Vernon Norwood, Justin Robinson, and Rai Benjamin won finished first and won the gold. France clocked bagged silver while Great Britain claimed bronze.

39. **Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn** became the first Thai to win the men's singles title at the World Championships 2023 and became the badminton world champion after a victory over Japan's Kodai Naraoka in Copenhagen.

Note: Earlier, world No. 1 An Se-young also became the first South Korean to win the women's singles gold at the World Championships 2023 after defeating Carolina Marin. She had knocked out Tokyo 2020 gold medallist Chen Yufei in straight games in the semi-finals

40. **Max Verstappen** has won the Dutch Grand Prix 2023 for the third consecutive year, once again prevailing at his home race held at Circuit Zandvoort in the Netherlands.

Note: With the dominant win, Verstappen has now matched Sebastian Vettel's all-time record of nine F1 victories in a row. The second position was secured by Fernando ALONSO of the team Aston Martin and third position was secured by Pierre GASLY of the team Alpine

41. **Parul Chaudhary** finished in the eleventh position in the 3000 meters steeplechase final of the World Athletics Championships 2023 in Budapest Hungary.

Note: She broke the national record in the World Athletics Championships and qualified for the Paris Olympics 2024. Brunei athlete Winfred Mutile Yavi clinched the gold medal, Kenya's Beatrice Chepkoech won silver and another Kenya athlete Faith Cherotich achieved winning bronze.

42. **Youth Affairs Minister, Anurag Singh Thakur** has announced that 1,000 Khelo India Centres will be established within a year in the country.

Note: He also informed that each player will receive 5 lakh rupees to procure equipment for their centres and per year another 5 lakh rupees for operational expenses. He also launched an Information booklet on Sports Infrastructure Projects sanctioned under the Khelo India Scheme as well as launched a National Sports Federations portal.

Books and Authors

1. The Indian-origin author, **Chetna Maroo** has been selected for the 2023 Booker Prize longlist with her debut novel 'Western Lane'.

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

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.

3. **Vipul Rikhi** is the writer of Drunk on Love: The Life, Vision and Songs of Kabir.

Note: A new book aims to capture the life of mystic poet Kabir through popular legends, his vision and his poetry that has been quoted and translated extensively. The book is published by HarperCollins India and written by writer-singer Vipul Rikhi. The book presents the 15th-century poet, as he is described, quoted, and loved in popular imagination.

4. The book titled 'Drunk on Love: The Life, Vision and Songs of Kabir', was authored by **Vipul Rikhi**.
Note: Published by: HarperCollins India. It presents the 15th-century poet, as he is described, quoted, and loved in popular imagination. A new book captures the life of mystic poet Kabir through popular legends, his vision, and his poetry which has been quoted and translated extensively. It brings into one place stories from Kabir's life, his most famous songs.
5. The book 'Pitchside: My Life in Indian Cricket' was authored by **Amrit Mathur**.
Note: Through anecdotes, events, and matches, he provides an insider's view garnered over a span of more than 30 years of closely observing the game and its players. With experience as a cricket administrator, he notably managed the Indian team during the historic 1992 tour of South Africa
6. Along with Chief Minister of MP Shivraj Singh Chouhan, **Union Minister for Sports Anurag Thakur** has released books based on speeches of PM Narendra Modi titled "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas".
Note: The book is launched at the Kushabhau Thackeray International Convention Centre in Bhopal. The second and third volumes focusing on the addresses of PM Narendra Modi from June 2020 to May 2022 were released.
7. BJP President J P Nadda released the Outlook Group's Coffee Table Book 'Sikhs and Modi (A Journey of Nine Years)', which was authored by **Prabhleen Singh**.
Note: The teachings of Sikh Gurus contributed towards the unity of the society, patriotism, and dedication towards religion. It was the first time after Independence that the country has started observing 'Veer Bal Diwas' on the day of sacrifice by the young sahibzade of Guru Gobind Singh for unity and integrity of the country.

Science and Defence

1. Ministry of National Defense announced the air forces of China and **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** will conduct a joint training exercise in Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur autonomous region.
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. **Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL)** has handed over the first Radio Frequency (RF) Seeker of Akash - the Next Generation Weapon System to Defence Research and Development Organization.
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 **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. **Union Minister of State Science & Technology Jitendra Singh** launched India's first Indigenously developed, Affordable Next Generation Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) Scanner in New Delhi.
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 **fifth** among spacefaring countries in the world having end-to-end capabilities in space research and development.
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. **Chief Minister Manik Saha** 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.
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, **Iraq** 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.
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. **Tata Play** plans to increase its bandwidth capacity by 50% by adding 24 new Ku-band transponders on the GSAT-24 communication satellite.

Note: Aim: To offer more channels, services, and improve picture quality. 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 **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) named **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. **INS Chennai** was Deployed in the Red Sea Undertook Passage Exercise (Passex) with Royal Saudi Naval Ship HMS Al Jubail.

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 **Eight** Indian Institute of Technology (IITs) and Indian Institute of Science Bangalore in August 2023.

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. **Russia** launched its first lunar landing mission on August 11 2023 after almost 5 decades.

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 **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 **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 **2027** during the inauguration of the second phase of the Annual Nationwide Mass Drug Administration initiative.

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 **Maya OS**, a secure operating system (OS), indigenously developed.

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 **INS Trikand** have arrived at Port Rashid in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

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.

19. **Russia** first lunar mission in decades has ended in failure with its Luna 25 spacecraft crashing into the moon's surface.

Note: The incident, a blow to Russia's space ambitions, happened after communication with the robotic spacecraft was interrupted. The measures taken to search for the device and get in contact with it did not yield any results. According to a "preliminary analysis," Luna-25 "switched to an off-design orbit" before the collision

20. **Indian Air Force (IAF)** will hold its first-ever multi-national air exercise 'Tarang Shakti', in October 2023.

Note: The exercise intends to strengthen military cooperation between the air forces. Out of 12, Six air

forces will participate in the exercise, while the rest will attend the aerial drills as observers. The air forces of the US, the UK, France and Australia are among those likely to take part in the exercise.

21. **Prabal**, India's first long-range revolver is to be launched in August 2023 manufactured by Advanced Weapons and Equipment India (AWEIL).

Note: The Prabal revolver boasts a firing range of up to 50 metres, more than twice the reach of other revolvers. The Prabal revolver is light in weight and equipped with a side swing cylinder. It weighs 700 grams (without cartridges) in weight and its barrel length is 76 mm, while its overall length is 177.6 mm.

22. **Agnikul Cosmos** has launched its first small satellite rocket, named Agnibaan SOrTeD, with its private launchpad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

Note: The rocket is driven by Agnikul's patented Agnilet engine, which is a 3D-printed, single-piece, 6 kN semi-cryogenic engine. These flight events have been configured to validate key technologies integral to the success of the company's upcoming orbital flights.

23. Indian Navy's fifth Kalvari class submarine **INS Vagir** that will reach Fremantle, Australia.

Note: INS Vagir will participate in various exercises with Royal Australian Navy (RAN) units on the West Coast of Australia. On the East coast of Australia, Indian Naval ships and aircraft is involved in Exercise AUSINDEX 23 from 22-24 Aug 2023. The RAN submarine and Indian Naval P8i aircraft are scheduled to exercise with INS Vagir.

24. **Raja Anirudh Sriram** has bagged a silver medal at the Singapore International Math Olympiad Challenge 2023 (SIMOC).

Note: His journey of success has been marked by numerous national and international awards that highlight his extraordinary capabilities. More than 2000 students from 32 countries participated in the prestigious event, where Raja Anirudh came up with flying colours.

25. **USA FDA** has approved the first respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) vaccine for use in women during pregnancy to protect the baby.

Note: Aim: To prevent lower respiratory tract infection and severe disease in infants until they are six months old. This vaccine has been developed by Pfizer and the approval allows the vaccine to be given to women 32 to 36 weeks of pregnancy.

26. **China** sent a new Earth observation satellite Gaofen-12 04 into space from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center.

Note: The satellite, Gaofen-12 04, was launched by a Long March-4C carrier rocket and has entered the planned orbit successfully. It will be used in a variety of fields, including land surveys, urban planning, road network design, crop yield estimation and disaster relief.

The launch marks the 484th flight mission of the Long March series carrier rockets.

27. **India** has created history as it became the first country to land (Vikram Lander) on the South Pole of the lunar surface on 23rd August 2023.

Note: The Lander Module comprising the lander (Vikram) and the rover (Pragyan), landed on the Moon. Aim: To study the composition of the lunar soil and probe for water and ice, while listening for small seismic tremors. India was the fourth nation to succeed at the task after the United States, the Soviet Union, and China.

28. **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas** has successfully fired the ASTRA indigenous Beyond Visual Range air-to-air missile off the coast of Goa.

Note: ASTRA, a state of the art air-to-air missile to engage and destroy highly maneuvering supersonic aerial targets. Aim: To enhance the combat prowess of Tejas and reduce the dependency on imported weapons. It is designed and developed by Defence Research and Development Laboratory, Research Centre Imarat and other laboratories of DRDO.

29. PM Narendra Modi has announced that the site where Vikram Lander and Rover Pragyan landed on the Lunar surface will be named as **Shiva Shakti Point**.

Note: Another site on the Moon where the Chandrayaan 2 lander crash landed will be known as Tiranga Point. He said that Shiva Shakti point will remind the world about Shiv which is devoting oneself to the welfare of mankind and Shakti that gives inherent strength to accomplish that will incline towards the good of mankind.

30. **Nabhmitra** device developed by ISRO-Space Applications Centre (Ahmedabad) for the safety of fishermen, was tested at Neendakara.

Note: Satellite-based communication system enables two-way messaging services from and to the sea. Weather and cyclone warnings will be communicated in the local language, the boats can also send distress messages to the authorities. In capsizing and fire, fishers can press a button on the device and get in touch with the control centre.

31. **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)** manufactured India's first set of Catalysts for Selective Catalyst Reactors (SCR) for limiting NOx emissions from thermal power plants.

Note: The first set of indigenously manufactured SCR catalysts for the 5x800 MW Yadadri Thermal Power Station in Telangana, were flagged, from the company's Solar Business Division (SBD) unit in Bengaluru. BHEL is India's largest engineering and manufacturing company of its kind.

32. **NASA and SpaceX's Dragon** spacecraft has blasted off carrying four astronauts to the International Space Station (ISS).

Note: The Dragon spacecraft carried by a Falcon 9 rocket lifted off from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Four astronauts from four

countries, including the US, Denmark, Japan, and Russia. The agency's SpaceX Crew-7 mission is the seventh commercial crew rotation mission for NASA.

33. The Indian Space Research Organisation has announced that the Pragyan rover's Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy confirmed the presence of **sulphur** in the lunar surface near the south pole, through the first-ever in-situ measurements.

Note: The rover's spectroscope also detected Aluminium, Calcium, Ferrous (Iron), Chromium, Titanium, Manganese, Silicon, and Oxygen as expected and the search for hydrogen is underway.

34. **NASA** is launching a groundbreaking technology demonstration known as the Integrated LCRD Low Earth Orbit User Modem and Amplifier Terminal (ILLUMA-T) to the Space Station.

Note: ILLUMA-T is scheduled to launch on SpaceX's 29th Commercial Resupply mission. Aim: To enhance space communications capabilities. The ILLUMA-T, along with the Laser Communications Relay Demonstration (LCRD) launched in December 2021, will complete NASA's first two-way, end-to-end laser relay system.

35. **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** released a graph of the temperature variation between the moon's surface and a point around 8 cm below.

Note: It was measured by an instrument named ChaSTE (Chandra's Surface Thermophysical Experiment). The graph shows that the temperature at 8 cm (80 mm) depth into the Moon's surface drops to -10 degrees Celsius and at 6 cm (60 mm) depth, the temperature is around 5-10 degrees Celsius.

36. **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh** has set up a nine-member committee of experts to overhaul the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO).

Note: The committee headed by Prof K VijayRaghavan to review and redefine the role of the department and submit a report within three months. Prof Vijay Raghavan is a former Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India and one of the key architects of the National Research Foundation (NRF).

37. **Indian Air Force (IAF)** contingent participated for the first time in Exercise BRIGHT STAR-23, a biennial multilateral tri-service exercise.

Note: It is being held at Cairo Air Base, Egypt, from August 27 to September 16, 2023. Aim: To strengthen strategic partnerships and enhance joint operational capabilities. Objective: To practice planning and execution of joint operations. The IAF contingent will consist of five MiG-29, two IL-78, two C-130 and two C-17 aircraft.

38. The Indian Army has signed contracts for the procurement of **130** tethered drones and 19 tank-driving simulators under Emergency Procurement (EP).

Note: The armed forces are currently executing the fourth tranche of EPs sanctioned by the Defence Ministry. Tethered drone: It is an unmanned aerial vehicle tethered to the ground. It consists of a base station on the ground and the drone, which is connected to the station through the tether (cable).

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